

# Merry Christmas

## THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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FINAL

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# Warring Storms Leave 74 Dead In Europe

### High Winds Lash Western Coastal Areas

Calm And Peaceful Christmas Predicted

LONDON (AP)—Europe's vicious winter gales abated today, leaving at least 74 persons dead and a tremendous damage bill. Prospects were bright for a calm and peaceful Christmas.

Rescue workers stood guard along West Europe's low-lying areas against sudden new storms that might hurl the sea through life-saving dikes.

But reports from Holland, Belgium, the English east coast, Denmark and north Germany were that the sea walls had generally held firm through the three-day assault. The hours of crisis were believed over.

In Holland, gale warnings were replaced by warnings against strong winds and the state of emergency was canceled.

LEAVES RESTORED

The British army and air force restored Christmas leave to thousands of servicemen alerted to fight possible floods.

The War Office said, "The immediate danger has passed and there is little fear of a recurrence of surge conditions during the next 24 hours."

The giant liner Queen Elizabeth, delayed 24 hours by the storms, finally left on high tide for New York.

But in Switzerland, the big winter resort of Zermatt was isolated during the night by avalanches and landslides in the narrow valley connecting it with the outside world.

Heavy snow fell throughout the Swiss Alps but there were no reports of casualties. Snowfalls were also reported over the Pyrenees.

Twelve persons died in West Germany's storms and two were reported killed in the Communist zone.

Nine storm deaths were reported in Britain and one in Belgium. The reported fatalities at sea

See STORMS on page 2-A

### The Night We've All Been Waiting For



Like Everybody Else, Barry And Mary Mac Teagle Wait Hopefully



A Belmont boy, Pfc. Willis Freeman, lends a hand to Barbara Zipprodt, three, of Clearwater, Fla., at New York's Pennsylvania Station. Both are headed south to be home for the holidays. Freeman is just back from Schweinfurt, Germany, while Barbara is returning home to her parents after visiting relatives in New Rochelle, N. Y. (AP Wirephoto).

### Called 'Worst I Have Ever Seen'

## Mint Hill Wreck Kills Man

The county's first holiday traffic fatality came in a Mint Hill crash late this morning, described by one of the investigating officers as "the worst automobile wreck I have ever seen."

Officers said that Henry Bax, 29, Rt. 3, Matthews, was killed when the station wagon he was driving went out of control at the intersection of Highways 51 and 218 in front of Penny's Place in Mint Hill.

## Man Seriously Hurt In Hit-Run Accident

A hit-and-run accident at S. Tryon St. and West Blvd. early today left a 41-year-old soda grill operator — Athenasius Govostes, 3333 Mayfield Ave.—in critical condition from a head injury.

## On German Rearmament

## French Chief To Seek New Vote

By HARVEY HUDSON

PARIS (AP)—For the second time in four months, the French Assembly refused today to approve German rearmament. But Premier Pierre Mendes-France quickly announced he would call a second vote and stake his government's life on a final okay.

The deputies stumped Mendes-France by rejecting 280-259 a treaty calling for West German rearmament within a projected seven-year period. The Assembly (WEU). Most observers had predicted the past would get at least a small majority.

The Premier had been so confident of ratification that he did not make the vote a confidence issue. The pact had been given a preliminary vote of approval by the Assembly last October.

The opposition this time was strengthened by members of the popular Republican Movement Community plan. The Assembly killed this proposal last Aug. 30.

Mrs. speakers earlier had indicated its members would abstain in the vote on the WEU treaty but the party decided at a last-minute recess meeting last night to oppose the Premier.

Immediately after the official count was announced, Mendes-France announced he would call for a second reading on the treaty, one of four interlocking accords aimed at enlisting 300,000 West German troops in Western defense.

## OUR WEATHER

Fair and cooler today. Fair and cooler tonight. Partly cloudy and cool tomorrow with a chance of rain tomorrow night.

Low temperature this morning 35 degrees.

Low temperature expected tonight 28 degrees.

High temperature yesterday 61 degrees.

High temperature expected today 55 degrees.

High temperature expected tomorrow 50 degrees.

Sunrise 7:29 a. m.; sunset 5:16 p. m.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A

## Fields Ask Red Asylum

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—Budapest radio announced today that Nov. 17 after serving five years in Hungarian prisons on spy charges, U. S. diplomats in Budapest have seen them only once—24 hours after the Hungarian government announced they had been freed.

In giving the 51-year-old former U. S. State Department official and his wife their liberty, the Hungarians announced that all charges against them had been dropped. The two Americans then entered a hospital in Budapest for treatment.

## EVENING PRAYER

Father in Heaven, tune our hearts to the glorious songs of Christmas. May we have deep joy in joining with men and angels in praising God. May the sweet awe of heaven come down into our hearts at the thought of the holy God coming to dwell among us—as one of us. Thank be unto Thee, Oh God, for the precious gift of Thy Son to us. Amen.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

CHRISTMAS CARDS CAN BE DIFFERENT, as you'll see by a picture layout on today's editorial page. Turn to page 6A.

Business	11B	Obituaries	1A
Classified	11-11B	Radio & TV	2B
Comics	10A	Sport	13A
Crossword	10B	Special	6-7B
Editorial	6A	Theaters	14-16A
Features	10B	Women	2-3B

## Carols, Gifts, Worship Christmas Celebrated In Traditional Ways

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In song and story, and in the warmth of the heart, Christmas has come again.

As in bygone years, the occasion will be observed in many ways—the carols, the brilliant decorations, the sparkling trees, exchanging of gifts, the warm handshakes.

As usual, railroads, airlines, bus companies and automobile associations expect a big last-minute rush of people wanting to go back home again for Christmas. All public transportation lines have scheduled extra equipment.

One disappointed grandfather likely will be President Eisenhower.

His grandchildren won't be able to be with him and Mrs. Eisenhower, who are spending the holidays in Augusta, Ga. The grandchildren are at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., with their parents, Maj. and Mrs. John Eisenhower.

However, Mrs. Eisenhower's mother, Mrs. John S. Dool, of Denver, and a number of friends and associates will spend Christmas at the Little White House.

OTHER OBSERVERS

Highlights of other Christmas observances:

Hot Springs, Ark.—A candlelight procession down a mountainside will be followed by the 24th annual pageant in a natural amphitheater. Five thousand spectators are due.

Boston—Two groups of bell ring-

## The News Will Not Be Published Tomorrow

The News will not be issued tomorrow. Publication will be suspended for the day in order that the 175 men and women of the staff may have an opportunity to enjoy Christmas Day with their families; and in order that the more than 1,000 young business men, our carrier-salesmen, who deliver your News each afternoon, may have the day uninterrupted by the call to duty.

Publication will be resumed on regular schedule Monday.

The News organization wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Bright New Year.

## Colored Comics In Today's Paper

The regular Saturday colored comics are included in today's News. Also included are extra sequences in the daily continuing comics, Rip Kirby, Buzz Sawyer and Terry and the Pirates, since The News will not publish tomorrow. You'll find these strips on page 15-A, opposite the regular daily comic page.

Other features, the weekly theater pages and the building page, are also included in this edition.