

Christmas

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CALIFORNIA FLOOD HITS MORE TOWNS

Yuba City Ordered Evacuated; Flood Is One Of Worst

SAN FRANCISCO — Authorities ordered the evacuation of another central California city early today as flood waters dugged over three states in one of the mightiest floods in West Coast history.

Yuba City, a town of nearly 9,000 about 80 miles northeast of San Francisco, was ordered evacuated shortly after midnight when pounding waters of the Feather River smashed a 40-yard hole in levees south of town.

The evacuation order came only hours after some 12,500 persons in the sister city of Marysville, just across the river, fled their homes as flood waters threatened to rupture elaborate river defense works.

Meanwhile, rain fell over the drenched and beleaguered state for the ninth straight day, adding more water to the already choked rivers and streams that have brought destruction to what Army engineers estimate at 10,000 to 15,000 square miles of land in California alone.

Southern Oregon, California's neighbor to the north and Nevada across the Sierra Nevada range to the east, also battled flooding rivers.

Miraculously, the loss of life remained low. Latest counts placed California's death toll at 17 and Oregon's at 3. Nevada reported no deaths.

Philip D. Banton, regional administrator for the Federal Civil Defense Administration, estimated early today that upwards of 20,000 persons had been evacuated from homes in California, some 1,000 in Oregon and more than 600 in Nevada.



FACING PHOTOGRAPHERS, the blonde Andrews sisters gesture and gurge at the Chicago home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred J. Andrews. When born 11 months ago, Christine (left) and Deborah were joined at the head and separated by surgery April 21. This was their "coming out" party. (AP Wirephoto).

Detective Kills Man

Slaying Justified, Says Police Chief

By ANN SAWYER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

City Police Chief Frank Littlejohn today said Lt. Neal Forney was "entirely justified" for the slaying of a Negro man in a gun battle last night.

It is believed that another Negro man, whom police say was "arrested" at the scene of the gun fight, was wounded by Lt. Forney, director of the City Police Youth Bureau.

Man In Dash From Hospital

The dead man was identified by his FBI fingerprint card on file at the police station. He was identified as Lawrence Gaston, 28, living at 1212 Seaboard St.

A relative of Gaston said today the dead man was Lawson Gaston, who was living at 819 Oliver coast area south of San Francisco, St.

Gaston, while not known to Lt. Forney, was known to other city policemen. Detective Capt. W. A. McCall said Gaston was brought to the police station for investigation concerning an alleged prostitution ring.

Following last night's shooting, Lt. Forney made a full written report to Chief Frank N. Littlejohn, which will not be released, according to the chief. A coroner's inquest will be held.

County Coroner Dr. W. M. Sumner, called to view the body of Gaston, said he had removed four bullets from the crest had passed. More than 1,500 men filed through the streets in a desperate effort to bolster the sagging levees with sandbags.

San Francisco Chronicle reporter Tom Adams telephoned from the scene.

"There is panic here. Everyone is piling into cars and taking off."

The evacuees included many persons who fled their homes in Marysville only yesterday and sought refuge in Yuba City.

Grandchildren's Christmas Carols Open Ike's Christmas Celebration

By RUTH COWAN
WASHINGTON — Christmas carols, as sung by their grandchildren, will start President Dwight D. Eisenhower on his holiday night to a cheerful, old-fashioned family celebration at the White House.

The three children of Maj. John Eisenhower, the President's son, have been practicing for days the carols they will sing for their grandparents, their father, and their great-grandmother, Mrs. John Sheldon Doud of Denver, who arrived this week.

Their mother, Mrs. Barbara Eisenhower, is Walter Reed Hospital where she gave birth to the fourth grandchild, Mary Jean, last Wednesday. But they will have a chance to see her tomorrow when she leaves the hospital briefly for the family dinner with turkey and all the trimmings at 6 p.m.

The Eisenhowers have invited 100 guests—all family—and four guests of the Eisenhower-Doud family will be together on Christmas Day.

Three grandchildren—David, Barbara Anne, 6, and Susan, who will be 4 next week—will hang their stockings at the mantle in Mrs. Doud's sitting room on the second floor in the presidential living quarters.

They will find the White House a wonderland of Christmas trees. In the East Room stands an 18-foot spruce trimmed in silver and glowing with 300 white lights. In the Blue Room there is a tree bedecked in silver and blue. There's a one with multi-colored decorations in the state dining room.

Holiday Observances Emphasize Good Will

Bustle To End In Churches

CHRISTMAS EVE MAGIC BEGINS

By HARRY SHUFORD
Charlotte News Staff Writer
Charlotte is ready for Christmas.

The presents are wrapped, church services are planned, Christmas dinners are ready to be shoved into the oven, and an air of expectancy is mounting.

The magic of Christmas Eve took over today as Charlotteans looked forward to tonight and tomorrow with mixed gaily and reverent reflection.

Charlotte merchants began closing their doors this afternoon after what will probably prove to be the biggest Christmas selling season on record here.

While mid-town stores are closing on schedule at 5 and 5:30 p.m., drug stores and suburban stores are staying open a little longer, braced for the last-minute onslaught of late-shoppers.



The Children Are Ready For The Visit From Saint Nicholas

BIRTH REMEMBERED

The city will take on a drastically different tone tomorrow, however, as citizens inspect the results of Santa's annual visit and quietly observe the birth of Christ almost 2,000 years ago.

Retail merchants weren't the only business folks doing a rush business today. Travel services, airlines, buses and trains, were loaded down with people rushing to their Christmas destinations.

Operators of local ABC stores, also reported brisk trade.

Tomorrow, business-wise at least, the city will be closed up tighter than Junior's new drum. The only people who will be on the job are police and firemen.

Even drug stores, which are usually open half-day on Sundays, will be locked.

STORES OPEN

The holiday began last night for a large part of the population as most offices and manufacturing plants closed down for a three-day stretch. Most of these still working today were employees of retail stores, handling the last-minute rush.

Monday will be almost the same as Christmas Day, as far as business is concerned here. It even to be able to get a haircut Monday as the Master Barbers Association has announced it will observe the Monday closing along with nearly everyone else.

Even City and County Records' Courts will be closed Monday, meaning one more holiday in the jail for people picked up after court adjourned for Christmas.

LONGEST VACATION

City, county and state employees are enjoying the longest holiday vacation here, with the exception of students and school teachers. The governing workers' regulars began their vacation with the end of business Thursday and will have to return to their desks until Tuesday morning.

Federal employes began their holiday yesterday, the same time as most other office workers.

Tomorrow's are expected to be pretty quiet everywhere, with most people staying at home around the Christmas tree, going to church, and having a holiday dinner. Even traffic is expected to be lighter than usual, as people who have gone visiting for Christmas can wait until Monday to return since most people are getting the "bonus" day, Dec. 26.

GI Finds Out Child's Smile Is Same In Any Language

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—A Frankfurt bought toys, clothing and food for 1,500 children and on a dinner that starts with shrimp cocktail and finishes with mince pie.

For many overseas GIs, Christmas would be observed much the same as back home — attending Christmas Eve parties, church services and a Christmas Day radar and communications staff dinner. The Army promised times.

In Germany, where the bulk of the 300,000 U.S. servicemen on the continent are stationed, the Army's four West German villages bordering the Communist frontier and deliver candy to children. As the patrols entered each village, the GI Santa called the kids to him by loudspeaker.

Elsewhere, Santa arrived by jeep, by "sleds" built over jeeps and by helicopter. One outfit in Germany dropped toys to children by small parachutes.

Among typical Christmas undertakings were these:

\$4,000 RAISED

At Orleans, France, American service personnel raised \$4,000 to buy blanket pajamas for 1,300 orphans.

At Wurlburg, Germany, the 10th U.S. Infantry Division collected \$1,200 to aid nearly 3,700 orphans, reduce children and physically handicapped youngsters.

The 4th Infantry Division in

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Bethlehem Ready For Pilgrimage

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Christians, wherever they are in a troubled world, turned their thoughts today to the little town of Bethlehem as Christmas observances again emphasized age-old hopes for peace and good will.

In Arab-held Bethlehem, within sight of the closely guarded Jordan-Israeli demarcation line, everything was ready for the traditional Christmas Eve pilgrimage and midnight church services. Despite the lifting of a curfew after five days of political rioting in Jordan, the atmosphere continued more nervous than usual.

Fewer visitors were expected this year for the ancient ritual of midnight services in St. Catherine's Church adjoining the Church of the Nativity.

SAME STORY

From the winter-darkened top of the world where Americans and Canadians are building the Distant Early Warning radar line beneath the Aurora Borealis, to the Byrd expedition on Antarctica, it was the same story. Christians were together, in thought if not in fact. Chiefs of state and ordinary folk planned their celebrations in their own way.

A special treat was in store for President Eisenhower, celebrating the Yule season quietly at the White House. Tonight the Eisenhower grandchildren — David, 7; Barbara Anne, 6; and Susan, 4 — will sing Christmas carols they have been practicing earnestly.

WITH FAMILY

Across the Atlantic, Queen Elizabeth II was with her family at Sandringham, the 7,000-acre estate in Norfolk where the British royal family has been gathering for Christmas since the days of the Queen's great-grandfather, Edward VII. The queen will make her customary broadcast to the Commonwealth and Empire Christmas Day.

Pope Seeks Rededication

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Pius XII in his 17th Christmas message to the world, today called upon men to rededicate themselves to Christian principles.

"We reject communism as a social system in view of Christian doctrine, said the 79-year-old head of the Roman Catholic church.

He spoke from his golden throne in the Consistorial Hall of the Vatican Palace.

The Pope's message, an annual plea for peace which he has made every year since he was elected to St. Peter's throne, was carried by radio to countries throughout the world.

Repeating the angels' words to the shepherds on the hill the night that Christ was born, the Pope said:

"Fear not for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy that shall be to all the people." (Luke 2: 10).

Hearing the ringing words of the Pope were cardinals in the Vatican, bishops, ecclesiastical and lay dignitaries of the papal court, Roman clergymen and members of the Pope's family.

"How we wish," the Pope said, "that all men scattered over the continents, in cities, villages, in valleys, in deserts, on steppes, on stretches of ice and seas, on the whole globe would again hear as though it were said to each one of them in particular—the voice of an angel announcing the mystery of divine grandeur and of infinite love."

Mayor Sends Message Of Faith To Citizens

A Christmas message for the citizens of Charlotte was delivered today by Mayor Van Eever.

His message:

"The story of Christmas never grows old. As we hear it over and over again, we experience a newness of faith — faith in God — faith in ourselves — faith in our fellow men and faith in freedom. We rejoice at Christmas to celebrate again the birthday of a King.

"Christmas means many things to many people. In America, it is the story of the Christ Child in a manger — Handel's 'Messiah' — Christmas Carols — mistletoe — and Santa Claus. Here in our land Christmas is a time set apart. It is a time for happiness, for remembering the good things in life, and for forgetting the imperfections in humanity. It is a time for giving, without thought of receiving — a time for faith, hope and charity.

"Christmas has a way of making the hardest heart a little softer. It brings a smile to the face of the cynic, and a feeling of 'peace and good will' to man. Christmas is a challenge, too. And to those of us who make up this wonderful community, this season is a particular challenge to be helpful, to be friendly, to be kind and generous.

"May we take time to be thankful for the many blessings that have been ours in 1955. We have had a good year of progressiveness — of fulfillment — of happy and fruitful living.

"These are our special blessings, and it is my sincere hope that each citizen in our community will find his life enriched by the Christmas spirit not only at Christmas, but throughout the New Year."

What's Inside

Books	11B
Classified	12-13B
Comics	2B
Editorials	2A
Features	1B
Obituaries	12A
Radio-TV	6A
Serial	11B
Sports	8-9B
Theaters	14-16A
Women	4-6B

Our Weather

Considerable cloudiness with mild temperatures today, tonight and tomorrow.

Low this morning—19.

Low tonight—35.

High yesterday—67.

High today—68.

High tomorrow—68.

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

More Weather Data on Page 2.

Last Shopping Day to Christmas