

Cherry Christmas

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

FINAL

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Christmas Excitement

Youngsters Will Get Out Of Line

KUNA, Idaho (AP)—Some children all in their early school years, got out of line while putting on a Christmas pageant in church this week. It was disconcerting. Thirteen of them were to walk across the stage, each carrying a letter-bearing placard. All together—if they're in correct order and line—spell B-E-T-H-L-E-H-E-M S-T-A-R. But the "star" bearers got turned around and went in backwards, so to speak, spelling out B-E-T-H-L-E-H-E-M R-A-T-S.

Cold And Sober

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Don Richfield, chief electrician on the freighter *Janan Transport*, was full of Christmas cheer as he returned to his ship. He took a hearing on the gangway and charged on full steam ahead. But somebody must have moved the gangplank. Richfield, 41, made an impressive splash right in San Francisco Bay. A longshoreman tossed him a line and a policeman commented that Richfield came up "odd, sailing and sober."

Cheering Spirits

DETROIT (AP)—The bottled variety of Christmas spirits roared varying reaction among Detroit throves over the weekend. Four youths, obviously dreaming of an amber Christmas, stole a loaded beer truck while the driver sipped coffee in a restaurant.

A more sober-minded thief took 20 gaily wrapped presents from under the tree at the home of Leo Puncelle. But he didn't touch three bottles of gift whisky.

Merry Christmas

BETHLEHEM, Pa. (AP)—A 21-year-old Hungarian-born GI was flying back to the United States today on a monthlong "morale" tour from Korea for a reunion with his parents. Hangarian refugees themselves only 11 days. This Christmas holiday is going to be an extremely merry one for Pfc. Victor Lacro for it will be the first time he has seen his mother and father, Karoly and Gizella Lacro, since he came to America seven years ago.

The Lacro's and an adopted daughter, Erka, arrived at Camp Kimer, N.J., Dec. 13 and are now living in a Bethlehem apartment arranged for them by the woman's aunt, Mrs. Frank Reschewer, of suburban Miller Heights.

On His Way

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—The Continental Air Defense Command, nerve center of the nation's aerial war towers, gave the official word today: Santa Claus is on his way.

CONRAD began tracking Santa on radar early this morning. There was no identification of the old gent had filed his flight plan months ago. Piloted by the command's radar system, Santa was given an antea safe passage to the United States by CONAD's fighter, interceptor and missile weapons. Santa's speed was estimated at 45 knots, his altitude 35,000 feet. However, he may take advantage of the prevailing jet stream to hasten his trip.

Pope Condemns Red Tactics, Urges Cooperation In U. N.

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Pius XII has proclaimed the morality of defensive war and called on the world to give the United Nations "the right and power" to prevent aggression. In some of the strongest words of his 18-year reign, the head of the Roman Catholic Church condemned communism in his annual Christmas message for trying "to impose on all peoples, in one way or another, a special and intolerable way of life."

The message was carried by radio to hundreds of millions in countries around the world. MORAL BRIGHT The Pope made it clear, through the eyes of the church, the freedom fighters of Hungary had the moral right to resist Russian force with force. "It is clear," he declared, "that in the present circumstances there can be verified in a nation the situation wherein, every effort to avoid war being expended in vain,

None Forgotten

BOSTON (AP)—The Veterans Administration says nearly 8,500 persons will spend Christmas in a dozen New England VA hospitals, but none will be forgotten. The VA said chaplains will hold special Protestant services and Catholic masses will be celebrated at all hospitals. All patients will have turkey dinners, various types of entertainment and family visits. Some organizations have opened gift shops and put up gift-laden trees from which patients may choose their free presents for their families.

Just The Thing

BALTIMORE (AP)—The Navy has just the answer for the last-minute Christmas shopper who's looking for something out of the ordinary. For the man with an extra \$75, 500 or more, the Navy is offering for sale the USS Pike, a 21-year-old submarine. Bids must be received or postmarked before 10 a.m. Jan. 8.

Here the catch. The buyer must move the boat within 15 days after the sale and must guarantee to have it scrapped within one year. While shopping in a local variety store, someone snatched the mother's purse and the \$50 it contained, reported the loss to police and went home with nothing for the children's stockings. A few hours later, a policeman stopped at the Pleasants' home and reported the loss to police and went home with nothing for the children's stockings.

Bleak No Longer

BALTIMORE (AP)—It looked like bleak and cheerless Christmas for Mrs. Louise Pleasants and her two young children. While shopping in a local variety store, someone snatched the mother's purse and the \$50 it contained, reported the loss to police and went home with nothing for the children's stockings. A few hours later, a policeman stopped at the Pleasants' home and reported the loss to police and went home with nothing for the children's stockings.

Brand New Suit

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (AP)—Someone broke into Santa Claus' home at an amusement park and stole his red suit and the candy and gum he was going to distribute to boys and girls yesterday at a Christmas program. Some 750 children occupied the park yesterday to a costume shop owner who provided a new Santa suit and a pet shop which came through with the manager of live animals for display.

Hospital, Apartment Fatalities

By The Associated Press
Blash fires which swept through a Minneapolis hospital and a Meriden Conn. apartment house left 11 persons dead and at least eight persons critically injured today. The hospital fire was tied to a short-circuited Christmas tree chain of lights. Killed in the apartment fire were a Piedmont mother and four of her children. Another child was injured critically while the woman's husband and her 20-year-old son were overcome by smoke. An uncle who jumped through a closed window was also badly hurt. The hospital fire total of six did not include a baby boy, rescued from an incubator, who died a few hours later from a congenital heart condition. Doctors fought to save the lives of seven patients who are on the critical list.

Beginning in the lobby from defective wiring in a Christmas tree light chain, flames roared through a funnel-like stairway off the lobby of Doctors Hospital, a 15-year-old 125-bed medical center.

DRAMATIC FIGHT
Firemen talked many of the patients in the five-story structure. And on the top floor, a dramatic fight was waged by two nurses, for the lives of half a dozen babies. Water-soaked diapers were put over the infants' faces to keep them from inhaling the deadly smoke. Occasionally the women would huddle their faces to keep them from gasping some fresh air themselves. The apartment house fire apparently broke out in the basement or in the rear of the first floor. A policeman climbed dangerously close to flames licking out the rear of the building to rescue one occupant, Elizabeth Newton, and three Negroes in the rear. They were Willie James Holmes, a retired railroad worker of Concord, and Elizabeth Newton and Hal Newton of the Rock Hill community near Concord.

The Associated Press tally of holiday deaths runs from 6 p.m. Friday until midnight Tuesday. Wet roads and heavy traffic added to the hazards.

Evening Prayer

Our Father, help us to watch and pray lest we enter into temptation. May we watch faithfully over those things entrusted to our care, and through watchfulness see more clearly the unfolding of Thy divine plan. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Our Weather

Mostly cloudy today, clearing and cooler tonight. Tuesday, sunny and cool. Low this morning—53. Low tomorrow morning—56. High today—66. High yesterday—66. High tomorrow—65. Sunrise today 7:29 a.m.; sunset today 5:16 p.m.

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Tennessee troopers, aided by helicopters, nabbed last two of six jailbreakers near this point. (AP Photos)

Four Persons Die In Crash Near Concord

By The Associated Press
A collision of two automobiles which killed four persons at an intersection of U. S. 29 near Concord. The accident occurred during a rain which made the road slick and cut visibility. Grover Edward McBoyle, 48, of Kannapolis, died in one car, and three Negroes in the rear. They were Willie James Holmes, a retired railroad worker of Concord, and Elizabeth Newton and Hal Newton of the Rock Hill community near Concord.

NEAR PREDICTION

Traffic deaths for the year near the 1,100 predicted by the State Highway Patrol. Last year's total toll in the state was 1,165. Two were killed in an accident near Columbia when their auto crashed through a bridge railing. The Columbia residents were identified as Hoover Farnam, 40, and Verna Esnight.

In Onslow County, Woodrow Thigpen, 43, of Beaufort, was killed when the car in which he

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6 Escapees Taken In Police Roundup

DOVER, Tenn. (AP)—Highway patrolmen used helicopters, boats, patrol cars and roadblocks Sunday in rounding up six Texas jailbreakers who had robbed a motel and wounded a state trooper here. The six, who had slugged a jailer in escaping from their cells in Georgetown, Tex., Friday, were accused of this string of offenses in making their way toward New York.

—Looting the Texas jailer and his wife. —Looting the jail of cash and firearms. —Breaking into an apartment to get a woman's auto key at gunpoint and taking her car for their getaway. —Robbing a Groesbeck, Tex., couple of cash and their auto and leaving them locked in a closet of their home. —Robbing a motel near here at midnight Saturday and leaving two men and a woman bound and gagged. —Faking a Tennessee patrol car at gunpoint, wrecking it and shooting the patrolman who had chased them for speeding. —Stealing and abandoning three other cars in their efforts to escape.

SPOTTED CAR

It was state trooper J. W. Bilibrey who spotted the speeding car after the motel robbery, of which he was then unaware. He gave chase and caught them when they got lost on a side street. They were then arrested at gunpoint and put him in the back seat, split up into the two cars and headed back to the town square.

Cold Front Winds Blowing Aways Week-end Rain Storms

The miles-high wind of an approaching cold front swept the latter remnants of a weekend rain storm from the Charlotte area today after clouds had dumped 2.44 inches of rain on the city. The rain halted this morning after falling almost continuously for 48 hours. Yesterday 1.08 inches fell here, this is top of 30 inch Saturday. The predicted 36 will be 17 inches under today's 53. A high of 66 is forecast; this afternoon with light drizzle, the cloudy side of the Gulf Coast, raised the month's precipitation total to 3.14 inches.

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Select Foremost Milk Products at your favorite store.—Adv.

Work Delayed On Clearing Blocked Canal

PORT SAID, Egypt (AP)—The question of using British and French salvage crews in clearing the Suez Canal again today delayed work on the blocked waterway. A United Nations salvage fleet, including British and French ships, is ready to go to work but Egypt still has not given the go-ahead.

LULL EXPECTED

A comparative lull in the slaughter on the nation's highways was predicted by safety officials today. Traffic accidents—Christmas afternoon—when many travelers were expected to end their holiday visits and take to the roads increased the traffic carnage. The National Safety Council estimated that for each person killed outright or dying soon after a traffic accident, one is injured. The tragedy of violent death on the highways is exhibited by a head-on collision near Waterson, S. D., Saturday night. A father and mother and their three young children were killed and two others injured in a crash which hurled the two autos into ditches on opposite sides of the highway. Meanwhile, four persons were killed and 12 injured yesterday when a car crashed and burned while trying to land at an unlighted airport at Del Norte, Colo. Police said the craft apparently overrode the runway, attempted to gain altitude, and crashed.

Boy Pulls Trigger, Father Is Dead

GASTONIA (AP)—Lloyd James Revels, 37, died in his home on the Dallas - Cherryville highway last night holding his 3-year-old son, Michael, against a 12-gauge shotgun on his lap. "Go ahead and pull the trigger," he told the boy. "It's not my business to stop you."

Airlines Expect More Transatlantic Travel

NEW YORK—Airlines are offering an average of 10,500 seats a week for transatlantic travel during the winter season, a 21 per cent increase over the same period a year ago. About 178 flights weekly in each direction are offered compared with about 153 last year.

SUNSHINE AHEAD

The Weather Bureau, predicting several days of sunshine, said the temperature will drop to about 36 degrees in the morning, rising to about 60 in the afternoon. The predicted 36 will be 17 degrees under today's 53. A high of 66 is forecast; this afternoon with light drizzle, the cloudy side of the Gulf Coast, raised the month's precipitation total to 3.14 inches.

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