Dial DI 4-6100

Stevens Point Daily Journal

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Christmas Eve Had Its Moments

NEWARK, N. J. (AP) — The Donald Albanses may have to let Santa Claus come down the chimney in the regular way next time.

"Santa" got stuck in the trunk of Albanese's retractable hardtop sedan for 2½ hours Christmas Eve.

That's where the couple hid the Christmas toys for Jo Ann, 5, and Robert, 2.

Albanese, aided by a brother-in-law, sweated for an hour to get the hydraulically operated trunk open after the kids had gone to sleep.

Desperate, Albanese drove the car to police headquarters. An emergency squad worked an hour and a half. Finally, they pried the trunk open with an ax.

CLIFFSIDE PARK, N. J. (AP)—Mr. and Mrs. Edward Perry thought it would be nice to spend Christmas around a roaring fireplace in the living room of their new home.

Perry lit the wood, smoke filled the room, the Christmas tree wilted and the flames burned a big hole in the wall.

Perry told firemen he hadn't been informed the fireplace was only an ornament.

HARTSDALE, N. Y. (AP) — The pop of champagne bottles being opened was heard somewhere in Hartsdale Thursday night, but not at the home of Mrs. John Blake.

Mrs. Blake had put three bottles of the bubbly stuff outside her doorstep to cool as she continued preparing Christmas dinner. When she went to get them later, they were gone.

The mystery remains unsolved. The answer may lie, however, in a Hartsdale tradition of giving sanitation men something for the holiday.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J. (AP)—Mrs. Walter Dredden gave birth to a baby girl Thursday night after her husband, racing to beat the stork, failed to make a curve and crashed over a concrete curbing.

Trooper Donald Ebert found Mrs. Dredden and her baby trapped in the back of the car. He got them out and completed the birth by tying off the infant's umbilical cord with the lacing of his boot.

An ambulance took the Drededens to the hospital where all were reported doing nicely. They were unhurt in the accident.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — H. H. Scott is rightfully proud of the Christmas present his wife gave him—but he's not showing it off just yet.

The gift was a shiny red sports car which Mrs. Scott left with the dealer for Christmas delivery.

She got a wonderful idea. Why not paint a yuletide greeting on the auto in white paint that would wash off?

Mrs. Scott bought a can of paint and dashed off to the dealer's. She had just finished painting "Love to Harold" all over the side of the car when a salesman strolled up to see how she was doing. Too late, of course. It was not water paint.

The car will have to be sanded down and repainted.

Pilot Dozes, Crash Lands Near Monroe

MONROE (AP) — Carl V. Anderson was flying over Green County Christmas Day when he dozed at the controls.

Herbert Mohns, a farmer living about 10 miles southeast of Monroe, said he watched the single-engine, light plane circle lazily for about 12 minutes, gradually losing altitude.

When the plane was about 100 feet above the ground, the 37-year-old Anderson, of Route 2, Poynette, regained control and crash-landed on a town road. The plane skidded about 100 feet and nosed over.

Anderson suffered lacerations to one knee and was in satisfactory condition at a hospital here. The plane was damaged extensively.

Details of the incident were contained in a sheriff's department report which also said that Anderson was en route to Ottawa, Ill. He had landed at Madison about 7:30 a.m., three hours before the crash landing here.

JOURNAL PHOTO

IN DEFIANCE of the fire which destroyed the Dr. W. R. Ruff animal hospital in Whiting Christmas day, this tree, which could well be a Christmas tree, refused to burn in spite of being located only a few feet from the raging flames.

Russ Repeat Threat Of Nuclear War

By HAROLD K. MILKS

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union warned Thursday that Western insistence on remaining in Berlin could kindle nuclear war that would reach America.

Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko continued the Kremlin's campaign to force the Western Allies out of West Berlin by predictions of nuclear war if they stay. He boasted Russia is well armed for any trouble.

Gromyko spoke at the closing session of the winter meeting of Russia's parliament, the Supreme Soviet. He also urged a ban on nuclear weapon tests without controls which the West considers necessary.

Diplomats in Washington said they found nothing new in Gromyko's speech. There was no immediate comment from the State Department.

If an end is not put to the Berlin crisis, Gromyko said, "the threat will further increase of West Berlin becoming a second Sarajevo."

This was a reference to the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary at Sarajevo in 1914. The incident touched off World War I.

Premier Khrushchev has demanded that the United States, Britain and France pull their occupation troops out of West Berlin by June 1, leaving it a demilitarized free city surrounded by Communist East Germany. Western attempts to reach Berlin without East German permission would be aggression against the Soviet bloc, Khrushchev warned.

The West has pledged to stick with the 2,200,000 West Berliners, who overwhelmingly vote anti-Communist. It contends East Germany has no authority to control Western military traffic to Berlin.

Gromyko said that "any attempt at aggression against (East Germany) may start a new big war in which millions upon millions of people would find their death."

"The flame of war would inevitably spread to the American continent, for today's military techniques have virtually eliminated the difference between distant theaters of war and those close at hand," he asserted.

The foreign minister added that Russia "has no objection to hearing proposals if the West has any — if those proposals are directed toward solving the problem and are not rejections of our solution." He again barred, however, unofficial Western suggestions that discussions of Berlin be linked with reunification of Germany.

Backing up Gromyko with a flourish of missiles, the chief of staff of Soviet armed forces said that if the West starts war over Berlin, Russia could reply with crushing blows.

Marshal Vassily D. Sokolovsky added "The United States will not succeed in sitting it out on the other side of the ocean with impunity . . . The Soviet Union has intercontinental rockets, and no ocean can save the United States from retaliation."

Parliament went through the formality of approving Soviet policy on Berlin and also Gromyko's call for a nuclear test ban.

The foreign minister contributed one new note, saying that under a ban the Soviet Union would agree to a limited number of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes provided Russia was allowed as many as the United States and Britain combined. Some U.S. scientists have urged rejection of any ban which would prevent such experimental uses of nuclear blasts as digging harbors.

Parliament also approved the naming of a veteran Communist party administrator, Alexander N. Shelepin, as top Russian policeman. As chairman of the State Committee for Security, he succeeds Gen. Ivan Serov, a career secret policeman who was removed Dec. 8. Serov's new assignment still was not announced.

Shelepin, 40, is one of the younger administrators whom Khrushchev has brought up through the party apparatus. Giving him control of the secret police seemed to indicate that Khrushchev intends to keep closer party control of the police, which Stalin used as his personal tool.

Khrushchev did not speak during the four-day session. He just sat and watched his programs go through without question.

Fire Destroys Exeland School

EXELAND, Wis. (AP)—A predawn fire fought in 18-degree below zero weather Wednesday burned out the Exeland district elementary school.

Damage was estimated at between $60,000 and $70,000 by Sawyer County Deputy Sheriff Walter Hajdasz, who said the school had an enrollment of 150 to 160 pupils.

The Exeland volunteer fire department was joined in fighting the blaze by volunteers from the Sawyer and Rusk county communities of Raddison, Courderay and Bruce. The blaze, discovered by a passerby at 6:30 a.m., burned out both the classroom and gymnasium wings, leaving only the concrete block and stone walls and a small portion of the roof.

The firemen prevented the blaze from spreading to several nearby business properties and the American Legion clubhouse.

Chief Harold Biese of the Exeland volunteers, said the fire apparently started from defective wiring.

It was the second school fire in the area during the Christmas season in recent years. Several years ago the Windfall school was destroyed by flames during the Christmas vacation.

New Director Of Social Security

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower today selected William L. Mitchell to direct the vast social security system.

Mitchell, a 58-year-old government career man who has been with the Social Security Administration for 22 years, now is deputy commissioner. He moves up to the top spot being vacated Jan. 1 by Charles I. Schottland, who is resigning.

Burns Fatal

KAUKAUNA (AP) Mrs. William Hermans, 42, died today of burns suffered Dec. 2 when her clothing caught fire from an electric stove in her home here. Her apron strings fell on a hot burner and ignited while she was talking on the telephone.

Christmas Day Fire Destroys Animal Hospital

(Another picture on Page nine)

The offices and animal hospital of Dr. W. R. Ruff, veterinarian in Whiting, were destroyed by fire Thursday afternoon.

The building was "L" shaped with each section 40x20 feet. The entire structure was burned to the ground by the fire of undetermined origin. Lost in the blaze were all furnishings, equipment and drugs which Dr. Ruff used in conducting his practice.

A number of dogs, patients at the hospital, were also lost.

The fire was first noticed by a motorist passing by on Highway 51. The alarm was spread and Dr. Ruff was first to arrive on the scene.

The hospital was located about four blocks south of McDill Pond, a block east of Highway 51. The Ruff home is just south of McDill Pond on the west side of the highway.

When Dr. Ruff attempted to enter the building he was driven back by heavy smoke. The volunteer Fire Department from Whiting was the first fire unit to reach the location, but their efforts to fight the blaze were hindered by a malfunction of the fire truck.

The Volunteer Fire Department from Plover and the Stevens Point Fire Department also answered the call, but were unable to bring the flames under control.

Dr. Ruff, who was eating Christmas dinner when notified of the fire, said that he had been in the building at noon to care for the animals. He said that he had no idea how the fire might have started.

Heat for the offices and hospital was furnished by an oil heater. According to Dr. Ruff, the heater had been checked recently and was in good condition.

The building was completed in November 1956. Dr. Ruff said that he will operate his practice from his home until he decides on future plans.

Kaukauna Youth Who Killed Girl To Be Paroled

MADISON (AP)—Michael McCormick, 20, who has been imprisoned for the 1956 slaying of his girl friend in Kaukauna, will be paroled on Jan. 1, it was announced Wednesday.

George Keith, deputy director of the Wisconsin Welfare Department, said McCormick had served more than the minimum time required for parole eligibility, and said the parole board unanimously recommended freedom for McCormick.

McCormick, a Kaukauna High School athlete, was convicted of second degree murder in the death of Miss Theresa Vander Horst, 18, and was sentenced to 14 to 25 years in the state prison.

The girl's body was found in a narrow cubicle in the basement of her grandmother's home. She died of suffocation. The court was told that McCormick struck the girl with an empty shell casing after she threatened to tell she was pregnant.

Highway Deaths Set Alarming Pace

Fire Deaths Include Nine In Family

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The gay Christmas holiday period was turned into tragedy for many families across the country as fires took the lives of at least 62 persons.

Nine members of a family of 12 burned to death at the home of turkey farmer Olie Hollenbach near Auburn, Wash. The victims included Mrs. Hollenbach and eight of her children ranging from 4 to 18 years of age. The fire occurred early today.

The father, a daughter of 7 and an 80-year-old woman believed to be his mother-in-law, survived.

Many other persons were injured in flaming dwellings, some critically.

Five of the six members of a prominent Virginia family perished when flames swept their $150,000 mansion in the fashionable Windsor Farms suburb of Richmond early today.

They were Horace A. Gray Jr., 49, director of the West Virginia Pulp & Paper Co.; his wife, Catherine, 47; two sons, Thomas, 17, and Foster, 13; and a daughter, Susan Lee, 19.

Another son, Horace A. Gray III, 22, had left the home a short time before the fire.

Two separate Pennsylvania fires each took the lives of three children.

An early Christmas morning fire killed the three children of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Degnan at Wilkes-Barre despite a desperate effort of their parents to save them. The children were Deborah, 4; Donald, 2; and Edward Jr., 1.

At the Pittsburgh suburb of Braddock, three youngsters in the Robert Fletcher family died in flames at their two-story home early today. They were Eddie, 7; Cary, 4; and Grace, 2 months.

The 42-year-old father and another child, Willie, 11, were critically burned. Mrs. Fletcher, 30, and other sons of 7 and 8 received less serious burns.

At St. Petersburg in western Pennsylvania, Paul Winger Sr., 32, and his son, Paul Jr., 3, perished in their flaming home shortly after eating Christmas dinner. Winger's wife and four other children in the family escaped. A sixth child was away.

Three persons were killed early today in a fire which swept the Admiral Inn, a two story wooden lodging house at Northampton, Mass.

Cold Gives Way To Warm South Wind

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mild weather prevailed in Wisconsin today after a Christmas day that started cold but ended in comparative winter warmth.

Below zero temperatures were reported in the northern half of the state early Christmas morning but climbed quickly. In the early afternoon thermometer readings were in the 20s in the north and in the 30s south.

Today, temperatures climbed above 40 in southern Wisconsin, with warm air flowing in from the south.

Overnight, increasing cloudiness held temperatures in the 20s. Early morning minimums ranged from 8 above zero in the Superior-Duluth region—the state low—to 27 at La Crosse.

Thursday's high mark was 34 at La Crosse compared with the nation's high of 79 at West Palm Beach, Fla. This morning's state low of 8 at Superior compared with the nation's low of 18 below zero at West Yellowstone, Mont.

Blame Intruder For $200,000 Milwaukee Fire

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A burglary warrant was issued for a man nabbed by police early today in a 2-story business block shortly before it burst into flames. The 3-alarm fire, blamed on the intruder by police, caused an estimated $200,000 damage.

The warrant named William Eugene Hoshell, whose last address was a rooming house. A further investigation will determine whether Hoshell also will be charged with arson.

Hoshell was arrested at gun point by police, who then discovered the fire. Fire Chief Edward Wischer said the blaze probably started when a cigarette ignited cleaner fumes in the women's wear shop where Hoshell was found.

The fire also damaged an antique shop, another clothing shop, a grill, several offices and a religious reading room.

Lithium Type H-Bomb Hinted By Scientist

By LEWIS GULICK

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top scientists gathered today to swap ideas and report developments that could have great significance as the world races into the space age.

One advance report indicated that U.S. weaponeers may have come up with a new type of H-bomb — a lithium bomb packing a hydrogen-explosion punch at lower cost.

The report stemmed from observation of a strange air glow over the antarctic. This glow and a man-made aurora, the firs ever sighted, were believed linked to U.S. atomic blasts last summer in the South Pacific.

The observation came during the 18-month International Geophysical Year, now drawing to a close.

IGY doings and other topics were among the 1,800 reports listed for presentation at the 125th meeting of the American Assn. for the Advancement of Science.

Top speakers included President Eisenhower's science adviser, Dr. James R. Killian; the association president, Dr. Wallace R. Brode; and the British biologist-writer Julian Huxley.

Hugh Odishaw, executive director of the U.S. National Committee of the IGY, told about the lithium discovery in reporting on IGY highlights in the journal "Science." The IGY is scheduled to end Dec. 31.

Odishaw said an eventide glow in the south polar skies had been spotted with sensitive instruments. The glow was attributed to lithium in the high atmosphere, not previously known to be there.

"A plain inference is that these new manifestations (the lithium glow) could be related to nuclear tests carried out during the same period as the IGY program," Odishaw said.

The United States conducted high altitude nuclear tests in the Pacific last August.

The Atomic Energy Commission declined to say whether it uses lithium, but some other scientists theorized that the antarctic glow means the AEC has found a less expensive H-bomb.

Their thinking ran thus:

Lithium, a lightweight metal, could be placed in a bomb triggered by a conventional atomic bomb. Neutrons released by the A-bomb would change some of the lithium into tritium, a hydrogen explosive. Heat from the A-bomb blast would make the tritium fuse, causing the main hydrogen explosion—and all this in a fraction of a second.

The AEC has named Tritium as a possible H-bomb material but has described only one process for making it. That is the more expensive, less handy method of manufacturing it beforehand through fusing atoms of deuterium, a form of heavy hydrogen.

Odishaw said the man-made aurora was seen by a New Zealand scientist over Apia, Samoa, last August. Odishaw said it evidently was related to the Pacific tests.

The more than 5,000 scientists listed to attend the scientific convention looked for a possible report by Dr. James Van Allen of Iowa University concerning the newly discovered radiation band that bears his name.

It was found at altitudes above 250 miles during the flight of one of the Explorer satellites and studied further by later space probes.

Officials Fear Record In Making

Traffic	290
Fires	62
Miscellaneous	38
Total	390

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A runaway pace of fatal traffic accidents today brought a warning that this may become the nation's bloodiest Christmas holiday.

"There's no indication that the traffic death toll isn't headed for an all-time high for any holiday in the nation's history," a National Safety Council official said.

The record auto toll is 706. That number was killed during the four-day Christmas period of 1956. In that weekend two years ago, accident deaths from all causes numbered 884, the highest overall total in history.

The current Christmas weekend also is a four-day holiday. The death count which began at 6 p.m., Wednesday (local time) continues until midnight Sunday.

The first half of the 102-hour span brought an unusual number of fatal fires, including several multiple fatalities.

But the highway toll was more than five times greater than that in fires. The massive upsurge in fatal crashes came despite emergency efforts of law enforcement agencies to promote sanity on the roads. Many police agencies canceled Christmas days off for their members and assigned them to traffic duties with orders to take drunks from behind steering wheels.

The safety council spokesman said "Virtually every official effort has been redoubled to protect motorists from themselves and other drivers.

"There is only one person who can do anything more to avert accidents. That is the individual driver."

With an estimated 40 million cars on the roads during the holiday, inevitable thousands defied the conformity of driving rules devised for safety at highway speeds. In some cases the result was fatal to several persons.

Five persons died in one flaming wreck of two cars near Jackson, N. C. Another head-on collision exploded two cars near Michigan City, Ind., killing four. Near Coats, N. C., three lives were smashed out, also in a head-on collision. Often, it was the heedless or unheeded pedestrian who was pitched to sudden death.

A Greyhound bus loaded with 34 holiday passengers skidded into a crowd on a highway, killing a woman and injuring her husband.

The count was higher than the council's pre-holiday estimate 620 deaths during the 102-hour holiday period.

THREE KILLED IN WISCONSIN

Three persons have died as the result of Wisconsin highway accidents since the Christmas holiday began Wednesday evening.

The state's traffic toll for the year now stands at 802, compared with 909 on this day in 1957.

Robert S. Felsner, 17, Oshkosh, was killed early today when the car in which he was riding left a county road north of Oshkosh and overturned.

Three companions, enroute to Lake Winnebago for fishing, were not injured.

Mrs. Norma Ebert, 40, of Route 1, Waukesha, was killed Christmas night when the car in which she was riding was involved in a collision with an auto being pursued by a city of Waukesha police squad. The crash occurred on Highway 59 near the victim's home. Her husband, Charles, the driver, and their two teen-age children were injured. The 39-year-old driver of the other car was injured slightly and under police guard at a Waukesha hospital.

Marvin Turney Jr., 18, of Keshena, was killed at 1:24 a.m. Thursday when his car crashed against a tree near Keshena Falls in Shawano County.

James Shea, 69, of Milwaukee, died Christmas Day of a skull fracture suffered last Monday when struck by a car at an intersection near his home.

Star Routes To Serve Towns After Jan. 6

Two existing star routes will deliver mail to communities in this area which will no longer have railroad mail service after Jan. 6.

The Stevens Point-Green Bay and Stevens Point - Marshfield routes will serve Sheridan, Amherst, Amherst Junction and Custer, according to information received at the Stevens Point Post Office.

Postal officials here do not believe the new arrangement will have much noticeable effect on the general public. However, mail will be dropped off earlier than before.

After Jan. 6, Ernest O. Jacobson of Iola, the Green Bay-Stevens Point star route contractor, will leave Green Bay at 2:45 a.m., arrive in Amherst at 8 a.m., Amherst Junction at 8:20, Nelsonville at 8:35 and Stevens Point at 8:55.

He will leave Stevens Point at 12:45 p.m., arrive in Custer at 1:05, Nelsonville at 1:20, Amherst Junction at 1:30, Amherst at 1:40 and Sheridan at 1:55 on his way back to Green Bay.

John Neidert, also of Iola, is the contractor on the Stevens Point-Marshfield route — which will become the Waupaca-Marshfield route.

He will leave Waupaca at 6 a.m., or on receipt of mail from Soo Line trains No. 3 and 4 (formerly 17 and 18). Neidert is scheduled to arrive at Sheridan at 6:20 a.m., Amherst at 6:35, Amherst Junction at 6:45, Nelsonville at 6:55, Custer at 7:10, Stevens Point at 7:20, the Soo Line station here at 7:30, Junction City at 7:55, Milladore at 8:05, Blenker at 8:15, Auburndale at 8:30, Hewitt at 8:45 and Marshfield at 9.

Neidert will lay over in Marshfield until 8:15 p.m., returning along the same route.

The Post Office Department will add $756.47 to Jacobson's annual contract price of $13,450. Neidert will receive $3,952.60 in addition to his contract price of $4,715.

Postal officials here said they have not been informed whether or not the new arrangement will be permanent. It is possible, they said, that further changes may be made.

The Weather

WISCONSIN—Partly cloudy to cloudy tonight and Saturday with chance of a little snow possibly becoming mixed with rain tonight or early Saturday. A little warmer tonight. Low tonight 24-34. High Saturday 35-45.

Southerly winds 10-20 m.p.h. this afternoon becoming westerly 12-22 m.p.h. tonight.

Stevens Point Temperatures
Wednesday's maximum, 26.
Yesterday's maximum, 29.
Thursday's minimum, -1.
Last night's minimum, 20.
Noon today, 39.
Precipitation, .02 inch of snow (melted).

Five-day forecasts:

WISCONSIN, UPPER LAKES—Temperatures will average 5-8 degrees above normal. Normal high 18-26 Lake Superior area to the low 30s extreme south. Normal low ranging from slightly above zero extreme northwest Wisconsin to near 20 extreme lower Michigan. Warmer tonight and again Monday or Tuesday. Precipitation will total .25 inch or less with rain or snow south and mostly north, occurring mainly on Tuesday or Wednesday but with brief occurrences earlier in the period.