

WEATHER

Clearing today; cooler in east and cool in west followed by fair and colder tonight. Thursday, fair and cool. Low temperatures tonight 25-30 in interior and freezing on coast.

The Shelby Daily Star

- State Theatre Today -
"DUFFY'S TAVERN"
Starring
ED GARDNER, with 32 STARS

CLEVELAND COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1894 TELEPHONE 1100

VOL XLIII— 308 ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS SHELBY, N. C. WEDNESDAY, Dec. 26, 1945 TELEMAT PICTURES SINGLE COPIES—5¢

CLEVELAND COUNTS MILLION DOLLAR ICE-STORM TOLL

Nation's Holiday Death Toll Pushed By Traffic And Fires To 350 Figure

Autos Claim More Than Half Of Total Deaths In Stormy-Christmas Season

By The Associated Press

Black crepe replaced the green holly in scores of the nation's homes today as mourning for victims of violent deaths over the Christmas holiday.

A survey disclosed approximately 350 persons were killed violently, with more than one half of them victims of automobile accidents.

The traffic fatalities numbered 176 while at least 61 persons died in fires. Violent deaths by miscellaneous causes accounted for 111 victims. These included deaths by shootings, freezing, a tornado, train and airplane crashes and accidents in the home.

HOSPITAL FIRE

The heaviest single toll over the holiday was taken in a hospital fire in Hartford, Conn., with 17 persons fatally burned. Six other persons in Meriden, Conn., died in a fire at a home.

Texas and California reported the most deaths by violence, 47 and 46, respectively. The fatalities in Texas were 29 victims of traffic accidents and 18 by miscellaneous causes, including 15 slayings. California topped the country in motor deaths with 35.

In New York state 21 violent deaths were reported, including six in traffic accidents, while Illinois motor mishaps, all in Chicago, totaled three.

Heavy snowfalls, rain and sleet in many parts of the country kept highway travel at a minimum over the holiday.

The violent deaths by states, listing in order of traffic, fire and miscellaneous causes:

Alabama 0-1-0; Arizona 10-0-0; Arkansas 2-0-1; California 35-2-9; Colorado 10-0-0; Connecticut 0-23-2; Florida 0-0-4; Georgia 1-0-0; Idaho 1-0-2; Illinois 3-1-11; Indiana 8-0-1; Kansas 1-0-0; Louisiana 3-2-3; Maine 0-0-5; Maryland 6-0-1; Massachusetts 0-0-2; Michigan 8-1-2.

Minnesota 2-2-0; Mississippi 3-0-3; Missouri 6-3-3; Nebraska 2-0-1; New Jersey 2-8-4; New Mexico 0-3-3; New York 6-4-11; North Carolina 2-0-0; North Dakota 1-3-1; Ohio 9-2-1; Oklahoma 6-0-2; Oregon 1-0-4; Pennsylvania 7-3-2; South Carolina 0-0-7; South Dakota 1-0-0; Tennessee 2-0-1.

Texas 29-0-18; Utah 0-0-2; Washington 1-0-1; West Virginia 2-5-1; Wisconsin 0-0-0; D. C. 0-1-0.

States not listed did not report any violent deaths.

CONGRESSMAN JOE W. ERVIN ENDS OWN LIFE

Despondent Over Old Injury, Charlotte Man Suicide At Washington

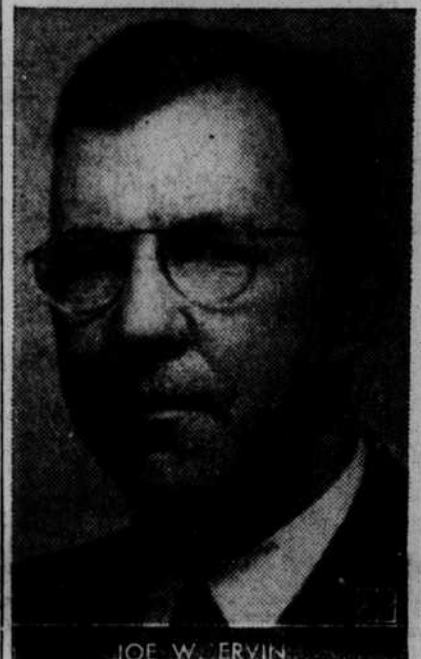
CAUDLE FINDS BODY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Clutching a pistol and a razor, Rep. Joe W. Ervin, 44-year-old North Carolina democrat, was found dead in the gas-filled kitchen of his home here Christmas day.

Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald issued a certificate of suicide by asphyxiation.

Ervin, a first-termer, had complained Monday night of an old leg ailment which had been complicated by a fall last week and of a recent heart disturbance. He had just been released from Walter Reed army hospital after two days of treatment.

The body was discovered by Theron L. Caudle, assistant attorney general and close friend of the lawmaker who had called to take the lawmaker to Christmas dinner.



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SEEK STRIKE SETTLEMENTS

Electrical Workers Strike Impending As GM Negotiations Resume

(By The Associated Press)

The nation's current major labor dispute, the General Motors strike, and a threatened walkout of 250,000 CIO Electrical Workers, held front rank in post-Christmas business along the country's labor front today.

In Detroit, officials of General Motors and the CIO-United Auto workers planned to resume negotiations, but the wage issue—the union's demand for 30 per cent rate increase—was not scheduled for discussion.

In Washington, officials of the CIO-United Electrical workers whose 250,000 members have authorized a strike in support of demands for a \$2 a day wage hike, were scheduled to meet with labor department conciliators.

The Detroit meeting said, Walker P. Reuther, UAW-CIO vice president, was to deal only with procedure for handling local union grievances in the absence of a working contract. Agreements between the company and the union were cancelled after the strike of 175,000 last Nov. 21.

Meanwhile, picketing of the strike-bound GM plants, halted over the Christmas holiday, was maintained only on a token basis today.

No date for a strike of the CIO-Electrical workers has been set, although a union spokesman said it might be called after the first of the year unless General Electric and Westinghouse "at least meet the offer of General Motors for 13 1-2 cents an hour increase."

Federal conciliators have invited GE and Westinghouse representatives to meetings tomorrow and Friday.

Truman Defies Storm To Fly Home For Christmas

By ERNEST B. VACCARO

INDEPENDENCE, MO., Dec. 26.—(AP)—President Truman went merrily about celebrating the Christmas holidays today as his home folk showed every disposition to allow him to do it in his own way.

His round of Yuletide calls spread to Kansas City where friends were invited to drop into his office in the federal building for an exchange of season greetings.

Mr. Truman covered plenty of territory upon his arrival here yesterday by plane from Washington through sleet and storm.



ICE STORM MAKES SHAMBLES OF COURT SQUARE—Cleveland's beautiful court square had its trees broken down by the Christmas snow storm. Shown is the courthouse with a view of a part of the damaged trees. Photo by Floyd Willis.

Paralyzing Devastation Isolates Area As Trees And Timber Are Wrecked

Court Square And Tree-Lined Streets Badly Damaged; Services Being Rapidly Restored

An ice-bound Shelby and Cleveland county had their "white Christmas" but old man winter wrote in icy figures such a bill for its attendant damage as to put it definitely into the red.

The worst ice storm in recollection of the county's oldest citizens devastated trees and timber, paralyzed traffic, electric service and communications, endangered life and property Christmas eve and Christmas day, completely isolating an ice-laden community which this morning after 36 hours was beginning to get normal services restored.

Estimates of damage to this county ran as high as a million dollars, most of it to timber and shade trees as the heavy glaze—gathered from nearly two inches of rain falling in below freezing temperature to cling and freeze to whatever it struck on the way down—broke down what has been Shelby's crowning beauty and reduced this city's lovely tree-lined streets and court square to a shambles. The ice storm extended over a wide area of state and nation to disrupt traffic and wire services generally.

Mayor Urges Use Of Broken Boughs For Firewood Purposes

A heavy fog last night further crippled work of restoring normal services, but clearing and warmer weather today rapidly was routing the snow and ice and encouraging workmen putting up polls and cleaning up storm debris.

Falling limb took down with them power and phone lines to add to the inconveniences of weather and to create further hazards as high voltage lines went down so fast and in so many places it was with difficulty they were serviced or even policed. Mayor Harry S. Woodson, who worked throughout the day with the service forces, breathed a sigh of relief last night when the day ended with no electrocutions to add to the troubles incident to the extreme weather conditions.

TRAVELERS STRANDED

Fifty persons stranded here Monday night when bus service had to be discontinued after a west-bound bus slipped from the highway into a ditch six miles west of the city spent the night in the local bus station as hotels were overflowing with scores of people who were forced by the snow and ice to halt their travels here. Casey Turner, manager of the bus station, kept the place heated and open through the night and served coffee to the people who took their inconvenience good-naturedly until busses came through Tuesday afternoon as highways cleared. Bus service was back on a normal basis this morning.

Telephone lines into and out of the city all were out and no calls other than local could be handled. The Western Union could get up no telegraph wire all day Tuesday, but expected to provide limited service later today. Dispatching of railway trains in this area was handled via the Shelby police radio in cooperation with the state highway patrol station which transmitted the messages when telegraph lines went down.

COUNTY HIT HARD

In the county, power and phone lines toppled even more extensively than in town, 22 poles falling within one mile in the Lattimore community. In some places highways were blocked temporarily by fallen power and phone poles or broken boughs, but highway workers worked continuously to get the wreckage and slush cleared so that through traffic was able to proceed with caution.

Today, the area was digging from under the devastation and trying to get services restored to normal. The Christmas holiday both served and complicated the complex conditions created by the extreme weather, people generally remaining at home to enjoy their Christmas dinner where electric service interruption did not prevent its preparation. Many were



S. I. C. BARRETT
MISSING SAILOR PRESUMED DEAD

Seaman first class J. B. Barrett, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Barrett, of 714 Parkview street, Shelby, has been presumed dead by the navy department, following the lapse of one year's time since he was reported missing in action on November 3, 1944, according to a message received here by Mr. and Mrs. Barrett.

Seaman Barrett was reported missing in action following the torpedoing of the USS Reno, a light cruiser aboard which he was serving as a shipfitter, in operations off the Philippines. No evidence has been uncovered since that time to justify the belief that Seaman Barrett still lives, the message indicated.

Barrett entered the service in November, 1943, and took his training at Great Lakes, Ill., prior to going overseas in April of the following year. He was serving with task force 38 at the time he was reported missing.

Before entering service Barrett was employed by the North Carolina Shipbuilding company, at Wilmington.

He is survived by his wife, the former Miss Millicent Corbie, of Greensboro; his parents, one sister, Reba Barrett, and a grandmother, Mrs. Lizzie Hayes, of Shelby.

SEVEN KILLED IN GAFFNEY CRASH

Coroner Investigating Automobile Train Collision Christmas Eve

GAFFNEY, S. C., Dec. 26.—(AP)—A coroner's jury is scheduled on January 3 to investigate the death of seven persons in an automobile-train crash here on Christmas Eve, according to Deputy Sheriff John S. Vess.

Two of the dead were identified by the Shuford-Hatcher mortuary as members of the armed forces. They were Charles Edward Phillips, Jr., 28, on leave from the merchant marine, and Jack T. Cochran, 21, home on leave from the navy.

Other victims were identified as Fred Warren, Henry Phillips, Robert Phillips, G. C. Self and Miss Geraldine Byers, all believed to be Gaffney residents.

The seven persons were killed in a collision with a Southern Railway train on a grade crossing near the center of Gaffney. Police Chief Blaine Byers said that a freezing rain and poor visibility probably accounted for the deaths.

Carolinas Emerging From Christmas Ice Storm

Clearing Weather Helps Emergency Crews Speed Restoration Of Services

(By The Associated Press)

Clearing skies and warmer weather greeted Carolinians today following a severe Christmas Eve and Christmas Day ice storm that hit the two states, disrupting travel and communications. At least 12 persons were killed in accidents on slippery roads. Seven met death at Gaffney, S. C., when a passenger train struck their automobile at a grade crossing.

Most of the North Carolina and the northern and western sections of South Carolina were hard hit by the ice storm, while the remainder of South Carolina experienced heavy rains.

Fair and cooler weather was predicted for both states tonight and tomorrow.

SECTION HIT HARDEST

Asheville, Shelby and Hickory were among the North Carolina cities reportedly hardest hit, being virtually isolated at the height of the storm yesterday.

Bus schedules and plane flights, almost all of which had been cancelled, were gradually returning to normal today, while trains, still running behind schedule, were experiencing less difficult going.

Many Christmas dinners were delayed because of power failures. Power and telephone company crews were still working today to restore facilities.

Greenville and Spartanburg were among the South Carolina cities to feel the effects of the storm. Much of Greenville was without electric power for several hours yesterday morning, but slowly rising temperatures and steady rainfall later in the day brought some relief.

Damage to trees from the heavy ice burdens was widespread.

Senate Committee Probing Waste In Surplus Disposal

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Senator Knowland (R-Calif.) who has seen the waste of war, said today he and fellow senators hope to determine within a month whether military goods are being wastefully thrown away now.

Are usable trucks being pushed over cliffs? Is food being allowed to spoil while children go hungry? These are among the questions a subcommittee of the Senate's Defense Investigating committee will seek to answer in a month-long "round the world" trip.

The trip starts tomorrow. Heading the group is Senator Tunnell (D-Ind.), an old hand at investigations aboard. The billed member is Senator Mitchell (D-Wash.).

Knowland said in an interview that the army during the war had a crackerjack system of salvage which saved "a tremendous amount of shipping" by repairing battle damage. He served as a major in Europe before becoming a senator.

GP's Reprimanded For Demonstration When Sailing Balked

MANILA, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Spokesman for 4,000 G.I.'s said a mass meeting would be held today to discuss cancellation of a scheduled home-bound transport sailing—after a mass protest march yesterday brought both an explanation and a reprimand from their colonel, who was quoted as telling them:

"You men forget you're not working for General Motors—you're still in the army."

The army newspaper Pacifican attributed the statement to Col. J. C. Campbell, depot commander who ordered the men to their barracks. He explained that the sailing cancellation was in connection with consolidation of the 81st and 29th replacement depots.

The men dispersed within 10 minutes, discarding their "we want ships" banners.

Wires Burned To Delay Warning Of Fire In Hospital

HARTFORD, Conn., Dec. 26.—(AP)—The Christmas Eve fire that took 17 lives at the Niles Street hospital here got a head start because it burned through telephone wires, causing a delay in the sounding of the alarm, Edward J. Hickey, state police commissioner and state fire marshal, has disclosed.

Because of the few minutes that elapsed between the time the fire broke out in a tinder dry Christmas tree and the sounding of almost simultaneous telephone and box alarms by a next door resident and a passer-by, Hickey said last night, many of the 31 elderly, bed-ridden patients in the hospital were beyond aid when the first firemen arrived.

Thirteen patients, two of them women over 90, and two kitchen employes died in the fire or within a few hours after it. Two more patients died yesterday.

PATTON'S SOLDIERS BEAR HIM TO LUXEMBOURG GRAVE

By RICHARD A. O'REGAN

LUXEMBOURG, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Gen. George S. Patton, jr., was laid to rest this Christmas Eve in the American military cemetery near here, his grave no different from 6,000 others which mark the final resting places of soldiers from his own beloved Third Army.

Generals of allied nations stood stiffly at attention in the rain as the body of the fallen warrior was placed beside that of an American private.

A plain white cross was placed above the general's grave — just like 6,000 other white crosses which dot the gently sloping hillside. These were the graves of Third Army men who fell just a year ago

THREE BLACKOUT BREAKINGS HERE

Taking advantage of Shelby's involuntary blackout last night, thieves attempted three burglaries, one successfully, and escaped with a lot of two watches from Wray Green's Jewelry store on South Washington street.

Shortly before 6:30 last night the thief apparently broke the store window with a rock and lifted the watches from their display cases. When local police discovered the break-in, an attempt was made to contact all merchants so that window lights could be turned on. Soon after discovery of the initial burglary, broken windows were also found in the rear of Kester-Groome Furniture Co., and the Shelby Motor Inn. No losses had been reported at either of those places, however.

At eight o'clock Police Chief Knox Hardin called off duty policemen to tour the blacked-out business district on both foot and motor patrol. No further trouble was encountered after that time.

Stores Open, Banks Closed

Shelby retail merchants had just before Christmas to remain open for business today but closed on New Year's Day, so local stores were offering their wares today with reduced sales personnel.

Practically all holiday merchandise was moved in the scramble for gift goods. Shelves were made scant and lean after the shoppers had bought their Christmas requirements, but after-Christmas sales were the order today.

Banks, building and loans are closed today but will remain open on New Year's Day when it is more important to stay open for the transaction of year-end business.