



TRAIN WRECKS FATAL TO 22 PERSONS

DEATH STALKS OVER 200 MORE AT YULETIDE

Accident, Murder, Suicide and Fire Toll Grows During Holiday

AIR ACCIDENTS ALSO ACCOUNT FOR OTHERS

HAMILTON, Ont., Dec. 26.—(UP).—Canadian National Railway officials today sought to determine whether a faulty switch caused the crack Mapleleaf Plier to crash into the rear of a Christmas day excursion train, killing 15 and injuring 32.

Officials pointed out that the Plier might have approached so fast that the electrically-operated switch had not had time to close. They also pointed out that the switch possibly was faulty and remained partly open after the excursion train passed. Many of the injured are expected to die.

HARVEY, Ill., Dec. 26. (UP). The International Limited, fast Grand Trunk passenger train, crashed into an automobile at a grade crossing today, killing seven occupants. The victims were badly mangled and included four women. Three women were decapitated. None of them have as yet been identified. The automobile license was traced to John Burke.

Copyright, 1934, by U. P. Death rode through the holidays, leaving a trail of more than 200 auto fatalities, murders, shootings, airplane and train tragedies, drownings and suicides, a survey by the United Press revealed Christmas night.

Violence and tragedy marked Christmas celebration in at least 29 states. California led the black parade with 25 deaths. Texas had 24. Missouri had 21, while a dozen states marked up 10 or more.

In some instances the greater part of families were wiped out. A woman and two children, returning to Kansas City for Christmas with her husband, were killed on a Nebraska highway.

In Perryville, Pa., a grief-stricken woman shot four, and then killed herself. She had killed her sister at Dunkirk, N. Y.

An airplane plunged into bleak waters north of Elko, Nev., carrying four to their death. Another sank at sea off the lower California coast, two pilots, four passengers and a child drowning.

California led the nation in auto fatalities. Deaths on highways from Los Angeles to the northern part of the state totaled 17. Texas marked up 15 auto deaths and there were 88 recorded throughout the country.

Suicides paid the depression's grim tribute to Christmas. More than 25 were recorded, the larger number attributed to despondency. California registered four, New York five, Illinois three, all at Chicago and Louisiana three.

Fire claimed its holiday toll, 22 deaths, including a half dozen children born in Christmas tree blazes. Joplin, Mo., and St. Louis, Mo., burned four each on Christmas.

The death list includes in addition to auto deaths, suicides, fires and other accidental deaths, two train deaths, 14 air crash disasters, including seven by drowning, 10 shooting, 25 murders, one poison liquor death, one stabbing, eight miscellaneous deaths.

There were five killed in shootings in Texas. Tennessee, Nevada and Missouri had air crash victims. Five southern states—South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee, Alabama and Florida—compiled a list of a dozen murders.

In New York Bedra Delgado, a 23-year-old woman, awoke amid smoke from a burning Christmas tree, rushed in panic to the window and jumped from her fourth-story apartment. She was killed instantly. Fourteen others were injured.

Fatalities were divided as follows: Automobile fatalities 88, murders 25, suicides 24, fire 22, drownings 12, shootings 9, air crash deaths 7, miscellaneous 18.

Polk County Girl Is Shot To Death

TRYON, Dec. 26.—Miss Pauline Hodges, 16-year-old daughter of Charlie Hodges, of the Pea Ridge section, was killed about midnight Sunday when the charge from a sawed-off shotgun took effect in her breast. Norman Ponder surrendered following the killing and was jailed at Columbus.

Miss Hodges was holding a baby at the time she was shot. The charge entered her body, but the baby was not injured.

In Command Saar Troops



The troops placed at the disposal of the League of Nations by the neutral countries of Europe for the policing of the Saar area during the plebiscite in January will be commanded by Major General J. E. S. Brind, above, of the British army.

BETTY GOW IS BACK TO TELL KIDNAP STORY

Version Expected to Forge Link in State's Case Against Hauptmann

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—(UP). Betty Gow, demure Scotch girl who was the last person to see the Lindbergh baby before he was abducted and murdered, returned to the United States last night under a heavy cloak of secrecy, to tell New Jersey courts what she knows of the Lindbergh kidnaping.

Clad in tweed coat and brown scarf, she paused on the deck of the Cunard liner Aquitania just long enough to say, "I can't say anything," let news photographers snap her picture and was whisked away in a black limousine to the Morrow estate at Englewood, N. J.

Miss Gow was the last person to leave the Aquitania. Police surrounded her, and it was only after difficulty that reporters could get close enough to shout questions into her ear.

She declined to say whether she would testify for or against Bruno Richard Hauptmann, Bronx carpenter charged with murdering the 20 months' old son of Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh.

And so she was swallowed in the same secrecy that surrounded her departure from Scotland. She had traveled incognito, but newspapermen recognized her.

Federal agents reportedly had been assigned to guard her landing, because they feared an attempt would be made against her.

(Continued on page three)

THEATRE HAS ITS PREMIER CHRISTMAS EVE

State, Formerly Queen, Offers Features to Big Audiences

MODERNIZED HOUSE IS MOST ATTRACTIVE

The new State theatre, entirely modernized and remodeled, went into the third day of its business today, having had its inaugural on Christmas Eve, when the doors were thrown open at 6:30 o'clock to the public, with the show starting at 7:30 o'clock. The premier and the Christmas performances were given to capacity audiences, indicating that the new institution is in for a cordial patronage on the part of film fans.

Marking the initial performances were the presentation of "Kentucky Kernels," featuring Bert Wheeler and Bob Woolsey, with Mary Carlisle and Noah Beery in the leads, with selected units, including "Funny Little Bunnies," a Disney Technicolor Symphony, a comedy, "Pugs and Kisses," and a traveltalk on "Flanders." This was also the program for Christmas day.

The Christmas eve program was marked by a prelude, opening with "Jingle Bells" and other Christmas music, and concluding with "Auld Lang Syne." At the conclusion of this, the theatre was dedicated by Harry Buchanan, city manager for the North Carolina Theatres, Inc., controlling both the Carolina and the State. Mr. Buchanan told the audience that the project was one more indication of the faith of the theatre operating concern in Hendersonville, and declared that he hoped the patronage would warrant its all-year operation as one of the entertainment institutions of the city.

The interior of the auditorium has been re-decorated in ivory, buff and brown, while acoustical celotex panels done in red and stenciled in silver decorative figures of alternating designs which have the color of gold under the indirect amber lighting suspended from the ceiling, while soft carpeting and cushioned seats, together with the installation of a modern heating and ventilating system give all desired comforts for patrons.

The remodeling has been done entirely under the personal supervision of Eric G. Stillwell, the original architect of the theatre, who was also in charge of all construction and directed details of the improvements. With the exception of the installation of the carpets, seat and sound equipment, which was done by visiting engineers, all of the work was performed by labor engaged here in the city, including the installation of plumbing, heating, and carpentry, painting and electrical work.

The total absence of harshness or of echo of tone from the sound production equipment has been brought about by the introduction of the acoustical panels which have been provided. These, as the name implies, are made of celotex, and are dotted with innumerable indentations, which results in absorption, instead of reverberation of sound.

Foyer and lobby decorations (Continued on page three)

Roosevelt Lays Aside Presidential Cares Spends Christmas With Family

Returns to Duties Today and Must Prepare Message Act on Relief Before Congress Gathers

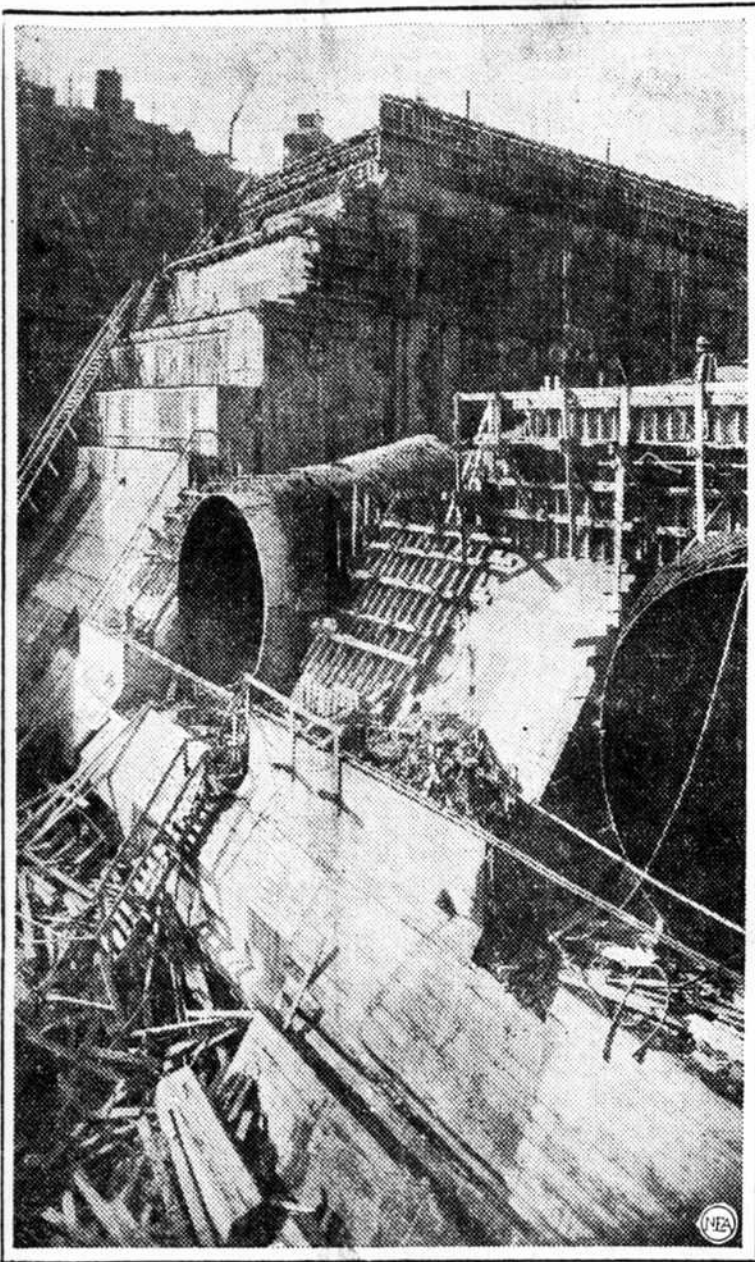
WASHINGTON, Dec. 26. (UP) Franklin D. Roosevelt laid aside his cares as President of the United States yesterday and became the head of a family that gathered around a Christmas tree in the White House.

From all over the world packages and greeting cards arrived, but it was around a Christmas tree on the second floor of the White House that the celebration centered. There the Roosevelt family—the President; Mrs. Roosevelt; Mrs. Sara Delano Roosevelt, mother of the President; all of the President's five children except Elliott; and the grandchildren, Sistie and Buzzie Dall, gathered for an old-time Christmas.

At the insistence of the President, such new fangled things as electric lights were dispensed with and the fire-proofed tree bore candles. Gifts were distributed, a seven course Christmas dinner was eaten and the Roosevelt family spent the day far from the cares of directing the destinies of a nation.

During the morning, the Presi-

Norris Dam Bulk Grows Rapidly



The mighty bulk of the barrier that will be the complete Norris Dam in 1936 is shown here, rapidly taking shape as construction crews keep ahead of schedule in their task. This view, taken from the foundation of the powerhouse, shows the downstream ends of the two penstock tubes that will carry the water to the turbines. These great pipes are 20 feet in diameter. The dam, being built in the Clinch river, in northeastern Tennessee, part of the mammoth TVA project, will stand 253 feet high and create a lake of 83 square miles.

FRENCH WILL FREE VASSAR STUDENT SOON

One of Three Women to Get Good News of Fate on Christmas Day

By MARY KNIGHT United Press Staff Correspondent

PARIS, Dec. 26.—(UP).—Three women, bright-eyed with new hope, attended Christmas mass in Petite Roquette, French women's prison, last night.

One a condemned murderer—19-year-old Violette Nozriere, had just been told President Lebrun had granted a reprieve.

Another, Arlette Stavisky, widow of the Bayonne pawnbroker who failed for half a billion francs precipitating a cabinet crash, received word that her release from prison might come any day.

The third, an American girl, Marjorie Switz of Vassar, received news that the courts were preparing an early trial of spy charges against her.

Violette betrayed little interest when first informed of the reprieve which saved her from the gallows but condemned her to a life in prison. However, her hopes rose when lawyers explained that after 10 years she might go free under a pardon.

Arlette, informed of the change in the court's attitude toward her case, replied: "I did nothing but love my husband and my children. If tenderness is a crime, I am guilty."

To the American college girl, Miss Switz, hope was strongest. She is almost certain to be free by mid February. She will be deported as soon as her trial is over.

Liberation was expected as a result of the lawyers' plea that the Switz's be free for turning state's evidence.

All three ate a meager Christmas dinner—a fruit tart, aided as supplementary fare to roast duck and potatoes—but it was an improvement over the usual prison fare.

They had no chance to talk to each other. All three went back to separate cells where they remain in solitary confinement.

AUSTRIAN PROTEST VIENNA, Dec. 26.—(UP).—Austria has protested to Czechoslovakia against the activities of "emigrant" socialist newspapers, operated by Austrian socialists who fled to Czechoslovakia last February when the government began suppression of socialists here.

NEGROES HELD AFTER DEATH OF S.C. OFFICER

State Highway Patrolman Slain; Sought to Quell Disturbance

GREENVILLE, S. C., Dec. 26. (UP).—Three suspects in the slaying last night of State Highway Patrolman E. D. Milam were arrested last night.

Milam, 23-year-old officer whose home is at Newberry, was shot and beaten to death when he sought to quell a disturbance among negroes at a school house on the Laurens road, six miles south of Greenville.

Sheriff B. B. Smith and his deputies were rounding up all negroes known to have attended the party where the trouble occurred. There was no evidence to connect the first three suspects arrested with the shooting except that they were said to have been at the scene.

Officers feared possible mob violence from aroused citizens should suspicion be fixed more definitely.

Milam's body was found with the head pierced by three bullets and battered by a blunt instrument. Three exploded .32 caliber pistol shells were found near the body. Milam's .45 caliber revolver was missing from its holster.

DEATH CALLS JOHN ANDRUS

Millionaire Head of Insurance Firm Has Brief Illness

YONKERS, N. Y., Dec. 26.—(UP).—John E. Andrus, 94, chairman of the executive committee of the New York Life Insurance company, one of the nation's 10 wealthiest men died today after a brief illness. His fortune is estimated at \$300,000,000. He was called the millionaire strap-hanger because he rode the subways, despite his wealth.

BAN OIL ROYALTIES BERLIN, Dec. 26. (UP).—The Prussian government yesterday enacted a law providing a state monopoly on oil prospecting. Owners of sites where oil is found are denied royalties.

ZERO WEATHER SWEEPS OVER NORTH BORDER

Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin Temperature in Big Drop

SOUTH HAS WARM, BALMY CHRISTMAS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—(UP).—The weather bureau today issued cold wave and storm warnings for the region from the Ohio valley eastward to the Atlantic seaboard.

Cold wave warnings covered the Ohio Valley, Tennessee, the lower Great Lakes region, the Middle Atlantic states, Pennsylvania and New York.

Storm warnings were hoisted along the coast from Eastport, Maine, to Cape Hatteras, N. C. Much colder weather is forecast for New England and the extreme north portion of the South Atlantic states.

While most of the South experienced balmy, spring-like weather, with warm sunning holding thermometers well above 50 degrees Christmas day, a cold wave swept across the Canadian border late Tuesday, bringing zero and near-zero temperatures to most of the Northwest and Midwest for Christmas.

Havre, Mont., reported 20 degrees below zero with the temperature sinking rapidly. Intermediate points in North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin recorded a range from zero to 14 below.

The forecast was more cold for an indefinite period. Atlantic Seaboard cities reported gradually dropping readings from temperatures of 30 and 35 degrees above recorded Tuesday morning.

Over the agricultural Midwest, the tinkling of sleigh bells heralded a typically white Christmas.

In contrast, residents of Miami, Fla., and Fort Worth, Tex., played golf under a sun with temperatures close to 75 above.

California was blanketed in the north by a creeping ground fog which hampered visibility.

For a few hours New York and a large strip of the eastern Seaboard had a "white Christmas" but the snow did not last long.

Forecast was for rain or snow and continued low temperatures. City crews and temperatures slightly above freezing cleared Detroit's streets of the first white Christmas in five years. Zero temperatures were forecast for the entire state Wednesday, however, with occasional snows.

Boston and most of New England experienced cold, cloudy weather. There were scattered snow flurries, but in most places children were able to try out their new skates.

JAP TREATY NOTE IS DUE ON SATURDAY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26. (UP).—Ambassador Hiroshi Saito today announced Japan's intention of giving official notice of abrogation of the Washington naval limitations treaty to the United States department of state on Saturday of his week. All other powers bound by the pact will be notified simultaneously that the treaty terminates on Dec. 31, 1936.

Tinkham Charges Madam Perkins Has Pushed U. S. Into The League

Congressman Alleges "Trickery and Fraud" and "Base Betrayal" in Joining Geneva Labor Organization

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26. (UP). Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins has pushed the United States into the League of Nations thru "trickery and fraud" by joining the international labor organization at Geneva, Representative George H. Tinkham, R., Mass., charged last night.

A joint resolution providing for American participation in the labor organization was passed in the dying hours of the last congress.

"The time for this base betrayal of the independence and of the vital interests of the United States was cunningly chosen," Tinkham said. "This intrigue to entangle the United States in the affairs of Europe was perpetrated at a time when the 73rd congress was bent on winding up the session and going home—when a legislative bedlam was at its height."

The international labor organization—a subsidiary of the League of Nations—was formed to secure wages, hours and the condition of employment all over the world.

VIENNA, Dec. 25.—(UP).—The Austrian League of Nations union has prepared to dispatch a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, begging him to bring the United States into the Geneva institution "for the good of the United States and world peace."

Opera Star Back In Film Capital



Back in Hollywood after a nationwide tour that added to her fame, Grace Moore, opera star, is shown enjoying her morning coffee in Hollywood. Miss Moore visited 32 cities, appearing in concert, after scoring a sensation in a recent film.

B. W. TOWNSEND PASSES AWAY

Father of Mrs. Frank Bell Called by Death at His Red Springs Home

B. W. Townsend, age 73, prominent lumberman of the Red Springs section, and father of Mrs. Frank Bell of Tuxedo, died Sunday at his home following a lingering illness.

Funeral services were held Monday from the home at Red Springs. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bell had been called to Mr. Townsend's home two weeks ago on account of the illness of Mrs. Bell's father. Mr. Bell and the children will return to Tuxedo Saturday night. Mrs. Bell expects to remain at her former home for about two weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Bell and son, J. O. Bell, Jr., who attended the funeral, returned last night.

Mr. Townsend had long been a business leader and lumberman of the section of the state in which he lived and was more or less active up until the time he had been taken critically ill. He had retired once from business, but re-entered again.

WHEAT TRADING FIGURES CLIMB

Extended Survey Shows Great Extent of Years Christmas Shopping

1934, United Press) amounts from the Atlantic to Pacific will take year-end inroads on stocks depleted by greatest source of Christmas since 1929.

United Press survey Tuesday more than bore out the earlier trading gains of earlier years.

Merchants reported better sales than in 1933 and in most better than in any year since took its nose-dive in 1929.

Among the last-minute rush of shoppers was the since post-depression days, big department stores were being manned by the rush and to sell it. In some of the shops in New York merchants were seen stripping their windows to fill the resurgent demand in the last few hours of Christmas Eve shopping.

Estimated trade gains including up to Christmas Eve closed ranged from 10 to better than 20 per cent over last year.

Merchants viewed the Christmas sales not only in the terms of goods turned over, but in terms of replacement demand which they said would prove to be the next few months.

Stores noted that not only but there was heavier demand for radios, bicycles, electric stoves, expensive perfumes and other more costly articles.

Merchants reported heavy holiday traffic. Terminals were jammed and express cars in several cities. Bus and air transport had increased.

Stores, many of which were on the verge of bankruptcy due to keen competition of the month participated in the holiday. Some stores reported (Continued on page three)

GAS RATE CUT SECOND YEAR IN YEAR

Approval of State and City Commission

REDUCTION SEEN IN FUTURE

Second reduction of gas rates in Hendersonville for the year was announced by the Carolina Central Gas company with the approval of the North Carolina utilities commission and the mayor and city commissioners of Hendersonville.

With the January readings, a reduction will be made by every gas user except the house of W. O. manager of the company. The minimum bill, with the exception, will be reduced from \$1.25 to \$1.25 a month, net. The new rate is 10 cents net per cubic foot of gas used over the 200 cubic feet.

It is hoped to be able to make further reductions as our cost of business increases," said.

Written by Mayor A. Edwards while application for the reduction was pending public in this connection.

Central Gas Co., Hendersonville, N. C.

MAJOR AND CITY COMMISSIONERS JOIN IN SEEKING THIS

Reduction in Rates for Your Gas

Mayor and city commissioners join in seeking this reduction and want to congratulate you on the fine service you are rendering to our city. We are sure that you came into our city at a time that it was hard to do business, old or new, to the business. The Carolina Central Gas company deserves credit for the confidence shown in Hendersonville. The city officials of Hendersonville wish to every member of the organization a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours very truly, A. V. Edwards, Mayor.

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