

Slightly colder tonight; Sunday generally fair and continued cool.

# The Times-News

Largest Daily Circulation of Any Newspaper in North Carolina in Proportion to Population

Apparently a lot of French deputies don't think the government's "gags" are so funny.

## DIE IN BOMBER MYSTERY EXPLOSION

### Two Day Christmas Holiday Will Be Kept

#### PALESTINE AND MUSIC WILL BE OFFERED HERE

Community Putting Final Touches on Double Holiday Program

#### MONDAY WILL BE COMPLETE HOLIDAY

Henderson counties put the final touches today on preparations for a double holiday. While church, charity and other organizations started distribution of Christmas baskets and other gifts to needy families, housewives were busy in kitchens, men attended to business of the workday and made themselves useful in the family's Christmas scheme, and children ran errands and "beautified" in general in anticipation of the arrival of Santa Claus. Hundreds of visitors arrived for the holidays, and many were on the way to other parts to visit friends and relatives. Most stores will remain open tonight to accommodate last-minute shoppers but will be closed Monday.

Stores and business houses, city and county offices, the State Trust, and city library will observe complete holiday Monday. The post office will observe the holiday and there will be no city deliveries on that day. In keeping with the custom of having one holiday a year, no issue of the Times-News will be published on Monday.

Hendersonville's churches will observe Christmas with appropriate services today and Sunday, and some churches have planned pageants and Christmas tree programs.

Christmas messages will be delivered to congregations by pastors at the regular 11 o'clock service tomorrow morning.

St. James Episcopal church will celebrate the Midnight Eucharist tonight at 11:30 o'clock, and a solemn High Mass will be celebrated tonight at midnight at the immaculate Conception church. The Mass of St. Anthony will be held at this time.

Special Christmas programs tomorrow at various churches include:

5 p. m.—Special Christmas program of pageantry and music at the First Methodist church.

7:30 p. m.—Special Christmas program conducted by the Sunday school at Grace Lutheran church.

7:30 p. m.—Christmas program at Wesleyan Methodist church.

7:30 p. m.—Special Christmas program of pageantry and Christmas service at Calvary Baptist church.

Several churches had their annual Christmas programs last Sunday. Complete schedules of all church services appear on the church page today.

#### GERMANS FACE FUEL FAMINE

Wider, Goering Playing Santa to Thousands of Destitute

BERLIN, Dec. 24. (UP)—A severe fuel shortage that forced the closing of more than 100 coal mines in Berlin alone last night caused suffering in poorer working class districts as Chancellor Adolf Hitler and Field Marshal Hermann Goering played Santa Claus to thousands of destitute families. The Berlin Coal Retailers association prohibited dealers from making announcements that their stocks had been exhausted on the ground that such information would "unduly excite" the public during the holiday season. The poorer class districts were hardest hit because families there had to buy supplies for only a few days in advance, had no fuel stored on hand. Authorities said the shortage was due entirely to transportation difficulties caused by the freezing of canals and that there was plenty of coal at the mine pits. Sufficient supplies were anticipated within 10 days, they said. Retailers were forbidden officially to furnish their own transportation to obtain coal.

#### JAPS PLAN DRIVE

SHANGHAI, Dec. 24. (UP)—Japan was today massing thousands of men for a drive into northwest China.

#### 250 NEEDY FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS GET CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE AND CHEER HERE

##### Reports Beating By Memel Nazis



Jaws swollen and face scarred, Robert A. Sellman, free-lance American writer, is shown as he reported being beaten by Nazis in the recent Memel, Lithuania, elections.

##### Organizations Take Hand in Local Seasonal Activities

More than 250 needy families and individuals will receive Christmas cheer through the combined efforts of churches, civic and benevolent organizations, and private individuals, a survey indicated today. Gifts in the form of toys and Christmas fruits and candies have been or will be distributed to children, and a check today showed more than 200 families would receive Christmas baskets. Cooperating in the drive to insure some form of Christmas cheer for all needy are the city churches, Girl Scouts, American Legion and Legion Auxiliary, the Elks club, Kiwanis and Rotary clubs, Junior Welfare club, and private individuals and business firms.

##### 100 ARE GUESTS OF LEGION, AUXILIARY

The American Legion and Legion Auxiliary entertained about 100 children and adults at the annual Christmas tree party yesterday afternoon at the Legion clubhouse.

Santa Claus was present in person to distribute the toys and Christmas goodies to about 75 children, while approximately 25 adults in need were supplied with Christmas baskets.

A brief program was given before the presents were distributed.

##### ELKS TENDER FIRST YULE CHEER HERE

The B. P. O. Elks, recently organized here, is making its influence felt in charitable fields as more than 35 families will receive Christmas cheer from this agency.

A. T. McCarron, chairman of the committee on community and social welfare, and other Elks played Santa Claus today to many families. The local Elks had the co-operation of the Asheville Salvation Army in making this program possible, and in addition toys, food and services were given by many local business people.

##### KIWANIS, ROTARY ARE BOTH ACTIVE

In keeping with its annual custom, the Kiwanis club will provide shoes for 50 needy children in the county.

Cards bearing the names of the children selected will be distributed through the county welfare department, and the recipients will call Monday morning between the hours of 9 and 12 o'clock at Patterson's department store and Kalin's department store to be fitted. The cost of the shoes will be borne equally by the club and the two stores, each of which is represented in the club, by Edward Patterson and Sam Kalin.

Kiwanis and Rotary clubs in joint Christmas meetings on Thursday exchanged gifts of toys and these were turned over to the American Legion Auxiliary for distribution with Christmas baskets provided by church and charity organizations.

Toys donated by civic clubs were added to hundreds of others given at a Carolina theatre matinee and from other sources. The toys were repaired by the city fire and police departments.

In addition to these Christmas activities, churches and other organizations were caring for needy families today and tomorrow.

##### MAYOR DINES 75 IN HIS BOYS' CLUB

About 75 boys, members of Mayor A. V. Edwards' club for boys, had a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings at noon today. The dinner was served in the fire department recreation room at the city hall through the generosity of a local business man.

##### DINNER, TREE, PARTY AT NURSERY SCHOOL

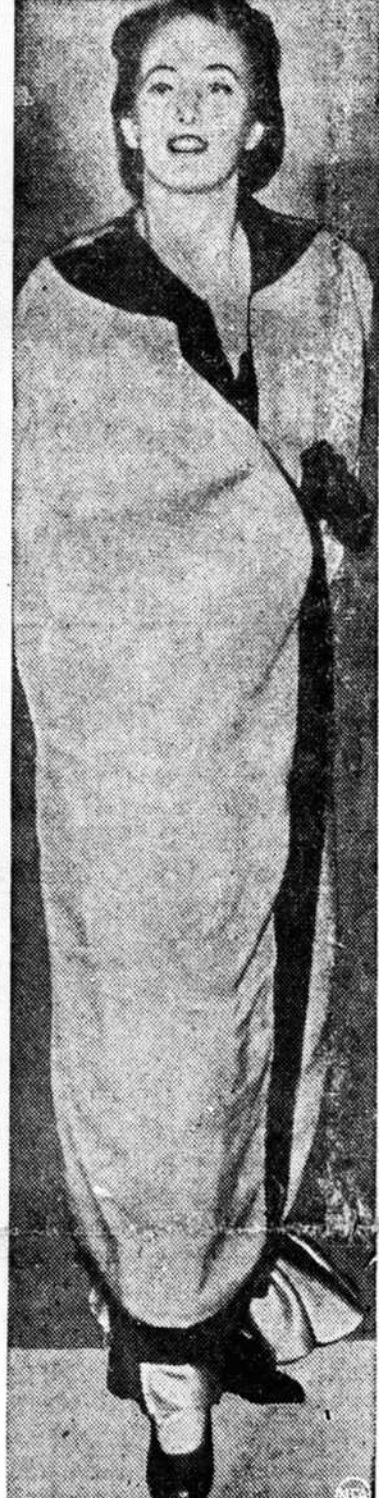
A Christmas dinner, tree and party were featured at the WPA Nursery School on Third avenue west in the Brooks building Friday and all participants had an extraordinarily good time.

The dinner was the first of a series of three events at the WPA Nursery school.

Following the dinner, the tree was held at 4:30 o'clock and the mothers and 13 tots in attendance were generously remembered.

Mrs. Mary C. Binson said that while only 13 children and their mothers were present, the Christmas tree was estimated at \$250,000.

#### Model Debutante



Comely fashion model Wilma Baard, who is NOT a socialite, nevertheless becomes a "deb," thanks to the sponsorship of a group of New York men about town. Fed up with the current "glamor deb" furore, they presented her to "society." Among Wilma's strongest admirers are East River barge captains, who call her "Tugboat Minnie."

#### POPE SCORES 'TOTALITARIES'

Flays Italian Anti-Jewish Policy; Wishes for Peace of World

VATICAN CITY, Dec. 24. (UP)—The Pope today criticized Italy severely for its anti-Semitic racial campaign and referred to the German Nazi swastika as the "cross which is inimical to the cross of Christ" in his Christmas message.

The Pope also accused the Italian government of violating the Lateran accord by interfering with activities of the Catholic Action, an organization of laymen. The Pope further deplored display of the swastika and other Nazi emblems in Rome during the visit of Fuehrer Adolf Hitler. He ended with reference to his advancing age and a Christmas wish for world peace.

#### JAP COMMANDERS READY TO WELCOME FRIENDLY GESTURE FROM CHINESE LEADERS

SHANGHAI, Dec. 24. (UP)—Japanese Central China headquarters today announced that Japanese army commanders would welcome any friendly gesture from Chinese leaders, according to an official Japanese news agency dispatch from Nanking.

"We are willing to accept our enemies of yesterday as friends, regardless of their previous stand," the dispatch quoted army leaders as saying.

#### TOKYO, Dec. 24. (UP)—Japan "unquestionably" will go ahead with her plan to create a political and economic bloc of China, Japan and Manchukuo despite the parallel policies of Britain and the United States in extending financial assistance to the Chinese Nationalists, a foreign office spokesman said yesterday.

Commenting on Thursday night's statement by Premier Prince Fumimaro Konoye the spokesman said that the Anglo-American credits to Chinese Nationalist Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek "may have had a bearing" on the issuance of the statement which embodies Japan's program as decided upon at the imperial conference here on Nov. 30.

The premier's statement, handed to foreign correspondents shortly before midnight, was seen as designed to reassure the people of China and to counteract the effect of the Anglo-American credit extension (Continued on page six)

#### LIMA PARLEY READY TO O. K. DECLARATION

Ratifying Solidarity Policy Against Aggression, Only Formality

#### ARGENTINE AND U. S. POSITIONS BRIDGED

LIMA, Peru, Dec. 24. (UP)—Delegates of the 21 American republics last night signed a declaration at the eighth Pan American conference which pledged solidarity of the New World nations against foreign military or political aggression in the western hemisphere.

Only formal approval by the plenary session, a technicality already assured by the acceptance of the draft by all countries, was needed to make the declaration effective.

Because of present world conditions, the declaration, while not naming them specifically, was directed against the European totalitarian states.

Agreement on the form of the declaration, which at times threatened to split the conference wide open because of contrary viewpoints of Argentina, on one hand, and the United States and the rest of the American countries on the other, was obtained when the Buenos Aires government cabled its delegation authorization to sign the declaration.

The Argentine representatives signed the agreement at 5:45 p. m., after the other delegates had put their signatures to it.

Isidoro Ruiz Moreno, head of the Argentine delegation, arriving at the Peruvian chamber of deputies, where plenary sessions of the conference were held, told the United Press his instructions gave him "full powers to sign at the discretion of the delegation."

He said there still remained to be arranged "one or two changes without importance."

The Argentines signed after a meeting of all members of their delegation.

The declaration, which was based on an earlier proposal of the Argentine delegation, reaffirms the decision of the American republics to "maintain and defend" their continental solidarity and absolute sovereignty "against all foreign intervention or activity that might threaten them." It further provides for consultation among all the countries if the peace, security or territorial integrity of any of them is threatened by "acts of force of whatever nature that might impair their sovereignty."

In accordance with Argentina's demands, the declaration contained no specific reference to "non-American" nations but referred only to possible "foreign" aggression. This was interpreted in some sources to mean that if the United States should revert to "dollar diplomacy" accompanied by intervention, such action might be made the occasion for consultation among the Latin American countries.

Ruiz Moreno said his government had decided upon approval of the declaration "because all the aims of the declaration on continental solidarity have been met."

Although his instructions requested some minor amendments in the wording of the draft, Ruiz Moreno indicated no difficulties (Continued on page five)

#### American Writer Gets Nobel Prize



Smiling her pleasure, American authoress Pearl Buck receives the 1938 Nobel Prize for Literature from the hands of King Gustaf of Sweden.

#### OFFICIAL NAZI PRESS SAYS NO 'NATURAL DIFFERENCES' BETWEEN U. S. AND GERMANY

#### General Tenor of Nation in Reaction to Welles' Reply Said Indicated

BERLIN, Dec. 24. (UP)—The tenor of official German reaction to the reply of Sumner Welles, U. S. assistant secretary of state, to German protest against the Cleveland speech of Harold Ickes was indicated today in the official Nazi party organ, Voelkischer Beobachter.

The newspaper, without mentioning Welles specifically, maintained that German press criticism of the United States has merely been in reciprocation against attacks from across the Atlantic and added that there exist "no natural differences between Germany and the United States."

The Beobachter editorial, while strongly phrased, dealt less with personalities than other recent press comment here.

In reference to the crisp statement of Senator Key Pittman of the U. S. senate foreign relations committee that the American people do not like Nazism, Beobachter said:

"If we answered this newest provocation by voicing the obviously justified opinion that the gentlemen in Washington have ample reason to poke their fingers into their own moral cesspool, they probably would again whine that they had been attacked. Even the impertinent Ickes speech was followed by the assertion that the German press had attacked Roosevelt and even Wilson. Four points made by the official Nazi organ were:

"The National Socialist press in Germany abstained from any attacks on United States personalities and institutions until late in 1938—not because we wanted to please Americans or win their sympathies, but remembering the (Continued on page six)

#### Spaniards Wage Bitter Fights on Heights in Snow

HENDAYE, French-Spanish Frontier, Dec. 24. (UP)—Fighting through a blinding snow against icy wind, Spanish nationalists stormed and captured first-line loyalist trenches on formidable Montesech, according to dispatches from the front.

Navarrese troops moving off at dawn, 33 miles north of Lerida, attacked loyalists with hand grenades and followed up with bayonets.

At a high altitude, slipping in blood-stained snow, the armies fought hand to hand until the government troops were thrown back, according to dispatches.

#### TWO TARHEELS ARE AMONG AIR BLAST VICTIMS

Explosion Heard for 20 Miles Around in Very 'Unusual Tragedy'

#### BODIES AND PLANE BLOWN TO SHREDS

UNIONTOWN, Ala., Dec. 24.—(UP)—Something extraordinary occurred aboard an army bomber which crashed in flames last night after an explosion which was heard 20 miles away, killing seven men.

Bodies of all were horribly segmented and the segments scattered over 15 acres. The largest piece of the plane found was a tiny segment of the tail.

An assembly of army officers is supervising the task of gathering the pieces of human bodies and fragments of the airplane from the black mud of the rain-soaked prairie country.

They were sure of only one thing—it hadn't been an ordinary accident.

Apparently there had been a terrific explosion aboard ship just before it crashed.

The crew of the ship was: Lieut. James Underhill of Morganton, N. C., pilot; Lieut. John W. Pollard, Wasco, Calif., co-pilot; Captain Fred Rueb, San Francisco; Lieut. John Hyde, San Francisco; Private Shelton Johnson, Northville, N. Y.; Private Humpert Marro, Los Angeles; Private Ben Jones, Asheville, N. C.

The plane, a Douglas bomber, was like that which crashed at LaGrange, Ga., Nov. 18, killing eight men. It was en route to Mitchell Field, N. Y., from Hamilton Field, Calif.

Witnesses of Barksdale Field, Shreveport, La., said they understood from radio reports as the plane passed there that there were five men aboard, although seven were killed in the crash.

The plane burst into flames between 6 and 6:15 p. m., three miles southeast of this town in a loud explosion residents reported they "had never heard."

The bodies of the aviators were torn into shreds. The largest part of any body found was the torso. Through an automobile driver's license James Bennis Underhill, 28, was identified.

A bank book from Highland Falls, N. Y., First National bank showed that another of the men killed was First Lieut. J. H. Hyde. The plane had been last reported from Barksdale Field, Shreveport, La., where it was said that the plane was from California.

It was also reported yesterday that the "million-dollar flying fortress" had refueled in Dallas, Tex.

#### Hopkins Sworn In As Cabinet Man By Justice Reed

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24. (UP) Harry L. Hopkins, former WPA administrator, took the oath of office today as secretary of commerce, succeeding Daniel C. Roper, who quit last night.

As he was sworn in by Associate Supreme Court Justice Stanley Reed, Hopkins' foes on Capitol Hill—Republicans and some conservative Democrats—began forming a coalition in the hope that they can prevent his confirmation by the senate.

Hopkins' selection will be among the first matters debated when congress convenes next month.

#### Public Christmas Tree And Service 80'clock Tonight

Community interest tonight will be centered in a Christmas tree erected at Church street and Fifth avenue. At 8 o'clock a religious service arranged by ministers of the city will be presented. Mayor A. V. Edwards, who had the tree erected under sponsorship of the chamber of commerce, will be one of the speakers. Singing of carols will be featured.

#### SYMPATHY STRIKES

TULSA, Okla., Dec. 24. (UP) Sympathy strikes spread last night through the oil fields as the Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers union closed down the Mid-Continent Petroleum company's big refinery in West Tulsa with a picket line.