

Cloudy and cool today with occasional rain. Clearing and cooler tonight, preceded by showers in the east. Tomorrow sunny and moderately cold.

HIGHWAY DEATH TOLL TOPS 200-MARK



JOYOUS MOMENT—For thousands of little girls in Harnett County, finding a doll under the Christmas tree or in a stocking is a moment of sheer delight. Here, Yvonne Smith, six year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Smith of Lillington, reached eager arms to embrace her bride's doll. Only a Christmas doll can bring such a lift to the heart. (Photograph by Carroll Vaughan.)

Ike Working On State Of Union Message

WASHINGTON (UP)—The White House said today President Eisenhower will go to his Gettysburg, Pa., farm Friday for about a week of rest and work on a missile-gear 1958 legislative program.

The President worked today on the proposals he will send to Congress when it returns in two weeks. The State of the Union message, to be delivered Jan. 9, is expected to propose the biggest peacetime military budget in U.S. history as this country's reply to the challenge of Russian scientific developments.

Indications are that the President is preparing to ask for a military budget of about 40 billion dollars, 2 billion more than he asked last year and about one billion more than is expected to be actually spent in the year ending June 30, 1958.

Money for Science

The president also is expected to ask an increase in economic aid for nations menaced by Communism and a larger federal stake in scientific training.

The president will confer in Gettysburg with a series of administration leaders, including Budget Director Percival Brundage, on the budget message.

Press Secretary James C. Hagerty said that while the President is in Gettysburg, his primary job will be completion of the State of the Union message. No decision has been made as to whether he will deliver the message in person.

The President and Mrs. Eisenhower plan to leave the White House by car at about 2 p. m. They are expected to remain at Gettysburg through the weekend.

Polite Borrower: "Thanks so much for the use of your hotwater bag. It leaks just a little, but my husband put on a machintosh over his pajamas."

Postal Employees Complete Big Job

5 1/2 Billion Letters 85 Million Packages

WASHINGTON (UP)—That roaring sound you hear is the collective sigh of relief heaved by 500,000 postal employees.

They have just finished delivering an estimated five and a half billion Christmas letters and 85 million packages.



FIRST PRIZE WINNER—Christmas decorations at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan B. Bass at 609 North Ellis Avenue won first place in the contest conducted this year by the Dunn Chamber of Commerce. The choir scene at right was beautifully illuminated, with recorded Christmas carols floating into the air. An angel decorates the door. Mr. and Mrs. Bass received a \$15 cash prize. The decorations may still be seen. (Daily Record Photo.)

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Holiday Death Toll Higher Than Expected

By UNITED PRESS A short but tragic Christmas holiday ended with a nationwide traffic death toll that topped the 200 mark.

The total was 2 1/2 times as great as the normal toll for a non-holiday Wednesday in December. Ned H. Dearborn, president of the National Safety Council, said that "there must be a better way to celebrate Christmas on the highway."

The council had estimated that only 180 persons would be killed in Christmas traffic.

"We can only hope that the shock of this toll will bring about sober thinking that may hold the new year holiday toll down to a new low," Dearborn said.

FIVE IN THIS STATE

Raleigh latest United Press survey shows at least 10 persons died violently in the state during the Christmas holiday. Five died in traffic accidents, four by gunshot wounds, and one apparently of exposure.

At 9:30 a. m. today, the United Press had counted 213 traffic deaths between the hours of 6 p. m. Tuesday and midnight Wednesday. At least 27 persons were killed in fires and 27 in miscellaneous accidents for an overall total of 267.

Ohio led the nation in traffic deaths with 26. New York had 17 deaths, Michigan and California 12 each, and Washington and Oklahoma 10 each.

Two of the worst holiday highway wrecks killed four persons (Continued on Page Six)

New Year to Start A Trifle Late

NEUCHÂTEL, Switzerland (UP)—If you want to kiss someone exactly at the start of the new year, wait until three-thousandths of a second after the stroke of midnight.

That's the advice from Swiss International Geophysical Year scientists who explained that the slowing rotation of the earth around the sun would delay the start of 1958 by about three-thousandths of a second.

With Daniel Family In New York

Truman Raps Telecast By Ike And Dulles

NEW YORK (UP)—Former President Harry S. Truman said today that President Eisenhower and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles' telecast to the nation Monday night was "a lot of gobbledygook."

"The show was fixed up by is Batten, Barton Durstine & Osborn, Inc." The former president, who had refused until today to comment on Eisenhower's report to the nation, made his statements during a 15-minute morning walk in the rain from the Hotel Carlyle where he and Mrs. Truman are staying (Continued on Page Six)

Killed By Car

Death Comes To A Traffic Director

When he got drunk enough, which was often, William Hall of Erwin would sometimes stumble into the highway and act as a director of traffic.

The custodians of the law did not think much of this. A number of times he was arrested for drunkenness in the midst of his efforts to keep the traffic moving smoothly.

Two days before Christmas, Hall was dead—the victim of his own odd trait of directing traffic. The inquest was held at five o'clock in Erwin. Witnesses included John Eldredge Smith of Dunn, Route 4, 24-year-old driver of the car which had taken his life, and Harvey Byrd of Erwin. Byrd said there wasn't anything Smith could have done. He had been coming up behind the Smith car and saw it all—the man in the highway waving his hands and sagging from side to side, the lurch into the line of traffic. A few minutes before his death, Hall had stepped from the cafe run by Pauline Tart. The proprietress told the coroner's jury that he had been "highly intoxicated." Highway Patrolman David Matthews told them he had arrested Hall a number of times for drunk (Continued on Page Eight)

Accused Of Murder

Mooney, Keane Trials Set For Coming Term Of Court

Two men accused of murder are among those slated for trial in the upcoming term of Harnett Superior Court. A one-week criminal term begins on Monday, January 6.

Marvin Mooney turned himself in to Dunn police following the fatal shooting of crippled Dallas Lee on August 13. A scuffle downtown preceded the pistol shooting at the American Legion fairgrounds a mile from Dunn.

The big colored man, built in Othello-like proportions, is expected to make a plea of self-defense. Accused with him is James Vernon (Brother) Smith.

Smith was taken into custody after it was testified at the inquest that he handed Mooney the death-dealing pistol with the words, "Go ahead and do what you're gonna do." Grover Lee, a brother of the dead man, claimed that he was the real target of Mooney's wrath and declared they had gone to the fairgrounds to fight.

He maintained that Mooney had replied, to Brother Smith's remark, "I'm going to kill this crippled Mooney allegedly referred to Grover Lee as "Hog Man," a remark which has had its sequel—for a few days ago in Dunn Court Grover Lee was convicted of stealing with the view that Mooney was the target.

The Mooney trial is on the docket for January 7. Slated for trial on Thursday, January 9, is W. M. Keene, Jr., of Coats. The long farm. (Continued on Page Five)

Dead Man Found In Water Ditch

Claude Winfield Murchison, 56-year-old colored man who had been missing for five days, was found in a ditch near his home today.

He was almost covered by water from the three-foot deep ditch. Sheriff Claude Moore said the death was apparently accidental and there was no evidence of foul play.

Murchison, who had worked around Lillington at odd jobs, was found in the flat woods near the town, just left of Bethune's stockyard.

His body was removed about 11 this morning and funeral services were scheduled for this afternoon.

Deputy Walker O'Quinn said it was apparently death by drowning. Officers conjectured that the colored man had fallen as he attempted to cross the ditch and, though it was not deep, had been incapable of extricating himself.

"He had been missing about five days," Sheriff Moore said, "and the undertaker felt he had been dead about that long."

Some hunters from Durham—J. D. McBroom and I. W. Morgan and H. H. Cheek—found the body. Coroner R. L. Pate concurred with the view that Murchison had slipped and drowned, said he did not plan to hold an inquest. The dead man lived by himself in a barn on the Coleman farm.

Her Voice Gay And Cheerful

Ingrid And Roberto In Holiday Reunion

ROME (UP)—Actress Ingrid Bergman said today she had a wonderful Christmas reunion with Roberto Rossellini and their children but she would not say how long Rossellini might stay in Rome.

"That's up to him entirely," she said. "They have lots and lots of toys, many of them gifts from our steadfast friends."

The children are Robertino, 7, who received an electric train, and the daughters, Isotta Ingrid and Isabella, 5, who received dolls from Paris.

Rossellini is staying with his sister, Marcella, who lives above the big apartment Ingrid and Roberto shared in the past.

Gates Trying To Save Worker

NEW YORK (UP)—The American Communist Party has voted to close down the Daily Worker as of next week.

The decision to stop publishing the party organ came at a secret meeting of the party's national executive committee last weekend.

But Daily Worker editor John Gates said Wednesday in a formal statement he would try to continue the 34-year-old paper. Gates said he did not consider the vote binding, and "in any case, the Daily Worker will cease to exist only when it alone says so."

The Daily Worker in October printed a sworn statement that its average paid circulation in the preceding year was 5,574. This was a drop of 1,821 from the previous year and a slide of 15,500 from the paper's all-time high in 1938 of about 20,000.

Indications that the Daily Worker was operating deep in the red came recently when it was cut from eight to four pages and from five to four issues a week.

Woman Believed Dead

Shocked Back To Life

BELLMORE, N. Y., (UP)—An electric shock machine was used to give a Christmas present of "a return to life" to Mrs. Alexandra Skoch, 73.

When Mrs. Skoch suffered a heart attack in her home Tuesday night, her daughter-in-law, Germaine, 30, called police who dispatched a squad car and notified the local Deputy Fire Chief Henry Griffin.

Griffin sounded the fire-house siren and raced in a rescue truck to the Skoch home with a dozen volunteers.

The volunteer firemen used oxygen resuscitator and then artificial respiration on Mrs. Skoch in attempts to revive her, but with no success. A nurse at the scene could detect no breathing or pulse and said she thought Mrs. Skoch was dead.

Then the volunteers brought in their new resuscitator which generates electric shock timed to activate the body's muscles and nervous system inducing breathing. The firemen had not yet used it in an emergency. The machine worked. Mrs. Koch regained consciousness early Wednesday morning. The elderly woman was hospitalized but her condition improved so quickly she was permitted to return home later in the day. "This is the most wonderful Christmas present possible," her daughter-in-law said.

Atlanta Shopper Dead; Others Hurt

ATLANTA (UP)—A woman motorist apparently lost control of her car in downtown Atlanta today and the vehicle plowed into group of post-Christmas shoppers. One man was reported killed and several persons injured.

The automobile was traveling west on Hunter Street, when it ran out of control at the intersection of Broad Street. The victims were reported pinned against a wall at (Continued on Page Six)

Boom Seen In Missiles

WASHINGTON (UP)—President Orval R. Cook of the Aircraft Industries Assn. predicted today that guided missiles will make up more than 35 per cent of the aviation industry's total sales by the end of next year.

He also said in a year-end report that unfilled orders for missiles were expected to comprise at least 50 per cent of the manufacturers' total military backlog.

Cook said, however, it was possible that the backlog would be (Continued on Page Six)

Bobby Jernigan Confesses

Slaying Admitted By Sampson Youth

A youth who first denied that he slashed a neighbor to death with a knife, but who later admitted to officers that he committed the crime, is being held in the Sampson county jail on a charge of murder.

Teams Racing To South Pole

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (UP)—A radio message crackling out of the snowy wastes of Antarctica today announced Sir Edmund Hillary has set off on another epic dash — this time to beat a rival British team in an overland race to the South Pole.

"Heading hell-bent for the pole, God willing and crevasse permitting," the conqueror of Mt. Everest message din Morse Code to New Zealand's Scott Base this morning.

Barring ill fortune, it appeared Hillary's New Zealand team would win the race. Hillary's message indicated he had some 325 miles to go. The British team was 500 miles away from its goal at dawn Wednesday.

JUST RIGHT

What's your favorite illustrated paper, Izzy?

Izzy—The \$10 bill is my choice. It's big enough to buy something worth while and it isn't so big that nobody will change it.

ROBBER RELENTS

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. — Christmas spirit apparently had its telling effects on a bandit here Wednesday.

Mrs. Marguerite Plummer, a junior high school history teacher, notified police the savings bonds someone had stolen from her Monday were returned in a strongbox to the home of a neighbor.

CATALOGUER AVAILABLE

CHICAGO (UP)—Mrs. Clyde E. Wilson of suburban Des Plaines is restless since her retirement six-weeks ago as a librarian.

"If any library, large or small, needs to be recatalogued, will it please get in touch with me," she appealed. Mrs. Wilson is 80 years old.

AUSSIES BATTLE BLAZES

SYDNEY, Australia (UP)—Hundreds of residents in remote rural areas of New South Wales spent Christmas Day fighting bushfires which have burned out more than two million acres of pastureland.