

NORTHERN WINDS... WEATHER FORECAST... TEMPERATURE TODAY and TOMORROW... WINDS... CLOUDS... HAZARDOUS... MOON... SUN... AERIAL... METEOROLOGY...

Fear 12 Dead in Burned Plane

Retail Sales Here at All-Time High

Expected to Top Last Year By 24 Million Estimate Total Volume For City and County to Exceed \$115,000,000

Retail sales in Rockford and Winnebago county during 1946 are expected to reach an all-time high in excess of \$115,000,000, eclipsing last year's previous mark by an estimated twenty-four million dollars, it was disclosed today.

Computed on the basis of the two per cent Illinois retailers' occupational sales tax paid by county establishments to the state treasury, the local sales volume for the first nine months amounts to \$86,463,962.50.

The nine-month total is greater than final figure of \$85,975,098.50 reported for all of 1944, and more than five million dollars less than the previous all-time high of \$91,829,973.50 reported for 1945.

See Record December Although the exact total for this year won't be known until possibly the end of the first quarter in 1947, the figure is certain to reach the unprecedented figure of 115 million dollars if the monthly average from January through September is maintained for the last three months.

Belief that this figure will be exceeded is based on the anticipated December sales. The record for one month sales was in December a year ago when the retail volume reached \$10,552,858.

Sales tax paid by Winnebago county merchants for the first nine months amounted to \$1,726,279.29, and approached the record amount of \$1,837,399.48 paid during 1945.

Tax Contribution Despite the fact that sales tax during August and July averaged more than \$200,000, the county's contribution has not kept pace with the upward rise in state-wide sales tax receipts.

Winnebago county's tax contribution of \$175,476.34, paid in January, represented 1.98 per cent of the state total receipts, while the amount of \$209,782.07 paid in September, accounted for only 1.88 of the state total.

Table with 2 columns: Year, Sales Volume. 1943: \$83,735,771.00; 1942: \$82,154,408.50; 1941: \$77,870,169.49; 1940: \$9,025,945.64; 1939: \$1,060,259.00; 1938: \$4,524,653.00; 1937: \$2,695,192.65; 1936: \$2,188,849.00.

Staffords, Daughter, 3, Victims of Auto Crash Little 3-year-old Patty Stafford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Stafford, 1907 North avenue, wasn't at home this morning to see what Santa Claus brought her because a traffic accident last night sent her to Rockford Memorial hospital with a fractured right leg. She'll be there "at least six weeks," her physician said.

Patty was riding with her parents and her 17-month-old brother, Michael, when her father turned left off Rome avenue onto Crosby street. He didn't see a northbound car driven by Victor Reht, Jr., 21, 2442 Harlem boulevard.

Stafford suffered two fractured ribs and numerous lacerations and bruises; his wife was cut on the head, right hand and right ankle, and little Michael suffered a cut on his forehead. Reht suffered cuts about the face.

Traffic Officers Grant Baer and Duncan Graham administered first aid and, aided by the police ambulance, took them all to the hospital where they were released after treatment. All that is, but Patty. Patty suffered a fracture of the right thigh bone.

County police succeeded in keeping accidents to none, but in the city there were 24 reported, causing injuries to nine persons. Police arrested 12 motorists for traffic violations.

Pravda Newsmen Iried At Treatment by Yanks Moscow, Dec. 25.—(AP)—O. Kurganov, a Pravda correspondent recently returned from Japan, reported today that he and other Soviet correspondents were detained at Atsuga airdrome near Yokohama last August by U. S. military police after they had refused to be photographed in profile as well as full face.



Melvin Ernest Thompson (above), lieutenant governor-elect of Georgia, key figure in a dispute over governorship of that state since the death of Gov. Eugene Talmadge, says "the people of Georgia expect me to become governor next month." He is scheduled to be inaugurated as lieutenant governor Jan. 14.

Truman Home For Christmas Boards His Plane with Armload of Gifts

By ERNEST B. VACCARO Washington, Dec. 25.—(AP)—President Truman left Washington by plane today to spend Christmas with his family in Missouri after voicing hope to the nation that 1947 may see world peace made secure.

He took off from the Washington airport at 6:44 a. m. (CST) on a four and one-half hour flight to Kansas City to celebrate the holiday with his mother and other relatives.

The President arrived at the airport at 6:30 and greeted a few waiting newsmen with a cheery "Merry Christmas."

He also inquired how they got up so early.

Then, carrying an armload of Christmas packages, he boarded the plane.

With him were Maj. Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, his military aide, Miss Rose Conway, his personal secretary. (Continued on Next Page)

Held as Suspect in Death of His Daughter

St. Louis, Dec. 25.—(INS)—A 24-year-old man was held by St. Louis police today after being booked "suspected of homicide" in connection with the death of his four-month-old daughter.

Police said Clarence R. Mansker admitted that he had slapped little Patricia Jean when he lost his temper after being awakened by the baby's crying early yesterday.

An investigation was begun after police said an autopsy showed the baby apparently died of a hemorrhage of the brain and contusion of the right cheek.

Police quoted Mansker as saying that he called his wife, Wilma Jean, when he noticed the baby strangling after she was struck. The baby was rushed by ambulance to City hospital where she died shortly afterward.

Child Has But 2 Christmases—They're Both in Hospital Bed

In his short lifetime, little Peter Goebel has seen two Christmases, and both have been spent in a hospital bed.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Goebel, 3117 Collins street, he was stricken with poliomyelitis in July, 1945, when he was but eight months old, and has been hospitalized ever since.

Today, however, was considerably different from Christmas of 1945 for the plucky little fellow. Although he was unable to be taken by ambulance to his home to spend Christmas day, as were many of the other polio convalescents, the thrill of his lifetime was a visit to the polio ward at St. Anthony's hospital where his three little sisters, Amelia, 6, Dolores, 4 and Jacqueline, 3, also unable to spend Christmas at home with her parents and nine brothers and sisters was three-year-old Nancy Ver. Kullin, the big brown-eyed doll, to the nurses and other patients in the ward. Nancy, who was admitted to the hospital in July of '45, and has lain practically helpless since that time.

Thousands Jam Churches for Yule Services

Prayers for a Lasting Peace Keynote Sermons of Rockford Pastors

Prayers for a just and lasting peace for all peoples of the world dominated Christmas observance here today as thousands of persons attended early morning religious services and carried the spiritual meaning and hopes of the day with them to joyous and reverent family gatherings.

Ideal Christmas weather helped to fill the city's churches last night and this morning. Soul-stirring Christmas music in the churches, the most dreadful of all wars and the wretchedness of children thrilled by wondrous gifts.

The joyful solemnity of the day was heightened by the presence in churches and homes of thousands of war veterans, whose prayers emphasized their safe return from the front lines.

Meaning of the Miracle Speaking on "The Meaning of the Miracle of Bethlehem," the Rev. Dr. Albert Lorenz, in his Christmas morning sermon at First Lutheran church, emphasized three main points.

"God really became man," Dr. Lorenz said. "He took his place in humanity to save us and to bless humanity."

The second point in the pastor's message was that through the birth of Christ, in reality, was overcome all that is evil.

"The meaning of the miracle of Bethlehem is that a new life which He gives works as an antidote against the poison of sin and empowers man in society to resist the evil."

The miracle also means a "restoration of all things," Dr. Lorenz stated.

Emphasizing this point, he said that "humanity, since sin came in, to the world, has always gone in a wrong direction," but Christ eventually is going to overcome all evil and all things shall be restored to their original glory.

Julietta Services Traditional Swedish Julotta services were held at First Lutheran and a number of other Lutheran churches of the city this morning.

Early mass was held in all Catholic churches of the city.

The Most Rev. John J. Boylan. (Continued on Next Page)

French Have Indo-China Crisis Under Control

Hanoi, Dec. 24.—(Delayed)—(AP)—French military authorities said today they had the situation well in hand in Tokin province and were extending their controlled areas everywhere, but in Hanoi itself Viet-Nam forces continued to offer stubborn opposition to French mopping up operations.

(Dispatches from Saigon indicated little change in the situation in Cochinchina capital, where the French high commissioner, Adm. George Thierry D'Armenieu, had imposed a 10 p. m. to 5 a. m. curfew as a precaution against possible spread of the strife now raging in northern Indo China.)

Dixon Kidnaper Is Held In Jail Without Bond

Dixon, Ill., Dec. 25.—(INS)—Frank L. Sickles, 27, was held in the county jail at Dixon without bond today on a charge of kidnaping Mrs. Della Stackhouse, 40, for ransom.

Sickles is accused of abducting Mrs. Stackhouse, wife of a Dixon physician, from her home last Friday.

The attractive mother of three children was forced to accompany her abductor on a five-mile tramp across fields and wooded land. She was released six hours later after the kidnaper permitted her to telephone her home. Sickles was seized at the same time.

A Mixup in Holidays Lands Virgil in Jail

Chicago, Dec. 25.—(UP)—Virgil Hill, 54, spent Christmas eve in a cell at county jail, all because he mixed up his holidays.

Hill was arrested last night after he began firing a revolver wild west fashion in his home, sending his wife and daughter scurrying for cover.

At Cragin police station, he protested to detectives, "It's an old American custom—firing guns and firecrackers on the Fourth of July."

Taft Holds Up His Decision Will Keep Presidency Issue Open 6 Months

Washington, Dec. 25.—(AP)—Senator Robert A. Taft today kept open for perhaps six months or more the question of whether he will fight openly for the 1948 Republican nomination.

Taking only indirect notice of a report that his fellow Ohioan, Senator-elect John W. Bricker, will bow out of the race in his favor, Taft declared he will make no decision of his own "until our legislative job is done and congress has adjourned."

Bricker himself was non-committal on the report published in yesterday's Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch that he had given Taft "the green light" for 1948.

"I have nothing to say about it," the 1944 vice presidential nominee told newsmen.

Taft did not see reporters personally after word of the Dispatch story reached Washington.

Will Talk to Bricker But after a long conference with his advisors, the senator issued a statement which reiterated his willingness to "discuss the whole matter" with Bricker as soon as he arrives in the capital.

"I have always felt that the Ohio Republican situation would be worked out in an amicable way," the statement continued, adding that Taft, Bricker and other Ohio Republican officials "have worked together and campaigned together every two years in complete harmony."

But as for presidential politics, Taft went on, "it is still 18 months before the Republican convention of 1948. The Republicans have a difficult and full-time job of reorganizing congress and enacting a Republican program on the immediate problems of reconversion now before the American people."

The less personal ambition and presidential politics are mixed up with that job, the more likely we are to succeed. As far as I am concerned, I will make no decision on the question of being a candidate for president until our legislative job is done and congress has adjourned."

Bricker Gives Reasons The Columbus paper, saying its information came from "unimpeachable sources," declared that Bricker's reported decision to step aside for Taft once more "stems from a desire to serve the full six months in the senate, upon the belief that he can render greater service in that capacity."

Bricker bowed to Taft in 1940, when the late Wendell L. Willkie captured the G.O.P. nomination; and reciprocated four years later, when Bricker was teamed with Gov. Thomas E. Dewey in the futile campaign to deny Franklin R. Roosevelt a fourth term victory.

More Earthquakes Are Predicted for Japan

Tokyo, Dec. 25.—(AP)—Japanese seismologists predicted continuing aftershocks of unestimated intensity, as the broad areas devastated by Saturday's terrific earthquake and tidal waves today counted 2,890 casualties—a toll 500 higher than previous reports.

The home ministry also reported 50,000 more homeless—a total of 150,373. Its new count gave 1,172 dead, 1,555 injured and 163 missing.

Allied headquarters also boosted its death count today to 1,058, with 923 injured—an increase of 76 of its report of deaths, but a figure still below the home ministry's total.

Scientists here said aftershocks probably would continue for two or three months. They made no estimate of their probable intensity, but pointed out that 15 of the 600 aftershocks felt within two days on Shikoku island's seacoast were "rather large."

Adequate relief measures were reported easing the distress of the thousands of victims in hardest-hit areas, with food, medicines, clothing, bedding, and medical personnel already on the scene.

Candles Light Bethlehem on Christmas Eve

Blowing of Fuse Puts Town of Nativity Back Into Ancient Setting

By ELIAV SIMON Bethlehem, Dec. 25.—(UP)—A miracle-in-reverse made hallowed Bethlehem once again a candle and torch-lit medieval town for the one night when the ancient community led the world in the observance of Christmas.

A blown fuse about 10 o'clock on Christmas eve extinguished the garish, modern illumination and caused thousands of tiny candle flames to glow along Bethlehem's worn pavements.

The Christmas eve accident, which climaxed a day of processions and religious observances, was caused when a British army truck, which went off the road near Bethlehem, cut a power line.

The town where Christ was born looked as it must have appeared 1,946 years ago and very much like it was in the days of the Crusaders.

Soldiers Pack Town But at the time of Richard the Lion-Hearted no swords, no pikemen nor any crossbows were allowed around the church where no armed man could enter. This Christmas eve soldiers packing Tommy guns mounted guard on Manger square, in the cloisters of the venerable Franciscan monastery and even inside the basilica.

Military police collected the guns of those who wanted to enter the Holy Grotto of the Nativity.

Outside there was none of the gaiety that marked last year's Christmas. The soldiers who in 1945 celebrated the first Christmas of peace and wanted to go home still were here this year in a situation that never before has been so tense.

After the traditional carols had been sung, the soldiers milled around the big square in front of the basilica with only a small chance of entering the packed church for midnight Mass.

Impromptu prayer processions after the lights failed threw picturesque shadows on the walls of the Millenian church. At midnight the door leading to St. Catherine's beyond the grotto was thrown open and the strains of a solemn high Mass penetrated the still night.

The dark, tunnel-like doorway suddenly was alight with the flare of candles as Msgr. Barlassina, the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, appeared holding an infant swathed in golden brocade that matched the splendor of his robes.

The Christmas bells were rung by hand in the old-fashioned way by two Franciscan brothers, one of whom was Father Camillus Lyka Haling, of Washington, D. C., from the Galveston diocese. The only other American present was U. S. Consul-General Lowell Pinkerton.

The roads which before midnight were filled with long convoys of army vehicles were as silent as caravan trails after the services were over. Villages were asleep and seemed deserted except for lonely soldiers standing guard.

The Palestine police fulfilled their dangerous task of keeping watch along the winding five-mile road to Bethlehem and patrolled the thoroughfare where cobblestones have been worn smooth by countless pilgrims through 17 ages.

No bright star gleamed on Bethlehem on Christmas eve but army searchlights probed the hills and valleys whence came a silence broken only by the lonely singing of the sentinels.



There seems to be a minor dispute between these twins, Lloyd and Lini, over possession of a doll at last night's Christmas party at the Rockford Children's home. The youngsters forgot about the tug-of-war a few minutes later and joined with the other youngsters in the party.

Christmas in Europe Bleak

Food, Fuel Shortages Make It Cheerless

By ALVIN STEINKOFF London, Dec. 25.—(AP)—Shortages of food and fuel combined today to make Christmas a bleak occasion for millions of persons in many parts of war-ravaged Europe.

Painful hopes for a better future helped somewhat to brighten the continent's second yuletide since the defeat of Germany, but throughout the stricken areas of central and eastern Europe Christmas was largely a cheerless day.

Thousands at Bethlehem In the tense Holy Land, thousands of the faithful flocked to the little town of Bethlehem to commemorate the birth of the Christ child in the historic Church of the Nativity.

In many parts of Europe, where (Continued on Next Page)

Fatherless Children Made Happy by Police

Chicago, Dec. 25.—(INS)—Seven little children, left fatherless by death yesterday, saw Santa Claus today in the uniforms of two Chicago policemen.

The policemen, just as did the three wise kings of old, came bearing gifts.

They carried two enormous turkeys, a big basket of groceries and \$50 in cash—contributions of the men themselves and other policemen of two Chicago stations.

The youngsters' hopes for a happy Christmas seemed spoiled yesterday when their father, Percy Grammar, 49, jumped to his death from the fifth floor ward of the Cook county hospital.

Grammar had suffered from arthritis and was unable to work for the last seven years.

His widow, Gertrude, said he had brooded over being unable to "do anything for the kiddies." She added: "I guess he just gave up."

Police Capts. John Ryan and Andrew Altken heard about the family's plight from one of their men.

A collection was taken up and today's visit at the Grammar home was the Christmas day climax.

Holiday Toll Climbs to 70

Los Angeles Alone Has 25 Traffic Deaths

By the Associated Press Death rode the highways Christmas eve, with at least 70 persons losing their lives in traffic accidents.

In Los Angeles alone, 25 persons were killed rocketing the California toll to 70. La. P. E. Thomas of the Los Angeles police department's traffic division blamed the combination of wet streets and drinking for the high toll.

The tabulation of 70 deaths covered reports from 5 p. m. Christmas eve to 10 a. m. Christmas day.

The National Safety Council predicted that another 60 persons would lose their lives in highway tragedies on Christmas day unless "the drivers and pedestrians of the nation translate the Christmas spirit of kindness and courtesy into practical action."

The toll by states: California 31, Georgia 1, Illinois 5, Indiana 8, Wisconsin 4, Minnesota 2, Missouri 2, New York 2, North Dakota 1, Ohio 1, Tennessee 1, Texas 1, Washington 2, West Virginia 2.

Falls Dead of Heart Attack at Yule Party

Chicago, Dec. 25.—(UP)—If they noticed him at all, his fellow employees thought of Floyd Mann, 50, as a quiet sort of a guy—the kind nobody notices very much and forgets immediately afterwards.

Mann did odd jobs as a temporary employe for the Whiting Paper company, and as far as was known had no family, and few friends.

Yesterday, the company gave its annual Christmas party, complete with gay decorations, refreshments and singing. In the midst of it, fellow workers noticed Mann in a corner, tears streaming down his cheeks.

"It's just that I never was at a Christmas party before," he explained. "I didn't know how fine it was."

Mann's arms were loaded with presents as he left. But the emotion was too great. He fell dead of a heart attack.

Phone Girl, Pilot Play Leading Roles in Hotel Fire; 70 Escape

Macon, Ga., Dec. 25.—(AP)—An army pilot who recognized danger when he saw it and a pretty young switchboard operator with a sterling devotion to duty were credited today with leading roles in directing more than 70 persons to safety as flames raged through the historic Lanier hotel.

Search Centers On Mountains Near San Diego

Plane Last Heard from Shortly After Taking Off; 2 Reports of Fire

By NORMAN BELL San Diego, Cal., Dec. 25.—(AP)—An airliner vanished in the fog-shrouded mountains east of here last night, and Christmas day searchers—guided only by reports of a fire flaring in the night—feared they would find the 12 persons aboard in charred wreckage.

The search for the Western Air Lines plane—last reported at 7:09 p. m. (PST), 24 minutes after it left El Centro in the Imperial valley for San Diego—centered in the vicinity of Thing mountain.

This desolate 8,000-foot peak in the Laguna mountains was the scene of a passenger plane crash last March 3 in which 28 persons, including two infants in arms, lost their lives.

Passengers aboard the missing plane were listed as: Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Ford, El Centro.

Miss Adeline Jones, Holtville, Cal. A. L. Adams, Los Angeles. W. H. Price, Beverly Hills. Edgar Martin, Holtville. Fred Bright, El Centro. L. Barlow, Los Angeles.

Miss V. Haney, El Centro. The crew: Capt. George B. Sprado, Chicago, pilot. First Officer R. J. Weber, Dear Lodge, Mont., co-pilot. Miss Glenda Mae Wade, San Diego, stewardess.

Prepare to Climb Peak San Diego county sheriff's deputies reached the peak about 50 miles east of here last night and were prepared to climb its rugged sides with the break of dawn.

Navy and coast guard planes were also ready to take off at day light from fields bare to aid in the search.

Reports of the fire included one from an American Air Lines plane which flew near the mountain that its crew saw a plane burning. This was relayed but not confirmed by Western Air Lines.

Another was from two Jacobs high school boys, Harry England and Billy Winkler, who told the sheriff's deputies that from a distance the blaze was "a glow in the sky like a rising moon." Ranchers in the Cameron valley in the same general vicinity and the state forest station at La Mesa, a few miles east of San Diego, were among others reporting the glow.

A navy plane from the air station here scouted Thing mountain following the fire reports. It reported negative observations. The plane, a DC-3 transport, was making a shortline triangle trip here from Los Angeles by way of the Imperial valley. Airline officials said there was no indication in the last radio report from the pilot, when the plane was over the Laguna mountains, that he was encountering any trouble.

Airliner Crashes Into Shack It was southern California's second Christmas eve aviation mishap. A United Air Lines DC-4 crashed into an instrument shack at the end of a runway at Municipal airport, Los Angeles, with 41 passengers from Portland, Ore., aboard. No one was badly injured, but the airline said one passenger aboard the four-motored ship suffered a cut lip.

World Is Progressing Slowly Toward Peace

—SECY. PATTERSON Washington, Dec. 25.—(AP)—Secretary of War Patterson said today that while the world is a "long way from the peace good will toward men" promised by the herald angels 1900 years ago "it is making definite progress."

"The nations of the world this year, if they have done nothing more, have sat down together and discussed universal disarmament," he said.

Patterson's Christmas talk, for (CBS) radio delivery, was directed principally to men still in service and to sick and disabled veterans.

"Noting that the countries of the world 'plan to continue' the disarmament discussions, Patterson said: "A year ago they could not talk about universal, lasting peace. Five years ago, ten years ago they could not even consider the hope. Today there is a strong possibility, not that we shall achieve peace overnight, but that we are making definite progress on the path toward peace."

Clam New Record on Chicago-New York Hop New York, Dec. 25.—(UP)—Transcontinental & Western Air, Inc. announced today that one of its Constellations had set a new world record of 440 miles per hour for passenger transport yesterday between Chicago and New York.

The Constellation flew here in one hour and 55 minutes, the same time set by another of the four-motored planes last April 2.