

Old Las Vegas Landmark Burned to Ground in Spectacular Christmas Fire

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THE WEATHER LAS VEGAS—Yesterday: Max., 64; Min., 36. NEVADA—Fair Wednesday and Thursday with freezing temperatures at night. NEW YORK, Dec. 25. (U.P.)—Copper slow; at 15 cents domestic and 18.30 cents foreign. Lead fair, 6.10 at St. Louis and 6.25 New York. Zinc light, 5.25 to 5.50 E. St. Louis, low for year. High for year was 6.80.

RUSSIAN PLANE TO HUNT FLIERS

Arizona Consents to Resume Negotiations

AIR-RAIL COAST LINE TO BE TRIED

Southern Pacific, T. A. T. to Start Plane-Train Service Mexico to B. C. Saturday

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 25. (U.P.)—For "an experimental period," the Southern Pacific company and the T. A. T.-Maddox Airlines will start a combination air-rail service extending from Canada to Mexico. The service will start Saturday. San Francisco officials said today. The new service formed by the combination of the two companies may be extended to cover transcontinental service as well as the Pacific coast, F. S. McGinnis, vice president of the railroad, said. Schedule combinations worked out by the companies were announced in part as follows: San Francisco to Los Angeles by train, and then to Mexico or Southern California cities by plane; Los Angeles to San Francisco by plane, and then to Portland or Seattle by train. Southern Pacific is trying out this coast-wise plane-train service for an experimental period, looking to an eventual air-rail combination for transcontinental travel," McGinnis said.

Santa Gives Out 1500 Gift Bags Christmas Eve

Many Adults, As Well As Children Attend Community Fete At U. P. Park Tree.

Fifteen hundred Christmas candy bags were distributed by Santa Claus Christmas Eve at the community tree celebration, according to Dr. Wm. S. Park, chairman of the committee in charge. Not only were there six or eight hundred children present, but at least five or six hundred adults as well, it has been estimated. Santa Claus appeared at the top of the chimney at the proper moment, blowing kisses to the audience assembled in the U. P. park, and then crawled out of the fireplace to hand out the gift sacks, assisted by a number of committeemen. The program was opened with a prayer by the Rev. C. S. Reynolds, of the Methodist church. Mrs. Elizabeth Martin sang a number, followed by carols by the Methodist church Epworth League singers and choir. C. C. Ronnon acted the fete with a prayer. Al Cahlan acted as master of ceremonies. Mr. Christenson, who has become the community's recognized Santa Claus, not only performed at this function, but handed out gifts at the Japanese Sunday school and at several of the churches as well, both Christmas eve and Sunday evening. The community celebration was sponsored by the Rotary club.

And Thus Was First 1930 Dog License Issued

"I want a license for my dog," a youth whose eyes were not so far above of below the edge of the counter was addressing City Clerk Viola Burns Tuesday morning. The lad was Rand Orr, son of Judge Wm. E. Orr, and he was applying for the first of the new licenses to be issued for 1930. "What's your dog's name?" Mrs. Burns asked. "Major," came the reply. "And what breed?" "A pause, while the lad pondered. "Oh, he's a mongrel," said Rand. And thus was issued the first tag.

Girl's Feet Injured As Car Runs Over Her

Suffering fractures of a small bone in each foot as the result of having been hit by an automobile Tuesday at 4:30 p. m., Venice Nielson, twelve, was treated Christmas Eve at the Las Vegas hospital. Her injuries were not serious, it was stated, and she is receiving care at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Nielson of 441 South Main street. She must remain off her feet for a week or two, it is expected. F. Burdoo, of Sloan, was driving the car which hit the girl, running over her ankles. The accident occurred at First and Fremont.

Three Killed After Plane Loops the Loop

DUNN, N. C. Dec. 25. (U.P.)—Three men were killed as an airplane in which they were riding failed to right itself after a loop the loop, and crashed to the ground within the Dunn city limits. The names of the dead are Alton Angier, Stephenson Blaylock, and Stewart. The plane which was flying over Dunn some time was a mass of wreckage and the bodies were badly mangled. Stephenson was said to be at the controls at the time of the accident; Stewart leaves a widow and children; Stephenson Blaylock was unmarried.

Actor Falls Asleep With Lighted Cigarette in Hand; Badly Burned

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Dec. 25. (U.P.)—Pellegro stage and screen actor, was seriously burned about the body today in his room at the Hotel Jefferson, after he had fallen asleep with a lighted cigarette in his hand. The actor was found lying across his bed, unconscious, by a chambermaid, who forced placed there she had seen smoke pouring from the transom. Pellegro was taken to the Atlantic City hospital, where physicians worked over him for an hour before he regained consciousness.

Hoover To Work As Usual In Spite Of Office Blaze

Executive Offices Will Be Rebuilt Immediately; President, Secretaries To Occupy Other Quarters.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25. (U.P.)—President Hoover left his living quarters today at the White House to inspect the charred and water-soaked interior of the executive offices, where yesterday he cleared his desk in anticipation, preparing for a restful holiday. Today Hoover, after an inspection, decided the structure will be rebuilt immediately. He conferred with Colonel U. S. Grant 3rd, superintendent of public buildings and grounds here, who was requested to have contractors notified that bids will be asked early tomorrow. In the meantime some twenty carpenters have placed timbers under the sagging roof to prevent it from falling in. Today, Christmas morning started as every morning does with the president, in frolicsome tossing of the medicine ball. Tomorrow some work in the White House will be carried on in the living quarters. Hoover is to occupy the historic Lincoln study. George Akerson, secretary will use the ancient cabinet table of President John Adams as a desk in the hall outside. Two other secretaries have desks in bedrooms adjoining. The cabinet has been called for a meeting Friday.

GOVERNOR AGREES TO TRY AGAIN

Proviso in Message to Wilbur Demands Reversion to June Conference Status

PHOENIX, Dec. 25. (U.P.)—Governor John C. Phillips has sent Secretary of the Interior a telegram stating that Arizona would be glad to resume Boulder dam water and power allocation negotiations with Nevada and California, provided the status of the Boulder dam project as agreed upon at Washington be restored and negotiations be taken up where they were left off there. The Arizona governor suggested that if another conference be held the conferees meet in Arizona. The telegram was in reply to one sent by Secretary Wilbur suggesting that the governors of each of the three states appoint a citizen not a member of their river commissions to act as advisors in a further effort to reach an agreement. Governor Phillips suggested that unless the negotiations be taken up at the point where they dropped at the end of the Washington conference last June, no advantage would be gained by further negotiations.

Auto Crash Causes Serious Acid Burns

Railroad Worker Suffers Injury from Bottle of Sulphuric Acid in Pocket of Shirt.

A bottle of sulphuric acid he was carrying in his left shirt pocket made an auto crash a serious matter for Harry H. Chatham, U. P. employe, who is working at Desert, Calif., when an automobile driven by Mrs. Oscar Beebe collided with him at 5 p. m. Tuesday. Chatham is now going about town with his entire face swathed in bandages, with the exception of a hole through which he can see with his right eye, as the result of acid burns. Chatham was driving south on Main street near the residence of S. C. Schoff, when he saw Mrs. Beebe driving in toward Main from the right. Mrs. Beebe held up her arm as if to signify a right turn. Chatham said yesterday, and the two cars came together. "Mrs. Beebe said afterward that she thought I would stop," Chatham said. Chatham's Ford roadster rolled over on its side, and the acid, which he had bought in a drug store a short time before, burned his right side and his face. "I ran to a water trough at Schoff's home," he said, in describing the occurrence, "and washed off as much of the acid as I could. If I hadn't done this I'd be in terrible shape now." It is expected he will have to keep his face bandaged up for a week or so. He was rushed to the Ferguson hospital, where he was treated, day as usual.

Las Vegas Listen In On Xmax Carols Sung in Germany

Many Las Vegas listen in on Christmas carols from Berlin, Germany, yesterday just before noon. An international broadcast relayed to American radio fans by the National Broadcasting company made it possible for Americans to hear the music, sung in German, as plainly as if it were being played in their own parlors, instead of a third of the way around the world. The announcing was done in both German and English. This was one of a series of international Christmas music broadcasts.

HOLDUP NETS CLAIM PAPER, ARMY DISCHARGE; THAT'S ALL

Army discharge papers and home-stead documents were all three "holdup" men took from Thomas R. Cheney when a party of three men and two women held him up in his camp five miles north of Las Vegas on the Arrowhead Trail yesterday morning at 2 o'clock. One of the men said he was sheriff, according to Cheney, who yesterday reported the affair to police here. Cheney, who came to Las Vegas from his home in Enterprise, Utah, looking for work, was camping near the road and had a campfire, beside which he was sitting when, according to his story, a light yellow Packard drew up. Some of the men accosted Cheney, who produced a gun, and told the group he did not want any company. One of the men then said he was sheriff, Cheney stated yesterday, and then, after he had dropped his gun, covered him with a gun and commanded him to put his hands up. They got no money, he stated, but the two documents, of value to himself only, were taken. The men were of dark complexion, he stated, and "they had hard eyes. I didn't like the expression of that fellow's eyes."

Annual Parade On New Year's In Philadelphia

"Mummer's" Ceremony to Be "Bigger And Better Than Ever"

By JOHN M. TARTY (United Press Staff Correspondent) PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 25.—As New Year's day draws near millions of careful stitches, miles and miles of feathers and frills and countless gilded stars are being used in fashioning paragon's garb for the most colorful spectacle of the year—the Mummer's parade. King Momus will rule supreme, a merry monarch to be feted royally. Little time now remains and nimble fingers all over the city are making the garb in order to have the costumes ready in time. Locked doors, shaded windows, hurrys and scurrings are only portents of the great spirit of secrecy that pervades as rival New Year clubs proceed with final preparations. In stables and barns, garages and cellars, in small homes and large homes, the shooters and their families are at work. And on New Year's day there will emerge from these surroundings the great capes and costumes more spectacular and dazzling than ever before. Under the guiding eye of H. Bart McHugh, director of the festival, who expects the best display ever seen here, the pageant will unwind its brightly painted trail splashed with silver and gold, red and blue, scarlet and green, to turn Broad street into a kaleidoscope of color. Fifteen or more clubs will march this year, all eager to win the prizes which total \$25,000. Nearly 15,000 men will fall in line and their costumes must be historically as well as traditionally correct. McHugh announced.

Golf Tournay Sunday, Instead of Saturday

The golf tournament to be held by the Las Vegas Country club will be held on Sunday next, instead of Saturday, as was previously announced, according to Dr. Wm. S. Park, president of the club.

Stanford, Army Set For Game

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, Cal., Dec. 25. (U.P.)—Football players of both Army and Stanford had reached their peak of perfection today and have two comparative easy days before they clash on the gridiron in the finale of 1929. Each team went through light workouts today, being able to reserve their main energies to tackle big Christmas dinners. The outstanding development of the day was an announcement that Walter Heinke, veteran center of the Stanford Cardinals, selected by many as the best on the Pacific coast, will not start. At the same time it was said that Herb Fleishacker, best defensive back of Stanford, had recovered from an injury. Revelations by coaches that the center would be on the bench when the game begins cut the odds that had been offered on Stanford. The Cards were still favorites, however, because of their 26-0 victory Army in New York last year.

Washington State Defeat Honolulu

OFFICER'S SON, ACCUSED OF RUM RUNNING, SHOT IN BOAT

BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 25. (U.P.)—Eugene Downey, 27, son of Lieut. Eugene Downey of the Buffalo police force, was shot and fatally wounded by coast guardsman tonight while cruising in a motorboat in Buffalo harbor. Downey was one of the nine arrested in connection with the alleged smuggling activities of the barge Noretta of New York City, which is said by the government to have brought 1,000 cases of liquor from Port Colborne, Ontario, to Buffalo last October. Downey, according to the guardsmen, failed to halt in answer to their command and they fired with machine gun. An unknown man who was in the boat with Downey escaped. Police said no liquor was found

ELWELL'S BUILDING DESTROYED

Temporary Failure of Fire Truck in Pumping Features Blaze; Other Houses Saved

Rousing Las Vegas from the pleasures of Christmas celebrations, the most spectacular fire seen in Las Vegas for some time yesterday evening at about 10:15 totally destroyed the W. H. Elwell building on North Main which housed Bair's sign shop, Jerome's restaurant and a used furniture store. The structure was not covered by insurance, Mr. Elwell stated last night after the fire. The origin of the fire had not been learned at press time, although it is known that it started in the rear of the building. Officer Reese Morgan, who reported the fire, stated he believed it started inside the building. The failure of the motor of the fire truck after the fire had been gotten under control was a feature of the Christmas blaze. This fortunately did not result disastrously, for the fire was almost out at the time, and the pump on the small truck kept faithfully at work. The proximity of the fire to Ritchie's garage and gas station caused some fear that the fire might spread, but the prompt work of the fire department prevented this. Mr. Hickey of the power company climbed a pole near the fire and cut the wires which were connected with the building, despite the fact that one of the straps of his spurs was missing. He borrowed a belt from a bystander and used it in strapping the spur to his leg. "I still have the belt," he said, "I wish the owner would call around and get it. I'll save it for him." The warehouse in the rear of the building contained second hand shoes and furniture stored there by Mr. Elwell. Built in 1905 The building destroyed last night was erected in 1905 as a garage and station for an automobile bus line, called the Nevada Rapid Transit company of which Frank M. Grace was president and C. O. Whittemore, J. Ross Clark and others connected with the Salt Lake railroad were interested. The enterprise was on the whole a failure, there being no roads of sufficiently good quality to stand the traffic. In September, 1905, the line was in operation from Las Vegas to Indian Springs, where it connected with the Kimball stage line for Beatty and Rhyolite. The motor buses left Las Vegas at 5:30 p. m., and reached Indian Springs at 9 p. m., occasionally if they could. But the road problem, although considerable money was spent by the company in an effort to open a line of traffic, was too much for them. Following the cessation of the operation of the bus company, the building stood vacant for several years, finally passing to Mr. Elwell, who has used it as storage for surplus goods.

\$40,000 Loss As Office Burns

LEXINGTON, Ky., Dec. 25. (U.P.)—Fire destroyed the warehouse and office of the bulk plant of the Gulf Refinery company and is threatening large storage tanks nearby. The loss through the destruction of the warehouse and its contents is about forty thousand dollars.

Miami High Claims Eastern Grid Title

MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 25. (U.P.)—The Miami high school claims the "Eastern" football championship today by virtue of a seven to six victory over the Salem, Massachusetts, high school team, New England champion.

U. P. A. C. to Play Kingman on U. P. Gridiron Sunday

The Union Pacific Athletic club will play Kingman a football game Sunday in Las Vegas, it has been announced by J. H. Lightfoot, president of the club. The game will start at 2 p. m. Although the game will be played late in the season, the boys are looking forward to it, for they did not get going early enough in the season to make much use of their organization thus far. The Needles Indians may be brought here for a game later, according to Lightfoot. This team has defeated Kingman this season.

Boy, 8, Helps Save Mother From Burning

Too Young to be Boy Scout, L. A. Lad Uses Scout Methods When Santa Costume Is In Flames

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 25. (U.P.)—A horror-stricken boy of eight years, too young to join the Boy Scouts, yet versed in their rescue instructions, helped save the life of his mother here early today when her desire to play Santa Claus for neighbors' children brought near tragedy. The boy was Robert Hubbs, the son of Mrs. C. B. Hubbs. He covered her as she lay writhing on the floor of their home, her red and cotton-trimmed Kris Kringle costume aflame. A seven-year-old daughter, Rosemary, joined in the rescue by dashing a pail of water onto her mother's burning clothes. The woman's husband aided by beating out the flames with his bare hands, and her costume caught fire. She had presence of mind to throw herself on the floor and roll, but then she fainted. Quick to sense his mother's peril, the boy seized the rug and threw it over her prostrate form. By the time the mother was saved, the living room was in flames and fire apparatus was called. The blaze was not allowed to spread. Mrs. Hubbs severely burned, but was reported not in danger.

Farmers Favor Birth Control

NEW YORK, Dec. 24. (U.P.)—Legitimate birth control is favored by a substantial number of farmers, their wives and residents of smaller cities, according to a national survey by Farm and Fireside. Out of 13,431 readers who expressed their views on the subject, 67 per cent favored "legalizing doctors to impart birth control methods to married couples who apply jointly. Women show five per cent more interest in the subject than men, and readers under 30 years of age showed 10 per cent greater interest than those over that age. The proportion of votes was practically the same in the farm and small town polls. Birth control was only a part of the survey to determine the extent of the changes within the past decade in the trend of farm thought. It sharply upon the opinion that gathered that the magazine, after 53 years, will appear under the name of The Country Home, typifying the tendency of farm and small town residents to pay more attention to how to live than to technical directions for farming.

EXPEDITION IS PLANNED BY SOVIETS

Three Canadian Ships Taken to Steward To Aid In Hunt For Lost Aviators.

MOSCOW, Dec. 25. (U.P.)—The Soviet government dispatched an airplane to search for Carl Ben Eielson and Earl Borland, off the Siberian coast today, and ordered two other Soviet planes to join in the search. The game will start at 2 p. m. Although the game will be played late in the season, the boys are looking forward to it, for they did not get going early enough in the season to make much use of their organization thus far. The Needles Indians may be brought here for a game later, according to Lightfoot. This team has defeated Kingman this season.

New Calendar In Soviet Bans Christmas Day

MOSCOW, Dec. 25. (U.P.)—The Aviation Council society today offered a 3,000 rouble reward to the person or persons who find Carl person. (Continued on Page 4)