

# DAM BREAKS, FLOODS, MISSING

## Hobart Dead to Be Buried in One Grave

Recheck of Fire at School House Party Shows 32 Died by Blaze Started by Candle on Tree.

## But 10 Can Be Identified

By Associated Press. Hobart, Okla., Dec. 25.—With 32 bodies, most of them burned beyond recognition, lying in a temporary morgue in a two-story building, and five persons listed as dead or missing as a result of a Christmas Eve fire at the district school house at Hobart, Okla., seven miles from here, Hobart citizens tonight were continuing their efforts to identify the dead and were planning for their funeral.

## Family Dies Together

Early tonight only 10 of the dead had been identified, despite the fact that the morgue was early thrown open to the public. A steady procession of grief-stricken relatives filed all day long between the shrouded forms, but so terribly had they been burned that it was impossible in most cases to mark the features of the ones.

## Teacher Dies Saving Children

There, too, in a place apart, is the body of Mrs. Florence Hill, teacher at the school, who might have escaped had she not tarried in a futile effort to find some avenue of escape for her little charges. A woman from Fort Worth, formerly Juanette Clemens of the Babb's Switch district, her daughter, Mary, 3, and Vesta Jackson, 1, complete the list of the identified dead early tonight.

## Panic Sweeps Crowd

Santa reached for one of the few remaining candy sacks. He struck a candle on the Christmas tree. The tiny blaze fell on his perch and in an instant a ball of cotton on the tree burst into flame. A rush to put out the fire and the tree fell over, scattering blazing twigs. In an instant the room was in a panic. Men and women sprang for the single exit at the rear and to the windows, beat the flames covered by a heavy wire netting. The windows shattered, a brisk wind blew through the room, fanning the flames and the flimsy structure caught like tinder.

## Oldest Woman in State Dies

Kimball, Neb., Dec. 25.—Mrs. Anna B. Shaffo, 102, died Tuesday evening at the home of her son, Judge M. E. Shaffo, at Harrisburg, Banner county, according to word received here today. Mrs. Shaffo, it is said, was the oldest woman in Nebraska. She was born at Point Pleasant, N. J., in 1822. Her father was an adjuster for wrecked ships on the Atlantic coast. Mrs. Shaffo was a resident of Banner county for 32 years.

## We Have With Us Today

Charles L. Hogan, vice president, Knickerbocker Portland Cement company, Albany, N. Y. Mr. Hogan with Mrs. Hogan is spending Christmas week in Omaha with relatives. Mr. and Mrs. James Muldoon. He has made his home at Albany, N. Y., for many years where he has been associated with the Knickerbocker Portland Cement company of which he is vice president. This company, he states, is a branch of division of the International Portland Cement company that distributes its products all over the world.

## Samaritan Robbed by Stranger He Aided

After he befriended a stranger and purchased him supper and provided a place for the man to sleep Wednesday night, his efforts, as a good Samaritan, were rewarded by the stranger relieving him of his purse containing \$50 and a gold watch, John Phillips of Correctionville, Ia., reported to Council Bluffs police Thursday. The stranger's name was given to police by Phillips.

## Retailers Declare Holiday Business Shatters Records

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## Exceeds Wildest Hopes

Carroll Ebdelen of the Thompson-Ebdelen company said the sales at his store exceeded other years by 10 per cent.

## It Was the Greatest Christmas Year in the History of Our Store

Mr. Ebdelen said.

## Brandeis Stores, Karl Louis Declared that the Business This Season Had Been Very Good

Thomas Flynn, president of the Hayden Brothers store said, "The unexpected happened to us. We did a much larger business than ever before in the store's history. It has given us added confidence that good times have returned to Nebraska."

## Coming Year Bright

William L. Holzman at the Nebraska Clothing store said business this year surpassed any previous year.

## PARIS ENJOYS GAY CHRISTMAS

Paris, Dec. 25.—Paris last night and today celebrated its Christmas with a zest that has seldom been equaled. All the pews in the churches were allotted for midnight masses, and many of the faithful were turned away. All the restaurants and cafes in the poorest and richest quarters of the city were crowded with merry-makers who consumed great quantities of food and drink. The merriment kept up until dawn.

## Santa Not Bothered by Contagious Disease

Contagious diseases don't mean a thing to Santa Claus. If you don't believe it, ask John and James Childs, sons of C. E. Childs, manager of the traffic bureau of the Chamber of Commerce.

## Santa Not Bothered by Contagious Disease

The two boys are confined at their home, 111 North Fifty-fourth street, with a mild attack of chickenpox.

## Employment Officer Suggested for Legion

The Omaha post No. 1 of the American Legion is considering employing an employment officer. The present employment bureau, officers of the post, say, is becoming too small.

## Largest Gas Well in Sheridan Field Struck

Dunkirk, N. Y., Dec. 25.—The largest gas well ever struck in the Sheridan field came in today with a daily flow of more than 1,900,000 feet.

## Autopsy in McClintock Case Begun

Pathological Examination of Body of Young Heir to Fortune Expected to Require More Than Week. To Question Shepherd

## To Question Shepherd

Chicago, Dec. 25.—William D. Shepherd, foster father of young William (Billy) McClintock, the "millionaire orphan" and chief heir to his estate, will be questioned at the state's attorney's office as soon as he reaches Chicago, regarding the death of the youth at the Shepherd home three weeks ago, it was announced tonight.

## By A. J. LORENZ, Universal Service Staff Correspondent.

Chicago, Dec. 25.—A pathological examination, so minute that it will require at least a fortnight to complete, is being made of the body of William Nelson McClintock, youthful heir to a \$2,000,000 fortune, whose death, ascribed to typhoid fever, is the subject of a legal investigation.

## Embargo to Continue for Duration of "Fowl Plague" in East.

Des Moines, Dec. 25.—An embargo against the shipment of live poultry from New York and New Jersey into or through Iowa, has been placed by Mark G. Thornburg, state secretary of agriculture, to continue as long as the "fowl plague" exists in New York city.

## ENGLAND HAS ITS USUAL NEWS FAST

London, Dec. 24.—England began its annual news fast tonight, no papers being printed tomorrow or Friday, which also is a holiday.

## GREEN SAYS 1925 PROSPECTS GOOD

Coshocton, O., Dec. 24.—Prospects for labor, considering the country at large, during 1925 are "reasonably satisfactory," William Green, newly elected president of the American Federation of Labor, declared here today. Green is here spending the holidays with his home folks.

## Men Who Took Inebriate Home Stole His Machine

Houston, Tex., Dec. 25.—L. N. Thompson had a drink or two the other night, he told the police. He couldn't make his car go right, some how, although it was a new sedan.

## Herriott Up For First Time Since Illness December 10

Paris, Dec. 25.—Premier Herriott, who has been confined to his room by illness since December 10 was allowed to leave his bed for the first time today. The doctors, however, have ordered that he must stay off his feet, owing to the continuing stiffness in the muscles of the calf of one of his legs. Consequently, for the time being, he will work in an arm chair.

## Noted Sculptor Dies

Sienna, Italy, Dec. 25.—Ennio Gallo, the noted sculptor, died suddenly today. His most noted works include a monument to Garibaldi recently erected in the Gardens of the Janiculum, at Rome, and a monument to King Victor Emmanuel II, dedicated in 1911 at Rome.

## Sque Adventurer, Wanted in New York, Arrested by Italian Police

Major Thomas Mac Fie, "Perfect Gentleman," Has Amazing Career Checked on Charge of Embezzling \$50,000 From American Club on Riviera; Alleged Slayer.

## By C. F. BERTELLI, Universal Service Staff Correspondent.

Paris, Dec. 25.—The amazing career of a "perfect gentleman" said to be wanted in New York for murder, ended at San Remo, Italy, last night when on a warrant from Nice, France, the Italian police arrested Maj. Thomas Mac Fie. Mac Fie is secretary of the famous Winter club, at Nice, and is declared by the police of that city to be the "handsomest adventurer unhung."

## New York Poultry Barred in Iowa

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## Mrs. W. W. Marsh Dies Christmas Day

Resident of Omaha for More Than 50 Years; Widow of Late Captain Marsh.

Mrs. W. W. Marsh, a resident of Omaha for more than 50 years, died at 2304 Christmas morning at her home, 504 Pine street.

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## GREETERS ELECT EGAN FIVE TIMES

A national record for the Greeters association was established Tuesday, when at the annual meeting of the Nebraska-Iowa Greeters, charter No. 1, John F. Egan, manager of the Hotel Sanford, was re-elected to the presidency of the organization for the fifth consecutive time.

## Leopold and Loeb Will Spend Christmas in Cells

Joliet, Ill., Dec. 24.—Nathan F. Leopold, Jr., and Richard Loeb, slayers of Robert Franks, will spend the greater part of Christmas day in their cells—in contrast to the yuletides of former years, when they were surrounded with every luxury that their wealthy parents supplied.

## Men Who Took Inebriate Home Stole His Machine

Houston, Tex., Dec. 25.—L. N. Thompson had a drink or two the other night, he told the police. He couldn't make his car go right, some how, although it was a new sedan.

## Bomb Sent as Present

Glendale, Cal., Dec. 25.—A bomb in the form of a Christmas package received by Ernest M. Torchia, an attorney, exploded here early today, blowing off his left hand, driving fragments into his body and injuring one eye.

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## Santa Claus Brings City Cheery Day

Rising Temperature Marks Omaha's First White Christmas in Four Years; Family Reunions General.

## Special Church Services

Omaha welcomed Santa Claus Thursday. Christmas cheer, remembrances and the spirit, the lack of which made old Scrooge famous, were outstanding features of the day.

## Special Church Services

Special services were held in churches throughout the day. The first service started at midnight Wednesday. From that time on almost every hour saw a service of some kind in some church somewhere in the city.

## Contracts Let for Hospital

Washington, Dec. 25.—Contracts for construction of a 232-bed hospital at San Fernando, Cal., to cost approximately \$1,000,000, have been awarded by Director Hines of the Veterans' bureau. The North Pacific Construction Co., of Los Angeles, was given the general construction contracts on its bid of \$75,999.

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## LINCOLN WOMAN DIES OF BURNS

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 25.—Christmas Eve cheer turned to tragedy for a Lincoln family when Mrs. H. F. Ludwig, mother of three small children, died in a hospital from burns received when she poured kerosene on the kitchen fire. Death occurred at 1:15 a. m. today, seven hours after the accident. Mrs. Ludwig had returned from a shopping trip, buying gifts for the children when she poured oil on the fire to "hurry it along."

## Mrs. Wickham's Condition Critical; Husband Improves

Mrs. E. A. Wickham was still in a critical condition as a result of injuries suffered when a Rock Island freight train crashed into her husband's automobile at the South avenue crossing in Council Bluffs Wednesday afternoon.

## Doctors Report Contractor and Son Out of Danger; Services Today for Nurse Killed in Crash.

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## 10 Virginia Homes Are Swept Away

Roanoke, Va., Dec. 25.—Six persons are known to be dead and nine are missing as the result of the breaking of a "muck" dam of the Mathieson Alkali works at Saltville last night. Thirty-five are in hospitals at Abingdon and Saltville, some seriously injured.

## Improvised Hospital in Drug Store Cares for 35 Injured, While Parties Search for Victims.

Roanoke, Va., Dec. 25.—Six persons are known to be dead and nine are missing as the result of the breaking of a "muck" dam of the Mathieson Alkali works at Saltville last night. Thirty-five are in hospitals at Abingdon and Saltville, some seriously injured.

## Death Toll May Increase

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## Trapped in Homes

The flood which bore down at 19 upon the mill settlement nestling below the impounded waters, came without warning, and the victims, trapped in their homes, were unable to escape. All the missing are believed to have been swept into the north fork of the Holston river.

## One Body, that of Mrs. Harry Traitor, the only identified dead, was found four miles below the scene of the disaster at her home, in the first house below the dam. A Christmas party was said to have been in progress, and it is thought that most of the missing were guests at the Traitor home. Harry Traitor, the father, was among those unaccounted for tonight.

## Ten houses occupied by workmen were swept away and the bottom lands of the Holston river, as far as Tumbling creek, six miles distant, were covered with the sediment that was stored behind the dam.

## Telephone messages from the scene of the disaster indicated the death toll would possibly reach 15.

## By Universal Service.

Eristol, Tenn., Dec. 25.—Five are known to have perished and others are missing following the bursting through of the dam of the Mathieson Alkali works at Saltville, Va., on the north fork of the Holston river, 45 miles north of here early today, resulting from the recent torrential rains.

## Property damage of \$500,000 was caused and many homes along the banks of the stream are tonight masses of wreckage strewn along the river banks.

## Rescue Work Difficult

The known dead are four members of a family named Pauly and W. H. Scott, who lost their lives when their homes were swept into the swirling waters.

## Rescue work is made difficult because of the high water which prevails today. The river at Saltville is out of its banks for more than a mile.

## It is feared that the known fatalities will be added to when a complete check-up is possible.

## Mononites Awaiting Transportation South

Saskatoon, Sask., Dec. 24.—One hundred Mononites with their household effects in railway cars at Hague and Osler, near here, were awaiting today the fulfillment of a promise they said had been made by the Mexican government to transport them, free of charge, to a settlement 500 miles south of the United States border.

## Leaders of the Mononites said that the minister of railways of the former Mexican administration had promised them free transportation and they expected to receive word from the minister of the new administration, confirming the agreement made by his predecessor.

## Altruus Club Santa Claus

The Altruus club played Santa Claus to the crippled children at the Hattie B. Monon home in Benson, Wednesday afternoon. Charles Gardner took the role of Santa Claus. The children were given toys and candy. A sack full of toys and yellow cabs taken from the Christmas party of the Rotary club Wednesday noon by Gardner and Ira Jones were also given the children.

## Balkan Issues to Be Discussed

Sofia, Dec. 25.—Premier Tankoff, under an agreement of the Jugoslav and Rumanian governments, left tonight for Belgrade and Bucharest to negotiate understandings among the Balkan states on various pressing issues. No details of the premier's program were given out by the Bulgarian government.

## The Weather

For 24 hours ending 7 p. m. December 25, 1924. Precipitation (inches and hundredths): Total 5. Total since January 1, 2.14. December 25: 2.14.

Hourly Temperatures table with columns for time and temperature.

## Rest. John Fox, 71, Dies.

Reston, Pa., Dec. 24.—Rev. John Fox, 71, a retired Presbyterian minister and former secretary of the American Bible society, is dead.