



\$500,000 Hotel Fire Strikes at Whitehorse



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Not Hibernating
A woodpecker feeding in the Tom Hering yard this morning while the thermometer recorded a -64 "Looks pretty rough" Mrs. Hering told the News-Miner. A couple of his black feathers were a little askew but he otherwise seemed to be in good shape and was eating heartily. Besides the woodpecker, approximately fifteen chickadees were also feeding off the sunflower seeds, suet, crumbs, and left-over bush-puppies that Mrs. Hering had placed in the feeder. And at least one squirrel is not hibernating during this cold weather. At midnight last night when the Hering family returned from their annual family Christmas get-together a "flying squirrel", a night feeding species, was helping himself to the same meal. The temperature then was -60.

Area Redevelopment

The December meeting of the Economic Development Committee, 19th Election District, State of Alaska, will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27, at the Chamber of Commerce. Chairman Robert Jenks urges all members to attend to take action on several important committee progress reports on projects to be presented for possible consideration by the Area Redevelopment Administration. The meeting is open to the public.

Fire Damages House

A fire this morning about 8 a.m. damaged the kitchen, ceiling and attic of the Gene Beltz home, 543 Baranof St., Hamilton Acres. The fire was caused by defective electrical wiring, it was believed. Neighbors rushed to the scene with fire extinguishers and put out the blaze by the time the Hamilton Acres volunteer fire department arrived.

Woman's Club Dinner

An annual holiday affair, the College Woman's Club pot-luck dinner, is set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday. Dancing will follow the dinner which is being held this year at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Iver Johnson, Birch Lane. If the temperature is below 25, the dinner party will be cancelled.

Tanana Credit Union

The Tanana Valley Credit Union will hold its annual shareholders meeting on Jan. 12 at 7:30 p.m. Meeting place, Golden North Service Club, Fort Wainwright. Principal business of this meeting will be the election of new officers, and the selection of the credit committee.

Cast Play

Casting will be held Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. for the Arctic Circle Theatre Group presentation "Golden Boy". All interested persons are invited to join the group at the Arctic Circle Theatre at the Arctic Bow building.

Ladies Day

At a regular meeting of the Fairbanks Lions Club tomorrow at noon at the Travelers' Inn a "ladies day" will be observed. President Elmer Gagnon said today. He said a special program will be conducted.

Dog Musher's Cancel

Alaska Dog Musher's meeting scheduled for Wednesday evening at the Moose Lodge has been cancelled because the New Year's day race planned by the mushers has been called off by race marshall Pat Patterson. Another meeting of the Alaska Dog Musher's is tentatively set for Jan. 3 when the mushers will draw for starting positions. Five races ranging in distance from eight to sixteen miles have been planned for the winter racing season, preliminary to the Carnival championship races held each March.

**Estimated 200
Dead In India**

NEW DELHI, India, Dec. 26, 1961 — An estimated 200 persons have died as a result of a cold wave in North India that entered its 10th day today without relief in sight.

The lowest temperature recorded was 34.8 degrees in New Delhi Monday. Most Indian peasants have only meager clothing needed for the normal summer temperatures of more than 100 degrees in this area.

30 Persons Flee From Hotel and Restaurant

Edgewater Hotel, Hollywood Restaurant

Destroyed as Well as Other Buildings

On Canadian Town's First Avenue

WHITEHORSE, Y. T., 1961 — Fire Monday destroyed four buildings in downtown Whitehorse, sending more than 30 persons into 45-below weather from their hotel rooms and apartments.

First reports said no one was injured in the blaze. Whitehorse fire chief Fred Blaker said damage was expected to total \$500,000.

The blaze began about 9:30 a.m. and the city's four-man fire department, aided by Canadian Army firefighters, Monday afternoon brought it under control.

Burned Out

The fire burned out the three-story frame Edgewater Hotel, the Edgewater and Hollywood restaurants, a law office, pool hall, beer parlor, plumbing and heating shop, barber shop, shoe store and several apartments above the pool hall and plumbing shop. The buildings all are on First Avenue, adjacent to the city's main street.

Electrical power was de-toured around the area of the fire for safety reasons, temporarily leaving about a quarter of the city's residents without their electrically-powered furnaces in the bitter cold.

No Power

Residents without power were worried that their water lines would freeze up if they didn't get their furnaces working again.

The Edgewater Hotel desk clerk said there were about 25 people in the hotel when the fire broke out. About eight were believed to have evacuated the apartments.

Reports said the fire started when a fan overheated in the Edgewater restaurant, located in the hotel building. Waitresses discovered the fire and rushed down hotel corridors to evacuate residents.

50 Killed By Bomb In

Colombia

PAA Strike Would Affect Alaskans

BOGOTA, Colombia, Dec. 26, 1961 — At least 50 worshippers were killed in a Christmas Eve outbreak of Colombia's persistent banditry and terrorism when a bomb exploded in the midst of a religious procession. Eighty persons were reported under arrest in the hunt for the terrorists. The explosion occurred in the square of an artillery battalion barracks in the West Colombian city of Buga, 300 miles southwest of Bogota.

A communiqué placed the death toll at 50. Reports from the scene said 51 were killed and more than 110 injured.

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President Kennedy assured West Berliners in a taped television broadcast that the beacon of Free Berlin "will continue to shine brightly for many years to come."

"We are at your side—as before," Kennedy declared.

By The Associated Press

We shall stay. Until truly and barbed-wire wall the Com-

there is good will among men, munists threw up to divide the

not walls to divide them, our city was softened a bit by the

pursuit of peace shall con-

first Christmas snow in five

years. Some 800 lighted Christ-

mas trees twinkled along the

Western side of the wall to

remind the East Berliners

they were not forgotten.

West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt cabled Kennedy his appreciation, asserting that Berliners will take upon themselves new burdens rather than to forsake convictions and principles which free men all over the world are willing to defend.

Churches were filled to capacity in both East and West Berlin. The grim concrete

Red China, Albania Form Trade Pact

SEATTLE, Dec. 26, 1961 — Pan-American World Airways has alerted its 380 employees in Seattle and Alaska that they face a layoff if airline pilots strike as scheduled on Jan. 19.

E. W. Swofford, regional director for the carrier here, said Tuesday a letter was sent to all the 23,000 employees of the line around the world. The letter also reviewed Pan-American's efforts to reach an agreement with the pilots.

(Continued on Page 7, Col. 9)

The agreement was signed in Peiping by a visiting Al-

banian trade mission.

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Fairbanks Slows Down With Cold

Weather Bureau Sees No Immediate Respite

Week-Long Cold Spell Will Continue For Several More Days; Temperatures Setting Low Records In Local Area

Record-shattering cold continued to hold Fairbanks in its grip over the holiday weekend.

Showing no signs of letting up, the week-long cold snap brought with it heavy ice fog, frozen water pipes, cars which refused to start, low temperature records and chilled scores of Fairbanksans.

The weather bureau at International Airport reported a low of minus 56 early this morning. The low reading broke the all-time low temperature record for this date, a -54 mark recorded in 1954. The record high mark for this date, in case anyone wants to know, was 38, a reading registered in 1939.

The cold snap moved into the Fairbanks area on December 16th, bringing with it steady temperatures in the region of 40 below zero. The weather became steadily colder, and ever since last Friday, the weather bureau has recorded low readings of minus 50 or below.

This morning the personnel in the clerk's office of Federal Court found a chilly office awaiting them. They could not start business as usual because their records were in the huge walk-in safe and the door was frozen shut.

Thawing services answered about 250 calls to Fairbanks homes over the three-day holiday. They reported mostly trouble was had with frozen water pipes but that there was also a number of frozen oil lines, particularly in trailer homes. One thawing company reports its truck froze up Saturday and this morning they are about 40 calls behind.

Car starting services report they made over 500 calls over the holiday weekend and towing services report about 400 cars towed in.

One towing service reported that its heating plant broke down and that it had to suspend operations while repairs were made to get it going again. One service reported that the business was so rushed that it provided some booster batteries to two of its customers and farmed out some of its work.

The water pipes in a couple of downtown restaurants were frozen up some time during last night. Managers attributed the cold weather and the fact that their businesses were closed yesterday with the freezing.

Light snow was reported to have fallen from the Western Plains to the Northeastern Upper Great Lakes. Showers dampened the Pacific Northwest, changing to snow in the mountains.

Skies were mostly cloudy across the northern part of the country, where temperatures were seasonably cold. Readings were mostly in the 20s but ranged as low as 4 degrees at Farmington, N.M., 5 at Glasgow, Mont., and 6 at Minot, N.D.

Readings skidded into the 20s in much of Northern Florida today. It was 27 at Jacksonville, 24 at Tallahassee, 38 at Gainesville, 24 at St. Petersburg, 38 at Tampa and 43 in Miami.

Birmingham, Ala., reported 28 degrees.

In the Midwest, the area hardest hit by the snow storm, digging out still was going on. Rescue workers reached 12 persons Monday at a pumping station near Maryville, Mo., where they had been marooned several days by six-foot drifts.

Farmer fired smudge pots Monday night in an attempt to ward off killing frost in agricultural sections of Florida, which had its coldest Christmas day on record.

Crop reports indicated it was too early to determine the full extent of the damage or figure the financial loss.

Forecaster Arnold Sugg said the icy Canadian cold front that caused blizzards in the North over the weekend had pushed through Florida and into the Caribbean Christmas Day. Low readings Monday included 42 at Miami, a record for Dec. 25.

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Busy Schedule Slated Today For Kennedy; Visits Father

PALM BEACH, Fla., Dec. 26, 1961 — President Kennedy, attired informally and appearing relaxed, visited his seriously ill father today.

The President's schedule called also for a checkup on his back, which he injured in a tree-planting ceremony last summer. Dr. Preston Wade, a New York specialist, was called to Palm Beach for what was described as a routine examination later today.

Kennedy had nothing to say to newsmen when he left the hospital. He spent 24 minutes with his father, former Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy, who suffered a stroke a week ago today.

Despite their anxiety over the condition of Joseph P. Kennedy, President and Mrs. Kennedy made Christmas as merry as possible for their two children.

All were up early in the ocean-front mansion of Col. and Mrs. C. Michael Paul, where they are spending the holidays, to watch Caroline, 4, open her presents beneath a tall Christmas tree. John, Jr., 1, watched his delighted sister.

The President and first lady then drove to the small white chapel at St. Mary's Hospital in West Palm Beach to attend a 10 o'clock Mass.

They spent 50 minutes with Joseph Kennedy's condition.

