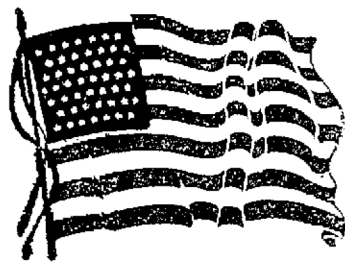




\$500,000 Hotel Fire Strikes at Whitehorse



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COLD WEATHER SETS RECORDS

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., (AP) — 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 9:00 a.m. and the city's four-man fire department, aided by Canadian Army firefighters, Monday afternoon brought it under control.

Christmas Fund Hits \$2,846.25

The 1961 Christmas Call-out fund came to an official close Saturday with the last of the names published in the News-Miner, but donations for the needy kids are still coming in. Over the weekend \$99 was added to the fund by thoughtful Fairbanksans.

The Yellow Cab Company heads the list of donors over the weekend with \$32 for the needy people of the area.

Three \$10 donations were received with Lester Albery of 17 Mile on the Richardson sending in a check, the Krize Brothers from Top O' the World Clothing came in with \$10 and so did Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Stefano of 506 Gaffney Road.

Henry O'Kinney sent in \$5 and so did Joseph Fejes of the Hobby House. Other givers of \$5 were G.G. & Lucille Alexander, Ed Merdes and Darrell and Patricia Kniffen. Two checks for five dollars each from Anonymous also arrived.

Ray Langlo, 223 Second avenue and Karl M. Woodruff also sent in one dollar each.

This makes the total \$2,846.25 for the season to date.



RECORDS FALL — This cold ice fogged picture was taken about 8 a.m. this morning showing the thermometer on the First National Bank registering a minus 55 degrees. The record set last night was a cold

Fairbanks Slows Down With Cold

Fairbanks slowed down today — almost to a standstill — in the wake of record low temperatures.

Fairbanksans are having trouble with their furnaces; some businesses weren't able to serve hot coffee this morning because their water lines were frozen; and there were only two or three departures from International Airport.

So cold has been the weather, that even crime has taken a holiday. In the past three days there have been only seven city and state charges filed in state and city magistrate courts. Those were all for the minor offense of drunk in public.

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.

Towing 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 towing 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.

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.

Since Thursday The weather bureau said that the cold temperatures have broken or tied all-time low temperature records every day since last Thursday. Then a reading of -49 tied a record which has stood since 1933.

Sunday's reading of -54 smashed the previous record of minus 45, set in 1942, and Monday's low temperature of -56 exceeded by 11 degrees the former mark of 45 below, also established in 1942.

The weather bureau said that there were a few signs that the high pressure area which brought the cold weather to the local area was finally breaking up. The atmospheric pressure in the high has been falling slowly for some time, from a high of 30.8 inches registered several days ago at the center of the zone, to a reading of 30.16 inches recorded last night.

The weather bureau said that the entire high pressure area was slowly moving eastward, but that there were few signs of a change.

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Little Trouble Experienced By Utilities

Taxi cab firms report they are "swamped" with telephone calls today and they are taking care of the backlog of passengers as fast as they can, even doubling and tripling the passengers.

One operator said if the "customers would just use a little patience we will take care of them as best we can."

Golden Valley Electric Association says they are not experiencing any difficulty yet other than the mercury vapor street lights, particularly in the Hamilton Acres area. A spokesman said the lights simply won't vaporize in this cold and there is no cure for the situation until the weather warms up.

The Municipal Utilities System said today that they are having no trouble whatsoever with electricity or steam. One spokesman said that the steam pressure was "way up" and if some buildings are experiencing cold weather it is because they probably do not have enough radiation within the buildings.

The University of Alaska has three boilers in its power plant and today two of these are running at near capacity.

The three boilers have a total output of about 40,000 pounds of steam per hour.

It was reported that the plant is "not able to supply heat with the present operating characteristics" of the plant. The plant heats all the housing and married students facilities on the campus in addition to the classrooms and other buildings.

WEATHER

Fair and cold with ice fog today and tonight. Low temperature tonight expected to be -55; high Wednesday -48; high yesterday -50; low last night -56; temperature at 11 a.m. -55. Sunrise tomorrow, Dec. 26 will be at 9:59 a.m. and sunset at 1:46 p.m., a total of three hours and forty-seven minutes of sunlight.



Sourdough Jack
Sez "Last night it was so cold in my cabin I ran out of blankets but it didn't bother me a bit. I just put on another dog."

50 Killed By Bomb In Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia, Dec. 26, (AP) — 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 communique placed the death toll at 50. Reports from the scene said 51 were killed and more than 110 injured.

(Continued on Page 7, Col. 7)

PAA Strike Would Affect Alaskans

SEATTLE, Dec. 26, (AP) — 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. 9.

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. 7)

Boy Killed In Kodiak Plane Crash

KODIAK, Dec. 26, (AP) — A Kodiak Airways plane crashed into the sea just after takeoff here Sunday night, killing a 10-year-old boy. The pilot and three other passengers escaped with minor injuries.

The name of the dead boy was Emil Kahutak.

Robert Hall, general manager of the airline, said the plane was bound for remote parts of Kodiak Island with the four passengers and Christmas mail and food.

Cause of the crash cannot be determined until the wreckage is raised, Hall said.

Red China, Albania Form Trade Pact

TOKYO, Dec. 26, (AP) — Communist China and Albania today signed an agreement to form a joint stock shipping company to develop shipping between the two countries, the New China News Agency reported.

The agreement was signed in Peiping by a visiting Albanian trade mission.

Numbing Cold Also Strikes Large Sections of the Nation

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
The storm front that brought a white Christmas to a large area of the nation has spread numbing cold throughout the South, dropping temperatures below freezing as far south as Florida.

Farmers 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 Suggs 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.

Readings skidded into the 20s in much of Northern Florida today. It was 27 at Jacksonville, 24 at Tallahassee, 38 in 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.

Light snow was reported today from the Western Central 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.

To Make Vertical Take Off Plane

LONDON, Dec. 26, (AP) — The Hawker Siddeley Aviation Co. says it has signed an agreement with Bell Aerosystems of the United States and three other foreign firms to collaborate on producing a transport plane capable of taking off and landing vertically.

Western Leaders Appeal for Peace

By The Associated Press
Leaders of the Western world appealed for peace and unity in Christmas messages Monday while expressing grave concern over differences dividing major powers and flareups troubling lesser ones.

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.

"We shall stay. Until truly there is good will among men, not walls to divide them, our pursuit of peace shall continue."

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

and barbed-wire wall the Communists threw up to divide the city was softened a bit by the first Christmas snow in five years. Some 800 lighted Christmas trees twinkled along the Western side of the wall to remind the East Berliners they were not forgotten.

Queen Elizabeth II said in a broadcast to the nations of the British commonwealth: "We can only dispel the clouds of anxiety by the patient and determined efforts of us all. It cannot be done by condemning the past or by con-

tracting out of the present. Angry words and accusations certainly don't do any good, however justified they may be."

Palestinians, pilgrims and tourists packed the Christian churches at Jerusalem, and about 10,000 visitors journeyed across the Judean hills to services at Bethlehem, bathed in a brilliant winter sun.

Amid the prayers and the feasting, violence erupted as usual.

A terrorist bombing killed at least 50 persons among 500 worshippers at Christmas Eve services at an Army barracks at Buga, Colombia.

In Algeria, the underground secret army organization of anti-Daoula Frenchmen proclaimed a Christmas truce. But elsewhere in the North African territory terrorism from both sides of the French-Algerian conflict resulted in the deaths of 17 Algerians and 14 Europeans, and the wounding of 33 Algerians and 24 Europeans.

Estimated 200 Dead In India

NEW DELHI, India, Dec. 26, (AP) — 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.