

Nicaragua Hit By Quake, Damage Heavy

From Post-Dispatch Wire Services

GUATAMALA, Dec. 23—A strong earthquake struck Managua, Nicaragua, early today. Extensive damage in the center of the Central American city was reported. First reports indicated that there were many homeless, injured and dead.

All normal communications between Managua and the outside were cut by the quake, which struck at 12:40 a.m. (St. Louis time). Reports reaching Guatemala from amateur radio operators in Managua indicated that damage was severe and that the capital city was without water and electricity.

Planes with relief supplies, medicine and doctors were being prepared in Guatemala, El Salvador and Venezuela, but one radio operator, transmitting from a mobile unit in the center of Managua, said the interruption in electrical service had put navigation equipment at the Managua airport out of operation.

Highways leading to Managua were reportedly closed, and the only means of transportation to the city was by helicopter.

In Washington, the Department of State said the United States Embassy in Managua had been destroyed, that one third of the city was in flames and that most of the hospitals had been leveled.

A Department of State spokesman in Washington said its information was based on a message from the Nicaraguan government.

One of the ham radio reports reaching Guatemala City said the Nicaraguan Central Bank, an 18-story building, was damaged heavily.

The State Department spokesman said authorities were being hampered in fighting the flames because of broken water mains.

A Honduras radio broadcast monitored in Mexico City said the quake caused people to flee into the streets.

The broadcaster was quoted as saying he was certain "residential parts of the center part of the city had been destroyed as well as the eastern part of the city."

Guillermo Lang, Nicaragua's deputy ambassador to the United Nations, said in New York that there were "many fires there, many buildings down." He reported that the 15-story Balmorol Hotel on Avenida Bolivar in the center of Managua collapsed and "many people died there." Lang reported that a new electric company building and two hospitals had been destroyed.

The National Earthquake Information Center in Boulder, Colo., said the quake, which

registered 6.5 on the Richter scale, was centered somewhat south of Managua.

The University of California's seismograph station at Berkeley said it recorded the quake's intensity at 7 on the scale.

The Alaskan earthquake on March 27, 1964, by comparison, registered 8.4 and the San Francisco quake of 1906 that destroyed most of the city registered 8.3.

Managua, was virtually destroyed by an earthquake and fire on March 31, 1931.



Miss Hope Florence Jones
Veiled Prophet Queen

New Rope Trick Unveils Prophet

By TOMMY ROBERTSON
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Miss Hope Florence Jones, 19 years old, was crowned the Queen of Love and Beauty last night at the annual Veiled Prophet Ball by His Mysterious Majesty, the Veiled Prophet of Khorassan.

But for the first time in history, the mystery that surrounds his royal highness was nearly dispelled when Miss Jean Scott, apparently acting out a planned demonstration of the militant group ACTION, slid in formal attire down a rope or spotlight cable from the balcony to the floor, walked to the mystical king and unmasked him, knocking off his crown.

The Veiled Prophet moved quickly to replace his crown and mask. He moved so quickly that nobody at the ball recognized him.

The disruption took place only 40 minutes before Miss Jones was crowned. Although the incident temporarily shocked the guests, they soon rallied and greeted the Queen with the traditional enthusiasm of the occasion.

Miss Jones, a sophomore at the University of Denver, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin S. Jones. Jones is board

chairman of the First National Bank in St. Louis.

Miss Jones was preceded in her march to the monarch's throne by the four special maids of honor. They are Miss Felicitie Irene Hawes, daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. Richard Hawes III, Creve Coeur; Miss Barrow Simrall Lammert, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Lammert IV, Ladue; Miss Anne McCandless Gardner, daughter of David L. Gardner, Ladue, and Miss Beatrice Alice Busch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. August A. Busch Jr., Concord Village.

The first of the four special maids, Miss Busch, was making her entrance when Miss Scott began her descent from the balcony to the floor. Spectators said she wore a red wig which fell off at one point.

ACTION had attempted for four previous years to disrupt the ball, but all prior attempts had failed.

Miss Scott's descent to the floor of the ballroom was made easier by a diversion created by Miss Jane Saur, who dropped several dozen leaflets from the gallery section of Kiel Convention Hall onto the guests below. Miss Saur and Miss Scott are white.

Policemen escorted Miss Saur from the gallery while Miss Scott climbed onto the rope. She fell as she neared the floor and some persons thought she might have been hurt seriously. However, she got up and started toward the throne, limping slightly, and knocked off the Prophet's veil and crown.

Miss Scott was taken from the area to a room below the ballroom and later to Barnes Hospital, where she was treated for injured left ribs, then was released to police.

She is being held at police headquarters on a previous charge of nonpayment of parking fines. Veiled Prophet officers would not press any charges against her, police said.

Percy Green, leader of ACTION, was at police headquarters trying to arrange bail for Miss Scott and four other persons who were arrested for demonstrations at the ball.

He said the entire demonstration

TURN TO PAGE 8, COL. 1

Heavy Raids Go On Two More B-52s Lost

From Post-Dispatch Wire Services

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Dec. 23—American bombers today struck deep in North Vietnam for the sixth consecutive day. The United States Command in Saigon reported the loss of two more B-52 Stratofortresses.

The command said the two planes were shot down yesterday morning by anti-aircraft fire northeast and southeast of Hanoi. The crews—six men on each plane—were listed as missing.

The U.S. Command has admitted that 14 planes, including 10 B-52s, have been downed since the heavy raids were started north of the Twentieth parallel Monday. At least 55 U.S. airmen are missing.

Hanoi radio said that two more B-52s were shot down near Haiphong today, raising to 17 the number of Stratofortresses and to 42 the number of American planes that North Vietnam says it has downed in the last six days. Washington sources earlier confirmed the loss of at least 12 B-52s.

Hanoi radio accused the Pentagon of lying in its statement that only military targets are being attacked.

"The truth is the United States is waging a bombing campaign against densely populated areas in Hanoi, Haiphong and many other localities, and it is bombing hospitals, schools and embassies besides the area where the U.S. pilot camp is located," the broadcast said.

Hanoi's official Vietnam News Agency reported yesterday that five U.S. flyers presented at a press conference in Hanoi earlier in the day had "taken part in a predawn B-52 raid against populous areas in Hanoi which caused heavy destruction to many inhabited quarters and public utility establishments, including the Bach Mai Hospital, the biggest polyclinic in North Vietnam, which was almost completely demolished. Many patients and medical workers in the hospital were killed or injured."

The U.S. Command maintained secrecy on the air operations over the North. In contrast to policy, the command this week refused to disclose what specific targets were being attacked, the number of missions flown and how it assessed the damage.

U.S. informants indicated that the Command was delaying the acknowledgement of downed aircraft and spacing out announcements to minimize the impact on the American public. However, the Command traditionally announces aircraft losses only after search and rescue missions have ended.

While attention focused on the air war in the North, the Saigon government announced a unilateral 24-hour cease-fire in South Vietnam for Christmas, beginning Sunday evening.

The South Vietnamese For-

ign Ministry initially had announced that it would start at noon but it revised the time. The Viet Cong had declared a similar but unilateral 24-hour cease-fire for the holiday, beginning at 1 p.m. Sunday.

The U.S. command left its options open, refusing to comment on the South Vietnamese cease-fire. It said it would not discuss future operations. However, the Florida White House said Presi-

dent Richard M. Nixon had left open the possibility that he might order a Christmas pause in the air war against the North.

In the past, the United States has gone along with the Saigon

government's South Vietnam air operations and Laos during cease-fires directed



COSMETIC BLAZE: Firemen responding to four alarms fighting roaring flames today at the Helen Ayers Co., cosmetic firm at 3709 North Fourteenth Street. (Post-Dispatch Photo by Michael J. Baldrige)

Boy, 3, Killed As Fire Destroys Home; 10 Safe

A child died in a fire that destroyed a home at 4427 North Nineteenth Street early today. Two other major fires were fought by St. Louis firemen last night and this morning.

The burned body of Fabian Williams, 3 years old, one of nine children of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Williams, was found by firemen in a bedroom of the one-story brick house. Mr. and Mrs. Williams and the other children escaped without injury.

Partlomen Edward Delaney and Dennis Francis, said they were told by the parents that

the boy was still inside. Francis and Delaney were unable to enter the building because of flames shooting from the windows. The officers restrained Williams when he tried to enter.

Mrs. Williams, 38 years old, said she discovered the fire in a bathroom after being awakened by smoke. The parents aroused the children, ranging in age from 20 months to 14 years, and all fled through front and rear doors. Fabian was missed when the group assembled in the yard.

The cause of the blaze was undetermined.

FIREMEN TODAY responded to four alarms for a fire in a three-story building at 3709 North Fourteenth Street, occupied by the Helen Ayers Co., cosmetic manufacturers.

Flames shot through windows and the roof. Chemicals in the building exploded, adding to the destruction. The building was unoccupied when the fire broke out at 7:40 a.m. Occupants of neighboring homes were evacuated by police, who held back a crowd of spectators. The cause was undetermined.

A FORMER ICE FACTORY at 3715 Dr. Martin Luther King Drive was severely damaged last night by fire that destroyed part of the roof.

Firemen responding to four alarms said flames billowed through a truck opening and through the roof. The cause was undetermined.

Police said the owner of the building was Richard Smith, a wrecking contractor, 2923 Greer Avenue.

Auto Makers Appeal Ban On Engine Device

DETROIT, Dec. 23 (AP)—Three automobile makers have appealed a Government order to remove so-called "defeat devices" from antipollution systems.

Ford and American Motors said yesterday that they would be forced to cut off production of 1973-model cars if they had to remove the devices.

Chrysler did not indicate whether enforcement of the order would force a shutdown after next March 15, the deadline for removal.

The Government says the devices permit pollution by bypassing emissions control equipment in certain operating conditions, such as cold weather starting.

Industry spokesmen say the devices do not substantially add to air pollution because they function only in starting the car or when the engine is cold. At any rate, they say, removal of the devices would hamper performance and reduce gasoline mileage.

Gia Dea Den

PARIS, Dec. 23—North Vietnam the Paris peace denied today, fense Minister was killed phong, North pal seaport ci

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Truman Unconscious, Heart Is Irregular

From Post-Dispatch Wire Services

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 23—Former President Harry S. Truman's condition became critical early today when his heart again began to beat irregularly.

Wayne Conery, a spokesman for the Research Hospital and Medical Center, said that "at 6:45 a.m. doctors described former President Harry S. Truman as critical." Conery said the reason for the change in classification of Truman's condition was mainly because of his heart condition.

Conery said the variation was similar to that which occurred yesterday morning but he thought today's was worse. The family, including daughter Mrs. Margaret Truman Daniel, has been notified of the change in the former President's condition, Conery said.

The worsening of Truman's condition followed a day in which he changed to near-critical condition and then improved slowly. His wife, Bess,

made one of her rare nighttime visits to her unconscious husband yesterday.

Earlier today, a hospital spokesman said Truman, 83 years old, had lapsed into unconsciousness, but said he did not know whether doctors considered him to be in a coma.

Dr. Wallace Graham, Truman's personal physician, said the former President's state of consciousness was secondary to his need of rest.

Truman's dangerous period yesterday lasted 1½ hours. It was marked by cardiac instability, decreased blood pressure and an increased pulse rate.

His condition remained very serious, and his rally was one of several since admission to the hospital Dec. 5 with lung congestion and bronchitis.

Truman has been receiving a special chemical diet since Tuesday in an effort to restore his kidney function and stave off blood toxicity. It has succeeded in decreasing the poisonous urea-nitrogen level in his bloodstream, but a hospital spokesman said that "as kidneys improve there are times when rapid and potentially dangerous changes in body chemistry may occur."

The hospital spokesman said last night that Truman's condition was "possibly somewhat worse" than Thursday, that his blood pressure had not improved and that his pulse rate was somewhat rapid.

Sweden Reimposes Freeze On Prices

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 23 (AP)—A price freeze has been ordered on milk, cream, cheese and meat in Sweden, where housewives have protested with marches and boycotts against price increases.

The freeze freezes the prices of foodstuffs at levels. The move is designed to remain a price throughout next year.



ALL TUCKERED OUT: Steve Spicer, 2 years old, Lima, O., asleep on his luggage at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago as thousands of travelers were stranded be-

cause of the jetliner collision and foggy weather. Many planes were forced to circle the airport for several hours before getting clearance to land. (UPI Telephoto)

Chance Of Snow

Official forecast for St. Louis and vicinity: Considerable

cloudiness to night with a chance of rain, low tonight in the mid 30s; chance of rain or snow tomorrow, colder tomorrow, high in the upper 30s; colder tomorrow night. Colder Monday, little change through Wednesday; lows from the 20s to 30s, highs in the 40s.





QUEEN HOPE was escorted to her Supper by Robert R. Hermann Jr. (left) and Charles Twedell. The Queen traditionally has two escorts.

A Serving Of Disbelief At Supper

By Patricia Rice
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

In the days prior to the ball, guests try to guess who will be Queen and who will be in her court. There are lots of "sure" schemes and there is always someone's great-aunt who never has guessed incorrectly.

Then, after the ball, at the Queen's Supper, a second game begins. The Prophet's subjects look at the girls who were chosen, who their parents and grandparents are and on

whose boards of directors they sit. Then they guess who the Prophet is. The only sure way of knowing that one is a winner in this second game is to twist the arm of a member in the know. In general, it is a taciturn group.

This year the second game was different. For the first time in 95 years the prophet-guessers had a better clue than height and bulk. They knew the truly human man behind the glittering robes was bald but for a narrow fringe. It was a head start,

but few persons wanted to continue the guessing.

Instead they talked about what Mrs. William James dubbed "the excitement." The secret ball-skipper who arrived at the Supper were told that a member of ACTION had momentarily unveiled his Mysterious Majesty. The reaction to this event was almost always the same.

"I was sure he (her informant) was teasing," said Mrs. Fristoe Mullins.

"You think I'm going to believe that?" said a tall young man at the top of

his lungs.

When assured that it was true, guests were stunned and few continued to play the guessing game.

Although the Prophet was unveiled he was not revealed. The incident was so brief, and the distance between the Prophet and his subjects at Kiel Auditorium so vast that only his best friends would know for sure.

Few persons at the Supper actually saw the unveiling. Their intent gazes were on Miss Beatrice Alice Busch as she enter-

ed the ballroom or on a second ACTION member's diversionary littering tactics from the balcony.

Many older members were outraged.

"What would these people do if the organizations stopped spending our money on these events for the city?" said one man seated in the front row table at the Supper.

"I think it should happen every 95 years," said Robert Britt with a devil-

TURN TO PAGE 4, COL. 5

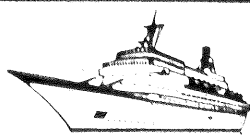


SPECIAL MAID Miss Anne McCandless Gardner escorted by Joseph F. Imbs III.



MANY OF THE YOUNG guests did not leave the party until dawn.

Post-Dispatch Photos
By Ken J. MacSwan



The all new, all first class world cruise ships of the Royal Viking Line sail everywhere —from the North Cape, to New Zealand, from the Inland Sea to the Mediterra-





sits in front of some of the Maids of Honor.

Jones Named Queen

aid, "I should out this for my empire waistline had a front floating panel with the same beading patterns at the bottom.

The graceful bell skirt extended from the waistline and gathered into a full shirred back train. The white velvet court train fell from the back waistline and had double wide bandings of multi width and size silver paillettes that formed a lattice work up the center of the 4 1/2-yard train.

"It's the most beautiful thing I've ever worn," Hope said. "It's all so jewelry, and I can't tell how much I appreciate the handwork."

Hope was not particularly nervous. "Surprisingly, I'm not as nervous as I thought I would be," she said.

Following her extensive bow at the feet of the Veiled Prophet, Hope was

seated. The retiring Queen was escorted to the throne. There was the jewel bearer and a gift for the retiring Queen.

Then the retiring Queen was escorted from the throne to the Royal Box. The Veiled Prophet bestowed the Scepter. The retiring Queen was seated in the royal box. The Guard entered.

There was a flourish of trumpets. The Guard formed in front of the stage. The Guard marched to the royal entrance. The Veiled Prophet rose, and so did the Queen and her Court.

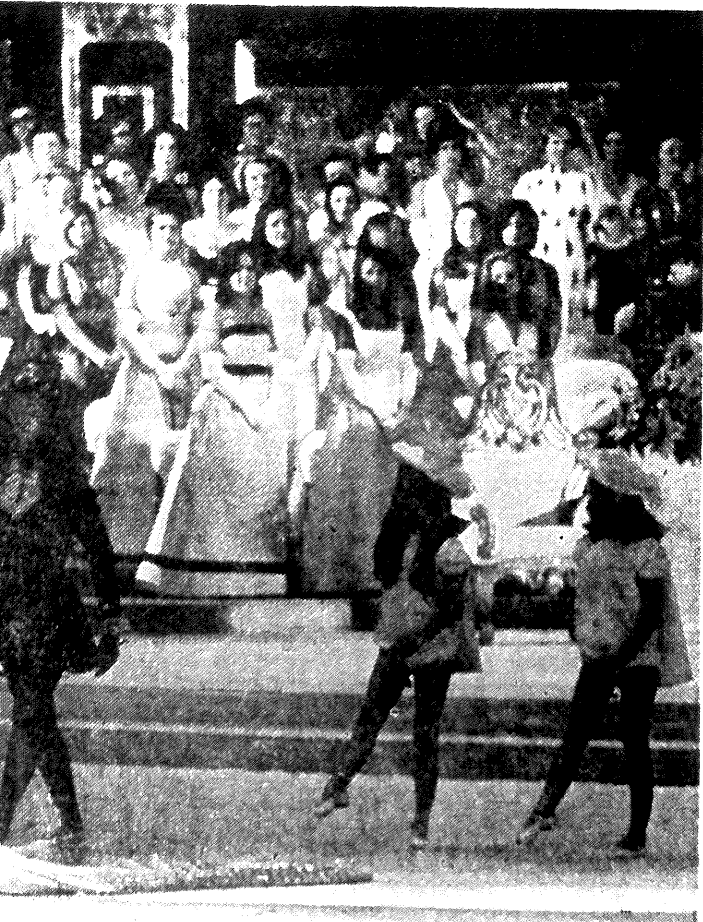
The recessional began.

The recessional ended.

The dancing began.

The dancing ended.

And once again, dating back to 1878, the Veiled Prophet Ball was everything everyone expected it to be.



ed Prophet and Queen follow behind their majesties' trains.

ay Of Gowns At VP Ball

FROM PAGE TWO

Disbelief At VP Supper

FROM PAGE THREE

ish grin.

"It was great," said Supper guest Jeffery L. Pressman, "Until it happened I was bored. The only thing that has ever bored me more was the Republican Convention."

But the most common comment was "just awful."

The Queen and her court relaxed upstairs for a few minutes in a suite of rooms at the Chase-Park Plaza before joining the Supper guests in the series of ballrooms.

Queen Hope, Miss Beatrice Alice Busch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. August A. Busch Jr., Miss Anne McCandless Gardner, daughter of David L. Gardner and the late Mrs. Gardner, Miss Bartow Simrall Hawes Lammert, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Lammert IV and Miss Felicite Irene Hawes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Hawes III joined the 1971 Queen, Miss Lenita Collins Morrill, in a receiving line outside the Chase Club. Miss Busch was second in line. She received hugs from friends as well as complete strangers as they praised her coolness at the Ball. She was promenading down the main aisle as the "excitement" began. "You were amazing," "You're terrific," guests said.

"I was embarrassed for the Prophet, Miss Busch said later," but I wanted it to be as normal as possible."

Guests toasted the court pate, and salted almonds. Queen and her court promenaded down the middle aisle of the Chase Club, and down the red-carpeted ramp to the Chase stage. There they were seated.

Beneath an oriental canopy in blue and green peacock feather print. Green, blue, and purple cloth was hung from the side of the hanger-like ballroom. Papier-mache rabbits, lions, tigers and the Queen of Hearts from "Through the Looking Glass" were placed around the room.

Guests were served liver pate and salted almonds. Dinner was a mimosa salad and a 7-ounce coeur du filet de boeuf with Bordelaise sauce, spinach souffle and braised celery. Napoleons with rather thick pastry was served for dessert.

But the dance floors were never empty and many of the meals were left unfinished. An extremely heavyset middle-aged man groaned as he saw a debutante's 7-ounce steak taken back to the kitchen. There were three bands. Frankie Masters' band played in the Chase Club. Russ David and his orchestra played in the Khorassan Room and Sounds Unlimited, a rock group, livened up the party in the small carpeted Lido Room. The center of the room was crowded with young persons dancing and rimmed with middle-aged persons watching.

"I'm watching now, but I was out there dancing. I got tired," Clarence Turley, the parent of teenagers said.

By 2 a.m. many of the debutante's grandparents waited at the doors for



AT THE QUEEN'S SUPPER guests toast the Queen and her court with champagne.



AUGUST A. BUSCH JR. talks with his daughter, Special Maid Beatrice Alice Busch.

their cars. By 3 a.m. many of the parents were leaving.

"There is one, just one more shopping day and I have to leave right now," said one tipsy woman to her more tipsy spouse.

The younger set was encouraged to remain. At 3 a.m. their energy was revived with a breakfast buffet.

All the "excitement" hadn't dampened the still the best party in dancing spirits of the debutante set.

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