

Rescue Vessels Pick Up Ship Fire Survivors

N.Y. Declares Snow Emergency

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
A major snowstorm moved into New York City Monday night and more than eight inches was expected in the city by this morning and up to a foot forecast for the suburbs. Traffic, already bumper-to-bumper with Christmas a day away, was snarled as 25 m.p.h. winds whipped the snow into drifts. The city declared a snow emergency. On the bright side, the snowfall ensured a white Christmas for many sections. The storm was moving northeast up the Atlantic seaboard from North Carolina. Washington was hit with six inches of snow.

TRAFFIC BGS DOWN

Baltimore had more than six inches. The heavy snowfall blanketed Philadelphia and all of Pennsylvania. Traffic in Philadelphia was bogged down. The snow emergency in New York, as in Philadelphia and other cities with similar reports, meant that only vehicles equipped with chains or snow tires could move on designated main streets. And today are prohibited from stopping or parking on the streets. The southern United States, already struggling with heavy snows and ice, raced Friday night for still colder weather. The heaviest snow of the century covered Memphis, Tenn., and some other places.

DEATHS REPORTED

The bitter weather disrupted travel, snarled traffic and caused deaths in at least seven states. Arkansas reported three deaths. Tennessee two, and South Carolina, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Kentucky one each. Some were from traffic accidents, some from exposure to the biting cold. Freezing temperatures reach 25 below zero in the Gulf of Mexico. The mercury dipped to 25 at Mobile, Ala., and 26 at New Orleans.

Hope And Confidence Expressed By Pearson

OTTAWA (CP)—In his annual Christmas message, Prime Minister Pearson says Canadians can look to the future with hope and sober confidence. There were problems, but with cooperation they could be solved. "We must strengthen the unity of our people," he said in many problems. None of these problems will be solved easily, he said, but without understanding the heart, co-operative work and the united purpose of all Canadians, all origins and in all provinces. "In a talk recorded for presentation on radio and television Christmas Day, the prime minister said this was a time for all to measure their lives against the values of Christian morality heralded by the birth of Christ. "The Christmas season, merging as it does with the dawn of a new year, is a time for resolution and reflection: a time for thanks for past blessings as we face new tasks; a time for reaffirming our confidence in the future; and a time for belief in the brotherhood of all men and our faith in God."

Counterfeiting Hoge Industry Now In Ontario

TORONTO (CP)—An RCMP staff officer has disclosed that counterfeiting in Ontario and Quebec has grown into a multi-million-dollar business. Inspector Roy Hlafer, in charge of the RCMP in Regina, says counterfeiter are reaping a harvest estimated at from \$100,000 to \$300,000 a year. His disclosure came in an article in the Canadian Banker, the official organ of the Canadian Bankers' Association.

Weland Canal Toll Charges To Be Restored

OTTAWA (CP)—Toll charges on ships and cargo moving through the all-Canadian Weland Canal, Transport Minister George McInnis announced Monday. The government will put back the toll charges that the previous Conservative government suspended July 19, 1962, to meet an election promise.

Red Gunfire Chatters Peace At Berlin Wall

BERLIN (AP)—Communist gunfire and the scream of an East German attempting to flee to the West broke the Christmas peace on the Berlin wall Monday. As thousands of Berliners prepared excitedly for their biggest holiday reunion in two years, the Communist regime in the East provided a grim reminder of the wall's role. While smiling East German guards admitted West Berliners to the city, they fired bursts from sub-machine-guns. Berliners tried to break the one-way traffic by crawling the way through three layers of barbed wire on the southern city limits. There is no wall at this point, but obstacles are formidable and heavily guarded. East German police cut loose with 19 bursts from sub-machine-guns. AGONIZED SCREAM West Berlin police heard cries of "hall, hall," but could not see the refugees through the fog. Then came the shot and a man's agonized scream. It was the first reported shooting since Thursday when a young East Berliner was stopped from swimming to freedom and fished out of Berlin's Spree River. This year West Berliners with relatives in the eastern sector are being allowed through holes in the wall to be together for the first time since they were separated 20 months ago. Many saved precious passes for today, the great Christmas celebration for German families. Traditionally they gather around the brightly lit Christmas tree on Dec. 24, known as Heilig Abend—Holy Night. They sing carols and exchange gifts. This shooting shattered the Christmas atmosphere as thousands of happy West Berliners passed through the wall for the fourth successive day. Western officials estimated that about 5,000 went over by foot, by auto and on the one remaining elevated rail line from West to East Berlin. The official East German news agency ADN said 37,468 West Berliners visited East Berlin in the first four days. It added that only 16 applications were refused and those because applicants could not supply sufficient proof of having relatives in the East. Hundreds of thousands more have obtained permits. Most say they plan to go over on the holidays.

24 Known Dead, 134 Are Missing

LONDON (AP)—Rescue vessels steamed for haven today with 87 exhausted survivors of the Greek liner Lakonia which burst into flames and exploded a Christmas holiday cruise to the sub-tropical eastern Atlantic. More than 150 others were believed to have perished. The British aircraft carrier Centaur stayed behind in the disaster area and scoured the seas around the battered and burning hulk for 34 known reported missing. There were 134 known dead among the 1,036 persons who escaped from the blazing liner just before Sunday midnight. They had set out from England Thursday for a gay holiday on sunny seas. Many aboard were elderly people who had booked for a holiday cruise far from the fog and snow of Britain. Others were children, studying at British schools, studying at vacation with parents living in the Canary Islands. The Argentine liner Sarita was due early today at Funchal, Madeira Islands, with 500 survivors. Other vessels headed for Casablanca, Morocco, and Tenerife, Canary Islands. Those aboard may provide clues as to what started the fire. The cause was a mystery more than 24 hours after flames broke out and explosions blasted the ship. Eyewitnesses reported explosion blew out one third of the Lakonia's 608-foot length, but it was not known whether the Greek captain, in true maritime tradition, was the last to leave his ship. LAST TO LEAVE The Belgian freighter Charleville picked up the ship's master, Capt. Mathios Zarbis, and crew member said the Greek captain, in true maritime tradition, was the last to leave his ship. Ships crisscrossed the ocean off the northwest coast of Africa plucking men, women and children from lifeboats, life jackets and life rafts dropped by British and U.S. planes. Racked by explosions, red hot from the flames, the one-300-ton cruise ship lay dead in the water 180 miles north of the Portuguese island of Madeira, her first scheduled port of call on a voyage from England. She was almost hidden in the grey-brown smoke. SIDE BADLY RIPPED Almost one-third of her 608-foot length on one side was ripped away, possibly when her boilers exploded. Around her, tossed by waves six to 10 feet high, bobbed abandoned lifeboats, rafts and bright red and yellow life belts. For rescue came too late. Rescue ships reported picking up some dead or injured, but the exact number was not known. At one point a U.S. air (Continued on page 17, col. 1)

Mrs. Gaitskell Made Baroness

LONDON (Reuters) — The widow of former Labor Party Leader Hugh Gaitskell has been made a baroness, it was announced Monday. Anna Dora Gaitskell was one of eight persons honored by the government with life peerages, which enables them to sit in the House of Lords during their lifetime. The peerages, designed to make the upper House more representative of the nation, are awarded for distinguished service. They are not hereditary. Today's list brings to 54 the number of life peers created since 1958. They include nine women. Besides Mrs. Gaitskell, whose husband died in January, the new life peers are: Viscountess Davidson, Conservative Member of Parliament from 1957 until 1959; Bertram Bowden, chairman of the Electronics Research Council since 1959; Richard Llewellyn Davies, professor of architecture at London University; Gerald Gardner, an alderman of London County Council since 1961; Charles Ryder Hobson, who was assistant postmaster general from 1947 to 1951 in the post-war Labor government; Edward Willis, playwright; Sir Edwin Herbert, chairman of the royal commission on local government in Greater London in 1957.

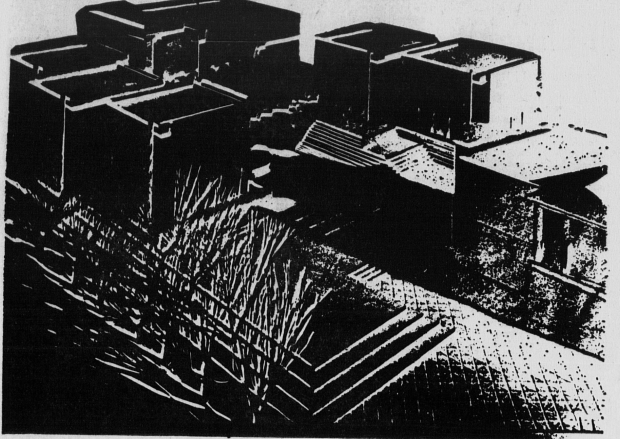
Theft Viewed In New Light

POOLE, England (AP)—Thieves at Southampton stole the luggage of an elderly British couple. "So probably the thief saved our lives," John Groom, 76-year-old retired businessman, said Monday. He and his 72-year-old wife Mabel were to have sailed on the Lakonia's Christmas cruise. Three of their four suitcases were stolen on the dock so the couple turned around and drove home to Poole.

No Paper Tomorrow

Since tomorrow is Christmas Day, the next edition of The Guardian will be Thursday, Dec. 26.

CAPT. MATHIOS Zarbis, 53, Madiera. He was picked up by the Belgian vessel, Charleville, which is due in Casablanca today, which caught fire and was abandoned Sunday night off from London.



In sending Christmas cards to many distant places, The Guardian and The Evening Patriot have a tradition of including something of an Island flavor along with their seasonal message. Above is an enlargement of the woodcut-style picture used this year. At the right is the information which accompanied it. And the greeting of the papers, repeated now to all friends everywhere, is the one shown above: May the Season's Utmost Joys be Yours.

Blackout Hits Most N.B. As Grid System Collapses

FREDERICTON (CP)—Brusnick Electric Power Commission said a mechanical failure at the Beechwood hydroelectric plant set off the chain reaction. The failure occurred in a mechanism which feeds the power of Grand Falls, Ontario and Beechwood dams into the provincial system. "Loss of the three big hydroelectric plants threw an 'unbearable load' on the province's thermal generating plants, the official said. The failure occurred at 5:32 p.m. AST—some thousands of persons throughout the province were packing into stores for last-minute Christmas shopping. Many stores shut down shortly after the failure. Blackouts lasted from 59 to 75 minutes before the supply lines were re-routed—an operation described as "something like putting a house of cards back together again." Standby thermal units were brought into play and surplus power from Nova Scotia was obtained through the interprovincial grid system. The three St. John River hydro plants were restored later in the night—hurriedly, the spokesman said, because of the higher cost of thermal-generated power. The interruption in service occurred, through "pure coincidence," while the system was carrying the peak load of the day and the heaviest of the year. No traffic accidents were attributed to the blackout, but police in Fredericton, Moncton and other centres were unsure how much, if any, shopping had increased. "We were not caught," was a Moncton policeman's comment. "The only reason to escape the inconvenience was the north shore area around Campbellton, served by a Quebec system."

ECM Weathers Worst Crisis

By ROBERT MAUTHNER
BRUSSELS, Belgium (Reuters)—The European Common Market weathered the worst crisis in its six-year history Monday when ministers came to tariff policies. Long and complicated discussions among the six ended with an agreement on a French threat that the life of the market was at stake if agreement was not reached by Dec. 31. A rough draft of the package deal was drawn up by the market's commission in May. At that time the ministers set Dec. 31 as the deadline for final agreement. Ministers of the six nations—France, West Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Belgium and Luxembourg—all were happy at the outcome. During negotiations, serious differences of opinion found West Germany and France at odds. One of the key stumbling blocks to agreement was on whether farm policy on tariff policy should be settled first. France pressed for farm policy, but West Germany held out on the question of agricultural policy. The last stumbling block surmounted Monday, was over the question of arrangements for the economic life blood of Holland, Belgian P r e i g n Minister Paul-Henri Spaak came out of the ministerial conference and said "it is an important success." "It would have been unthinkable for European unification to fail in the problem of agriculture. The ministers now turn their attention to tariff negotiations within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The talks will be held at Geneva in the spring and will have important economic consequences for the United States.

One Says Pilgrimage Seeks Peace And Unity

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Paul VI, in his first Christmas message to the world, said Monday night his Holy Land pilgrimage would be a journey of offering, search, hope and prayer for peace and Christian unity. The 66-year-old Roman Catholic ruler also called on nations to seek true peace through the "abolition, or at least, mitigation" of the arms race, nationalistic pride, and the confidence in such organizations as the United Nations. He also advocated negotiation between nations. "But the main emphasis is in his speech, less than two weeks before his historic pilgrimage to the Holy Land, was that unprecedented trip. Apparently referring to some ecclesiastical among Arab circles that his trip would be political and constitute Vatican recognition of Israel, he said: "Once again we declare clearly that the nature and purpose of our pilgrimage are solely religious. He added that his journey would be one of solidarity for all who are, for us, sons and brothers in Christ. . . . "And our heart will reach out to those outside the fold of Christ, and our good intentions will embrace all the peoples of the earth, those far and near, with sentiments of respect and of love, wishing them happiness and peace. JOURNEY OF PRAYER Pope Paul indicated his will-power, greeted by King of Jordan and the president of Israel, and he may have an historic encounter with Orthodox Patriarch Athanasios of Constantinople (Istanbul). "We shall greet respectfully and cordially all, whatever be their origin, whom we shall meet on our way, especially those in authority, the people, the pilgrims and the tourists, but without stopping in our hurried pilgrim's journey, and without allowing ourselves to be distracted from the sole religious purpose of the trip."

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THE CRUISE liner Lakonia ran off the northwest coast from an explosion can be seen as a British troop ship, is shown burning in the At- of Africa Monday. Damage to the side of the ship, once (AP Wirephoto via cable from Lisbon)