

WEEK'S NEWS IN REVIEW

# Rain, Floods, Dam Burst On Riviera Brought Death, Hardship To Many

By DAVID ROWNTREE  
Canadian Press Staff Writer  
Quick look at the week: Hundreds died when a river dam burst on the French Riviera. President Eisenhower began an 11-nation tour. Canada's General Burns was appointed government adviser on disarmament.

**AFTER THE STORM**  
The rain poured down on the Cote d'Azur for five days. The combination of weather and high seas left the Riviera battered and bedraggled.

By Wednesday, the storms had ended. The sun shone briefly and in the town of Frejus many of the 13,500 people went to bed congratulating themselves that the worst was over.

Then a dam holding back the waters of the Reyran river, swollen by the rains, broke. It sounded as if several trains were rushing at us, one terrified survivor said.

Homes collapsed like houses of cards. Cars and trucks were swept along by the flood and buried in a river of red mud that followed. Two coaches of a railway train dropped into the water when a bridge crumpled. It is not certain how many perished. Two hundred bodies had been recovered 36 hours after the catastrophe. Nearly as many persons were missing.

**NEW JOB FOR BURNS**  
Having spent four years supervising the uneasy truce between Israel and her Arab neighbors, Lt.-Gen. E. L. M. Burns of Canada now has a chance to play a peace-making role on a larger scale.

Prime Minister DeLoebner announced Friday that Burns has been appointed the government's adviser on disarmament. The general has resigned as commander of the United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East.

**JOURNEY FOR PEACE**  
It has often been said that before he retires from office, President Eisenhower hopes to make some lasting contribution to world peace.

In search of that objective, the president left Washington Thursday night for a rapid trip to three continents on a "mission of peace and goodwill."

He spent the weekend in Rome.

**SEAWAY CLOSED**  
The first St. Lawrence Seaway season ended at dusk Thursday. In all, 13 vessels completed the 112-mile seaway trip on the last day of the season.

Two deep-sea ships will have to winter at inland ports. One sprung a leak, the other ran aground.

**MANITOBA'S SCHOOL REVUE**  
A Manitoba royal commission on education advocated more emphasis on academic subjects in the province's schools, and a rigid restriction of "frill" courses.

The commission also recommended public aid for church and private schools, improved religious training in the public schools and better facilities for gifted and retarded pupils.

**THE OLD MAN SPEAKS**  
For the first time since he resigned as prime minister in April, 1955, Sir Winston Churchill broke his self-imposed silence in the House of Commons Monday.

Hugh Gaitskell, Labor Opposition leader, and R. A. Butler, leader of the House, extended greetings to Churchill on his 85th birthday and gave him the parliamentary's good wishes.

"May I say that I most gratefully and eagerly accept both forms of compliments," The Old Man said.

**REPORT ON PRICES**  
Sales promotion schemes that take the place of price cuts "are detrimental to the consumer," the royal commission on price spreads reported in Ottawa Monday.

The commission suggested that persuasion and publicity, not legislation, should be the method of encouraging price reductions over contests and giveaways.

**STAND FAST IN HUNGARY**  
There were rumors when Premier Khrushchev set out for Budapest and the first meeting of the Hungarian Communist party since the unsuccessful revolt of 1956 that the Russian troops who put down the uprising might be withdrawn.

Janos Kadar, the party chief, showed that these were idle hopes. The Soviet soldiers—"the mightiest force for human progress and world peace"—are still needed, he said Monday.

**BIRTH CONTROL DEBATE**  
Dr. Brock Chisholm of Sooke, B.C., the former director-general of the World Health Organization with a liking for controversial debate, was in conflict with Roman Catholic authorities this week.

He said in an interview that unless birth control is accepted as one means of limiting population growth, future generations in needy countries may become so powerful in numbers that they won't sit idle fighting the pangs of hunger while more privileged nations discard surplus food.

The issue has become a political one in the United States. President Eisenhower said Wednesday that the government won't send birth control information to other countries while he's in office.

**ATOMIC DEPTH CHARGES**  
Canadian navy and air force units whose job is to provide a defence against submarines will be supplied with U.S. atomic depth charges, Defence Minister Peakles said Thursday.

**WEEK'S ATLANTIC NEWS:**  
Coal mining, a way of life in Springhill, N.S., will return to the disaster-torn community.

The Nova Scotia government Thursday approved a proposal to open a new mine in Springhill. The town has been without a legal mine since Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation shut down its No. 2 colliery following a 1958 mine disaster that claimed 75 lives.

The firm, Springhill Coal Mines Limited, proposes construction of a colliery with production potential of 500 tons daily.

Meanwhile the provincial government also announced that illegal, or bootleg, mines in the Springhill area will be closed by force if their owners don't comply with a mines department order to shut them down.

An air force pilot had a narrow brush with death Thursday when his P-86 sabre jet crashed about a mile west of the Chatham RCAF base.

FO Robert G. Webber of Tirr., Ont., escaped with minor injuries when his plane crashed shortly after takeoff. He managed to scramble from the wreckage before it burst into flames.

A Nova Scotian gave needed blood this week for an unidentified United States man suffering from internal bleeding in Portland, Ore.

Halifax hospital orderly Laurie Hensbee donated a pint of rare-type blood to be used in a transfusion for the man suffering from internal bleeding.

The blood type is so rare only a few families in the world can supply it.

**Crosbys Quit In Night Club**

By MARVEN MOSS  
Canadian Press Staff Writer  
MONTREAL (CP)—The three youngest Crosby boys left town Friday, smiling, poised and with a vow they're still the best of friends with brother Gary.

The song-team sons of crooner Bing Crosby pulled out after suddenly cancelling a night club engagement and reports of a dressing room brawl involving the three against Gary, 26, the group's leader.

Gary left several hours before the other three—twins Philip and Denis, 25, and Lindsay, 21—and was unavailable for comment.

But the younger brothers and the group's manager Pete Petito disavowed the fist-fight reports as nothing more than "the usual harmless bantering that goes on among brothers."

Peter Van De North co-owner of the plush El Morocco Cafe where the brothers played three days of a 10-day booking, had a different story.

He told The Canadian Press some of his employees had heard Gary sob that the younger brothers had ganged up on him in a fracas and he was quitting the act.

He also said Gary appeared to be "on the edge of a nervous breakdown."

"I thought he was cracking up. He has been under tremendous pressure with the act. And it showed on stage. Several times he made distasteful remarks to customers when they made noise. At one point the boys had to ask him to tone it down."

The younger brothers and Petito attributed the booking cancellation and Gary's early departure to a throat ailment they said the 26-year-old developed.

**VOICE FAILS**  
"His voice just broke down," said Lindsay.

"He went earlier because we all felt it would be best if he got special medical treatment as fast as possible."

"But there certainly was no fight. In fact Gary is the type of guy who digs in and sticks with a thing and we really had to talk him into breaking up the run."

The group was headed for Los Angeles via New York. Petito, 41, manager of the four since they took to the nightclub circuit in the United States last June, said "we'll take a four-to-six month layoff from the circuit until Gary recovers."

## Eyewitness Tells Of Damage From 'Worst' Flood Disaster

By STEWART MacLEOD  
Canadian Press Staff Writer  
PREJUS, France (CP)—The aircraft banked slowly over this devastated town so that passengers could glimpse the scene of France's worst flood disaster.

From the air, in fortunate detachment, you could see the crumpled Malpasset dam and the valleys that led the cascading waters down toward the tidy resort town on the French Riviera.

The path of the raging flow was marked with soggy, glistening red mud, fanning out through the town into a gigantic red puddle in the Mediterranean.

You could see railway lines corkscrewing through the mud like over-stretched coil springs. The metal of automobiles shone from the water. Overturned houses looked like toys in the mire. With field glasses you would see wooden beds and cribs floating out to sea.

The passengers appreciated the captain's gesture in showing them the stricken town.

But from the aircraft, none saw a human being on the ground. They were too high up for that. And if they could have seen the scenes on the ground, they probably wouldn't have liked it.

**SCENES SICKENING**  
The scenes in Prejus were sickening.

Only police, rescue workers and reporters were allowed within the splattered town, but it was still overcrowded. And after the first 24 hours, the outsiders became as horror-stricken as the heart-broken natives. Every face seemed starry and numb.

Men who had lost their families in the thunderous wall of water wandered through the smashed streets in hysterics. Some raved like madmen, others laughed themselves into unconsciousness. Some might not be restored to sanity.

Husbands and wives could be seen stumbling over their flattened properties, covered with mud, looking for their children. They cried as they poked sticks through the debris.

Children lay in the mire and bawled when steel-helmeted soldiers found the body of a playmate. They couldn't hide the bodies from everyone.

In the older part of town—

higher ground and still standing—teen-aged girls grouped in alleyways and cried over lost relatives and friends.

With the town's lights, telephones, water supply, and sewers ripped to shreds, Prejus was dark, dank and dirty. Women carted water bottles to a street-cleaning truck, converted to a tanker. Volunteer car drivers carried messages to a telephone 25 miles away.

In the rescue centre, normally used as a high school, mothers and children crouched all day on

mattresses, snoring over a lost husband and father. No effort was made to move them. They probably had nowhere to go.

Rescue workers cried too. So did the young Boy Scouts, assigned the job of burying the dead in temporary graves. They shivered in a chilling mistral wind, fighting desperately to be brave.

**GUATEMALAN VISIT**  
MONTREAL (CP)—Mayor Sarto Fournier will visit Guatemala City, Guatemala, next Jan. 22-25, the Guatemalan consulate-general's office here announced Saturday. Mr. Fournier will be the guest of the Guatemalan government.



### RAIN GREETS IKE IN ROME

Rain-drenched Italians watch, many with umbrellas raised, as President Dwight Eisenhower of the United States is escorted through the ancient streets of Rome in a special motorcade. The motorcade is seen winding past the Colosseum enroute to Quirinal Palace President Giovanni Gronchi's residence. (AP Wirephoto)

scum enroute to Quirinal Palace President Giovanni Gronchi's residence. (AP Wirephoto)

against no shipments a year ago.

### RELIGION AND LIFE

BY VERY REV. GEORGE C. PIDGEON, D.D., LL.D.  
First Moderator of the United Church of Canada

**GOD'S BEST GIFT TO MAN WAS SENDING HIS SON**  
Why do we speak of "Advent"? Because we want to emphasize the truth that God actually entered human life in the person of His Son. The resources of Divinity are brought into the human conflict.

Preparations must be made to give Him a larger place in personal and public observances.

Poor, weak human beings are no longer left to themselves in their war with sin and death: He who conquered both puts Himself at our head and leads us to victory.

To give rather than to get, to help instead of being helped, to think ahead of every meeting about how it can further Christ's ends and mold circumstances to Christ's will, are necessary features of the part each of us has to play.

We are approaching another season of thanksgiving and praise for the birth of Jesus Christ. God's best gift to man was the sending of His Son. His victory is our victory, but the best part of it is the presence of our Risen Lord.

An organization of young women in one of our churches was preparing to meet the special needs of some people in the district when their leader disappeared. When she reappeared, she told them that she had been visiting "the girls who had lost their mothers."

How can we make the old, old story which will be told again in a thousand different forms, as fresh and new as though it had never been told before?

She had suffered that bereavement, a short time before. Here own loss and the grace she had found in Christ to meet it enabled her to serve on levels deeper than others could reach.

**THE MEANING**  
First, enter into the meaning of what you sing in every Christmas service.

There are many of our readers whose own trials qualify them to understand the desolation brought by disease and death to those around them, and when they themselves have found in Christ "peace amid surrounding storm," they are able to bring to them a comfort that inexperienced youth cannot impart.

In reality, those hymns express the most tremendous truth that ever entered the minds of men. That God should send His Son, through whom He created the worlds, into our nature to solve our problems as a man among men has meaning and implications far beyond the range of our puny minds.

Every experience of joy or sorrow has a meaning, and to seek and find that meaning prepares us for the losses and successes of the future and imparts a wisdom distinctively its own.

Yet we can comprehend enough to appreciate the enrichment Christmas brings to every human relationship. The Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man lift all life to a new level.

Bring all your experiences of the past to make this Christmas the best ever.

Prepare for Christmas by stressing the spiritual rather than the social in our arrangements.

Every experience of joy or sorrow has a meaning, and to seek and find that meaning prepares us for the losses and successes of the future and imparts a wisdom distinctively its own.

Christmas is a time of reunions when old loves and entertainments re-enter our feelings and doings.

Bring all your experiences of the past to make this Christmas the best ever.

But it is the doctrine of the Incarnation that gives this season its distinctive character. When the Son of God entered our nature He came to stay. And our

Bring all your experiences of the past to make this Christmas the best ever.

### NOTES ON FUR FARMING

One of the recent issues of "Women's Wear Daily" has a half-page ad headed "Danish Fur Sales", starting Tuesday, December 8, through December 12, 1959. It has 65,000 standard ranch mink, 65,000 pastel mink, 25,000 silver blue mink, 10,000 white mink.

The albatrosses which fly long distances over the Pacific Ocean are heavy-bodied birds with a seven-foot wingspread.

The above furs are featured under the designation SAGA, and that term is applied to what they consider their first quality skins. The reason why we bring this to the attention of our readers is to show the tremendous development that has taken place in Denmark, one of the smallest free countries in the world.

Advertisers have to watch their step, as the Federal Trade Commission is out to clean up retail advertising in the United States. As a matter of fact, the first step in this direction was taken more than a year ago, and as a result, merchants in the U.S. believe that the fur business, in general, has been improved by the cleanup.

In the late 1920's, a Dane came over to this province and spent a year learning about fox farming, and when he went back, working with him a number of foxes, it was the start of fur farming in that country. They still continue to raise foxes, but most of their activity is devoted to mink, and it is interesting to see that they have developed so many types.

While the United States is a very large producer of mink, yet they also have to import to keep up the demand. During the month of September, 1958, according to figures from the Department of Commerce, 18,000 mink pelts were imported through New York City channels. In 1959, a total of 45,000 came through New York during September.

The increase was attributed to shipments from Denmark and Sweden, which more than doubled, and the importation of more than 6,000 skins from Norway,

They are strong competitors because they have plentiful sup-

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| \$100          | \$ 3.00               | \$ 3.61   | \$ 4.12   | \$ 4.63   |
| 500            | 15.00                 | 18.06     | 21.07     | 24.08     |
| 1000           | 30.00                 | 36.12     | 42.14     | 48.16     |
| 1500           | 45.00                 | 54.18     | 64.21     | 74.24     |
| 2000           | 60.00                 | 72.24     | 86.28     | 98.32     |
| 2500           | 75.00                 | 90.30     | 108.36    | 126.40    |
| 3000           | 90.00                 | 108.36    | 126.42    | 144.48    |

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