

Roosevelts Open Yule Season at Executive Party

258 Office Workers Get D Day Prayer; Many Events Set

As Washington completed preparations to observe its fourth war-time Christmas with solemnity and devoutness in keeping with the time, President and Mrs. Roosevelt ushered in the season at the White House today by presenting gifts to 258 employees of the executive offices.

This year's present was a scroll of the President's D day prayer, handsomely engraved and tied with a blue ribbon. The employees filed into the President's office for the ceremony and each received a hand to shake and a Christmas card bearing the inscription:

"With Christmas greetings and our best wishes for a happier nineteen forty-five. The President and Mrs. Roosevelt."

Later in the day, the Roosevelts planned to receive employees of the White House living quarters and their young children. These guests include chauffeurs, police guards, servants and cooks. Gifts were to be bestowed on these employees, too, and the children under 12 were to receive toys and candy in the historic east room.

President's Sons Away. None of the Roosevelt sons will be home Christmas day, but the President and Mrs. Roosevelt will have five grandchildren around them.

Their daughter, Mrs. John Boettiger, and her three children, Eleanor, Curtis and Johnny, and Mrs. Frank D. Roosevelt, Jr., and Franklin D. III and Christopher will spend Christmas at the White House.

Conforming to an old custom, the President will read aloud Dickens' "Christmas Carol" to the family after dinner Christmas eve.

Elaborate plans are being made for celebration of the Christmas season by churches throughout the area. Many pre-Christmas services will be held, as well as observances on Christmas Day.

The public and Catholic parochial schools begin Christmas vacations tonight and the public school students will return January 2, a day ahead of the parochial students.

All agencies of the Washington Public Library will be closed December 24 and 25 and downtown stores will observe both the Christmas and New Year Day holidays.

Orphans Appeal to Santa. A full swing yesterday when orphans of St. Ann's Infant Asylum, 2300 K Street N.W., broadcast an appeal over Station WINX to Santa Claus for Christmas presents.

Radio listeners were asked to light the tots' Christmas by sending gifts to the home. Twenty-fourth and K streets N.W.

Mrs. Roosevelt planned to speak at 2 p.m. today at the Salvation Army annual Christmas celebration at 606 E street N.W.

The telephone company is asking civilians to avoid unnecessary long-distance calls over the Christmas week end, to give wounded men and other service people a chance to call home.

This campaign is being promoted not only through civic organizations, but over the telephone company's automatic weather announcements.

The Community Chest of Washington announced that its agencies have gone to great lengths to make Christmas happy for children. Nursery school youngsters, who spend hours at Community Chest agencies while parents are working, have been busy for weeks making decorations for their schoolrooms and for home celebrations.

Dinners, Gifts Planned. Elderly people at such Community Chest establishments as St. Ann's Home and Stoddard Baptist Home will celebrate Christmas with gifts and special dinners.

Recreation Services, Inc., announces that "Christmas Round the World" will be held at many of the organizations at the United Nations Service Center, 500 North Capitol and Service Club, No. 1, 306 Ninth Street N.W. Ornaments and tree trimmings have been given by volunteers at the centers.

Polish Christmas carols will be sung by Poles of the city participating in ceremonies Christmas eve at Gibbons Hall, Catholic University, where confessions will be heard and Father Bakalarczyk of the Marian Brothers will celebrate mass.

The Red Cross unit of the Treasury Department tonight will entertain patients at Forest Glen, convalescent hospital, presenting many gifts.

Singing Soldier at Walter Reed Skeptical of Chance to Be Star



Pvt. Frank Crudele, singing soldier in the amputation ward at Walter Reed Hospital.

There's a soldier named Frank out at Walter Reed Hospital whose buddies call him Frankie, because, they say, he sings like Frankie Sinatra—only better. Much as Frank would like to be a singer like Frankie Sinatra, he doesn't think he has a chance.

Some other people disagree with him, though. Helen Hayes, for one—she's his self-appointed agent. Perry Como, now crooner on the Chesterfield program, for another. Also Thomas Rockwell, head of the General Amusements Corp., which handles many of the big name bands.

Frank, or Pvt. Francis Crudele, 21, from Providence, R. I., to tell the whole story, is doing all his singing at present for his buddies at Walter Reed Hospital. He's there learning how to walk with artificial legs. But he's going to be out in early spring, and then if even one of the promises people have made him come true, he'll be singing on the air.

Still Skeptical. In spite of a portfolio of letters he has by his bed from Miss Hayes and his other backers, he's still skeptical.

"You see, it's this way," he explains. "I've been singing off and on all my life. I did okay before the war, but then I lost my legs. Now since I lost my legs people have been telling me all sorts of things they were going to do for me. Nothing has panned out definitely yet. So I'm sticking to my motto—seeing is believing."

His break—if it pans out—happened like a dime novel reads. He sang in Providence night clubs for several years, while he was going to school, and later while he was singing part time in a Providence night club and doing interior decorating for a department store.

Nothing happened. The people of Providence seemed to like him fine, but he didn't hit New York and he didn't get on the radio.

About a year and a half ago he joined the Army and several months ago he landed in Walter Reed. Somebody there heard him sing and put him on the hospital's private station. One day Helen Hayes was passing through the hospital and for fun took one of the patient's ear-phones and listened to Pvt. Crudele sing.

"Clear Effortless Voice." She wrote him later. "As I suspected when I heard you over that one earphone, you are special. That clear effortless voice of yours comes over the air without losing a bit of its natural quality." She went up that day and told Frank she was impressed.

He wasn't. "You're such a big person, you don't need to help other people," he told her. "I've got other promises of help, but nothing ever has happened. I wish you wouldn't."

'E' Bond Sales Rise To 77% of Quota

Sale of "E" bonds in the District's Sixth War Loan drive rose only \$200,000 in sales reported today, to reach a total of \$3,100,000, or 77 per cent of the \$3,900,000 quota set by the District War Finance Committee.

The overall figure for the drive is now \$124,300,000, or 132 per cent of the \$94,000,000 quota. Of this, corporations have bought \$83,900,000, or 174.8 per cent of their \$48,000,000 quota.

Wilmer J. Waller, chairman of the District committee, in a Christmas message yesterday said, "Even global war cannot deny us the sublime feeling that comes from giving gifts at Christmastime. There is one gift that expresses our devotion to our loved ones and at the same time to the greatest of our benefactors—our country—and, in addition, is a real contribution to the victory and peace we so desire. That gift is a War Bond."

Weather permitting, the Royal Air Force Band, now on a tour of this country, will present a concert as a salute to Federal employees, on F street between Fourth and Fifteenth streets, tomorrow from noon to 1 p.m. Prior to the concert the members of the band will assemble on the south portico of the Treasury Building and parade east on Pennsylvania avenue to Fourteenth street, north on Fourteenth street to F street, and west on F street to a special bandstand. After the concert the band will march westward on F to Fifteenth and south on Fifteenth to the Treasury Building portico, before disbanding.

The largest crowd in recent years is expected to stream through the White House gates at 4 p.m. Sunday to sing carols at the 22nd National Community Christmas Tree celebration on the South Lawn. To speed entrance, District authorities have arranged with White House police to open Treasury Place and State Place—closed since Pearl Harbor—so the audience can go directly from Fifteenth and Seventeenth streets to the southeast and southwest gates.

Boy Scouts stationed near these two entrances will distribute copies of The Evening Star selection of Christmas carols. For the first time in the long history of the country, will present a concert as a salute to Federal employees, on F street between Fourth and Fifteenth streets, tomorrow from noon to 1 p.m. Prior to the concert the members of the band will assemble on the south portico of the Treasury Building and parade east on Pennsylvania avenue to Fourteenth street, north on Fourteenth street to F street, and west on F street to a special bandstand. After the concert the band will march westward on F to Fifteenth and south on Fifteenth to the Treasury Building portico, before disbanding.

No cards of admission are necessary. White House police stressed, however, that entrance must be made only through Treasury and State Place or from the south roadway around the White House. Only the southeast and southwest gates will be open.

The Marine Band will begin its concert at 4:30 p.m. After carols by the audience and chorus, Commissioner Guy Mason will introduce Junior Scout Camille Leaman and Lieut. Scout Robert Page to bring greetings of American youth to the President and Mrs. Roosevelt. The crowd gathered around the tree near the south fence will hear the address by a special transmission line laid from the White House to the amplifiers on the speaker's stand.

Miss Sybil Baker, chairman of arrangements for the Recreation Department, said that the fact Christmas eve falls on Sunday has led the tree committee to expect a larger crowd than could attend the week-day celebrations. Parking facilities will be ample, she pointed out.

Stadium Bill Among 5 Signed By President

Six of 9 Commission Members Named; House Delays Action

President Roosevelt today signed five District measures, the foremost of which is the joint resolution creating a commission to make recommendations regarding the site, design and cost of the proposed Washington National Memorial Stadium.

Shortly after the President signed the resolution the District Commissioners and Vice President Wallace each announced the names of three members to the Stadium Commission. The commission's complement of nine members will be completed with the naming of three members from the House.

Named by the District Commissioners are John Russell Young, president of the Board of Commissioners; Floyd D. Akers, chairman of the committee which proposed and fostered the stadium project, and Robert V. Fleming, president of the Riggs National Bank.

The three members from the Senate named by Vice President Wallace are Chairman Bilbo of the Senate District Committee, Senator Mead, Democrat, of New York and Senator Burton, Republican, of Ohio, an active member of the District Committee.

Officials of the House indicated that the appointment of Representatives to serve on the commission would await the return to Washington at the beginning of the new Congress of Speaker Rayburn, now vacationing in Texas. However, there was lively speculation today among House members would be named to the commission.

Among those prominently mentioned are Chairman Randolph of the House District Committee, Representative Lanham, Democrat, of Texas, who is chairman of the House Public Buildings and Grounds Committee; Representative Dirksen, Republican, of Illinois, ranking minority member of the House District Committee, and Representative Weiss, Democrat, of Pennsylvania, the author of one of the stadium bills introduced late in the Seventy-eighth Congress.

Another of the measures signed by the President is that which places Government restaurants under sanitary regulations of the District Health Department, with the exception of the restaurants of the Commissioners' Powers Increased.

Also signed was the bill to increase the administrative powers of the District Commissioners in a move to reduce the load of minor District matters which Congress must now consider.

The act amending the setup of the District Boxing Commission also was given presidential approval. The measure provides that the two civilian members of the commission be paid \$2,400 a year and back dates this to last July 1. It also provides that at the end of the fiscal year the commission, which now has a surplus of more than \$40,000, shall turn all in excess of \$15,000 into the general fund of the District. It also leaves the commission's gate tax at exhibitions at 10 per cent.

Differs on Estimates. School and health officials differ sharply on their estimates of the number of pupils without care. The health Department says only 1,794 lack a needed inspection. School principals reported to a board meeting yesterday about 13,067 have had no medical inspection so far this year. Several schools reported they never have had inspection in the memory of the principals.

Dr. Murphy, asked for comment, said that the difference between his figures, sent to Supt. of Schools Robert L. Haycock two weeks ago, and those gathered from school principals yesterday could be explained by the simple difference in terms. The health Department tries to inspect each child once a year and terms as neglected only those children who have no doctor assigned to them. The school principals, on the other hand, he said, reported pupils who had not as yet received their annual visit from their regularly assigned inspector.

Difficulties of transportation and the double load thrown on the 26 doctors now available, he said, have "spread thin" the service to pupils. Dr. Murphy pointed out that his staff covers 211 private, public and parochial schools with a combined enrollment of 101,000 children. There are about 13,000 of the 87,000 public school children have not yet been examined, he said, is only natural in view of the wartime difficulties. No credit is given for how many of the approximately 13,000 public and parochial school children have not yet been examined.

Committee to Study Details. The board also announced that at the request of the District Commissioners and the Veterans' Administration it will serve as an accrediting body for Washington educational institutions wishing to train servicemen under the provisions of the "GI Bill of Rights." Local colleges, business and trade schools will all have to fill out a questionnaire on their qualifications and be inspected by a committee of school officers and board members before they are recommended to the Veterans' Administration, it was indicated.

Details of the questionnaire and of establishing machinery to accredit the institutions will be studied by a special committee of the board, appointed at the board meeting yesterday by Mrs. Henry Grattin Doyle, president. They are Dr. Robert A. Maurer, vice president of the board and chairman of the committee; C. Melvin Sharpe, also a member.

The board made public the request received early this week from Commissioner John Russell Young, saying that the Veterans' Administration wished some District agency to select "qualified and equipped" educational institutions whose names will be submitted to Government expense. The Commissioners considered the board the "appropriate" agency, Commissioner Young wrote.

A survey of the school telephone service was undertaken at the request of Adelbert W. Lee.

Survivor of Bataan and Torpedoing of Jap Ship Reunited With Parents After Four Years

Wounded Man Eager To Go to China When He Leaves Hospital

At breakfast this morning, Corp. Michael Pulice told his friends at Walter Reed Hospital, "I can't believe it's true. It doesn't seem possible."

After what Mike has been through since the bitter fighting on Bataan nearly three years ago, the prospect of seeing his parents after a separation of four years seemed pretty much like a dream.

But they bundled him into an Army car and Pvt. William T. Reid and WAC Pfc. Helen E. Benz rode with him to Union Station with him to wait for the train. They stood around while, Mike leaning on his crutches and waiting for his mother and father to arrive from their home in Carlsbad, N. Mex. Then Mike turned around to rest his bad leg a little, and there they were.

Yes, there were tears. What would you expect after four years? Mike's mother cried openly, his father's eyes were wet and Mike didn't even try to be nonchalant.

Mike is 25 now. He was 21 the last time his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Pulice, saw him. That was just before he went to the Philippines. When the Japs opened up on the Philippines right after Pearl Harbor, Mike stuck it out until Bataan fell. Once he was blown out of a foxhole and cut up some, but there wasn't time for medical treatment in those days. He kept on fighting. Recently he got his first Purple Heart for this injury.

After the fighting ended on Bataan, Mike was listed as missing for a year. Then his parents received word that he was a prisoner of the Japanese. For two and a half years he remained in enemy prison camps in the Philippines. He doesn't like to talk about this period. "It wasn't very good," is about all he will say.

Last August 20 the Japanese loaded a group of prisoners on a "bun" and started sailing. Mike says he supposed they were going to reach Japan eventually, but after three weeks they were still in Philippine waters.

Miraculously, Mike got into the water with his broken leg. He stayed afloat for 17 hours, clinging to a board. At first he had to swim to sea to escape Japanese snipers in small boats who were picking off the American prisoners. Then, at night, he made his way to the shore 2 1/2 miles away, where he was picked up by Filipino guerrillas.

For many days, the guerrillas took care of Mike, doing the best they could with his leg. After a while, an American submarine took him to Australia, where he received his first medical treatment. He was flown back to this country, and arrived December 1. He reached Walter Reed on December 10. Altogether, 83 American prisoners survived the sinking of the Japanese transport.

When Mike gets out of Walter Reed, he said, he wants to go to China. His mother gasped. "Oh, no," she said. "That'll be worse."

Mike just smiled and put his arm around her. "All of us who got away want to go back there," he said. "At the moment, though, Mike and his parents are together, filling in the gaps of the last four years, talking a great deal and maybe crying a little now and then. Because, even though it's turned out to be true, it doesn't seem quite real."



Corp. Michael Pulice greets his mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Pulice, whom he hadn't seen for four years.

Earlier this week PAW authorized release of an additional 500,000 gallons of gasoline for Washington, to help alleviate a shortage.

Ruhland to Aid Doctors. Meanwhile, Health Officer George C. Ruhland reported he would recommend to the Commissioners that gasoline centers be set up to serve doctors exclusively during a shortage.

Dr. Ruhland added that in view of recent experience it has become obvious that some arrangements

could with his leg. After a while, an American submarine took him to Australia, where he received his first medical treatment. He was flown back to this country, and arrived December 1. He reached Walter Reed on December 10. Altogether, 83 American prisoners survived the sinking of the Japanese transport.

When Mike gets out of Walter Reed, he said, he wants to go to China. His mother gasped. "Oh, no," she said. "That'll be worse."

Mike just smiled and put his arm around her. "All of us who got away want to go back there," he said. "At the moment, though, Mike and his parents are together, filling in the gaps of the last four years, talking a great deal and maybe crying a little now and then. Because, even though it's turned out to be true, it doesn't seem quite real."

Underpass Street Stops would be provided at Dupont Circle, with access to platform being furnished by passages to the sidewalk. There would also be entrances and exits to the subway from the center of the circle.

Vehicular traffic on the surface of Dupont Circle would be channeled so conflicts would be eliminated between through traffic from Massachusetts avenue and other streets entering the circle.

The statement of the joint board in calling for the hearing said the "congestion of traffic, resulting delays, and hazards have been matters of serious consideration by the District Commissioners, acting through the Highway Department, the Department of Vehicles and Traffic, and by the Public Utilities Commission."

Full Consideration. The statement said that the Commissioners and the PUC feel the tentative plans which have been prepared by the Highway Department should receive full consideration "of all interested parties."

They expressed a desire to have the project be finished out so that final plans may be completed and ready for bids when the war emergency permits construction work.

Plans had been drawn for some time for an underpass at Dupont Circle. These original plans, however, did not call for the segregation of vehicular and streetcar traffic underground and did not provide for subway stations in and around Dupont Circle.

Spear was convicted last week by a Circuit Court jury on charges of receiving money under false pretenses. He was specifically charged with accepting deposits on property sales and failing to make delivery. Court officials said it was not known whether Spear's attorney would enter an appeal, or whether a dozen other indictments for embezzlement would be pressed.

Spear was arrested in a Washington barber shop after a year's search by police.

No Star Saturday

As a necessary step in the conservation of newsprint paper and in order to apply savings made this year against an even further reduced supply in the early months of 1945, The Star will not be published Saturday, December 23rd, prior to Christmas unless the receipt of extraordinary news requires it. Publication also will be suspended the following Saturday, December 30th, prior to New Year Day.

This same step was taken on the two holiday Saturdays last year when the newsprint paper shortage first became acute.

Health Department Plans 'Expectant Father' Classes

Special classes for "expectant fathers" who will be taught the psychological care of expectant mothers and how to feed, handle, bathe and dress babies, will begin January 10 under the auspices of the Health Department.

After completing the course the men will be awarded diplomas of "Prepared Parent." Instructors will be Dr. Thomas M. Leonard, chief obstetrician of Gallinger Hospital, and Miss Ruth Bronz, maternity consultant of the department.

Hours and locations of the classes will be announced later. Dr. George C. Ruhland, health officer, said.

Fulbright Will Address Board of Trade Tonight

Representative Fulbright, Democratic Senator-elect from Arkansas and author of the resolution which first put Congress on record as favoring some kind of world peace organization, will address the Washington Board of Trade at 8 o'clock tonight in the Stadler Hotel.

The members also will hear a Christmas message by Dr. Angus Dun, Bishop of Washington.

Motorists Still Crowd Stations To Fill Up Tanks

Drivers Again Asked To Buy Gas Only For Present Needs

Motorists continued to line up at service stations today in what the District Office of Price Administration said was a "struggle for full gasoline tanks," and it drew from the agency a second appeal for motorists to buy only for their immediate needs.

At the same time, it was learned that the Petroleum Administration for War has asked the District OPA to refrain from talking publicly on supply figures on gasoline. An OPA spokesman declined to discuss the request other than to say, "We are not griping, as we don't have first-hand supply figures anyway."

The gasoline industry and PAW continue to be at variance on whether this area received a cut in its allocations for the month. PAW insists that suppliers are receiving 100 per cent of their estimated needs for the month.

Earlier this week PAW authorized release of an additional 500,000 gallons of gasoline for Washington, to help alleviate a shortage.

Ruhland to Aid Doctors. Meanwhile, Health Officer George C. Ruhland reported he would recommend to the Commissioners that gasoline centers be set up to serve doctors exclusively during a shortage.

Dr. Ruhland added that in view of recent experience it has become obvious that some arrangements

District OPA Unable To Extend Validity Of A-13 Gas Coupons

Admission to the District Office of Price Administration today was that it could not extend the validity of A-13 ration coupons and that any motorists left with these stamps after midnight tonight will find them void.

It was pointed out that action is impossible because of the question of where to set geographical limits on the motor-pub situation may be thrown further out of line as motorists with A-13s remaining increase the drain on the supply planned for A-14 coupons.

A-14s become good tomorrow and will be worth four gallons each, a total ration of 24 gallons for the period ending next March 21.

must be made so that doctors can attend patients in need of prompt care. He indicated that, if necessary, he would take the problem to Congress.

Dr. Theodore Wiprud, secretary of the District Medical Society, reported he was receiving fewer calls from physicians unable to buy gasoline. He added, however, that "I still feel the problem is not solved as far as doctors are concerned."

Lines Form at Stations. He agreed with Dr. Ruhland that emergency stations should be maintained for doctors and suggested they be set up for the duration.

In the Northwest section of the city lines formed at many stations as soon as they opened today, but operators said the demands were being met and that buying would ease off soon.

B. E. Skinner of the Skinner Bros. station, Albemarle and Connecticut avenues N.W., claimed "there is no gas shortage." Mr. Skinner declared "panic buying" was the outgrowth of "too much stuff in the newspapers and on the radio."

"I had 20 people call me before 7 o'clock this morning to ask whether I could sell them gas. There is no gas shortage," he said. "I have plenty of gas for everybody. Nobody needs to worry about not getting gas."

Operators Have Gas. At McDowell's Service Station, 4200 Connecticut avenue N.W., an operator said, "I have plenty of gas. I would only let us get caught up if we'd be all right. If they'd just let us get a delivery we would have no trouble. We're really in good shape and I think everything is going to be okay."

The operator said that few persons buying gas at the station needed the gas. He attributed buying not only to a desire to use up the current A-13 coupon, but to "memories of the other gas famine."

Some stations were limiting sales to doctors, nurses, trucks and other essential users, but many had no restrictions. The Amoco station at Connecticut avenue and Ordway street N.W. was selling gas to all comers on the basis of a unit per customer.

Spear to Begin Serving Four-Year Term Today

Frank R. Spear, 46, former Silver Spring real estate dealer, was to begin serving a four-year term in the Maryland House of Correction today. He was sentenced yesterday by Judge Stedman Prescott in Montgomery County Circuit Court at Rockville.

Spear was convicted last week by a Circuit Court jury on charges of receiving money under false pretenses. He was specifically charged with accepting deposits on property sales and failing to make delivery.

Court officials said it was not known whether Spear's attorney would enter an appeal, or whether a dozen other indictments for embezzlement would be pressed.

Spear was arrested in a Washington barber shop after a year's search by police.

Daily Rationing Reminders

Canned Goods, Etc.—Book No. 4, blue stamps A-8 through Z-8; A-4 through Z-5 and A-2 and B-2 good indefinitely for 10 points each. Next stamps to be validated January 1.

Meats, Fats, Etc.—Red stamps A-8 through Z-8 and A-5 through S-5 good indefinitely for 10 points each. Next stamps to be validated December 31.

Potatoes—A-13s—Your meat dealer will pay two ration points for each pound of waste kitchen fats you turn in.

Sugar—Book No. 4 stamps 30 through 34 valid for 5 pounds indefinitely. Book No. 4 stamp 40 good for 5 pounds for home canning through February 28, 1945.

Gasoline—A-13 coupons good for 4 gallons each through midnight tonight. A-14 coupons valid for 4 gallons each tomorrow. B-4, C-1, B-5 and C-5 coupons good for 5 gallons each.

Shoes—Airplane stamps 1, 2 and 3 in Book No. 3 good indefinitely for one pair of shoes each.

Fuel Oil—Periods one and two coupons good for 10 gallons each through heating year. Period three coupons valid January 15. Old period four and five coupons from last year good through year.

Consumers in this area should not have used more than 29 cent of their ration stamps of December 18.