

L.T.-OLDS, FISHER. WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25, 1963

(Be. written by Snyder, given by Hottel)

CHRISTMAS

The world has marked the day of the Prince of Peace more in a spirit of truce. A Christmas tree gleamed on the frozen Korean front - U.S. soldiers standing guard raised an electric sign saying Merry Christmas - and pointed it toward the Communist north. Back came Christmas music from Red loudspeakers.

A Christmas Day cease-fire was called by both sides in the bloody jungles and rice paddies of South Vietnam.

From the Berlin Wall to the hostile frontiers of the Holy Land - barriers dividing mankind were lowered - uniting brothers in prayers for peace.

BERLIN

Gunfire crackled through the grey, foggy winter air in Berlin today - a grim reminder that things have not really changed in the cold war city - despite the friendlier Christmas air. Communist loudspeakers blared out Bing Crosby's recording of White Christmas - and a throaty Jingle Bells sung by Louis Armstrong - while the last of some fifty-five thousand West Berliners streamed through the wall to spend Christmas Day with relatives in the East Sector. At the same time - just before dusk - two East Berlin youths were escaping in the other direction to freedom over the wall. They both managed to scale the wall - but Communist guards shot and critically wounded one of the boys - about eighteen years old. He died tonight in a West Berlin hospital. About one mile away - at the open crossing point - fur hatted Communist guards greeted West Berliners in the bitter ten degree cold, with - Merry Christmas.

CYPRUS

On the troubled Mediterranean island of Cyprus - Greek and Turkish hostility has aroused fears of full scale civil war. Three Turkish air force jet fighters buzzed the capital of Nicosia - a move sanctioned by Turkey's Foreign Minister, who called it a warning for Greek and Turkish Cypriots to stop fighting.

Tonight, however, Turkish troops on the island seem to be ready to cooperate with the Greek contingent under British command to prevent further bloodshed.

INTRO. TO L.T.

For vacationing Lowell Thomas - it was anything but a white Christmas - among the green-blue waters of the central Pacific. He sent us this report from Hawaii. Lowell.....

The President hunted deer across fields and rugged mountains. Then he and his two daughters walked along their four hundred acre spread for two miles - to the base of the ranch foreman. Early this morning - President Johnson inspected some of his cattle - including a few white faced herefords he had never seen before.

The activity proved to work up a big Christmas dinner appetite for Mr. Johnson - who likes to watch his calories and expenses to keep in shape. He now weighs two hundred and four pounds, which he regards as just about right for a man of his large frame of six feet, three inches. He has been swimming twice a day at the White House - in the morning and evening - and before he leaves the LBJ Ranch for Hawaii on January Fourth or Fifth, Mr. Johnson plans a lot more Texas-style recreation.

JOHNSON

The picture emerging of President Johnson - is that of a man who likes his exercise, and the great outdoors.

Not long after arriving at his LBJ Ranch yesterday - the President hunted deer across fields and rugged gulches. Then he and his two daughters walked along their four hundred acre spread for two miles - to the home of the ranch foreman. Early this morning - President Johnson inspected some of his cattle - including a few white faced herefords he had never seen before.

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ENDING

The Christmas spirit, or something akin to it, prevailed in Moscow today. Premier Khrushchev sending a message to Chinese Communist leader Mao Tse-tung -- congratulating him on his Seventieth birthday. Khrushchev wished Mao "good health" and "long life." The two close enemies at verbal peace with each other, for the time being at least. Khrushchev told Mao that the day will soon come when the Soviet Union and Red China will overcome their current ideological difficulties - overlooking for the moment Peking's recent comment that Khrushchev was a Bible-quoting psalm-singing buffoon - a compliment which Khrushchev returned by calling the Peking regime an old wornout galosh. That's the news. As Lowell Thomas would say -- So Long Until Tomorrow.