

EXPLOSION

L.T. - P&G. THURSDAY, JAN. 1, 1953.

(Lakehead Club.)

From Chile, a story of disaster to greet the New Year. Like people everywhere, the inhabitants of Chile's Number One Seaport, Valparaiso, were celebrating. Crowds massed in the center of the city, thronging the streets, cheering, singing.

Then suddenly, at two o'clock in the morning, a prankster threw a fire-cracker into a powder magazine. There was a shattering blast, followed by flames mounting high into the air. The heat so terrific, that metal shutters on buildings were melted. The explosion was many miles away, spreading the fear that it was an earthquake.

At least forty persons were killed and over three hundred injured. The explosion wrecked two nearby fire stations, killing some thirty firemen. Neighboring cities are rushing doctors, nurses and medical supplies. Ironically, rescue operations were held up by a Valparaiso city-wide bus strike.

The search for survivors is still going on with the president of Chile personally in charge.

January First, Nineteen Fifty-three, a date the people of Valparaiso Chile will long remember. A disaster caused by one merry-maker who didn't think!

SUBSTITUTE STORM.

A violent storm raging in the Atlantic off the Carolina coast. Winds of hurrican force. And high seas are battering ships at sea. Two are reported in trouble. A Dutch freighter sprang a leak, and had to shut down its engines. Then a tug-boat coming to the rescue developed steering trouble. Two Coast Guard Cutters hurried to the rescue. The tug in desperate straits, its crew taken off by the Coast Guard.

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Rose Bowl.

I suppose you have heard the Rose Bowl score - a Pacific Coast team at last winning one from the Big Ten - in the New Year Day classic. U.S.C. - 7, - Wis. zero..



NEW YORK.

New Yorkers are ~~a bit~~ unhappy about the beginning of the New Year. The biggest bus strike in the city's history, <sup>to on,</sup> Transportation tied up for ~~over~~ three million daily bus riders. ~~At one minute after midnight,~~ eight thousand workers walked out. Today, <sup>This being</sup> ~~New Year's Day~~ <sup>is</sup> a holiday. ~~Needs~~ the pain is not yet acute. Most New Yorkers are still at home, recuperating, ~~from the~~ ~~activities~~. But tomorrow work as usual, with New York plagued <sup>with</sup> the worst transportation snarl in its history, -- all those three million bus-passengers trying to get to work on foot, by subway and by taxi. What a windfall for the taxis.

Efforts to mediate the strike have failed so far. Union Leader -- Michael Quill, says Mayor Impellitteri is responsible for what has happened. On Tuesday, the Mayor made a statement by radio and television, which created, in Quill's words, "the road-block directly responsible for the strike."

To add to New York's dilemma, the international Longshoremen's Association is threatening



to strike tomorrow. And that would about paralyze  
New York.

The New Year seems to be getting off to  
a melancholy start for the long suffering inhabitants  
of our largest city.

## CONGRESS

On Saturday, Congress -- the Eighty-Third Congress -- will convene in Washington. Of course, its first task will be to choose its officers. There isn't much doubt about who they'll be. Taft, Republican leader in the Senate, un-opposed.

Similarly, Senator Johnson, of Texas, is expected to be the Democratic leader, although northern Democrats are not for him -- don't like his stand on civil rights. But, this we hear, will mean ~~no~~ mere token opposition.

In the House, the office of Speaker once again will go to veteran Joe Martin, of Massachusetts, taking over from Sam Rayburn of ~~the~~ Texas. Congressman Rayburn, by the way, will be the leader of the Democrats ~~in~~ in the House. With the veteran Charlie Hallock of Indiana, as G O P leader.

The Righty-Third Congress, as we all know, will face many grave problems - especially the budget! President Truman will soon submit his budget, for about ~~seventy~~-nine billions. But General

Eisenhower wants that cut a lot.

And then - there is the problem of controls: wage, price and rent controls, laws concerning which lapse in April. Congress must decide on these - soon.

And, also, Congress has one problem peculiar to itself - the filibuster, in the Senate. Many Senators want to prevent any member from holding up proceedings, by speaking on and on. They are opposed by Southern Senators, who use the filibuster to kill civil rights legislation. There will be a real fight on this.



## FRANCE

France begins the New Year without a government. The holiday period is supposed to be a recess. But the search for a new Premier goes on. The crisis too serious to permit a real recess.

An old and familiar story in Paris - names being juggled in the hope of finding a man who can win the support of the Chamber of Deputies. President Auriol first offered the chance to Jacques Soustelle, a follower of General De Gualle. But he failed. Now Rene Mayer is trying. But he seems hopeless, for he is opposed by the Gaullists, the Socialists, and the Communists.

Past Premiers are now being reconsidered - men who followed one another in such a bewildering way ever since the end of the War. Most prominently mentioned again - Antoine Pinay, the man whose fall caused the crisis. Pinay made quite a record while he was in. And most Frenchmen hope that he.....

will accept again. But when Pinay resigned, he denounced French politics and said he would not go back into, what he called, "the lion's den."

**So the familiar search for a French Premier goes on and on.**

to strengthen Western Europe. France has long wanted  
the French government is finally  
about 300, and the major terms have been worked out;  
to be to amount a hundred million dollars in aid to  
Spain. France will give up the rights to Spanish  
air and naval bases. Only a few details remain.  
The agreement will be signed before January 1st, 1954, and is to be  
celebrated as a triumph for the Truman administration.  
Military experts say this Spanish-American  
agreement will serve as a bridge between Spain and  
Western Europe. Spain is not a member of NATO,  
but, as our ally, Spain will be invited to join  
the rest of the free world in the great coalition  
against Russian imperialism.

## SPAIN

There will soon be a definite agreement between Spain and this country. A dispatch from Washington tells how for a long time now our military men have felt we must have bases on Franco's Iberian Peninsula, to strengthen western Europe. Franco has long wanted American economic aid. So an agreement is finally about set, and the major terms have been worked out: We to grant a hundred million dollars in aid to Spain. Franco will give us the rights to Spanish air and naval bases. Only a few details remain.

Washington officials are hoping the agreement will be signed before January twentieth, then to be remembered as a triumph for the Truman administration.

Military experts say this Spanish American agreement will serve as a bridge between Spain and western Europe. Spain is not a member of Nato, but, as our ally, Spain soon will be invited to join the rest of the free world in the grand coalition against Russian Imperialism.



## KOREA

In Korea, only minor skirmishes reported.

The weather, bitter cold - below zero. Snow falling.

For sometime, the Reds have been threatening to launch a general offensive. "In Seoul by Christmas," they were shouting. But the battle line is just about where it was. And so signs of a Communist buildup for any immediate major attack.

The Air Force announces that during December we lost less than twenty planes. While our fighter planes damaged or destroyed some sixty of the jets -- as well as causing hundreds of enemy casualties on the ground.

## NAGUIB

General Naguib, strong man of Egypt, today made clear some of his views. Like many other military men of our time, Naguib came to power through a coup-d'etat. But unlike most he doesn't intend to remain in power as a dictator.

According to a newspaper interview, Naguib will stay on only until Egypt gets a new constitution. Then it will be up to the Egyptian people to select leaders. "I have no faith in any dictatorship, don't believe it sound" said he.

Meanwhile he says he will attack what he regards as Egypt's three main problems: evacuation of the British from the Suez Canal Zone, the status of the Sudan, and development of Egyptian economic resources.

## HONORS

Queen Elizabeth <sup>has</sup> issued her first New Year's Honors list. ~~It is a~~ long list - containing over a thousand names. Some are familiar in this country. For example, E. M. Forster, the novelist - author of "A Passage to India" and many other books. And <sup>Air Marshal</sup> Arthur Harris - famous during World War Two as "Bomber" Harris. He was front - page news when he commanded the great air attacks on Nazi Germany. Now he becomes a Baronet, Sir Arthur Harris. Another aviator to be honored is Neville Duke, who crashed the sound-barrier in his plane, <sup>and lives to</sup> ~~tell about it.~~

The Royal Honors List is <sup>exceedingly</sup> ~~very~~ democratic. Among those mentioned are a coal miner who worked in the mines for more than fifty years, an assistant postmaster, and a manufacturer of fishing rods. The Queen <sup>the O.B.E.,</sup> awards them all <sup>^</sup> the Order of the British Empire.

One honor deserves special mention - the Order of Merit, highest of British Civil Decorations. This time it goes to <sup>only one person, Dr.</sup> ~~just one man~~ Doctor Wilder Penfield, a professor at McGill University, in <sup>Montreal,</sup> ~~Canada.~~ Dr. Penfield



is one of the world's leading nerve specialists.

With the Order of Merit he joins a select group,

for the award is restricted to twenty-four living

persons of top eminence in their fields. Men like

~~XXXX~~ Bertrand Russell the philosopher, and Gilbert

Murray, the classical scholar. Now Nerve Specialist

Dr. Wilder Penfield, O.M.

## MALDIVE ISLANDS

A new nation on New Year's Day. That's the story from the far off Maldive Islands. I wonder how many know where the Maldives are? They are small islands - coral atolls ~~far~~ far out in the Indian ~~of~~ Ocean, southwest of Ceylon. Population of some ninety-thousand. They have long been independent, but protected by the British.

Now the Maldives have worked out a new treaty with Britain, and announce they henceforth will be an independent republic.

Here's an interesting part of the story: Their first Prime Minister - Amin Abdul Didi, until recently ruled as their Sultan.

During ~~the~~ World War Two Britain used the Maldives as an air base, from which to hunt Japanese submarines. And the new treaty sets forth that the islands are to remain available to the British, for naval operations.

The people of the Maldives are Mohammedan. Even so, the women are getting some emancipation.

From now on the belles of the romantic coral

Maldives will go unveiled.

The Duke of Mantua followed his mistress.  
If you're wondering how the Duke of Mantua is, and  
how he could swallow his mistress, the answer is  
simple. The story comes from Covent Garden, London's  
famous opera house. Every opera lover will recognize  
the Duke of Mantua as a character in Verdi's Rigoletto.

Last night, when Walter Midgley was singing the  
part - his upper lip covered with a stage mustache.

Here's Midgley's description of what happened early  
in Act One. "It was a big mistake - a nice, light-

hearted mistake, knitted on wool and fitted  
just so. You didn't know it was there, I was the

Duke of Mantua and was singing away at "Quanto X quello  
(like and what) for all I was worth. I felt fine.

Every word a joy. And then he went on: "I came to  
the end of the song and I was a bit out of breath.

and was taking a really deep breath. It was then I  
had a big mistake. In the next one, my eye was

all I was terrified. It was a big mistake. I turned  
my head to the audience and gave a colossal cough. The



## MUSTACHE.

The Duke of Mantua swallowed his mustache.

If you're wondering who the Duke of Mantua is, and how he could swallow his mustache, the answer is simple. The story comes from Covent Garden, London's famous opera house. Every opera lover will recognize the Duke of Mantua as a character in Verdi's "Rigoletto".

Last night, tenor Walter Midgley was singing the part - his upper lip adorned with a stage mustache. Here's Midgley's description of what happened early in Act One. "It was a new mustache - a nice, lighter-than a feather mustache, knitted on nylon and fitted just so, <sup>- so</sup> You didn't know it was there," <sup>said he, adding! -</sup> "I was the Duke of Mantua and was singing away at "Questo E Quello (this and that) for all I was worth. I felt fine. Every word a joy! And then he goes on: "I came to <sup>the words -</sup> verse two, <sup>I</sup> "Cold fidelity is the worst of diseases," <sup>Says the tenor: -</sup> and <sup>I</sup> was taking a really deep breath." <sup>I</sup> "It must have had a jet engine effect. In <sup>came</sup> ~~you~~ the mustache, nylon and all. I was terrified. It stuck in my throat. I turned my back on the audience and gave a colossal cough. The

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mustache flew out - most of it. I went on with the singing, some of it still stuck in my throat. I can't imagine what the audience thought.

That last bit of the Duke of Mantua's mustache, Nelson, had to be removed by a doctor!

The building the powder magazine, of course was shattered. And firemen, digging in the ruins, uncovered tons of Communist literature. Books, pamphlets, newspapers. - all propaganda of course. The Chilean authorities are questioning the man responsible for the maintenance of the building. - asking him to explain all that had happened, and all the explosives that blew up. That cheap fire-cracker set off a tragic explosion that may lead to a political explosion.