

BETHLEHEM

Tues. Dec. 24 - '74.

Christmas in the Holy Land as you may have heard was marked today by the tightest security in the seven years of Israeli occupation. They were banning all vehicles from Bethlehem and searching all who arrived to attend nativity services at the church and down the steps in the chapel of the Manger.

This in part the result of a ~~terror~~ terrorist grenade attack earlier in the week. This cut attendance by pilgrims - from an expected fifteen thousand to barely a thousand. At any rate, the Christmas Eve ceremony went off without incident.

VATICAN FOLLOW BETHLEHEM

At the Vatican, Pope Paul tonight struck a silver hammer against the door of St. Peter's Basilica; ushering in a new holy year dedicated to reconciliation within the Catholic church and throughout the world. He then celebrated his annual Christmas Eve midnight mass - with the ceremony broadcast by radio and television around the globe.

ATHENS

At Athens - a reward of more than eight hundred thousand dollars was offered today - by Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis; ^{This} for proof that a plane crash in which his son was killed two years ago - was the result of a "premeditated" act. Onassis' offer said to be based on opinions from "foreign and Greek experts" that the crash was definitely caused by "sabotage, rather than negligence."

BELFAST

*Santa Claus came to troubled Ulster today -
in an armored ~~car~~ car under heavy police guard.*

*The Santa in question - a British Army trooper passing
out candy and small gifts to children living in Belfast --
mainly ^{the} Protestant Sandy Row district. Santa's ~~visit~~
visit in the midst of an I R A truce which seems to
be holding -- up to now - at ~~least~~ ^{any rate.}*

Former C I A Director Richard Helms today categorically denied - any agency involvment in domestic ~~espion~~ espionage when he was in charge. ~~This~~ This in a telegram from Teheran - where ~~Helms~~^{he} is ~~now~~ ~~-serving as U S~~^{an} Ambassador. ~~to Iran,~~^{It was} in response to a query from Secretary of State Kissinger who ~~was~~^{has} ~~been told~~^{been told} ~~under orders~~ to get all the facts. Helms denying that the C I A "conducted illegal domestic operations - against anti-war activists or dissidents; or that any unit to do ~~such~~^{so} - was created under him."

WASHINGTON

From the American Academy of Pediatrics

a warning today to the parents of young snowmobilers.

~~The academy~~ noting that ~~reckless~~ operation of
snowmobiles - presents serious ~~health~~ risks. ~~to~~

~~children. Indeed, The number of~~ Snowmobile-related
deaths - now running from twenty to thirty a month,

~~in snow belt states. The Academy Therefore,~~

~~urging~~ Special training programs for the young ~~are urged,~~

and ~~stricter~~ stricter parental control.

SAN JOSE

The arrest of a coast to coast - commuter ~~bandit~~ bandit is reported ~~today~~ from San Jose California. Thirty-two year old Gaylord Anguish ~~aka~~ accused of robbing five Long Island banks during trips ~~back~~ East to visit his mother. Between jobs allegedly holing up ~~in~~ in a plush chalet in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

~~Incidentally~~, The key to ~~the~~ Anguish's undoing, ~~the use of~~ a rental car ~~which~~ he charged to his mother's credit card. ~~The latter is also under~~ ^{And she too is under} arrest for ~~obstruction~~ ^{not giving her son away.} ~~obstructing governmental administration,~~ ~~government legalese which means simply she refused~~ ^{that is} ~~to "rat" on her son.~~ ^{ing} ~~On Christmas eve - well, a bit~~ ~~ironic, wouldn't you say?~~

FREEHOLD

Mrs. Laura Wisham of Freehold, New Jersey was observing Christmas eve today the way she always does: celebrating her birthday. This one - her one hundred and third birthday. But she still found time to get in some work - as a member of the local retired seniors volunteer program. ~~When~~ Mrs. Wisham saying she credits her long life to "luck - and the fact that the Almighty hasn't ^{yet} put" her "number ~~down~~ up on the board. ⁾ ~~yet~~ "

SAN CLEMENTE

Mr. and Mrs. Nixon and their daughters and sons-in-law - celebrating a "quiet family Christmas." at San Clemente.

The former President although somewhat alone, far from forgotten. Receiving thousands of Christmas cards and hundreds of gift packages.

VAIL

The President and Mrs. Ford will be spending Christmas eve at an annual party with old friends, and then to a midnight service.

Today he was again swinging down the mountain today at Vail, Colorado - with the temperature twelve below. As he stood still for the half frozen photographers he said he was quite warm - and then he shoved off for a two mile run - with a two thousand foot drop - doing it in thirteen minutes.

The President said he was "a little stiff" - when he started out; but on reaching the base where you start up again by gondola or chairlift he called it a "good run - real good." Observers said he didn't push it, even pulled up a couple of times to chat with skiers. Those he passed as he sped down the Minnie Dole run, nodded in admiration: "A good, strong skier."

ADD VAIL

At one point, a spectator telling the President:

"We're really proud to have you here in Vail."

*Mr. Ford replying: "You make me justice of the peace -
and I'll quit" as President.*

now this M —

NORBURY

Here's one
~~this next~~, from Norbury, England, - perhaps

~~a manifestation of~~ the true Christmas spirit. A

chalked notice on the blackboard at the local railway

station - saying: "Sorry for the poor Christmas

tree and decorations - but the real one and the lights

were stolen last night. Happy Christmas to you

all, and ^{to} the thief."