

December 26, 1972  
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**TRUMAN**

*The Thirty-third President of the United States - Harry S. Truman - has passed into history. Death came early today at Research Hospital in Kansas City where he had been a patient for the past three weeks only to finally succumb to what the doctors called "a complexity of organic failure and collapse of the cardiovascular system."*

*Tomorrow his body lies in state at the Truman Library in Independence, Missouri, with private funeral services and burial following on Thursday. President and Mrs. Nixon plan to fly to Independence tomorrow. President Nixon has issued a statement eulogizing Mister Truman as "a man who will be remembered as one of the most courageous presidents in our history." At the same time, the President designated this coming Thursday as a day of national mourning, and ordered all U-S flags to be flown at half-staff for a period <sup>of</sup> thirty days. In Texas, former president Lyndon Johnson - now the nation's only*

**TRUMAN (2)**

*living ex-president--said of his fellow Democrat--"A Twentieth Century giant is dead."*

*Death came to Harry Truman at the age of eighty-eight and only two American presidents have lived to be older. Both John Adams--our second president--and Herbert Hoover--our thirty-first--were past ninety when they died.*

*The moment he moved into the White House in April, Ninety-Forty-Five, upon the death of Franklin D.*

*Roosevelt, Harry Truman became a man of decision--NOT just ordinary decisions--but big, earth-shaking ones which molded the destiny of the United States--and the world--for decades to come. The atomic bombing of Japan--the Marshall Plan--the Berlin Airlift--and the decision which he himself called the most important of all--the sending of American troops to intervene in the*

*(more)*

**TRUMAN (3)**

*Korean War of the early Nineteen-Fifties. "I did what had to be done," he said afterwards about his presidency, adding "and I don't care a hoot what history says about me"*

*Both publicly and privately, he often used the pungent language he learned while dealing with mules as a Captain with the Missouri National Guard in France during World War One. His letter, questioning the pedigree of a music critic who was less than complimentary about his daughter Margaret's singing, is now a footnote to history. And what did Harry Truman really think of the "Missouri Waltz," the tune he often played on the piano? "I hate to admit it," he said, "but the Missouri Waltz was composed by a man from Iowa. It's a ragtime song--and I don't give a damn about it--but I can't say that out loud because it's the Missouri state song." And once, commenting on politicians who didn't like being criticized*

*(more)*

**TRUMAN (4)**

**by the news media, H-S-T said--"If you can't stand the heat you should get out of the kitchen." And on himself,**

**██████████--"Missouri has produced three notorious characters--Mark Twain, Jesse James and me." And**

**most poignant of all, perhaps, was the epitaph Harry**

**Truman once saw on a frontier grave in Arizona--an**

**epitaph which he said was the best a man can have. It**

**read: "Here lies Jack Williams--he done his damndest."**



## **VIETNAM**

*American bombing planes are again flying round-the-clock missions against North Vietnam--ending a Christmas truce which was observed for nearly two days according to the Pentagon--and wasn't observed at all, according to Hanoi. The current strikes are against targets throughout the north, with Hanoi and Haiphong bearing the brunt of the renewed bombing fury.*

*In Paris, the North Vietnamese News Agency claims that eight American B-Fifty-Two bombers were shot down today--bringing to sixty-one the total number of U-S planes of all types Hanoi claims shot down since the current raids began a week before Christmas. The Pentagon says only eleven B-Fifty-Twos have been ~~shot~~ <sup>lost</sup> down, along with a number of other planes.*

*The Soviet News Agency Tass says great destruction is being rained on Hanoi by the U-S bombers,*

*(more)*

## **VIETNAM (2)**

*with the Gialam airport demolished and black strips of dead soil five-hundred yards wide and more than a mile long--all that remains of some residential districts. In Tokyo, the Japanese Communist newspaper says American folk singer Joan Baez--an anti-war activist--sang Christmas carols in the lobby of a Hanoi hotel on Christmas Eve while U-S planes bombed the city and anti-aircraft guns thundered outside. Miss Baez and three other American anti-war activists are reported stranded in Hanoi tonight--with all outgoing airline flights suspended because of the air raids.*

*In Paris, a Hanoi spokesman at the peace talks says North Vietnam will renew peace negotiations only if the bombing of the North is halted. And for the second time in four days, Russia urged an immediate halt to the bombing and the signing of a ceasefire agreement.*

## **FILIPINO**

*The Filipino government says thousands are fleeing their homes on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao because of increased fighting between government troops and Moslems whom the Manila government refers to as "outlaws allied with Communists." They are also referred to as "secessionists." A military spokesman says foreign-trained troops are leading the rebels who control some villages on the big island located about four-hundred-fifty-miles south of Manila.*

*The government also announced that more than eight thousand persons--including subversives, criminals, students, politicians and journalists--were taken into custody recently as a result of President Marcos's martial law proclamation.*

## QUAKE

A major section of the devastated city of Managua-- capital of Nicaragua--was declared "a contaminated area" today--which means the government plans to cover it with lime and then level it with bull-dozers and Dynamite.-- turning it into a mass grave for an unknown number of persons who died there in Saturday's earthquakes. Managua is virtually deserted tonight. A pall of dust and smoke covers the city--rising from the ruins of thousands of homes and buildings--many still burning even as the looting continues. And on the city's outskirts, thousands of refugees are crowded into tents and makeshift shelters as relief planes fly in bearing supplies from countries throughout the world.



## EXCHANGE

*There was at least one international silver lining on Christmas Day Nineteen-Seventy-Two. The crews of an American Coast Guard cutter and a Russian oceanographic ship exchanged gifts and good-will on the Atlantic about twenty-five miles off the Maryland coast. The Russians first flashed Holiday greetings to the American ship "Gresham." Then, the Gresham's commander offered the Soviets Christmas gifts. "Would they accept?" "Certainly," replied the Soviet commander, and the yuletide deal on.*