

The Battalion

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Telephone 845-2226

Holiday Deaths May Number 87

As many as 87 lives may be lost as a result of traffic accidents in Texas over the Christmas and New Year holiday periods, the director of the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has estimated.

Col. Wilson E. Speir said that 44 deaths are expected during the Christmas period beginning at 6 p.m. Christmas Eve and ending at midnight Dec. 28.

He also estimated that 33 deaths will occur during the New Year holidays, from 6 p.m. New Year's Eve through midnight Jan. 4, 1970.

"We urge each individual driver to accept the challenge of driving during the holidays," Speir said. "Many holiday accidents can be prevented and Texas will drive safely and realize that no one is immune to the traffic crash."

Speir also announced that the

DPS will place all available patrolmen on the highways during the holidays to enforce the laws and aid motorists.

He said a special "operation motorcade" will be in effect over both holiday periods, during which periodic tabulations of traffic fatalities will be made and given the widest possible dissemination in order to focus public attention on the added dangers present in holiday driving.

The Battalion staff encourages all students to drive carefully during the holidays and wishes all a merry Christmas.

Last Batt

This is the last issue of The Battalion for 1969.

The Battalion Staff wishes you a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and safe conduct on the highways.

Drive safely.



Songs, Lights Mark Service

Students from A&M will combine a non-denominational service with Christmas carols tonight during the annual YMCA-sponsored Christmas program.

Lighting of a 35-foot high string of lights shaped like a Christmas tree will conclude the program.

Deputy Corps Commander Buddy Mason, a senior psychology major from Virginia, will give the call to worship at 7:30 p.m. on the east steps of the System Administration Building.

The invocation will be given by Chris Shaw, a junior civil engineering major from Garland and chairman of religious programs, YMCA Cabinet.

Alan Byrd, senior pre-med major from Austin and representative to the Civilian Student Council as Schumacher Hall president, will read the Christmas scripture.

Frank Coulter will direct his

A&M Consolidated High School Choir in four numbers.

Ed Donnell of Jones Creek, senior psychology major, president of the YMCA Cabinet and civilian student chaplain, will give the Christmas message.

Donnell will speak on Isaiah, chapter 9, verse 6-A: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given."

"O Come All Ye Faithful" will follow, sung by the people attending the program.

A&M's Singing Cadets will sing

four carols, including "Coventry Carol," "Carroll Brothers' Carol," "Jesu Bombo," and "Hallelujah Chorus."

Otway Denny, junior political science major from La Porte, will introduce the Christmas lighting program.

Robert Boone, Singing Cadets director, will lead the singing of "Silent Night" at the end of the service.

The program is open to Texas A&M students, faculty, staff and the public.

Race no Problem For Black Santa

By Larry Heinzerling Associated Press Writer

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — "Go ahead," a mother said, prodding her hesitant daughter. "It's Santa Claus. Tell him you've been a good girl and give him a big hug."

The occasion was typical of Christmas, except this Santa was black.

Leonard Eggleston said race never has been a problem in his Santa role.

"I was amazed," he said. "They come sit on my lap. They kiss me and tell me what they want. It's nice to see how things are changing compared to years back. I guess there has to be a first time for everything."

Eggleston, 63, a retired factory worker, was hired last year to play Santa at an Elder-Beerman store which serves a predominantly black neighborhood. White children and their parents come to see him too.

James Welsh, a manager at the store, estimates that more than 3,000 children have visited Eggleston so far this year.

Welsh said Eggleston was hired after there were some inquiries about why there wasn't a black Santa at the store. "It came out very well," he said.

A check of department stores in other major Ohio cities indicated Eggleston may be the

state's only black Santa.

"I enjoy it fine," said Eggleston. "At first I thought I wouldn't like it, but it's more enjoyment this year. I talk to the kids, see what they want, tell them to write me letters, ask them how good they've been."

His wife enjoys being married to Santa. "Everywhere we go," she said, "we're greeted with a ho ho ho."

Darkoch Voted Fish President In Run-Offs

Four Freshman Class officers were elected Wednesday in a run-off election.

Bill Darkoch was elected president; Mike Holley, vice president; Mike Milliner, secretary-treasurer; and Larry Moore, social secretary.

Darkoch won over Wayne Nichols 356 to 252. Holley had 264 votes to John Adcock's 177 and Mike Major's 146. Milliner had 333 to Rod Dickenson's 242, and Moore had 383 to Duke Jones' 181.

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'A Better Mood in America,' Officials Say Nixon Administration Does Some Back-Patting

By Douglas B. Cornell Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Nixon administration, after taking a look at 1969, is doing a bit of back patting for what it says is a better mood in America at year's end.

It also has decided self-congratulations are in order for attempts at reforming the government and for shifting homefront priorities, all under the banner of "The New Federalism."

This developed during a briefing at which the White House turned up a trio of top officials to talk to some 20 reporters on domestic matters. The White House stipulated ground rules barred naming the officials or quoting them directly.

The theme seemed to be the administration has made pro-

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—Adv.

gress in putting a new facade on government, although it isn't getting all it wants out of Congress and is having some troubles with a financial crunch.

There were other pluses and minuses.

In the plus column one or another of the three spokesmen put what they interpreted as:

- A lowering of voices and a good deal less stridency in the national rhetoric—the whole war moratorium thing has run its course.

- An attempt to make the government work better in such problem areas as taxes and the draft.

- Steps to broaden the base for handling problems that involve more than one department or agency by creating councils on urban affairs, environmental quality control and rural affairs, to go along with the National Security Council in the field of defense and foreign policy—plus another Advisory Council on Ex-

ecutive Organization.

Additional questions have been raised, one official said, about the responsiveness of the government to such recognizable problems as population. Some of them require congressional action and the administration, the spokesman said, still is waiting for the fruit to drop off the trees in some areas.

One such area takes in measures to fulfill Nixon campaign promises to bring law and order to the land. On the minus side, one spokesman conceded the obvious—that Senate rejection of Judge Clement F. Haynsworth, Jr. for the Supreme Court was a straight away defeat.

Another lamented that problems of welfare, education and unemployment still defy solution in times of unprecedented prosperity. He also said he would have to agree with a newsman that some of the administration's stands on civil rights appeared to

be heel dragging to black and other Americans—and represent a primary failure.

Asked how the intellectual community reacts to the President, he said it sort of dislikes Nixon whereas it loathed, feared, hated and despised Lyndon B. Johnson.

One gratifying development for the administration has been what it considers a show of limited but growing cooperation from Democratic leaders in Congress, especially in the Senate. The names figuring in this included Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, J. W. Fulbright, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee; and Albert Gore of Tennessee, who has had a key role in fashioning the tax reform bill.

One spokesman said Mansfield and Fulbright are "Bryan Building & Loan Association. Your Saving Center, since 1919."

—Adv.

field's disposition to work with Nixon in a more or less understanding way in foreign policy is far out and beyond what it was toward the end of the Johnson administration and the early days of the present one.

Vet College Gets Gift from Ag-Ex

Dr. and Mrs. Harry B. Reece of Galveston have presented Texas A&M a gift of corporate stock for the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The gift was formally presented to President Earl Rudder by Dr. and Mrs. Reece's son, Sirel A. Reece, a third-year veterinary medicine student.

Dr. Reece received a veterinary medicine degree here in 1939.

His son is scheduled to graduate in August.

Kids, Staff, Students: All Enjoyed the Christmas Party



Area school kids wait in line . . .

A&M architects hosted elementary school children to a Christmas party Wednesday but it was hard to tell who was having more fun—the kids or the architecture students and staff watching the kids.

Approximately 1,000 elementary age children from the Bryan-College Station area were treated to the party, which included talks with Santa Claus, play on giant toys, an exhibit of smaller toys and a wall of paper to write on. All toys were made by the Aggie students.

One small boy put his thanks on the wall: "Santa is an Aggie."

The displays were inside the main floor and outside the building. It didn't take the mob of small fry long to give everything a well-worn look.

Graduates students Mrs. Fredda King and Jay Belford, both urban planning majors, coordinated the program for the College of Architecture.

One architect looked on in disbelief as a toy he spent eight hours building was scattered about a display table in less than a minute.

"I don't believe it," he whispered with a smile.

Refreshments were served to the children and the college held its faculty, staff and student family party among the remains.



. . . to see Santa at Architecture Christmas party. (Photos by Jim Berry)

Aggies' Shout: 'One More Day and We'll be Out!'