

WEATHER

Forecast for Tucson: Partly cloudy, colder tomorrow
Temperatures
Yesterday: HIGH 73 LOW 35
Year Ago: HIGH 67 LOW 41
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TEN CENTS FORTY-FOUR PAGES

Apollo 8 Crew Starts Journey Back To Earth

Ceremonies Daze Men Of Pueblo San Diego Crowds Greet Ex-Captives

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (AP) — The men of the Pueblo came home Tuesday to a laughing, crying-with-joy Christmas Eve reunion with the women and children who waited 11 agonizing months for them to win freedom from North Korean captivity.

Navy plans inquiry into Pueblo's loss 2A.

off to greet about 170 wives, offsprings, parents and other relatives.

First to debark was the skipper, Cmdr. Lloyd Bucher, 41, who—as the Navy band struck up "The Lonely Bull," requested by the crew—embraced his wife, Rose. She had been a leader in a drive to keep government officials working for the crew's release.

Bucher, his face drawn, walked with a limp. But he smiled and waved to the crowd.

He was followed by crewmen, walking slowly and single file out of the high-tailed C141 Star-lifters that had ferried them from Seoul, South Korea.

They strode 75 yards across the apron to where their families were massed, their faces lighting as they recognized and heard the cries of loved ones. Husbands and wives embraced and broke into tears, or smiled, or simply looked numb.

Within a minute the crowd began breaking up as the families bunched in small groups as they met their loved ones. The same process was repeated as crewmen began leaving the second plane.

Children danced and were lifted on high by daddies long away. Little family knots formed, with the crewmen the nucleus, as the sailors waded into the happy throng.

Some appeared a bit dazed by the attention. All the while, the band played—"California Here I Come," then "This is My Country."

During the wait Mrs. Bucher beside Mr. and Mrs. Duane Hodges, parents of the Pueblo crewman, Fireman Duane R. Hodges, 22, of Creswell, Ore., fatally injured when the ship was captured.

When Bucher arrived he embraced Mrs. Hodges, then put his arms around both parents and spoke to them at length.

Later, turning to newsmen, Bucher said: "It's so great to be home. You'll never know. Jesus, I'm absolutely thrilled. How great it is to be a citizen of the United States. It's the greatest country."

The crew was freed Sunday and, during a stop at Midway Island on the flight home the Pacific Fleet commander, John J. Hyland, called them "a group of young heroes."

Their skipper told a crowd on Midway that every crew member was "subjected to terror of some kind at one time or another," including beatings.

The Pueblo was seized last Jan. 23 when, North Korea said, it invaded territorial waters, which the United States has denied.

Moon Mission At-A-Glance

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Here are the major events scheduled Wednesday, Christmas Day, for the flight of Apollo 8 (all times Tucson time):

11:10 p.m. — Air Force Col. Frank Borman fires spacecraft engine to increase Apollo 8's speed from about 3,600 to 5,800 miles an hour, taking it out of lunar orbit and starting it on 38-hour return trip to earth.

11:15 p.m. — Borman sleeps for 4 1/2 hours.

12 a.m. — Navy Capt. James A. Lovell Jr. and Air Force Maj. William A. Anders make navigation checks, sighting on stars.

3:51 a.m. — Lovell and Anders sleep for five hours.

8:51 a.m. — All three eat Christmas turkey dinner, made of special space food.

9:21 a.m. — Lovell makes navigation checks.

1:51 p.m. — Borman fires jet thrusters for midcourse correction, zeroing in on earth.

2:06 p.m. — Television show from Apollo 8, about 15 minutes.

2:51 p.m. — Borman sleeps for seven hours.

3:15 p.m. — Lovell makes navigation checks.

8:51 p.m. — Lovell and Anders eat and then sleep for seven hours.

Good Old Earth Is Far Away

Spacemen Face Loneliest Yule

By JOHN BARBOUR

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Locked in a circle around a plaster of paris moon, three men from earth looked back at the blue planet called home and spent the loneliest, most distant Christmas Eve ever.

Before them like an endless foot printed snow, the lunar landscape stretched on and on, blinding in the sunlight, forbidding and secret in shadow.

Behind, like a warm promise, the world they'd left behind four days ago glowed royal blue, burnished with browns, wrapped with the soft white of clouds, a world of warm fires and tables spread for Christmas, and trees laden with snow, a haven of families and children playing, all of it at least three days and a risky voyage away.

Their world now was the tight little cabin of their Apollo 8 spaceship, the ordered world of circuit breakers and display keyboards, control panels and schedules, light checklists and warning, cold metal bulkheads and meals squeezed from plastic bags.

A small compromise was a Christmas dinner ration—a metal foil wrapped portion of sliced turkey, the only unfrozen, undehydrated food carried officially into space, not counting a corned beef sandwich smuggled aboard an early spaceship four short years ago.

The three astronauts, Air Force Col. Frank Borman, Navy Capt. James A. Lovell Jr. and Air Force Maj. William A. Anders, were linked to home and Christmas by the crisp voices of fellow astronauts 235,000 miles away, and the memories of Christmases past.

The Apollo 8 voices were coming in so clear, said one astronaut, that people said it "was like sitting in your living room listening to good hi-fi."

"Sounds like a good idea," answered a weary voice from space.

"If you haven't done your Christmas shopping yet, you might as well forget it," Apollo control said. It drew no comment from the distant spaceship.

"Give us, O God, the vision which can see thy love in the

Astronauts Will Land Friday

By PAUL RECER AP Aerospace Writer

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — The Apollo 8 spaceship and its crew blasted away from the neighborhood of moon Christmas Day — and began the 235,000-mile trip home.

"Roger," said Apollo 8. "We've just been informed there is a Santa Claus."

There were six frightening minutes while Apollo Control tried repeatedly to get voice contact with the spacecraft. Then it was space.

The rocket firing came at 11:00 a.m. Tucson time, and 10 minutes later Apollo wheeled out

★ Later stories on 3A, 3B and 3D.

from behind the moon horizonward bound at about 6,000 miles per hour.

The three-minute 18-second burn added enough speed to the 3,600 m.p.h. Apollo 8 was traveling to carry it away from the moon's primary gravitational influence, and send it into the pull of the earth.

"This gives you the sensation that you're climbing," Apollo 8 reported when confirmation of a good rocket burn was passed up to the spaceship.

Earlier, the "very tired crew" of the Apollo 8, with the first flush of their space victory behind them, cut down their Christmas Eve flight plan — but kept a television transmission in their moon-orbiting schedule.

Asked about a computer problem, spacecraft commander Frank Borman said his co-pilot, James A. Lovell Jr., "got screwed up on one of those programs. So he's getting kinda tired here."

Before that turn of events, Borman had offered a Christmas Eve prayer Tuesday for peace "to people everywhere."

Apollo 8 commander, Air Force Col. Frank Borman, said the prayer as the spacecraft whizzed around the glimmering moon's surface for the third time.

Borman and his crewmates, Air Force Maj. William A. Anders and Navy Capt. James A. Lovell Jr., had injected themselves into moon orbit at 4:59 a.m. EST Tuesday, becoming the first men to ever explore another celestial body from close range.

They sped over the surface in an orbit of 70 by 196 miles and then fired the powerful service propulsion rocket engine to circularize their path over the moon at 70 by 70.

The crew stunned the world with a television transmission

(Continued on Page 3A, Col. 1)



A Merry Christmas To All...

The music that accompanied Santa Claus' ride through Tucson early today was provided by the Bell Choir of the Casas Adobes Community Congregational Church. Helping the jolly old man with his "Ho Ho Ho" were, from left, top row JoAnn Ellison, Ulay Littleton Jr. and Stephen

Secor; bottom row Lauri Ellison, John Rosenberg Jr., and Jennifer Hicks. Lauri Sedlmayr is the seventh member of the group. The 25 bells for the choir were the gift of Mr. and Mrs. W. Joseph Biehl. Mrs. William Hauck directs the choir. (Jack Sheaffer Photo)

Guns Bristle In Town Of Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM (AP) — Bethlehem was bristling with guns at midnight as pilgrims came to pay homage to the Prince of Peace.

It was a bitter cold night, and for the earthbound the moon was a shining crescent, when Msgr. Alberto Gori, the Roman Catholic patriarch of Jerusalem, came here to recite the Pontifical Mass over the place where tradition says Christ was born.

Automatic rifles and light machine guns poked from every high building. Israeli troops were even on top of the Church of Nativity which stands over the manger where Mary gave birth.

At Shepherds' Field outside Bethlehem where the angel appeared to tell of the birth, soldiers had checked among the pilgrims and sheep for land mines.

The El Fatah guerrilla organization had announced it could not guarantee the safety of pilgrims coming to the Holy Land this Christmas.

Earlier, 80 miles to the north near the Sea of Galilee, Israeli planes had swooped low to strike at Arab guerrilla positions just across the cease-fire line inside Jordan. The Israelis charged the Arabs had fired on an Israeli patrol.

Bethlehem has been under Israeli control since the 1967 war. The scenes here were in sharp contrast to the day before when this little town appeared to be an oasis of peace in the troubled Middle East.

Wars, Threats Of War Shadow Yule Festivities

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The eyes of Christendom focused on the moon this Christmas Eve, but its hearts still turned to the Star.

The hopeful story of the birth of the Prince of Peace brightened lives of many around the world despite the blight, as in Christmases past, of wars and the threat of war.

Arab-Israeli hostilities on a small scale flared in the Holy Land Tuesday only 80 miles north of cold and wind-swept Bethlehem, the yuletide goal of about 25,000 pilgrims.

Gunshots that allied authorities ascribed to enemy violations punctuated an uneasy truce in Vietnam. Thousands of the 540,000 American servicemen committed to the Vietnam war heard Christmas messages from evangelist Billy Graham.

Five patients — three males and two females — were among the first to arrive at Bradford Hospital. They were reported in good condition. Two of them were children.

The fate of the other passengers were not immediately known.

Allegheny Airlines said the plane was Allegheny Airlines Flight No. 763, en route from Detroit. The airlines said the plane was carrying 40 passengers, a crew of three and two Allegheny Airlines personnel.

They said the plane is a Convair 580 fan jet.

Roman Catholic Archbishop Terence J. Cooke of New York and their own chaplains.

Communist-ruled North Vietnam, whose people are predominantly Buddhists, praised its Rome Catholics in a Christmas Eve broadcast. It sought to present Catholic achievements in production "and in killing the U.S. aggressors" as "the best offerings to the infant Jesus Christ and the most beautiful flowers to the beloved fatherland."

Nigeria's federal government proclaimed a one-day truce and the rebel Biafra regime called for an eight-day cease-fire in the 18-month-old Nigerian civil war, which numbers many civilians as its chief victims.

On the brighter side, the 82 surviving crewmen of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo sped to

San Diego, Calif., for reunion with loved ones after 11 months of captivity in North Korea.

The three American astronauts aboard Apollo 8, who orbited the moon on schedule Tuesday looked forward to celebrating their return flight of more than 200,000 miles early Christmas Day.

Pope Paul VI arranged to conduct a midnight Mass in a semi-automated steel mill at Taranto, Italy, in one of the most unusual trips of his five-year reign.

It was the day of a bell for Hakodate. The Greek Orthodox church in that Japanese city received from shipowner John G. P. Livnos of New York a 3,267-pound bell, about three feet in diameter, to replace one the Japanese melted down 34 years ago for military hardware in World War II.

Snow blanketed Berlin and it was cheerless and gray along the Berlin Wall. Thousands of families remained forcibly separated by the Communist barrier for the third straight Christmas. The last Christmas season in which the East German regime granted passes was in 1965.

Munich authorities reported a 16-year-old East German boy, wishing to spend the holidays with an aunt in Bavaria, escaped by having himself shipped from Leipzig in a crate of a type commonly used for Christmas packages. The boy was freed by workers at Selb, who heard him knock against the crate. His name was not disclosed.

Pope 'Bails Out' Debt-Ridden Families

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican announced Christmas Eve that Pope Paul VI had paid for the pawnshop debts of Roman men who had pawned clothes, shoes and blankets and couldn't buy them back for Christmas.

The Vatican said the Pontiff had given an undisclosed sum to the Rome Savings Bank, which runs all pawn shops in the city, to cover all such outstanding debts so that items could be returned.

Bank sources said hundreds of poor families would benefit.

The Pope's money was given as a Christmas gift for the needy.

Offices Close For Christmas

All city, county, state and federal offices will be closed today so that employees can celebrate the Christmas holiday with their families.

Only emergency services will be maintained. Post Office activity will be limited to gifts for special delivery. Garbage and trash pick-ups scheduled today will be made tomorrow.

It is a legal holiday also for all banks and commercial financial institutions, as well as for most retail businesses.

Rocket Craft Looks Like A Star

FLAGSTAFF (AP) — Apollo 8 "looked like a star" in pictures made by the U.S. Naval Observatory Monday night, Dr. Gerald E. Kron, director, said Tuesday.

He described the photographs as "very successful," saying other stars show as a "field of lines," making the spaceship quite visible.

The photographs were made by using a regular camera with the observatory's 61-inch reflecting telescope. Dr. Kron said Apollo 8 was expected to be too far away Tuesday night for pictures.

world in spite of human failure," said the quick, sincere voice of Frank Borman reading a Christmas prayer he wrote for the members of his church.

"Give us the faith to trust the goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness. Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts, and show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day in universal peace. Amen."

Inside The Star

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