

Georgetown Herald

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A Christmas Editorial

Written by Loyal Phillips of
The St. Petersburg Evening Independent

Today eight hundred million Christians the world over commemorate an event which occurred two thousand years ago in a manger in a crowded Judean village. Except for the crowds, it was a soft, mellow Asian night like any other Bethlehem night with the shepherds tending their flocks by moonlight in the fields nearby. The infant came into the world without fanfare, and other than a single star which hung watchfully over the town, there was nothing to indicate anything out of the ordinary.

And then suddenly on a hillside there was a great light, and far off, swelling in heavenly harmony, a million angel voices chanted the holy message, "Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth Peace to Men of Good Will."

And yet the full meaning of the miracle of the manger was not apparent to the villagers. Only Mary, the Shepherds, the Wise Men and perhaps a few others with the wisdom of the ages sensed that a new King had been born in the City of David.

Historians still argue over the precise date of Jesus' birth. December 25th was not designated until several hundred years after the Saviour's crucifixion and resurrection. The exact year is not known. But this matters little. The scriptural record of the Nativity is one of the greatest stories ever told, and the significance is the heavenly enchantment which fell upon the earth with a promise of love and a promise of peace.

The result is the greatest single tradition of Western civilization, symbolized by the universal observance of Christmas as the natal day of the Son of God. The Christmas spirit, with all its mundane trappings, has been one of the noblest expressions of our Western culture.

Certainly, if the ancient and primitive Asiatic world needed the Bethlehem message, our modern world of automation and magic formulas needs to receive its meaning and recapture its Divine significance. Much of today's fear and uncertainty could be erased if mankind would accept and appreciate the Man Who gave His life that we might live. Who preached love instead of hate, Who spoke of forgiveness rather than vengeance.

The angel messenger brought to the shepherds good news of great joy. The Christmas Child brought a new concept of humility and love and a new hope for mankind.

Although the full meaning of the birth in the manger was obscure to all but a few at Bethlehem, we now know that Christmas is not a fantasy. Eight hundred million people, one out of every three persons on the earth, now realize that it was a fact stranger than fiction. It is history, the history of a Child with a human body and a Divine spirit. Whose Miraculous birth brought a message that gave humanity from the ravages of greed, pride and prejudice.

Today's challenge is stern because man is faced with the simple yet enormously difficult task of putting into practice what we know to be just, right and true. Last year, in her annual holiday mes-

sage, Britain's gracious Queen told the world that Christmas is the time to be grateful to those who add fullness to our lives. And she added: "We still need the security that one gets from a happy and united family."

One day out of the year, Christmas gives eight hundred million Christians around the globe something in common, something warm and beautiful to share. Born also with the Child was a new philosophy of life which has drawn men from all races and lands together in strong bonds of fellowship and love. Also to the manger came a new star, an eternal beacon to light up the years with a guiding beam which will shine forever as a life-giving torch to prevent our return to the dark ages.

With this Christmas Day comes an opportunity to rededicate our lives, without being ashamed, to the ageless truths taught by the gentle Nazarene, and to remind ourselves that the fundamental things in this complicated age still are love, tolerance, gratitude and faith.

Twenty centuries have rolled by and we come to today. Yesterday's headlines bear tragic witness to our sore need to review the message set forth through the miracle of the manger. Everywhere, frustrated, discontented people with more material possessions than ever before desperately seek new beliefs and a new order of things. In Asia, Africa, and perhaps next door, the invincible teachings of Jesus, His lessons in good will and love, are actually decried as "propaganda." In too many places the light of Christianity burns feebly and its power goes unused.

Yet today the angel's promise of peace still holds, and the star of hope still shines for all to see. Christmas is the annual and perennial promise of universal joy and peace which mankind can one day achieve through moral unity and through universal love.

So with reverent appreciation for the gift of the Prince of Peace on this day of all days, we rededicate ourselves to the pleasant task of keeping Christmas. As we reflect on man's good fortune that a Child was born in a stable in the long, long ago, we share with our underprivileged the abundance of our bounty. We also extend ourselves by giving love and good will along with material things.

Today should be a day of happiness because it is a day for echoing around the earth the timeless call of the Angel Host for Peace on Earth. With joy unrestrained, let us resolve anew that whatever we may lose among the centuries, we will keep Christmas.

Down the ages, year by year, has come the message first heard on the hillside, which needs remembering today in all lands and in all tongues, more than ever before:

**PEACE ON EARTH
GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN**

God grant it may be so!

Today, may the realities of Christmas cast upon your home a warm glow of joy, of hope and of love. This is the Herald's earnest wish for you as we say to each and all:

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!



EASTSIDE, WESTSIDE, ALL AROUND THE SUMMIT

Sugar and Spice

Disseminated by BILL SMILEY of the Wartorn Echo

When you write a weekly column, and Christmas is upon you, and you are just getting over the 'flu, and it's too late to do anything sensible except hit the sack. Satan lurks. "Ah," he smirks, "why don't you reprint one from last Christmas? They'd never know the difference!"

Shortly after Old Nick has said his piece, and the sinister sweetness of the idea is soaking in, another advocate speaks up. From the bottom of the stairs, the Old Lady suggests: "Why don't you reprint an old Christmas column? Aren't you ever coming to bed? Nobody has time to read it, anyway, around Christmas. Besides, they'd never remember they'd read it before. After all, it's not exactly deathless prose, you know."

I am proud to say that I sent them both on their way. Not that it wasn't a fine idea, if I'd had it myself. But I'll frequent the company of Old Nick when I feel like a fling, not when he does. And I'm too stubborn to admit that my wife has ever had a good idea in her entire existence.

It's difficult to write something sincere and original about Christmas, because there is one story, repeated every year, that makes every other piece of literature about Christmas look feeble in comparison. So this year, I'm going to make it simple, and just say "Merry Christmas" to a whole lot of people.

At a rough guess, there are about 250,000 people who read this column. At a dime each for cards, and tuppence apiece for stamps, it would cost me \$30,000 to send you all a card. After careful study, I decided not to do it. It isn't that I don't have the money. It's just the thought of licking all those stamps.

Obviously, it's pretty cheap to drop from \$30,000 to a mere "Merry Christmas to one and all" in my column. So I'll have to single out a few, with the hope that they'll repeat it to all their friends, and all their friends will repeat it to all THEIR friends, until the whole English-speaking world is one great booming "MERRY CHRISTMAS!"

So it's "Merry Christmas" to all my friends in the weekly newspaper business. Just for example: Fearless George Cadogan of the Durham Chronicle and his wife Elda; Gene MacDonald of the Gengarry News, the last of the bigtime spenders; Pete and Lella Hvidsten of Uxbridge, the night-owls who publish the Times-Journal; Don McCuaig of the Renfrew Advance, biggest hunting and fishing liar north of the Rio Grande; Rev. John McNabb and Alison of the Alliston Herald, a clear case of the pulpit's gain being the newspapers' loss. And all you other characters.

To all the public relations boys who have suffered my presence with amiable, slightly frozen smiles, on occasion. Just for example: Ron Everson, whose poetry is as impeccable as his manners, as witty as his

talk, as piercing as his eyes; Colin Haworth, whose drawings are as shaggy and interesting as his eyebrows; Tommy Lee, the last soft-spoken mayor in Canada; Paul Gormley, the most elaborately-disguised beatnik north of the St. Lawrence Seaway. And all the rest of you characters.

To those gentlemen whose letters are a great pleasure to receive, whose criticisms and encouragement are salutary and warming. Just for example: William Graham, retired railroad of Winnipeg, for his blasts of fresh air; Hugh Ferguson, former newspaperman of Florida, for his clippings and comments; Andrew Galloway, retired banker, of Toronto, for his lively reconstruction of things past.

To all the odds and sods everywhere, with whom I've consistently refused to exchange Christmas cards. Like Punchy, nice English lad who was in my squadron overseas. Got a card from Cornwall three years in a row and never answered. Like Tony of California, with whom I shared a hilarious and hazardous journey from Poland to the lovely sight of Canadian tank and crew, complete with Sweet Caps, in Western Germany. And all the rest of you characters in Australia and Alberta, Belfast and Bala-wey. I never was much of a card-answerer.

To my brother, in Paramaribo, South America: "Deck the

NEW MUSICAL TOYS
LIKE REAL THING

Music, hath charms, say the sages. And the American toy manufacturers have been heeding this advice by devising some of the finest musical instruments ever placed on this nation's toy shelves.

Both in appearance and sound, the new musical toys are more like the "real thing" than a plaything, this Christmas. For example, toy guitars and ukuleles are becoming more prominent in recent years since the advent of rock 'n roll singers who accompany themselves on such instruments. Xylophones are fun for youngsters and oldsters, too, because the instruments come in various sizes, shapes and forms. Wind instruments such as clarinets, saxophones, tubas and trumpets please many.

hall with boughs of mahogany, old boy." Haven't got around to answering your last four letters. Haven't got around to getting a present off for your son, my dear nephew. But we'll be thinking of you, sweating and racked by fever, as we sit down to our turkey in the middle of our crisp December day.

Finally, to all of you, who read this column: may you know peace and joy on this Christmas, may you remember why you are celebrating this day, may I wish you, with all my heart, a merry Christmas.

ECHOES

From the pages of the Herald, Dec. 24th, 1934

The community Christmas tree in Georgetown Saturday afternoon eclipsed previous years when Santa Claus distributed 825 bags of candy. He was escorted to the corner of Main and Mill sts by the Lorne Rifles (Scottish) Band and the Fire Brigade. Mr. N. H. Brown performed duties of Santa Claus.

Winners in the Nyal Children's Popularity Contest at Mac Cormack's Drug Store were: girls—Rita Ritchie, Betty Henney, June Hicken, Jean Brooks, Susie Coleman, Mary Appleyard, Hazel Graham, Dorothy Foggie; boys—Ivan Huffman, Teddy Stigger, Jimmie Cummins, Buddy Bouskill, Bill Tennant, Bill McFarland, Doug Sargent and Albert Carter. Other contestants will receive a consolation prize of Smiles N' Chuckles chocolates.

The election of officers Credit Lodge No. 219 AF and AM on Friday, Dec. 14th resulted as follows: W. M., A. C. Robinson, IPM G. Dobson, SW D. P. Crichton, JW W. Ford, chaplain WGO Thompson, treas. Dr. B. Gollop,

secretary G. Ford, SD R. Macbeath, JD E. R. Young, ID J. Sanford, SS W. Leslie, JS K. Langdon, Tyler O. T. McKay, examining board, G. Ford, W. T. Evans, K. Y. Barracough, G. Dobson.

Council held one of their last meetings of the year, a special session Tues. Dec. 15th. Members present, Mayor Gibbons, Reeve Cleave, and councillors C. H. Cummings, A. B. Parr and A. R. Speight.

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Stresses Safety At Christmas

Since this is the season when small children are particularly apt to be poking into all sorts of odd corners at home, the Home Economics Service of the Ontario Dept. of Agriculture reminds parents to keep such things as drugs, poisons, and cleaning compounds well out of reach. Bottles, boxes, pills, capsules, powders and potions of any kind present an irresistible temptation to youngsters. To help keep fire hazards to a minimum, buy a fresh tree, anchor it securely in a container of water and keep the water supply replenished every day. Be sure you tree is out of the lines of traffic, away from the fireplace and not in a doorway. Christmas trees have been known to topple over in doorways and block exits. Check the tree lights to make sure they are in good repair. Sockets should be tight and all the insulation intact. Exposed wires and damaged plugs are danger signals. Make sure you don't plug too many lights or fixtures into a single wall outlet. An over-loaded circuit can cause a short or a shock. Don't use indoor lights outdoors when winds are in excess of the danger of shock. Don't let Christmas wrapping accumulate where a careless match or cigarette spark could cause it to burst into flames. If tree lights remain on for too long a period, they may become overheated and dry the tree out, adding to the danger of fire.



NEWFOUNDLAND, LIKE IRELAND, IS FREE OF SNAKES.