

EDITORIAL



The story of Christmas

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Casear Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, until the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David):

To be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And lo, the angle of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

And the angle said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Luke, Chapter 2



POND HOCKEY: The sun had barely shone its face over the horizon after last week's big storm before boys were cleaning the ice on Fairy Lake for a game of shinny, with the help of a neighbour with a snowblower.

Always check the lights first!

BY ANGELA TYLER
The New Tanner

I was completely surprised last year, after writing a column about my abhorrence of blue lights, when quite a few people agreed with me.

One day a family friend told me they read my column about the lights. I had that 'oh, no' feeling in my stomach. Preparing to accept the criticism, they said they couldn't stand them either.

Then one night, after a long hard day at work, I came home to find my home, which had been decorated with all clear Christmas lights, with a string of blue icicle lights hanging between the front windows. I was sure it was my sister's doing. I was wrong. At my door, a Christmas card from a co-worker, the culprit that couldn't miss the opportunity to bug me.

I'm under a lot of pressure in the Christmas light decorating category. If you saw my neighbours' homes you would understand. They do a fabulous job each year. I think that's why last year during boxing week, I couldn't miss a lighting opportunity.

I was in Florida with my family, enjoying an after supper excursion to the 24 hour Walmart. Being a price conscious shopper (bargain hunter) I headed off to the seasonal department. Rummaging through the decorations and wrapping paper I saw an area with Christmas lights. Every sin-

gle box had clear bulbs. Then I noticed the price...\$1. I was in Christmas light heaven. So, I stacked up. I splurged with a five box purchase. Then I told my family about the bargain. They bought even more. We had so many Christmas lights, we had to get a friend, who was also in Florida, to bring them home in his van.

I missed all the good Christmas light hanging weather, so I had to start this year's adventure after it got cold. With the help of a friend, I soon had my roof line adorned with my clear lights again, but they seemed to be lacking. I asked him to see if he could straighten the cord some more. He gave me a not too thrilled glare. I told him to look at my neighbours homes. I was under a lot of pressure. He said he couldn't because I didn't store them properly. I didn't see anything wrong with them being shoved in an IGA shopping bag. He suggested maybe some icicle lights would disguise the crooked string of lights. So off I went to look for affordable icicle lights.

One night while out of town, I came across a tremendous deal in a large name hardware/automotive store. Only \$3.96 gets you a 9-foot length of clear icicle lights. How could I not buy them? So I did, three boxes of them.

This time, I went up the ladder and attached the new strands to the ones already there. Later in the day, I got

out my Walmart lights and proceeded to unwrap the package. I hadn't even thought they might be in 25' foot lengths. So now, I had the two previous sets of lights in 25 lengths, three sets of new icicle lights, eight sets of mini lights from last year, two spot lights and now an extra 125 feet of my \$1 lights. So I got to work. If my dog had stood still long enough, he would have been wearing Christmas lights as well.

After completing my lighting production, the new icicle lights had stopped working in two different spots. This time, my friend went back up the ladder. He asked me if I checked my lights before I put them up. Well why would I? They were new. I got the glare again and he reminded me check your lights before you climb up the ladder.

I took the icicle lights back to the hardware/automotive store and told them they weren't working properly and wanted new sets. The young male clerk said to me, "Do you know why we have so many of these lights?" I had no clue what he was getting at. He continued, "Because they are crap and people keep bringing them back when they don't work." Maybe so, but when I found they were on sale again for under \$3 and they gave me the difference back, I really didn't care.

Armed with a large amount of frus-

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