

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

### Up To Now

By Bill Thomas

#### • BEHIND THE GAITY—CALVARY

Sleighbells sounding crisply through the frosty air of a December night; merry greetings; bright green holly and flaming poinsetta; cheerful, hurrying crowds; brightly wrapped gifts and a child's wide-eyed wonder at its first Christmas tree—all these and more make Christmas as we know it. But in the background lies also the long grim march up Calvary and a lonely Man on a cross.

We humans being what we are, it is probably natural for us to dwell upon the joyful manifestations of Christmas and to forget, or at best, pass quickly over, the bitter price that was paid to make it a season of joyfulness.

We should gain nothing and lose much at Christmas or at any other time, by dwelling unduly on the price and neglecting the joy it purchased. Yet, an awareness and an acceptance of the fact that a price must be paid, is requisite to the full enjoyment of anything we have.

#### Military Rites Held Today For Sgt. Lester Riley

Military rites were held today (Thursday) for Sgt. Lester Riley, 1521 Midland avenue, who succumbed on Sunday, at the Hines Veterans' hospital, to complications resulting from injuries received during World War II. Chaplain J. A. Mears, of Hines hospital, had charge of the services at Seguin Funeral Home and Mooney cemetery.

During 1944, in an air raid over Germany, Sergeant Riley, then with a ground force attached to a parachute group, received injuries which led to hospitalization. In 1945 he was discharged from the Percy Jones General hospital at Battle Creek, Michigan, apparently cured, but later suffered a relapse which resulted in paralysis from the waist down.

As his condition improved he planned an especially-equipped home, under the government half-expense plan, and moved into it on November 1 of this year. His daily treatments at Hines continued, the patient using a special car. He had planned to take a watch repairing course as a means of self-support. Prior to the war, he was employed at Scarlett's restaurant.

Complications resulting from a weakened condition caused his death, authorities report.

He is survived by his widow, June; a step-daughter, Tonita, and his mother, Mrs. L. H. Mahne, 2401 County line road.

#### Girl Scout Council Reports On Annual Convention

The main feature of the December meeting of the Highland Park Girl Scout Council, December 15 was a Report on the Annual Convention in Milwaukee. All the members of the Highland Park Council had attended the Convention since they had served on the Hostess Committee. Consequently, each member was able to learn a great deal about her specialty on Council. One of the chief things gained at the Convention was an overall picture of the Girl Scout organization in this country.

Much of the meeting was spent in reports from committees, Christmas program, Community chest, and in making plans for the Annual Meeting of the Council and Leaders in January.

Those present at the Council meeting were:

Mesdames Leonard Davidow, George Hartman, Wyatt Jacobs, David Lasier, J. M. Montgomery, Roy Nereim, M. R. Sproul, L. J. Stirling, Chas. Walker, R. C. Whitney, C. B. McDougal and J. M. Watkins.

#### Holiday Programs Featured At Lincoln School

The children of Lincoln School will have an opportunity to participate in two assembly activities before the school terminates for the holiday season.

On Thursday, December 22, at 1:15 p.m. a Christmas Music Hour, directed by Miss Anne Phelps will be presented. The school orchestra directed by Mr. Bruce Warnock will set the tempo for the program by playing the entrance march for the children: "O Come All Ye Faithful." Included in the program will be:

- Christmastide Overture
- Orchestra
- Songs—Grades One, Two, Three
- Away in a Manger
- Up on the Housetops
- Christmas Greeting
- Solos—O Little Town of Bethlehem
- Robert Roscher
- Kenneth Pantle
- Girls Glee Club—Sweet Little Jesus Boy—Solos
- Sheri Mason
- Nancy Hall
- Orangy Parks
- Beatrice Struve
- Hearken O Shepherds
- Boys Glee Club—We Three Kings Solos
- Charles Kimbrough
- George Burmeister
- Clark Jones
- O Santissima—Three-part
- Eighth Grade Class
- Silent Night—Three-part
- (Soprano-Alto-Baritone)
- Assembly Singing
- Audio-Visual—people helping with slides, etc.
- Exit March played by Orchestra.

On Friday, December 23, at 10:30 a.m. the children of Lincoln School will present a Christmas play, "Why the Chimes Rang." The play will be directed by Miss Helen Boyce who will be assisted by the children of the eighth grade, in charge of costumes, music, lighting, stage management, properties, and publicity.

#### Kiwanis Club To Treat School Children To Matinee

Some 300 elementary school students are to be the recipients of a free movie and treats during the Christmas Holidays.

All who took part in painting the show windows during the Halloween season in downtown Highland Park will be given tickets to Saturday's matinee at the Alcyon Theatre, either on December 24th or 31st. In addition, they will be treated to sweets at Larson's.

It had been planned to hold a Christmas party and movie in one of the school auditoriums, but because all the children could not attend on the same afternoon it was decided to follow the present plans. Art teachers will pass out the tickets this week.

### In This Joyous Season of Christmas

we want to renew all our old friendships, want each of you to feel your importance to us, and to realize that without you the story would have been quite different.

A very Merry Christmas to all of you, friendly people of this community!

Les Olson  
Whitt Schultz  
Norm Hoffman  
Will Schlichting  
Rosamond Olson  
Bill Thomas  
Alice Zabel  
Bus Olson  
Larry Dean

— of —

## The Highland Park Press

#### Salvation Army To Organize Unit In Highland Park

The Salvation Army will organize a Service Unit committee in Highland Park. This announcement was made by Lt. Colonel Dallas P. Leader, Divisional Commander. Highland Park is one of the 500 towns in the state that will have Salvation Army representatives.

The Highland Park committee, Lt. Colonel Leader states, will handle its own funds, conduct its own health and welfare program, give advice and direction to the Salvation Army as well as officially represent The Army here. The first 300 Service Units have already been established in Illinois and in nineteen states, the Service Unit plan is under way.

Lt. Colonel Leader asks all business, professional, and industrial leaders, and all citizens to cooperate in the following manner: Refuse to contribute to any persons or person representing The Salvation Army unless that person or persons carry with them the official authorization of the local committee;

Make all contributions to the local treasurer at the time of the annual campaign once a year; Discontinue giving petty cash contributions to any collecting, either in box or tambourine, by persons supposedly representing The Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army officials are making a special arrangement to offer for sale, special issues of their publication, The War Cry.

#### Make Christmas Long Distance Calls Before Christmas Eve

Telephone "highways" will be crowded on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and thousands of Illinois Bell Telephone Company employees will be working to make it a happy holiday for subscribers.

But in spite of the addition of hundreds of "voice highways", switchboard positions and improved facilities, the company cautioned that it can't stretch service enough to meet this huge and unusual once-a-year rush.

"Calls will pour in and pile up so fast that there are bound to be delays and disappointments," Manager E. M. Knox said today. "We are hoping that customers will make calls on December 26— or before Christmas Eve—to get faster service and avoid disappointments. Reduced rates—the same rates which are in effect

#### Girl Scout Leaders Meeting At Center

The December Girl Scout leaders meeting was held December 7 at the Community center. Mrs. John Coleman presided. A count was taken of the number of Christmas trees being made by the troops for the service hospitals. Mrs. R. C. Whitney described a training course for new leaders January 24, 25, and 27. It is the policy of the Girl Scout Council to have no untrained leaders. All leaders without previous training are urged to attend this session. The entry blanks, which may be found in the Pow Wow, should be in the office by January 1.

Mrs. John Jacobsen and Mrs. Coleman told of their experiences at the Annual Girl Scout Convention in Milwaukee and told of the impressions of Scouting as a national movement.

School bags full of school supplies such as crayons, pencils, erasers, and notebooks will be sent overseas in the future by Girl Scout troops instead of clothing kits.

Mrs. Whitney spoke about a Junior Planning Board which is being planned. A discussion followed.

Those present at the leaders meeting were:

Mesdames Willard Ewing, Bruce Krasberg, John Coleman, Barnard Davis, Joseph Schonthal, Charles Klus, George Brace, J. Solomon, T. E. Struve, L. N. Harter, Paul Mayfield, John Jacobsen, Edward Ohlwein, Starr Thomas, Orin Spalding, Marvin Tippey, I. Zimmerman, John Hess, E. C. Adler, Frank Lennox, M. H. Gordon, Robert Magmani and Lewis Baruffi, Jr.

#### Wesley Methodist Group Combines Christmas And Birthday Celebration

Members of the W.S.C.S. of Wesley Methodist church will meet Tuesday, December 27 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Anderson, 51 Oak Street, Highland Park, for their monthly meeting and annual Christmas party. For the past year secret pals have been remembered on their birthdays, and special holidays, and the secret will be revealed when the gifts are given out in which the name of the giver is written. All members are urged to be present, according to Mrs. Ira Breakwell, president.

on evenings and Sundays—will still be in effect all day December 26, as well as on Christmas Day."

### Special Christmas Greetings

#### Pastors Unite In Offering Yuletide Message

BETHANY CHURCH  
Lester H. Laubenstein, Minister

"Why are the sanctuaries of churches often so dark?" is a question asked when people have gone to a church for the first time. "Is not Christianity a religion of light?"

We are reminded of this question as we once more think upon the first Christmas when there were so many elements of light. God's glory shone around the shepherds. The latter were overwhelmed by the extraordinary light. Naturalists of that day claimed that some meteor occurred in the heavens to indicate the coming of the Babe Jesus. Artists since have been wont to place a halo around the new born infant's head. Yes, even Jesus in later time averred: "I am the Light of the world."

'Tis true that Christianity is a religion of light. She has promoted enlightenment through varied educational agencies, and wherever the message of the Christ has gone illiteracy and superstition have been on the wane. This has been true because Christianity kindles a light within, in accord with the thought of Jesus: "Ye are the light of the world."

Because faith in Christ illumines the heart and mind, it makes little difference whether the place of worship is physically well lighted or not. The shepherds, too, were in darkness when the Light came to them. Their receptive souls and spirits were made sensitive to the light which came so gloriously. So we too in this Christmas time and at all times can be radiant in our faith, no matter what sun or star power, or electrical voltage might be operating. What we do need is the light of God through Christ in us.

#### REDEEMER LUTHERAN Hans K. Platzer, Minister

"The angel said: 'Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news.'"

"The shepherds said: 'Let us see this thing which the Lord has made known to us'."

Luke 2:10 & 15

The angel proclaims the gift as God's, and the shepherds accept this gift as coming from God. A sharp issue confronts us by this proclamation and this acceptance. The issue is alive today! The birth of the Savior is to some the product of human inventiveness. Shall we accept the Yuletide season with its beauty and its cheer as a man-made escape for a few days from the coarseness and the brutality about us? The birth of the Savior is to Bible-believers evidence of God's redeeming power. Did Jesus enter human history to save mankind from the futilities of our earthly life? Among the towering events of recent history we have proof that man's inventiveness leads to moral blind-alley. These spiritual dead-ends are found even among civilized people as well-educated and cultured as those of this land. Our hope lies in God. To the faithful Christian the Christmas story records what God has done to lead men out to spiritual light and personal salvation. Our future prospects are favorable because the good news of this season originates with the angel of God, and we accept it. We shall thrive in all weathers because we can expectantly take our stand with the shepherds and say with conviction: "Let us see what the LORD has made known to us."

#### H. F. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH William A. Young, Minister

The dream of peace and joy and brotherhood is music which can be known above the din of battle, for it is not with eyes or ears but with the invincible surmise

of the soul that we can hear the angels sing. There is much more to be done than dreaming—there is work to be done, hard work for all of us in the days ahead. But the first step is a dream of the world that is to be. Carl Sandburg points out that "The republic is an idea . . . nothing ever happens except first an idea!" Let us then sing with confident expectation the song of the Christmas angels:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men of good will."

#### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION By Rev. Bernard E. Burns

"Merry Christmas" has become trite. There should be nothing trite associated with the birth of the Redeemer. "Blessed" would be more appropriate, but the idea of blessed is little understood among a people who have lost the meaning of Christmas.

The hatred that is rampant, even in America; the fear that grips men's hearts; the uncertainty of a peaceful future are the fruits of a life that ignores Christ and His mission.

The religious people of our community will enjoy a blessed Christmas. They will comprehend the plea that they pray for those who are too busy about worldly things to acquaint themselves with Christ. Pray, then, on this Birth Day of the Saviour, that the world will adore, not only on Christmas Day but on all days, the One Hope of humanity.

#### HIGHLAND PARK BAPTIST Rev. Robert Clingman, Minister

#### THE CHRIST SPIRIT

Nearly nineteen hundred and fifty years have passed into oblivion since the shepherds of Bethlehem were watching their flock by night when the angels brake the stillness of the heavens with the most glorious anthem "Glory Be To God in the Highest; On Earth, Peace and Goodwill Toward Men. Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour whose name is Jesus." Hundreds of years later America and almost the entire civilized world began to recognize the twenty fifth day of December as the birth date of Jesus Christ, this date may not be exact, however, but we do recognize His birth and as we celebrate this great and noble commemoration this year may we more than ever do it with the Spirit of Him who was born, suffered, died, arose from the dead with all power and will remain alive through eternity. May our hopes be confirmed; our determinations doubled for good, may our thoughts and gifts be not only to those who are able to reciprocate, but to those who are less fortunate and finally may our interest be in the advancement of all worthy causes and especially in our own Highland Park, Illinois. These things done sincerely will manifest the Spirit of the Christ, both now and in 1950 and while time lasts. Merry Christmas to One and All.

#### FIRST UNITED EVANGELICAL Albert G. Maser, Minister

God speaks to us at Christmas. This holy day had its eventful origin in the Heavenly Father's mind and heart. It brings an eternal word of hope to a despairing and sinning world. It presents to us the solemn fact of the Word made flesh and dwelling among us.

God speaks to us at Christmas and through it tells us something of Himself. A little boy stood before the picture of his absent father, then turned to his mother and wistfully said, "I wish father would step out of the picture." Like the little boy, we who have gazed upon the picture of God in nature are grateful but not satisfied. We want our Father to step out of the picture and become

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