

M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S

Up To Now

By Bill Thomas

• Now It Starts

Those of us who have been enjoying the fine fall weather up to this week, can now prepare to give up that pleasure. According to the calendar, winter—the real winter, that is—starts today. Well, Autumn was nice while it lasted.

• Henry And Santa

It's gone on so long now that many of us on the North Shore, and more especially in Highland Park, are likely to take it for granted as one of those things—one of those good things—that is a natural and accepted part of the good life at a particularly good season of the year.

We expect to have a real Santa Claus—a Santa incarnate—Santa exactly as he has been described by poets and writers of Christmas legends and as he has been imagined by the little ones ever since they have been old enough to be told the legend of the jolly saint. Yes, we just expect such a Santa and we just accept the fact that Henry Hansen brings him to life.

Henry is celebrating his twentieth year of bringing the real Santa—real right down to the last detail—to the children of this area.

If the pleasure he gets from this labor of love is in any sort of a reasonable ration to the immeasurable happiness he has brought to thousands of little children, Henry Hansen ought to be the happiest man in Highland Park. No adult can thank him, but a man who has the inner understanding to make Santa live as he does for the little ones, also has the inner understanding to find his thanks in the pleasure he brings them.

Fire Chief Hennig Gives Timely Caution

"Now is the time to make certain that your Christmas Holidays are not marred by fires or other accidents resulting from defective Christmas lighting equipment," warns Chief Hennig, of the Highland Park Fire Department.

"You need have no fear," Chief Hennig said, "of fires being caused by well made Christmas lighting sets, provided they are not too old and are in good condition. Get out your lights now," the Chief advises, "and inspect them carefully. Lay out each string and go over them looking for the following defects:

1. "Is the attachment plug cracked or broken? Are the parts of the plug held together securely?"
2. "Bend the wire at close intervals to see if the insulation has hardened and is in danger of breaking off."
3. "Inspect each lamp socket for cracks or loose parts."
4. "Keeping the string away from any flammable material, screw lamps in firmly, and plug in the string. Hold each socket firmly and twist the wires slightly to be sure there is no loose connection that will cause a short circuit or spark when the lights are on the tree. If any sparking occurs, the string should not be used under any circumstances."

"If the string is found to be in good condition," says Chief Hennig, "it is ready to put on the tree. Put the string on the tree (with lamps inserted) before adding any other decorations. This is easier than putting decorations on first, and eliminates the chance of metal foil getting into lamp sockets. This could cause a short and result in fire. "I hope every person in this city has a very merry Christmas," the Chief said, "but more than that, I hope they have a safe one so they will be around to enjoy many more."

Zion Lutheran Plans Christmas Eve Program

The Zion Lutheran Church, Rev. Linden, pastor, will present a children's program at 4 p.m. on Sunday. The story of Christmas will be told by colored slides, reading and songs. Each child will receive a gift.

A program for adults will be held at 11:30 on Christmas Eve. The church will be decorated with trees, candles and poinsettias, and

Chest Budget Still Short Of 1950 Goal

With only \$400 to go before its goal is reached the 1950 budget of the Highland Park Community Chest seems assured, according to Bryan K. Perreault, Campaign Chairman.

This week volunteer chest workers were telephoning friends in a last effort to raise the small amount needed to go over the top. Mr. Perreault and Assistant Campaign Chairman Jack Allen, together with Vice-Chairmen of the Campaign, expressed their appreciation of the untiring efforts of Co-Chairmen, Block Captains, and other workers in the 1950 drive for funds.

"The people of Highland Park have again responded to the needs of the worthwhile organizations who participate in benefits from the Chest campaign. We are deeply indebted to all of them," Mr. Perreault said.

Evangelical Church Plans Vesper Service December 24

In keeping with the tradition of Christmas which makes it a day especially for the boys and girls, the children of First United church will present their Christmas program tonight, Thursday, at 8 p.m.

On Sunday, December 24, the pastor, Rev. A. G. Masser, will present his Christmas message at the morning service. In the afternoon a Christmas Eve Vesper service will be conducted by the pastor, including the reading of Christmas scriptures, the lighting of the Christmas candles and singing of the traditional carols.

Troop 31 Holds Christmas Party

Boy Scout Troop 31 will hold their Christmas party December 19th at 7:30 p.m. at Green Bay Road School. All parents are invited.

A sermon will be given by the pastor. Music will be furnished by the choir under the direction of Mrs. Chester Christian, with Edgar Benson at the organ.

Les Olson
Whitt Schultz
Will Schlichting
Andy Beck

Rosamond Olson
Bill Thomas
Alice Zabel
Bus Olson

The Highland Park Press

Bethany Choristers Will Sing Carols Of Many Nations

The Christmas carols of many nations will be interpreted by the choirs of the Bethany Church (Evangelical United Brethren) on Christmas Eve. Beginning at 10:55 p.m. the choirs will processional by candle light as they sing "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing". Then will follow the several carols with appropriate Scripture interspersed.

The Chancel Choir will be under the leadership of the church Organist-Director, Esther H. Laubenstein, who will also direct the Bethany Choristers with Mildred R. Johnson assisting at the piano. Everyone is cordially invited to this inspiring service.

Redeemer Guild Elects New Officers

New officers have been elected by the Guild of the Redeemer Lutheran church as follows: President, Mrs. Rudolph Netzer; Vice-president, Mrs. Bertha Kittman; Secretary, Mrs. Harry Eichler; Treasurer, Mrs. Marcus Hagen and Women's council, Mrs. Marvin Lawrentz, Mrs. John Dee, and Mrs. Axel Larson.

Mrs. George Shuman is the outgoing president and Mrs. Marvin Lawrentz is the outgoing secretary. The meeting took place on Thursday, December 14, with Mrs. Harry Eichler as hostess. Mrs. Byron Brandt will be hostess during the meeting of January 11, 1951.

Dudley Hall Heads The Lake County Heart Committee

Dudley Hall, Jr. 824 S. St. Johns Highland Park, Illinois, will head the Lake County Heart Committee, it was announced today by Park Livingston, general suburban chairman. He will have charge of the volunteer workers who will solicit funds in the southern part of Lake County for the 1951 Heart Fund to support the Heart Association's expanded program of research in the heart diseases in Chicago medical institutions, professional and public education, and community service in the heart field.

The 1951 Heart Fund drive, to be carried on during February, has a goal of \$600,000 in the greater Chicago area, which includes Cook and DuPage counties, and the southern half of Lake County.

Mixed Ensemble Sings For Junior Woman's Club

The Mixed Ensemble of Highland Park high school sang for the Junior Woman's club on Tuesday, December 19.

The Ensemble, dressed in old English paroling costumes, moved among the diners, singing Christmas carols.

Patrol Members Guests Of Alcyon Theater After Legion Party

Annual Christmas School Safety Patrol Party

The annual Legion Christmas Party for all of the boys and girls who are serving on the School Safety Patrols will be held Saturday afternoon, December 23rd, at 1:00 p.m. in the council chambers of the City Hall.

Commander Bernard P. Sheehy announced that this party is given each year under the Legion Americanism Program in cooperation with city officials to express appreciation for the splendid civic

Story Of Christmas Given Before Vacation

The Highland Park high school annual Christmas play will be given tomorrow (Friday), at 8:45 a.m. This play is given every year on the last day before Christmas vacation.

It consists of a tableau by members of the drama class, songs by both choruses, and selections by the band from various Christmas compositions.

Joe Cleaver will narrate the story. The students who will participate in the tableau are Carolyn Rowe, Joanne Holden, Gene Nelson, Mike Azzone, Norman Levy, Margaret Neiter, Doris Starr, Elva Andersen, and Barbara Fischer. The two girls who are in charge of making up the actors are Barbara Freid and Joy Stein, and the two girls in charge of costumes are Nan Schiller and Barbara Barnes.

The entire school will join in singing Christmas Carols under the direction of Mr. Chester Kyle, who is the director of the chorus.

Swing Club Will Hold Formal Christmas Dance

The formal Christmas Dance for Swing Club will be held this Saturday night, December 23, at the Highland Park Woman's Club.

All teenage members are welcome to bring house guests and their dates, and alumni home for the Christmas holidays are also invited.

Earl Hume and his orchestra will play for the dance from 9 to 12.

Chaperones for the evening will be: Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Christopher, Mr. and Mrs. David H. Cox, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Franklin Bickmore.

For further information, call Mrs. G. N. Ricker who is in charge of the dances.

Legion Plans Tide Of Toys Program

The 17,400 American Legion Posts throughout the United States will start collecting toys immediately after Christmas for shipment to the children in foreign lands. The program is one of the greatest contributions to international good will. Bing Crosby has accepted the post of Honorary Chairman, and he promises to be more than a figurehead in this effort. He promises to be "Papa Santa Claus."

Commander Bernard P. Sheehy announced that collection of toys in Highland Park will begin the day after Christmas. Toys should be left at the new Recreation Center on Green Bay road. The Post will pack the toys in big boxes and they will be shipped to the East Coast, then to Western Europe where they will be distributed under the direction of CARE, Inc.

Pastors' Christmas Messages

Robert G. Albertson
Wesley Methodist

"Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people." We need such good news in this troubled hour . . . news that will transform fear, that will spring from a great joy, that will be universally received as good.

Christmas contains good news. The good news that God hasn't deserted the world which He created; He hasn't condemned it; He will not destroy it.

Instead, He has identified Himself with it. In Bethlehem's Babe God is seeking to save the world, to transform it. "Be not afraid . . ."

Rev. Bernard E. Burns
Immaculate Conception

With the newspaper columns bringing daily stories of the horror that is taking place in Korea, with parallel columns reporting the buildup of armies throughout the world, it is difficult to associate this Christmas time with peace. But the angel who announced the birth of the Saviour promised peace to men of good will. Though good will is lacking in the higher circles of worldly governments, it is not impossible for the individual soul to possess it.

Good will is a characteristic of the person who places God first in his life. The reward for faithfulness to the Creator is that "peace which the world does not know."

May that sort of peace reign in the hearts of all the people of our community not only at this Christmas time but throughout the coming new year.

Christian Science

At this Christmas season, Christian Scientists turn to the words of their Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, for inspiration and guidance. Among other memorable statements, Mrs. Eddy wrote in First Church of Christ, Scientist and Miscellany:

"The memory of the Bethlehem babe bears to mortals gifts greater than those of Magian kings,— hopes that cannot deceive, that waken prophecy, gleams of glory, coronals of meekness, diadems of love. . . . The basis of Christmas is the rock, Christ Jesus; its fruits are inspiration and spiritual understanding of joy and rejoicing,—not because of fundamental and demonstrable truth, but because of heaven within us."

Rev. Robert Clingman
Highland Park Baptist

More than nineteen hundred centuries with their burdens, sorrows, joys, inventions, discoveries, accomplishments through hard labor and even blood, both for spiritual as well as educational, commercial and moral, have slipped into the past and have become history. The season we now approach is an everlasting one, because it gives homage to Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who according to our records was born on Christmas Day. Therefore as long as one human being remains on earth this day will be recognized.

Christmas is not merely a time to exchange gifts, but is even more, we should give not expecting to receive anything in return from those who are less fortunate. This is also a season when we ordinarily look two ways. We view the past year's activities and look forward to the coming year with great anticipation. The merchants check their accounts, the insurance companies take note of increase or decrease in business. The pastors and churches go over their records as relate both to earthly operations as well as heavenly. The individual Christian checks on his or her life to know if he has been and is fair with all people, regardless of race, color, creed or previous conditions.

May the richest blessings of our heavenly Father rest upon everyone giving you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Rev. Roland W. Hosto
St. Johns Evangelical & Reformed

The old story which is spiritually born anew in our hearts at this Christmas season comes now at a most terrible and depressing time in the lives of the people of the world. We might think it a paradox that the Christmas spirit of peace on earth good will toward men should appear at a time of monstrous calamities. Yet it was for such sinfulness in the world and in man that Christ came upon earth. Jesus said, "I come to seek and to save that which was lost."

You can't believe that sincerely? We have placed faith in a Bomb and perhaps a Prospective Bomb; we have placed tremendous power in the hands of military geniuses; we have believed in the healing power of billions of dollars; and we have not waxed victorious as far as making peace or friends is concerned. Such persistent faiths may mark a heroic people—but such persistence and heroism do not necessarily bespeak true wisdom. Christ taught us to be "child-like" not "childish."

Childlikeness symbolizes above all things: trust; trust in someone infinitely higher and better than ourselves. Christ is the center of Christmas—so should He be the center of your life. This calls for a revolution in life; a sacrifice very difficult for us to make. It means descent from the pedestal upon which you like to think you stand, and allowing God His rightful place; it means humility.

May this Christmas bring to you such an enriched life and assurance of "peace on earth, good will toward men."

Rev. Lester H. Laubenstein
Bethany Church

Now that our "Hop-a-long" for Christmas is about over, what are the benefits? Are our Christmas virtues like the attractive, colorful tree ornaments, to be packed away in an attic or basement? Are our Christmas dreams to be pitched like the scraggy remnant of a pine tree which we plunge ruthlessly and hopelessly into an alley or into a furnace?

Yes, we do want to preserve the good things of Christmas. One of these is the joy we received in sharing gifts with loved ones and friends. Greater satisfactions came when we helped the people who were less fortunate than we. In this "war time" we will want to continue to express our benevolence as we help make comfortable the men who are representing the nations in military operations.

Again, the dream of peace in the Christmas Tide should spur us on to achieve accord among the nations. If we are to have enduring peace, we must be willing to do more than wish for peace. We must sacrifice for it. Such sacrifice may make more rigorous demands than war time stringencies. "God will toward men" is God's spirit. Is it ours? If so, how serious are we about it? If we really want it, we can have it.

Finally, Christmas is the answer to the age old dream, that there be gradual improvement. Since Jesus came there have been many areas of advancement in human living. Where His principles have been truly operative happiness through service has been on the increase. Better times are before us as we stress His regard for the individual; as we seek to aid the underprivileged; as we aim to maintain the humble spirit in prosperity and success.

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