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Christmas Message

Rev. C. G. Higginson, Richmond Hill United Church

Out on the Judean Hills common shepherds were going about their usual work — guarding their sheep from the attacks of wild animals.

prestige: nor were they people of outstanding cleverness. They were men whose occupation was of a religious nature...

Then, indeed, the whole sky seemed filled with angels who sang praises to God and brought to those Jewish shepherds a message of peace and goodwill.

The vision, frightening at first, filled them with joy — a joy which made them want to share the good news with others.

What unpalatable tidings for those men of Judah. They were members of a conquered race — longing for freedom, hoping for a Messiah who would free them from the oppressor.

But no! The drama begun that night is a drama which has no ending. Down through the ages the story of these Judean herdsmen has been immortalized in song and story.

An unpalatable message indeed! Surely it would not have surprised us had they said: "Any suggestion that God's Chosen People should follow a path of peace and goodwill in our present plight must certainly be of the devil."

This year, once more, as Christmas-tide draws near, our hearts turn again to the Babe cradled in a manger. Beyond him we see those shepherds with their flocks.

What happened to those men in that cattle shed? There are only four sentences in our Bible to tell us. Yet we know that they found the Child, as the angel had said, in a manger with Joseph and Mary.

It is to be found in precisely the same way it was found of old in Judea, and by exactly the same sort of people. It is discovered by ordinary folk, doing ordinary tasks.

And why, if such a revelation was to be, did it come to those humble shepherds? They were not men of

At Bethlehem, of course, we see the Babe — Love Incarnate — and grasp something of the Almighty's concern for all God's children.



Fight TB With Seals

Youngsters like these . . . make a nurse's hair go gray! During their 'up' time, Brian and Randall, warmly clad in their woolly pyjamas, thick socks and slippers, turned their room into a bowling alley and, although their method might be unorthodox, their enjoyment is intense.

Book Fare

At Your Richmond Hill Public Library

HOW TO MAKE WOOD FURNISHINGS FOR YOUR HOME

Over one hundred useful and decorative woodworking projects are presented clearly and simply for the amateur as well as the experienced craftsmen.

TEN FINGERS FOR GOD By Dorothy Clarke Wilson The author of the acclaimed "Dr. Ida" and "Take My Hands" now tells the inspiring story of Dr. Paul Brand and his work with the lepers at Vellore, India.

REPORT TO GRECO By Nikos Kazantzakis An autobiographical work — not truly an autobiography since it deals with aspirations, inspirations, travel, friends, and the influences that shaped his work — by the author of "Zorba the Greek" and "The Odyssey."

THE GENERAL NEXT TO GOD By Richard Collier This richly documented account of General Booth and his army without guns has everything a powerful novel has . . . colorful characters, tragedy, humor, struggle against towering odds, and final triumph.

CHINA IN CRISIS By Sven Lindqvist A Swedish newspaper man who lived in Peking for several years describes life there and elsewhere in China, notes the difference between propaganda and fact, the importance of food, the Communist attitude toward sex, brainwashing, etc.

RENDEZVOUS WITH FATE By Lt. Col. Raymond Lalemant This is a story of a Belgian fighter pilot who escaped from his own country when the Germans invaded it, completed his training in England and joined one of the crack R.A.F. fighter squadrons — No. 609 — at Biggin Hill.

THE INSTANT SAINT By John Sherlock The story centres around the young American doctor, whose hospital stood on the high Himalayan plateau between India and China. To the refugees he was some kind of god — and to the American TV audience he was a new kind of hero.

Flashback

In Years Gone By

One of the best-known hotels of the early nineteenth century in Richmond Hill was Dolby's, which stood where the parking lot for the Richmond Inn is now, according to William Harrison, writing for "The Liberal" in 1889.

Dear Mr. Editor

UNWANTED COLLECTORS When most associations have to come around to the doors for contributions, I once was bold enough to challenge a collector with the words "But I've already given to United Appeal."



Rambling Around

The Word Made Flesh

Many strands go to make up the festoon of popular Christmas celebration. Germany contributed the tree; Holland gave us St. Nicholas . . . Santa Claus . . . from many countries have come the carols.

a christmas Message

"I asked God for strength, that I might achieve; I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey . . . I asked for health, that I might do greater things; I was given infirmity, that I might do better things . . ."

Second Thoughts

BY GEORGE MAYES

Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead This is the week of the big office party — when the bosses make like Santa Claus and hope all the girls will sit on their lap.

The Richmond Theatre advertisement: Enjoy Sunday Movies This Sunday and Every Sunday Continuous from 5 p.m.

Advertisement for the movie 'I'd Rather Be Rich' featuring Sandra Dee, Robert Goulet, and Andy Williams.

Advertisement for the movie 'Old Yeller' featuring Dorothy McGuire and Fess Parker.

Please Note: Thurs., Fri., "Old Yeller" at 7.30. "I'd Rather Be Rich" at 9 p.m.

HOLIDAY MATINEES MON., TUES. AT 2 P.M. "OLD YELLER" Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat. Dec. 29-30-31, Jan. 1

Helping Hands At Christmas

The helping hand at Christmas time is a Richmond Hill tradition that has its roots back in the nineteenth century. In the 1890's the WMS of the Methodist Church appealed for "pound offerings" of tea, cheese, sugar, meats, vegetables and Christmas cakes, for distribution to the needy in our village.

last year and this year. Local curlers, schools, Girl Guides, church groups, fraternal organizations, employees of local industrial firms, and private citizens become helping hands by contributing goods or money to the project, which is definitely community-wide.

Chairman Clement is high in his praise of the other helping hands, which include the service clubs, Lions, Rotarians, Civitans, Kinsmen and Kinettes, who each contribute a set sum each month to the committee's funds.

Those who work in Co-ordinated Welfare Services and its associated groups are ever mindful of the fact that the dispirited and afflicted are brothers in humanity who require warmth and understanding. In times of unprecedented plenty, it is sometimes difficult to realize that just a few blocks or a few houses away there is someone facing heavy problems in wretchedness and despair.

Christmas 1895

(The following editorial appeared in the Christmas edition of "The Liberal" 70 years ago. Many of its thoughts and sentiments are still pertinent seven decades later.) —Editor.

The holidays are again upon us, and, as Christmas will intervene between this and the next issues of "The Liberal" we wish to all our patrons the compliments of the season — a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

gaunt famine is a foreign enemy that has never invaded the homes of this community. The necessities of life are plentiful and cheap, and luxuries are within the reach of many.

Amid a thousand blessings on this welcome day we enlarge our hearts by the long established custom of holiday congratulations, bestowment of gifts, exhortations to merriment, innocent amusements, and the setting up of Christmas trees, which flourish, bloom and yield their fruits in an hour to the joy and satisfaction of all concerned.

Let us for a day quit grumbling about the cares, the disappointments and anxieties of life. Let those who are older forget that their heads are streaking for the grave, and bend their stiffened backs and romp with the children.