

Editorial Page

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Christmas Still Has Spiritual Meaning

How often have you heard the statement that Christmas has lost its meaning?

The contention is that Christmas has become merely an excuse for merchants to sell and a time for buyers to make up for their thoughtlessness of the year by buying gifts.

In other words, the insistence is that the selfless symbols of the Christ child and Santa Claus have been replaced by the dollar.

We disagree. Not on the grounds that businesses don't do their best to put their best feet forward through advertising and displays to bring buyers to their stores. That's the nature of the free-enterprise system. They do that all year.

And it's not because the buyer doesn't often feel he has a kindness to repay or a fence to mend.

But generally, human feelings haven't changed. The means for expressing those feelings have become more abundant.

The man in the general store a century ago sold more candy and giggles at Christmas than he did the rest of the year. But his stock of supplies was limited, so doting relatives supplemented his meager stores with hand-carved play guns and home-made dolls for the children. The adults may have bought a bolt of cloth or made a buckskin jacket for a friend or loved one. But in any case, the purpose was to express in a material way the feeling of love and friendship which is part of the Christmas season.

How has that picture changed now? The marketplace has become a thousand times bigger and more efficient. Love and friendship are still vital factors, but the material

expression is now unlimited in a marketplace which reflects a healthy free - enterprise economy. It's no longer necessary to carve a play gun or make a doll by hand. No hand work can match the qualities of the products which have spewed forth from our magnificent machines.

But just because you can buy them from a marketplace which is ready to sell them doesn't make the thought of giving any more selfish. The eyes of the givers as well as receivers light up with as much joy as they did a century ago.

It's a happy time of giving and receiving—and the marketplace hasn't changed that. If anything, Santa Claus' workshop has become more efficient.

As for taking "Christ out of Christmas," as is so often glibly stated, this, too, is highly questionable. The Three Wise Men and the Babe in the Manger are more popular in word, song, music and picture than ever. Christianity is going through the throes of a great change in many fundamental matters, but spiritual meaning of that night 1963 years ago is still as deeply moving as it was a century ago.

Perhaps modern man is becoming too preoccupied with the "sweet smell of success" and the quest for the dollar, but there's still no sleek, machine-made salvation for his soul or time payment plan to assure prolonging his spirit. What stronger evidence could we have of this recognition than the continued observance of Christmas as a time to celebrate the birth of Christ with the philosophy of "peace on earth, good will toward men?"

---And This Is Just the Warm Up



Courts Practice Rod Sparing Too



By ROBERT C. RUARK

My posterior still tingles when I remember a brisk indoctrination by my elders when I was a child, and thought as a roughneck. In order to persuade me to put aside my childish things, a certain number of house rules were engraved on my mind, conscience and backbone.

One thing I remember most vividly was the tee shot my Aunt May could effect with a swinging slap of the best left hand since Benny Leonard. Aunt May owned marvelous reflexes. One small sin and pow! Right on the old antenna.

My ma was a fair hand with the back-woodshed course in behavior, as well, but what got to me most deeply was the psychological warfare as practiced by my maternal grandfather and my father. Disapproval by either of my scandalous conduct was accompanied by a kind of wintery coyness which denied me the presence of adult fellowship, and that included guns, bird dogs, fishing trips and a status of equality with the grownups.

We had a lot of house rules, come to think of it. "Children shall be seen and not heard at the table" was one of them. "Sir" and "Ma'am" were as automatic as "Thank you" and "Please." Colored folks were to be treated politely at all times. "Uncle" and "Aunt" to the elders, always, and never any juvenile tantrums with the cook.

Common politeness, respect for elders, respect for designated officials, such as teachers, policemen, preachers and such, were inflexible in my young frame. Getting sent home from school was a sin, as was being called before the principal. Skipping Sunday School was always discovered, as was playing hooky from regular school.

I practiced a great many of these against the commonwealth, but not very repetitiously. Aunt May's left hand, the strap behind the woodshed, the leaving the table without supper, the confinement to quarters, the refusal of the right to read, the denial of dog and gun and fish, all conspired to prevent me from becoming a recidivist in wrong doing.

This did not only apply to me, but to most of my friends and relatives as well. If we sinned, we got hit where it hurt. Perhaps none of us have become President, but most of us have managed to stay out of jail, pay taxes, raise families, and not dodge such unpleasant duties as the draft or jury service.

It occurs to me that I observe a great absence of "Please" and "Thank you" among the current crop, particularly in the metropolitan areas. Whether this has any link up with modern rowdiness, juvenile irresponsibility, and seemingly nonsensical crime, I cannot prove, but I think there's a core of connection somewhere.

But I do know that a great deal of what seems to be unnecessary lenience is shown to young folk, in the name of new-fangled paternal indulgence in order not to "blight the personality" of the child. This indulgence came into effect some 20 years back, when every pregnant lady had a dill pickle in one hand and a half-pickle book on child psychology in the other.

I cannot but feel that a lack of early respect for law and order, enforced by punishment for infraction, has a deal to do with later flouting of authority.

failure to learn to read, and the general aimless facelessness of the kids who seem constantly in trouble.

And the courts, generally, have been as indulgent — or lazy — as the parents who never discouraged wrongdoing from the early days. This view is at least shared by one hard brain, an old naval comrade of

mine who now is known as Judge Robert Gardner of the Superior Court of Orange County, Calif. Judge Gardner, writing for the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, says that putting sophisticated young criminals in the same category as juveniles who are "dependent or neglected children" is just plain damn silly. The old lieutenant commander continues:

"It is submitted that treating such an offender as a misunderstood child merely because of the short time which has elapsed between birth and crime is completely unrealistic. Handling all persons under 18 as naughty children is ridiculous."

Chronological age is no indication of an experience factor. The 200-pound "yoot," aged 16, who stabs a stranger or kicks an old lady to death for fun is just as logical a contender for the capital prize as if he were 19. The willful car stealers in our better suburbs quite often do not even own drivers' licenses.

Something, somewhere, is terribly wrong. In sparing the rod we have certainly spoiled the child, and we have compounded the felony in the courtroom by condoning misbehavior ranging from vandalism to rape and murder as the whimsical self-expression of a misunderstood child.

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25 YEARS AGO
Dec. 2, 1938
The U.S. Army will have better guns, and vehicles will outlast horses and mules, according to a Washington dispatch.

A new streamlined infantry regiment, smaller but far more mobile and harder hitting than its world war counterpart, received War Department approval. Moving by motor trucks and armed with semi-automatic rifles, it is intended to become a major unit in the high speed army on wheels which is being developed to keep pace with post war trends.

Limited receipts and virtual no demand kept the turkey market nominal. Resale quotations were erratic. Prices remained 20 cents for toms and 22 cents for hens.

10 YEARS AGO
Dec. 2, 1953
Ground was scheduled to be broken for the five basic buildings of the new \$1 million dollar Seventh-day Adventist Academy near Milo. The site is a 447-acre tract on Highway 227 about 17 miles east of Canyonville.

Mayor W. O. Wagner presented new plans for a new City Hall at the Oakland City council meeting, but action on streets took up most of the meeting.

WHITE HOUSE SWAMPED
WASHINGTON (UPI) — The White House has been swamped with mail since the death of President John F. Kennedy.

Mrs. Kennedy's press secretary, Pamela Turnure, said Friday that about 180,000 letters and 50,000 wires have come in so far for the President's 34-year-old widow and family.

-In The Day's News-

By FRANK JENKINS

Hijackers seized a twin-engine Venezuelan Convair on a domestic flight recently, hurled pro-communist leaflets over the city of Ciudad Bolivar and then forced the crew to land the liner in Trinidad. This terrorist incident came as police combed Caracas for Lieutenant Colonel James K. Chenault, a U. S. Army officer kidnapped by pro-Castro forces of Venezuelan President Romulo Betancourt.

Bomb blasts shook Bogota and other Colombian cities as communists reacted against U.S.-Latin American maneuvers off the Colombian coast.

Testing out our new President?

Safe guess: There will be a lot of testing out of him to see how far it will be safe to go.

From Washington:

Some 350 Bible-carrying, sign-waving pickets paraded in front of the White House here demanding the return of the Bible and prayers to the public schools. The Thanksgiving Day protest against the Supreme Court's prayer decisions apparently was organized by religious groups across the country.

In the center of the group, about 50 of the pickets carried a long banner bearing the inscription "We Want the Bible Back in the School Rooms of America."

Maybe we'd better get this Supreme Court decision straight in our minds. It is based on the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which reads:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an ESTABLISHMENT of religion, or prohibiting the FREE EXERCISE thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the Government for redress of grievances."

It doesn't PROHIBIT the reading of the Bible. It merely prohibits a law REQUIRING the reading of the Bible.

The Bible is Great Literature. No one can be anything but BETTER OFF for reading it. All the Supreme Court de-

cision does is to forbid COMPELLING the people to read the Bible.

One fears that these pickets are crackpots — of whom we have too many already.

The Thanksgiving holiday's strangest traffic accident:

As a California highway patrolman started up onto the Dumbarton bridge south of San Francisco yesterday, he saw a car lying upside down in the shallow water. He had a hunch that somebody might be inside it. So he stripped off his clothes, waded out through the bone-chilling water, found a handle and pulled a door open, reached inside, felt a human arm and started to pull out what he thought was a corpse.

To his amazement, the "corpse" struggled out of his grasp, popped up out of the water and began gasping for air.

What had happened? The car had skidded off the bridge approach and turned over in the water. When it turned over, it TRAPPED A POCKET OF AIR. By bending his head back, the driver was able to breathe this air. It kept him alive until the cop came into the picture — about 40 minutes after the accident.

Truth sometimes is stranger than fiction. If a fiction writer had invented that situation, his readers would have scoffed and said it was TOO imaginative.

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The Editor's Corner

By Charles V. Stanton

Collins Deserved Award By Izaak Walton League

Charles S. (Chuck) Collins, former supervisor of Douglas County's park department, has received the Beaver Award of the Oregon Division of the Izaak Walton League of America. This is one of Oregon's most coveted conservation awards. It is a recognition of special and outstanding service in the field of conservation.

The Beaver Award was authorized by the Oregon IWL ten years ago. It is represented by a three-inch bronze beaver, sitting erect on a hardwood pedestal, five inches tall, and with a bronze plate, three by three and one-half inches, bearing the name of the person to whom the award is made and stating the field in which the recipient acted.

Collins was honored in Portland recently at the convention of the State Division IWL. And it was a well deserved honor.

Few men in Oregon have contributed more to conservation facilities and practices. Presently serving as executive vice president of the California-Oregon Recreational Development Association (CORDA), he is engaged in an activity that could well become one of the most important things ever done in this state to promote economy through recreational development.

Collins makes his home at 123 W. Libburn, Roseburg, although his business office and CORDA headquarters is in Medford.

He came to Oregon from Nebraska in 1933 with the Civilian Conservation Corps. He was trained in civil engineering at University of Nebraska. He found private employment with the Forest Service, Oregon Highway Commission and Bonneville Power Administration prior to the Second World War, which he entered as a reserve officer. He served in the Pacific Theater and was advanced to the rank of Captain. Following the war he assisted in re-organizing the Roseburg company of the Oregon National Guard.

He entered business with a logging supply concern, in which he was a partner, but sold out his share of the business to devote his full time to the newly organized county park department, at that time the first of its kind in the Pacific Northwest.

He served as director, secretary and president of the Roseburg Rod and Gun Club. In 1958 he became president of the Oregon Wildlife Federation, being elected for three terms.

The Oregon Wildlife Federation and the Oregon Division of the Izaak Walton League of America have a liaison committee. This committee is made up of leaders from each of the two organizations and meets regularly to coordinate the work of the two groups. Collins was an original member of that committee, which he still serves. He also was one of the organizers, and served two years as

The Almanac

Today is Monday, Dec. 2, the 336th day of 1963 with 29 to follow.

The moon is approaching its last phase.

The evening stars are Jupiter, Saturn and Venus.

On this day in history:

In 1859, John Brown was hanged in the public square at Charlestown, Va., for his raid on Harper's Ferry in October.

In 1952, President-elect Dwight Eisenhower arrived in Korea to fulfill his campaign promise to visit the nation in hopes of ending the war.

A thought for the day—U. S. Naval Officer Chester Nimitz said: "A ship is always referred to as 'she' because it costs so much to keep one in paint and powder."

Daily Bible Reading By Roseburg Ministerial Association

Scripture: Matthew 5:17-26

Jesus, the King of His Kingdom, continues His teachings concerning the way of living by Kingdom subjects. This describes in simple language the principles which ought to prevail in the lives of men after they come, by faith, into the Kingdom of heaven. In these verses today we deal with the Kingdom way of righteousness.

The Kingdom and the Law—Many of the Jews in Jesus' day were very sure that some "revolutionary destructionist" or a "reactionary conservative" would come along and try to do away with Law of Moses. Jesus declared He was neither. He put, instead, Kingdom righteousness on a higher plane. We may profess righteousness but this claim will be believed as we in simplicity live right.

The Kingdom and Murder—The work of Jesus was to teach the true spirit of life. One cannot be full of the spirit of hatred and envy and be directed by the Spirit of the Kingdom. Christ died for all and we should hold all men in the esteem that our King desires. Our personal affairs need to be kept in proper order. If they are not we cannot have genuine worship — it will be out of tune.

An old Negro working in the engine room of a Great Lakes steamer was heard singing:

"Oh, you gotta get a glory In the work you do; A Hallelujah Chorus In the heart of you."

"Paint, or tell a story, Sing, or shovel coal; But you gotta get a glory Or the job lacks soul."

The old Negro had the answer! The glory of God in the Bible means revelation of God's character. This must be seen in every walk of life if we please our King.

Lester Stone, Pastor First Southern Baptist Church

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