

MIRACLE PLAYS STILL FLOURISH

Religious Spectacles of
the Early Church Pop-
ular in Mexico

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Dec. 8. (AP)—Miracle plays, the religious spectacles of the early church which, centuries ago, were of modern drama, still flourish in this vicinity and in parts of old Mexico.

The plays, usually given by the Mexican or Indian residents, were brought to the southwest by Spanish priests hundreds of years ago and have been kept alive since that time, almost in their original state.

Miracle plays were introduced in the medieval days after the church had banned Greek and Roman drama. Usually they are merely illustrative tableaux of biblical stories, but in time they developed speaking parts and, eventually, the modern play was evolved.

"Los Pastores" or "The Shepherds," is one of the most common. It is a play said to have been written by a Franciscan missionary and it is most common in communities settled by the Franciscan fathers. Usually it is given at Christmas time.

The play opens with a chorus, reminiscent of the Greek theater. The chorists sometimes take part in the action, but usually they merely interpret the action to the audience. The play opens with a meeting of the patriarchs to select a husband for the Virgin Mary. Joseph is selected and the scenes depict the biblical story of the visitation and the birth of Christ.

A villain is added. The medieval author, however, added a villain to the play. Lucifer, leader of the angels that were expelled from heaven, holds frequent conferences with his confederates, Satan, Sin and Leviathan, and seek to block the coming of the Messiah, but they are circumvented each time by the angel Michael.

Lucifer, in some versions of the play, offers comedy relief because of his long tail, which is sometimes made of firecrackers. As his plans are finally frustrated a stagehand touches a match to his tail and he vanishes in a cloud of sulphurous and thunderous smoke. The old miracle play stage frequently had a hall to one side of it, a trap door, or a large flimsy board, into which the defeated villain vanished. Many of the presentations of "Los Pastores" preserve this by dropping Lucifer through a trap door through which red smoke rises.

HILGARD PERSONALS

HILGARD (Special)—Mrs. Jennie Holmerson, who is working for Mrs. J. A. McDonald at her farm home near La Grande, was home for the week end.

Joe Young, who is working in the valley, was home over the week end.

Harry Cowell and Mrs. Blazdale were all night visitors at the Frank Sanford home recently. They were hunting horses in this vicinity.

Nolan and Thelma Wilson and Ellis and June Scott are out of school this week because of the chickenpox.

Mr. Lyons has gone to Rieti, where he will be employed as O. W. H. and N. operator. He has been working here for the past three months. Mrs. Georgia Baber is working here in his place for a while.

Joe Cox left Thursday night for Camp Lewis.

John Thornbrue and Carl Salling are cutting wood on the Guy Thornbrue place.

NEW GAS MASKS

BERNE—The Swiss army now has gas masks equipped with reservoirs of oxygen that will last 14 hours.

Fifty years ago a fellow was never disappointed with dates—no rat thro in those days.

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A Word With the Old Folks

Elderly People Are Learning Importance of Good Elimination.

IN the later years of life there is apt to be a slowing up of the bodily functions. Good elimination, however, is just as essential to the old as to the young. Many old folks have learned the value of Doan's Pills when a stimulant diuretic to the kidneys is required. Scanty or burning passages of kidney secretions are often signs of improper kidney function. In most every community are scores of users and endorsers who acclaim the merit of Doan's. Ask your neighbor!

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HEALTH

OPERATIONS SAFER TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE

By A. M. Waterman, M. D.,
F. A. C. P., Chicago
Member, Gorgas Memorial Inst.
Only operations of necessity were the rule a few years ago. They were undertaken only when a distant hazard to life would result unless intervention was carried out.

Conditions today are rapidly changing. Due to great advances in skill and improvements in mechanical devices surgery has become safer and surer. The studies of chemists and anesthetists have refined the various means of abolishing consciousness of pain in connection with operations and many are performed daily when conditions are not such as to threaten existence.

The object is to improve health, to add to the enjoyment of life, and to prevent a real emergency operation at a later date. In fact there are probably more operations performed today that are optional than there are those which are compulsory.

In a sudden emergency, a life and death condition, there may be no place for the internist. But in all operations of election there is ample time and opportunity to place the patient in the best possible condition to withstand the ordeal, and there is definite work cut out for the internist.

There should be complete cooperation on his part with the surgeon and the anesthetist, because medicine is in possession of a great deal of information which is of help in placing a patient in a condition that will enable him to pass through the ordeal triumphantly.

A rigid examination of all patients will show that about one-third are poor surgical risks, and the results of haphazardly operating under such conditions is one of the reasons for the old saying that the operation was a success but the patient died.

The preparation of a patient to receive an anesthetic for a surgical operation is in reality more important than the post-operative care. If there has been ideal pre-operative attention, there will be less need for rigorous post-operative management.

In addition to the comfort of the patient in the post-operative days and his general health during the following convalescence there is an economic problem to be considered, that is, the number of days in the hospital.

It is not enough for the patient to recover from the operation. Attention must be paid to the reduction of his hospital days and nursing hours as well as to his degree of comfort during this period.

Everything is by comparison and few patients have had previous experience with operations. If they

OUT OUR WAY



HEROES ARE MADE—NOT BORN.

are weeks in recovering normal health, they believe it was due to the serious condition they were in. To guard against any miscarriage of treatment requires the closest cooperation of all concerned.

In the early days of modern surgery, the surgeons were all physicians, who added surgery to their previous experience in general medicine, whereas the training surgeons receive today causes them to become highly skilled in their profession. By the very perfection of this surgical technique they are deprived of the opportunity of prolonged observation of any particular patient.

Place confidence in your family physician. Permit him to advise you when it is necessary to call in a specialist. His co-operation is absolutely necessary, for he is the only one who, from long experience, knows your physical peculiarities.

By Williams

WALLOWA PERSONALS

WALLOWA, Ore. (Special)—Segil Hinch, a farmer of the Diamond Prairie section, has been busy the past few weeks, butchering and delivering meat to some of the camps in the north woods.

A number of farmers in this part of the county have been improving their poultry houses this fall. Many are enclosing the front of the houses and scratch sheds, with various makes of glass substitute.

James Weaver and wife, of Enterprise, have been staying at the F. A. Downing home at Leap, the past week.

L. V. Lathrop, a farmer of the Leap section, was a business visitor here the first of the week.

The epidemic of measles which broke out here some two weeks ago, has spread considerably, during the past week many of the pupils of the grade and high schools have been confined to their homes with the disease. Fortunately the greater part of the cases are reported to be of rather mild form, however, one or two cases are said to have developed pneumonia following the measles.

C. F. Harmon was an Enterprise business visitor last week.

Most of the dirt roads in this community are still in fairly good condition despite the storms which occurred during the past several weeks. The road between here and Maxville, over which a large amount of travel passes each day, is said to be getting pretty bad in several places, especially in the further end of the road.

F. A. Downing was a Leaside visitor the latter part of the week.

Mrs. John Couch, of Leap, was a visitor here recently, taking her daughter home with her, they having taken down with the measles.

Harmon Bros., of Leap, delivered some veal calves to Enterprise last week.

Frank Walker has been at Enterprise the past week doing jury duty.

Mrs. J. B. Gastin has been on the

sick list but is reported to be somewhat improved at this time. Many other persons over the county are still suffering from severe colds. Roy Gastin was a business visitor here the latter part of the week. Some of the Frank Walker children have been quite ill the past week suffering from colds. Sam and G. C. Meek were visitors here the first of the week.

Here's Your Chance to "Royalize" Your Home

And Save \$18.50

The Royal Electric Cleaner not only gets all the surface litter and deeply imbedded dirt from rugs, but it also cleans bare floors—wood, concrete, linoleum—gets into the corners and up to the baseboard—goes under furniture and radiator—and is light enough to carry easily all over the house for draperies, walls, drawers, mattresses, motor cars, etc. A twenty minute demonstration will prove its superiority. Surprisingly small down payment reserves a Royal for Christmas.



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By Walter Hackett

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