

NEWS of the CHURCHES

Nazarene Church Evangelists Will Hold Meetings

Rev. and Mrs. Ira Dumas Will Start Fifteen Day Preaching Engagement Sunday.

Rev. Ira Dumas and wife will begin special evangelistic services Sunday, Dec. 27, at the Church of the Nazarene, and continue until Jan. 10. They are graduates from the North Pacific Evangelistic Institute and are singers as well as preachers. The public is invited to attend the meetings, which will be held every evening at 7:30.

Sunday services at the Church of the Nazarene include Sunday school at 9:45, preaching at 11 o'clock, with a sermon by Rev. Ira Dumas, preceded by a song service by both the evangelists.

The junior meeting will be held at 3 o'clock, and in the evening at 6:30 the young people's meeting will be held. An evangelistic service will continue at 7:30, conducted by Rev. and Mrs. Dumas.

A fine Christmas program was presented by the Sunday school of the church on Tuesday, and a full house enjoyed the event.

First Methodist Episcopal Church and Spring

Mrs. J. T. Lillard will be the soloist, singing a selected number at the 11 o'clock service next Sunday. The pastor will speak from the subject "How Readest Thou?"

At 7 o'clock in the evening the joint worship service of young people, led by one of the Epworth Leaguers will be held. The league discussion group will be led in their service by Frank Tyler.

The adults will be led in a study of the parable, "The Rich Fool," by the pastor.

Sunday church school will meet in regular session at 9:45, with E. S. Burnett, superintendent.

Presbyterian Church

"We are on the threshold of a new year. We do not know what the year holds for us, but we are not afraid of it. From very ancient times the first day of the year has been observed as a holy festival. Few persons begin the new year without some sort of hope that it shall be the happiest yet, closing it with the conviction or disappointment that the year has been about the same as other years," says Rev. J. George Walz, who at the Sunday morning service hour, 11:00 o'clock, will endeavor to help those who are present to think constructively of "Our Yesterdays and Tomorrow."

Central Church of Christ

Services at the Central Church of Christ Sunday will be the last of the church year as well as the fiscal year. The pastor, Paul De F. Mortimore, will bring a New Year's message at the 11 o'clock hour. The communion will be served at this hour and there will be special music.

Bible school sessions are at 9:45. During recent months the Bible school

has steadily grown until it now averages well above 200. There is a class for every age and every school grade and the most up-to-date and practical equipment and literature is used.

Miss Dorothy Smutz is superintendent of this school. At 6:30 p. m. the four C. E. societies meet for discussion and study. There are now more than 100 members in this combined group. A hearty invitation is extended to all who care to attend. At 7:30 p. m. the popular Christian church orchestra will be heard in a prelude concert. The song service will be led by the choir and Mr. Mortimore will bring an evangelistic sermon and the topic will be "Not By Might Nor By Power Nor By Water But By My Spirit Saith the Lord."

Methodist Church, South

Preaching services will be held at 11 o'clock Sunday at the Methodist Church, South, preceded by Sunday school at 9:45 under the supervision of William Elam.

The evening league meeting will be at 8 o'clock, followed by the evening service at 7 o'clock.

First Church of Christ, Scientist

Services will be held Sunday at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. at First Church of Christ, Scientist at First and Washington streets.

"Christian Science," will be the subject of the Lesson-Sermon in all churches of Christ, Scientist, on Sunday, Dec. 27.

The Golden Text will be, "The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." (Isa. 40:5).

Among the citations which will comprise the Lesson-Sermon will be the following from the Bible: "Pray the Father, and He shall give you another comforter, that He may abide with you for ever: Even the Spirit of Truth." (John 14:16, 17).

Sunday school is held at 9:45 o'clock for pupils up to the age of 20 years.

The Wednesday evening service which includes testimonies of healing is at 8 o'clock.

The reading room in the West-Jackson building is open every day except Sundays and legal holidays from one to 4:30 o'clock.

The public is cordially invited to attend the church services and visit and use the reading room.

Sermonette

Edited by

Harriet R. MacDonald

(For Christmas)

And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. (Matt. 28:20).

It has been told so often and so well, the beautiful Christmas story. Sometimes it seems to us as though there is nothing more to say about it, and that all that we can do is to repeat again the stories of that time when Heaven drew so close to earth that men were able to share with the angels the gladness of the Incarnation!

Time and time again the same beautiful story that was enacted nineteen hundred years ago in Canaan has been reenacted in the Canaan of men's hearts.

In these individual Christmas experiences the Lord is born in the obscurity of the manger of our hearts because individually we are not ready to give Him the royal welcome that is His due, any more than the world was ready for Him at His first advent. And now, as it was then, it is the angels who are with us who rejoice wholeheartedly at His coming. It is they who sing in our hearts; we only hear the singing and get a momentary realization of the peace and goodwill that His coming will bring permanently into our hearts later on. And yet the memory of His vision will never fade away and it will be a source of encouragement to us always.

As the Wise Men came to the Lord in Bethlehem, so out of the past enter into our minds the tender and inno-

cent thoughts and feelings of our childhood. These recognize Him and rejoice in His coming and delight to devote to His service all of their treasures. Simeon and Anna too, may be found in our hearts at the time of our inner Christmas. They too recognize Him. They are the hopes that we have cherished, the hopes for just this beautiful peace that His coming brings to us; and hope willingly dies when certainty takes its place.

There is no word in any Bible story of Christmas that has not happened over and over again in people's hearts. There is no Christmas hymn that we will sing this coming Christmas season that we may not know that somewhere someone is singing it with a heart bursting with joy because he is realizing for the first time in what a beautiful way the words are true today. Christmas has ceased to be for him only a remembrance of long ago happenings. Wonderful things did happen in the long ago, and without them his happy experiences of today could not have come to him, but he begins to catch a glimpse of the great truth that every action of the Lord is an everlasting action. He was born into the world, not for time, but for eternity. He was born, not that He might be present in the world only for thirty-three years, but that He might be present in it forever, that He might be literally Immanuel, God with us.—M. S. S.

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A Christmas Message

By Bishop W. P. Remington

In all that God has created there is Divine intention, but because the Almighty in His wisdom and Father love chose to make man a free agent, there is a possibility of changing good into evil, and happiness into defeat and despair. The disobedience of man is the price God paid for creating us such as we are; and sin, suffering and misdeeds are the price we must pay for becoming human. Every great event or experience in our lives presents this challenge for good or evil. So the commemoration of any great day is either pure joy or dark despair, real happiness or unholy carousal.

The observance of Christmas stands above all other holidays as this kind of a challenge to us as individuals and to the world at large. It may mean to us love, peace and joy, the happy remembrance of what God has done for us and will do in us. On the contrary, it may bring us nothing but festivity, riotousness and the selfish enjoyment of what we receive from others. The Star of Bethlehem always shines and points to where the Young Child is cradled in a manger. To the shepherds it heralded the dawn of a new day, the coming of peace and good will, but to Herod it meant a challenge to his own authority, to his wicked way of living. To the Wise Men the star shining in the east called them to an arduous journey that they might lay their best treasures at His feet; but to Herod it whispered the destruction of a rival. The star either fights for us or against us, and which side we take determines the good or the evil we get out of Christmas.

Never in our time, or perhaps in the history of civilization was this issue so clearly drawn as in this year of our Lord nineteen thirty-one. In the past a sense of well being and of contentment with things as they were, hid from our eyes the miseries of others and dulled our ears to the rumbling of the economic and social upheavals which was started with the great World War. Now the handwriting on the wall is very plain. Selfish living, covetousness and greed, have brought forth their ugly deformed children, poverty, unemployment and misdeeds. In a land of infinite resources, and where our barns are filled with plenty, and our gold and credit are still the strongest among the nations, our fruits lie rotting on the ground, our grain depreciates in elevators, and our machinery deteriorates from rust and idleness. All this tremendous power for good and the plenty of God's good earth, and yet the miseries and the poverty so many will suffer this Christmas day!

And all because, where the star shines, some follow it in order to rob instead of to offer their treasures to the New Born King; to destroy a rival instead of to worship God in the Child that is born.

Is there any thinking man so utterly blind in these times that he can not see that the root trouble in all this evil today is greed? We do not need any economic experts to tell us

that. But is the remedy as clear as the diagnosis? If it was, all the churches in all the world would not provide a capacity to hold the throngs of devout worshippers of the New Born King. Our age is still blind to its deepest need, namely, that it must learn how to overcome selfishness through worship of the Christ, and drive out greed by offering our best treasures to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The human spirit is so constituted that it must have loyalties, it must worship something or somebody. Every one of us must serve some end, we will either be servants of God, Man, or Things. The World war should have taught us what can happen to Man and to Things, when hate, lust and greed, plus the cunning instruments of man's own creating rule among us. We foolishly give ourselves to things and they crumble in our hands, we worship man and he tumbles from his pedestal. What is there left but God?

All of our peace pacts, our dis-

armament agreements, our economic adjustments and social remedies will be nothing but striving and futility without the coming of a new sort of Christmas. The Christ Child must be taken into our hearts. His good will must change our evil ones, and this miracle cannot happen to us individually nor to the world, at large until we follow the shepherds and the Wise Men to Bethlehem, and in adoration lay our treasures at His feet.

Great kindness and charity will be released this year as we feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Bitter thoughts also will enter the hearts of the underprivileged and unemployed as they read of the surfelting and drunkenness of those who have the price. There, it is, right in this strange world of ours, good and evil alongside one another. Which shall it be for you, my friend? You cannot shield the issue.

Christmas is everywhere; to come a forerunner of heaven, to others a very real hell. What makes it or unmakes it? Just our attitude towards it;

whether we see the star and run to adore Him; or we gorge our food, gloat over our presents and forget God's poor and the outstretched hands of the Little Christ Child.

For every one of you I wish not happiness and prosperity, but joy and love and peace. I would ask you not what you have received, but what you have given. I would wish for you not more health to your body, but new life to your soul—for this is Christmas and the stars sing and the heavens declare the glory of God. Christ is born.

O come let us adore Him.

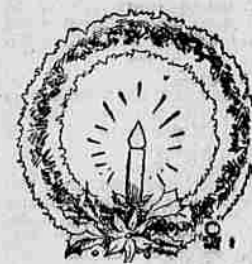
MURDER CHARGE FILED

TULSA, Okla., Dec. 21 (AP)—A charge of murder was filed in district court here today against Joe King, 47, trucking contractor, accused of killing Mrs. Hattie Dowe, 41, a beauty shop operator, yesterday.

Mrs. Dowe, a divorcee, was beaten to death with an electric iron, after which King surrendered.

That New Joy and Happiness May Be Yours This Christmas and Throughout the New Year

Is our wish to all of our patrons and those with whom it has been our pleasure to work.



WESTERN STATES GROCERY COMPANY

Wholesale Distributors of Nationally Known Foods

Merry Christmas

As another Christmas day rolls 'round we think back on our many years of pleasant business associations with you, and send you our friendliest seasonal greetings. May your happiness be as certain as our wishes are sincere.

FRANK CLEAVINGER

211 Depot St.

Phone Main 151



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

IT IS our sincere pleasure to wish you a Merry Christmas and extend our greeting with heartfelt appreciation of your friendship during the past year.

La Grande Milling Co.

HILGARD PERSONALS

By Mrs. Wilmerh Weimer (Observer Correspondent)

HILGARD, Ore. (Special)—People in the vicinity of Hilgard and along the Grande Ronde river welcome the break in the weather. Although there has been very little wind several nights, the thermometer has registered below zero, the coldest night being 12 below.

Mr. and Mrs. Emory Ferguson moved from their home in Hilgard to a new home at the Glover section Monday morning in order to be closer to Mr. Ferguson's work.

A surprise party honoring Fred Rees was given Friday evening at his home with 12 guests present. The evening was spent visiting and playing pinochle. High score at cards was won by Mr. Rees and low score by M. A. Stearns.

Mrs. Frank Sanford and son, Gerald, who have been visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Emory Ferguson, returned to her home at Weston Thursday evening.

Mrs. M. A. Stearns and son, Jim, returned Monday morning from Nampa, Idaho. Mrs. Stearns broadcast from the radio station in Nampa Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Bartness returned to their home on the Grande Ronde river after spending several days tending Mr. Bartness' cattle on a ranch in the valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Ferguson, of Pendleton, were visitors at Hilgard Thursday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred DeBole, of the Mt. Emily logging camp, were La Grande visitors Friday afternoon.



May the day bring you and yours the peace and contentment of a good old fashioned Christmas and may the star of peace and contentment continue to shine for you throughout many, many days and many another joyous Christmas. Thus we express OUR wish for YOU on this Christmas Day.

La Grande National Bank

Member Federal Reserve—Resources over 2 Million

"FORTY-FOURTH YEAR OF FRIENDLY SERVICE"