

# The Mid-Valley Extolls the Joyous Yuletide -- and a Merry Christmas to Everyone!



## IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

In Judea 20 centuries ago the government furnished no birth certificates. No newspapers were published in the little town of Bethlehem in which items of births and deaths could be recorded. So it was not for many decades afterwards that written record was made of the birth of a son Jesus, to Mary and Joseph in the Judean village.

Mark, the first reporter of the gospel story, and John, the last, do not relate the narrative of the nativity. The intermediate writers, Matthew and Luke, do. Except as to the facts of birth and immediate parentage, the two accounts do not correspond; and the genealogies are quite different. Matthew tells the story of the coming of the wise men who had seen a bright star in the east, of the vengeance of Herod, the flight into Egypt, and the family's later settling in Nazareth of Galilee when Judea still appeared unsafe.

Luke places Joseph and Mary in Nazareth before the birth, going to Bethlehem in response to the order of Caesar Augustus that "all the world" be enrolled or taxed. Luke tells how for lack of room in the inn the new-born babe was placed in a manger, and how angels appeared to shepherds in the fields at night. This narrator does not mention the flight into Egypt but reports the return to Galilee after observance of religious rites in Jerusalem.

Yet this birth, of uncertain date, occurring to a humble family in an obscure village, is the most famous in all the world and in all history. Today is its accepted anniversary and all over the world the birth of the child Jesus is celebrated. Even those who may not worship him as Son of God observe the holy day; and the spirit of the Christian's Christmas permeates the world.

Though biographers may not agree in details and though theologians may not agree in defining the nature of Jesus Christ, his life, his teachings and his sacrifice have become the inspiration of humankind. Fumbling, weak, discordant humankind recognize him as the interpreter of Divinity in the highest conception yet given to man's intelligence. Though they fall far short of the ideal they still cherish it.

And Christmas, covered though it be with tinsel and goods, is a significant holy festival, in which the miracle of birth and the purity of childhood loosen the cords of adult hearts, and the mind gets a fresh view of the relation of man to God.

### There Was a Santa!

Handing out presents to 800 children at the Elks lodge yesterday were (left to right behind table)—U. F. Frahm, Joe Kruger, committee chairman, E. G. Burrell and Santa himself. At the right are a part of the group as they entered the Elks temple after a theatre party. (Photos by Don Dill, Statesman staff photographer).

## Pageants Exemplify Season

The mid-valley is not lacking in pictorial proof of its reverent observance of the Yuletide.

At the upper left are students of Salem Heights school in the manger scene of their three-act Christmas pageant. Front row left to right are Dickie Bandy, Robert Bayne, Carol Margri and Ruth Barnsbarger; (left second row) Franklin White, Jessie Krater, Colleen Maxwell and Donna Zeh; (left third row) Fred Butler, Buddy Andrews and Jackie Krater; (right front row) Billie Bartlett, Elsie Sims, Karen Sims and James Shaw; (right second row) Marilyn Riewald, Lloyd Gorlore, Sheila Tulare and Dick Anderson; (right third row) Nancy Hageman, Robert Margri and Donnie Smith; (back row left to right) Marjorie Randolph, Gay Blackman, Clara Lou Miles, Marilyn Ferguson, Lucinda Cottman, Lela Krater (Mary), Erna Sims, Charles Hulst (Joseph), Delilla Smith, Carol Hageman and Ann Butler.

At upper right are Bush school students singing of the joyous season at the school's annual tableau. Left to right—Tom Hunt, Donald Agrew, Dillon Miller, Roger Morehead and Fred Balton. (Salem Heights photo by R. M. Evenden; Bush school photo by Don Dill, Statesman staff photographer.)

## Tough on Family Car and Tougher On Santa Claus

BURBANK, Calif., Dec. 24—(AP)—Overcome by Christmas curiosity, six-year-old Jimmy Shepherd and his brother Mike, four, chopped a hole in the top of the family car today so they could get at the wondrous, gaily wrapped packages their father had stored therein. The father, Leslie Shepherd, appeared in time to save the Christmas secret but not the car.

## British Bride May Yet Make Christmas Date

Perhaps Harry Oehler, Silverton veteran, and Irene, the girl he married in England may yet be united on Christmas.

Oehler received word by wire yesterday that his war-bride and their 7-months-old son Leslie, whom his daddy has never seen, were scheduled to arrive at Loughrea field in New York from London last night at midnight. If all goes well, she expects to hop a west-bound plane which should bring her into Portland tonight. The Associated Press reported late last night the plane is due in New York at 10 a.m. (EST) today.

Mrs. Oehler and little Leslie were among 25 GI brides, one bride-to-be and 25 children of former American servicemen who were hastily recruited in London Monday for a transatlantic plane flight to the U.S. as "a Christmas present." The plane took off from London Monday night but was forced to turn back over Ireland because of ocean storms, the wire said.

## C. W. Schmiedecke Killed in Accident On Fog-Filled Road

SILVERTON, Ore., Dec. 24—(AP)—Charles Walter Schmiedecke, 33, Rt. 7, Box 408, Salem, was killed early today when his automobile crashed while he was driving alone from here to his home. Police said the car apparently failed to negotiate a curve on the dense fog where the road parallels the Pudding river. The widow and three children, ages 2 to 6, survive. The body was taken to a Silverton mortuary.

## Snell to Offer Finance Plan Sans New Tax

Gov. Earl Snell said Tuesday he would present to the legislature next month a program for a balanced budget without levying additional taxes.

This would be achieved, he said, by capturing certain surpluses in some state funds. He did not elaborate. The tax study commission recently made public its recommendations for new taxes totaling some \$19,500,000.

The governor said that although a reduction has been made in the budget, there are adequate funds to finance the state's activities including anticipated growth, salary increases and placing in effect the state employees' retirement program. The budget also includes money to finance the basic school support fund authorized at the November election.

The total amount requested for the next biennium is \$50,000,000, but the budget, by eliminating capital outlays and new buildings, was pared to \$40,000,000.

## 75 Routed in Hotel Blaze

MACON, Ga., Dec. 25—(Wednesday)—A general alarm fire which swept through the right wing of the Lanier hotel here shortly before midnight routed 75 guests, some of whom were rescued by firemen who elevated ladders to the upper floors of the six-story structure.

The blaze was brought under control about 1:15 a.m. (EST). Police officials said no one was seriously injured.

The prompt teamwork of an army lieutenant and the hotel's switchboard operator was credited with averting possible disaster. The right wing of the hotel has six floors in front and four in the rear. The roof of this wing caved in.

PORTAL PAY SOUGHT  
CHICAGO, Dec. 24—(AP)—The CIO Textile Workers of America today filed a portal to portal suit against Johnson & Johnson, Chicago manufacturers of surgical dressings, asking \$500,000 in back pay and a like amount in damages.

GUNMEN GET JEWELS  
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 24—(AP)—Two gunmen held up the Nicolls jewelry store on Market street today and escaped with cash, diamonds and rings worth, the owners estimated, between \$20,000 and \$25,000.

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## Little Girl Offers Sight of Right Eye As Christmas Gift

GREENSBORO, N.C., Dec. 24—(AP)—One of the most precious Christmas gifts—the ability to see—was in store for someone on the Christmas eve, the present of six-year-old Margaret Lee Tuttle.

The little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Porter A. Tuttle of nearby Guilford college lost the sight of her right eye last night when a BB shot accidentally discharged by her two-year-old brother rendered the eye useless but left the cornea undamaged.

An operation was performed this morning and tonight the child's eye was in New York in possession of the Eye Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc., where it was rushed by airplane in a special iced container.

## 'Quake Death, Homeless Toll Takes Jump

TOKYO, Wednesday, Dec. 25 (AP)—The officially reported toll of Japan's disastrous earthquake and tidal waves rose to 2890 today, including 1172 known dead. The new figures, announced by the home ministry this morning, marked a jump of nearly 500 over previous reports.

The ministry also said 150,375 were homeless—an increase of 50,000 over previous estimates. Belated reports from Kochi prefecture on hard-hit Shikoku island, and from Honshu's battered Wakayama peninsula, boosted the toll. The new report listed 1172 dead, 1555 injured and 163 missing.

Japanese seismologists meanwhile forecast continuing "after-shocks" for the next two to three months, and said that scientists in the Kochi area had counted 600 separate shocks within two days after Saturday's disaster.

## Flax Acreage Drops But Production Rises

PORTLAND, Dec. 24—(AP)—Oregon flax plantings dropped from 8,000 to 7,600 acres this year, but yield was up 17 per cent to an approximate total of 14,000 tons. The Oregon State college extension service reported today.

## Governor Receives 2000 Yuletide Cards

More than 2000 Christmas cards, addressed to Gov. Earl Snell, had arrived at the executive department here Tuesday, with prospects of another heavy mail Wednesday.

## Services, Reunions Are Set

Church services, family reunions, and the best choice of gifts and toys in several years are providing plenty of activity in Salem on an otherwise quiet Christmas day.

Merchants finished one of the busiest Yuletide seasons on record last night, and for some of them it was the busiest ever recorded.

Christmas trees and outdoor lights were illuminated in several sections of the city until early today, and it was a foregone conclusion that little Jane and Johnny would have the family up well before dawn in those homes which delayed their traditional package-opening until the nocturnal visit of the age-less Santa.

More than 3600 wards of the state of Oregon will participate in turkey dinner today, 2500 at the state hospital and 1100 at the state prison. All of the state buildings are gayly decorated for the holiday.

Replica of the nativity scene in Bethlehem more than 1900 years ago, traditionally on display in Catholic churches from the earliest mass on the feast day, will be the center of interest in Salem's two Catholic churches where solemn high masses will be celebrated at 6:30 this morning. Four later masses are scheduled at St. Joseph's and three others at St. Vincent's.

Services Scheduled  
Four Lutheran churches have scheduled services during the morning while St. Paul's Episcopal church will have its usual Christmas communion service today. No mail deliveries will be made today and the 200 members of the Salem postoffice staff who have handled the holiday business will observe Christmas with their families.

## Accident on 99E Hospitalizes Man

Virgil Galloway of Salem was confined to Salem General hospital last night for treatment of minor injuries incurred when his car figured in a collision on highway 99E at Lancaster drive at about 10:10 p.m.

Investigating state police said that Galloway turned off Lancaster drive onto the highway and swung too far toward the middle of the road causing his car to sideswipe that of Harry E. Conklin, route 7, Salem. Conklin was not injured.

MRS. WILBUR DIES  
PALO ALTO, Calif., Dec. 24—(AP)—Mrs. Ray Lyman Wilbur, wife of the chancellor of Stanford university, died at her campus home today.

## Airliner with 12 Aboard Missing, Crash Reported

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 24—(AP)—Western Airlines reported late tonight that a DC-3 two-engine passenger plane due into San Diego at 7:30 p.m. was unreported at 11 p.m. (PST). The plane was said to be carrying nine passengers and a crew of three.

Spokesmen said the plane was last reported at shortly after 7:30 p.m. over Mt. Laguna, not otherwise identified. At that time, headquarters said, there was no indication the flight was not going well.

Half an hour earlier, the California highway patrol reported that ranchers in the Cameron valley 55 miles east of San Diego had said a plane, supposedly en route from Palm Springs to San Diego on the Western Airlines route, had crashed and burned.

## U.S. Decides Red Ultimatum Legal at Dairen

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24—(AP)—The United States tacitly recognized the legality of continued soviet military control of the Chinese port of Dairen today. Also, a state department spokesman said the Russians acted legally in ordering an American naval vessel to leave Dairen after its authorized 48-hour stay had expired.

But while the soviets were held to be within their technical rights, U.S. senators in Washington spoke out in blunt terms against the Russian action.

"Being right is no excuse for being ill-mannered," said Senator Johnson (D-Colo.).

The American view was disclosed at a news conference at the state department by Press Officer Lincoln White. William H. Newton, an American correspondent, in a dispatch published in this country yesterday, declared that the naval vessel which had called at Dairen with supplies and mail for the American consul general had left the port after receiving a verbal ultimatum from Russian military authorities that if it did not get out within 20 minutes "we will not be responsible for the consequences."

### Weather

	Max	Min	Precip
Salem	46	32	00
Portland	45	29	00
San Francisco	53	49	1.03
Chicago	33	23	00
New York	48	39	00

Willamette river 5.1 feet  
FORECAST from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem: Partly cloudy today and tonight. Highest temperature 45. Lowest 25.

## President Voices Hope for Lasting Peace Next Year

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24—(AP)—President Truman set aglow tonight the lights of Christmas and sounded the hope that 1947 may bring a lasting peace.

At dusk the chief executive walked across the White House lawn to a towering evergreen, turned on the lights of a national Christmas tree and sent a holiday message to his countrymen by radio.

"We have made a good start toward peace in the world," he said. "Ahead of us lies the larger task of making the peace secure."

"The progress we have made gives hope that in the coming year we shall reach our goal. May 1947 entitle us to the benediction of the Master. . . Merry Christmas and may God bless you all."

Tomorrow the president flies to join his family at their home in Independence, Mo.

## Pilgrims Flock to Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM, Wednesday, Dec. 25—(AP)—Approximately 30,000 pilgrims saw Christmas day, 1946, ushered into this tiny birthplace of Christendom today at a pontifical mass which climaxed the most colorful Christmas eve in the memory of veteran Bethlehem authorities. A picture of the pageant, radioed from Bethlehem, appears on page 2 of today's Statesman.

The devout pageant is the traditional climax of Christmas eve celebrations by Christians of the Holy Land. It includes a solemn procession to the manger grotto, in the venerable stone Church of Nativity, erected over the scene of the Saviour's birth.

In the manger is placed an eight-inch wax doll in the figure of an infant boy. It will remain there until January 6, the feast of the Epiphany, which commemorates the arrival of the wise men from the east.

Early in the day great crowds began to assemble in the bright sunlight, and despite the strife which has scourged the Holy Land in recent months, a festive air pervaded the little town.

## Pope Appeals for Stable Peace

VATICAN CITY, Dec. 24—(AP)—Pope Pius XII, declaring Europe even now was in danger of "the flames of new conflicts," appealed today to the world's statesmen to conclude with all possible speed a stable peace which could "save the world from incalculable shocks and disorders."

The pontiff, addressing resident members of the sacred college of cardinals, said the Atlantic charter in some countries today seemed only a counterfeit of what was intended.

But he saw hope for mankind in the development of weapons of mass destruction. Without mentioning the atom bomb specifically, the pope said this new factor, "the might of new instruments of destruction," had brought the need for international agreement sharply into focus and "provides an incentive that was never felt before." He called upon statesmen to remove "dangerous international tensions," to apply "all the forces of your mind and will to give to your work of peace the seal of the true justice," and to guarantee more than a superficial stability in the peace by leaving the way open for adjustments in the future.

He concluded with "a fervent wish" that all listeners might share "the peace of God which surpasseth all understanding."

## Amnesty Speeds Denazification

FRANKFURT, Germany, Dec. 24—(AP)—Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, in a Christmas message to 3000 applauding Germans in historic Roemberg square, announced today an amnesty for 800,000 "little nazis" in the U.S. occupation zone of Germany.

American officials estimated amnesty would enable the denazification program to be completed in 18 months in the U.S. zone. Previously it had been officially estimated the process would take eight years.

The amnesty, which will reduce the number of persons liable to prosecution to about 2,000,000, will apply to all those not listed as major offenders, whose yearly income during the calendar years 1943 and 1945 was less than 3000 marks, and whose taxable property in 1945 did not exceed 20,000 marks.

## Eight Hundred Youngsters Are Guests of Salem Elks Lodge at Annual Fete

