

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Squire

The issue of the Bethlehem Gazette of December 26, Year O had no notice of the birth of a son to Joseph and Mary, late come from Galilee.

It would be a very strange world to Jesus if he returned in flesh today. The mechanical gadgets would be a complete mystery to this one who knew only the simple tools of the carpenter and the husbandman.

He would find plenty to condemn today: Greed, War, Hate, Lust. But he would find much to commend too.

Jesus was called Rabbi, which means Teacher. He would find schools and the teaching of children and youth, extensive schools reaching into years of man's maturity for his higher education.

Jesus was sensitive to childhood, and he would find children loved and nurtured in every home.

Jesus was a healer; and he would find excellent hospitals and skilled physicians and trained nurses. He helped the blind to see, and he would be pleased with our success in

(Continued on editorial page, 4)

2 Drown as Car Skids into Coastal River

ASTORIA, Dec. 24 (AP)—Two persons were drowned here tonight when a car skidded through the rails of an icy bridge and plunged into the Lewis and Clark river.

One man escaped drowning. He was found standing atop the submerged car holding onto a bridge abutment.

He is William McPeeters jr., Astoria. He was treated at St. Mary's hospital here for skull fracture.

Hospital attendants said he told them that his step-father and mother, James Cox, 22, and Ora Cox, 49, were trapped in the car.

The mishap occurred at about 7:30 p.m. The bodies were recovered about three hours later.

The death raised Oregon holiday traffic fatalities to five.

Yule Weather Picture Varies Across Nation

By The Associated Press

The weather bureau Monday night sketched this picture of the nation's Christmas climate:

Fair and colder in New England.

Cloudy, snow and cold in the mid-Atlantic states.

Near normal temperatures and fair to partly cloudy in the south-east.

Snow and cold in the midwest. Some freezing drizzle in the lower Ohio valley and central Illinois.

Fair and cold in the north plains.

Snow in the upper Rockies. Fair and colder than normal in the south plains and southwest. Fair and warm on the gulf coast.

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH



"I feel so benevolent today, I'm not even going to scratch my fleas."

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Solons Denounce U.S. Fliers' Fines As 'Red Blackmail'

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 (AP)—Members of congress denounced Hungary furiously today for levying \$120,000 in fines against four American fliers. They called the fines "blood money," "ransom" and "blackmail," and most of them said payment should be refused.

President Truman, asked by reporters whether he planned any move in the case today, inquired solemnly: "What can you do?" Soviet fighters forced the Americans to land their C-47 cargo plane in communist Hungary November 19. Subsequently a Hungarian military court convicted them of violating the Hungarian border and fined them 360,000 forints (about \$30,000) each, with the alternative of three months in jail.

The Hungarian government announced the fines yesterday, stating it suspected that parachutes, blankets and other equipment in the plane were intended to be dropped to "spies and diversionists active in the people's democracies."

No Action Yet

The state department has not announced any course of action yet. George Abbott, American charge d'affaires in Budapest, conferred with Hungary's deputy foreign minister today but there was no announcement at the end of the meeting.

"We should not pay this international blackmail," Senator Humphrey (D-Minn.) told a reporter angrily.

"We told the Barbary pirates we would not pay one cent of tribute and you should tell the Hungarian government the same thing," the senator said.

Humphrey said he advocates "diplomatic pressures up to and including a break in diplomatic relations" to induce cancellation of the penalties. "This is a case which calls for diplomacy on an eye-for-an-eye basis," he asserted.

Senator Tobey (R-N.H.) said today he believes "we should give them an ultimatum to release these men—or else."

A reporter asked him how far he thought the government should go to effect the release of the fliers.

"I'm not the president," he responded, "but if I were, action would be taken to release those men—whatever action was needed. We have played ducks and drakes long enough, and we should let them know that this is the end."

Senators Hickenlooper (R-Iowa) and Edwin C. Johnson, (D-Colo.) called the action a "shake-down." Rep. Armstrong (R-Mo.) said it would be "unthinkable" to pay the fines.

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 24 (AP)—The Oregon Department of the American Legion will accept contributions to pay the fines of four U. S. airmen convicted of violating Hungary's borders.

The Oregonian suggested editorially today that the \$120,000 fine be raised by public subscription.

Ex-Pen Guard Gets 6 Months

A six-months county jail term was issued Monday to Howard B. Hansen, former state penitentiary guard, after he changed his plea to guilty to a charge of attempting to take drugs to a prisoner.

The sentencing was in Marion county district court.

District Judge Val D. Sloper told the prisoner, after he had pleaded, that Hansen had betrayed the trust of the people of Oregon in his smuggling attempt.

Hansen was arrested last Thursday with seven vials of a drug similar to benzadrine which he told police he was to have sold to an inmate.

Churches Plan Climax to Yule Rites Today

A child that was born in a manger of Bethlehem, Judea, 19 1/2 centuries ago, and the bright star that guided shepherds and kings to the manger are the inspiration for religious services that climax today in Christmas, or the Feast of the Nativity.

Although most churches completed their programs of pageantry, giving and worship by Sunday, the corporate worship is continued today in some, especially the liturgical churches.

The rites in Salem include worship at 6 a. m. in First Congregational church; communion at 10 a. m. at St. Paul's Episcopal; worship at 11 a. m. in Central Lutheran church; festival worship at 10:30 a. m. in Christ Lutheran; festival worship at 11 a. m. in Grace Lutheran; festival service at 10 a. m. in St. John's Lutheran; masses at 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11:15 a. m. and high mass at 10 a. m. at St. Joseph's Catholic church; masses at 6, 7, 9:45 and 11 a. m. and high mass at 8:30 a. m. at St. Vincent dePaul Catholic church.

SALEM PRECIPITATION Since Start of Weather Year Sept. 1

Table with 3 columns: This Year, Last Year, Normal. Values: 22.48, 26.46, 15.68

U. N. Says Allied Prisoners Taken Outside of Korea

PANMUNJOM, Korea, Tuesday, Dec. 25 (AP)—The United Nations Command today charged that the communists had taken allied prisoners of war outside of Korea.

Vice Adm. R. E. Libby, U. N. Command negotiator at the truce talks, told the press, "Your prisoners of war tell us they saw large numbers of United Nations prisoners in China. Can you furnish us with a list of these prisoners of war?"

Second Slide In Cascades Delays Trains

Two northbound Southern Pacific passenger trains are expected to be 13 to 18 hours late arriving in Salem today after a second slide in successive days at Wickabee near Crescent Lake in the Cascade mountains southeast of Eugene.

The new slide Monday, 100 feet long and 15 feet deep, blocked the SP mainline in front of the northbound Klamath train. Behind it the Shasta Daylight was rerouted over the Siskiyou line.

The Klamath, ordinarily due in Salem at 6:40 p. m., is now expected at 1 p. m. today; the Daylight, due last night at 9:50 is expected this morning at 10:30, instead.

This was the official word received from SP at the Salem yard office. There it was reported that a ditcher work train and bulldozers with railroad crews were working through the night in near-zero temperatures to unblock the mainline.

Earlier Monday work crews had restored traffic by clearing the slide which had occurred Sunday.

Besides the holiday delay of passenger trains, two northbound freight trains were held up at Crescent Lake and three other freights, southbound, were being held at Oakridge.

Salem Persons Provide Gifts For Inmates

Salem residents this Christmas have been unusually generous in remembering state institution inmates.

They are receiving many gifts and Tuesday will have Christmas dinner with turkey and all the trimmings.

Eighty children at the state blind school were invited by a nearby restaurant owner to receive their fill of free hamburgers and milk shakes.

A Salem skating rink owner invited the blind children to roller skate and they had the rink all by themselves. Walter Dry, blind school superintendent, said this was the blind children's outstanding sport.

Prison Warden Virgil O'Malley said of his prisoners, a 20-year-old boy, had a serious case of cross-eyes which caused him to become bitter and turn to crime.

A Salem eye doctor examined the boy and then operated and corrected the condition.

The warden said the doctor's service was free.

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Christmas Eve Rescue Frees Illinois Mine Blast Survivor

It's Good to Be Home for Christmas



Among the estimated several hundred Willamette valley servicemen and women visiting at home this Christmas is Cpl. Joseph G. Ehl of Salem. A Korean war veteran, Cpl. Ehl is shown at home with his mother, Mrs. Joseph P. Ehl. (Statesman photo).

1950 Yuletide in Korea Truman Flies Increases GI's Praise of Home; Asserts 1951 Holiday at Home 'Hope Growing'

To the servicemen who spent last Christmas in Korea it seems nothing short of miraculous to be spending this Yuletide at home with their loved ones.

One of those who will have his feet under the family table today is Marine Cpl. Joseph G. Ehl, who arrived Saturday at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Ehl, 2062 McCoy ave.

Cpl. Ehl landed Dec. 12, 1950, in Korea and fought along the central and eastern front in northern Korea. His infantry outfit was regrouping at Masan when the birthday of the Prince of Peace was observed.

He recalls no celebration. "We had a good dinner, though," he remembers. And it was freezing weather—lots colder than at Silverton, for instance, where he attended high school until 1948. He entered the service that year.

After spending more than 11 months in Korea, Cpl. Ehl shipped home. He landed in San Francisco, Calif., December 20. He flew to Portland and arrived home in plenty of time to catch up on his first stateside Christmas shopping in several years.

Arriving home to a closer personal Christmas greeting was another Korean veteran, 20-year-old PFC Edson C. LaValley, 2456 Claude st. PFC LaValley was greeted on his arrival here Saturday, by his wife, Edna, and his eight-month-old son, Mike, whom the soldier had never seen—except by snapshot.

By the time Christmas day, 1950, rolled around LaValley had been in combat since the previous November 1, with an artillery regiment in the 11th marines.

"It was cold and rainy," he recalls. "We lived in tents. We had just returned from fighting in the northern part of Korea. I didn't celebrate much on that Christmas day, but I can still remember the wonderful Christmas dinner."

How will he observe Christmas day? "Just lying around, taking it easy. No excitement. We've got a Christmas dinner planned and that's about all."

"It's sure swell to be home!"

Two Sons Home

A special Christmas is also in order at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Briggs, 505 Madison st., this year with the homecoming of their two sons, Lts. C. M. and Donald Briggs.

It is the first time all have been together on Christmas since 1940. Wives of the navy pilots and the two children of Lt. C. M. Briggs are accompanying them.

For the past two years Don has been stationed in Honolulu while his brother is presently attending the University of California under the navy's program.

Season's Low of 22 Recorded in Salem

Frigid temperatures enveloped Salem Monday, bringing thermometers down to 22 degrees, the lowest this season and marking the coldest day since last January. The temperature was expected to stay in the middle twenties this morning. Rain is predicted for tonight.

Weather table with columns: Max, Min, Precip. Locations: Salem, Portland, San Francisco, Chicago, New York, Williams River.

FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Cloudy today and tonight, with rain late tonight. Slightly warmer, with a high today near 44, and low tonight near 34. Salem temperature at 12:01 today was 24.

Bodies of 119 Miners Taken From Shaft

WEST FRANKFORT, Ill., Dec. 24 (AP)—It was a miracle, a Christmas miracle, residents of this coal-mining town agreed today.

They referred to the almost unbelievable survival of Cecil Sanders, who clung to life through almost 60 hours of an underground explosion, an ordeal in which 119 others perished.

Sanders himself couldn't explain the "miracle." For him it had been a cold and lonely wait in the darkness, 550 feet below the earth's surface.

"Give me some water," were the 44-year-old Sanders' first words when a rescue crew found him at 5:45 a. m.

The blast occurred around 7:30 p. m. (CST) Friday night.

Exhausted, but conscious and coherent, Sanders was found lying on his back behind a thin barricade. Around him were the bodies of eight buddies.

After he had been given a sip of water, Sanders asked the date. He was told it was the day before Christmas.

"This is a wonderful Christmas eve," the bearded and weary miner said.

Later he told officials that he was working near six or eight others when the blast ripped the diggings. They ran about half a mile to an air shaftway.

Temporary Walls

There they wallied themselves off from the poisonous air with a barricade of cloth on a wood frame.

"I lay down and prayed and then relaxed and dropped off to sleep," Sanders related slowly.

"When I woke up I started calling for my buddies but I never got an answer. . . . I got awfully cold down there and my mouth was dry. . . . I feel as though I was asleep until you fellows reached me."

The miner's son, Paul, 23, had spent the night at the morgue. He wanted to be on hand when his father's body was brought in for identification.

He was there when news was flashed that his father was alive. Paul was waiting at the mine when his dad was brought out. They talked as the elder Sanders was given coffee and oxygen.

Eyes Swollen

Mrs. Sanders was waiting at the morgue. Her eyes were swollen. She was wrung her hands as she paced the floor. For her, too, it had been a long wait.

"Hello, honey," Sanders said with a smile.

Through tears she talked to her husband briefly.

"Oh, my God, we've prayed and prayed for this," she sobbed repeatedly. "It's a miracle—a miracle."

A company physician after examining Sanders said there were no visible signs of injury, adding: "He's pretty well chilled but he's not frozen."

Mrs. Sanders told newsmen she had taken down the family Christmas tree, "but it's going back up as soon as I get home."

Yes, she repeated, it was a miracle.

Town Saddened

But Christmas eve was a sad mining town of 12,000. They talked tonight of funerals of the relatives and friends, not of Christmas gifts.

Dogs All Find Homes by Holiday

Christmas business at the Salem pound was pretty doggone good Monday. In fact all the dogs were gone. Poundmaster William Wilson reported Monday night.

Wilson said nine dogs were sold for Christmas presents, owners deemed six others, and Wilson passed up the usual two dollar fee to give another one to a youngster whose parents didn't have money to buy a pet for him.