

Traditions of Holiday Are Recalled

Christmas Abroad Stirs Memories of Yule at Home

By BAUKHAGE

News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, 1616 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON.—Christmas 1946! The second one in seven years when one could really talk about

"peace on earth" without shamed and downcast eyes. While armies struggled, who could think of the message to the shepherds from the angels' chorus promising peace on earth for all men of good will?

My last Christmas word was sent to you from the ruins, where, one year ago, I experienced the saddest holy-day season of my memory. It was in shattered Nuernberg with my thoughts on its rubble and the ruins, ugly symbols of man's inhumanity to man, the negation of our Saviour's teachings. I had plenty of food and drink and shelter and was clothed in the uniform which is a reminder of a career of which I am proud despite its implications. But I was as homeless as any young soldier in a lonely outpost with the threat of battle about him for I could picture my own hearthside and the little group about the happy tree, my own tinselled packages unopened, and my empty hands reaching out vainly over the oceans too wide to span. And all about me were the signs of anguish, cramped souls, pinched bodies and the wreckage of the handicraft blossomed in stone and canvas and parchment which has enriched the world through the centuries.

I stood in the desolate little square faced by the wreckage of buildings, thinking of what Rudyard Kipling called "Christmas past." You may know the poem, breathing the nostalgia of an Englishman still clinging to his boyhood memories of England, contrasting them with what he saw about him in India. "Oh the white dust on the highway! Oh the stench in the byways! Oh the clammy fog that hovers over earth! And at home they're making merry 'neath the white and scarlet berry—what part have India's exiles in their mirth."

Nuernberg! In the shadow of her ancient castle grew a tradition which lived on to modern days; a tradition made eternal by the woodcuts and engravings of Albrecht Duerer whose 500-year-old house still stood but only as a fragile ghost which soon must yield to demolition squads, a hollow shell despite the proud persistence of its storied facade; a tradition made by the Meistersinger whose memory was enshrined in the home of Hans Sachs—a house now only a shapeless pile of rubble.

For the second time I had occasion to recall the yearning in those unhappy Kipling verses. The first time was more than two years before. The two lonely Americans looked down from the window of our little room in a pension on the Boulevard Montparnasse in the Latin Quarter on a snowless, aching Christmas in Paris. Below was a deserted convent garden. If only the figure of a single nun had broken the damp stillness curtaining leafless trees and withered flowers! But no, they were all deep in their devotions and not even the faint echo of the evensong or the moan of the organ reached us. Nor was there holly or mistletoe (no white or scarlet berry), for the Latin Christmas bears little resemblance to ours. Long months had stretched to years since I had seen a lighted Christmas tree, evergreen festoon or a bright-ribboned wreath, or listened to the ringing crunch of footfalls in the powdery snow, or sleighbells—no novelty then in our northern clime.

I thought then of Kipling's lament of the exile and understood him when he said, "faint and forced the laughter, and if sadness follow after, we are richer for one mocking Christmas past."

Today as Yuletide rolls around once more, despite the shadows that fall across many a hearth, and the postwar worries that beset us, we at least can glory in the heritage of an American Christmas in the land which the God of our Fathers has bequeathed us.

Almost a month before Christmas Day, John Lewis had a hint that reassured him, temporarily at least, that he would not spend this year's holiday in jail. Judge T. Alan Goldsborough spoke the comforting word. He said, in discussing the contempt charge against Lewis, that he believed "nobody's comfort would be disturbed whatever the outcome."

How merry this season will be for the man who defied the government and brought down the wrath of half a dozen nations upon his head is a question. It would be interesting in-

deed to be able to look beneath the brow adorned with the bristling eyebrows and thatched with the thick grey hair that was once so black and bellicose.

This season in the nation's capitol isn't as merry a moment as it is in most cities, for this is a city of transplanted folk, most of whose homes are too far distant to be reached on a short leave or via the restricted purse that is the portion of most government workers. As I write, the President expects to journey back to Missouri and his own family circle. Many of the officials will do likewise.

White House a

Center of Festivity

In other years there have been more festive Christmases.

The little ceremony which became a custom during the Roosevelt regime when the President was driven out into the crowd about the municipal tree where he touched the button that illumined it has been discontinued. That event which drew many a lonely inhabitant to the crowded square served to bring a holiday touch to Christmas Eve and the knowledge that the President later on would be surrounded by children and grandchildren while he read the "Christmas Carol" was a rather cheering thought.

There is on record the time when two White House children, Charley and Robert, one of them now a presidential aspirant himself, cut a mammoth Christmas pie given to the International Bakers' association. It was 32 inches in diameter and weighed 92 pounds.

There was a grand celebration, too, when Theodore Roosevelt, et familia, spent his first Christmas in the White House. The White House police were not the least of the celebrants—the new president distributed no less than 87 fat turkeys among them, the messengers, ushers, gardeners and stablemen. This was credited as being the largest largesse ever distributed by a president. President McKinley always gave turkeys to the married employees, but not as many or as big ones; the Franklin Roosevelts always had some souvenirs for the White House staff. What President Truman's gift will be this year has not been announced at this writing.

Back in 1892 when Benjamin Harrison spent his last Christmas in the White House there was no prejudice against things German and the high point of the celebration around the tree in the library was the recitation of German poems, taught them by their governess, by the Harrison grandchildren, Ben and Mary.

That was a real children's hour and we have a careful account in the Washington Star of that date to authenticate it. (No nylons or mink coats were mentioned.) "There is a complete set," says the Star, "of real baby furniture, the bed quite big enough for little Mary Lodge McKee; a dressing case, with a glass just high enough for her to peep into and arrange her front hair, and the cutest little washstand, with all the toilet appliances, all from Mrs. Harrison, to her tiny granddaughter. A set of lamb's wool muff and tippet for little Mary was lying near, and a steam engine, fitted out with every modern appliance, and which will chase around in the liveliest style for little Benjamin. He has a hook and ladder, a complete outfit, a set of parlor croquet and a doll baby or two."

After all, it is the children who make Christmas, for Christmas was made for them and it is by their grace that we oldsters can relive it over through them.

Would you say that even an inattentive criminal, if the court sentenced him to the gallows, might be credited with hanging on the judge's words?

EXTEND FARM FORMULA

'Parity' Pay for Labor Urged

WASHINGTON.—Nationwide use of a "parity" wage formula—patterned after the farm parity price formula — to maintain industrial peace and a high level of income for labor has been urged by the National Farmers union. Under such a formula, wages would rise and fall with similar changes in the cost of living.

In the case of the agricultural formula, parity prices—which are described by law as those equally fair to farmers and consumers—rise and fall with similar movements in prices of things farmers buy.

"We are inclined," the farm organization said, "to question very seriously the attempts to revise the Wagner labor relations act, to impose arbitration and otherwise to change the present basis of labor-management relations."

The organization made its recommendation in a statement submitted to the National Economic council, a government planning agency created by the employment act of 1946.

Expressing sharp opposition to a return to production control measures for agriculture, the union said

full industrial employment at good wages would provide a market for practically all that farmers can produce.

It said future farm programs should provide for the establishment, through bargaining, of maximum and minimum prices in advance of the growing season, the permanent use and expansion of the production goal system now in effect; extension of the minimum wage law to agriculture, the purchase of large-scale farms as they come on the market and subdivision of these farms into family-type units.

NEWS REVIEW

Occupation Zones Merged; Trouble Brews in Greece

GERMANY:

Merge Zones

Merger of the U. S. and British occupation zones in Germany set a pattern for the economic recovery of the war-shattered reich and promised to relieve the Anglo-American countries of expensive relief burdens.

While merger of the two zones figured to cost both powers a billion dollars for administrative and other expenses over a three year period, the price was cheap compared with present outlays, chiefly for food. Relief alone has been running the U. S. 200 million dollars annually.

Among other things, the merger is expected to speed the economic recovery of central Europe, which depended heavily upon Germany for materials and finished goods in pre-war years. Until the food-producing eastern region of Germany under Russian occupation is included in zonal unification, however, the reich economy will continue out of balance and remain a drag on the Anglo-American powers.

GREECE:

Red Pattern

Even as Premier Tsaldaris left Athens for New York to protest against foreign interference in Greece there were rumblings that Greek leftists were collaborating with Slav elements for self-rule of the northern province of Macedonia. Development of an autonomous movement in Macedonia followed the pattern established last year in northern Iran, where leftist elements bearing Russian support succeeded in obtaining self-rule in an oil-rich region coveted by the Soviets.

Russian interest in Greece is as vital as in Iran since Greece stands as a Middle-Eastern outpost for Britain's imperial lifeline and Soviet con-



TEACH AMERICAN PASTIME . . . Football, America's rugged pastime for body-building and fair competition, is introduced to a group of German youngsters by S/Sgt. Lewis Karker of Richmondville, N. Y., at a Bamberg, Germany, recreation center.

trol of the country would jeopardize Britain's Mediterranean interests. Cognizant of the danger, Britain has afforded Greece's rightist government strong military support and agreed to help arm new battalions.

4-H: Show Wares

To the 20,000 spectators assembled in the International Amphitheater in Chicago there seemed nothing like it.

Fourteen hundred strong, sturdy young boys and girls from rural America paraded in the arena, the cream of the 4-H crop in the U. S. Having pledged to give themselves to their club, community and country with heart, head, hands and health, each of the rosy-cheeked youth came to the annual congress a winner in agricultural or home-making competition.

The 1,400 were representative of the 1,700,000 4-H members the country over who harvested produce from 150,000 gardens in 1946; cared for 11,000,000 chickens and 750,000 head of livestock; canned 33,000,000 quarts of food and froze 10,000,000 pounds of products.

Grain Champs

Oldsters drew their share of honors during the week-long festivities in the Windy City.

Mrs. Amy Kelsey of Erickson, B. C., Canada, was crowned the first wheat queen of the Grain and Hay show, with her sample of hard red spring wheat, L. E. Peterson, Victor, Mont., won the reserve title with hard red winter Kanred.

Another Canadian won top honors when Gordon McArthur of Stayner, Ont., was adjudged oats king with his Beaver variety. Garnet B. Rickard, Bowmanville, Ont., was named reserve champion with his Cartier strain.

Two Americans won first place in the corn and soybean competition. Newton L. Halterman of Rushville, Ind., became the 19th Hoosier to cop the corn crown while H. E. Stiegelmeier of Normal, Ill., capped 20 years of soybean cultivation on his farm when his samples were adjudged the best among those shown.

RADIO:

Clear Petrillo

James C. Petrillo, whose middle initial stands for Caesar, won his test of the Lea bill in the federal district court of Chicago, but the government promptly revealed it would appeal the decision to the U. S. Supreme court.

Under the Lea bill, radio stations cannot be forced into hiring more employees than are actually needed for conducting operations. The measure was passed after Petrillo's American Federation of Musicians sought to have broadcasters employ stand-by musicians where records were being used on programs.



CONTINUED FOOD SHORTAGES
WASHINGTON. — Speaking of holiday food, here is a prediction on various items on the housewife's shopping list and how long they will remain difficult to buy.

CANNED TOMATOES—Will continue to be short at least until next July. In the crop year ended with July, 1946, supplies were so short that we consumed 16 million cases of canned tomatoes, about half the normal demand. In the current crop year, ending July, 1947, there will be a slight increase to approximately 21 million cases, but this will still be far short of demands.

CHOCOLATE — Slight shortages of chocolate will continue for the next two or three years, due chiefly to shipping difficulties in trade lanes from Brazil and West Africa.

SALMON — The very unpredictable salmon continues to run late and short in the waterways of Alaska and our northwestern states. Normal salmon production in prewar years ranged between five million and eight million cases, but in the season which ended in September of this year, less than four million cases were packed for the American market.

TUNA — Fanciers of tuna fish salad will get all they want, due to a record-breaking production this year of over four million cases, 35 per cent above the 1945 tuna pack.

BANANAS — Shipments of bananas from Guatemala, Costa Rica and other Latin American sources will continue below normal for at least another year.

ATOMIC ENERGY VS. COAL

One thing the striking miners don't realize is that they are working for an industry which soon will be as out of date as the old stern-wheeler of Mark Twain's Mississippi river days. Unfortunately, what they especially don't seem to realize is that their present strike is hastening the end of the coal industry.

A brief news item from the little town of Louisville, N. Y., tells part of the story. Its 150 families have converted to oil, making it the first completely oil-heated town in the USA. Others are bound to follow. Some industries had started converting to oil even before the strike. Natural gas piped east will further cut down consumption — especially as coal becomes more expensive and more uncertain.

However, this only tells part of the story. The rest of the story began on August 5, 1945, when a bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Scientists have been working ever since on the problem of harnessing atomic energy. Already Poland is constructing an atomic energy power plant. In the United States the first atomic power plants should be completed in two years.

Naturally the coal, steel and oil interests are not anxious to encourage this. Nor are the big power companies, whose water power installations would be scrapped. These incidentally are the same interests which have blocked the use of natural gas in the Big Inch and Little Inch pipelines.

Science, however, can be retarded, but not stopped. And when atomic energy is used on a wide scale, scientists estimate it will be much cheaper than coal or oil. When that happens, coal mining will be just as obsolete as the journeyman wagon builders of 1800. And unfortunately for the coal miners, the more uncertain they make the supply of coal, the more they spur the development of atomic energy.

DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS FIGHT

Despite all the talk you hear about a "dog fight" in house Democratic ranks over the election of minority leader, you can write it down that John McCormack of Massachusetts, majority leader since 1940, will win out.

Inside fact is that Sam Rayburn of Texas, outgoing speaker, not only has informed McCormack by telegram that he intends to stick to his decision against running for the minority leadership, but also has assured McCormack he will back him to the limit for the post.

However, don't be surprised if Congressman Francis Walter of Pennsylvania is put in the field as a candidate against McCormack—even though Walter made the unpopular move of opposing use of natural gas in the government-owned pipelines. Some southern congressmen have been proposing Walter as a "compromise" choice to avoid a party "split."

Another minority leader prospect is statesmanlike Ewing Thompson of El Paso, Tex.

FROM THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH

U.S.-British military officials in Rome, learning of a plan to scuttle the Italian fleet, have tried to de-commission it — without success. Intelligence reports are that Italian officers are awaiting the British and French attempt to take over the fleet—then will sink it. . . . The Portuguese government has vetoed a new American proposal for permanent military bases in the Azores. The U. S. government considers the Azores even more important than Iceland.



MOST MOTHERS DO THIS

If Baby Has A Cold

AT BEDTIME rub throat, chest, back with VapoRub. Relief-bringing action starts instantly. . . and tightness.

Best-known home remedy you can use to relieve distress of children's colds is comforting Vicks VapoRub. Even while you rub it on, VapoRub starts to work to ease distress. . . and it keeps on working during the night. No wonder most mothers always do this when a cold strikes.

VICKS VAPORUB

Buy U. S. Savings Bonds!

2 Tablespoonfuls of
XZIT
REMOVES SOOT
from CHIMNEYS, HEATERS
and FURNACES

75¢ PACKAGE
20 DOSES
5 MONTHS SUPPLY



WILL NOT HARM ANY METAL

It takes so little. Just two table-spoons of XZIT sprinkled in the fire once a week keeps your chimney, stove, and heating unit cleared of soot. Soot can be dangerous, for soot often causes costly chimney fires. Don't take chances. Use XZIT regularly. XZIT sprinkled freely in the fireplace or firebox quickly and effectively extinguishes chimney fires. Keep a supply of XZIT on hand. Ask for XZIT SOOT ERADICATOR at your grocery, hardware, drug or fuel supply store.

5800 So. Hoover St., Los Angeles 44, Calif.

XZIT

SOOT ERADICATOR

Beautify

Fireplace Fires

with

XZIT RAINBOW COLORS

available at all stores

BEAUTIFUL • NOVEL • ENCHANTING

QUINTUPLETS

always relieve sore throat

coughs—aching muscles of

CHEST COLDS

BY RUBBING ON MUSTEROLE

WNU—13 51—46

When Your Back Hurts

And Your Strength and Energy Is Below Par

It may be caused by disorder of kidney function that permits poisonous waste to accumulate. For truly many people feel tired, weak and miserable when the kidneys fail to remove excess acids and other waste matter from the blood.

You may suffer nagging backaches, rheumatic pains, headaches, dizziness, getting up rights, leg pains, swelling. Sometimes frequent and scanty urination with smarting and burning is another sign that something is wrong with the kidneys or bladder.

There should be no doubt that prompt treatment is wiser than neglect. Use Doan's Pills. It is better to rely on a medicine that has won country-wide approval than on something less favorably known. Doan's have been tried and tested many years. Are at all drug stores. Get Doan's today.

DOAN'S PILLS