

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
PHONE 676-9228

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Unusual Christmas Text 1962

(Continuing the custom started at Thanksgiving of asking ministers of the community to write guest editorials for the three holiday seasons—Thanksgiving, Easter and Christmas—the paper presents an editorial by The Rev. Rod MacKenzie at this Christmas time.—The Editor.)

By the REV. ROD MacKENZIE
Pastor, Ione Community Church

Not many Christmas sermons or Christmas messages will be heard on the Slaughter of the Innocent children and infants. This intrudes into the comfort and joy of the Christmas season in disturbing fashion. A quick reading of Matthew 2:13-18 will demonstrate this.

This portion of the Christmas tale, usually the victim of silence in the Christian Church, may be that part of the birth narrative to which we should give particular attention during this year. Christmas 1962 comes just after we have found ourselves hovering on the brink of nuclear war. Cuba is still very fresh in my mind at least. Against this backdrop, Christmas 1962 is not a time for sentimentality over shepherds, or recitals about "the romance of the manger," or for church school parties, or stanzas about the star in the East. Christmas 1962 is a time for realism, and whatever else the slaughter of the innocent children and infants contains, it contains realism.

Plainly stated, the story confronts us with an appalling fact—the price of the birth of the babe in Bethlehem was the slaughter of hundreds of other infants in the Bethlehem area. For every shepherd who was thrilled by an angel song, there were a hundred mothers who wept bitter tears. This, as those who have traced the life of king Herod know, is reasonable behavior for him.

As long as you are prepared to remove the spectacles of sentiment from your eyes, you might as well remember also that this is only one instance of what happened throughout the lifetime of Jesus. Wherever he went he created dissension as well as peace. The gospels never slide over this fact. They record that he came to bring "not peace but a sword," (Matthew 10:34; Luke 12:51.) and that the foes of a man would be those of his own household. If there were those who heard him gladly, much of what he said set the Pharisees' teeth on edge. Because of him Peter cut the ear off a soldier, and Judas went and hanged himself.

The fact that the Gospel divides as well as unites and that it produces disaster as well as triumph is written large and terrible in the slaughter of the innocent children and infants. This story tells us nothing new about the impact of the Gospel, but it does describe that impact with almost intolerable force.

It would be quite intolerable, both to the imagination and to the Christian conscience, were it not for another thing that enables us to read the slaughter of the innocent children and infants and still worship the God whose birth in human life is celebrated by that gruesome spectacle. This is the fact that the baby whose birth occasioned the slaughter of other babies received exactly the same kind of treatment himself. For not many years later, and not very far away, there was another gruesome spectacle: the slaughter of one whose only crime was that he loved too much.

It seems to me that faith can encompass the slaughter of the innocent children and youth only because the God who permitted it did not exempt himself from the same kind of treatment. This is what makes the Christmas story—the slaughter of the innocent children and infants included—such a radical challenge to conventional faith in 1962. It does not promise that God will exempt us from the ugly realities of existence. It only promises us that He will meet those realities with us. Were this not so, we would have a God who did not care. We know further that His involvement in our pain and sorrow transforms them so that rather than being threats to the reality of His love, they become vehicles through which His love is expressed as healing power.

The advent of the Christian Church came with the death and resurrection of Christ. The meaning of His birth is here and not in the birth itself. In the story of the slaughter of the innocent children and infants, Rachel, Matthew tells us, "weeping for her children—refused to be consoled." (Matthew 2:18) But to us, weeping for our children and for our sin-sick world, the Word of consolation has come, and the circumstance of Jesus' death becomes the means by which we bear the circumstance of Jesus' birth.

(I am indebted to Dr. Robert McAfee Brown for the gem idea of these thoughts.)

Creamery Receives Accident Certificate

The State Industrial Accident Commission has presented a certificate to W. C. (Claude) Cox and Morrow County Creamery for 25 years uninterrupted coverage under the Oregon work-

men's Compensation Law. The certificate also cites the creamery for "promoting the protection of its workers." It is signed by Sidney B. Lewis, chairman, and the commissioners. It was dated November, 1961. Cox recently sold the creamery to his son, W. C. Cox.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

THERE'S no doubt about it. The Santa Claus that was in Heppner was the real Santa Claus. You could tell by his nicely rounded figure, rosy cheeks, and merry disposition. If he weren't the real Santa Claus, he never could have made the hit with the kids that he did.

Once in a while, if you ever happen to be in a big department store, you will see one of those skinny imitations in a Santa Claus suit. You know very well that they aren't real just by looking at them.

It is mighty nice to have a visit by the real Santa Claus, and we want to add our thank you for the community to him for coming and spreading so much joy among the children of this area.

THE OLD year is rapidly drawing to an end, and we have some miscellaneous thoughts that might be appropriate to express at Christmas time.

We of the old G-T think the past year has been a mighty good one for us, and we want to thank all of those who had a hand in making it so. And as we think of those who deserve our gratitude, it is hard to know where to stop.

Probably one of the most important to us is the individual reader. He has been a real friend to us and has come in with many fine compliments and constructive suggestions. Our subscribers have gone out and got new subscribers, many sending the paper to friends elsewhere as a message from home. So our subscription list has grown steadily through the year.

WE WANT to say another word in appreciation for our advertisers whose recognition of the need to tell the world about their goods and services makes it possible for us to get out a paper and print the news.

We think of our staff at Christmas time—the long hours they have worked, of the correspondents around the county who have kept news coming in from their local communities.

Then there are our volunteer columnists who have added interest to the paper with their reports—Nels Anderson with his weekly and informative farm column that saves the editor a great deal of work in covering the farm front, Esther Kirminis with her "Chats from Your Home Agent" that covers the home extension and 4-H activities, Dee Gribble with "Over the Teacup," Ken Peck and now Birdine Tullis with "Ski Trails," and Betty Wagner with her "Rockhound Corner." Of course, "Social Lites" and "Bowling Bits" are by our regular staffer, Jo Pettyjohn.

WE APPRECIATE the cooperation of Postmaster Jim Driscoll and his crew. We may be late

on a Thursday afternoon, and some subscribers may complain about that "slow post office crew" when the paper doesn't get in their boxes on time. But Jim and his gang always come up smiling to us. We find them very fine to work with despite some of our jibes and facetious remarks.

Then there is Margaret Gaarsland who comes by every Thursday afternoon after work to haul the papers to Ione and Lexington for us so that the folks there don't have to wait until Friday.

Oh, this isn't a one or two-man operation by any means. We could go on a long time, but space is short this week. We just want all our friends to know that we appreciate their assistance and cooperation.

A LITTLE STORY elsewhere tells about Maynard Hamilton's live Christmas tree at Monument on which is more than 1000 lights. We'd surely like to see it, but doubt if we can get away during this busy season long enough to make the trip. Folks at Monument said the other day that the Oregonian wants a picture of it, and they wondered if the ed here couldn't do it. Would surely do it if we could ever find time to get over.

GOT A CALL the other day from a nurse at Providence Hospital, Portland, on behalf of Mrs. Marguerite Glavey who broke her hip in a fall recently while teaching here. She sent down a little Christmas message which is in the cards of thanks on the classified page. The nurse said that Mrs. Glavey is coming along fine, showing good improvement.

Surely nice to know, too, that Mrs. Bill (Lucile) Weatherford is improving rapidly. Last we heard she is expected home for Christmas.

Then we heard a report that Jean Collins is up and around and was walking down the street the other day. This is real good news when it was once feared that she might not walk again.

May the Christmas season bring equally good news to all families who have had a share of misfortune!

ONE KIND of an advertisement that we are a little reluctant to print is that of a closeout auction. And, as everyone here knows, we have had two such this month, one on the Case Furniture auction recently and the other this week on the Heppner Hardware auction that will be December 29.

In each case, death of the owner's husband resulted in quitting business. We have found that Gene Case and Etta Parker are both highly respected and admired, but attempting to go it alone in businesses that

Here's My Application For The Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce-Arbuckle Ski Club 1963 Ski School.

Please enroll me in the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce-Arbuckle Ski Club 1963 Ski School.

I am enclosing my entry fee with this application.

I understand that my Ski School tickets will be mailed to me. (Signature of parent or guardian necessary for those who have not reached their 18th birthday).

In consideration of your accepting this application I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce and the Arbuckle Ski Club, employees, successors, their representatives, and assigns, for any and all injuries to person or property by the undersigned or by any of them at said Ski School sessions and traveling to and from same, except such as may result from the willful wrong of the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce and the Arbuckle Ski Club.

Name
Address City
Phone Age
Signed
(Signature of parent or guardian if under 18)

Class categories: Beginning beginner (one who has never had skis on)

Beginner (one who has attempted skiing but does not know how)

Intermediate (One who skis occasionally but lacks confidence, has bad habits and a weak turn in one or both directions)

Age limit: 12 years thru 18 inclusive.

Ski lessons \$5.00 Saturdays, January 5, 12, 19, 26

No refunds—Non transferrable

—I have ski equipment

—I will need to rent ski equipment

—Shoe size

—Height

Applications and money may be brought to Pecks' Ski Shop, Heppner or mailed to Alice Vance, Secretary Arbuckle Ski Club, Heppner.

are strenuous to operate as hardware and furniture is too much. We regret to lose their association in our business community, and we certainly wish the best for them both in the future.

Services Held Monday For Henry Skinner

Funeral services for Henry F. (Tobe) Skinner, 84, were held at the Creswick Mortuary Monday, December 17, with the Rev. Melvin Dixon, officiating. Interment followed in the Heppner Masonic cemetery.

Mr. Skinner died at Pioneer Memorial hospital Friday, December 14, following an extended illness.

He was born April 25, 1878, at Sweet Home, the son of pioneer parents, Mary Catharine Isom and William A. Skinner. He grew up in Sweet Home, coming to Eastern Oregon in early manhood, where he was married to Winifred Harrison in 1905 in Grant county. They lived several years in Albany. He returned to Wheeler and Morrow counties in 1914 where he was employed as a carpenter.

His second marriage was to Clara Wheeler, daughter of Henry H. Wheeler. She preceded him in death in 1938. For the past 20 years he has made his home in Heppner, where before retirement, he was employed at the mill.

Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Cal (Geraldine) Sumner, Mrs. Genevieve Cox and Mrs. Pearl O'Donnell, seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Reasonable prices on business cards at the Gazette-Times.

Clair Cox Heads Corvallis Board

Clair Cox, Corvallis realtor, has been elected president of the Corvallis Realty board, according

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

LEGION MOVIES
Friday night, 8:00 p.m.
Legion Hall
This week A Favorite Western movie.
Plus one-half hour cartoons.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTEST
Sign up by 5 p.m., December 22 for prizes in both outside or inside residential lighting. Register now at the Gazette-Times office.

DRIVE CAREFULLY
Over the Christmas holidays The life you save will make someone's Christmas that much happier.

"EYES FOR THE NEEDY"
Leave old eye glasses, frames, sun glasses, hearing aids and metallic jewelry in collection boxes in leading stores.

SPONSORED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY

C. A. RUGGLES
Insurance Agency
Heppner

P. O. Box 611 PH. 676-9625

to a story in the Corvallis Gazette-Times of Monday, December 17. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. (Claude) Cox of Heppner.

Fitting the Northwest Scene like the snow capped mountains

Vigorous and highly rated, Centennial is an organization of Pacific Northwest men who know the people of this area intimately. With forward looking contracts they help work out individual problems of protection and savings, with the proceeds from your insurance being invested in this region.

The success of your Centennial Insurance Man strengthens the economy of the area where you live. Give him a chance to work for you.

CENTENNIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
Executive Building, Portland, Oregon

Jack Sweek
Route 1, Box 120
Pendleton, Oregon

Christmas Message

By GOVERNOR MARK HATFIELD

As we approach the anniversary of the birth of the Christ child, may we ever be mindful of His meaning to the world through His life of example, humility, service and sacrifice. Let us dedicate ourselves anew to the spiritual significance of Christmas. May we think more of sharing with others who do not have our abundance of our freedoms. May we keep ever uppermost in our minds the eternal admonition of "Peace on earth, good will toward men."

As we search for permanent peace, may we do so with honor and with justice, firmly declining insidious, godless efforts to enslave and make the state the master rather than the servant.

We fervently hope the New Year will be the occasion for more cooperation and less collusion, more conversation and less conflict, more agreement and less agitation, more kinship with the principles of the Prince of Peace and less temptation from those who would darken civilization as we know it through holocaust or subversion. To each and every Oregonian, may I express my abiding appreciation for the achievements of the past year and best wishes of the Christmas season.

BUY NOW FOR GIFT GIVING 20% Off

During Our Pre-Inventory Sale

- Vases
- Planters
- Wall Decorations
- Other Gift Ideas

Everything In the Store Included!
Order **POINSETTIAS** FOR CHRISTMAS GIVING

SALE RUNS DEC. 14-24

RON'S FLOWERS

Heppner Ph. 676-5532

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

DINNER

With All The Trimmings

\$1.50 per Person 75c for Children

Turkey and Dressing, Cranberry Sauce, Vegetable Soup and Dessert

LEXINGTON CAFE

MR. and MRS. D. J. LAMORIE



AUCTION

LIQUIDATION
Saturday, Dec. 29, 10 a. m.

ENTIRE MERCHANDISE STOCK

Heppner Hardware & Electric

-- ALL NEW ITEMS --

- Refrigerators
- Deep Freezes
- Hot Water Heaters
- Electric Stoves
- Washers
- Dryer
- Dishwashers
- Televisions
- Dishes
- Toasters, Waffle Irons, Etc.
- Nuts and bolts
- Nails

Misc. Hardware and electrical supplies too numerous to mention. Used typewriter, adding machine, cash register and platform scales.

All Fixtures Including Display Racks

AUCTIONEER: BILL MOBLEY
Hermiston, Oregon

AUCTIONEER: ORVILLE SHERLOCK
Walla Walla, Wn.

Not Responsible For Accidents — FREE COFFEE — Terms: Cash