

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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The Reception of Christ

(Editors Note: The following Christmas message was written for the Gazette-Times by the Rev. J. G. Weller and presented in keeping with the custom of the paper to have guest articles from the clergy for holidays of religious significance.)

By THE REV. J. G. WELLER

Pastor, Heppner Church of The Nazarene

There was a strange power exerted over the world by a babe born in Bethlehem so many years ago. Nearly twenty centuries have passed but still we are not rid of His influence. His birthday has become the dividing line of the centuries and He has become the dividing personality of the world.

How was such a one received by the world into which He was born? The first indication we have of His reception was that of the innkeeper—"No room." The keeper of the inn had excuses, all valid; his guests were all legitimate, his rooms were all filled, he could not have known whom he was turning away. Yet his reception somehow was typical of all Bethlehem that night. Men so preoccupied with their affairs of business, women so busy about their housework, and everyone so possessed with his own social obligations that they failed to see the star or to hear the Angelic Chorus.

The reception of the Wise Men was somewhat different, more impressive. They had journeyed from afar and brought with them lavish gifts for the King of Kings. Henry van Dyke in his tale, "The Other Wise Man," tells of a fourth wise man who never arrived with his gifts for the Christ Child. Never arrived because on his journey he had used up his gifts ministering to the poor and distressed he met on his way. Still as he lay dying he heard a voice repeating the words, "In as much as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me." So we are reminded that giving in itself has no value except it is motivated by love.

Herod, the reigning monarch of Judea at the time of Christ's birth, has been described as crafty, jealous and vengeful. His reception of Christ was an act of rejection; rejection because he saw in Christ a possible rival, a rival to his position, a rival to his way of life, a rival to his own selfish heart.

Still there is another reception of Christ recorded, this one a reception that was both joyful and sincere. As Mary and Joseph brought the young child to the Temple they were met by Simeon who took the young babe in his arms and declared,

"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel."

Are there not parallels in our own age and in our own communities of each of these receptions of Christ? May we in our own hearts, along with Simeon of old, receive Christ this Christmas season with all sincerity and joy.

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come,
Let earth receive her King,
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing."

The American Christmas Gift

(From "Farm Bureau Furrow" By Scott Lamb)

If all the world's two and a half billion people could be compressed into a representative community of 1000 people, we would have a community made up as follows:

- 60 would be Americans
- 80 would be Communist
- 370 would be under Communist domination
- 303 would be white
- 697 would be non-white
- 300 would be Christians

Most of the non-Americans would be poor, hungry, sick and ignorant; about half would be able to read or write.

The 60 Americans would grow 16% of all the food. They would keep 1 1/2% in surplus for their own use but would give or sell 20% of their food production to other members of the community.

The well-fed Americans would have 12 times the electric power of the rest of the community, 21 times as much petroleum,



Bethlehem

The world is full of winding roads
That wander up and down,
And circle mountain, marsh, and woods
To end at the same town.
The world is full of travelers
Who journey fast and fleet,
The world is full of wayfarers
Who never hope to meet.
Some on the low road, some the high,
Some on the middle track,
But every road men journey by
Will one day circle back.
For life is like a ring of light
Where love leads on afar,
And all men journey day and night
To meet beneath a star.

—Elizabeth Landwever

22 times as much coal, 50 times as much steel, and 50 times as much general equipment.

Some 450 people in the community would be berating the Americans as decadent and imperialistic and would be engaged in movements calculated to destroy the American system of gaining wealth.

Even so, the Americans would be busily engaged in producing more to share with the hungry and depressed peoples of the community. Without the American know-how and hard work, there would be a disaster in the community and hundreds of people would starve and die from lack of production.

Americans do share their wealth, their know-how and Christian principles with the world. To millions of people, America performs in the finest tradition of Christmas... America is the Magi.

Riding Club Studies Parliamentary Law

A meeting of the Heppner 4-H Saddle-Ittes was called to order in the county agent's office, December 14. Seven members were present.

Leader Everett Struckmeier reviewed parliamentary procedure. Our club was invited to the 4-H officers training meeting held on December 19, at the multipurpose room of the Heppner elementary school at 9:30 a.m.

Refreshments were served by Verina and Susan French and games were played.

Our next meeting will be January 11, in the county agent's office at 7:30 p.m.

Terry Hughes, reporter

The Rev. and Mrs. Earl Soward left Sunday night for Austin, Texas, by train to spend Christmas with their son and family there. A daughter planned to come from Tennessee to join the gathering. The Sowards expected to be home on December 30.

Extension Unit Has Study of Scandinavia

At the December meeting of the Rhea Creek Extension unit, the project leaders, Mrs. Ann Bergstrom and Mrs. Lynn Hagewood, presented a study, including slides and music, on the Scandinavian countries. Mrs. Bergstrom displayed an interesting collection of fancywork, dishes and art from Scandinavia. At noon an abundant smorgasbord of Scandinavian foods was enjoyed.

A business meeting followed by an auction of gifts, with Mrs. Carleen West as auctioneer.

Need extra cash? Sell unused items around your place with a Gazette-Times classified ad.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

WITH CHRISTMAS at hand everyone h'yar wants to get over thar to visit relatives, and everyone thar wants to come over h'yar. As of this writing (Tuesday night), it looks as if everyone h'yar is going to stay right h'yar, and everyone thar is going to stay thar.

For at the moment it looks as if you just can't get thar from h'yar.

SHERIFF BAUMAN said that conditions in Morrow county on the heels of the storm and flood conditions are the worst he has experienced in 50 years. About the only thing that could top it for sure, would have been the 1903 flood.

But it wasn't Heppner that got hit hard in this one. When you look at it, we're in one of the most fortunate positions in the state, but our lone folks surely took a beating with heavy silt all through their business and public buildings, some homes hard hit, and farms a shambles with bridges out, silt covering lawns and fields, and general havoc created for a great big mess.

BECAUSE OF THE 1903 flood, there is the great tendency around the state at a time like this for people to conclude that "Heppner is gonna get it again," and some of the news stories are prematurely based on that supposition.

Fellow publisher Clay Brownhill of the Condon Globe-Times and Fossil Journal called in mid-day Tuesday to ask if there was anything he could do to help us get the Gazette-Times out this week.

We replied that we were in very good shape with not so much as a leak in the roof. Clay had received a report that Heppner was in flood and the town had been evacuated.

At Condon they were having their own troubles. Water, according to Clay, was running down the main street like a river. Some of the business buildings suffered some damage, and at the Globe-Times, water seeped in the back of the plant.

Clay had to shut down his plant for a while to mop up the mess. He was just getting the job done when he called to see if he could render us assistance! Isn't that a good neighbor for you?

DEAN GILMAN jumped in the car with us and we took a quick swing down lone way Tuesday P.M. after Sheriff Bauman reported that the confluence of Rhea and Willow creeks looked like the Columbia River. It was down considerably when we arrived, but no traffic could get through to lone on the other side of the Jordan elevator. Wayne Ball gave it a try, easing into the water over the highway in his jeep. As he edged forward the water came up higher and higher, and he decided discretion was the better part of valor and backed out.

We figured we'd check out the lower Rhea Creek district and took off over that road to Ruggs. In places a tank would have been more fitting transportation than our Chevrolet. Every little canyon had brought a flood tumbling over the road, leaving muck up to 18 inches deep. In a couple of places the rampant waters had left a pile of rock several feet deep and perhaps 100 feet wide across the road. This was all impacted as solid as concrete and feathered out good enough to be able to drive over, however with some concern that a hole might be gashed in the oil pan.

IF YOU HAD a quick eye, for a brief time in Heppner early

Tuesday afternoon you could have caught a glimpse of bright blue sky. It actually broke for a short time and deceivably looked like a balmy day.

One of the most optimistic people in town was Lowell Chally. He predicted that spring is on the way. (Yeah, but when, Lowell?). His prediction was based on the fact that he swatted a big wasp in his office on Tuesday. The insect was really cutting up a storm, too. Acted as if he was all ready for a stinging good spring.

THESE ARE the times when we need to think some good words for those who keep things going in spite of emergency conditions—the people who bring in food and supplies to service our towns, the power company men, the telephone men, the mail service, the fire department, the police, road maintenance crews, and all those like them. Yes, and the paper boy. Bless them all.

The fire department has had two calls at very early and frigid hours during the past week. We were still working on the classified page form at 1 a.m. last Wednesday when we heard a weird mournful moan that permeated the whole place. Sounded like a huge three-phase motor single phasing. Couldn't figure it out. Then we heard it again.

It was the fire whistle trying to blow but it was too cold to take off. Finally the laboring motor got the job done and some normal blasts issued to sound the fire alarm.

Charlie Ruggles was already out of course, and we—clad in slippers and printer's apron over shirt and pants—stepped out to see what was going on. By the time we reached city hall, just across the street, the editor was frozen stiff.

Bill Farra come running up and others started coming while we stood in the way. Temperature, it turned out, was just four above. That's mighty cold to be fighting fire. Did you ever stop to think what kind of dedication it takes to get out of a warm bed in weather like that to go fight fire? Handling wet fire hoses and nozzles at temperature hovering around zero is mighty miserable business.

Thank heavens for these volunteer smoke eaters!

TELEPHONE SERVICE was taxed Tuesday with the extra heavy volume of calls because of the emergency situation. Some folks were having trouble with their phones, but generally, this form of communication was kept intact, and that is another thing to be thankful for.

But we wonder how many silly and foolish calls were made? It seems to us that families should try to hold their trivial calls to a minimum and keep the youngsters off the lines at such a time. These tend to jam the system and might impede important calls. We got the habit of grabbing the phone for every little thing, but as we reach in a time like this, we might ask, "Is it really necessary?"

WERE A BIT confused about that Lions Chamber basketball game Friday. Some say the Lions won, 7 to 5; but others report the Chamber won.

Roice Fullerton admits the Lions won, but says he knows they had to cheat to do it because he eavesdropped on all their plans in the dressing room and they still won.

And Bob Abrams, it is reported, shot baskets for lone because he figured it was closer than the Heppner basket, even though he was playing for the Chamber.

Barney Malcom, another C of C player, swore solemnly that lone had stretched the basketball court out to the length of a football field.

Trainer Doc McMurdo had considerable business, he reports, and it wasn't all monkey business. Charlie O'Connor of the Lions actually did dislocate a finger in the contest.

We understand that the younger Lions trimmed the Heppner Jaycees, but we haven't been able to run down a full report because everyone at lone has been too busy with the storm and flood. That's probably a darned good and judicious out for us!

Farm Reports Due

Bob Albrecht, field representative for Social Security in Morrow County wishes to remind farm workers that their employers will be sending in reports in January, and employees should be sure that the records show the correct Social Security number.

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Greetings on a note of cheer, may we wish you all a very happy holiday.



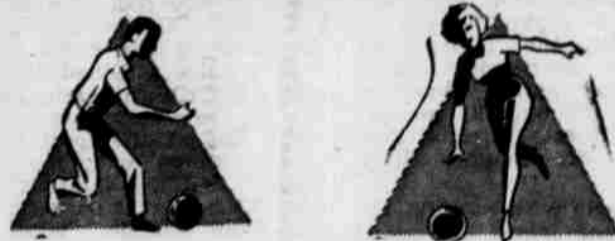
Bud and Marvel Hebert at the HEPPNER GRILL



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Warm and sincere greetings, from all of us to all of you, and many thanks, too.

ELEANOR and ED GONTY



Merry Christmas

AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ONE AND ALL
From Jo Ann and Art Dyck
FIESTA BOWL