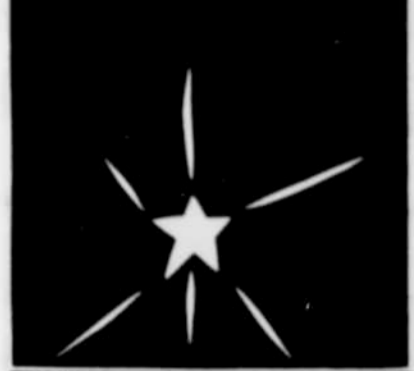


The Letter That Santa Couldn't Read
 By Heather Davis
 Santa got so many letters and one of the letters he couldn't read. So he sent the letter back and said, "write clearer."

MERRY CHRISTMAS

We hope you have a heavenly Christmas. A sincere thank you to all our wonderful friends and customers.



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Chamber Chatter
 By Claudia Hughes, Chamber Manager

"Believe as a child believes, and the magic will find you."
 Candy canes, kids, Christmas music, and the Morrow County Fair Court drawing for a beautiful ring were on the Chamber agenda this week. Chamber members joined in with the students to sing "It Must Be Santa". There's nothing like children at Christmas to get you in the spirit of the season and to help you remember the true reason for Christmas.

Shoppers are scurrying back and forth with packages, groceries are being loaded into trunks for Christmas dinners and parties, houses are decked out with lights, "giving trees" are located in many churches, a bunko club joined the fairy godmother program, children are excited, people around town are giving extra time so that others may have a Christmas... 'tis the season.

Let some of the Christmas magic steal into your hearts and take time to remember why we celebrate Christmas. Joy to the World.

See you next week at Chamber when we get serious about planning a new Chamber year. A very Merry Christmas from Heppner Chamber of Commerce.

Former local man wins National newspaper award

Editor's note: Many local residents will remember "Kit" as the little boy who delivered papers and wrote sports stories for Wes Sherman, former Gazette owner in the late 60's. He is the son of Nels and Esther Anderson, former Heppnerites now residing in Dallas, OR.

N. Christian Anderson, editor of The Orange County Register (Santa Ana, CA) has been named Editor of the Year by the National Press Foundation, an independent non-profit organization devoted to the support of excellence in journalism. Anderson, 38, was cited for transforming the Register into one of the nation's most respected

newspapers. "Under Anderson's leadership, the Register has returned to straight news coverage, leaving opinion for the editorial pages," the selection committee said. "In addition, the paper is now nationally recognized for its layout, photos and graphics."

The foundation's companion award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism will go to Brian P. Lamb, chairman and chief executive officer of C-SPAN, for building the cable television system into "America's Town Hall."

The awards will be presented at the foundation's annual black tie dinner Feb. 22 at the Sheraton

Washington Hotel. Anderson and Lamb each will receive \$5,000 cash prizes and plaques named in honor of George D. Beveridge, a Pulitzer-winning reporter for the old Washington Star, and Sol Taishoff, founder and longtime editor of Broadcasting Magazine.

The foundation's board also approved a special citation commending Terry Anderson, Beirut bureau chief of The Associated Press, for "his courage and inspiration to journalists around the world." He has been held hostage in Lebanon since March 16, 1985.

Terry Anderson has been invited to attend if he is freed by the time of the awards dinner. Otherwise his sister, Peggy Say, will be asked to stand in for him.

Chris Anderson came to the Register in 1980 from The Seattle Times, where he had been assistant to the executive editor and then associate managing editor.

Under his direction, the Register won a Pulitzer Prize for its photo coverage of the 1984 Summer Olympics and was honored by the California Newspaper Publishers Association in 1985 for general excellence and in 1987 for best sports coverage, best feature story, best photo journalism and best graphics.

In addition, the Register has increased its circulation lead over the Los Angeles Times in Orange County from approximately 38,000 in 1979 to 145,327 as of Sept. 30, 1988.

"This award is not only a richly deserved honor for Chris personally, but also implicitly recognizes the contributions to product excellence made over these years by all of the members of the Register staff," Publisher R. David Threshie said. Anderson said he was very thankful for the honor.

"I share it with all my associates at the Register, who over the past eight years have worked so hard together to make this newspaper the best it can be for the people of Orange County," he said.

Raised in Eastern Oregon, Anderson broke into print journalism as a high school sports stringer. He also edited his high school paper and worked part time as a reporter at the Albany Democrat Herald.

After graduating with honors from Oregon State University, he worked at the Albany paper full time and eventually became city editor. He was editor of the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin before joining the Seattle Times.

South Morrow County Ministerial Association

By Father Tony Bullman

"The Word became flesh and lived for awhile among us. We have seen his Glory, the Glory of the one and only Son, Who came from the Father, full of Grace and Truth." John 1:14.

We have seen His Glory. Five words with staggering implications. What is God like? How can an infinite and Holy God reveal Himself to finite and sinful man? The great thinkers of the world have been grappling with questions like these for over 3,000 years without reaching any final conclusions.

The Old Testament prophets spoke about what God was like, but when Jesus came down from Heaven and was made man He revealed God so perfectly that He is described as "the image of the invisible God" (Col. 1:15). "The radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His Being" (Hebrews 1:3). When the Disciples wanted to be quite sure about God, Phillip said to the Lord "Show us the Father and that will be enough for us" (John 14:8), and Jesus replied "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9).

We hear so much about communication problems these days. God solved the problem perfectly. What could be more meaningful than the birth of a baby-growing into boyhood and manhood, showing love and compassion, knowing loneliness and hatred, suffering pain and agony-and finally death. In Martin Luther's famous words he said "He ate, drank, slept, walked; was weary, sorrowful, rejoicing. He wept and laughed, He knew hunger and thirst and sweat, He talked, He toiled, He played, so that there was no difference between Him and other men, save only this: That He was God and had no sin."

My prayer for you this Christmas is that God would cause you to believe in your heart that there is no other name under heaven or earth whereby many may be saved except in His Son Jesus.

By Tim Van Cleave
 Christian Life Center

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel-which means "God with us." Matt. 1:20-23.

Christmas time is one of the greatest celebrations on earth, not because of receiving or giving gifts, but because a Savior was born to save us from our sins.

We don't have to look very far to see the effects of sin in this world. You see, the sin of mankind was and is so horrible that a perfect sacrifice was needed to pay the price for it once and for all. That perfect sacrifice was Jesus. God allowed his Son to be born of a virgin and to live like you and me. Jesus died for our sins and rose again from the grave to defeat death. He died so that you and I might live.

This was God's gift to mankind and still is today. What will you do with God's gift to his Son Jesus? Will you accept Him or reject Him? Why not accept God's greatest gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord this Christmas season?

By Don Boyce
 Heppner United Methodist Church

I must have been eight or nine years old at the time. It was a cold walk with my father as we traveled the fairly short distance to attend the annual Christmas Eve Candlelight service. As we walked I gazed into the night sky. The city lights dimmed the brightness of many stars but others were clear and bright in the night sky. As I looked into the sky and dreamed of Christmas day, my eyes fixed upon a light that seemed to be blinking and moving across the sky. The light appeared to be red. I was both excited and afraid that it might be Santa and Rudolph. I pointed out the obstacle in the sky and asked my father if it might be Santa. His reply led me to believe that anything was possible on Christmas Eve.

What agony the next few hours were. I had to sit through an hour worship service, walk back home and get myself to sleep before Santa would visit my house. And Santa was in the neighborhood that very hour.

Just as you have many memories of Christmas, perhaps both joyous and sad, this is a Christmas memory that I shall never forget. It will be a night filled with wonder and surprise in my mind for years to come.

Christmas is indeed a time of surprise. The surprise that the expected Messiah was a poor baby in a cold stable; surprise that he was of common heritage, not of royal family; surprise to the shepherds who heard the angelic message; surprise that wise men from the east would worship at his side; surprise that Herod would be so threatened by this child that he would commit mass murder on babies; surprise that God would visit us in the greatest gift of all, the gift of God's love embodied in human form and flesh.

Has Christmas become routine? Has Christmas lost its surprise? I must confess, for me Christmas often becomes anything but surprising. The ordinary and mundane seems to easily slip into the celebration of Christmas. And often anything that threatens the ordinary and routine causes great fear for my rather traditional expectations of Christmas.

Perhaps we can truly experience the meaning of Christmas when we allow ourselves to be open to God's surprise package for us: the gift of love, the gift of Christ, the gift of God with us.

My prayer for each of us this Christmas season is that our Christmas celebration might be filled with peace, memory and most of all, God's surprise.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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It's Christmas

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O Holy Night

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The First Christmas
 By Kristi Worden
 One day Santa was busy reading the letters. He called his elves to him. I need more presents he told them. Then they loaded the sleigh. He flew up and did his job.

Santa stories were contributed by Mrs. Calverts second grade class.

Pour vanilla on a bit of cotton and put it in the refrigerator to eliminate unpleasant odors there.

Happy Holidays!
 to our valued patrons.

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Thanks to our friends and customers for your patronage throughout the year.

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We wish you a Merry Christmas and most Happy New Year.

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Rejoice Rejoice Rejoice Rejoice