



ATTENTION, Mr. Santa!

A Holiday for Two
by Luella B. Lyons

THE CHRISTMAS CAROL
by Helen Waterman

THIS being with the family on Christmas is the bunk so I won't mind parking myself down there in Martinville, Mr. Howard," Paul Boyd told his employer. That's how he found himself spending the holidays in a lonely little room in a boarding and rooming house. His landlady had gone out to church services, he knew, but he determined to pass the lonely hours by reading, having prepared himself with a flock of new detective fiction before leaving the city.

Before another half hour had passed, Paul tossed the book aside and began pacing the floor. Here he was alone at last on one Christmas eve, far from too-concerned relatives and friends.

As the crowning insult, without a moment's warning, the little light



Paul Tossed the Book Aside and Began Pacing the Floor.

that hung on a single cord from the ceiling, flickered and went out. "Great day, this is the end! I wonder what they do here while the lights go out—go to bed, I suppose!" he muttered disgustedly. But just the same he began scratching matches to hunt for a possible kerosene lamp he might have overlooked. Five matches later, he found a candle and lost no time lighting that. "At least I can find my way about while getting ready to retire," he grumbled.

But as he jerked at his tie, the unmistakable sound of a smothered sob came to him through the hot air register. Paul wanted to be alone, but sobs did things to him and it took him just three minutes to locate the door from behind which was darkness and those sobs.

All because a thoughtless landlady had failed to provide the lovely and lonely girl with an extra bit of lighting in case the rather unreliable power company service discontinued without notice, wasn't the only reason for the sobs.

"Being in a noisy city where folks are celebrating, asking all kinds of favors of you at the holiday time, doing the same old parties, family dinners and all that—I thought it would be nice to escape it for a change," she explained. Jean Hathaway, she said was her name.

"Jean, I said the same thing and maybe we were both right only that—that," and suddenly he became embarrassed but struggled on, "that it is all okay if you don't have to escape alone. Just one for company and for celebrating is about the right number. What do you think, Jean?"

"Alone together! It doesn't make sense as for English, but it does Christmas-edly speaking!" and the light of the candle burned high and proud on that holiday for just two.

THE Christmas Spirit, if such a sprite there be, must have fled in dismay from Old Silas Wentworth, for a crustier, harder, less Christmas-spirited man would be hard to imagine.

Yet Sally Blaine, his clerk and bookkeeper, had the temerity to bring Christmas into the store, stringing lines of tinsel.

Old Silas, coming to work, stopped and stared at this unusual addition to the colored globes and patent medicines with which his windows were adorned.

Sally Blaine, rather frightened now, looked up. "Merry Christmas, Mr. Wentworth."

"Silas surveyed the store grimly. 'Take it down!'"

But Sally hesitated.

"I said take it down. More of your fool notions! What's this?"

"Dickens' Christmas Carol, sir."

He thrust the book on a back shelf. "Humph! Don't let me catch you reading on the job."

"Yes, sir. I'm sorry about the decorations—"

At nine o'clock on Christmas eve Silas saw out his last customer, and began putting up the shutters. It was beastly cold, and his numb fingers were slow at their task. As he was about to lock up, he was confronted by two men, one carrying a revolver.

"Let us in and lock the door," said the man.

Silas, his teeth chattering from more than cold, complied.

"Now if you're quiet you won't get hurt," said the spokesman. "My pal here has had an accident. I



Silas Surveyed the Store Grimly. "Take It Down!"

need some medicines. You'll be paid all right."

"Of course; of course," Silas answered, and brought out a stock of supplies.

The wounded man spoke up. "Sorry to keep you on Christmas eve, buddy."

Silas grunted. "Tommyrot."

The other man had been rummaging about the store. "Here," he commanded. "I can't watch what you're doing. So you read aloud until I get through." And he handed Silas "Christmas Carol."

He was scarcely half way through when the men paid him and left. He threw the book down and started off, but at the door he turned, and sitting by the night light, read again. "So like me," he muttered, as he finished.

From the wastebasket he drew out the tinsel and strung it awkwardly around the store. He looked through his accounts marked "Overdue," and selected several bills which he marked "Paid in Full," and put in proper envelopes. Then he got his wraps.

"Merry Christmas, Silas," he exclaimed, and went out to the dawn and his first merry one in many years.

OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Brief Resume of Happenings of the Week Collected for Our Readers

Albany—Postal revenues for November totaled \$3482.40, compared with \$3253.55 for November, 1935.

Sandy—With long delayed fall rains checking unseasonable forest fires, local mills are resuming operations.

Klamath Falls—Tax rate for 1937 will be the highest in history—71.2 mills. Special levies offset a reduction in the state tax.

Tillamook—More than 14 tons of fish were shipped from Bay City and Wheeler recently as the result of a sudden and unprecedented December run. Fishermen say the run is likely to stop as suddenly as it began.

Astoria—The city council, pursuant to a measure approved at the recent general election, has adopted an ordinance establishing a civil service system in the city for 12 paid members of the fire department.

Eugene—The "Two Can Live As Cheaply As One Association" is the latest addition to the University of Oregon. Members are married students who were organized by Howard Kessler. About 100 students are enthusiastic over the idea which has the full support of university officials.

Corvallis—Centralization of financing and administrative functions of government is the only means to attain "measurable and permanent relief from burdensome general tax levies," Dr. W. H. Dreesen, agricultural economist of Oregon State college, said today in a 24-year study of state tax levels.

Silverton—"No salt" may be the reason why C. J. Lowe did not catch the turkey here last week. Lowe was one of many Silvertonians who went after a number of turkeys released as a civic stunt. Others garnered free meals, but all Lowe received was a badly gashed face and a trip to the hospital from his gobblin.

Tillamook—Robert Turner, Rockaway schoolboy, added a black malarkey duck to the live wild-life collection on Lake Lytle last week. He found the bird near his home after it had been brought down by a gunshot injury. Bob applied his knowledge of first aid, then released the convalescent—a rare species in this locality—on the lake.

Gresham—The Redwood Fibre Products company, an enterprise making a variety of commercial products from the bark of redwood trees, will have its plant here. Edward J. Conklin, representative of the company, made the announcement last week at a chamber of commerce meeting. Headquarters are in the Weatherly building, Portland.

Salem—The state motor vehicle fuel tax has fattened the highway fund \$72,392,006.12 since 1919, according to figures released by Earl Snell, secretary of state. For the first 19 months of the current year, \$7,616,132.45 has gone into the state's road purse. Gallonage was swelled its largest amount last year, when 183,004,590.52 gallons were burned by motorists.

OREGON SHOW INVITED
Salem—An official invitation for the state of Oregon to participate in the 1939 Golden Gate International exposition was extended to Governor Martin by General W. E. Gilmore. The governor has promised the state will be represented, adding that the magnitude of the exhibit will depend upon the amount appropriated by the state legislature.

Tentative plans are to stress Oregon's wild life and recreational resources, with the co-operation of the state fish and game commissions, forestry department and highway department.

UNION CONTROL ASKED
Hood River—That the state prevent a recurrence of maritime tie-ups and their resultant damage to commerce was demanded recently by the Hood River Growers' club in a resolution to the state legislature.

The resolution, if acted upon favorably by the state solons, would have the unions file articles of incorporation with the state and to make available to the state all data essential under the articles to conform with laws governing other corporations.

It was also asked that legislation "provide that upon the violation of any properly made regulation the registration shall be cancelled and such organization shall have no right to bargain."

The Dalles—County Assessor Greene of Wasco county said last week that the total of 1937 millage would be 53.58, compared with 54.21 for 1936.

Eugene—Charles A. Strombaugh was bound over to the federal grand jury here last week on a charge of possessing equipment designed for the manufacture of coins. He was being held in the Lane county jail on a bad check charge when searching officers found a mold for the manufacture of 25-cent pieces.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By REV. HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, Dean of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. © Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for December 27

THE SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY IN SOUTHERN EUROPE

LESSON TEXT—Hebrews 2:1-4; 11:32-12:2.

GOLDEN TEXT—The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. Revelation 11:15.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Christmas Round the World.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Into All the World.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Why the Gospel Spread So Rapidly.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Spread of the Gospel in Southern Europe.

History has marveled at the spread of the Christian faith in a wicked and hostile world. Dark were the days upon the earth when the handful of believers in Jesus Christ set out to preach the gospel. Why did the Christian faith spread so rapidly and build so soundly the future? The answer is found in our lesson for today. It is threefold. They declared

I. A Great Salvation (2:1-4).

The preaching of the apostles set an example of sound teaching. They knew that no "programs" or "drives" would suffice to meet the need of the world steeped in sin and superstition. They preached a great salvation, a real gospel, and God set his seal of approval upon their work.

The presentation of God's Word and his gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit is still the way of victorious usefulness for any believer and any church.

Turning now to the great faith chapter of Hebrews, we see the second reason for the spread of Christianity. Bible preaching brought forth Bible believers—men and women who obtained "a good report through faith."

II. A Victorious Faith (11:32-40).

Right presentation and proper apprehension of God's Word produces noble and sacrificial living.

The world is "not worthy" of its heroes of faith. In fact, it not only fails to recognize them and their mighty deeds but mocks, scorges, tortures, and saws them asunder. But they are written down in God's book of remembrance. He mightily evaluates their faith and their nobility of character.

We need to learn of God how to regard our fellow men lest we follow the crowd in giving praise to those who merit it not, and fail to recognize the unsung heroes of faith in our own communities and churches who are the very salt of the earth.

The final section of our lesson follows the first two in perfect sequence of thought. We have noted the apostolic message concerning God's great salvation. We have seen that the gospel is indeed the power of God which not only saves but which produces heroic living. Now we turn to our obligation to continue that glorious succession of these who live by faith.

III. A Race to Run (12:1-2).

The picture in the writer's mind is the great Olympic arena. All around are the spectators. A race is to be run. What a striking picture of Christian life. For it, too, is a race. It has a prize, both here and in the hereafter. It calls for intense activity. It brings us before those who either jeer at us or cheer us on our way.

Many are the things which may hinder a runner. One thing he cannot do is carry weights. These may not be sinful things but those which may be a hindrance to spiritual progress. Let us put them away!

And then there is sin—that treacherous enemy that so subtly "bets us" and entangles us. By God's grace let us cast it aside.

Greater than all the hindrances is the One in whose name we run and to whom we look for victory. Looking past the difficulties, the spectators, and even the course itself, we see him who is "the author and perfecter of our faith." The secret of victory is to

Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face.

Firm Foundation

If there be a man on earth to be envied it is he who, amidst the sharpest assaults from his own passions, from fortune, from society, never falters in his allegiance to God and the inward monitor.

Pride and Ingratitude

Pride is of such intimate connection with ingratitude that the actions of ingratitude seem directly resolvable into pride as the principal reason of them.—South.

Truth in Little Things

I have seldom seen anyone who deserted Truth in trifles, that could be trusted in matters of importance.—William Paley.

Life's Lesson

Take what is: trust what may be; That's life's true lesson. — R. Browning.

Standing Erect

A man must stand erect, not be kept erect by others.—Marcus Aurelius.

Showing Three New Styles



YOU who sew-your-own will be more enthusiastic than ever after making realities of these three new styles. Each is truly a delightful fashion and best of all there's something for every size in the family—from the "little bear" right on up.

Pattern 1997 is the smartly styled smock that probably has an option on a little portion of your heart right now. Fair enough, follow the dictates of your heart and you can't go wrong. This little wardrobe nicety will serve you becomingly and well. It will add to your comfort too. Make it of broadcloth, gingham, saten or chintz for prettiness and easy maintenance. There is a choice of long or short sleeves and the shiny gold buttons offer just the sort of spicy contrast one likes in informal apparel. Available for sizes 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44. Size 34 requires 3 1/2 yards of 39 inch material.

Pattern 1204—This new day frock for sizes 36 to 52 is the final word in style and charm in any woman's language. To do this flattering fashion is to step blithely into the realm of high fashion. The soft feminine collar is most becoming and it serves as an excellent medium for contrast. The sleeve length is optional. Slender lines are the main feature of the skirt and a very pleasant effect results from the wide and handsome flare. Satin or sheer wool would most assuredly win your friends' approval and perhaps just a little of their envy. This pattern is designed for sizes 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50 and 52. Size 38 requires 4 1/2 yards of 39 inch material. Less with short sleeves. The collar in contrast requires 3/4 yard.

The adorable little number for Miss Two-To-Eight, Pattern 1994,

is surely without competition in the way of downright intrigue. It's the essence of youthfulness with a lot of grown-up technique added to make it a crackjack. Why not do things up right and cut this model twice—panties too, naturally—using sheer wool for the "best" occasion frock and gingham or seersucker for school, play and all-purpose use? Pattern 1994 is available in sizes 2, 4, 6 and 8 years. Size 4 requires 2 1/2 yards of 39 inch material plus 3/4 yard of bias binding for trimming.

Send for the Barbara Bell Fall and Winter Pattern Book containing 100 well-planned, easy-to-make patterns. Exclusive fashions for children, young women, and matrons. Send fifteen cents in coins for your copy.

Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., 149 New Montgomery Ave., San Francisco, Calif. Price of patterns, 15 cents (in coins) each.

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