

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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The Prophecy of Christmas

Tonight the kindly, pink-cheeked old gentleman with the crimson jacket and flowing beard will spread joy to youngsters—and oldsters too. The "clatter" of his reindeer and the merry tinkle of tiny bells are not always heard, but he will come just the same. "Twas the Night before Christmas", you know.

There are, of course, a very few skeptics who might question the very existence of Santa Claus. To answer them we might borrow the words of Francis Church, a newspaper man on the staff of the New York Sun, who more than 50 years ago, replied to little Virginia O'Hanlon's "Is There a Santa Claus" query: "Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies."

YES, the innocent, gentle faith of little children is deeply entrenched in characters of fantasy, and just so do men and women look to a great and enduring Spirit for strength and guidance and comfort. Its inspiration was born just 1,944 years ago on a "silent night" in a humble manger in Bethlehem.

UPON this anniversary, at the very height of the bitterest and cruelest of all conflicts, it might seem hollow mockery to observe Christmas. Why, the very incongruity of celebrating an impossible ideal of "Peace on Earth," with most of the world at war! And yet there were wars and bloodshed, lust and greed, intolerance and oppression when the Prince of Peace was born, just as there are today. Yet Christmas has lived through the centuries.

Right now gallant men have the courage to fight and die so that the ideals of Christmas may be kept steadfast. People of good-will have an almost fierce determination to observe this Day as never before. This must be done, for only by holding high the sacred flame, by keeping eyes firmly and unwavering upon the Star in the East, can we repel the darkness and preserve the light of Christmas—the spirit of peace, of good will, of human dignity, tolerance and justice!

Yes, Christmas must be celebrated, not alone as an anniversary of a past event, but even more as a prophecy of ultimate "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men."—H.G.

From the Fighting Front

All newspaper editors of course get a great many letters. Most of them are critical. Which proves we believe that dislikes are always stronger than likes in the breast of the genus homo.

When a man—or woman,—sees something he doesn't like in the paper, something that makes him mad; he sits down and pens something to "ye editor", while his blood pressure is high, then he feels better, —and often the editor DOESN'T!

When the same man,—or woman,—sees something he likes in the same paper, he doesn't feel the same compulsion to express himself, and nine times out of ten says nothing and soon forgets all about it.

THIS is not to complain, merely to state a fact.

Indeed we believe there are few newspaper editors who would not feel genuinely worried if they did not receive a great many letters (most of them critical), and many of them unsigned. It would indicate a lack of reader-interest. And that is one thing; no newspaper man can tolerate,—indifference. He is never, if worth his salt, seeking praise or agreement; he IS seeking to arouse the interest, the curiosity, the attention of his readers.

ALL of which leads up to the fact we have just received a letter from an American officer at the fighting front, which has pleased us more than any letter we have received since the war started. It was not written for publication and is too personal anyway, but we do feel at liberty to print the following extract.

We quote:—"Most of the letters to the editor I have read seem on the critical side so I have had in mind for some time telling you how much the men I happen to share quarters with enjoy your editorials regardless of the fact they are a bit odd by the time we get them..."

"There you is" as Andy would say. "UNSAFE TO TELL THE PEOPLE THE TRUTH!"

How many times has this department stressed that point—the assumption by the powers-that-be that we-the-people can't take it, and their insistence that all good news therefore should be played up and magnified, and all bad news played down, delayed if not suppressed.

AS our correspondent declares,—and who should know better than an officer now on the fighting front,—this sort of Pollyanna stuff not only does NOT help the war, it definitely does harm. "How long, Oh Lord how long" will it be, before those powers-that-be who determine the policy of news-reporting in this war, see what the MEN WHO HAVE HAD TO DO THE FIGHTING have seen from the first!

If this war is to be won at the earliest possible time, the people—ALL the people—must be given ALL the salient facts concerning it!

Tobias Knight, colonial secretary of North Carolina, was tried for complicity in the murderings of Blackbeard the pirate, but was absolved by the provincial council.

GAS AND PAJAMAS CAPITAL LACK, IS OTHMAN'S REPORT

Only President's Tree Has Colored Bulbs—No Ornaments Or Whiskey.

By Frederick C. Othman
United Press Staff Correspondent
Washington, Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—"Twas the night before Christmas (or almost) and all through the capital nothing much was stirring on account of no gas. No pajamas, either. I tried to buy a pair, but the ladies had snapped 'em all up for gifts. Most of the governmental big shots were out of town, federal departments were closed until Tuesday, and the White House was getting ready to switch on its Christmas tree in the back yard.

Where'd President Roosevelt get his colored lamps? That's what I want to know. Everybody else's tree was dark, because of no bulbs. It was cold as billy-get-out, traffic jams piled up for blocks around those few filling stations that had gasoline, and I never did get a black nightgown for my bride. There aren't any pink gowns for sale in Washington. The department stores are a re-grocery from the biggest Christmas rush yet. They're sold out of everything except seersucker suits and synthetic garden hose.

I hadn't planned to buy one, but a leading florist is out of orchids. Standard brands of whiskey, aren't. So are pen points (for addressing Christmas cards) unless you swipe 'em from the postoffice department.

Whatever else you may want probably isn't in stock, either, but I still think it'll be a good Christmas. At least at my house it won't be vegetarian. We had pork chops for Thanksgiving, but my bride said she's getting a turkey for Christmas, or else.

She went to Washington's biggest market on Florida avenue. She reported there were a few barrels of birds, frozen and a little bluish-looking, on the sidewalk. Around each barrel, she said was a mob of Washingtonians, clutching \$5 and \$10 bills in their fists, stepping on each other's toes, and begging for the privilege of buying a turkey at 51 cents a pound.

My bride never did get close enough to enter the bidding and the answer is, or else.

MAMMOTH MINE, MULE CREEK, SOLD

Grants Pass, Ore., Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—The old Mammoth gold mine on Mule creek today was in the hands of its new owner, Owen Jones of the Baker Brothers and Jones Mining company, formerly of Chico, Calif. Purchase of the mine from Charles Tucker of Marial, Curry county, was announced here today at a reported price of about \$100,000.

McCORMICK WEDS

Chicago, Dec. 22.—(U.P.)—Mrs. Maryland Mathison Hooper, Chicago socialite, and Col. Robert R. McCormick, publisher of the Chicago Tribune, were married by the Rev. Robert B. Stewart here last night. The wedding took place before a small circle of relatives and friends at the apartment of Chauncey McCormick, the bridegroom's cousin.

SOLOM POST FILLED

Pendleton, Ore., Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—The vacancy in the Oregon state house of representatives resulting from promotion of Carl Engdahl from the house to the senate has been filled by election of Art Lindberg, Pendleton farmer, the Umatilla county court announced today.

Closing time for Sunday Too Late to Classify 2:30 Saturday afternoon—Please remember.

SUPER-FORTS EYE TOKYO, HONGKONG WASHINGTON SAYS

Aerial Activity On Enemy Centers Reported—No-gaya Raid Results.

Washington, Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—Tokyo reported today that three B-29 Superfortresses had flown over the main Japanese island of Honshu, one dropping explosive and fire bombs on Tokyo while another scouted Hongkong, biggest naval base on the east China coast.

Salpan dispatches meanwhile disclosed that Superfortresses which hit the Mitsubishi aircraft factory at Nagoya on Friday shot down or damaged 24 Japanese planes, more than the combined total for six previous raids on Honshu by the Marianas-based 21st bomber command planes.

In what amounted to the sixth straight day of American action against the Japanese mainland or enemy-dominated areas of Asia, Tokyo said that a single Superfortress flying from Salpan penetrated deep into the "Tokyo vicinity" at dawn and then "fled" after dropping bombs on the capital. Tokyo has been struck in force four times by the 21st planes, and Nagoya three times.

A later Tokyo broadcast heard by the FCC said that two more Superfortresses flew over the Hanshin area of southeastern Honshu, which includes the industrial coastal cities of Osaka and Kobe, and toward the Nagoya area to the northeast, and left without dropping bombs. It was possible they were ascertaining the results of Friday's Nagoya attack, which was made by instrument through a heavy overcast.

The flight over the former British crown colony of Hongkong, which fell to the Japanese three years ago Christmas day, was the first ever made by B-29s, although the base has been bombed frequently by lighter bombers of the China air force. Tokyo said Hongkong was scouted at 1:30 p. m. Friday (east China time) and that during the day 20 fighter planes made two attacks on the Canton-Hongkong area. Tokyo claimed five fighters were shot down or damaged.

MERRILL MARSHAL GETS PEN TERM

Klamath Falls, Ore., Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—J. C. Jones, city marshal of Merrill, pleaded guilty in circuit court here today to a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor girl, and was sentenced to three years in Oregon penitentiary.

Sentence was passed by Circuit Judge David R. Vandenberg. Jones is a veteran of World War II. Merrill is a small town about 30 miles southeast of here.

104, NEVER MISSES VOTE

China, Me.—(U.P.)—One of the best records for continuous voting has been established by 104-year-old Augustus D. Wiggin of China, Wiggin, who cast his first ballot for Abraham Lincoln claims to have voted in every presidential election since he came of age. In the past election he was forced to use the absentee ballot for the first time because of poor health.

SETTLE VIA MARRIAGE

Independence, Mo.—(U.P.)—Robert W. Davis, proprietor of the Spring Street cafe here, recently tried to buy the Maples cafe, but couldn't come to terms with the owner, Mrs. Pearl Thomas. Dickering continued and finally the pair solved the problem with a personal merger, Mrs. Thomas becoming Mrs. Davis.

SHIP DIVERSION FROM PACIFIC IS NEW NAVY WORRY

Washington, Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—The navy is deeply concerned over the tight shipping situation in the Pacific and is fighting efforts to divert merchant ships for the transportation of civilian relief supplies to Europe, it was learned authoritatively tonight.

It has made known its opposition to diversion proposals in strongly phrased communications to interested federal departments and agencies.

The current military situation in Europe has further aggravated the shipping situation. The loss of supplies due to the German break-through in Belgium and Luxembourg will have to be made up quickly.

And this takes ships, some of which under ordinary circumstances could have been shifted to the Pacific where military commitments have placed an increased strain on shipping.

The United Press was permitted to make the navy's attitude known at a time when British minister of state, Richard Law, is in this country to discuss European relief problems, with particular emphasis on shipping.

Naval officials have made no secret of the fact that the full movement to divert vessels for the carrying of relief supplies, they fear, would impede highly important operations — operations which must not and cannot be postponed because of the problems they present.

The United Nations relief and the habilitation administration is pressing for the assignment of vessels from the supply pool to meet what it considers a desperate situation among the civilian population of liberated areas in Europe.

BANGS RATE LOW

Portland, Ore., Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—Oregon has the fourth lowest incidence of bang's disease in the nation, Samuel B. Foster, inspector in charge of the U. S. bureau of animal husbandry at Portland, said today.

Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson Co History from the files of the Mail Tribune 10, 20, and 34 years ago.

TEN YEARS AGO TODAY

December 24, 1934 (It Was Monday)
Courage and unity urged by president in Christmas greeting to nation.

Mrs. Roosevelt is named outstanding woman of the year.

Fear irrigation pamphlet ready for orchardists.

City to observe Christmas to-

morrow with general closing of stores, family dinners and reunions, and organizations distributing baskets to the needy.

Upstate swept by high wind and rain.

Cloudy with occasional showers. High 42, low 31 degrees.

State police raid illicit liquor resorts.

Ralph O. Stephenson is named federal farm census director for county.

TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY

December 24, 1924 (It Was Tuesday)
Dry raid in Talent and Eagle Point districts brings nine arrests.

Allied council at Paris discusses plans to disarm Germany.

Premier Kato of Japan thanks president and secretary of state for action furthering peaceful relations between two lands.

Fair and continued cold. High 54, low 32 degrees.

Kiwanis hear problems of county discussed by county judge.

Medford high defeats Eureka 28 to 15 in first basketball game.

Old fashioned Christmas to be observed in city tomorrow.

THIRTY-FOUR YEARS AGO TODAY

December 24, 1910
Volume of business at post-office unprecedented in history of city.

Christmas services to be held in all churches tomorrow.

Elks Christmas tree is well attended, and will bring cheer to poor.

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"TINY TIM" SAID IT FOR US
P.A. Holmes AGENCY
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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
MODEL BAKERY 323 W. MAIN

HENRY'S DRIVE-IN WILL CLOSE DEC. 24 FOR REMODELING
Which Will Take a Week to 10 Days
WATCH FOR RE-OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT
We take this means of wishing all our patrons a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

HUBBARD BROS. WILL BE CLOSED THREE DAYS— DEC. 27-28-29 FOR INVENTORY
For Emergency Calls Dial 2189
HUBBARD-WRAY CO. WILL REMAIN OPEN

Ye Smudge Pot

By Arthur Perry
It's Christmas again, and nothing is supposed to be stirring, not even a mouse. All the kids have written letters to Santa Claus. Many can't read their own writing, but expect him to.

E. Ulrich, the Prospect m-t-w, townied in mid-week. He is over a light cold and the last election.

Federal counting of farms and farmers will start here next month. Questions on the blanks ask everything but how the party of the first part likes taxes.

The fog was so thick for a while Fri. morning, an autoist could barely see his hand, or a phone pole in front of him.

The Cole Holmes boy Bob, who is following in the footsteps of Thomas Edison, has been elected to the Eta Kappa Nu. He is on the U. of Colorado campus.

A goodly supply of grapefruit arrived from Arizona during the past week, and epicureans rejoiced at the prospect of having one inadvertently squirt juice in his good eye.

Jay Tannehill Walker, 5, has his Paw, in the navy, home for the Yule season.

Thurs. was the shortest day of the year. Outside of having a minimum of daylight to save, it greatly resembled the orchard run of days.

A full moon comes next Fri. Many farmers plan to kill their hogs before then, so the meat won't sour.

The Les Taylor boy Bob of Phoenix has been a fine boy, and neither St. Nick or his Grandpaw are mad at him, as he had no arguments with either.

Don (Wrong Way) Wilkinson was requested with himself all week. In a thrilling contest, he skillfully tossed in the basket, that gave the opposing team the victory.

The Nipponese continue to get what they asked for in the Pacific, causing 84 admirals of the Mikado to cash in their checks.

Ed Kubli, the Applegate cowman, sized up the Dock Lemery horse from Arabia the past week. He is a fine bit of horse-flesh, with a leg on each corner, and stops when he hears, "Whoa!", in either English or Arabic.

It will soon be another year, with all its inevitable trials and tribulations, and a session of the legislature, also inevitable.

The S. Clemons dog "Twirp" as a shoemaker's dog tried out his teeth on a piece of old shoe leather Wed. A few minutes before he was engaged with the residue of a steak, and may have been comparing tensile strength of the two.

Winter officially arrived Thurs. Everybody was as cool as a cucumber at the change of seasons.

The B. Tornado eked out a precarious win from North Bend Fri. eve. The coming week-end they invade the Willamette valley to play Albany, and the former host team, Salem.

JAPS CLAIM PROPERTY
San Francisco, Dec. 22.—(U.P.)—An average of 175 evacuated Japanese are requesting each month that their property stored in two government warehouses here be shipped to other states, the war relocation authority said today.

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