

CAN SMASH UPS MAR HOLIDAYS

In The

By FRANK JENKINS
This is Christmas Eve. But I'm not going to talk much about Santa Claus. I sometimes fear we have TOO MUCH Santa Claus in the modern world. Santa Claus is the CHILDREN'S saint. As such, he is wonderful beyond belief. The simple creed of Santa Claus, as expressed to the children, is "be good and you will be rewarded." That is a GOOD creed, for children for if one forms young the habit of being good great joy will come therefrom. Believe it or not, it is the truly good who are truly happy.

The trouble, as I see it, is that Santa Claus has been adopted by the politicians as THETIS saint. They put his creed like this: "VOTE FOR US and you will be rewarded." That just won't work. When grown-ups are taught to rely on rewards they haven't WORKED for, it spoils everything.

I'm afraid too many of us have forgotten the origin of Christmas. Christmas Day is the anniversary of the birth of Jesus. Hal Boyle, in a column the other day, described Jesus as a "GREAT RADICAL." Webster defines a radical thus: "In politics, one who advocates radical and sweeping changes in laws and methods of government with the least possible delay."

Jesus was sickened and disgusted by the money changes in the Temple. He didn't wait for congressional inquiries. He didn't propose the appointment of a commission. HE SCOURGED THEM OUT.

Jesus, a radical, came into a world that was dominated by standpatters. Standpatters are a class in whose hands too much power has remained too long. Where too much power collects and remains too long, TOO MUCH WEALTH tends to collect. That was so in the world into which Jesus came. So he hated wealth, which by then had become a symbol of injustice.

Matthew tells us that Jesus "departed from Galilee and came into the coast of Judaea beyond Jordan." There people came to him and questioned him. Among them was a young man, well-to-do and of good family. He interrogated Jesus at length as to what he must do to have eternal life. (I imagine that among other things the young man wanted a clear conscience if the price for such wasn't too high). They spoke of the accepted virtues, and according to Matthew the young man said:

"All these things have I kept from my youth: what lack yet?" Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come and follow me.

"But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions."

Matthew goes on:

"Then Jesus said unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

To understand that passage from Matthew, one must remember that in Jesus' time the rich HAD HELD POWER TOO LONG, and with power held too long had come corruption and hardness of heart.

You know, it seems to me that in at least our Western world WEALTH AS WEALTH is being conquered. High taxes are taking care of that. As I recall the figures, there are left in Britain somewhat less than 20 men with NET incomes of as much as \$50,000 a year. Maybe it's \$100,000 a year. I haven't time this morning to look up the exact figure. Anyway, it's startling.

In America, the process hasn't gone so far, but it is working. High taxes are slowly moving down the ranks of the rich.

Here's what I'm getting at: The traditional place of the RICH and powerful (against whom Jesus spoke out) is being usurped by the POLITICALLY powerful. I'm hesitating to believe, almost, that it is easier for a camel to go through

(Continued on Page 4)



THE NATIVITY, here portrayed by figurines designed by Mrs. C. D. Groves, 1434 Lakeview, was the winning exhibit in the Jaycee Christmas lighting contest over the weekend. She will receive a \$25 award from Copco.

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S Ponders Re Charge

Tax Men To Look Over Inventories

Merchandise inventories reported on personal property returns soon to be filed by business owners will be subject to a special scrutiny, Klamath County Assessor Otis Metaker announced.

Returns containing that type of personal property will be spot-checked by Frank Bass, state tax commission appraisal engineer, in cooperation with the local assessment office.

Most county assessors and the tax commission believe, according to Metaker, that some merchandise held at assessment time (January 1) is not getting on the tax roll or is being undervalued.

Consequently other taxpayers may be carrying more than their fair share of the load.

In making spot checks, Bass will be aided by recently-strengthened property tax laws. The law changes subjects undervalued property to the same treatment as omitted property in that it can be assessed in any of the five subsequent years if it is missed in computing the current roll.

After the bulk of personal property returns have reached his office, Metaker said, Bass is to be sent here by the tax commission.

Returns containing merchandise inventories of comparable establishments will be examined and some of the returns which seem low may be subjected to an actual audit of stock as of the January 1 date.

Any undervaluations disclosed, Metaker said, will result in revised valuations being placed on the county assessment rolls.

Bass is a former chief deputy assessor of Multnomah county.



9 O'clock Special

T'WAS THE DAY before Christmas, and it was pretty chilly as Lloyd McFarland, 239 Nevada, and Cecil Cunningham, 1718 Wall, did a little warm-up for the 9 o'clock photographer.

White Christmas In Line For Much of United States

By The Associated Press

The northern one-third of the United States and a few other spots farther south are going to have a white Christmas—and generally a cold one.

That confines it pretty much to territory which already has snow on the ground; the weather bureau in Chicago said. It includes areas north of a line running through southern Pennsylvania, central Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, northern Missouri, the Kansas-Nebraska border, and into the Rockies.

Exceptions are: Some areas in the Appalachian and Rocky mountains below this line are snow covered; the eastern seaboard as far north as southern New England are not.

Cold weather continued over most of the country today except for the Southeast and extreme South where temperatures ranged from the 40's to 60 Sunday. It was 69 in Miami, 63 in Brownsville, Tex., early this morning.

There was no relief yet from sub-zero temperatures along the Canadian border states. Miles City, Mont., reported 30 below, Bismarck, N.D., 12, Rochester, Minn., 30 and Eau Claire, Wis., 34.

The cold was moving eastward and southward into the mid-Atlantic states, but the weather bureau said it would moderate as it spread.

A snow belt pushed inland from the Pacific coast through portions of Nevada, southern Idaho and Wyoming to western Nebraska. Snow flurries were reported in the great lakes region and northern New England.

Rain fell along the northern California and southern Oregon coasts and in the southeast.

Snow-choked areas of the mid-continent were digging their way out. It was a bit warmer in snow-covered South Dakota where isolated ranches and towns have been supplied by plane. Main highways were cleared in the heavy snow areas of the Great Lakes region, but not all secondary roads. It was still hazardous in Chicago, Detroit and Columbus, O.

Groves Tops Light Contest

It was only by a close vote of the judges this year, but again the winner of the annual Jaycee Christmas lighting contest was Mrs. C. D. Groves, 1434 Lakeview, with her scene of The Nativity.

Running a close second and by close decision of the judges was Frank Robinson, 2655 Eberlein. His exhibit included a revolving Christmas tree with Christmas scenes bracketing it.

District winners included: Elmer Bramlett, 331 N. 9th; Bob Boudon, 2330 Garden; Mrs. M. Menz, Lakeshore Drive and Robert A. Ross, 5543 Cottage.

Mrs. Groves will be awarded a \$25 prize by California-Oregon Power Co.; Robinson will receive the second prize, \$15 from Klamath Falls creamery.

District winners are to receive \$5 merchandise awards from Pavley's Hardware; Hardy's Gun Store and Oregon Woolen store.

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Satellite Asks Loot For Fliers

WASHINGTON, (AP) — In the absence of official word from Hungary, state department officials apparently were groping today for a course of action in the case of four imprisoned U.S. airmen.

A military court in the Red satellite state yesterday convicted the four of violating the Hungarian border to engage in spying.

It fixed a penalty of \$30,000 each—or three months in jail.

But no official word came to the state department.

In fact, efforts of the American legation in Budapest to find out from Hungarian officials the who, where, what and why of the fines were apparently stymied by a holiday which closed government offices for three days.

Wives and families of three of the imprisoned airmen were jubilant when they heard what the sentence was. They said they expected worse.

WIFE HAPPY

"I think it's wonderful. I'm so excited about it, and the children are too," said 32-year old Mrs. Florence Henderson of Harrah, Okla., wife of Capt. Dave Henderson. She was interviewed at Erding, Germany, where she and her husband have been living.

"It takes a great load off my mind," said Mrs. John J. Swift of Glenn Falls, N.Y. Her husband is also an air force captain.

And at Kingsland, Ark., King Leo Egan, father of Sgt. James A. Egan, said that if the government didn't pay the fines he'd raise the money himself.

The fourth airman is T-Sgt. Jess A. Duff, of Spokane, Wash. His German bride could not be reached at Erding.

WANDON ANGLE

No matter what the U.S. government decides to do, there seemed to be no chance of freeing the four men by Christmas.

The "man on the street," the time had all the earmarks of ransom money.

It seemed to assure quick release of the airmen under conditions humiliating to the United States. Officials available yesterday did not recall any instance in which a time had been imposed in a similar situation.

USW To Hold Policy Meet

PITTSBURGH, (AP) — President Philip Murray of the CIO union steel workers today called his union's top policy makers into session here Thursday but declined to say the purpose of the meeting.

The USW executive board will meet at 10 a.m. (EST) followed by a session of the wage policy committee—the ratifying body—at 2 p.m.

The summons was the only public answer to a nation awaiting his response to President Truman's appeal to the union and the steel industry to postpone production of vitally needed steel past the midnight December 31 strike deadline.

The steel industry has accepted the president's request but Murray has given no indication of his future plans.

Two Overcome By Car Fumes

Two teenagers, a boy and girl, overcome by carbon monoxide fumes in a car at Sprague River early this morning, were admitted to Klamath Valley hospital shortly before noon today.

The girl, 18-year old June Coburn of Sprague River, appeared in serious condition, Lawrence Head, 17, of Beatty, was conscious when brought here.

The girl's mother, Mrs. Pearl Coburn, said she discovered the pair unconscious in her car parked in front of her house at Sprague River about 8 o'clock this morning.

She said they had returned from taking a girl friend home in Sprague River sometime after 3 a.m., and parked outside the house. Head is staying with the Coburns while his mother and step-father are in San Francisco.

Mrs. Coburn said she went to bed when she heard the car drive up to the house.

This morning when she got up she discovered the pair unconscious. The ignition key turned on the car heater fan running but the motor dead.

Head came to when artificial respiration and oxygen was applied but the girl didn't regain consciousness, Mrs. Coburn stated.

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Tow Truck Crews On Round-The Clock Basis; Streets Icy



SMASHED UP CARS clogged the Balsiger Motor Co. shop this morning following one of the most disastrous weekends in Klamath history.

By WALLACE MYERS

Although no persons are known to have been seriously injured, motorists in the Klamath area chalked up what was probably a record number of wrecks over the weekend.

Three city wrecking services this morning reported an amazing total of 114 calls since Friday afternoon.

This morning as this reporter examined smashed up cars in city garages it was difficult to believe that there were no deaths nor critical injuries.

One weary wrecking crew, on continuous duty for two days and nights with only snatches of sleep beside their wreckers, told of carrying one man away from a car that had gone more than 200 feet off the highway. Later, the lucky motorist was found to be suffering only from bruises and minor cuts.

IN HOSPITAL

Still in Klamath Valley hospital today were two Californians in a crashup near Mt. Shasta yesterday afternoon. They were: Robert Black, 26, San Francisco, leg cuts and possible head and neck injuries; and Ruby McElfresh, 22, Two Rocks, lacerations.

Many of the weekend wrecks were no doubt due to weather shifts that made swift changes in highway conditions. Yesterday's rain at lower elevations melted away snow and ice but the rain was freezing at higher points. Then last night, roads and streets glazed over with ice and were covered with fresh snow.

Two KILLED

YREKA, (AP) — Two persons were killed and seven others were injured—one of them critically—in a two-car head-on collision near Gar-

Butcherboy Out Of Federal Jail

McNEIL ISLAND, FEDERAL PRISON, Wash., (AP)—According to Dick Contino's release from this prison on a Puget Sound island was announced today by Warden Fred T. Wilkinson.

The one-time \$4000-a-week musician left the island yesterday, two days before Christmas, after serving 4½ months for draft evasion. Contino got time off from his six-month sentence for good behavior.

The warden said he was "a very good prisoner, with no complications whatever."

Contino had an airplane ticket for a flight south Sunday, supposed to be to Los Angeles. The warden said his understanding was that the "one-time Fresno butcherboy" would motor to Fresno to spend part of the holidays with relatives.

Cardinal On Korea Visit

SOMEWHERE IN KOREA, (AP) — Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York today was a Christmas Eve visiting visitor to thousands of United Nations servicemen in Korea.

He began with mass at first corps headquarters where he met 600 American soldiers individually. Then, in a light plane, he flew until sundown, making stops at six U.N. posts and meeting personally soldiers of 11 nations.

Gen. James A. Van Fleet, U.S. eighth army commander, and Lt. Gen. John W. O'Daniel, commander of the first corps, accompanied the cardinal in light planes.

At each stop the cardinal addressed soldiers and shook hands with every man, asking his name and home town. He promised soldiers he would write to relatives on his return.

"One of the things that appealed greatly was the cardinal telling the men he would write to their families," said Maj. Gen. Willard G. Wyman, commander of the ninth corps. "I can't say too much for the value of such a visit."

At third division headquarters, 1200 men including personnel from Belgium, the Philippines, and Greek forces, gathered to meet the cardinal.

"We are honored and delighted," said Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Cross, commander of the division. "His eminence couldn't come at a more appropriate time."

One Miner Rescued From Blasted Shaft; 119 Die

WEST FRANKFORT, Ill., (AP) — One miner was rescued from a 36-hour entombment today after the nation's worst mine tragedy in 23 years claimed 119 lives.

Taken from the shaft 850 feet below the surface was Cecil Sanders, 44, of Benton, Ill. He was taken to the United Mine Workers hospital in serious condition.

Shortly after Sanders was brought to the surface, mine superintendent John R. Foster said:

"There are five men down there—no more alive. We believe that is all."

The discovery of the last of the 119 bodies on the day before Christmas added a poignant chapter to the desperate rescue efforts that have been in progress day and night since the violent explosion shattered the Orient No. 2 mine Friday night.

Morgue attendants reported one of the six bodies found early today still was warm. Found on the body of B. R. Williams, about 40, of West Frankfort, was this final message scrawled on the inside of a cigarette package and addressed to his widow, Laura:

Shooting Hours

December 25
Open 7:00 Close 3:45
December 26
Open 7:45 Close 3:00

Weather

FORECAST—Klamath Falls and vicinity and northern California: Cloudy tonight and tomorrow with possible snow flurries. Low tonight 15, high tomorrow 30. — 33
Low last night — 33
(Additional Weather on Page 4)

Roads Good

SALEM, (AP)—Road conditions are good in Oregon except that packed snow makes chains needed in the Timberline, Union Creek, Bend, Chemult, Bly, Astoria and Seneca areas, the state highway commission reported. All other roads were either bare or well-sanded.

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