

Christmas Story Began With 'Miraculous Birth'

By JAN MURPHY
The story of Christmas is the simple, but "miraculous" fact of the birth of Christ nearly twenty centuries ago in the little town of Bethlehem in Judea.

The story opens in the city of Nazareth in Galilee, where lived the Virgin Mary and a carpenter named Joseph. One day the angel said to her, "Thou shalt bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus."

And the angel told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth, who was an old woman, also would give birth to a son.

Mary went to the home of Elizabeth when the angel departed. Elizabeth's husband was a priest in the temple of Jerusalem. When Elizabeth saw Mary she said, "Blessed art thou among women."

Mary stayed with Elizabeth until it was time for Elizabeth's son to be born, and all knew that Elizabeth's son, John, had been sent by God to prepare the people for Christ's coming.

BETHELEHEM JOURNEY
Mary returned to Nazareth and, soon after, Joseph and Mary set out on a journey to Bethlehem, for their emperor had decreed that everyone must return to the place from which his family comes and pay the taxes.

The journey of Mary and Joseph lay seventy miles south. As they approached Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph became part of a long line of travelers, who trudged up a stony hillside into the town. Many were on foot, for most of them were poor. Some, more wealthy, rode on camels and donkeys.

The little town, already overcrowded, could hardly house all these travelers. Joseph was an elderly man, but he walked all the way. Beside him on a donkey, rode his young wife, Mary. Joseph and Mary had been more than three days on the road. Night had fallen when the travelers first saw the flat-roofed houses of Bethlehem. When Mary and Joseph entered the town, they found the streets already crowded with homeless travelers who had arrived before them.

They made their way to the only inn in the town, but there was no room for them at the inn. Yet Joseph had to find shelter, for Mary was about to give birth to a child.

There are many stories of how Joseph found shelter for Mary. One version is that the innkeeper himself, taking compassion upon Mary, guided them through the jostling throngs of travelers to his own stable, where he kept his cattle and there made a crude bedding of fresh straw for Mary.

Artists who have painted the scene in the stable have usually shown it as a wooden structure with stalls filled with straw. Actually, the stables of Christ's time in Bethlehem were not buildings at all, but dry, rocky caves with feeding troughs for cattle lining the walls. These stable caves, with heavy wooden doors at the entrance, exist in southern Palestine even today.

Here in the stable cave of the Bethlehem inn, Christ was born to Mary.

On the slopes of the rocky ridge just outside the town of Bethlehem is an enclosure called the Shepherd's Field. In this enclosure, or pasture, shepherds were busy tending their flocks through the silent night, when Christ was born.

They were keeping special vigil on that night because sacrificial lambs would soon be wanted for the great national Feast of the Passover. These shepherds were poor, oppressed and unhappy, as were most Israelites under the stern and exacting Roman rule of Caesar Augustus. It was a time when all Israel prayed for the great deliverer. And the shepherds on the hill outside Bethlehem must have talked among themselves often of the sayings of the prophets who had foretold that the long-expected Prince and Savior of Israel would be born in their own home town of Bethlehem.

The Bible tells how the announcing angel appeared before these shepherds, saying, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Then there was a multitude of angels praising God, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

After the angels ascended into heaven, the shepherds said, "Let us now go and visit the babe found, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."

The shepherds described their flocks and went down into Bethlehem. They went directly to the stable at the inn and there they found, as the angel had said, a babe lying in a manger. They fell to their knees and worshipped Him.

When they had seen the infant Jesus, the shepherds went out and told everyone they met what the angel had said about the new-born Savior. All those to whom they repeated the story listened in wonder and awe at what they heard.

The shepherds then returned to their flocks, praising God for what they had seen and heard.

WISE MEN VISIT
After the shepherds came the Wise Men to worship the new-born and Joseph lay seventy miles south. As they approached Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph became part of a long line of travelers, who trudged up a stony hillside into the town. Many were on foot, for most of them were poor. Some, more wealthy, rode on camels and donkeys.

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PHOTOGRAPHERS Dwayne Prater and Tom Lassett caught the staffs of both of Klamath Union High School's journalistic departments after 14 grueling weeks of publications. In those 14 weeks, however, they have learned many things along the journalistic line, and are none the worse for wear. Staffs of the News Nugget and Klamath Krater are shown in the above photograph. Editors and reporters of News Nugget are shown in the top picture. Seated (left to right) are: Lois Shepler, associate editor; Beverly Doran, editor-in-chief; and Fred Heard, editorial manager. Standing are: Glenda Johnson, exchange editor; Carole Horn, reporter; Jan Murphy, feature editor; Sharon O'Neil, reporter; Barbara Edwards, tyro reporter; Linda Gregory, news editor; Joyce Howard, radio editor; Sandi Baird, tyro reporter; and Bill Bates, sports editor. Staff for the Klamath Krater is: (seated, left to right) Mr. J. D. Yohn, advisor for the publications and journalism teacher; Linda Grems, news reporter; Maureen Griffith, reporter; Twila Greene, editor-in-chief; Jeanette Green, reporter. Center row, standing, Marilyn Alter, business manager; Nancy Clark, feature editor; Beverly Goehring, associate editor; Mary Harlan, exchange editor. Back row: Brent Caldwell, sports reporter; Bill Perkins, sports editor, and Dwayne Prater, photographer. —Photo by Lassett

'Merry Christmas'

Nineteen hundred fifty-five has been a year of fine accomplishments in Klamath Union High School. Once again the fine records of our graduates give evidence that the program of studies at KUH is well-planned and that high scholastic standards are being maintained. Our successful student organizations, athletic teams and music groups have turned in excellent performances, and already substantial plans have been made for 1956.



Klamath Union has achieved and maintained its consistently strong position in the secondary field through the diligent and conscientious work of its teaching staff. I wish to commend the members of the faculty for a job well done in 1955.

The members of the Board of Education and the administration extend best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Arnold L. Gralapp
Superintendent of Schools

Student Congress Mulls 'Corn Popper' Purchase

By LOIS SHEPLER
Students representing all home rooms of Klamath Union High School gathered in the library December 19, 1955, for a Student Council meeting.

Two representatives from 'K' Club, Orin Perkins, president, and Jim McGee, vice president, spoke to the students for two changes they wanted to obtain through the Student Congress. Orin Perkins asserted, "What the 'K' Club wants to do is, through the Student Council, purchase a popcorn popper. As it is, we buy the popcorn ready-made from Portland, have to go and get it from a local store, then sell old, stale popcorn. The machine will cost \$325. We will operate it at the games. It should be here, if the Council approves it—the money would come out of the Student Council fund—for about half the basketball games. The electric popper should pay for itself in a few months, besides sav-

'News Nugget'

"The Voice of Klamath Union High School"

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Holiday Cheer

May the joys of the Holiday Season come to your home...to stay!

MIDWAY TAVERN

Leo and Hazel Gillett

CHRISTMAS DANCE MALIN

Sunday Evening
December 25th
Music By
BALDY'S BAND
DANCING 9:30 to 1:30

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A Merry Christmas

May this joyous Yuletide season bring to you and your loved ones an abundance of health, happiness and good fortune.

THE LANDRY CO.

PAUL, KIT and DOUG

MERRY CHRISTMAS

That very special time of year is here again...so, to all our friends and patrons—we want to say: may Santa shower you with everything your hearts desire.

FROM THE STAFF AT
FIRESTONE STORES

Joyful Wishes

In harmony with the Holiday spirit, we add this cheery note: We hope your Christmas is as Magnificent as our Magnificent Magnova.

From Everyone at —
Derby's Music Co.
126 N. 7th

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From Herman's Crew

- ☆ Harry Glesin
- ☆ Bill Hall
- ☆ Ed Lindscog

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