Herald and News

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Weather

Klamath Falls and vicinity — Partly cloudy through today. High today 45-50.

High yesterday	50
Low last night	47
Precip. last 24 hours	none
Since Oct. 1	5.19
Same period last year	.84

Weather

Northern California — Mostly fair.

Mt. Shasta-Siskiyou area—Partly cloudy with a few light showers or snow flurries. Slightly colder.

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

This is Christmas Day.

Last night was Christmas Eve.

The patron saint of Christmas Eve is Santa Claus.

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How did the Santa Claus myth get started?

It isn't wholly a myth.

Saint Nicholas was the youngest and one of the kindest bishops in the history of the Church. During the Middle Ages he gradually became the patron saint of schoolboys. European schoolboys celebrated his feast day by electing a boy bishop.

Dressed in magnificent robes, the boy bishop led a parade that wound through the narrow streets, hardly wider than a modern alley and paved with rough cobblestones. Sometimes the procession entered the churches and proceeded solemnly down their aisles.

There was much feasting, but on the whole the occasion was a solemn one.

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As the Middle Ages waned, the Saint Nicholas feast and procession gradually waned with it. But in Belgium and The Netherlands they are still celebrated in many places.

In the celebrations a person representing the saint and wearing the robes of a bishop rides through the streets on a white donkey and the tradition still holds that if Hans and Katrinka have been good children all through the year they will find gifts in their wooden shoes on Christmas morning.

But—

If they have been BAD children, they will find in their shoes on Christmas morn only a bundle of switches.

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That is where in these modern days—in these ULTRA modern days, one might say without fracturing the truth—we get the story we sometimes tell to our children. The story that if they are good little boys and girls Old Santa will fill their stockings with gifts and goodies, but if they are bad little boys and girls Santa will pass them by and on Christmas morning they will find their stocking empty.

One fears that when we tell the tale we have our tongues in our cheeks and that our children are aware of it. Anyway, in these relatively abundant modern days, relatively few stockings are totally empty on Christmas morning.

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What with high taxes and high prices, we moderns are often inclined to feel pretty sorry for ourselves. We talk wistfully of the "good old days" when (we allege) everything was lovely and the goose hung high. It might be a good idea if old Doc Wonmug could clap some of us into his time machine and send us back to the Middle Ages. It would be an eye-opening trip for a lot of us who complain of the burdens of modern life.

Even a trip back to the days of our pioneer ancestors—whom we often think of as lucky stiffs, with plenty of free land lying all around waiting to be taken and gold out in the hills to be had for the digging—might be a revealing experience.

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But let's get back to Santa Claus.

How, it may be asked, did we ever get Santa Claus out of Saint Nicholas?

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Here is the accepted explanation:

The early Dutch settlers in America brought the Saint Nicholas tradition and the Saint Nicholas customs with them to New Amsterdam (now New York City.) The English settlers in America eagerly borrowed the legends and the festivities surrounding the kindly old saint. English children tried to pronounce the Dutch name for him, which was San Nicholas. But they said it quickly and excitedly and soon the name changed to Santy, or Santa, Claus.

Try it yourself. Say San Nicko-laas. Say it fast. You'll soon see how the transition from San Nicholas to Santa Claus came about.

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In conclusion—

Merry Christmas! Or Christmas Gift!, as they're apt to say in the South.

Boat Put Up To Pay Debts

PORTLAND (AP) — The excursion boat Centennial Queen, a converted ferry that hauled passengers up and down the Willamette River during last year's centennial celebration, will be sold next month to pay off debts.

The vessel is owned by the Oregon Navigation Co., which said in bankruptcy papers that it had assets of only $40,495 and debts of $99,722.

The sale will be held Jan. 16.

Birth Of Christ Inspires Most Beautiful Poems

By LOUIS CASSELS
United Press International

The birth of Jesus Christ has inspired some of the most beautiful poetry the world has known.

Most of it was written, as you would expect, after the event.

But two of the greatest poems in the vast library of Christmas literature were composed before Christ was born.

They were prophecies of His birth.

The mind-set of our modern culture is not congenial to the idea of prophetic vision. It seems rather unscientific of God to vouchsafe to devout mystics a preview of His purposes.

And yet the fact remains: The meaning of Christmas has never been more vividly expressed than in the prophecies of two holy men who were looking forward to the coming of the Messiah.

One of them was Isaiah, who lived in Jerusalem 700 years before the herald angels proclaimed glad tidings of great joy to the shepherds at Bethlehem.

His poem appears in the Bible in the 9th Chapter of the Book of Isaiah. Here is a modern translation, arranged in verse form by Dr. Robert W. Rogers, professor of ancient Oriental literature at Princeton University:

The people that were walking in darkness
Have seen a great light;
They that dwell in deep darkness,
On them hath light shone.
Thou has multiplied the nation,
Thou hast increased the joy;
They joy before Thee as men joy at harvest,
As they rejoice when they divide the spoil.
For every boot worn in tumult of battle
And every garment rolled in blood
Shall be for burning,
For fuel of the fire.
For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given,
And dominion is upon His shoulder;
And His name is called—
Wonderful Counsellor,
Mighty God,
A Father forever,
Prince of Peace.

"In all the literature of antiquity," says Prof. Rogers, "There is nothing to match this."

The second great poem of prophecy was uttered by Zacharias, father of John the Baptist, after he had experienced a vision of the role his son was to play as herald of the Messiah.

It is found in the First Chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke. It has been enshrined in Christian liturgy as the canticle called "The Benedictus."

Here is an ancient and beloved translation, from the Book of Common Prayer:

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel
For He hath visited and redeemed His people;
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us,
In the house of His servant David.
As He spake by the mouth of His holy prophets,
Which have been since the world began,
That we should be saved from our enemies,
And from the hand of all that hate us.
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers,
And to remember His holy covenant;
To perform the oath which He sware to our forefather Abraham;
That He would give us,
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies
Might serve Him without fear;
In holiness and righteousness before Him
All the days of our life.
And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the highest;
For thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare His way;
To give knowledge of salvation unto His people
For the remission of their sins.
Through the tender mercy of our God:
Whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;
To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death;
And to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Like all great poems, these should be read aloud. It is a tradition of some Christian homes to read one or both of them in the family circle on Christmas Eve.

There is no better way to remember what is really being celebrated in this "hallowed and gracious season."

Santa Visits Brave Little Girl Saturday

VALDOSTA, Ga. (AP) — A bright-eyed little girl played happily with her Christmas presents Saturday, unaware that Santa Claus arrived early because she is suffering from incurable cancer.

Jolly old Saint Nick paid 4-year-old Libby Joan Bennet a personal visit Friday, bringing gifts to the modest home from Valdosta residents who read a newspaper story about her.

Libby was so entranced with Santa she didn't notice the tears on her mother's cheeks, the television lights or the clicks of the cameras.

Not even the piles of presents distracted her attention from the jolly old man.

Today however, the toys brought back memories of a happy time—the Christmas that may have been her last one.

Trading Stamp Is Sufficient

PARAGOULD, Ark. (AP)—Nita White, 5, wanted to mail a letter to Santa Claus, but she didn't have a postage stamp.

Undaunted, she pasted a trading stamp on her letter.

Postal clerks dutifully canceled the stamp and forwarded Nita's letter to St. Nick.

Boy Enjoys Christmas After 'Miracle' Cure

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP) — Stephen Bloom, 5½, stands by the family Christmas tree. He greets a visitor with a friendly "Hi." His eager brown eyes reflect the shining of the Christmas lights.

"A miracle," his parents murmur to the visitor.

They say that with good reason, for Stephen has come through a horrifying accident and one of the most delicate brain operations ever performed in New England.

Mrs. John D. Bloom heard a fall last June 22 as Stephen and one of his two sisters played in their father's basement workshop. She rushed down. Stephen was pulling the tip of a rabbit-ear television antenna from under his right eye. He had fallen on it.

At Newport Hospital four stitches closed the wound. X-rays showed nothing. That night Stephen turned rapidly worse. Next morning doctors advised his transfer to Boston Children's Medical Center.

Swift tests showed brain damage. Dr. John Shillito Jr., Boston neurosurgeon, discovered what the X-rays could not show, that the plastic knob from the end of the antenna was lodged several inches behind Stephen's right eye—in his brain. But the eye itself was all right.

Bacteria already had started an infection. Dr. Shillito said all that could be done was to operate "and pray."

After a scalp incision from ear to ear, the surgeon moved deeper into Stephen's brain. For nearly six hours Dr. Shillito worked through the maze of delicate tissues and nerve cells. He removed the knob while colleagues assisted.

For three months, Stephen was like an infant.

Then came a change that Dr. Shillito had forecast. Stephen suddenly made new progress. He began walking by himself. He began to talk like his 5-year-old pals.

A WINNING DISPLAY AT THE CHARLES JOHNSTON HOME, 4330 Laverne Avenue, makes a lovely Christmas card from the staff of the Herald and News to all of our readers and clients. The lawn display won the grand sweepstakes prize in the annual Junior Chamber of Commerce Christmas lighting contest. We bid "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good day" until Tuesday. We will not publish Monday in observance of Christmas — the only holiday of the year during which the paper will not appear. — Photo by Wes Guderian.

Birth Of Christ Observed By Nations

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Festive parties and religious observance today marked Christmas from the newest nations of Africa to Europe, America and Asia.

African carol singers in flowered costumes paraded the streets of Lagos, Nigeria, in 91-degree temperatures and 90-degree humidity, celebrating their first Christmas Eve as an independent nation. Churches were expected to be crowded for the traditional services in all except the Moslem north. Stores sold gifts and Christmas puddings.

Near-zero temperatures, laced with blizzards, gripped the Northeastern Mississippi Valley to the seaboard.

President Eisenhower, lighting the nation's Christmas tree in Washington Friday night, expressed gratefulness "for all the material comforts with which we have been blessed." But he urged the nation to look seriously at its imperfections—racial prejudices and apathy toward violations of law and standards of public and private integrity.

Pilgrims from far corners of the world in unprecedented numbers made the devout trek to the manger scene in Bethlehem. About 3,000 of them passed through Jerusalem's Mandelbaum Gate and the no man's land between Israel and Jordan.

As usual the Christmas season was one of many contrasts.

Most European countries closed out one of the most prosperous Christmas sprees in history. Britain reported Christmas spending up 25 per cent over last year. Shopkeepers in Italy said they were running out of sable, mink and chinchilla. Paris nightclub reservations were sold out. Record British poultry sales for the Christmas dinner totaled $50 million.

But in the Congo, the head of the U. N. mission, Rajeshwar Dayal of India, planned to spend Christmas Day at Bakwanga in Kasai Province where some 200 refugee Baluba tribesmen are reported dying of starvation every day.

Plum pudding rations were distributed to Irish soldiers in the Congo, turkey to Canadians. Military units from Christian nations planned Christmas trees and parties, whether they were stationed in Leopoldville or jungle outposts. Danish military police in Leopoldville had a tree flown from Denmark.

Soldiers manning another uneasy front line—American troops in Korea—griped and entertained orphans. The Army is serving up 32 tons of turkey, plus trimmings. Many units will be visited by a Santa in a jeep with an olive drab duffle bag.

Three American prisoners were likely to have an austere Christmas in Soviet prisons. They are Francis Gary Powers of Pound, Va., pilot of the U2 reconnaissance plane downed last May 1, and Capt. Freeman B. Olmstead of Elmira, N.Y., and Capt. John R. McCone of Topeka, Kan., among those aboard an RB47 reconnaissance bomber shot down over the Barents Sea July 1. Packages have been sent by their families, but only Soviet officials know the prisoners will have an observance at all.

In Berlin's Spandau Prison are three other prisoners—three top Nazis convicted of war crimes. They are Rudolf Hess, once Hitler's deputy; Albert Speer, former munitions minister, and Baldur von Schirach, former Hitler youth leader.

Berlin, possible city of crisis in the New Year, had many people far from home observing Christmas Eve. Besides the 10,000 or so American, British and French troops, plus dependents, there are about 40,000 Germans driven from their homes in eastern provinces in 1945.

Communist regimes behind the Iron Curtain took varied ways of dealing with this year's Christmas. In some, such as Romania, Bulgaria and Albania, the Communists have tried to purge the old customs of Christmas Eve and turned Christmas into a regular work day.

In others, such as Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, the authorities have decided to tolerate Christmas, permitting trees and midnight church services. In these countries there will be feasts, drink and gifts.

Although the Soviet version of Christmas, centering about Father Frost, was still a week away, Muscovites in fur hats and felt boots crowded stores buying up merchandise to place around "New Year's trees."

No Paper

The Herald and News will not publish Monday because of the Christmas holiday.

Korean Tot Has First Real Yule

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Last night 6-year-old Marilyn Kay helped her new family decorate her first American Christmas tree.

This time last week Marilyn Kay, whose real name is Mee Wha, was just another parentless tot in a Korean orphanage.

Friday she arrived here from Korea with her father to meet her new mother and three new brothers.

Marilyn Kay's good fortune culminated when Air Force Col. Dean Hess flew a planeload of oranges to orphans in Korea where about a decade ago he became famous as a minister turned hot jet pilot.

"Many of the kids had never seen an orange before and they didn't know what they were," said the colonel, who now heads the Armed Forces public information office here.

While delivering the oranges, Hess visited the Orphans Home of Korea which he helped found during the Korean conflict. Preliminary work for Marilyn Kay's adoption already had been done after Hess and his wife were asked by orphanage officials if they knew of a family who wanted to adopt a girl.

The colonel said Marilyn Kay doesn't speak English, "but she's very clever and has no difficulty communicating. My three sons have become completely devoted to her already."

The colonel said his new daughter was familiar with the traditions of Christmas and gets as excited as any other youngster at the thought of Santa Claus or a Christmas tree.

Hess, whose life was dramatized in the movie "Battle Hymn," was ordained a clergyman in June, 1941, and joined the Air Force in December, 1941. When the Korean conflict erupted Hess became a jet fighter pilot.

Display Of Toys Given Refugees

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — More than $10,000 worth of toys which had been on display for three weeks on the Lincoln Road Mall were distributed Saturday to Cuban refugees, hospitals and children's homes.

The toys had been sent for display by the toy manufacturers of the U.S.A., an organization with headquarters in New York.

Party Pictures

A full page of pictures in today's Herald and News tells the story of Thursday's Christmas Party at the Klamath Nursing Home. See Page 4-C.

Internal Revenue Has Its Palms Ready For Some Christmas Payoffs

By LYLE C. WILSON

WASHINGTON (UPI) — So far as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is concerned, Christmas gifts are like any other gifts—almost.

More precisely, the IRS would not squawk if your boss gave you a ham or a turkey or some hooch—couple of bottles, maybe—merely to win your good will.

In more general terms, a thing of value given gratuitously would not be taxable income for the recipient. Gifts from friends or relatives would be good examples of such gratuitous giving. Gifts from a person whom the recipient knows professionally also are tax free provided the gift does not commit the recipient to some return service.

For example: Suppose, if you can, that a disc jockey accepted gifts from a singer with the understanding that the jockey would plug the singer's recordings. The value of the gift would be considered by IRS to be taxable income for the DJ.

Back for a moment to your boss: He can give you gifts of nominal value. NOMINAL, that is the key word. Nominal is a fancy word that means "not much, if any." The dictionary explains that the word carries the implication that the thing named (the value of the gift) is so small and slight in comparison with what properly might be expected, as scarcely to be entitled to name at all.

So, if your boss is the wheeler-dealer, fast with a buck, generous type—a likely story—look out. He might give you something which would make you liable for taxes. But if your boss is a tight-fisted character with a pocket full of pinched pennies, accept his gift cheerfully, even though it may not be worth much.

For my colleague, Robert J. Serling, I interpret the IRS ruling to be that he need not report and pay taxes on that tape recorder. It is a beauty—the tape recorder, that is, not Bobby Serling.

George Preston Marshall was the donor. GPM is the capital's professional football tycoon, chief Indian of the club called the Redskins. Bobby Serling is a sports reporter for United Press International on Sundays when the Redskins are playing and on other regularly scheduled Redskin performances, such as when GPM fires the coach.

The tape recorder must be tax free because it could not have been given with any expectation that Serling would plug the Redskins in exchange for it. Serling has been plugging the Redskins for years and could not be reasonably expected to plug them more for a score of tape recorders.

Other sports writers around town also got GPM tape recorders and, perhaps, some of them should pay taxes. These would be those writers who have not plugged the Redskins but who have panned them and panned their boss, GPM, to boot. Chief Marshall reasonably might expect a more civil tongue and typewriter among such as those, but not for our Robert.

Our boy couldn't love the Redskins more if he owned 'em.

Freedom Given By Governor

HOUSTON, Tex. (AP) — John McHargue is spending Christmas with his family after all.

McHargue, 36, is back in Houston after a trip to North Carolina.

McHargue was wanted there, where he escaped from prison after serving six years of a 10 to 12-year robbery sentence. North Carolina Gov. Luther Hodges commuted the sentence Thursday.

"I feel so good I don't know how to express it," McHargue said after he greeted his family.

"I feel like Santa Claus has really come," said his step-daughter, Diane, 11. "I'm really happy."

"We're very relieved, very thankful and happy," said his wife, Sue.

Musicians Pool Money For Aid

BOSTON (AP) — Members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra aren't exchanging Christmas gifts this year.

Instead, they decided Friday to pool the money to buy tools for needy farmers in the Philippines.

The musicians will send agricultural tools through CARE to farmers who lost their equipment in floods in central Luzon. Kits will go to 25 villages in the region.

The orchestra played in Manila during its Asiatic tour last summer.

American Doctors Aid Cripples Of Holy Land

By DAVID LANCASHIRE

AMMA, Jordan (AP)—Eighteen American doctors have paid their own way to Jordan to work among cripples of the desert kingdom.

In hospitals from Jerusalem to Amman and Bethlehem, the Americans have made more than 2,500 examinations and brought hope to cripples who were often hidden away as marks of family shame.

All 18 are orthopedic surgeons, members of an informal correspondence group called the Orthopedic Letters Club that decided last year to donate its services abroad.

After consultations with the United Nations organization, they picked Jordan, a sun-parched country packed with refugees and short of medical services.

"The demand has become enormous, and there is more work than we can keep up with," said Dr. Frederick G. Gaenslen, of Milwaukee, Wis.

Jordan has an unusually high incidence of bone and joint tuberculosis and infections and congenital deformities.

The program began in August 1959, when Dr. Allan M. McKelvie suspended his practice in Washington, D. C., and flew to Amman at his own expense. Seventeen others followed, replacing each other at about one-month intervals.

Dr. Gaenslen estimates he is spending $2,000, not counting the loss in giving up his Milwaukee practice for a month.

The doctors have no fixed program, no government connection, and no formal organization, meaning a minimum of administrative paper work.

With Gaenslen and McKelvie, participants in the program have been Drs. Paul Spray, Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Theodore Norley, West Palm Beach, Fla.; Charles U. Hauser, Hamilton, Ohio; Sam T. Moore, William N. Harsha and Robert P. Holt, all of Oklahoma City, Okla.; Port Johnson, Muskogee, Okla.; John B. Jarrott, Hutchinson, Kan.; Paul Weygandt, Akron, Ohio; Charles M. Swindler, Ogden, Utah; W. E. Knight, Fort Smith, Ark.; Paul E. Dee, Rockford, Ill.; John R. Walker, Waterloo, Iowa; Francis V. Costello, Williamsport, Penn.; Arthur A. Michele, Brooklyn, N. Y.; and Stanley Sell, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

LEAVES MARK

ALHAMBRA, Calif. (AP)—The pre-holiday political campaigning left its mark on one Alhambra tyke.

Wrote Charlene Gans:

"Dear Santa Claus

"Please say hello to Rudolph, Nixon, Vixon and Planner."

The letter was processed north via the Alhambra Post Advocate.

Shooting Times

OREGON
December 26
7:00 a.m.—4:46 p.m.
December 27
7:05 a.m.—4:45 p.m.

CALIFORNIA
December 26
7:03 a.m. 4:39 p.m.
December 27
7:03 a.m. 4:39 p.m.