

Christmas Day -- Time To Reflect

By ANN LANDERS
Editor's Note: Eight years ago Ann Landers wrote a special column for Christmas. Reader response was overwhelming and she has repeated the column annually — with some topical modifications. Here is Ann Landers' Christmas message for 1963.



Tomorrow is Christmas. We hear talk of peace on earth and good will toward men. Yet we know that in some parts of the world there is no peace and in the hearts of some men there is no good will.

Always there have been among us prophets of gloom and doom—those who have complained that civilization is out of joint—those who have given voice to a desire to resign from the human race. And there have been moments in history when the prophets hardly could be faulted. For who among us did not bow his head in shame last Nov. 22 when our gallant leader was cut down by a sniper's bullet fired from a \$12.78 mail-order rifle?

What kind of world do we live in when the sweeping tide of history can be altered in a split second by a tortured and twisted mind? Where is the Good and Almighty God? Where is justice? We could spare this man least of all. An outraged world cries out for the answers. But the answers can be found only in our hearts.

God is good. He is the architect of the master plan. There is method even in madness. Perhaps the death of the man

with the wheat-colored hair and the mischievous Irish grin was part of a master plan to teach the world, with stunning impact, a philosophy of love and peace and equality and brotherhood.

Perhaps there was another lesson to be learned from this tragedy—that in religious faith there is strength and solace. The courage and self-possession of the magnificent widow and other members of this closely-knit family were rooted in religious faith. Every mother, wife, sister and brother felt something of their pain. Yet, mingled with grief for our fallen chief was an overwhelming feeling of admiration for the quiet strength, the composure and the dignity of those closest to him.

Perhaps there is still another lesson to be learned—that trouble and death are the common denominators of living. No one escapes these handmaidens of earthly existence. On this Christmas day we should reflect on these things. We should reflect on life in this America of ours—and on the principles for which John Fitzgerald Kennedy lived and died.

Father Theodore Hesburgh, president of the University of Notre Dame, summed it up best when he said he didn't believe it would matter much who got the first man on the moon if we dawdle here on earth, nursing our prejudices, flouting our constitution, ignoring the central problems of our times and appearing hypocrites to all the world.

It has been said that a man, like a tree, is best measured after he is cut down. If this is true, the brave and buoyant words of our late President, words from his inaugural address are more meaningful today than when he uttered them three years ago.

"Now the trumpet summons us again—not as a call to bear arms, though arms we need—not as a call to battle, though embattled we are—but a call to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle, year in and year out, rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, a struggle against the common enemies of man—tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself. I do not shrink from this responsibility—I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation."

It is my earnest conviction that had the choice been his—had he been able to foretell what this "dangerous and untidy" world had in store for him—John F. Kennedy would not have changed places with any other man.

Ann Landers' frank and informative new book, "Teen-Agers and Sex" (\$2.95), is now available at your book store.

Ann Landers will be glad to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of this newspaper enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Tax Office Hours Told

The local office of the Internal Revenue Service at 725 Walnut Street will be open from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 2, and each Monday thereafter until April 13 to assist taxpayers in filing their 1963 income tax returns. A. G. Erickson, District Director of the Internal Revenue Service (Portland) has disclosed.

Meanwhile, the district office at Portland will be open during the same hours, daily, from Jan. 2 through April 15, Erickson said.

"The taxpayer coming in for help will be asked to fill out as much of his return as possible, and he will be given information needed to complete the return," he said.

Erickson suggested that the taxpayer telephone for information before going to an Internal Revenue Service office, because essentially the same service is available by telephone as at the office.

Near Riot At Women's Pen Revealed By Investigation

SALEM (UPI)—A near-riot by five women prisoners erupted at the State Penitentiary Nov. 18 when condemned child slayer Jeannette June Freeman was placed in isolation after trying to drown out organ music from the prison chapel by blasting her cell radio at top volume.

Warden Clarence Gladden said as a result two tables were smashed, 75 windows were shattered, bedding in several cells was filled with glass, a wash basin was torn from a cellblock wall, and mirrors, lotion bottles and other personal effects were smashed.

During the cleanup, prison authorities found a passionate three-page letter from Miss Freeman to another woman prisoner.

The disturbance came to light after George F. Neavill of Eugene wrote Warden Gladden charging he had heard Miss Freeman had been placed in isolation "for an undetermined length of time."

Neavill, who last year personally appealed to Gov. Mark Hatfield to commute Miss Freeman's death sentence, also called upon the warden to grant Miss Freeman an exercise period.

1961 Conviction
Miss Freeman, 22, was convicted of the 1961 slaying of a 6-year-old boy. She would be the first woman to be executed in Oregon.

The State Supreme Court recently turned down her plea for a new trial. Further appeals are expected on behalf of Miss Freeman, who has had three stays of execution.

Prison records show Miss Freeman was placed in isolation Nov. 18 when she became violent after being ordered to turn down the volume of her radio. She had turned up the volume to drown out the organ music from the prison chapel.

At 8:30 p.m. the same day, two women prisoners became violent in protest against Miss Freeman's being placed in isolation.

At 9:10 p.m. another woman prisoner became violent, then in quick order, two more women began breaking up their cells, and screaming wildly at prison authorities.

The disturbance was quelled at 10:30 p.m., and the five women were placed in isolation.

Privileges Cut Out
Miss Freeman was moved back to her cell, which had been stripped of all its furnishings. She was deprived of privileges, her radio and television, for 18 days, Warden Gladden said.

The letter to another woman prisoner was discovered by authorities as they cleaned out her cell.

The official report on the incident terms Miss Freeman "sadistic," and includes the notation "during the past 11 months...disturbances can be traced to Miss Freeman."

After Miss Freeman had been placed back in her cell, she shouted encouragement to the other women involved in the disturbance, Gladden reported.

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"DENNIS THE MENACE"



"BUT, MOM! SANTA CLAUS DON'T COME IN THE FRONT DOOR!"

GOP Back Sen. Smith

CHICAGO (UPI)—A group of Illinois Republicans said Monday they would run Sen. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine in the Illinois presidential primary next April.

State Rep. Lewis V. Morgan Jr. from the GOP stronghold of suburban Wheaton, said Mrs. Smith actually wants to run for the GOP vice presidential nomination.

"But we're going to run her for president," he said.

Morgan displayed a telegram signed William C. Lewis Jr., whom he identified as the senator's administrative assistant. The telegram said:

"While Senator Smith has not yet made her decision on whether to enter presidential preference primaries, the action of your group does her great honor and absolutely will be a significant factor in her ultimate decision."

Morgan, who heads the Smith forces in Illinois, said he visited the senator last week in Washington.

"She gave me indication she will have no objection to being on the Illinois ballot," Morgan said.

"If she does object," she can remove her name under Illinois pre-election procedures," he said.

CHRISTMAS-HOLLADAY

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (UPI)—Mrs. Christmas and Mrs. Holladay and the new babies are fine today, thank you.

Mrs. Kenneth B. Christmas, of Rock Hill, gave birth in St. Joseph Hospital in suburban Kirkwood to a 6-pound, 13-ounce boy Sunday. Her roommate, Mrs. Raymond Holladay of Webster Groves, Mo., gave birth to a 13-pound, 8-ounce boy Wednesday.

Gladden said Miss Freeman's privileges have now been reinstated and there has been no recent trouble.

He said while men on condemned row are given about 40 minutes of outside exercise each week, Miss Freeman gets no such exercise.

"We don't have any place to exercise her. I can't let her outside the walls, and I certainly won't let her into the exercise yards used by the men," Gladden said.

He said she is not allowed to mix with other women prisoners.

He said any abnormal activities among the women prisoners "were confined to letters," and that Miss Freeman was always under full supervision whenever outside her cell.



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Special Dart Gun Will Increase Information On Elephant Seals

NEW YORK (UPI)—Science's knowledge of the elephant seal is now going to increase by leaps and bounds. The scientists dedicated to understanding this weird-nosed ocean mammal have a wand which can compel them to lie still.

To study an animal scientifically you must be able to handle it.

Elephant seals are good natured in a sealy fashion but it doesn't care to be handled by scientists. Up until now it has been able to enforce this prejudice.

Even the most svelte of the females weigh around 1,100 pounds and are 8 to 9 feet long, while the largest males weigh over three tons and reach a length of 16 to 20 feet. Like all seals, they're both slippery and agile.

Beach Party

Every year they come out of the sea onto beaches in such droves the sands are all but covered with them, and they stay around for weeks, making love. You can imagine the frustration of scientists who have walked among these swarms able to touch but helpless to

make any of them stay still for inspection and experimentation.

The wand is the invention of the Australian seal scientists, John K. Long and David G. Nicholls. With it, they reported, they have "immobilized" seals up to 45 feet long and weighing up to 5,000 pounds. It can be assumed, they added, that it will work with even larger seals.

This wand is a light metal tube, three feet long. At one end is a long-needled syringe. It is connected to a rod inside the tube which can be unloaded from the other end.

With this wand in hand, the scientists now, in picking their way among beach-wallowing seals, may choose the one they want to study and then ram the needle-end into the brute at the base of the tail. Then they push the rod which releases succinylcholine chloride, a muscle relaxant.

It relaxes muscles so completely movement is impossible. An animal so relaxed is conscious, its organs and chemistry function normally but for the time the drug effect lasts it lies

still and submits to anything.

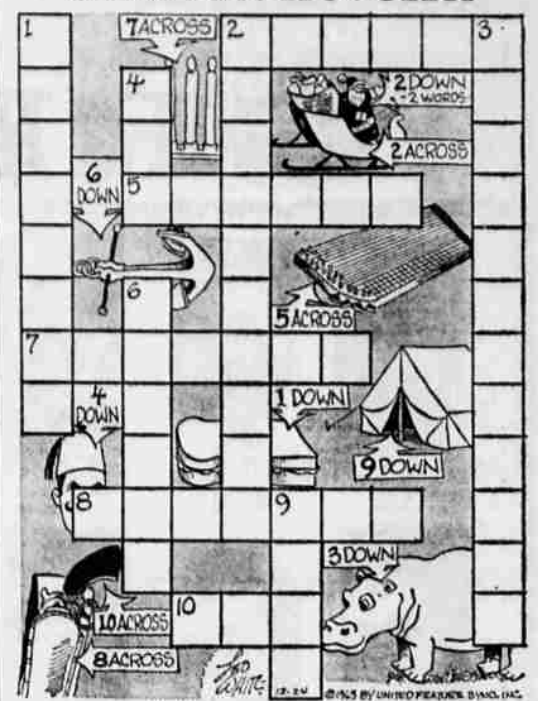
Muscle relaxants have been used to immobilize even the largest land mammals. The drugs are contained in darts which are shot into the beasts with dart guns. That would be an impractical method for elephant seals because they have too much blubber to propel a dart through without damaging the animal.

Another achievement of the Australian scientists, who reported to the technical journal, "Nature," was working out dosages which immobilize elephant seals as long as 45 minutes without harming them. The scientist with the wand estimates weight from the animals' approximate length and configuration.

These estimates he applies to a mathematical formula which gives him the correct dosage. It works in 31 out of 45 tries, they said. The dosages are heavy, because of all the blubber, but approximate (pound for pound) that required to immobilize the domestic hog.

Elephant seals range in the Pacific from California to Antarctica.

LITTLE PEOPLE'S PUZZLE



ANSWERS: Across—2, SLEIGH; 5, ZITHER; 7, CANDLES; 8, CLAUDE; 9, HIPPODAMIUS; 10, GUN; Down—1, SANDWICH; 2, SANTA CLAUS; 3, ANCHOR; 4, FEZ; 6, ANCHOR; 9, TENT.

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