

THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

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The Spirit of Christmas

Many millions of words have been written and spoken about the evils of commercialization of Christmas and it is fitting that one small voice that is a part of the commercial aspect comes to the defense of the American system of capitalizing on just about every event that takes place.

We cannot deny that some of the spirit of the pre-Yule season is dampened somewhat by the hurly-burly that starts in late October and extends right through the day on which we honor the birth of Christ. Those involved in pre-Christmas activities, whether they be manufacturers, retailers or newspapers carrying the messages of those who would sell their wares, are mostly in agreement that a certain amount of cynicism creeps into their attitude—until those beautiful aspects of Christmas, in spite of commercialism, are brought to light.

First of all, children more nearly represent the true spirit of Christmas than all the glittering tinsel and ever-green trees combined. Their sparkling, large eyes and flushed faces, their impatience to see Santa and the gifts the toys can be strewn about the floor, the Christmas he will bring, their eagerness for that great day when turkey carved and the candy and nuts eaten before dinner to spoil young appetites for the big feast.

We, along with millions of others, complain about "having to prepare, sign and mail hundreds of Christmas cards" from the long mailing list. Probably all of us sometimes feel that we are fulfilling an obligation until we receive greetings from friends and acquaintances we have not heard from for 12 months. Then we know that perhaps a few of our own cards have brought joy and satisfaction to others and our cynicism fades to a feeling of pleasure.

We gaze at the store windows, still holding the items bearing banners, "The Ideal Gift" and our feeling of apprehension about too much commercialism passes to a feeling of satisfaction that we live in a country where such a custom exists. True, efforts have been made to entice the American people into buying more and more gifts, but where else in the world is there so much opportunity for one to judge for himself the extent to which he can go to buy and give those extraordinary gifts.

In actuality, the buying public has not been forced to purchase gifts even though they are strongly persuaded. They are not forced to take part in community programs, whether they are for commercial aspects, for the schools or for the churches. All most certainly are involved in the scramble that might detract from the immortal phrase, "Peace on earth, good will toward men," but we believe the realization of all of us is intensified with our thoughts of that night nearly 2000 years ago when gifts were brought to a manger in Bethlehem.

Our churches may not be filled with worshippers Christmas eve and Christmas day, there will be many empty stockings and the hearts of many are filled with sadness where there should be joy. But for a nation of more than 150 million people the true spirit of Christmas most certainly prevails with the majority hearing, if only vaguely, Christ's words: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

CHURCH NOTES

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
 Frank C. Coley, Pastor
 South 2nd and Reese Ave.
 10 a. m., Sunday school.
 11 a. m., morning worship.
 8 p. m., evangelistic service.
 Tues., 8 p. m., prayer service.
 Fri., 8 p. m., young people.

THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
 Robert Jackson, Pastor
 10 a. m., Sunday school.
 11 a. m., morning worship.
 7 p. m., N.Y.P.S. and Junior meet-
 ing.
 7:45 p. m., evangelistic service.

COMMUNITY METHODIST CHURCH
 Dr. H. G. McCallister, Minister
 9:45 a. m., church school.
 11 a. m., morning worship.
 7 p. m., Youth Fellowship.

L. D. S. 2nd WARD
 D. Hubert Christensen, Bishop
 9:15 a. m., priesthood meeting.
 10:30 a. m., Sunday school.
 8 p. m., sacrament meeting.
 Tuesday, 7 p. m., relief society.
 Wednesday, 4 p. m., primary; 7:30 p. m., M.I.A.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST CHRISTIAN
 Austin J. Hollingsworth, Minister
 10 a. m., church school. Elvin Ballou, superintendent.
 11 a. m., morning worship, directed by minister.
 7 p. m., Christian Youth Fellowship.
 8 p. m., evening worship.

FREE METHODIST CHURCH
 Adrian, Oregon
 10 a. m., church school.
 11 a. m., morning worship.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Parma, Idaho
 McConnel Ave.
 O. E. Robinson, Minister
 10 a. m., Bible study.
 11 a. m., morning worship.
 8 p. m., Sunday evening service.
 Wednesday, 8 p. m., Bible study.

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
 Elder Haskell Dane, Pastor
 10 a. m., Sunday school.
 11 a. m., morning worship.
 8 p. m., evening worship.
 Wednesday, 8 p. m., prayer service.

L. D. S. 1st WARD
 Gordon Ray, Bishop
 9:15 a. m., priesthood meeting.
 10:30 a. m., Sunday school.
 7:30 p. m., sacrament meeting.
 Tuesday, 7 p. m., relief society.
 Wednesday, 4 p. m., primary; 7:30 p. m., M. I. A.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 C. T. Crenshaw, Rector
 9:45 a. m., Sunday school.
 11 a. m., baby communion and address.
 7:30 p. m., Christmas Eve service for children.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
 Fifth Street and Park Avenue
 John L. Briel, Pastor
 Christmas eve services, 8 p.m.
 Christmas day services, 10 a.m.
 10 a. m., Sunday school.
 11 a. m., divine worship.
 Wed., 8:30 p. m., Christian education class.
 You are cordially invited to worship with us.

CATHOLIC CHURCH
 Park Avenue and Third Street
 Rembert Ahles, O. F. M.
 Mass Sunday at 8 and 10 a. m.
 and daily at 8 a. m.
 9 a. m., Catechism classes.

ADRIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
 Henry E. Moore, Pastor
 10 a. m., Bible school.
 11 a. m., morning worship.

IDEAL GAS
 And
APPLIANCE



St. John's Day Observance Sun.

St. John's Day is observed annually in Nyssa with all Masons attending the Church of Christ (Christian) as guests of the Rev. A. J. Hollingsworth, pastor, who will preach the sermon at 11 a. m.

Ed Boyzell, master, Golden Rule Lodge No. 174, A.F. & A.M. will head the group of visiting Masons.

St. John's Day is observed annually in honor of the two St. Johns, John the Baptist and John the Evangelist, who were responsible for lifting Masonry from its decline early in the Christian era.

Under their reorganization efforts, St. John the Evangelist became the first grand master of Masonry over the then known Christian world.

College Students on Church Program

The Sunday evening program at the Second Ward L. D. S. church was presented by the college students home for the holidays from BYU at Provo.

The main talk was given by UOUI Paulsen with stories by Frances Peik and Roger Soren. The entire group sang "Silent Night" and a musical duet was played by Miss Mary Lou Schenk at the organ and Miss Mary Lou Schenk at the piano. Vera Dee Dea, Provo, accompanied musical numbers. Nan Child gave the closing prayer and Rabe Williams the opening prayer.

Christian Church Has Annual Program

The annual Christmas program of the Christian church was presented before a capacity audience Sunday evening under the direction of Mrs. Jesse Rigney assisted by Mrs. Harold Robbim, Mrs. Dorothy Bibbey and Mrs. Roy Barnes. Young people of the church from the beginners department through the high school age participated in the presentation.

The primary and beginners gave recitations and songs and the junior and intermediates enacted the Christmas story in pantomime with Jimmy Barnes as reader. The high school group sang carols during the pantomime. Also included were a vocal solo "O Holy City" by Mrs. John Stafford with violin obligato by Doris Rigney and Dan Pennie sang "Star of the East."

During the evening, members of the church presented their pastor and his wife, the Rev. and Mrs. A. J. Hollingsworth with a record player as a Christmas gift.

11 a. m., junior church.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
 Christian Center Mission
 East 2nd and Ehrgood
 10 a. m., Sunday school.
 11 a. m., morning worship.
 7:30 p. m., evangelistic service.

Save with the yellow sale tag Peterson Furniture Co. 50-11.

Church to Feature College Students

Among college students returning to their Nyssa homes for the Christmas vacation, a number will take part in the Sunday morning services of the Methodist church.

They will speak on the religious activities of their various campuses and other topics of interest.

College to be represented include Willamette university, Salem; Oregon state college, Corvallis; Stephens college, Columbia, Mo.; Boise Junior college, Boise, and the Eastern Oregon College of Education, LaGrande.

PINOCHLE PARTY SET

A pinochle party is set for Saturday at 8 p. m. by the St. Ann's Altar society of St. Hubert's Catholic church at the church. It was announced Monday. The public is invited and refreshments will be served.

BEV. JACKSON, WIFE, HONORED AT PARTY

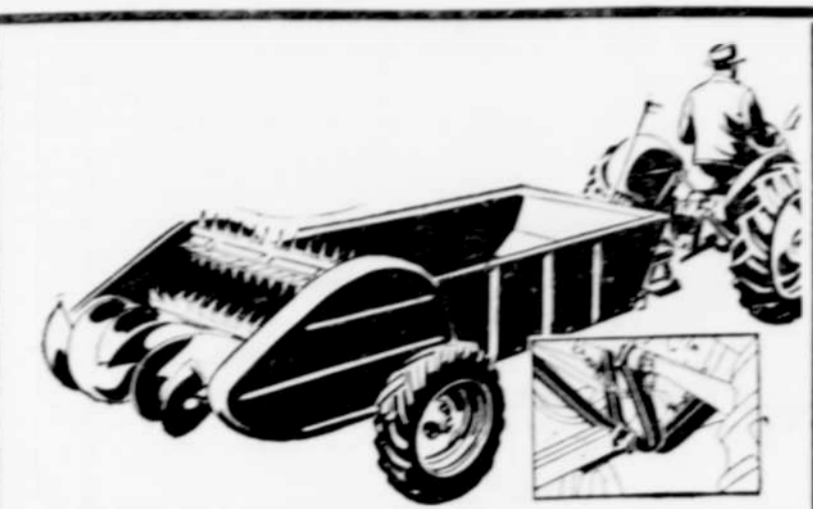
The Rev. and Mrs. Robert O. Jackson of the Nazarene church were honored guests Tuesday evening at a party given at Boise for their missionary work in Africa. During the social hour the Jacksons showed colored slides taken during their stay in the dark continent.

FBI AGENT TO SPEAK AT LDS CHURCH

LeRoy Skougren, federal bureau of investigation agent at Portland will be the featured speaker at the stake house of the L.D.S. church Sunday at 3:30 p. m. The program is under the direction of the Junior Gleasers and Junior M. Men, with Mrs. Carl Burningham, leader.

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