

Washington Digest

Christmas Abroad Stirs Memories of Yule at Home

By **BAUKHAGE**
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, 1616 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON.—Christmas 1946! The second one in seven years when one could really talk about "peace on earth" without shamed and downcast eyes. While armies struggled, who could think of the message to the shepherds from the angels' chorus promising peace on earth for all men of good will?



Baukhage

My last Christmas word was sent to you from the ruins, where, one year ago, I experienced the saddest holy-day season of my memory. It was in shattered Nuernberg with my thoughts on its rubble and the ruins, ugly symbols of man's inhumanity to man, the negation of our Saviour's teachings. I had plenty of food and drink and shelter and was clothed in the uniform which is a reminder of a career of which I am proud despite its implications. But I was as homesick as any young soldier in a lonely outpost with the threat of battle about him for I could picture my own hearthside and the little group about the happy tree, my own tinselled packages unopened, and my empty hands reaching out vainly over the oceans too wide to span. And all about me were the signs of anguish, cramped souls, pinched bodies and the wreckage of the handicraft blossomed in stone and canvas and parchment which has enriched the world through the centuries.

I stood in the desolate little square faced by the wreckage of buildings, thinking of what Rudyard Kipling called "Christmas past." You may know the poem, breathing the nostalgia of an Englishman still clinging to his boyhood memories of England, contrasting them with what he saw about him in India. "Oh the white dust on the highway! Oh the stench in the byway! Oh the clammy fog that hovers over earth! And at home they're making merry 'neath the white and scarlet berry—what part have India's exiles in their mirth."

Nuernberg! In the shadow of her ancient castle grew a tradition which lived on to modern days; a tradition made eternal by the woodcuts and engravings of Albrecht Duerer whose 500-year-old house still stood but only as a fragile ghost which soon must yield to demolition squads, a hollow shell despite the proud persistence of its storied facade; a tradition made by the Meistersinger whose memory was enshrined in the home of Hans Sachs—a house now only a shapeless pile of rubble.

For the second time I had occasion to recall the yearning in those unhappy Kipling verses. The first time was more than two wars before. We two lonely Americans looked down from the window of our little room in a pension on the Boulevard Montparnasse in the Latin Quarter on a snowless, aching Christmas in Paris. Below was a deserted convent garden. If only the figure of a single nun had broken the damp stillness curtaining leafless trees and withered flowers! But no, they were all deep in their devotions and not even the faint echo of the evensong or the moan of the organ reached us. Nor was there holly or mistletoe (no white or scarlet berry), for the Latin Christmas bears little resemblance to ours. Long months had stretched to years since I had seen a lighted Christmas tree, evergreen festoon or a bright-ribboned wreath, or listened to the ringing crunch of footfalls in the powdery snow, or sleighbells—no novelty then in our northern clime.

I thought then of Kipling's lament of the exile and understood him when he said, "faint and forced the laughter, and if sadness follow after, we are richer for one mocking Christmas past."

Today as Yuletide rolls around once more, despite the shadows that fall across many a hearth, and the postwar worries that beset us, we at least can glory in the heritage of an American Christmas in the land which the God of our Fathers has bequeathed us.

Almost a month before Christmas Day, John Lewis had a hint that reassured him, temporarily at least, that he would not spend this year's holiday in jail. Judge T. Alan Goldsborough spoke the comforting word. He said, in discussing the contempt charge against Lewis, that he believed "nobody's comfort would be disturbed whatever the outcome."

How merry this season will be for the man who defied the government and brought down the wrath of half a dozen nations upon his head is a question. It would be interesting indeed to be able to look beneath the brow adorned with the bristling eyebrows and thatched with the thick grey hair that was once so black and bellucose.

This season in the nation's capitol isn't as merry a moment as it is in most cities, for this is a city of transplanted folk, most of whose homes are too far distant to be reached on a short leave or via the restricted purse that is the portion of most government workers. As I write, the President expects to journey back to Missouri and his own family circle. Many of the officials will do likewise.

White House a Center of Festivity

In other years there have been more festive Christmases.

The little ceremony which became a custom during the Roosevelt regime when the President was driven out into the crowd about the municipal tree where he touched the button that illumined it has been discontinued. That event which drew many a lonely inhabitant to the crowded square served to bring a holiday touch to Christmas Eve and the knowledge that the President later on would be surrounded by children and grandchildren while he read the "Christmas Carol" was a rather cheering thought.

There is on record the time when two White House children, Charley and Robert, one of them now a presidential aspirant himself, cut a mammoth Christmas pie given to their father, William Howard Taft, by the International Bakers' association. It was 32 inches in diameter and weighed 92 pounds.

There was a grand celebration, too, when Theodore Roosevelt, et familia, spent his first Christmas in the White House. The White House police were not the least of the celebrants—the new president distributed no less than 87 fat turkeys among them, the messengers, ushers, gardeners and stablemen. This was credited as being the largest largesse ever distributed by a president. President McKinley always gave turkeys to the married employees, but not as many or as big ones; the Franklin Roosevelts always had some souvenirs for the White House staff. What President Truman's gift will be this year has not been announced at this writing.

Back in 1892 when Benjamin Harrison spent his last Christmas in the White House there was no prejudice against things German and the high point of the celebration around the tree in the library was the recitation of German poems, taught them by their governess, by the Harrison grandchildren, Ben and Mary.

That was a real children's hour and we have a careful account in the Washington Star of that date to authenticate it. (No nylons or mink coats were mentioned.) "There is a complete set," says the Star, "of real baby furniture, the bed quite big enough for little Mary Lodge McKee; a dressing case, with a glass just high enough for her to peep into and arrange her front hair, and the cutest little washstand, with all the toilet appliances, all from Mrs. Harrison, to her tiny granddaughter. A set of lamb's wool muff and tippet for little Mary was lying near, and a steam engine, fitted out with every modern appliance, and which will chase around in the liveliest style for little Benjamin. He has a hook and ladder, a complete outfit, a set of parlor croquet and a doll baby or two."

After all, it is the children who make Christmas, for Christmas was made for them and it is by their grace that we oldsters can relive it over through them.



ALONE AND GUILTY . . . Alone, and apparently unnoticed by passersby, UMW Boss John L. Lewis leisurely walks from his union headquarters in Washington, D. C., after Federal Judge T. Alan Goldsborough found him guilty of contempt of court and fined him \$10,000 in addition to the \$3,500,000 fine levied against the union.



WINNING PHOTOGRAPHS . . . Results of the first major photographic contest to be held since the end of the war recently were announced by judges of the Grafex photo contest. The grand prize winner, "Grand Ma," by George Burns, Schenectady, is shown right. Other winners shown are "Winter's Blast," by Frank Nichols, Bayonne, N. J., and winner of the pictorial class "January," a farm snow view by Elwood Armstrong, Detroit, Mich. More than 8,000 photos were submitted in the contest.



NEW CORN KING . . . Newton L. Halterman, Rushville, Ind., who was crowned "Corn King" at the International Hay and Grain show in Chicago recently. Halterman credits his success in winning the honor to "good farming practices, including the application of mixed fertilizer to the soil." He also said that hard work was a factor. His son, Lair, 11, added to the family honors by taking second prize in the junior corn event. Halterman is shown with the yellow dent hybrid corn exhibited.



CHILD OFFERS SOLUTION TO U. N. PROBLEM . . . Michelle Etcheverry, seven, shown with her brother, Dominick. She wrote a letter to Secretary of State Byrnes suggesting a plan for establishing the future status of Trieste. Michelle's plan calls for selection of committees elected by the people of Trieste. Michelle, who lives in New York City, became interested in world peace efforts after her father, Pvt. Alfred Etcheverry, was killed in action near Luxembourg in 1945.



NEW AMBASSADOR . . . Former undersecretary of the treasury, O. Max Gardner, North Carolina, who has been appointed by President Truman as U. S. ambassador to Great Britain to succeed W. Averell Harriman, now secretary of commerce. Gardner reported to London immediately.



YOUNGEST ATTORNEY . . . Mrs. Marilyn Sher, San Pedro, Calif., was only 21 last April, and is believed to be the youngest girl ever to pass the California bar examination. She had to wait one year before taking exam.



CONTINUED FOOD SHORTAGES
WASHINGTON. — Speaking of holiday food, here is a prediction on various items on the housewife's shopping list and how long they will remain difficult to buy.

CANNED TOMATOES—Will continue to be short at least until next July. In the crop year ended with July, 1946, supplies were so short that we consumed 16 million cases of canned tomatoes, about half the normal demand. In the current crop year, ending July, 1947, there will be a slight increase to approximately 21 million cases, but this will still be far short of demands.

CHOCOLATE — Slight shortages of chocolate will continue for the next two or three years, due chiefly to shipping difficulties in trade lanes from Brazil and West Africa.

SALMON — The very unpredictable salmon continues to run late and short in the waterways of Alaska and our northwestern states. Normal salmon production in prewar years ranged between five million and eight million cases, but in the season which ended in September of this year, less than four million cases were packed for the American market.

TUNA — Fanciers of tuna fish salad will get all they want, due to a record-breaking production this year of over four million cases, 35 per cent above the 1945 tuna pack.

BANANAS — Shipments of bananas from Guatemala, Costa Rica and other Latin American sources will continue below normal for at least another year.

ATOMIC ENERGY VS. COAL

One thing the striking miners don't realize is that they are working for an industry which soon will be as out of date as the old stern-wheeler of Mark Twain's Mississippi river days. Unfortunately, what they especially don't seem to realize is that their present strike is hastening the end of the coal industry.

A brief news item from the little town of Louisville, N. Y., tells part of the story. Its 150 families have converted to oil, making it the first completely oil-heated town in the USA. Others are bound to follow. Some industries had started converting to oil even before the strike. Natural gas piped east will further cut down consumption — especially as coal becomes more expensive and more uncertain.

However, this only tells part of the story. The rest of the story began on August 5, 1945, when a bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Scientists have been working ever since on the problem of harnessing atomic energy. Already Poland is constructing an atomic energy power plant. In the United States the first atomic power plants should be completed in two years.

Naturally the coal, steel and oil interests are not anxious to encourage this. Nor are the big power companies, whose water power installations would be scrapped. These incidentally are the same interests which have blocked the use of natural gas in the Big Inch and Little Inch pipelines.

Science, however, can be retarded, but not stopped. And when atomic energy is used on a wide scale, scientists estimate it will be much cheaper than coal or oil. When that happens, coal mining will be just as obsolete as the journeymen wagon builders of 1880. And unfortunately for the coal miners, the more uncertain they make the supply of coal, the more they spur the development of atomic energy.

DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS FIGHT

Despite all the talk you hear about a "dog fight" in house Democratic ranks over the election of minority leader, you can write it down that John McCormack of Massachusetts, majority leader since 1940, will win out.

Inside fact is that Sam Rayburn of Texas, outgoing speaker, not only has informed McCormack by telegram that he intends to stick to his decision against running for the minority leadership, but also has assured McCormack he will back him to the limit for the post.

However, don't be surprised if Congressman Francis Walter of Pennsylvania is put in the field as a candidate against McCormack—even though Walter made the unpopular move of opposing use of natural gas in the government-owned pipelines. Some southern congressmen have been proposing Walter as a "compromise" choice to avoid a party "split."

Another minority leader prospect is statesmanlike Ewing Thomason of El Paso, Tex.

FROM THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH

U.S.-British military officials in Rome, learning of a plan to scuttle the Italian fleet, have tried to de-commission it — without success. Intelligence reports are that Italian officers are awaiting the British and French attempt to take over the fleet—then will sink it. . . . The Portuguese government has vetoed a new American proposal for permanent military bases in the Azores. The U. S. government considers the Azores even more important than Iceland.

CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

AUTOS, TRUCKS & ACCESS.
WE BUY USED TRUCKS
ONE or a FLEET
Generous Prices Paid
If you want QUICK action
See SALAWITCH First
3100 Washington Blvd., Baltimore 30, Md.

BUSINESS & INVEST. OPPOR.
EARN \$100 per day profit with Master Concrete Tile Machine. Materials and machinery as standard power unit for the CONCRETE MACHINERY COMPANY, Box 2348-B, Hickory, N. C.

FARM MACHINERY & EQUIP.
BILL BAZOOKA PROUDLY announces the adoption of the famous Salisbury 608 engine as standard power unit for the Bazooka auger type grain loader. A 6 h.p. engine weighing only 56 lbs. Ask your dealer about our Bazooka Rainbow Unit. WICHITA SUPPLY & MFG. CO., 218 W. Waterman, Wichita 2, Kansas.

FARMS AND RANCHES
CHICKEN RANCH, modern in San Bernardino Co. Healthful climate. Equipped and house furnished. \$10,000. Terms. O. F. KNODEL, Newberry, California.

HELP WANTED—MEN
STITCHING FOREMAN—Unusual opportunity for man with several years' experience as foreman in dress or sport shirt factory to join old established and growing factory to take full charge of stitching at their new branch at Ocala, Florida. Submit complete history of your experience to the BREWSTER SHIRT CORP., P. O. Box 159, Ocala, Florida.

ONE expert Looper fixer for Sotco and Wright steady dial lepers, steady work, excellent pay. MOERS MILLS, INC., P. O. Box 476, Nashville 2, Tenn.

HELP WANTED—WOMEN
GRADUATE NURSES
Housing facilities and good meals at Hahnemann Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.—800-bed modern, general hospital; centrally located, walking distance to shopping and amusement districts and historical interests; choice of service opportunity for University study; has fully accredited School of Nursing; promotions on merit and ability; October 1st new salary scale; liberal personnel policies. Write or Call DIRECTOR OF NURSING

SALESWOMEN: To handle men's and women's novelty line of cosmetics for full or part time. China and double smilers. MADAME WHITE COSMETICS, 7304 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn.

MISCELLANEOUS
CHRYSLER MARINE ENGINES
Immediate deliveries most all models. JOHN HUGHES CURTIS, distributor, West Norfolk, Va.

WANTED TO BUY
WANTED: ALL KINDS of woodworking machinery, planers, shapers and double smilers, moulder, stickers, hand saws, rip saws and saw mills of all kinds; also power units. Give full description and condition, also prices. TOM NORTON, Dealer, P. O. Box 1250, Petersburg, Va., Ph. 238.

WANTED—Raw Furs, Deer skins, Hides, Tallow, Fat, Skins. Prices are highest. Don't sell before you contact us. Keystone Hides Co., Dept. UW, Lancaster, Pa.

For Your Future Buy
U. S. Savings Bonds

HERE'S THE ANSWER TO A PERMANENT JOB
A Place to Live and Money in the Bank!

Write now for a position as hospital attendant! Receive \$1,180 a year with regular pay raises; living quarters; meals; laundry; vacation with pay and sick leave. Opportunity for advancement. No requirements except good health, sixth grade education and ambition. Courses open in practical nurses' training.

Men and Women Write to
MARYLAND EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION
22 Light St., Baltimore 2, Md.

Starts Relief in 6 Seconds from All 6 usual Cold Miseries!
Aib. COLD PREPARATION 666 TABLETS OR LIQUID
Caution: Take only as directed

WNU-4 51-48

When Your Back Hurts -
And Your Strength and Energy Is Below Par
It may be caused by disorder of kidney function that permits poisonous waste to accumulate. For truly many people feel tired, weak and miserable when the kidneys fail to remove excess acids and other waste matter from the blood.
You may suffer sagging backache, rheumatic pains, headaches, dizziness, getting up nights, leg pains, swelling, sometimes frequent and scanty urination with burning and itching is another sign that something is wrong with the kidneys or bladder.
There should be no doubt that prompt treatment is wise. This is why Dr. Doan's Pills. It is better to rely on a medicine that has won country-wide approval than on something less favorably known. Doan's have been tried and tested many years. Are at all drug stores. Get Doan's today.
DOAN'S PILLS

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

"I would rather be right than president" is an old saw. Try to be president these days if you are left.

When the animal kingdom replaces the human race, the science of superionics will have to be revised. When your canary sings, any pup can tell you you haven't heard the half of it.

The Russians, who hate the bitter taste of quinine, says McGraw Hill (my ever potent source of important information), have developed a new industry employing thousands of honey bees to make honey mixed with the medicament. The Soviets know how to pass out the bitter coated with the sweet, this development would tend to prove.