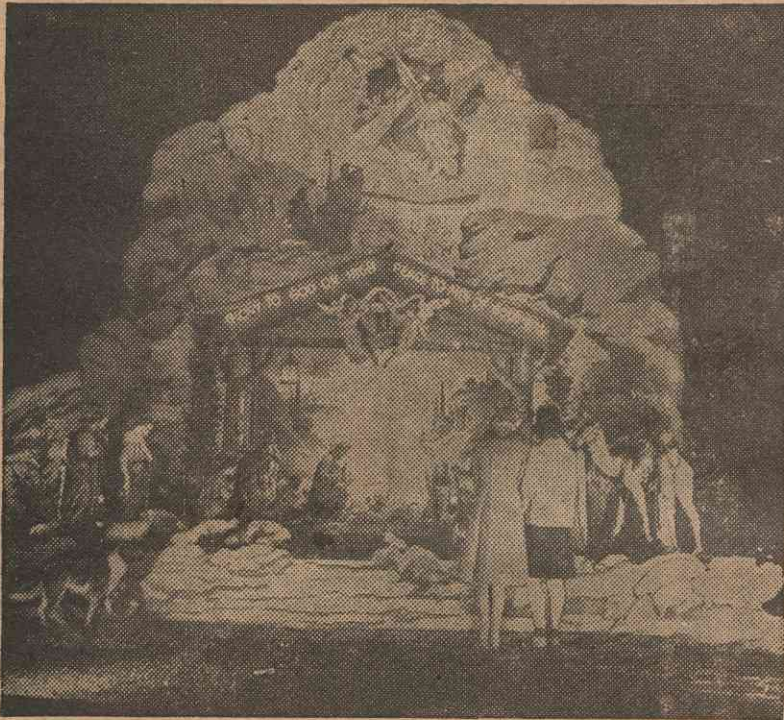


A Reminder of the Nativity



Shining brightly as a reminder of the glory of the Nativity, some 1,944 years ago, this is but one of the many outdoor mangers established during the Christmas season throughout the country. Like the animals that clustered around the holy manger on the first Christmas, a dog can be seen on the left, wonderingly viewing the scene.

ECUSTAN IN SERVICE

Pvt. Thomas Brown writes from somewhere overseas: "... I am always glad to receive mail from someone at the plant. It reminds me of the swell times I have had working for you all, and I hope this finds everything at the plant running tip top... Have been receiving the Echo a little late, but am so pleased to get it I don't mind its being late... Sure wish I could have been at the 4th of July picnic. But this time next year we are all looking to be at home... I sure would like to meet up with one of the boys that used to work at the plant... I haven't run across but one since I have been in the Army... Give my regards to everyone at the plant... and hope to see them soon."

Mary had been promoted to the third grade.

Meeting the second grade teacher, whom she had liked very much, she said, "Gee, Miss Kate, I wish you were smart enough to teach me this year, too!"

BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

Saint Nick Lived In 4th Century

On Christmas Eve, American children will be tucked snugly in their beds—while visions of sugarplums dance through their heads. Listening breathlessly, they may hear sleighbells in the snow. Santa will be about, his pack laden with dolls and drums, painted carts and picture books, and unrationed good cheer for young and old.

The real, live St. Nicholas was born in Asia Minor and lived during the Fourth century. The Dutch settlers brought many legends centering around him to America. He was an extraordinarily studious youth and, after his father died, much concerned about the fortune he had inherited. He, therefore, conceived the idea of supplying financially embarrassed maidens with dowries, the young ladies having no idea where the money came from.

In his youth, Nicholas visited the Holy Land, and as a result, desired to spend his life in a monastery. However, he was bidden to "Go on; live among men." Later, as the Archbishop of Myra, he was renowned for his graciousness, kindness and understanding of children.

The feast of St. Nicholas, patron saint of Russia, is celebrated on the sixth of December. On that day, in many European countries, the children are visited by St. Nicholas and given nuts, apples, candy and small gifts, providing they have been well behaved throughout the year.

The modern American conception of Santa Claus was first expressed by Washington Irving who, in 1808, described him as a tubby, jolly little fellow speeding across the sky in a reindeer-drawn sleigh.

In 1822, using Irving's description and supplying additional details from his own imagination, Clement Clarke Moore told his children the story of "The Visit of St. Nicholas." A year later, the poem was published in the Troy Sentinel. Many years passed, however, before Dr. Moore, being a professor of divinity, publicly acknowledged having written the now famous poem, which has been translated into several foreign languages.

Thomas Nast, creator of the GOP elephant, the Tammany tiger and the Democratic donkey, apparently dressed Santa in his red suit through a series of sketches appearing in Harper's illustrated weekly.



"LIKE TO SWAP NIGHT CLUBS, PAL?"

"Sorry, chum—no ringside seats. You sit in the mud, see?"

"You got a floor show of lizards and mosquitoes crawling over your face."

"You got a nice little 4-piece orchestra of Jap mortars, Zeros, machine guns, and your best friend screaming in the next foxhole."

"Come any time, pal. The show goes on all night. For a long time. There's never a cover charge. Not even for the flag they put over you when they carry you out."

We're all human.

We all like to go dancing or see a show or buy an extra suit or dress occasionally.

But this war still has a long way to go. There are still 75 million Japs who don't believe in surrendering.

So during this 6th War Loan, how about putting all that luxury money into something a little more permanent—an extra \$100 War Bond at least—to help get this thing really over and bring those boys of ours home?

It'll hurt. But not as much as the Jap bayonet in your neighbor's stomach. You get something back — in ten years — \$4 for every \$3 invested. He doesn't.



BUY AT LEAST ONE EXTRA \$100 WAR BOND TODAY!

TWENTY CENTURIES

The birth of the Saviour did not then and there, establish peace on earth and good will among men.

Caesar did not topple from his pinnacle at the precise moment: people continued to grumble against his decrees and wonder what new law would oppress them next. Herod, king of Judea, did not join the Wise Men in adoration of the Holy Child: but rather, authorized the slaughter of the innocents in an attempt to destroy Him.

But:

There were shepherds watching over their flocks some two or three miles from the Stable at Bethlehem: the Angel of the Lord appeared unto them: Wise Men, having seen His Star in the East, hastened to bring symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrror.

On this Christmas day, we remember the children in His Name—for theirs is the Peace of tomorrow—and, hearing the carols of good will above the present turmoil, we are the shepherds of Bethlehem.