



**OUNCE OF PREVENTION**—Carleen Harrison didn't want her kitty to catch cold and be sick for Christmas, so she nabbed him moments after he sallied forth to saunter in the snow. He looks longingly at the stuff, but it's back to a warm fireside for him.—Photo by Billy Benners.

## Then, Now, Jesus Asks One Thing

In the countryside, on the neighboring hills, shepherds kept watch over their flocks. The night began as uneventfully as other nights. Only the bleating of a restless ewe broke the stillness. Yet this was to be a night forever etched in the memories of the simple herdsmen gathered around a flickering fire.

For, lo, all of a sudden the skies burned with glory as of a thousand moons, and angelic hosts appeared with joyous tidings that a Savior had been born that day in Bethlehem.

The shepherds' hearts still glowed with inextinguishable wonder long after the skies had closed upon their glimpse of Heaven. They agreed among themselves that they must see this wondrous thing that had come to pass. And, dressed in their humble garments, they descended into the quiet little town.

The shepherds brought in their hands only their crude staffs. Instinctively they knelt in adoration before the Christ Child. And that is all the Christ has ever asked. It is all he asks today—that we bring ourselves, poor as we may be, to the manger of Bethlehem.



**THIS ONE, DADDY**—Ronnie Lee chooses the Christmas tree that he figures will look just right in his home. The youngster's parents, the James R. Lees, heartily agreed with his selection.—Photo by Billy Benners.

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