

Legend

Christmas candles are left burning in windows in many countries to light the Christ Child on his way, and to draw friendly travelers in for rest and refreshment. But to make sure that no undesirable



evil visitors come in, a candle can be left burning on the hearth with salt sprinkled thickly around.

PEACE



Indians Had a Sacred Spring Festival Tree Upon Which They Hung Gifts

In early pioneer days in America, Indian children were invited in to see the Christmas tree and were given extra food. On one occasion — in fact, probably on many more than just one — Indians were found dancing around the tree, stamping and whooping in the familiar manner of ceremonially excited braves.

One can imagine the shock and dismay on the part of some of our pioneer ancestors.

American Indians were accustomed to the idea of giving among themselves, though the habit was

prompted less by ideas of doing good and sharing with the less fortunate, than the more human one of raising one's prestige.

They had, also, a tree upon which they hung gifts. This was considered a sacred spring festival tree, not a Christmas tree. A tribe in North Dakota would plant, each year, a young cedar near the big medicine lodge. Children brought gifts of moccasins, pelts, shawls and so forth to hang on the branches of what was called, with the simplicity of so-called primitive peoples, Grandmother.

In the fall, Grandmother was uprooted and set afloat on the Missouri river for a long journey into the Great Beyond. Much in the way that Alaskans are reported to have set adrift their old folks, upon the icy water floes.

The Indians of course recognized that the white brothers' Christmas was an important occasion. It came to be called by tribes The Big Eating. By others, in districts frequented by French trappers, who kissed each other as they exchanged gifts, it was known as Kissing Day.

"They Followed a Star"

The Star of Bethlehem has been attributed to several things through the centuries: a conjunction of the planets Jupiter, Saturn and Mars; the planet Venus at its brightest; the sudden appearance of a



nova, or exploding star, and a wholly supernatural event.

One passage so cited is I Chron. 21, 16: "And David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the Lord standing between earth and heaven, and in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem."

Chinese annals recorded a comet visible for about 70 days in March and April of 5 BC, the approximate date when many theologians believe

Jesus actually was born.

The Bible in certain places gives a hint of comets.

Scholars today ask: "Was it a comet, with its tail extended far southward like a sword?" They note that Pliny, the Roman naturalist, classified one type of comet as "sword-shaped." Josephus the historian noted that an AD 66 comet, perhaps Haley's, stood like a sword in the sky over Jerusalem.

"The simile may have been suggested to him by I Chronicles, but the shape of the comet apparently justified it," one historian-writer has observed.

When, according to the Bible, in verse 27, God "put his sword back in its sheath," perhaps the comet lost its tail, as they sometimes do.

spirit of Christmas...

GOLDEN RULE HAS EMBRACED ALL RELIGIONS SINCE 1300 B.C.

Throughout the centuries men of all faiths have acknowledged the Golden Rule as a vital, intrinsic part of their faith, and expressed it thus:

BAHAISM — "If thou lookest toward justice, choose then for others what thou chooseth for thyself. Blessed is he who prefers his brother before himself."

BRAHMANISM — "This is the sum of duty: Do naught unto others which would cause you pain if done to you."

BUDDHISM — "In five ways should a clansman minister to his friends and familiars: By generosity, courtesy and benevolence, treating them as he treats himself and by being as good as his word."

CHRISTIANITY — "All things whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do you even to them: For this is the law and the prophets."

CONFUCIANISM — "Is there one word which may serve as a rule to practice for all one's life? The Master said, 'Is not reciprocity (sympathy, consideration) such a word? What you do not want done to yourself, do not unto others.'"

HINDUISM — "The life-giving breaths of other creatures are as dear to them as the breaths of one's own self. Men gifted with intelligence and purified souls should always treat others as they themselves wish to be treated."

JAINISM — "Indifferent to worldly objects, a man should wander about, treating all creatures in the world as he himself would be treated."

JUDAISM — "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

MOHAMMEDANISM — "No one of you is a believer until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself."

SIKHISM — "As thou deemest thyself, so deem others; then shalt thou become a partner in Heaven."

SHINTOISM — "Irrespective of their nationality, language, manners and culture, men should give mutual aid, and enjoy reciprocal, peaceful pleasure by showing in their conduct that they are brethren."

TAOISM — "Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain, and regard your neighbor's loss as your own loss."

ZOROASTRIANISM — "That nature alone is good which refrains from doing unto another whatsoever is not good for itself."

LINTON NAMED PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER

H. S. (Sid) Linton has been appointed public affairs manager for the North Carolina Division of General Telephone Co. of the Southeast.

A native of Wakulla County, Florida, he grew up in Rockingham, N. C. and is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Prior to joining General Telephone, he was employed in public relations at the corporate headquarters of Carolina Power & Light Co. in Raleigh.

His appointment was announced by Claude O. Sykes, vice president and general manager of General Telephone Co.'s North Carolina Division.



Traditionalists will say that the Golden Rule, admirable in concept as it is, does not truly express the Spirit of Christmas.

Man continues to strive — more or less — to emulate the Son of God and of Man — and especially at Christmas-time.

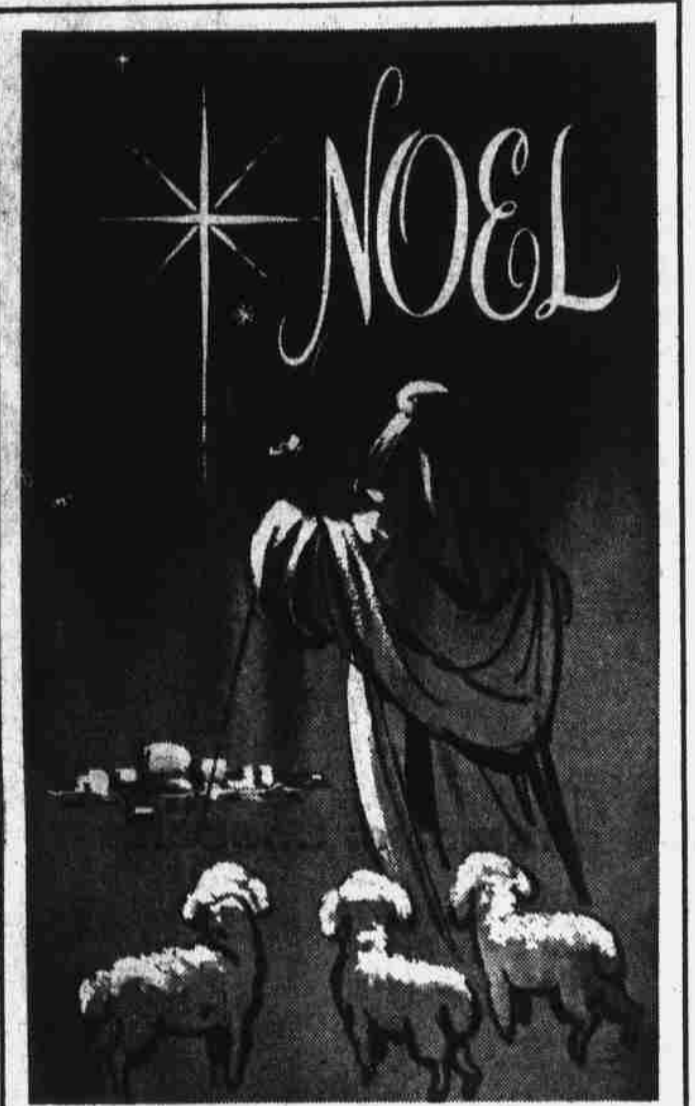
He fails miserably, in many cases; this cannot be denied. Why, then, can we not reach for something attainable — such as the Golden Rule?

Durham Students Named To Who's Who

Miss Deborah J. Peaks, a student in the School of Communications, of 14-A Dorothy Drive, and Joseph H. Martin, Jr., a student in the College of Liberal Arts, of 309 Pekoe Ave., have been

named to "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, 1977-1978."

Miss Peaks and Martin are students at Howard University, Washington, D. C.



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