

Good News!

The Southport boys basketball team received good news this week when Foxy Howard took—and passed—a make-up exam to become eligible for play. He had been counted on by Coach Pete Lee as one of the men to make his "running game" go.

Southport plays Nakina here Friday night in a double-header.

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DARRYL F. ZANUCK'S CRACK IN THE MIRROR

The Bethlehem Star... Was It An Actuality?

By BILLY ARTHUR

Was the Star of Bethlehem, seen only by the Magi at the time of Jesus' birth, an actuality or a myth?

Science has a very plausible answer.

Some people superstitiously maintain that science always contradicts religion. There are others, including noted theologians, who do not share that attitude. And they cite the Bethlehem Star as an example.

The annual Christmas show at the Morehead Planetarium in Chapel Hill correlates the religious account of the star with a scientific explanation which takes much of the mystery out of this strange glowing light that led the Wise Men to the manger at Bethlehem.

Was that light in the heavens a star?

Today scientists believe it was not a star in the scientific tradition, but rather a rare conjunction or close passing of the planets Jupiter and Saturn.

They base their conclusion on a careful study of written records, ecclesiastical, scientific, historic and philosophical.

Even the Bible supports their conclusion. It reads: "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.'"

Scripture further tells us that the star went before the Magi until they reached the place of Jesus' birth. This is how they found the Christ child.

For almost 2,000 years men have been puzzled by the Christmas star. Ancient astronomers did not record a strange light in the sky at the year 1 B.C. nor 1 A.D.

There is no evidence that anyone but the Wise Men saw the star. Shepherds in the desert didn't, astronomers didn't, government officials didn't. Only the Magi did. Why?

Today's scholars believe the reason was that the star was not a true star but instead was a rare triple conjunction or three-time passing of the bright planets Jupiter and Saturn. It is now also believed the Magi were Persian astrologers who would see mystical significance in such a phenomenon.

However, practical thinkers do not attach such mystical significance to a triple conjunction, because science can explain it thoroughly. When viewed from

the earth, Jupiter and Saturn pass each other in the sky. Triple conjunctions of Jupiter, Saturn and the earth take place every 125 years. The last one occurred in 1941.

So, the next question is why there are no written astronomical records about such a rare event taking place in 1 A.D.

Because, according to some scholars, the conjunction that attracted attention almost 2,000 years ago appeared not in the year 1 A.D. but in the year 7 B.C. Therefore, they believe it possible that Jesus was born in the spring of 7 B.C. or 6 B.C. They substantiate their beliefs and findings by referring to the major tax collections of the Roman empire at that period.

The Gospel of St. Luke refers to this time, but the exact year was unknown till 1923. In that year a tablet was found in a Roman ruin near Ankara, Turkey, that contained an inscription relating to three great tax collections during the reign of Caesar Augustus. They were in 28 B.C., 8 B.C. and 14 A.D. The first and the last were not in the time of Herod. He represented Rome only during the great tax of 8 B.C.

Because it would have taken almost a year for the tax decree to reach Galilee, it is conceivable that Jesus was born a year later in 7 B.C. and that year would coincide with the year the planets seemed to pass each other three times to form the bright "star."

Because of the versatility and accuracy of the Zeiss instrument, that can be duplicated in the Morehead Planetarium at Chapel Hill.

Another effect shows how— from our angle of vision from the earth—it could be that the planet Saturn and Jupiter met, and how one seemed to turn backward in its orbit to meet the other.

They first met on May 29 and

again on December 4 in 7 B.C. and for the third time in February of 6 B.C. when the planet Mars came up to join Saturn and Jupiter, and the other two seemed to move backward to meet Mars.

This is called retrograde motion by astronomers. It is the same motion that makes it seem, when one is riding on a train, that a slower train on the next track is moving backward though going in the same direction as the fast train.

When the second meeting of Jupiter and Saturn occurred, the Magi consulted folk lore and decided that the great sign in the heavens meant that a king was to be born to the Jews, so they traveled to Bethlehem.

Despite careful search and study nothing else is known to astronomers that might have been taken by the Magi as a sign.

Many people neither know or care that the same thing—a triple conjunction—happened in 1940-41. But the astrologers made much of it then, as the Magi must have done 19½ centuries ago.

If, then, there was a real event in the sky that could have been interpreted by the Wise Men as a sign, it was probably the interesting triple conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn. It would have served to send them on their way to discover the meaning of it.

Of course, there will always be those who will prefer to believe that the Star of Bethlehem was a miracle, given only to the eyes of the Wise Men to see.

"But," as the narrators ask in the Christmas program at the Morehead Planetarium, "is it after all important to know what the 'Star of Bethlehem' was? The important facts are that Jesus was born, that He dwelt on Earth for a time with men, and that His teachings have altered the history of the world."

New Residents Enjoying Life At Boiling Spring Lakes

The following interview took place in the tastefully appointed living room of one of the three-bedroom, model brick homes, located eight miles from Southport and situated on the pineclad, rolling acres known as Boiling Spring Lakes.

Anson Lewis, country gentleman and land proprietor: "Why did I buy out here? First of all, by choice. We own a comfortable home in Southport, which we are retaining and renting. We came, we saw, and we liked what we saw, you might put down."

"We" are Anson, Mrs. Lewis, the former Gladys Galloway of Varnumtown, and Mr. Willie Galloway, father of the hostess.

"Were they attracted by the beneficent peace and the lovely solitude of Brunswick County's newest city?"

Anson: "The peace, yes. But I hardly think secluded is the right word. I am sure that a city will not be long in the growing here. Already we have some fine neighbors around us."

"Being that Mrs. Lewis is not here to speak for herself, would you care to go out on a limb, Mr. Lewis, and state your wife's views on the new homesite?"

Anson Lewis: "Ordinarily I let her speak her own piece, but on this subject I feel quite safe to put words in Gladys' mouth. She

says the surroundings suit her fine. As a Varnumtown native, my wife hates cities. She purely loves to lie in bed here at night and listen to the wood sounds."

"How about Mr. Galloway?"

Anson Lewis: "Well, he's an old, Varnumtown. Does that answer your question?"

"Not exactly, Mr. Lewis. How do you reconcile the fact that, here you are expecting a great rush of Boiling Spring Lakes residents, while you state that heavenly peace, far from the madding throngs ignoble strife, exert its spell upon those near and dear to you?"

Anson Lewis: "What is this, some kinda double talk? Man, the great crowds are not here yet. I live in expectation, while the rest of my family live in peace. That way, everybody's happy."

End of interview. Conclusions drawn: Boiling Spring Lakes will grow and grow. In the meantime the great new residential area passes through a phase during which absolutely no growing pains are suffered. The 15,000 acres will hold 50,000 people with no more discomfort than the unloading of a four-passenger automobile places upon, say, Gotham.

Read The Want Ads

Hallsboro And Bolivia Split

HALLSBORO—Hallsboro's Tigers boys won a 67-30 cage victory over the Bolivia Bears here, Tuesday night, after the Bolivia girls had bumped the Lady Tigers of the local school, 45-27.

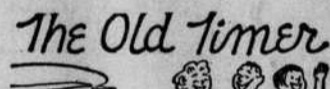
Aveline Skipper had 31 points and Steve Mintz hit 10 to pace the Bolivia basketballers, while Barbara Young hit 15 and Melvin Brown had 21 for the Hallsboro team. Ronald Faircloth and Johnny Formy-Duval each added 14 for the winning Tiger boys.

Bolivia, coached by Frank Hogge, held a 10-5 lead in the girls' game at the quarter; then saw the Lady Tigs catch them, 13-13 at the half. A 21-5 third quarter won for Bolivia.

Coach Mack Edwards' Tiger boys jumped out front, 17-7 in the first period and led, 26-14 and 42-22 at other turns.

GIRLS: Bolivia (45)—Skipper 31, Sellers 11, Bunce 2, Lewis, McKeithan, Rabon. Subs—Knowles 1, Willetta, Wescott, McLeland. Hallsboro (27)—Young 15, Hayes 4, E. Godwin 4, Barefoot, Love, Soles. Subs—Creech 4, S. Godwin, Ward, Dew, Caffee, Prescott, Yow.

BOYS: Hallsboro (67)—Powell 1, Brown 21, R. Rhodes 6, Faircloth 14, J. Formy-Duval 14, Subs—D. Rhodes 7, John Hines 2, Miller 2. Bolivia (30)—Steve Mintz 10, Morrie Watkins 3, Thurston Sullivan 8, Jackie Potter 5, David Cook 3. Subs—Bill Hickman 1, Dick Rabon, Cook.



The Old Timer

"There's nothing wrong with the younger generation that the older generation didn't outgrow."

Southport Cage Teams Get Off To Good Start

The basketball season got off to a rousing start here in Southport during the past weekend as the locals won a pair of double-headers, from Dixon on Friday night and from Hallsboro on the following evening.

In the Friday night fracas the Southport girls staved off a last-quarter rally on the part of the visitors to earn a 41-36 victory. The Southport boys went on a scoring spree for an 80-67 decision over the Dixon boys.

After playing it close during the early going, Southport moved ahead of the visiting Dixon sextet during the second and third quarters for a 36-18 margin at the three-quarter mark. The fourth period rally on the part of the visitors failed to catch the home team.

Jean Cochran led the local scoring with 17 points, closely followed by Frances Smith, with 15. Sally Ward had 9 points for Southport.

Sandra Foster led the Onslow county sextet with 19 points and was high scorer for the game. Ann Mirret had 10 points, Doris Owens 6 and Velma Evans 1.

Patty Jenkins, Charlotte Evans, Linda Spencer and Lydia Long were Southport guards; and Frances Edwards got into the game at forward.

Pat Melton led the Dixon de-

fenders.

The boys game also got off to a close start, with the score being tied 7-7 before the Dolphins got the range. Big Donald Dixon made 13 points in the first half to help give the home forces a 41-24 lead at intermission.

Coach Pete Lee started C. E. Murphy, Clive Doshier, Rodney Garner and Frank Rogers with Dixon, and they put on a dazzling first-half exhibition. When Dixon and Doshier got into foul trouble, Jerry Spencer and Ed Harper moved in as relief. During the game, the Southport coach used Don Hardee, Kenneth Phelps and Chuch Smith.

The all round play of Garner was outstanding, while the floor play and fast-break tactics of Murphy also stood out.

For Dixon Bill Banks was outstanding and turned out to be the game's high scorer with 33 points. The floor play of Paul Sheppard was a feature of Dixon's play.

Southport outclassed the Hallsboro girls Saturday night to win 62-22, as Sally Ward and Jean Cochran tied with 22-points each

for high scoring honors. Fresh-

man Frances Smith added 18.

The local lassies held a 26-9 lead at half-time and the visitors did little to close the gap in the final two periods. Playing defense for Southport were Patty Jenkins, Charlotte Evans and Linda Spencer, starters, all of whom managed to stay free of fouls. Lydia Long, Cynthia Sherrill and Martha Mallison got in for some game experience, as did Frances Edwards as a sub forward.

Mary Alice Bryant, who started out as guard but moved to forward, led the Hallsboro scoring with 8 points. Pat Hayes had 6, Eloise Godwin and Barbara Young had 4 each.

The boys won by a score of 66-45, with Dixon leading the scoring with 22 points. He was followed by Rodney Garner with 13 and Clive Doshier with 11. Also contributing to the scoring were C. E. Murphy, again the quarterback of the Dolphin attack, with 10; Frankie Rogers with 5; Church Smith with 2; Rip Howard with 2; and Kenneth Phelps with 1.

Ronald Faircloth led the tall Hallsboro team in scoring with 20 points with D. Rhodes adding 8. Melvin Brown, Johnny Formy-Duval and Richard Miller each had 4 points.

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