

The Christmas Story

Illustrated by Hal Foster



JOSEPH was amazed and awed when Mary, the maid to whom he was betrothed, told him that she was with child by the Holy Ghost. Joseph, confused and puzzled, knew not what to do until an angel appeared, saying:

"Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

ST. MATTHEW, CHAP. I, VS. 20, 21

(To Be Continued Here Tuesday)

Dutch Troops Race Across Indonesian Republic

Daily Herald

84th Year—No 84 Roanoke Rapids, N. C., Monday, December 20, 1948 5c Daily; 10c Sunday

Spy Probers Seek To Question Eight New Witnesses In Race Against Time

Hope To End Inquiry Before Congress Opens

Washington, Dec. 20—(AP)—Racing against time, Congressional spy investigators hope to find out today whether the justice department will give them a chance to quiz eight key witnesses before the year ends.

The House Un-American Activities Committee wants to add testimony of these witnesses to its espionage inquiry report before the new Congress takes over on January 3.

First, it wants to question the eight, or as many of them as aren't needed in prosecuting indictments returned by a New York grand jury.

These indictments are against (A) 12 Communist party leaders on grounds they conspired to overturn the U. S. Government; State Department official, on grounds he lied in saying he never turned Government secrets over to Whittaker Chambers, former courier for a Communist spy ring.

Acting chairman Mundt (R-SD) got out a statement — on pink paper — last night saying if the justice department would let it quiz:

Donald Hiss, brother of Alger; Mrs. Alger Hiss; Miss Elizabeth T. Bentley, who admits she was a messenger for a pre-war red network in Washington; Chambers; Henry Julian Wadleigh; William Ward Pigman; Franklin Victor Reno; and Hilda Gompers.

That was the first time the committee had mentioned the last two. All the others except Pigman, a former worker at the National Bureau of Standards, have appeared previously before the committee.

Mundt told reporters that Reno might be able to throw some light on "the Aberdeen Proving Ground situation."

That was a reference to statements of committee members that around 1938 the Russians evidently got information on the super-secret Norden bombsight out of a civilian at the Army's testing station at Aberdeen, Md.

Administration Plans To Unify Intelligence Agencies Under One Control, Two Reports Show

Washington, Dec. 20—(AP)—The administration not only aims to tighten laws against spying but also seeks to put the government's 20-odd intelligence agencies under unified control.

This was brought out today by two reports which disclosed:

(a) That a drive has been under way since last spring to coordinate varied home-front efforts to protect the nation against spies, saboteurs and other subversive activities.

(b) A presidential commission for some months has been studying operations of the Central Intelligence Agency which evaluates military and diplomatic reports from abroad.

The administration moves apparently pre-date the current dispute between the White House and the House Un-American Activities committee.

President Truman repeatedly has labeled the committee's oft-sensational spy investigation a "red herring;" committee members contend that they are bringing out into the open things government agents should have known and acted on long ago.

Secretary of Defense Forrestal reported over the weekend that last March he launched the campaign to coordinate the home front intelligence operations of the military services—the FBI, Secret Service, State Department and numerous other agencies.

He said that Attorney General Clark had suggested in February that in view of the development of the fifth column and other subversive techniques "it might be desirable to coordinate the work of these many agencies in the field of internal security."

Clark announced last week that he intends to ask the new Congress to tighten the laws against spying so as to plug loopholes through which U. S. secrets have been sneaked out.

Forrestal said that the internal security unification has been under close study by the national security council and several governmental committees, but that no final agreement has been reached.

C. O. Byrd Dies Suddenly; Rites Today

Clarence O. Byrd, died suddenly at his home at 816 Jackson Street Sunday morning. Mr. Byrd was electric foreman for Speight-White Company.

Funeral services will be held this afternoon at 3:45 at the Wrenns Funeral Home.

The Rev. Edmund Berkeley, pastor of the All Saints Episcopal Church will officiate.

Interment will be in Cedarwood Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife Mrs. Lillian V. Byrd; two sisters, Mrs. W. E. Hall of Durham and Mrs. C. G. Matthews of Roanoke Rapids; a brother R. Lee Byrd of Rock Hill, South Carolina and several nieces and nephews.

Large Crowd Hears Yule Music In Weldon

Weldon—On Sunday afternoon at 5:00 o'clock the Weldon Methodist was the setting for a very lovely Christmas musical program, under the direction of Mrs. T. S. Dickens, Jr., of Halifax, as choir director, and Mrs. M. A. Garris, organist.

The church was a scene of serene beauty. The choir loft being banked with spider fern, intermingled with many stately red poinsettias and burning white tapers forming an outline of soft glow all around. The burning candles were in each church window with greenery reflecting up into the lovely painted windows of Christ himself. The choir of approximately 50 men and women filled the pulpit dressed in black and white vestments.

Mrs. Garris played as the prelude, "Gesù Bambino, by Pietro A. Yon. The opening procession was, "O Come All Ye Faithful, by Latin Carol. The following numbers were most beautiful rendered to a most receptive audience. "O Come Immanuel," "Lo, How A Rose," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," and many other beautiful renditions.

The soloists were, Mrs. Jean Pemberton, Mrs. Sterling Black Pierce, Mr. John Shearin, Jr., Mr. J. W. Williams, and Mr. Alex Lassiter. After the singing of each portion of the musical, the Rev. Ben H. Houston, pastor of the church, read portions of the Christmas story from the Bible.

As a postlude the choir closed the evening program with "Gloria" by French Carol.

VFW Auxiliary Is Santa Claus To 100 Children

Santa Claus paid a special visit to the Roanoke Rapids Army yesterday afternoon and brought gifts to some 100 underprivileged children of Roanoke Rapids.

Good Saint Nick arrived aboard a jeep at the annual Veterans of Foreign War auxiliary Christmas party.

A huge tree standing in the middle of the room was beautifully decorated and banked around underneath it with stacks of presents.

Resident Superior Court Judge R. Hunt Parker was the principal speaker on the occasion and told the youngsters and several hundred oldsters about the beginnings and growth of Christmas.

He was introduced by State Senator Julian Allsbrook on a program which included the singing of Christmas Carols led by Mrs. Elaise Bristow and a reading by Juanita Jones of Vance Street school.

Al Drew, manager of the local radio station was the master of ceremonies for the occasion.

The program preceeded the arrival of Santa Claus who came through the door riding in the local Army Recruiting Station's jeep. The jeep made several trips around the tree and finally deposited Santa Claus amid all the youngsters just behind the tree. Santa distributed the gifts which were provided by the Auxiliary to the children.

Housewife Has Her Suspicions About Security

Philadelphia, Dec. 20—(AP)—A Philadelphia housewife has had her "suspicions" over the national security policy temporarily eased by a letter from Secretary of Defense James F. Forrestal.

Mrs. Clarence F. Hartman said yesterday Forrestal's letter satisfied her that a secret police force was just as distasteful to the Truman administration as it was to her.

"On the face of it," Mrs. Hartman said, "the letter clears up my doubts. Mr. Forrestal seems to be very definite when he says he has no thought of abolishing the FBI"

Mrs. Hartman had written President Truman for a statement of clarification on the administration's policy of national security. The Secretary of Defense replied in a 1300-word letter.

Forrestal's letter was accompanied by a report of the office of civil defense planning which Mrs. Hartman said she had glanced through, but not studied.

The Secretary of Defense wrote that he recommended the establishment of a single federal authority to coordinate the activities of "the more than 20 government agencies now concerned with the nation's internal security."

But, he said he agreed with Mrs. Hartman that the creation of a secret police force would be revolting to any American.

"For the time being, at least, my suspicions have been allayed," Mrs. Hartman said, "but of course, there's no way of telling how much coordination there will be. Sometimes you're told things that are legally so, but altogether different in practice."

Doctor Gets More Than Usual As Fee

Los Angeles, Dec. 20—(AP)—An intruder broke into a doctor's office at night, removed a cast from his arm, rebandaged it and left a \$20 bill in payment.

Dr. Nelson A. Young reported this self-service incident to police yesterday, saying nothing had been taken from his office but some fresh bandages.

Dr. Young added he was \$5 ahead, since his fee is only \$15 for such a service.

Heavy Fighting Near Tientsin

Nanking, Dec. 20—(AP)—Heavy fighting was reported today on the flatlands around Tientsin, teeming metropolis of North China.

Premier Sun Fo announced the formation of a new cabinet pledged to fight on until an honorable peace could be obtained. Although he called it a "no surrender" cabinet, he did not rule out the possibility of a compromise with the communists.

Red forces severed rail and telegraph communications between Tientsin and its port city of Tangku, 27 miles down the Hai river, pro-government newspapers said.

The stepped up north China fighting left both Tientsin and ancient Peiping, 90 miles northwest of Tientsin, isolated.

Nineteen Inches Of Snow Almost Paralyzes New York; Many Are Snowbound, Travel Is Disrupted

New York, Dec. 20—(AP)—Millions struggled to work today through 19 inches of snow that blanketed the metropolitan area.

The snowfall—only an inch and a half less than the great blizzard of 1888—left some people snowbound in the suburban areas.

Many commuter buses and some railroad service were tied up by snow-clogged roads and rails.

Subways and elevated lines were operating near normal, however, and surface transportation in the center of the city kept moving, although slowed.

The Long Island Railroad, which was paralyzed by the record snowfall of 25.8 inches last Dec. 26 and 27, announced at 4:30 a.m. the cancellation of 24 regular morning rush-hour trains to allow operation of snow-removal trains.

The important commuter line had met increasing difficulties in the early morning hours, caused by mechanical failures of equipment and drifting snow.

The snow, which started falling in the city at 8:20 a.m. yesterday, began to abate at 2 p.m. and ended at 2:10 a.m. today.

The storm, which roared up the Atlantic Coast with high winds, was moving farther out to sea today after sweeping much of the northeast and giving many sections their heaviest snowfall of the season.

Areas hit included large parts of New York state, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New England, Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia, and West Virginia.

The storm closed the metropolitan area's three major airports—La Guardia Field, New York International Airport and Newark (N.J.) Airport.

Schools were closed today in some metropolitan area suburbs and in other states.

A number of deaths here and elsewhere were blamed on the storm, most of them from over-exhaustion.

A forecast of clearing weather and above-freezing temperatures today gave hope that the city's force of almost 20,000 snow removal men with their thousands of trucks, plows and other apparatus would make quick work of the third heaviest fall in New York's history.

4 Shopping Days Until Christmas

Farmers are insured against loss of investment on certain crops in case of excessive rain, drought, disease, insects, storms or other unavoidable cause of damage bring the return on the crops below the amount of insurance specified in the policy. Administrative expenses are paid through federal appropriation, and premiums are used to pay losses.

John T. Lane of Belvidere and Julian A. White and Jack E. Brinn, both of Hertford, have accepted appointments to administer the program as the Perquimans county crop insurance committee, according to I. C. Yagel, county agent of the extension service.

Ten Persons Killed In State Mishaps

By The Associated Press

Rocky Mount has missed having no traffic deaths in 1948 by only 16 days. The city's first victim was Oliver Lee Cockrell, 18, killed when a truck and his motorbike collided. He was one of at least 10 persons who died by violence in North Carolina over the weekend.

Elmer Richard Huffman, 27, wounded a week ago Sunday while exchanging fire with officers who sought to arrest him in LaGrange, died in a Kinston hospital Saturday.

Ed Mathis, 44, a State prison camp employe, was found with a pistol wound in his head at his home near Waynesville. Coroner J. Frank Pate ruled that Mathis accidentally shot himself to death.

Floyd H. Norton, 45, who fell down a flight of stairs, died in a clinic at Spruce Pine.

Jim Pleasants, 71, a farmer of Franklinton, Route 1, died in a Raleigh hospital of injuries received in a wreck near Franklinton.

Kenneth Jordan, 30, of Norfolk, formerly of Perquimans County, N. C., died in an Elizabeth City hospital after being hit by a car on the Winfall-Hertford road. Authorities said that Jordan and a companion were hit while trying to pull their machine from a ditch.

Donna Howard, 5, of Charlotte, was killed by an automobile in downtown Charlotte.

Jesse F. James, Jr., 16, a Winston-Salem High School student, was fatally injured when a car in which he was riding rammed into a tree. Five schoolmates were injured. Three of them are still hospitalized.

Willie Glenn Horn, 20, of East Bend, died in a Winston-Salem hospital after his auto went over an embankment.

Carr Barrett, 36, of Weaver, was found dead of a broken neck on a road near his home, apparently an automobile victim.

Multiple Crop Insurance To Be Tested

Raleigh, Dec. 20—(AP)—Perquimans County has been selected for the south's first trial of multiple crop insurance.

The program will be conducted in 1949 on a trial basis, officials of the N. C. State College extension service said today.

Only two other counties in the United States — both in the mid west — have ever tried such a plan, they added.

Perquimans was selected for the experiment because of its diversified farming system, which includes four major crops — peanuts, cotton, corn and soybeans. The program will include all these crops.

Multiple crop insurance offers protection on more than one crop on the same farm. The program is administered by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, which operates within the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

This Boy Couldn't Wait For Christmas

Fayetteville, Dec. 20—(AP)—Eleven-year-old John Ralph Barbour couldn't wait for Christmas to get that air rifle. He walked into the Commercial and Industrial Bank here and got a loan of \$7, secured, legal like, by a note.

That was more than two months ago. The bank took his word that he would repay 50 cents a week from the money he made selling papers.

He met the payments, and when he drew his Christmas Club savings the other day he cleaned up the debt.

The Weather

North Carolina—Fair weather, cool today; slightly cooler tonight with scattered frost and freezing temperatures in the interior; Tuesday, partly cloudy and slightly warmer.

ROANOKE RAMBLINGS

By PAT NANTZ

It's nice to see some of the boys who are in service, are getting an opportunity to come home for the Christmas holidays. . . one of these I've noticed is Richard Crumpler, son of Mrs. Ruth Crumpler of Madison street . . .

Friends of Mrs. R. B. Morgan of Monroe street will be interested to know that she returned to her home yesterday, after having been a patient in Duke Hospital for several weeks. . . she will, however, return there on January 4. . .

Mr. and Mrs. John Lyles have as their guests for the holidays, Mrs. Lyles' mother, Mrs. Connie Watson of Rich Square. . . Mrs. Watson plans to visit here until January 1. . .

Marie Rodwell and Edward Killebrew will really have a holiday today. . . it's not only the first day out of school for them, but their birthday as well. . . here's hoping you both have a very happy day and may you have many more just as nice. . .

Porcupine Fish Brought Home By Local Man

William Eldridge, torpedoman second class USN, who serves aboard the USS Vogelgesang, brought home an unusual trophy when he arrived here to spend the holidays.

Eldridge has a porcupine fish which was caught in tropical waters.

Porcupine is a good name for the round fish which has long spikes about one inch long sticking out all over its body. The fins are located near the back of the fish and just a little ahead of the tail. The mouth is snout-like.

Eldridge is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Eldridge and is spending the Christmas holidays here with his parents.

London's Underground Is Stretching

LONDON—(AP)—London's sprawling giant of a subway system is taking its biggest stretch in 31 years. The underground, as it's called, is opening 10 miles of new life and nine new stations in the north-eastern and north-western suburbs.

That will give it 243 miles of line and 278 stations—more railroad than in all of Paraguay and enough to reach from New York to below Washington. It's the biggest extension at one clip since 1917. It was accomplished by electrifying old steam tracks—the underground runs on the surface in the outskirts. But at that it has cost \$6,000,000 dollars.

"King Of Kings" To Be Shown Here Tonight

The Weldon Youth Christian Aid Endeavor will sponsor the showing of the film "The King of Kings" in two appearances in Roanoke Rapids and Weldon.

The first showing of the story of the life of Jesus Christ will be held tonight at 8 o'clock in the Roanoke Rapids High School auditorium and tomorrow night at 8 o'clock a special showing for Negroes of the area will be held in the H. C. T. S. building.

The proceeds from the showing of the film will be used by the Christian Aid Endeavor to provide gifts for some underprivileged children at Christmas time.

The public is urged to attend one of the showings.

Keys Alike, These Men Have Car Trouble

Burlington, Dec. 20—(AP)—Richard Jones and LeRoy H. Miller thought today about getting new keys for their automobiles.

They reported to police their cars had been stolen. Jones, it was discovered, had driven off with Miller's machine. Both cars are black coupes, the same make and model. The keys were found interchangeable.