

The Christmas Story

Illustrated by Hal Foster



NOT ALONE to the Jews did THE STAR appear; men of a different race, a different creed saw it. In far-off Persia, among the hills beyond Babylon, three wise men, Magi of the cult of Zoroaster, saw the great STAR rise in the heavens and, having read its meaning, loaded their camels with rich gifts and set out on the long, long journey to Bethlehem to do homage to the Prince of Heaven.

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(Continued Here Wednesday)

Cotton Textile Industry Said To Be First To Overcome Inflation

New York, N. Y. —The first major industry to overcome the inflationary effects of the post-war period may be the cotton textile industry, according to the current report of the Department of Agriculture which shows cotton materials to be selling at almost OPA levels.

The Production and Marketing Administration of the Department gives October's average price of the 17 basic gray cloth constructions as 68.32 cents a pound, only 1.75 cents above the average for October 1946, the last full month of OPA ceilings.

Credited with being the major factor in bringing down prices has been the industry's record peacetime production. Although consumption has been and continues to be high, mills have not only met the demand but produced the additional materials necessary to restock depleted shelves.

While the government's average price of cotton fabrics for October was slightly above final OPA levels, individual prices of the more volatile items in the unfinished cotton cloth market actually fell below OPA ceilings.

Local College Students Home For Holidays

The parties, dances and gatherings during the Christmas holidays will be greatly added to by the presence of college students who will be visiting with their parents and families until about January 3.

Some of them from Carolina will be Nick Long, Frank Hawley, Richard Allsbrook, Claudius Irby, Russell Dickens, Sanford Brown, and Bill Pruden. From Smithfield - Massey Business College in Richmond there will be Adres Fisher, Josie Johnson, Pete Rawlings, Joe Kidd, and Howard Hubbard. Jack Wrenn, Wiley Warren, A. R. Hardison, Buddy Wrenn, Harry Weathers, Doc Murphy, L. S. Pullen, Charles Smith, Theron Harris, C. D. Clark and Thomas Clark will be coming in from Wake Forest.

Richmond Polytechnic Institute in Richmond will be minus Priscilla Tickle and Cherry Taylor, while Jimmy Brown, Allen Brown, Jimmy Elmore, Bynum Neal, and Court Brown will be visiting from State. Others coming home will be Puggy Starke, Rose Cooksey, and Bobbie Fisher all of Womens College of the University of North Carolina; Ruby Blowe, Campbell Junior College; Ernestine Smith, Pan - American Business College; Frankie Rightmyer, Norfolk Business College; Robert McAdams of Mars Hill College; Walter Myrick of High Point; Grace Taylor of Duke University; Charles Pullen and Boo-Boo Butler of East Carolina Teachers College; Clifton Braswell of Washington, D. C.; John Crutchfield and Clara Clarke; Joyce Witherspoon of Staunton, Virginia; Dwight Dobbins and Al George of State; and last, but not least C. D. Martin, Jr. of U. S. Military Academy, Annapolis, Maryland.

Children Get Lost At Christmas Party

Los Angeles, Dec. 21.—(AP)—The Masques' Annual Christmas Party program was halted for awhile when the stage became so crowded with lost youngsters that no one could get to the microphone.

More than 100 children got lost at the big outdoor party in Pershing Square last night. Finally police herded them into a bus, where all eventually were claimed by their parents.

Thousands of youngsters thronged to the affair to see Santa and such movie heroes as Gene Autry, Wally Ford and Reginald Deny.

Cub Scouts Hold Their Christmas Party

Last night at the Recreation Hall in Rosemary the Cub Scouts of Roanoke Rapids met for their Christmas party.

The hall was beautifully decorated throughout with a lighted tree and a fire-place which gave one the feeling that Saint Nick would come sliding into the room any minute as one of the Cubs expressed it.

Reece Welch, cub master was present and the den's chiefs Russell Buxton III, David Camp, and Alton Capps.

Mrs. Russell Buxton, Den mother of Den One was present when the Cubs arrived bringing their supper in bags.

Welch and Mrs. Buxton served hot chocolate and dough-nuts as the boys spread their supper.

The blessing followed and after supper Christmas carols were in order, with gifts exchanged.

Each den put on a skit. Den One gave a marionette show of Christmas scenes. Movies by the cub-master of "Little King's Christmas Deed" and "Night Before Christmas".

Prizes were awarded to the quartet singing Christmas carols the best, by the cub-master.

Those present were: Don Tiller, Tommy Pappendick, Willis Maddrey, Jay Thompson, Carlon Lewis, Kenneth Buxton, Gene Hawkins, Bobby Thompson, Al Lassiter, Joe Mert, James Gardner, John Dunn, and Nathan Teale

"Nativity Scene" On Weldon Highway Causes Motorists To Stop And Look

Motorists driving on the Weldon highway near Roanoke Rapids the past few nights have been brought to a halt by a view which looks like something out of the Holy Land nearly 2,000 years ago.

The scene which seems so realistic is the Nativity Scene which has been erected this year again at the Roanoke Builders Supply Company. Life-size Biblical watchers can be seen with their flocks watching the beauty and mystery of the fabulous star of the East hovering over the Bethlehem manger.

Also to be seen are the Wise Men as they journey to follow the Star of Hope.

To natives of the area the Nativity scene is nothing new, but passers-by from out of the state have been obviously startled by the vividness of the sight, and employees of the company said a number of people stop to comment on the work. Even more people who do not stop at the time have obviously been impressed.

County Schools Form Athletic Conference

Halifax — An announcement has been made here of the formation of the Halifax Conference including six of the Halifax County schools to compete in the 1949 basketball season and declare a county champion.

W. Henry Overman, superintendent of the Halifax County Schools, and C. B. Thomas were named co-chairmen of the athletic committee to direct basketball competition in the conference. Weldon, Scotland Neck, Enfield, Aurelian Springs, William R. Davie and Littleton will all participate in conference games during the season, each team playing each other at least twice in boys' and girls' games during the season.

At the end of the regular playing season the conference champion will be declared on the basis of won-lost records in conference play. A Conference tournament will be held on March 2, 3 and 4, however the place of the tournament has not been announced.

Strict regulations regarding player eligibility have been adopted and the rules and regulations governing the N. C. High School Athletic Association were adopted to govern conference competition. Principals are required at the end of the six-weeks grading period the names of all his eligible ball players, and ineligible players are barred from competing in Halifax Conference games.

When principals and coaches met here to make plans for the formation of the conference, it was decided that the Halifax County high schools will not attempt to compete in state-wide competition because under the N. C. H. S. A. A. the champions must have been decided by February 19, which Halifax County officials deemed too early because of schedule making, which must be completed.

U. S. Gives Up Hope Of Getting Dutch Withdrawal

Paris, Dec. 21.—(AP)—An American spokesman said today the United States has given up hope of getting Dutch troops to withdraw to lines held before the current "police action" against the Republic of Indonesia.

The spokesman, a press officer of the U. S. delegation to the United Nations Security Council, said an American resolution to the council tomorrow will contain little else than a demand for a cease fire, because most other nations on the council would not back the plan for a withdrawal of troops.

A Dutch spokesman said the Netherlands might accept a cease fire if the main Dutch army action in Java and Sumatra appeared to be over by tomorrow, but he added:

"Of course that would apply to large movements. It would be too much to expect us not to reply to Guerrilla actions. In any case we should probably have to consult the Hague on the military situation. A great deal also depends on the wording—whether it offers anything constructive."

Any order to withdraw to old lines, the Dutch spokesman said, would "not be practical" and would bring chaos.

Dutch Forces Attack Transport Lines In Indonesian Republic

Batavia, Java, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Dutch forces appeared today to be slashing methodically across transport lines of the Indonesian Republic in Central Java.

A Netherlands communique announced Dutch marines have seized Toeban, a republican port on the north shore of the island, and moved to the outskirts of Bodjonegoro, a highway center 25 miles to the southwest.

Dutch troops, it said, captured Pati, on the coastal railway 75 miles west of Toeban, and Bojolali, inland gateway to Soerakarta, the Republic's second city.

The Republic's first city and capital, Jogjakarta, was seized by airborne forces Sunday in the

campaign which the Dutch call a "police action" against terrorists.

President Soekarno, his major ministers and his military commander in chief, Gen. Soedirman, are in Dutch custody.

The Dutch struck across republican demarcation lines in both Java and Sumatra after announcing Saturday that they would set up a federal interim regime for Indonesia (The Netherlands East Indies) without the Republic.

The announcement of the capture of Pati was the first indication that Dutch troops were operating in that area, which is 30 miles northeast of the old line separating Dutch-ruled and Republican territory.

Bojolali is on the main road south toward Jogjakarta. Soerakarta lies 15 miles east of Bojolali.

The United Nations officials here awaited word of the status of 18 U. N. workers, including several Americans, in Republican territory. They were last heard from Saturday, when they were at Kalieorang.

A spokesman for the U. N. Good Offices Committee said the security council has asked the committee to report on the military situation. He said the chairman, Merle Cochran of the United States, was expected to take up the matter today. (Cochran cables, the Security Council yesterday that the Dutch violated an 11-month old truce agreement in attacking the republic.)

Three-Power Government For Berlin Set

Berlin, Dec. 21.—(AP)—The United States, Britain and France announced today a three-power government for Berlin without Russian participation.

The French Commandant, Gen. Jean Geneval, read a three-power statement saying:

"If Soviet authorities either now or at some future date, decide to abide by the agreement to which the four persons are committed, the quadripartite administration of Berlin can be resumed.

"During their abstention the three western allies will exercise the powers of the allied Kommandatura although realizing that owing to the soviet obstruction it will only be possible for them to carry out their administration in the western sectors for the present."

The western commandants recalled that the Russians disrupted four power government by withdrawing from the Kommandatura last July 1. They said the Kommandatura "can only be altered or abdicated by agreement of all the governments which set it up."

Impressive Ceremonies Mark Laying Of Cornerstone For New Oak Grove Methodist Church Near Site Of Original Church Which Was Founded In Year 1821

Six Methodist ministers and nearly 100 members of the congregation gathered at the Oak Grove Methodist Church between Gaston and Vulture Sunday afternoon to participate in an impressive cornerstone-laying ceremony for the new church building which has just been started.

In spite of the cold, wet weather the group on hand gathered in the old church building erected in 1890 which was rebuilt from the original church founded in 1821. The present pastor, the Rev. Matt R. Gardner of Garysburg, presided over the services and was assisted by five other Methodist ministers.

The Rev. Linwood Blackburn, a Methodist missionary now on leave of absence from his duties in Africa, read the New Testament lesson, using a passage he had used for a similar ceremony in Africa. The Rev. J. F. Herbert, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Roanoke Rapids, offered a prayer. Two vocal solos "Holy City" sung by Miss Mary Speight accompanied by Mrs. W. A. Vincent, and "O Holy Night" sung by Miss Constance Herbert accompanied by her father, the Rev. J. F. Herbert, provided special music for the occasion.

Dr. A. J. Hobbs, superintendent of the Rocky Mount District of Methodist Churches, gave an address, using I Corinthians 3: 9, "We are laborers together with God", as his text.

He said, Paul was talking to us also, for we labor with God as we build our churches. We are met here this afternoon for a very serious occasion and purpose to have a part in the foundation of a new house of God."

He said the cornerstone is laid with faith, hope, belief, determination and appreciation.

Following Dr. Hobbs' address the ministers and congregation went to the site of the new building in front of the old church and Dr. Hobbs read a Scripture passage.

A prayer of consecration was offered by the Rev. W. R. Stevens, pastor of the Rosemary Methodist Church of Roanoke Rapids, then the Rev. Mr. Gardner led the congregation in the litany and read a list of the articles in a metal box behind the cornerstone: a Bible, Methodist hymnal, Methodist Discipline, church periodicals and church school literature. names of church officials and building committee, a copy of the story and picture carried by the Roanoke Rapids Herald for the occasion and a copy of the church bulletin for the service.

Then the cornerstone was put (Continued on Page Ten)

ROANOKE RAMBLINGS

By PAT NANTZ

Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Murphy of Hamilton street left yesterday for a tour through Florida during the Christmas holidays...

Friends of Corporal James G. Tucker will be interested to know that he has sent word to his mother, Mrs. J. H. Brantley, that he would not be home for Christmas... but wishes to extend his wishes for a Merry Christmas to all his friends.

"Tuck" lived at 238 Jefferson street before entering service, and attended the local high school. He also expressed his desire to receive letters from his friends and relatives... his address is—Cpl. James G. Tucker—14-247040; 522 Fighter Sqd. 27th. Fighter Group; Kearney Air Force Base; Kearney, Nebraska....

Expected to arrive at his home, tomorrow, is Earl Waters of the Army Air Force... Earl is a '48 graduate of the local high school and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Murphy Waters of 117 Monroe street....

Seen around town since his arrival last week, is James McDaniel, son of Mrs. James E. Barnes of Hamilton street and of James G. McDaniel of Littleton Fork. ... James is a student at Ford Union Military Academy, Richmond, Virginia... He entered there this fall, and would have been a member of this year's graduating class, had he remained, here....

After that defeat by Raleigh our local Jax suffered Friday night, we are expecting them to restore our faith in their ability tonight when they meet with the Bethel High team for the second time this season.

Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Thompson will have as their guests over the holidays, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wallas of South Carolina....

"What are you doing there, Bob?" asked his friend. "I'm writing a letter to my brother out in Leavenworth." "Go on, Bob, you know you don't know how to write." "That don't make no difference; my brother don't know how to read...."

Irish parliament repealing the external relations act which had empowered the British king to accredit Irish diplomats.

The act was the last slender constitutional tie between Eire and the British Crown and Commonwealth.

The repeal actually becomes effective on an "independence day" which Prime Minister John A. Costello's government is expected to proclaim early in the spring.

The delay will give the two nations time to work out a new alignment of economic and political relationships.

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The Irish fought for freedom in 1598, 1641 and 1690. Then the rebels went underground for more than 100 years. They rose again in 1803, 1848 and 1867.

But it was the bloody rebellion of 1916 and the Guerrilla war of 1919-1921 which finally broke British authority. The rebellion was planned by the citizen army and the left wings of the volunteers and Sinn Fein.

The actual fighting, which was chiefly street fighting in Dublin, lasted a week after it broke out on Easter Sunday 1916. Fifteen rebels were executed.

In the Guerrilla war that followed, Britain used the hated black-and-tans in an effort to hold her position. (Their name came from the color of their uniforms). In 1918 Britain passed a military service bill which applied to Ireland. It was never enforced but it rekindled independence fever.

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Lions Club Is Santa Claus To 50 Children

The Roanoke Rapids Lions Club was Santa Claus to more than 50 local youngsters Friday night.

The youngsters, all of whom were brought to the high school cafeteria by members of the club who had been given their names, first gorged themselves on ice cream and cake.

Ted Speight led the group in singing Christmas carols with Mrs. Elva Martin accompanying at the piano.

Jack Livesay showed a Christmas story film for the youngsters and then Santa Claus arrived.

The name of each of the youngsters was called and the youngsters walked up to Santa Claus and received a present.

Each youngster received a toy, a piece of clothing and a bag of fruit and nuts.

The Lions Club's annual Christmas party this year was directed by C. A. Irby.

In addition to the gifts for the children the Lions Club prepared 30 baskets for distribution to needy families in the area.

Inspection Lane Making Last Stop In Enfield Now

Enfield — Mechanical Vehicle Inspection Lane 38 opened here yesterday for its last stand of 1948 in this part of Halifax County, and lane supervisor E. G. Whitehurst issued a warning to all motorists in the area that they must get their cars through the inspection lane before Friday or take a chance of being indicted.

Whitehurst said the last will have been issued throughout the state to the motorists who still have delayed getting their cars inspected and approved, and said after the first of 1949 all cars not bearing the approval sticker will be subject to being stopped and the owners indicted for failure to comply with the Motor Vehicles Act.

The lane in Enfield will close Friday afternoon and will re-open next Monday for four days in Scotland Neck to wind up its 1948 operations in Halifax County.

Last Minute Mailing

Postmaster L. G. Shell warned Christmas mailers today that very little time remains in which to do any mailing at all, and warned that all who delay their mailing any longer are going to find their cards and packages will be delivered after December 25.

He said the post office will be open again tomorrow afternoon for the last pre-Christmas Wednesday opening to handle the local mail deliveries and the last-minute letters and packages coming in.

Shell urged the use of air mail and air parcel post only for those who have changed in any of their Christmas mailing, pointing out that regular deliveries are jammed with a slow handling time.



BUY CHRISTMAS GIFTS
FRONT TO
Buy Christmas Souk