

The Christmas Story

Illustrated by Hal Foster



THE GREAT THROG that had come to Bethlehem to register filled every shelter. But Joseph found a place for Mary in the manger of the cattle shed, for the number of her days had passed, her time was at hand.

And now THE STAR blazed forth in such splendor that the shepherds drew together in wonder. Faintly at first but growing in volume they heard angels' voices chanting:

"Peace on earth, good will toward men. The Savior is born today."

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ROANOKE RAPIDS

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Police Call Attention To Air Rifle Laws

Local police officers yesterday called attention to city ordinances prohibiting the firing of air rifles and firearms within the corporate limits of the city, adding that they have been receiving a number of reports concerning these by small boys, particularly.

The police said there have been several cases reported in which windows have been broken by air rifles or where bullets caused destruction of private property.

They said no indictments had been made as yet because no guilty boys have actually been seen in the act of shooting their air rifles or firearms in the city limits. However, they pointed against the law and pointed out that it may be necessary to make a few arrests or to seize some rifles if the firing is continued.

Bad Weather Slows Civil War In China

Nanking, Dec. 23—(AP)—Bad weather slowed action on the great Chinese civil war front today.

The quiet was taken in some quarters to mean that peace feelers had been put out to the Communists by members of Premier Sun Fo's newly formed cabinet. But there was no official word from any source.

At least two of the cabinet ministers, former Premier Chang Chun and Wong Wen-Hab, commander of the northwest headquarters, are known to favor a quick peace with the Reds, who have overrun almost half of China.

Premier Sun described the cabinet members as men who would "fight on until we can secure an honorable peace." This was widely taken to mean the government is warm to a dicker with the Communists despite their insistence a peace can be achieved only if President Chiang Kai-Shek steps out. However, Chiang has not so much as hinted he will move aside.

Christmas Eve May Be Rainy

By The Associated Press
The weatherman today predicted a wet Christmas eve for North Carolina and South Carolina. The rain is due to start tomorrow night after increasingly cloudy and cool weather during the day.

Today was partly cloudy and cooler in both states, and the forecast indicated a fair, cooler night.

Minimum temperatures in North Carolina were: Wilmington 52, New Bern 48, Cherry Point 49, Rocky Mount 40, Elizabeth City 42, Asheville, Hickory and Greensboro 38, Winston-Salem 37, Lumberton 47, Raleigh 39, Charlotte 43, Mt. Mitchell 27, and Cape Hatteras 50.

More Cotton Classing Stations Are Asked

Washington, Dec. 23—(AP)—More cotton classing stations appear likely for the south before the next ginning season.

A shortage of stations last fall delayed government cotton loans to many growers. Growers must have their cotton classed and graded at the stations before they can get the loans.

Senator Stennis (D-Miss), who urged the Agriculture Department to take steps to avoid a repetition of last fall's situation, has received word that the department at least is trying.

Undersecretary of Agriculture Loveland recently wrote Stennis that "you may be assured that the need for additional classing services is being considered in connection with the formulation of the budget estimates for the fiscal year beginning July 1."

Burning Wood Odor Brings Local Firemen

Local firemen were called about 3:25 yesterday afternoon to the home of Mrs. Thomas S. Sing at 228 Jackson in answer to an alarm, when residents said they smelled wood smoke.

After examining the premises thoroughly, the firemen reported the trouble was apparently caused by an overheated stove, and said there was no damage.

Australia Demands That Holland Be Expelled From U.N. For Attack On Indonesia Nation

Paris, Dec. 23—(AP)—Australia demanded today that Holland be expelled from the United Nations unless she halts her attack on the Indonesian Republic.

Col. W. R. Hodgson of Australia told the U. N. Security Council the Dutch assault on the Indonesians was "the first clear-cut deliberate violation of the U. N. charter by a member." He called the council's attention to article 25 of the charter which says "members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council."

Dr. C. L. Hsia of China opened

the second day of discussion of the Indonesian dispute in the Security Council. He declared China will support the resolution submitted by Dr. Philip C. Jessup of the United States yesterday.

The American resolution calls for an immediate halt to the fighting and orders the Dutch to withdraw to positions occupied before they began their so-called "police action" against Indonesia.

Columbia and Syria joined in supporting the American proposal yesterday, so China's decision brought to four the num-

ber of nations certain to support the resolution.

Hodgson joined the Chinese delegate in saying the Netherlands clearly had broken the security council's cease fire order of Aug. 1, 1947. He said they also had violated a "solemn undertaking" to observe that council resolution as well as later resolutions the same subject.

"If the security council faces up to this matter, there is only one course—expulsion from the United Nations," Hodgson declared.

He said the final Dutch com-

munication to the Indonesian Republic was "an ultimatum calling for complete surrender on every point," which allowed only 17 1/2 hours for a reply.

The Australian rapped the council table as he declared: "This is worse than Hitler did to the Netherlands in 1940."

Article six of the U. N. charter provides that a member "which has persistently violated the principles contained in the present charter" may be expelled by the assembly upon the recommendation of the security council. It has never been invoked.

Congress May Vote A Raise For Truman

Washington, Dec. 23—(AP)—For the first time in almost 40 years Congress may vote a pay raise next month for the President.

If it does, it will make Harry S. Truman the government's first \$100,000-a-year-man.

A Senate Civil Service subcommittee has a bill ready which would give Mr. Truman a salary increase of \$25,000 a year—plus a \$50,000 addition to his present expense allowance of \$40,000.

The last time a President got a raise was back in 1909 when William Howard Taft was chief executive. Congress at that time upped the pay from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

The subcommittee's bill also would give pay increases to other top-level officials in an effort to keep good men in government service and attract young people into public careers.

Post Office Will Close Noon Friday

Local post office employees will be given an opportunity to "taper off" into Christmas by having a half-holiday for Christmas Eve, Postmaster L. G. Shell said this morning.

Shell said the Roanoke Rapids post office will close tomorrow at one o'clock and will remain closed over Christmas on an Executive Order issued by President Harry Truman.

He said the order was received here yesterday from Postmaster General Jesse M. Donaldson after the President had issued the directive ordering all Post Offices to close for a half-holiday preceding Christmas.

Shell said post office employees here would welcome the chance to get a half-day rest before Christmas Day in view of the fact that they have handled record business all ready this season.

Monday, the postmaster said, was the biggest single day in the history of the local office, estimating that about 100,000 pieces of mail and packages had been handled during the 8 a. m.-10 p. m. work day. He said Tuesday's business slackened off to about 75,000 pieces, which was the second biggest day's business in the history of the office.

City Offices To Be Closed

CITY OFFICES 1-18

City employees will start their Christmas holidays this afternoon when all offices in the Municipal Building will close at five o'clock and will remain closed until Monday morning, giving employees all of Friday and a half-day Saturday for their holiday.

"Business as usual" will be the order of the day in the police station and the fire station, where firemen and police officers this morning reported everything to be "on the quiet" with prospects for a peaceful Christmas in the city.

Seaboard Negro Is Hurt In Hunting Mishap

Otis Lee Vincent, Seaboard Negro, was added to the list of fall hunting accidents yesterday afternoon when he was admitted to the Roanoke Rapids Hospital suffering from a gunshot wound in his right foot.

Vincent's small toe on the injured foot was amputated by local physicians and he was said to be "recovering nicely" from the wound.

Vincent said he had been hunting in the woods about a mile from Seaboard and said he thought the safety catch on his 16-gauge shotgun was holding, when the gun suddenly went off and shot his foot. He said he walked to a spot where he had left a bicycle and rode into town for assistance.

He was admitted to the local hospital at two o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Dogs Have Their Day In Reading

Reading, Pa., Dec. 23—(AP)—Dog days are a little out of season in December—but the dogs had quite a day in reading yesterday.

It all started when a reading newspaper published a photo of three dogs the humane society was giving away for Christmas.

That apparently caught the eye of a lot of parents plagued with last minute Christmas shopping problems.

They descended en masse on the city pound.

All 25 dogs that were there yesterday are gone now.

Christmas should be a howling success in plenty of reading homes.

ACL Signalman Killed As Motor Car Derails

Hoey May Head Senate's Probe Committee

Washington, Dec. 23—(AP)—Senator Clyde Hoey (D-NC) is in line today to become the Senate's chief investigator.

Senator McClellan (D-Ark), who will head the executive expenditures committee in the new Congress, told a reporter that if the North Carolinian wants it he can head the investigation subcommittee which Senator Ferguson (R-Mich.) is vacating.

Thus Hoey, 71-year-old former governor of his state, seems likely to captain the group which has evolved from the wartime investigating committee once led by President Truman when he was a Senator.

Hoey, who affects the senate's only swallowtail coat—embellished with white carnation for everyday wear, is a courtly southerner of the old school. A former member of the Democratic national committee, he kept out of the political ruckus raised by State's Rights advocates over Mr. Truman's civil rights program.

Enfield—W. G. Baker, 36, of Weldon, signal maintenance man for the Atlantic coast Line Railroad, died here yesterday afternoon of injuries received in an accident about four miles north of here on the ACL right-of-way.

According to Halifax County Coroner Rufus Britton, who conducted an investigation of the accident, Baker was thrown from a rail handcar on which he was riding with Guy McGriff, another employee of the railroad, when the handcar jumped the track.

The two men were riding from some recently-installed block signals on the car, and the accident happened about four-thirty, according to Britton.

McGriff was slightly bruised, Britton said, but was not badly injured.

Britton said Baker was thrown clear of the car and struck his head on a rail, fracturing his skull on the left forehead and the back of the head. The coroner said he believed either one of the blows would have been fatal.

An ambulance was summoned to the scene and Baker was rushed to the office of Dr. Joyner if Enfield, where he died without ever regaining consciousness.

A native of Four Oaks, Baker had worked in Weldon several years ago and returned to Weldon about a year ago.

He is survived by his wife, who had returned to Four Oaks only two days ago to spend the Christmas holidays. Her husband had planned to join her there today.

Britton said a Smithfield funeral home was arranging services, plans for which are incomplete.

The coroner said Baker's death was clearly accidental, however he said the cause of the accident is still being investigated by Coast Line Officials.

Teacher Charged With Hit-Run In Woman's Death

High Point, Dec. 23—(AP)—High Point police last night charged a 51-year-old school teacher with manslaughter and hit and run driving.

They arrested Miss Lucille Dubose in connection with the death of Mary Belle Pierce here Tuesday night.

The charges were filed after Thomasville police reported finding an automobile which was similar to one described over police radio yesterday by High Point authorities.

Miss Dubose was released last night after she posted \$2500 bond on the manslaughter charge and \$500 bond on the hit-and-run charge. She was listed as a teacher at Pilot View school in Davidson county near Thomasville.

Roses And Snow In Baltimore

Baltimore, Dec. 23—(AP)—Roses were blooming in a small plot outside police headquarters today.

Inside the building, policemen were blooming—with pride—at their roses in December.

Large blooms made their appearance on two of the six bushes nurtured by the patrolmen in the small plot.

Not many yards away, snow from Sunday's six inch fall lay in shaded spots.

Auto Accident Victims Released From Hospital

Three of the six victims of two highway accidents on U. S. highway 301 yesterday morning were released from the Roanoke Rapids Hospital, it was announced by hospital officials this morning, and the condition of three others was said to be "satisfactory."

Released this morning were Sgt. Lacy Hendricks and Pvt. Frank Sedillo, both of the U. S. Army of Fort Bragg, who were injured in the first of the two accidents, and Pfc. Anthony Paola of the U. S. Marine Corps of Parris Island, S. C., injured in the second wreck.

Mrs. Charles Orenstein of New York City was expected to be released in "a day or two" and hospital attendants said two other Marines, Pfc. J. S. Nagry and Cpl. Charles O. Wilson would be released from the local hospital as soon as Marine Corps officers from Parris Island came for them.

State Highway Patrol officers who investigated the two accidents said no charges have been preferred against any of the people involved in the wrecks. The first accident happened about seven o'clock yesterday morning about 300 feet north of the Roanoke River bridge just north of Weldon.

Officers said a car driven by Sgt. Hendricks had pulled out of a lane of traffic and had run into the car being driven by Orenstein. Sgt. Hendricks told officers he had driven all night from Washington, D. C., and said he fell asleep at the wheel and had veered into the left front of the Orenstein car which he was meeting. Orenstein did not press charge, and no warrant was issued.

Patrolmen said they are still investigating the other accident, which occurred shortly after nine o'clock, about six miles north of Garysburg, in which a carload of Marines headed north on Christmas eve trucked into the rear end of a truck driven by M. R. Stephenson and turned over.

"Unearthly Sounds" Over The Telephone

Verona, N. J., Dec. 23—(AP)—A worried telephone operator yesterday told police she heard "unearthly sounds" coming from a phone in a private home. Police hastened to the address. A householder told them an extension phone next to his bed was off the hook.

"I must have been snoring," he added sheepishly.

Weather

North Carolina—Partly cloudy and cooler today; fair and cooler tonight; Friday, increasing cloudiness and cool, followed by rain Friday night.

ROANOKE RAMBLINGS

By PAT NANTZ

If you happen to hear someone knocking on your door one night soon...don't be surprised. It most likely will be either "Pee-Wee" or Sylvia Hall, wanting to know if you have seen their little dog... They took her with them visiting Sunday evening at "Pee-Wee's" mother's home at 1007 Franklin street. So, especially if you live in that area, are you likely to have night visitors. "Chips", it seems, grew tired of the company she was keeping and wandered off...she is very easily recognized, however, because of the habitual jerking of one leg and foot, she is a six months old white eskimo spitz, and is very friendly. So, if you happen to know anything about her...how about letting me know??...

I've been rambling around some more, listening to the Christmas shoppers and one thing in particular I overheard, about which I, too, have wondered, was asked by John Williams. Mr. Williams was wondering why there were no carols being played uptown or downtown as there have been for several seasons back...Billy Johnson, his companion, replied that something was said about their being played last year and bothering people. For our sake, could somebody let me in on the reason why only the floral shop uptown is playing them this year...?? they certainly would help the task of Christmas shopping...

Little six-year old Peggy Taylor has been dropping hints right and left about what she wishes Santa to bring her this Christmas. She assured him in her letter that even though she is an only child, she isn't spoiled and that she has her mother's and father's statement that she has been a very nice girl this year. Peggy is the daughter of Mr.

and Mrs. Earl Taylor of Cedar street and she would like very much to have a pretty bride-doll...Peggy, if you don't get that doll after all of this hinting then people just can't take hints anymore...or Santa must have been low on his supply of bride-dolls this year...

I would like to congratulate little Billy Denton, who is celebrating his fifth birthday today...Billy, I hate to be the one who breaks the news to you, but you're growing up...and fast also, beginning today Joe Whitby, Johnny Daughtry and Steve Jenkins will start using another number to indicate their ages...number's wishing you all a very happy birthday and this goes for everyone who will add another year to their age, today...

If you have never had the experience of being in a place other than your home, listening to the radio, and during the program the announcer says the fire alarm has sounded and when he gives the location of the fire, it is your address...then Vivian and Cora Mae Haggins of 226 Jackson street say "You're lucky, brother!" Yesterday, when the alarm sounded, they were at work in one of the downtown stores and heard the announcer say it was their home on fire...in case you were down there at that time, you probably noticed a slight breeze of wind pass you...that was Vivian and Cora Mae...but when they reached home, they were relieved to find the wrong address had been given...it was to 228 Jackson street, the fire-truck had been summoned. And there was actually no fire, just an over-heated stove...

Doctor—"Deep breathing, you understand, destroys microbes." Patient—"But, doctor, how can I force them to breathe deep-ly??..."

Tar Heel Farmers Produce Record Crops Of Tobacco, Cotton, Peanuts

Raleigh, Dec. 23—(AP)—Flue-cured tobacco growers made a record yield in North Carolina this year.

Tar Heel growers also are expected to match the all-time record in cotton production, the federal-state crop reporting service said yesterday.

The 1948 flue-cured crop, the service reported, averaged 1,238 pounds per acre, 91 pounds more than the previous high of 1,145 set in 1947.

The total crop was 746,300,000 pounds, 17.8 per cent below last

because of a government cut of 27.52 percent in acreage quotas.

The service forecast that final figures on the cotton crop would show a total production of 680,000 bales of 500 pounds each, an average of 454 pounds per acre, equalling the record set in 1944.

The total cotton crop forecast was down 10,000 bales from the November estimate.

The service also reported that peanut production was 350,000 pounds in the state, averaging 1,225 pounds per acre, or 95 pounds better than in 1947.