

Peace On Earth

Good Will To Men

Wise Men Came To The Manger

(A Christmas Editorial) TWO
(By Dan Tompkins)

It was wise men who came to Bethlehem to worship at the manger. That is one of the most significant statements from the human side, that is made in Holy Writ concerning the Birthday of the Nazarine.

For countless ages the sages and the people of Israel awaited the coming of the Messiah. Prophets had foretold his coming, and poets had sung of the day when he would establish the kingdom of David anew upon Mount Zion.

When he did come, he came not in the palaces of the Imperial Caesars, nor yet to the religionists of Jerusalem. Of the princely line of David, yet he was born of humble peasants in the lowliest possible place, in a manger where the kindly cattle fed and ruminated.

Two thousand years have come and gone since the angels sang of his birth to the lowly shepherds on the hills of a Judea. Two thousand years of blood and pain and man's inhumanity to man have passed, yet the world seems no nearer the Utopia than it was. Then there were princely palaces, mighty cities, great educational institutions, and unspeakable poverty and heartache. The same things obtain today.

But, surely, almost inceptibly, the light the Star of Bethlehem cast its beneficent beams into the dark places of the earth.

It was wise men who came to the manger to worship and to wonder. The wise of this earth today are those who do the same, for the lessons of the humble manger, in which the Crown Prince of the Universe lay in humility and abject poverty, are the greatest lessons that the human heart can learn. It teaches that humility of heart, love eternal and supreme, and self-forgetfulness in the face of the needs of others, are the only things that can bring to the human heart that blessed peace, of which the angelic chorus sang to the humble shepherds.

The way to greatness is through the valley of humility. The way to contentment is through the paths of love. The way to find the pearl of great price, which is scarce within, is to travel the way that the Babe of Bethlehem came. He who would find his life must lose it. That is the eternal paradox and the everlasting truth.

It is the wise men who come today to the manger in Bethlehem to worship, to wonder, and to learn.



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 23, (Autocaster): Rivalled in intensity only by the brilliance of its own social season, the Nation's Capitol is now nightly bathed in a lavish display of floodlighting that gives newcomers a vague suspicion that somehow the Christmas Holidays, like so many old-fashioned institutions, has gone slightly Hollywood.

Visitors admire the shiny new Government building by night and then, by day, if not suffering from klieg eyes, stroll along Pennsylvania Avenue to mingle with the throngs of happy shoppers.

Night-Lights Again

The grave bombing of the United States gun boat, Panay, and the sinking of the three Standard Oil Tankers, with consequent loss of nearly a score of lives, by the Japanese during the Nanking battle last week, is still keeping the night-lights burning in Foreign Department offices. The incident brings back vivid memories of 1915-16 to the veteran reporters. Sentiment on the situation is divided. Some say the United States should withdraw from China and should not risk further "incidents". Foremost among advocates of withdrawal are Senators McCarran of Nevada, and Shipstead of Minnesota. Senator Borah opposes hasty action.

Meanwhile a variety of gossip is making the rounds in the wake of the recent changes in the London and Berlin embassies. After the announcement that Joseph P. Kennedy would succeed Robert W. Bingham at the Court of St. James's and that Hugh R. Dodd at Berlin, speculation has been rife as to the real story behind the news.

In case of the Wilson appointment explanation is simple. Dodd was disliked by the Nazis.

However, the appointment of Kennedy to the London post, most has no such simple background.

Kennedy, Business Go-Between
Kennedy's popularity with business is matched by his rapidly increasing influence with the President. As intimate as Harry Hopkins or Thomas ("the Cork") Corcoran, some say Kennedy acting in the role of mediator between Roosevelt and the rank and file of business men, and was largely responsible for the present pace-overtures to industry and finance. Thus, if he remained here, Kennedy would be counted on to go far in New Deal circles.

Business Good Copy

Appropos of the recent "truce" between business and the New Deal is the growing sentiment in Washington for rapid action on the problem of relieving business. Repercussions are still being felt from the convention of the National Association of Manufacturers at New York's swanky Waldorf-Astoria.

Ordinarily the NAM meet would be a routine handling in the news columns but this year, with stocks off 30 to 40 percent and the New York Times' Index down almost 40 points, editors guessed rightly that the "man on the street" would be interested in what Business, with a capital B, thought about the situation.

Lammont du Pont pleaded for stabilization of the laws that control industry and received a mild two-column head, inside, in most sheets. Walter J. Kohler whose "ideal village" of Kohler, Wisconsin, has won him fame as a forward looking em-

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Zelie Wells, colored, widow of a Confederate officer's body servant, gets a check for \$50, as a Class B.

Sylva People Hear Christmas Chimes

Christmas again. In many parts of the county it will be a white Christmas. Here in New York, where I will spend the holidays, there is little chance that snow will be on the ground to greet the eyes of eager youngsters on Christmas morn.

Freezing weather was not experienced regularly in Manhattan until a few days ago but ice-skating has been a popular sport at Rockefeller Center since before Thanksgiving, made possible by an artificially frozen outdoor skating rink. Here crowds gather to watch couples swing gaily to music "piped" from somewhere within the vast Radio City. I am told that spectators are often rewarded by the appearance of notables and stars of stage, screen and mike who have given way to the national urge to emulate the graceful Sonja Henie.

TODAY and TOMORROW

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Methodist Minister Returns To Sylva

Rev. A. P. Rattledge, who has been ill since his appointment to the pastorate of the Methodist church here, at conference, has so far recovered as to be able to assume some of the duties of the pastorate, and with Mrs. Rattledge is now at the parsonage here.

of mankind. This is the Star of Bethlehem that guided the Three Wise Men over trackless deserts to the manger beneath the inn. Astronomers have claimed that there never was really a single star of the magnitude and brilliance described in the Bible. But they hasten to add that according to modern calculations, the three planets that appear as bright stars in the heavens appeared so closely together in 7 B. C. that they might well have seemed a single cross-shaped star of great intensity.

CHANGE
In the South or West, whenever one speaks of New York, it's an even gamble that the three thoughts, "sky-scrapers," "shows," "Stock Exchange" will flash across the brain of the listener, and in about that sequence. Sky-scrapers are nothing new to most. Everyone in the nation sees the movie honor or later than Broad-

One Confederate Veteran In County Receives Pension

GAY

School has closed two weeks for Christmas. Mrs. Andy Wilson is very ill at the home of her son, Calvin Wilson, of this place.

Mrs. Roxie Higdon is ill at her home here.

Richard Jones is erecting a new house on his property near his father's home.

Mrs. Frankie Hyde assistant teacher in Gay school has gone to Canton to spend Christmas with her husband of that place.

Roscoe Higdon, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Higdon, of this place, spent the week-end here visiting homefolk. He has been a student in the Farmers Federation Training class this past summer and fall, and is now employed in the Farmers Federation warehouse at Asheville.

Merry Christmas to Journal and all its readers.

Word has been received here that Robert H. Cooke, formerly of Sylva and now residing in Shelby, has had the degree of certified public accountant conferred upon him. For several years he has been practicing public accounting under the legislative act of 1925.

Two thousand six hundred and sixty-five dollars in checks for Confederate pensioners have been received by Clerk of the Superior Court, Dan M. Allison, for distribution in this county, as the State's Christmas presents to the men and women of the Confederacy still residents of Jackson. There is but one veteran of the Confederate Army now living in the county, Mr. Elbert Watson, of Glenville. His check is for \$182.50. Another check of the same amount was received for Mrs. Bennett, who recently died at Speedwell.

The other checks are for class A and class B. Widows of Confederate soldiers. The class A Widows' checks are for \$150.00. Class A Widows in the county are: D. A. Crawford, Ibbie Fisher, Hannah Hipps, Iva A. Jones, Mary Jane Keener, Eliza Martin, Martha A. Norton, Mary Shular, Flora Watkins, Sallie Wood.

Class B widows: Elizabeth Allman, Martha Jane Ash, Florence Cagle, M. M. Cathey, Alice Dills, Hannah Hall, Sophia Hipps, Rebecca Lusk, Pallie Monteith, Sallie Parrish, Sarah Ann Queen, Lillie Stewart, Rachel Reed, Elizabeth Webster, Martha J. Dillard, M. J. Fisher, M. V. Mallonee, Nancy Moody. The checks are for \$125.00.

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