

### 'Wyoming Mail' Authentic Story

Universal-International's Technicolor "Wyoming Mail" vividly showcases an exciting era in the developing of the American frontier—that period when the United States Railway Mail Service was seriously endangered by the threat of outlaw raider bands operating against the postal system.

The new film opening Wednesday Dec. 27 at the Watts Theatre, with a starring cast headed by Stephen McNally and Alexis Smith, supported by Howard Da Silva, Ed Begley, Dan Riss, Roy Roberts and Whit Bissell.

The screen story is dramatically constructed around the career of General George Armstrong to work as an undercover agent for the railway mail service.

While tracking down the murderer of a telegraph operator, McNally makes the acquaintance of Alexis Smith, cast in the role of a frontier entertainer. Their friendship blossoms and when the undercover agent succeeds in becoming a member of the robbery gang, after a number of serious setbacks which almost claim his life, he is shocked to discover that the dance hall girl is actually a top member of the gang.

Suspense mounts in the film as Miss Smith is faced with the problem of having McNally done away with or warning him that his real identity has become known to the gang leader.

"Now, Johnny," said the teacher, "can you tell me what a hypocrite is?"

"Yes, Miss," replied Johnny. "It's a boy what comes to school with a smile on his face."—Ex.

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### The Spirit Of Christmas

By Chaplain W. G. Weiss

The happy Christmas carols announce the advent of another Christmas season. The contagious spirit of kindness and charity are in evidence on every hand. In cheerful anticipation of Christmas Day, many pleasant moments are spent in extending the season's greeting to friends and loved ones. As the days hurry by, Christmas trees, large and small, appear in ever increasing numbers. With painstaking care the tree is trimmed with shimmering tinsel, ornaments and multicolored lights. And the gifts to be placed under the tree are selected and wrapped with the same careful consideration. When Christmas Day finally arrives, and the gifts are opened in the presence of friends and relatives, the happiness of the moment knows no bounds. The spirit of Christmas is one of gaiety and rejoicing around the glittering Christmas tree.

But the real spirit of Christmas is more than sending greetings, purchasing gifts and decorating trees. It is more than the momentary pleasure derived from opening the gifts received. Then the central figure is Christ. Christmas is the festival of the birth of God's Son who came to give mankind the most precious Christmas gift in all the world, namely, peace with God. That was the message which the angels brought to the shepherds, singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." It is intended for and extended to everyone. This peace cannot be purchased for a price. It is the Father's free gift to all who believe and accept the Christ-child as their personal Savior.

The Christmas gifts which we receive may well remind us of the Christ-child, God's gift to the world in order that the world might have peace. The beautifully decorated evergreen tree suggests the eternal life which is ours by grace through faith in the Savior. And the unbroken circle of the holly wreath calls to our attention the never-ending love of Jesus which supports us in every need and fills our hearts with abiding cheer. By retaining Christ in Christmas the real spirit of Christmas joy and peace will make this a happy yuletide season.

### A Real Christmas After All

By Dorothy Boys Kilian

THIS HOUSEHOLD is in for a lean Christmas, all right! Bill Robinson said bitterly to his wife who had just come into the living room, dressed for market. Seated in an easy chair, he looked disgustedly down at his still bandaged leg stretched out straight on an ottoman.

Margaret leaned over and brushed her cheek against his. "It's enough for us to see you getting well again, honey. When I first saw you after that auto accident, I was plumb scared for your life."

Bill squeezed her hand. "You're a brick, dear. But we can't expect our three- and five-year-old offspring to understand that doctor and hospital bills have completely strangled us. Why we can't even afford a tree, let alone presents!"

Margaret was quite for a second. Then she stood up and, turning toward the door, said, "Speaking of the children, Bill, they're out in the kitchen with their water colors



"What a swell bunch of fellows," he managed to say.

and the two little Johnson girls are with them. Mrs. Johnson had some last minute shopping to do, and I knew you wouldn't mind watching them again."

"O.K.," Bill answered. "That's the least I can do after the neighborly way they treated us through all this mess."

"I'll try to be home before your Cub Scout group descends upon you. Seven lively boys are a terrific handful, I know."

VOICES FROM the kitchen broke into the silence. Judy Johnson was saying excitedly, "I think I'm going to get a doll buggy."

Back came his own little Margie's answer, "I'm going to get a doll house."

"How do you know?"

"Oh, because I asked for one for my birthday last summer, and Daddy smiled and said probably we would come at Christmas."

Bill winced. It had been so easy, promising things for six months ahead.

Just then he heard Mrs. Johnson's nearby voice at the kitchen door. "Where's Mr. Robinson? I have something here for him."

"Oh, a Christmas tree!" The shrill voice of a child exclaimed.

MRS. JOHNSON was laughing, as she appeared at the living room door. "Did you hear, Bill? Yes, I went shopping for our tree, and picked one up for you folks at the same time. It isn't so very tall, but it's big enough to cheer you all up."

Mrs. Johnson went on talking, to cover Bill's embarrassment. "I'll take all the youngsters over to my house for awhile." And she was gone.

"Some neighbor!" Bill glowed. "Still," his face clouded over, "That tree may only point up the lack of much under it—"

A loud commotion at the front door drew his attention. "Come on in, the door's not locked," he called, recognizing the voices of his Cub Scouts.

A whirlwind of blue-clad boys swept into the room, their eyes sparkling with happy mischief.

"Oh, Mr. Robinson," the smallest one shrieked. "We've just finished all the—"

"We've been working after school every day at my house, making toys for your children," a second Cub burst in. "You should see—a doll house for Margie, and a doll bed and a kitchen cupboard!"

"And for little Bill, guess what!" The smallest boy couldn't keep quiet. "A wooden sled, and a garage for his little car and some big blocks, all sanded and waxed and everything!"

Bill tossed his head to get rid of the drops of mist in the corners of his eyes. "What a swell bunch of fellows," he managed to say. "But why—"

"Why not?" the biggest Cub said happily. "You're the one who taught us how to use tools in the first place, aren't you? And besides, we just like the Robinsons!" He stopped suddenly, embarrassed.

"Well, fellows," Bill said, after a deep breath, "I certainly didn't think so a while ago, but this is going to be one of the happiest Christmases of my life!"

**SOAP SURPLUS**  
(Jim Griffith,  
Morganton News-Herald)

After Halloween is all over, you can't help but wonder if it wouldn't have been better if some of that soap found its way behind the ears of the kids instead of on the store windows.

### Recipes Of The Week

By Miss EVELYN HANCOCK  
Home Service Director  
Virginia Electric and Power Company

#### CHRISTMAS COOKIES

If you want your cookie jars full of cookies at Christmas time, and prefer having those last few days before Christmas for other things, make your cookies now and put them in your freezer. They will taste no different from being frozen if wrapped in vapor-moisture proof paper before storing.

#### Angel Fingers

1/2 cup softened butter or margarine  
3 tablespoons confectioners' sugar  
1 cup sifted cake flour  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla  
1/2 cup ground walnuts or pecans

Additional confectioners' sugar  
Cream butter or margarine; gradually cream in the 3 tablespoons sugar and flour. Add vanilla and nuts; blend well. Shape into little rolls about 1-1/2 inches long and the diameter of your little finger. Place on ungreased baking sheet and bake in moderate oven (350 degrees F.) 20 minutes. Let cool, then dust with confectioners' sugar. Makes about 3 dozen cookies.

#### Christmas Wreaths

1/2 cup (1/4 pound) butter or margarine  
1/4 cup brown sugar, firmly packed  
1 egg, separated  
1 cup sifted all-purpose flour  
1 cup chopped nuts or coconut  
Raspberry jam  
Cream butter and sugar until

light and fluffy. Mix in egg yolk. Add flour. Form into small balls. Dip into egg white and remove with fork. Drop into nuts or chopped dried coconut. Place on buttered cookie sheet. Press hole in center. Bake in very slow oven (300 degrees F.) After 8 minutes Cool slightly. Remove from sheet. Fill center with jam or jelly. Yields 4 dozen cookies.

#### Filled Cookies

Make dough for sugar cookies and roll 1/8 inch thick. Cut in rounds with cookie cutter and place on cookie sheet. Place about 1 teaspoon filling on each cookie and cover with another cookie. Press edges together lightly with fork. Place half pecan on top. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes.

#### Filling

3/4 cup chopped raisins  
teaspoon grated lemon rind  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
1/4 cup sugar  
1/4 cup hot water  
Boil together until thick. Cool before placing on cookies.

#### Sugar Cookies

1 cup shortening  
1-1/4 cups sugar  
3 eggs, well beaten  
2 teaspoons vanilla  
3-1/2 cups sifted flour  
1 teaspoon soda  
2 teaspoons cream of tartar  
1 teaspoon salt  
Cream shortening and add sugar. Add and beat thoroughly. Add vanilla. Sift together flour, soda, cream of tartar, and salt. Stir into first mixture. Chill dough for easier handling.

#### Mint Surprise Cookie

3-1/4 cups plain flour  
1 teaspoon soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup butter  
1/2 cup shortening  
1 cup sugar  
1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar  
2 eggs, unbeaten

### On Getting Ready

"About ready for Christmas?" That is the question going round these days. It usually has reference to buying and wrapping gifts, house cleaning, sending greetings, trimming the tree, and doing countless last-minute things in preparation for Yuletide. For many people that constitutes just about all there is to "getting ready for Christmas." It is a form of preparation which has become a traditional part of our observance.

And I often think that such preparation—customary and attractive though it is—has become in many homes a thing of drudgery that takes the deeper joy out of the season. The festival of peace and cheer becomes a load rather than a lift. And folk are sometimes heard to say, "I almost dread to see it come."

But there is another kind of preparation. It is the preparation of the heart of the person who really wants to see the meaning

and catch the spirit. As one who hears, he exposes his soul to the carols of Christmas-time and finds the peace he deeply needs. He takes that little golden gospel and listens in childlike wonder as Luke tells the story of the first Christmas. Following the star through the night, he finds the manger in which the Little Baby lay, and in humility and penitence he presents his greatest gift—himself. Of such preparation is the Kingdom of Christmas.

I feel that the biggest hurt done to the Christian Year is the secular emphasis which it has received. It is certainly true of the celebration we are now approaching. In the hurry of these days it is easy for us to become so absorbed in things that there is little room in the Inn of our Lives for simple sentiments of Bethlehem. It need not be. In spirit and in truth let us prepare the High

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