

Aside from all the physical presents that will be exchanged by the children, people will also see that transcends in value and importance all others; it cannot be swapped in a storehouse. It cannot be sold or exchanged; it is simply the wonderful fact that our people live in peace—priceless peace!

SIXTY-THIRD YEAR—No. 39

HIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

A! Christmas Is More Than These, Color and Glee!

There is, of course, the best of intentions and purposes in the interchange of physical gifts that attend the Christmas season. Stripped of their time and their trappings, gifts symbolize something that is more than the human being. Casting aside every vestige of commercialism in this gift business, one can be thankful for the flowing human kindness that concentrates an average whole year's philanthropy into one Great Day!

So, aside with the pessimism of the critics who lament that Christmas is too often "an earthy day," too little a day of real celebration of the birth of a man whose life and teachings changed, for the better, the whole face of the troubled earth.

Let's enjoy it, when it comes this Wednesday. Let's get fun from untying the pretty strings and ribbons and colored paper, and let us sit on the living room floor with the children, to see "what Santa has left us."

Yet, of course, there is a deeper significance to Christmas. Every day that can be manifest by physical gifts, they are many and great, or few and small. They are many to this day which, do we but take time out for thinking upon it, is the key to the life of the living that supports what we are pleased to call civilization. Perhaps this key-note may be found to have been inscribed upon it, should we examine it closely, these tremendously important words: "Love thy neighbor as thyself. Bless them that curse you." For these ten words, from the lips of the Nazarene, when applied in human relationships, are the universal solvent of every potential human error and evil. They are capable of solving selfishness, lust for power, hatred, intolerance, even ill health; for when one remains true to these substances from the real divine man, (which is what the Bible declares) of us, the world is moved all the causes that disturb the peace and tranquility of mankind.

Human history, thus far written, is predominantly a record of the side of human activity, and the darkness of ignorance—ignorance of the every day things that the spiritual world, of the intellect, of the spirit of man's real soul—tell to the present day of a better world order. This is sold to be true, in spite of the war going on today.

There have been more Napoleons and Bismarcks and Hitler than there have been Christs, St. Francis of Assisi, Joan of Arcs and Florence Nightingales!

The fact that these latter personalities have stood out in history is not because there were so few of them; it is because they were the "armies of light" in a dark world, and so are they remembered by a better world order.

I can divide my own Christmas into three parts. The first is the memory of my nine-year-old days returns to me every Christmas more and more. I lie deep and soft. For I recall a red sled given me and how, Christmas night, I was told to take it out. "Now don't you go more than a block from the house," the admonition was. I was one of those snow winter nights, with snow falling in soft, large flakes; the old-fashioned kerosene-lit lamp-posts shed their uncertain glow upon the whitened sidewalks. I made a lot of "belly-slams" with that sled—even though my "unnecessary" overcoat interfered with freedom of movement. Some of the neighbors passed me, and said "Merry Christmas!" Colored lights on the Christmas trees and the lighted parlor windows in the neighborhood. I was out probably an hour, and it was a glorious time. Every grown-up remembers such nights; and I suppose that our own hearts have had their own least hope they have, but they won't know it until they, too, are grown up.

Then there were those Christmas when I was old enough to know that Santa Claus really lived in that house every day of the year, as paying-the-bills time arrived each month. I earned one of the most things I used to buy for my presents with... and maybe had my first girl interest, and had my first present bought with my own money.

These were the days when I first felt the joy of the Christmas season, the world of childhood fantasy and adult realities. I was an adventurous child, a child of the world, and I suppose that our own hearts have had their own least hope they have, but they won't know it until they, too, are grown up.

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL



A Christmas Carol composed especially for the Yuletide of 1940 is the one above, written by Thomas Hartle, choir director at the First Baptist Church, expressing his own wishes, and those of the Baptist choir, and the pastor, the Rev. J. O. Nelson. The words are from the Bible. Hartle is a member of the Michigan Composers' Club and the Guild of Carilloneurs of North America. He was represented at two songs on the Dec. 1, program of the Composers' Club at Ypsilanti.

Fire Chief Gives Safety Pointers

Safety suggestions for the Christmas season were enumerated today by Fire Chief Vernon W. Wilson at the Fire Prevention Bureau of the Birmingham department.

The Bureau's statement is as follows: While Christmas and New Year's are the most colorful of holidays, they also bring with them the greatest number of fire hazards possible, because these hazards are created unconsciously in our homes and public gathering places, such as schools, churches and auditoriums when the thought of decoration is foremost in mind.

Open Flames
The exposures brought about during these seasons are primarily the open candle, fire place, overheated stove or defective electrical equipment. Following is a list of recommendations and suggestions made by our Fire Department to effect, if followed, the reduction of fire hazards during the holiday seasons of the community and plunges the afterglow home into a place of sorrow and grief.

1. If a Christmas tree is to be used in the home, use a solid stand and or base.
Keep the tree at least five feet away from an open flame or stove. Never use real candles on a tree or in a wreath for decoration. (Use only electric Christmas lights.)
Never use cotton or other inflammable decorations on the tree or at the base of the tree (Use metallic imitations, spun glass or asbestos fiber for decorations.)
Keep matches out of reach of children and away from Christmas tree.

Electrical Equipment
2. Christmas decoration electrical equipment should be closely inspected before it is used to determine that no insulation is off the wires and that all joints are solid and tight.
Christmas electrical decorations are usually stored away year after year in the homes in attics or other dry hot places. This causes the rubber insulation to lose its elasticity and become hard and brittle.

(See SAFETY, Page 2)

Start New Building For Parks Coal Co.

A novel feature in a store building for the new 20-by-40-foot building will be the part of the Parks Coal Co. will be to be erected on East Maple avenue near the telephone office.

Ground was broken last week for the new 20-by-40-foot building and J. H. Rose, contractor, is starting construction. "An old man dwelling formerly stood on the spot and the building was torn down."

Yule Services Are Revealed By Churches

Colorful Midnight Observance to Draw Crowds of Faithful

While all churches centered their services Sunday about the birth of Christ, four other churches of the community will announce special services for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Tonight, at the First Presbyterian Church, starting at 7:30 o'clock there will be a service of these letters, laid end-to-end Harris speaking.

Special service planned for Sunday, Dec. 29, will be a service of these letters, laid end-to-end Harris speaking.

St. James Church
On Christmas Eve, the vested choir of 26 voices will present a special musical service, beginning at 11 p. m. The Christmas cantata, "The Christmas Story," by Thomas Adams, will be rendered under the direction of Waldo E. Fellows.

As an offertory selection, the choir will sing the anthem, "Christians, Sing Unto Us with Exultation," by Will C. Macfarlane.

Holy Name Church
The traditional midnight mass at Holy Name Catholic Church will be preceded by children of the Holy Name in procession. Carrying candles and singing carols, the children will add an impressive touch to the service.

Alien Registration Ends Thursday
Thursday is the last day for registration of aliens. Postmaster Joseph A. Byrne warned Saturday.

Richard W. Lewis Heads Royal Arch
Richard W. Lewis was recently elected and installed as president of the Birmingham Chapter No. 93, Royal Arch Masons.

Retired Minister Taken By Death
Services for the Rev. Jacob F. Staebler, 1560 South Bates street, were held at the Bailey Funeral Home Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock with burial in White Chapel. The Rev. Cletus A. Parker officiated.

New Car Damaged In Hills Collision
Claude W. Hall was headed south on Woodward avenue Wednesday evening on his way home to Portland, Ore., with a new car when his machine and one driven by Marshall Fredericks, instructor in sculpturing at the Cranbrook Academy, were in collision.

Little Toy Factory Near Birmingham Rushed by Christmas Orders
Birmingham has few factories—in fact, is not anxious to have them, but one shop visited last week by the Birmingham Post-Herald found a busy scene at full tilt. Every machine was humming and orders continued to pour in, puzzling the owner to no small degree.

Quarton Lake Unsafe For Use By Skaters
Because of recent thaws, Quarton Lake is unsafe for skating. City Manager Donald C. Egbert said Saturday.

Refugee Children Visiting Harve
Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Harvey, of Puritan avenue, will have two little English refugee children as their guests during a portion of the Christmas holidays.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



178,301 Letters Sent Here In 5 Days Would Stretch Distance of 17 Miles

Can you visualize a pile of 178,301 letters? You can stretch your imagination a little further and see how long a line of letters would be for nearly 17 miles!

Well, believe it or not, that is the quantity of letters dispatched from the Birmingham post office in only FIVE DAYS of last week Monday through Friday.

Extra Deliveries
Regular daytime deliveries excepted Nov. 29 on Southside road when his car crashed head-on into the machine of Robert F. Watt, 164 Hanna street.

Reckless Driving Case Dismissed
Maurice Gibson, 1911 Madison avenue, was found not guilty of a charge of reckless driving when his trial was held Friday in Justice Forbes S. Hascall's court.

191 Sacks On One Train
One train alone last Friday brought 191 sacks of mail and the total for the day was 413 sacks. Loading and unloading that great burden at every railway stop is the reason most trains are late through the Christmas season.

Quarton Lake Unsafe For Use By Skaters
Because of recent thaws, Quarton Lake is unsafe for skating. City Manager Donald C. Egbert said Saturday.

Car Rolls Down Hill; Causes \$20 Damage
An unoccupied car, owned by Harvey Bailey, an employee at Bloomfield Open Hunt Club, rolled backwards down a slight incline Friday night and crashed into a car owned by Stuart McLean.

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Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Harvey, of Puritan avenue, will have two little English refugee children as their guests during a portion of the Christmas holidays.

Farmlington Man Put on Probation
Merrett T. Hoover, of Farmlington, was placed on probation Saturday morning at Woodward avenue and Bannville by Patrolman Robert Pepper.

\$100 in Prizes Offered
You have until 3 p. m. Tuesday to send in your entries for the \$100 home decoration contest for residents of the community living within the bounds of 14-Mile and Quarton roads and Lecher road to Coaling.

Yule Services Are Revealed By Churches
While all churches centered their services Sunday about the birth of Christ, four other churches of the community will announce special services for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Nativity Scene To Be Shown At Carol Sing

Anonymous Resident Donates Materials For Christmas Crib

A beautiful Nativity scene will be a feature of the annual Christmas Carol Sing to be held Tuesday night at 8 o'clock at the big tree in Civic Center Park.

More Details
More details of the Carol Sing sponsored by the Birmingham Musicale were revealed today. Eight carols will be sung by the group—the public is invited—while the words are shown on a stereoscopic screen.

Christmas Baskets Prepared for 100 Families in City
Better business conditions have reduced the volume of Christmas baskets which are being distributed in Birmingham Tuesday.

Boy Carrying Gun Disarmed at School
A 14-year-old boy, carrying a loaded automatic pistol, was disarmed by Miles W. Robinson, principal of the Barnum School, Thursday morning at 11 o'clock.

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