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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1947

The Baby of Bethlehem

(This editorial, published in our Christmas issue of 1937, so beautifully expresses the feeling of the late Warren Fisher that it is republished for the Christmas season.)

"And I would kiss his little hand
And touch his hair.
"While Mary put the blankets back
The gentle talk would soon begin
And when I'd tiptoe softly out,
I'd meet the wise men going in."

A child's picture of the birth in Bethlehem, of another child, who was to bring into the world for the first time the tender Gospel of Love. And to one whose faith "is all a doubtful thing wove on a doubtful loom" it is a beautiful and a fitting picture.

For He who was to make tenderness and love unselfishness and humanity the foundation of a new religion, He who was to change the whole order of civilization with His gospel; He who was to be scourged of his own people and betrayed by them to the power of a Roman governor, to die at length between two thieves on the hill of Golgotha, was first a little baby, born of peasant parents in a stable at Bethlehem in Judea. "His shut-up eyes would be asleep, And he would look like our dead, And he would be all crumpled too, And have a pinkish color on."

May not the Mary, who, awed by the wonder of maternity and the tale of singing heavens told by marvelling shepherds; the mother who "kept all these things and pondered them in her heart," may not she have deemed most important, after all, the baby, her first-born, cradled in his manger of fragrant hay?

Through the years men have cloaked His teachings in the dark cerements of theology; they have neglected them in wrangles over dogmas, forms and rituals; they have killed each other and persecuted each other quite convinced that they were staunch defenders of the religion of this Man who first taught Love; who walked with sinners; who wept at the grave of a friend; who gathered about him simple men; who rejoiced at the wedding feast in Cana; who hated cant and hypocrisy; who pardoned the woman taken in adultery and who loved little children.

Men have done all this and some of this they do today, yet once each year, it seems to us, on the Day of the Children, the real spirit of the real Baby of Bethlehem steals into the hearts of all men, the simple beauty of the gospel He preached in the open fields and beside the blue waters of Galilee makes us cast off, if only for a moment, the waywardness of the disillusioning years and draws us back to worship at the shrine of childhood's innocence.

This one day of the year we see the teachings of the Nazarene practiced universally. For a brief hour we drop theology and dogma and dispute and let the gospel of the Kindest Man who ever lived speak to our hearts through the merry laughter of little children. With Mary and the shepherds we adore at the Manger in Bethlehem.

Christmas, 1947

What better time than Christmas for every American to reaffirm his faith in God and emulate the great builders of our nation — God-fearing men — who turned to prayer for guidance and inspiration.

Only through prayer and faith can we assure the continuance of freedom without fear—tolerance without tyranny—democracy and lasting world peace.

Without the worship of God, life is stark. On this Christmas Day, let us humbly pay homage to Christ who humbled himself for mankind.

Let us resolve, through Christian fellowship, to do our part to maintain the rich heritage of our country and to help those less fortunate peoples of the world.

The people of the Soviet Union comprise 182 nationalities and speak 150 different languages.

Inexcusably Lax

When the President's Conference on Fire Prevention was held in Washington last May, it was proposed that each state call a conference on its own to establish an inclusive program for preventing and combating fire within its borders.

Eight conferences have now been held, Kentucky had the honor of being the first. Six more are in preliminary or advanced stages of organization and preparation.

The states which have gone along with the recommendations of the President's Conference are to be congratulated on discharging a vital duty of their people. The states which have done little or nothing are inexcusably lax. Fire is one of the greatest destroyers of homes, places of business, materials, resources—even as it is one of the greatest killers of men, women and children. Adequate public interest in preventing fire can never be achieved so long as those whose job it is to organize and direct the work are insufficiently interested themselves.

Fire will consume some $600,000,000 worth of property this year—and the indirect, immeasurable loss will be two to three times as great. Fire will claim 10,000 to 11,000 lives—and many thousands more will be disfigured, and will be hospitalized for weeks or months or years. Does that plain set of facts make fire prevention seem worthwhile? And is it too much to ask that the authorities of every state take positive action to fight this menace at the earliest possible time?

Wars are started over the killing of one or two persons. Is it reasonable for us as a nation to allow an enemy within our borders to continue killing thousands year after year, without retaliation?

What's Right With USA?

Millions of Americans seem to be apathetic toward charges that there is something basically wrong with our governmental and economic systems, and that socialism, communism and the rest of the assorted isms have more to offer.

Edward C. Simmons, president of the United States National Bank of Portland, Ore., touched on that vividly when he said:

"Our country is the only nation in the history of the world that has continued with its intrinsic basic type of government since its beginning 170 years ago—In those 170 years our six per cent of the world's population produced 75 per cent of the world's goods and possesses 50 per cent of the world's wealth. In no other country is there such opportunity as here.

"Too many people are saying what is wrong with America. Instead, we should be saying what is right with the United States. Why should capital be on trial here? Why should not socialism or communism instead be on trial when our people are asked to provide the money and the food and tools for other nations to carry on?

"In my time we have defended our country three times from outside invaders, but we are not defending it sufficiently from within. The working man here is able to live almost as well as a king compared with those in other countries. Other systems promise. Our people have!"

That is a fundamental truth. The American people should shout from the housetops their faith in a system that has given them unprecedented tangible benefits—and, infinitely more important, the intangibles that make for a life of freedom.

National Recognition Of Two Home Agents

Two home demonstration agents, Miss Lilah Hembree of Oldham county and Miss Elizabeth Word of Warren county, were recognized for their outstanding achievements in connection with 4-H clubs and homemakers clubs by the National Home Demonstration Agents Association which met in Chicago at the time of the National 4-H Club Congress.

Miss Hembree's record with 4-H clubs shows 42 Oldham county girls have been state winners. Twelve homemakers clubs have a membership of 229 women.

In cooperation with the county agent, Miss Word has increased the number of 4-H clubs in Warren county from nine to 13 in two years, with a membership of 865. There is also a Young Club in the county. Thirteen homemakers clubs have an enrollment of 355 members.

Miss Word is president and Miss Hembree secretary of the Kentucky Home Demonstration Agents Association.

Toleration is good for all or it is good for none.—Burke

Tidbits of Kentucky

Somehow I do not hear so much these days of the dire punishments meted out in school to the bad boys and girls. Of course, my children are grown and have graduated from college; maybe things have not changed so much as I think. But if I were back at Fidelity I used to know. I would soon find out what types of punishment were being used in the little one roomed schoolhouse. In fact, we used to judge the teacher far more by the punishments meted out than by the amount of learning acquired by the pupils. Since there were no grades, no promotions, no graduations, no enrollment, maybe it was just as well to emphasize the marks of discipline. Infractions of the numberless rules formed one of the few diversions we had, anyway. Punishments gave lazy, bad boys a chance to be noticed and to be temporarily famous in our small little world.

The commonest punishment was that of being made to stand in a corner, in full view of all the other brats. Sometimes the teacher would make the offender turn his face to the wall, but it was more humiliating to have to face the whole room. If the offender were genuinly bad, he usually could devise all sorts of ways of attracting the attention of the children in the seats, particularly when the teacher was holding a class and facing away from the criminal. Most teachers that I knew would add some other penalty for this effort to gain attention. We were often told of cruel teachers who made children stand with their noses inside circles drawn on the blackboards, but I was never a witness to any such cruelty.

Staying in was far worse punishment than standing up. When you stood up, you had an audience that could not run and play but were still under the watchful eye of the teacher. But when the others "ran storming out to playing," in Whittier's words, it was heart-breaking to have to sit in your seat and dread something very dull or write some foolish thing a few hundred times.

Outside you could hear your fellow-savages splitting the air with their joyous yells; some of the heartless ones might look through the windows at you and make faces; nobody ever offered to share your lonely vigil. Sometimes a cruel youngster would rejoice that he kept the teacher from any rest by compelling her to remain inside to watch him, little realizing that she was probably glad of a chance to be quiet for the fifteen minutes of the recess period, even though she had to keep an eye on a bad boy. No particular stigma was attached to staying in, but it was dreadfully inconvenient to lose a game of Wolf Over the River or Antsy Over or Dare Base.

Away back before my time the fellow who stood up also wore a dunce cap or sometimes sat on a dunce stool. We still knew of these old customs, but none of us had ever seen such a demonstration of dignified cruelty. I suspect that the old fashioned dunce got as much joy out of his being singled out for punishment as did many a boy that I have known who violated a rule deliberately in order to get to appear before the whole school for a while. If I were a moralist, which I am probably, anyway, I would like to say that some of the people who are long past the one-roomed-school stage of their lives still like to do something naughty in order to be made examples of, and right in public, too. At least, some of the bad boys at Fidelity, who had to have attention regardless of how they obtained it, are still bidding for notice, often in ways as easily fathomed as those used in the little old schoolhouse.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

"Christian Science" is the subject of the Lesson-Sermon which will be read in all Christian Science churches throughout the world on Sunday.

The Golden Text is: "The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." (Is. 40:5)

Among the citations which comprise the Lesson-Sermon is the following from the Bible: "Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God; thy spirit is good; lead me unto the land of uprightness." (Ps. 143:10)

The Lesson-Sermon also includes the following passage from the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy: "The impersonation of the spiritual idea had a brief history in the earthly life of our Master; but 'of his kingdom there shall be no end,' for Christ, God's idea, will eventually rule all nations and peoples—imperatively, absolutely, finally—with divine Science." (P. 565)

A KISS FOR CINDERELLA?

YOU'RE TELLING ME!

By WILLIAM RITT
Central Press Writer

A VOYAGE from Earth to Mars, a scientist declares, would consume six months. Mars, obviously, as a potential week-end resort is out.

A Philadelphia monkey ate $11 worth of paper money. Story didn't say whether it was a quick snack of two fives and a one or a real banquet of a buck at a time.

† † †

The new postmaster general was once a letter carrier. This shows how far a man can go if his feet hold out.

† † †

Small town chambers of commerce who strive so mightily to have their communities grow into big ones apparently believe, says Zadok Dunkoff, that metropolitan headaches aren't as painful as a village's woes.

† † †

An eastern cafe advertises for a combination piano player and oyster shell opener. Sort of a dealer in oysters and pearls, eh?

† † †

A strike closed down a Florida race track after one day's running. Betcha Dollar Dan expects to have a big Christmas with the dough he's saving.

† † †

At this time of year Junior stops dreaming of piloting jet planes and rocket space ships and begins thinking about such old-fashioned means of locomotion as Dasher and Prancer and Dunder and Blitzen.

THE OLD HOME TOWN

By STANLEY

Send The Mercury as a Xmas Gift

TO OUR MANY FRIENDS

. . . AND MAY THE SPIRIT OF THIS DAY LINGER ON, BRINGING CHEER AND COMFORT LONG AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY ITSELF IS GONE.

Standard Oil Company
Earl Van Bever, Agent

Robert George *Sam Curtis*

Moorefield 4-H Club

The Moorefield 4-H Club had its monthly meeting in the 7th and 8th grade room.

Our vice president, Dottie Shaw, had the club in the club pledge.

The club answered the roll call by naming the thing you want most for Christmas. Mildred Flora, our secretary, read the minutes of the last meeting. Our song leader, Janet Sue Mitchell, led us in "Jingle Bells" and "Up on the Housetop."

We then had the following program: "Junior Week" by Dottie Shaw and Jimmie Judge; "4-H Camp" by Nancye Reid and Gilbert Logan; "One Champion is Crowned Again," by Mary D. McIlvain; "A Lot of Pork" by Sarahnell Seamons; "A Sheepman from Simpson County" by Bobbie Shrout; "Good Clothes and Plenty of Them" by Marylene Watkins; "Loving With What You Have" by Nancye Reid; "Housekeeping Means Work With Results" by Betty Jo Blake; "Top Garden Honors to a Home Garden" by Gilbert Logan; "Five Acres of Championship Corn" by Mary McCarty; "Dairy Champion is a Showman Too" by Jimmie Denton; "Other Champions and Their Projects" by Dottie Shaw.

After this the meeting adjourned.—Betty Shrout, Reporter.

Homemakers Clubs Do Charity Work

The annual report of the Larue County Homemakers Clubs shows that the members are interested not only in bettering their own homes, but in helping others also. During the past year, they sent 130 baskets to the needy, did sewing for 13 motherless children, sent 36 baskets of flowers to the sick, paid the expenses of children to 4-H camp and gave $387 to the Red Cross and $238 to the Wheel Chair fund. The Hodgenville Club gave $175 to the local high school to buy books and school equipment.

Few are sufficiently sensible of the importance of that economy in reading which selects, almost exclusively, the very first order of books.—John Foster

Books should to one of these four ends rondure,
For wisdom, piety, delight, or use.—Denham

Look These Over

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Breakfast Sets
Coal Ranges
Studio Couches

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WE GREET YOU AT CHRISTMAS

And trust
to offer you Cheer
every day
of the year.

Musketeer Inn

● Again gay carols ring out with their cheery message of holiday joy.

● In the old, old spirit of Christmas, voices of the carolers echo the message of "... tidings of great joy." Thus, too, do we join the carolers in wishing for you the blessed gifts of Peace on Earth, Joy, Good Will to Men.

Deposit Bank of Carlisle

Once again the joyous spell of Christmas is cast over us, as we hurry about with gifts for those we love. That warm glow we get from giving at this holy season cannot be duplicated at any other time of the year. It is our sincere wish that a full measure of happiness may be yours, this Christmas of 1947.

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INCORPORATED

Santa Claus Has Delivered The Goods

You'd Better Come in Early to Complete Your List

WE HAVE EVERYTHING A DRUG STORE HAS TO OFFER IN GIFT ITEMS

THE CARLISLE DRUG COMPANY — Your Rexall Store

UK Educator Returns

Dr. Army Vandenbosch, head of the University of Kentucky Department of Political Science, who has been on leave to teach at Northwestern University, will return to his U. K. position at an early date. The noted political scientist has turned down a high-er-salaried position at the Illinois School to return to Lexington.

UK Honors Employes

Two veteran employees of the University of Kentucky Department of Business Management and Control, Miss Minnie Pherigo and L. H. McCain, were honored at a testimonial dinner given on the occasion of their being granted a change of work status by the University. Miss Pherigo has been associated with the University for 30 years and Mr. McCain is a veteran of 29 years service on the U.K. staff.

There is a majesty in simplicity which is far above the quaintest of wit.—Pope

Kentucky 4-H'ers Win Scholarships

Kentucky 4-H club girls who received $200 college scholarships at the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago include Jewell Deene Ellis of Boyle county and Mildred Ann Gorbundt of Oldham county.

The eldest of nine children, Miss Ellis has made 348 garments for herself and other members of her family. She has completed 35 club projects, nine of which were clothing. She also has been active in other 4-H club work.

Miss Gorbundt has a long record in club work and was named the all-around 4-H club girl in housekeeping.

Kentucky club members ranking near the top at Chicago are James Fehr, Campbell county, regional winner in soil conservation; Evelyn Hammond, Oldham county, 4-H achievement; Clara Lou Graden, Campbell county, frozen foods project, and Jim Bob Stephenson, Owen county, dairying.

UK Tests Heat Pump

Mechanical engineering specialists at the University of Kentucky have disclosed that they will begin experiments soon to determine the practical applications of a heating and cooling the equivalent of a six-room house by a pump using the earth as a source of heat. The unusual heat pump, a gift of the Kentucky Utilities Company valued at $6,000, will be given exhaustive laboratory tests in a three to five year research program.

U. K. Registration Will Begin January 5

Prospective new students at the University of Kentucky were advised this week by the Registrar's office of a change in the schedule of registration for the Winter Quarter. Instead of reporting for classification tests, advisory conferences and physical examinations on Friday, January 2, they will be able to complete all entrance and registration requirements along with returning students on Monday, January 5.

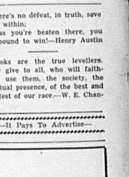
Mercury Classifieds Bring Results

JUST IN TIME . . . Youngsters all over America will sleep with one eye open on Christmas Eve—if they are lucky they might see Santa's feet as he buries on his way. Those youngsters arrived in time to hear, "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a goodnight."

There's no defeat, in truth, save from within;
Unless you're beaten there, you are bound to win!—Henry Austin

Books are the true levellers. They give to all, who will faithfully use them, the society, the spiritual presence, of the best and greatest of our race.—W. E. Channing

—It Pays To Advertise—



This Merry Christmas
is to you.
There is no wish
we can give more true
than this jolly
old fellow
is now bringing
to you.

Ben Pumphrey
Distributor of Gulf Products

With all the
joys of the season
to you!
GOOD HEALTH,
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and a
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