

"Peace And Goodwill"

The Christmas message is at once so simple that a child can understand it and so difficult that wise men have been trying to decipher it for centuries. It can be read as a gentle pastoral, of shepherds keeping watch by night and of an infant cradled by an anxious mother in a manger.

If men and women are naive and child-like in their Christmas celebrations, that is quite appropriate; it is to a Child that they do honour. If, in the expression of their deepest longings, they are a bid obscure and inarticulate, that is a natural reaction to the supernatural.

The mind tells us that the more we give the less we will have left. The heart says otherwise, and at Christmas time it is the heart we listen to. The emphasis is on friendship, brotherhood, and love.

It was the early English settlers in North America who started to make him over in the image of what they thought he ought to be like in a new and relatively prosperous land. The English children adopted the legendary figure, in part, from the Dutch; but they found it hard to say "Saint Nicolous".

It was Washington Irving, the noted American author, who really tackled the job of re-creation in earnest. In 1809, in his "Knickerbocker's History of New York", he described Santa Claus, the "guardian of the city", as a more or less jolly fellow.

For some, however, the joy will be overcast with sadness. A loved one gone, an illness, a disappointed hope—the many trials which accompany life on this earth, will dampen the mood of the day.

Once again men and women will listen, as men and women have listened once each year for more than nineteen centuries, to the church bells echoing around the world the same promise that the angels heralded so long ago above the fields near Bethlehem.

President Eisenhower's simple Christmas message from a four-ton rocket travelling with electronic exactness in outer space is, indeed, a marvellous development of modern science. The world must hope, against dark forebodings, that the advance will help to contribute, as the President said, to "peace on earth and goodwill to all men everywhere."

The possibilities, like the universe itself, are limitless. It may well be that within another generation, perhaps within a very few years, constant communication from the earth to the moon and other planets and back again will be commonplace.

But back of the scientists' satisfaction at the imminent conquering of space is the grim thought that the new power might not be used for "peace on earth and goodwill to all men" but for terrible strife, for hitherto unheard of torments among the nations. In fact, at the moment, the Russians and the Americans, with their Sputniks and their Explorers, are thinking and planning in terms of military advantage in outer

space. To that end, primarily, their scientists are expending their genius and their resources.

The scientists, however, are not to blame for this emphasis on military force and potentialities. Whether it be on the earth or in the immeasurable reaches of space, they merely provide the tools of exploration and development. It is for the conscience of mankind to decide to what purpose they shall be used. At present the discoveries of science seem to have outdistanced man's moral sense. The crucial problem facing us is not one of science, but one of philosophy, or, perhaps, one of theology. The future course—whether towards fulfilment of the dream of peace on earth or towards universal calamity and destruction—will depend on whether man's moral sense, with all that implies in faith and social action, is able to keep up with, and make its servant, the great and ever-increasing technological power.

The Changing Santa

According to Donald Ludgin, editor of the Holiday section of the World Book Encyclopedia, even Santa Claus is not what he used to be.

The original European Saint Nick was a tall, thin, hungry-looking individual who roamed the countryside on a thin, hungry-looking horse. He wore a ragged cloak and a black skullcap. He was very charitable but not very merry.

Like the "other wise man"—the one in the Henry Van Dyke story who never got to Bethlehem—the Christmas idea moves among us all the year, perhaps unidentified but always effective. It gives a lift here, helps heal a hurt there. Its motive works humbly, with no sense of monopoly on virtue. It is quite willing, as Jesus suggested, to accept a good example from a Samaritan.

For many of us our celebration of Christmas seems like sudden awakening to our obligations, as well as being a more positive and spontaneous participation in a sort of collective joyousness. In the Christmas season, we concentrate on the active expression of our good will, as distinct from an often rather passive entertainment of it during the rest of the year.

One result is an overlaying of the Christmas idea with attractive, glittering, colorful symbols of our regard for it. Not a hiding of it by any means. But it sometimes a stress on it, an over-

statement, that like most overstatement, somewhat distorts, somewhat downgrades the motives we are trying to voice. Fortunately for our good intentions, the Christmas idea is so powerful that it cannot be buried, not even under a superfluity of luxurious gift-giving. It always outshines the tinsel.

Also by its steadfastness, by the very power of its inner stillness and tranquility, it outmatches the frantic and feverish maneuvers for human power positions. The Berlin crisis, untimely divisions in the Western world, racial problems in the United States, contests for the control of labor unions, the threats of inflation—hardly for a moment do men and women feel that they can take their eyes off these continuing challenges. And often they feel that such pressures too constantly divert their attention from values they want to build into their own lives and into family

weaker its shock wave will be by the time it reaches the ground. Shock waves generated at altitudes of 40,000 or 50,000 feet and above, where modern military planes most frequently operate, will, in all likelihood, be completely dissipated before they reach the ground.

Sometimes people report that they hear two booms, one right after another. This is because any plane flying supersonically creates two major shock waves, roughly comparable to the bow and stern waves created by a boat as it moves through the water.

Under certain conditions, the air force says, these two waves may reach the ground at points widely enough separated to produce two distinct booms. What about reports of widespread and serious damage caused by sonic booms? Just another facet of boom mythology, says the air force.

The Age Old Story

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee.

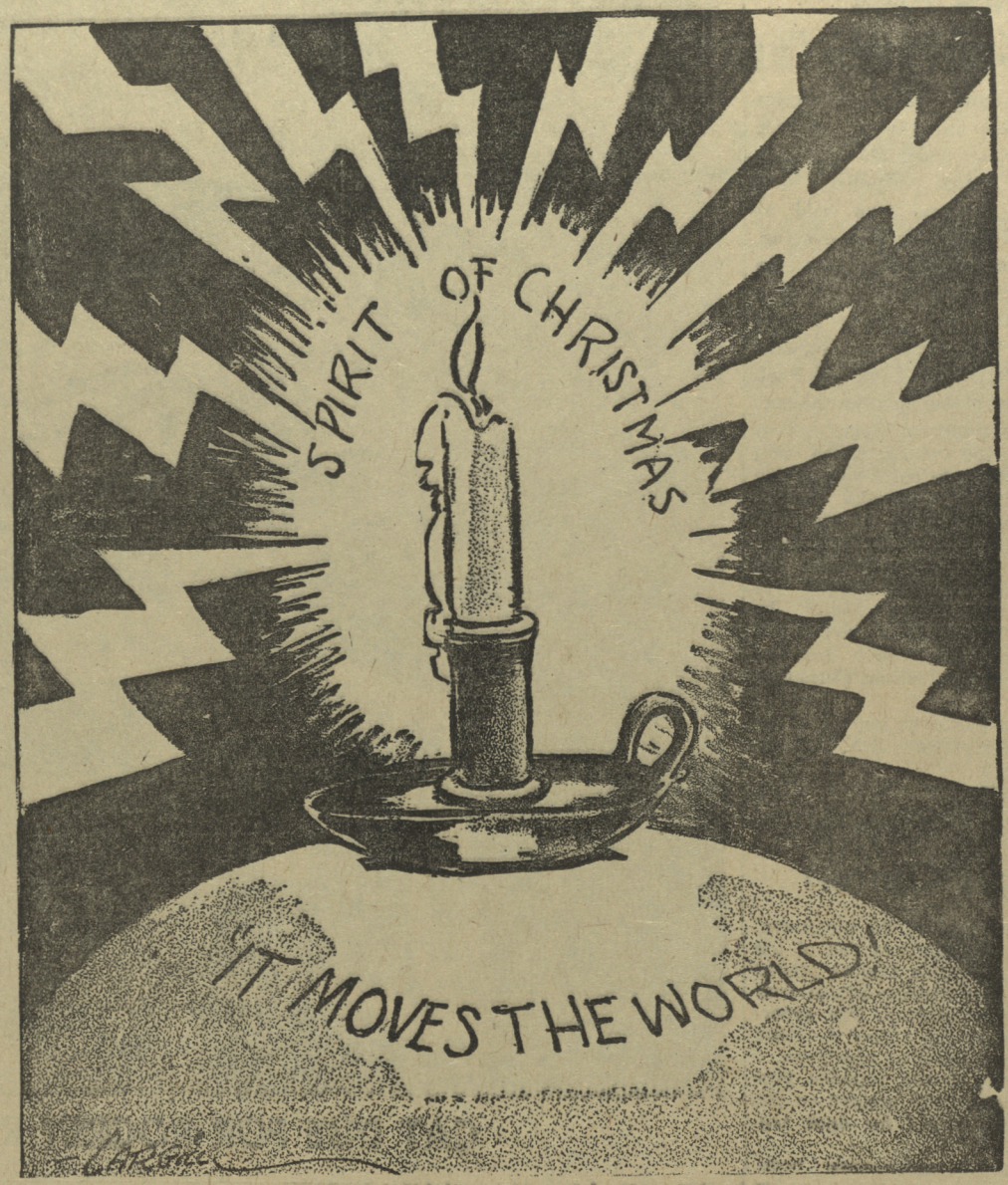
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EDITORIAL NOTES

To all our readers, young and old, at home and abroad—a Merry Christmas!

A Halifax school official says that it is a good idea for teachers to have witnesses present when they strap students. What about a prosecutor and defence counsel?



IT'S LIGHT UNQUENCHED

The Christmas Spirit

Christian Science Monitor

Like the "other wise man"—the one in the Henry Van Dyke story who never got to Bethlehem—the Christmas idea moves among us all the year, perhaps unidentified but always effective. It gives a lift here, helps heal a hurt there. Its motive works humbly, with no sense of monopoly on virtue. It is quite willing, as Jesus suggested, to accept a good example from a Samaritan.

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Those Sonic Booms

By Paul D. Davis North American Newspaper Alliance

Sonic booms are here to stay. They will be here as long as there are aircraft flashing through the sky faster than the speed of sound. Since it has no choice but to continue flying supersonic aircraft that create sonic booms that tend to make people puzzled, frightened and angry, the air force finds itself in a dilemma. It now is engaged in a major effort to convert the public to its own conviction that the booms are not only inevitable but harmless.

As to their inevitability, here are the facts as explained by an information specialist and a test support pilot assigned to the Air Force Cambridge Research Center at Hanscom field, Bedford, Mass. Today's fighter planes of the so-called Century series are all supersonic aircraft, which habitually fly faster than the speed of sound.

MILES FROM PLANE A tactical squadron of F-104's—one of the Century series—now is based at Westover air force base, near Springfield, Mass. The F-104 not only achieves speeds up to about twice the speed of sound, or 1,400 miles an hour, but does so with such ease that the pilot is not even aware when he passes through the so-called "sound barrier," unless he happens to be watching his air speed indicator.

In the days when a plane could exceed the speed of sound only while in a dive, the air pressure wave that produces the boom reached the ground—and people's eardrums—only in the small area directly in line with the angle of the plane's dive. HEARD EVERYWHERE But today's fighter planes are producing shock, or pressure, waves whenever they fly above the speed of sound. Whenever and wherever these waves strike the ground—and the area can be many miles away from the plane itself—the sonic boom is heard.

A common misconception pictures the boom as a sort of explosion that occurs at a given point in the sky through which the plane has passed. Actually, the boom occurs for each individual who hears it at the particular moment that the pressure wave strikes his eardrums. This explains why many persons, who are subjected to a sonic boom without knowing what it is, are certain that there has been an explosion in their immediate neighborhood. WEAKER THE SHOCK There are many variables in the picture. The most important one, as far as people on the ground are concerned, is the altitude of the plane. As a general rule, the higher the plane is, the

Don't Stuff Bird Too Soon

By Herman N. Bundenen, M.D. CHRISTMAS is a gay time for the youngsters. Mom and Pop—in fact for just about everybody but the poor turkey. The gobblers who missed the Thanksgiving ax are apt to wind up on the dinner table tomorrow. With all the excitement of wrapping packages, buying last-minute gifts and preparing the big dinner, you might become a little careless about the food.

WORD OF CAUTION So let me issue a brief, but timely word of caution along with my wishes for a Merry Christmas. Turkeys are a very perishable type of food. They should be kept either very cold or very hot.

HOW TO STORE However, you can make the dressing a day in advance and store it separately in the refrigerator without any danger. When roasting a turkey, the safest procedure probably is to use a meat thermometer with the bulb inserted into the centre of the dressing. The roasting should continue at a temperature of 250 degrees until the thermometer shows an internal temperature of 165 degrees. Then you know it is safe.

NO CHILDREN I strongly urge that you keep the children out of the kitchen as much as possible while you prepare the Christmas dinner. For your own safety, be careful with knives and other sharp utensils. And when cutting anything, be sure to make all cutting strokes away from your body.

USE BAKING SODA Incidentally, if fat should catch fire in a pan or in the oven, sprinkle some baking soda on the flames. Not only will this put out the fire, but it will spout the meal. The baking soda can be washed off cooked meats with out leaving a taste. Now I realize that tonight is Christmas Eve. That means excitement and plenty of it. But try to get to bed fairly early. You will need ample rest to be properly prepared for tomorrow's big day.

QUESTION AND ANSWER N.M.L.: Will gallbladder trouble cause female disorder, such as a vaginal discharge? Answer: There is usually no direct connection between gallbladder disease and vaginal discharge.

MAXIMS

A pure heart is an excellent thing—and so is a clean shirt.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Two causes of colds among school children have reportedly been identified by medical science. We had always supposed everybody knew what the two causes were—the child on the left and the child on the right.—Winnipeg Tribune

OUR YESTERDAYS

Mr. Arthur J. Howatt, while working in the railway yards yesterday afternoon, received very painful injuries to the upper chest as a result of being squeezed between a box car and the freight shed. The injured man was rushed to the City Hospital where X-rays revealed that no bones had been broken.

Major D. A. MacDonald has sold the Russ Hotel to Mr. and Mrs. G. C. MacLean, who formerly managed the Stratheona Hotel, and they will take charge of their new property on Thursday. Mr. MacDonald will continue in business as a contractor and farmer.

A burned electric cable at the corner of Kent and Weymouth Streets plunged the East section of the city into darkness for nearly two hours last night. Maritime Electric officials said they were at a loss to explain the accident. A stick or similar object thrown across the wires or a heavy blow against the pole might be the explanation, they said.

Mr. Harold Stead, Brackley, was elected President of the P. E. I. Jersey Club at the annual meeting of that organization held yesterday in the offices of the Department of Agriculture. He succeeds Mr. Edison Mutch of North River. Mr. Arthur MacDonald of St. Peters was elected vice-president, and Dr. J. P. Lantz, Charlottetown, Secretary.

SPECIAL TV BONUS

To celebrate our 13th Anniversary, and to ensure that you see your favorite Christmas programs on TV, we are offering, (beginning Nov. 24 and ending Dec. 24), to every customer who calls us for TV service within this period, one return service house call free. These free service calls will be good for 90 days.

BOWLAN RADIO & TV

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Put Christ Into Christmas and let the Spirit of the Season be only His Spirit.

The Prince Edward Island Temperance Federation

SPECIAL NOTICE!

THE MARITIME HARNESS RACING REVIEW

will be published in THE GUARDIAN and THE PATRIOT on MONDAY December 29th EXTRA COPIES MAY BE ORDERED NOW! PHONE 8506

CHEERIO advertisement featuring a cartoon of Santa Claus and children. Text: "We're joining Santa in sending best wishes for a very happy holiday to everyone, everywhere!"

WHITLOCK TIRE SERVICE advertisement. Text: "138 Kent Street Dial 6112"

Merry Christmas advertisement featuring a cartoon of Santa Claus. Text: "We extend our warmest greetings with the hope that this Holiday Season brings you and yours a full measure of good health and happiness. May all the joys of Christmas remain with you throughout the coming New Year. N. D. MacLEAN FUNERAL DIRECTOR CHARLOTTETOWN"