



The Immortal Story

The Birth of Jesus

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria). And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem: (because he was of the house and lineage of David); to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife being great with child. And so it was, that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Visit of the Shepherds

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord shone around about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ, the Lord, and this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in the manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, let us now go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us. And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning the child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

The Visit of the Wise Men

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, behold there came wise men from the east, to Jerusalem, saying, where is He that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod, the king heard these things he was troubled and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, in Bethlehem of Judea; for thus it is written by the prophet, and thou, Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, art not the least among the princes of Judea; for out of thee shall come a Go-

vernor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, they fell down, and worshipped him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The Flight Into Egypt

And when they were departed, behold the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: For Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet. Out of Egypt have I called my son.

Babson's Point Of View On: The Lesson Of Christmas

By ROGER W. BABSON

Babson Park, Mass., December 22. "And the angel said unto them, Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David, a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2: 10-11).

Ever since the angel appeared to the shepherds on the hills outside Bethlehem, bringing them "good tidings of great joy", Christmas has been celebrated as pre-eminently the season of joy—the season of children's laughter and games, of presents, of family re-unions, of human warmth and light, of the manger with the star shining above it. But there are times — and perhaps the present with its armed clashes, its political unrest, and economic stresses is one of them — when joy seems hard to capture.

THE PERSONALITY OF JESUS

If Jesus was not God, He was certainly the most remarkable man who ever lived. For He left the impress of His name and personality upon the world in a way no other man has ever done. The whole period of life from His day to ours is stamped with His name — the Christian era. The civilization that spread across the world sprang from His teaching and is called after Him — Christian civilization. When we wish to describe moral virtues that exceed anything that pre-Christian man knew, we use the terms Christian charity, Christian justice, and the Christian ethics.

The personality of Jesus was so impressed on the world that its impact surpasses anything that anybody else has achieved. In short, it is unique. One is forced to the conclusion that the personality of Jesus was at least super-human. Yet this super-human being claimed to be even more than that. He

claimed to be God. To reject that claim is to say in effect that the greatest personality that ever existed was that of a deceiver.

THE HUMILITY OF THE MANGER

The story of Jesus began in a stable. It was a night when all the world was upside down. There was no room in the inn for Him who would be acclaimed as a king; yet angels heralded His birth. A ruler would seek His death; and wise men would adore Him. He was a son of the royal house of David; yet there was no bed for Him and He was wrapped in cloths and laid in a manger. From this the lowest point attainable in human life, from a stable shared by beasts, the world's most amazing story started. In the sky the angels sang the message which would hold good for all time, that peace on earth would be to men of good will. Jesus set out to teach humility and He started most humbly.

CHRISTMAS IS UNIVERSAL

Jesus was born in the stillness of the night, and it has been traditional to associate His birth with silence — the silence of reverential awe and of humility. One of the most hallowed of our Christmas carols is called

"Silent Night", and in his hauntingly beautiful "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Bishop Phillips Brooks wrote nearly one hundred years ago "how silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given."

However you choose to regard the life of Jesus, you cannot help but note that it started in humility and in silence, but grew to embrace the whole world. Now can you help but note that Christmas is the greatest feast or holiday of the year. It is the day we all keep in some fashion or other, though it is to be regretted that for so many it has lost its true spiritual significance.

THE SILENCE OF BETHLEHEM

The lesson of the manger is a difficult one for a stiff-necked materialistic world. The humility of the stable and the silence of Bethlehem are unacceptable to those who see life's sole purpose as the amassing of power and wealth or the attainment of personal success. The silence of Bethlehem on that holy night was not accidental. It was meant to teach us the reverence for God, for His creation, for our fellow men. It was also meant to teach us that we must be quiet and listen or we will not hear God when He speaks within our own heart.

Youth Wants to Know

By RANDY GRIFFITH

During the Christmas season this year, as always, you will hear someone complaining that Christmas is too commercialized. Thousands of sermons will issue forth from American pulpits bewailing the commercial desecration of Christmas. One answer will be to make it a holy and spiritual holiday. Further, there will be hints that there is something dishonest about celebrating Christmas and never darkening a church door. Understandably, these attempts will have no visible effect on holiday buying.

It is true that many greedy merchants degrade our generous impulses with their gimmicks and allurements. Even so people like to give and receive gifts. But then, the lavish gift-givers ruin Christmas for many of us.

Basically, Christmas represents a gift: God's gift to man. Man in turn responds by giving gifts to the Christ child and exchanging gifts with his fellow man. Here again, giving is corrupted when we are led to feel not only that giving is good but that not giving is downright bad. Still I feel Christmas can be rescued from its perverters. We can find a way to celebrate Christmas without surrendering to the brainwashing of some admen or the hocus-pocus vagueness of some preachers.

Properly, I think Christmas is both a Christian festival and a time of celebration. Yet I would not suggest that any single definition of "the" exclusive meaning of "Christmas" for everyone is possible. For thousands of people Christmas is just a time for family reunions, present swapping and fun. It's a free country, you know, so they should be allowed to make merry without being interrupted by "Bah, Humbug" from the religious circles. Some, on the other hand will observe Christmas in all the wealth of the traditional Christmas symbols. Their worship should be saved from the desecration that most likely will occur if the moneymongers provide the symbols. Still for others, and here I include myself, Christmas will be a time to celebrate the appearing of one whose life made a changed history — a man who showed that it is possible to be authentically human in a world which dictates that we are something less than this. It also will be a time to rejoice in terms of what makes sense in our own present lives.

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Stories Behind Words

By William S. Penfield

Villain

Sometimes the original meaning of a word is an innocent one. Then, over a period of decades or even centuries, a change takes place, resulting in a detrimental meaning. An example is the word "villain."

Roman farms were called "villas," and a farm laborer was called "villanus," one attached to the villa.

"Villanus" became "vilain" in Old French and "villain," later "villain," in English.

The villains were of low birth, hence the aristocracy looked upon them as persons of low morals. This association led to the present meaning of "villain" — a scoundrel.

EVERYDAY COUNSELOR

By DR. HERBERT SPAUGH

"Who's The Matter With Me?" by Alice Steadman is a choice and intriguing book which has just come from the press. It is dedicated: "For the sick and tired who are sick and tired of being sick and tired."

The author has a novel and intriguing approach to emotionally induced or psychoso-

matic illness. You may not agree with her in every respect, but the book will make you think.

Like the well-known research authority, Dr. Hans Selye, she holds to the thesis that stress is a basic cause of most disease. She then associates the various ailments with the different organs of the body, such as head, mouth, throat, jaws, neck, arms, chest, lungs, breathing apparatus, hands, legs, hips, stomachs, breasts, intestinal tract, heart, ankles, back, knees, feet, and other organs.

She sought the clue in nutrition, but came to the conclusion that the body can adjust to wrong foods better than to discordant thoughts. You may get the book at your bookstore, or order it from Mrs. Alice Steadman, 2500 Cloister Drive, Charlotte, N. C. 2811. The price is \$3.00 arms, chest, lungs, breathing apparatus, hands, legs, hips, stomachs, breasts, intestinal tract, heart, ankles, back, knees, feet, and other organs.

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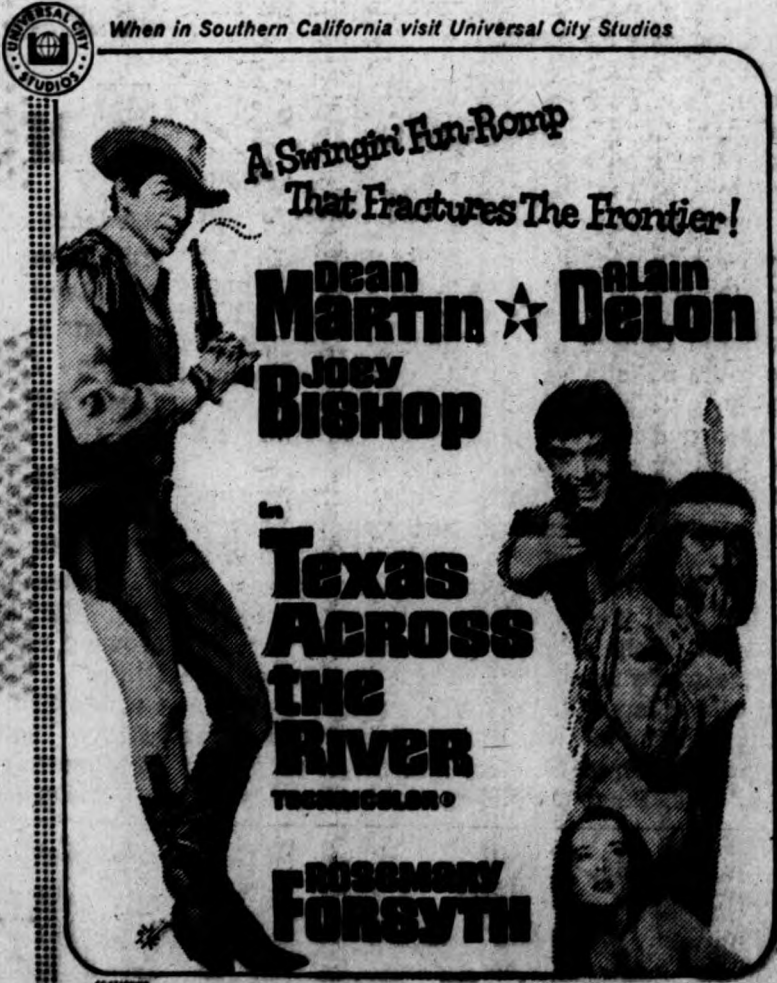
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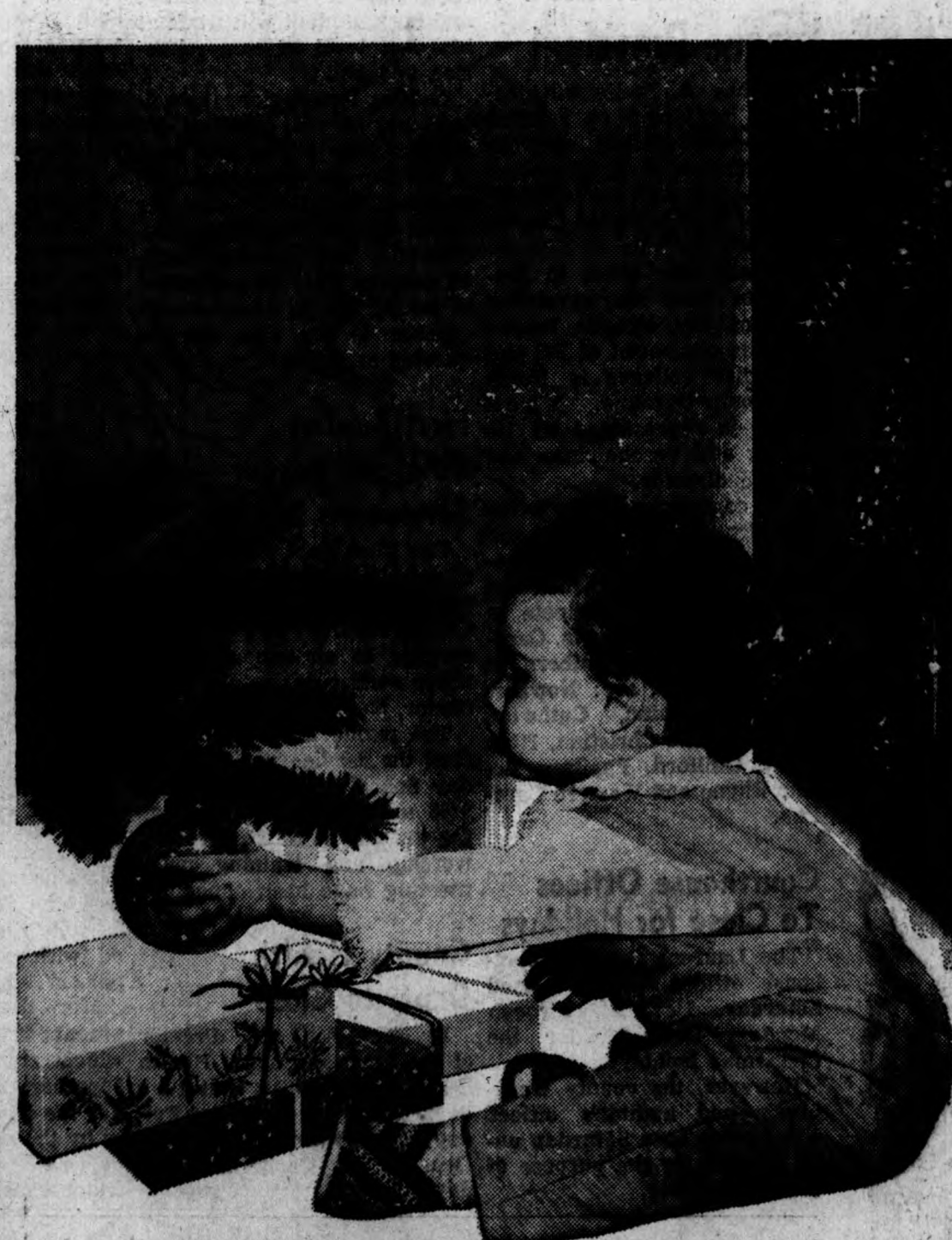
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CLINTON, S. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1966

The Clinton Chronicle

Established 1900

July 4, 1889 - WILLIAM WILSON HARRIS - June 13, 1953

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY THE CHRONICLE PUBLISHING COMPANY

Subscription Rate (Payable in Advance) — One Year, \$4.00; Six Months, \$2.50
Out-of-County — One Year, \$5.00

Second Class Postage Paid at Clinton, S. C.
POSTMASTER: Send Form 3579 to Clinton Chronicle, Clinton, S. C. 29325

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