

One Moment, Please -

Most of this front page is devoted to a reverent report of an event which occurred 1,942 years ago—presented in today's newspaper style.

The story of the birth of Christ is, of course, familiar to all of us. But this newspaper believes you will find a new interest in the news method of telling it again on the eve of that holy anniversary. In these wartime days, when bloodshed, destruction and military campaigns occupy most of the pages of the nation's press, it should be refreshing to read of an event that heralded the coming of a new era of a world even then steeped in carnage.

We invite you then to read the stories delineated "Beginning the Year of Our Lord I" and we extend to this community and its men serving in the armed services a sincere and unrationed Christmas greeting!

Many Firms Will Remain Closed Saturday, Dec. 26, a Legal Holiday

To give this city's hundreds of retail employees a well-deserved three-day holiday after a record-breaking Christmas shopping season, most of the retail stores here will be closed all day Saturday, Dec. 26, the day after Christmas. Governor Olson has proclaimed Saturday, Dec. 26, a legal holiday in California, hence the two local banks and city offices will remain closed.

The Torrance Herald, which is issuing its final pre-Christmas edition today (Tuesday) will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24, through Sunday, Dec. 27, and will reopen Monday, Dec. 28. The final edition of the year will be published on the usual Thursday afternoon, Dec. 31.

Reward for Service
Decision to remain closed on the Saturday after Christmas was taken as a direct means to the part of local merchants of expressing their appreciation and giving public recognition to their employees for the splendid and faithful service rendered by them during the current holiday season.

The same closing for a three-day holiday has been announced by retailers in scores of cities throughout the nation, including Los Angeles, Long Beach, Pasadena, Glendale, Hollywood, Inglewood, and San Diego.

Long Shopping Season
In cooperation with the Army, Navy and postoffice officials, as a means of meeting transportation shortages, eliminating traffic congestion and stimulating early mailing of gifts, the Christmas shopping season this year was the longest in local retail history. It started on Nov. 2 instead of the usual Friday after Thanksgiving.

This means that all retail employees have gone through practically eight weeks of nerve-racking activity. Therefore, they certainly deserve the three-day rest which the Saturday closing will give them.

Schools Resume Classes Monday

All school pupils will return to classes Monday morning, Dec. 28 following their "extra week" Christmas vacation. Many of the high school students filled regular jobs during their holiday, helping materially here to meet the manpower shortage.

'Frugal Fare' in Northwest Told By Visitor on 16th Annual Trip

"You know, we farmers and apple-knockers up in Washington don't live very high—even in these wartime days. Why, we just eat plain food and like it. If we get a steak or two a day, all the milk and cream and good fresh butter we need and can keep three or four dozen eggs handy around the house, we try to make out. In fact, we can't stand a lot of fancy foods and I can get along on just a bowl of porridge in the morning and maybe a dish of rice in the evening while I'm in Southern California."

The speaker was C. E. Myers of Davenport, Wash., who is making his 16th annual holiday visit here with his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Bees Myers.

His listeners, Mrs. Myers, and J. Hugh Sherfy and a Herald reporter listened with broad grins—the visitor was having a lot of fun with the current food shortage in this vicinity.

Myers reported he "hit-hiked" south by plane. He said he did not know what priorities were until he had been put off planes in Portland and in San Francisco while more favored travelers took his place. Things are pretty good up in Washington, with war industries springing up east of the mountains and Spokane the hub of a great new industrial empire that will utilize all the power generated at huge Coulee Dam.

An attack of appendicitis broke Myers' traditional deer hunt record. For the first time in 53 seasons he was unable to go after his annual buck.

"But we'll have a good hunt next year when all the hunting for Japs and Nazis is over and done with," he grinned. Myers, who has been retired for many years, is president of his draft board which serves the entire county. He plans to return to Davenport and the "frugal fare" of the northwest about Jan. 7.

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Christ Child is Born in Bethlehem; Believed Messiah

MOST OF TORRANCE'S WAR PLANTS TO CLOSE CHRISTMAS

Most of Torrance's war workers will have a holiday Christmas Day, a survey of the busy industrial plants disclosed today. —And employees of one firm, the A & P Food Market will share in a nation-wide holiday bonus amounting to \$1,400,000. All A & P workers with six months or more service will participate in the cash distribution.

Here is the result of this newspaper's survey of the war plants on the question of whether or not employees would enjoy a Christmas holiday:

Columbia Steel—"Some departments will remain closed but it won't be a general holiday for all workers—we're in full war production."

National Supply—"We don't know yet—we haven't had a directive yet from the War Department."

International Derrick—"Yes, we're going to take a holiday and then work twice as hard afterwards."

D & M Machine Shops—"We will take a holiday—the first in many months."

Doak Aircraft—"Our workers will have a holiday and it will probably be the last general one until victory."

Torrance Brass Foundry—"We want to take a holiday if the War Production Board will let us. We haven't heard officially yet."

Aluminum Company—"Some departments will remain closed but we're on continuous operations here and cannot shut down completely."

Martin Tool and Die Works—"We will close for Christmas."

also we haven't thought very much about it yet." Felker Manufacturing Co.—"Don't see any possibility of our closing. We've got a big job ahead and Christmas will have to be just another day for us."

Yule Services At Churches Are Announced

Special Christmas services are announced by the following Torrance churches with a cordial invitation to all residents to attend:

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL: Christmas Eve candlelight carol service and message by the vicar, Rev. Paul M. Wheeler, 11 p. m. Special music by the choir and solos by Mrs. Nadine Nichol. Christmas Day service at 10 a. m.

FIRST LUTHERAN: Christmas service at 9 a. m. with sermon by Rev. Frank D. Meehling, "The Christmas Message," based on Matthew 1:23. The choir will sing "Hail, Christmas Day" by Forrest G. Walter; the anthem will be accompanied by Mrs. E. A. Schwartz, organist, who will also play for the service. Mrs. Glen Arrasmith, assistant organist, will play the prelude and offertory.

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY: Celebration of the Feast of Christmas—6 and 10 a. m. High Masses, 8 a. m. Low Mass. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament after the 10 a. m. Mass, according to the pastor, Rev. Father Joseph L. Bauer. Confessions will be heard Thursday, Dec. 24, from 3:30 to 6 p. m., and from 7:30 p. m., until all are heard.

New Star Appears; Persian Wise Men Bring Lavish Gifts

BETHLEHEM, Dec. 25, Beginning the Year of Our Lord 1.—Miraculous occurrences marked the birth here early today of the long-heralded Christ Child.

A new star appeared in the skies and a heavenly host chanted His coming to earth. A band of shepherds, who were tending flocks on nearby hillsides, were the first to learn of His birth. They came to Bethlehem to verify the heavenly tidings.

These simple men and boys were filled with awe and related, in suppressed excitement, the vision they had seen in which the birth of the Messiah was announced to them.

The shepherds quoted the exact words of an angel appearing with a heavenly host, who said to them:

"Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."

It was this angel, they said, who directed them to locate the Babe in a courtyard stable.

They were the first to find the newborn Jesus, and to offer homage. Mary accepted their reverent acclaim without comment.

Certain sages from the east, called variously wise men, or Magi, eminent astronomers and astrologers searched Hebrew prophecies which foretold the event of a Messiah.

Followed by a brilliant star comet-like in its action, a star they believed would lead them to the locale of the new King, they left their faraway homes in Persia, and sold their possessions to equip their caravan and to purchase valuable gifts for the Child.

Following the star, they found the Holy Family in its temporary home.

They knelt in worship and presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



NATIVITY SCENE—Basing his conception of the miraculous birth of the Child called the Messiah on news reports of the event from Bethlehem, a staff artist has drawn the above scene.

Tragedy and Suffering Seen For Infant In Later Life

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25, Beginning the Year of Our Lord 1.—Prognosticators such as David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Micah and Zechariah have predicted a chain of experiences for the young Christ that link His life with tragedy and suffering.

It is clearly shown by these seers that the horoscope of the Babe is shadowed by a fate to which He is irrevocably destined. Thus far the prediction that He would be born in Bethlehem of a virgin has been fulfilled.

In addition to these forecasts it is said that, because of an attempt to destroy Him, many young children will be slaughtered, that His parents will escape with Him into Egypt and later, when the danger is past, return to live in His native land.

He will be anointed by the Spirit of God, will make a triumphal entry into the capital city, Jerusalem, but will fall upon evil days.

Crucifixion Foretold
A close friend will betray Him for 30 pieces of silver, which will be used to purchase a potter's field to be known as the "field of blood."

He will be forsaken by all His intimate friends and arrested as a traitor and disturber of the peace. The manner of His death will doubtless be crucifixion because an ancient seer states His hands and feet will be pierced. Indignities most humiliating will be heaped upon Him, such as being spit upon and scourged, and having his garments parted and lots cast upon them.

But, it is said that, in His tragic death, no lone in His body will be broken. He will know the miseries of life such as temptation, poverty, loneliness and misunderstanding—just as everyone knows them—but will not weaken or retreat in the pursuit of His mission of redemption.

Nazareth Only 50 Miles from Bethlehem

NAZARETH, Dec. 25, Beginning the Year of Our Lord 1.—Nazareth, from whence the parents of the Child went to Bethlehem for the enrollment, lies almost directly north of Bethlehem, a distance of approximately 50 miles, or as they say, about three days' journey.

It has a population of about seven thousand.

Mary, mother of the Savior, and her husband, Joseph, are of the humbler people in their home town of Nazareth.

There is a tiny house of one room built of clay, dried hard in the sun and whitewashed.

And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary; for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call His name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David; and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; and therefore shall that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.—Luke 1:26-35.

And he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither prove after the hearing of his ears; but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth.—Isaiah 11:4.

I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds, and I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord. Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous branch, and the king shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. . . . and this is His name whereby He shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTOUSNESS.—Jeremiah 23:3-6.

Now gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops; he hath

Words of Micah Proved True

BETHLEHEM, Dec. 25, Beginning the Year of Our Lord 1.—Words of Micah have been proved true in the birth of this Holy Child in the little town of Bethlehem, for it was he who said, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be ruler of Israel."

Bethlehem, about five or six miles south of Jerusalem, the largest city in Palestine, has had previous association with famous people. It was to Bethlehem that Ruth and Naomi returned, and where Ruth gleaned in the fields of Boaz, her kinsman.

Here David was anointed king. The ancient well near the gate, celebrated in annals of Israel's heroes, was the one from which David longed to drink when he was cut off by King Saul's troops.

Several of his soldiers volunteered to risk their lives to procure the coveted water. When it was brought to David he refused to drink.

Came From Nazareth
Doubtless he hold the story is only a hoax to entertain the townspeople, as the Child was born of lowly parents in a stable adjacent to one of the crowded inns.

Interviewing parents of the Child, it was learned they had come to Bethlehem in obedience to decrees of Augustus requiring enrollment of all Roman subjects.

Joseph, a resident of Nazareth, 50 miles distant, made the journey at the slow pace of a donkey's walk, accompanied by his wife, Mary, an expectant mother.

Arriving in Bethlehem they sought lodgings in every inn, to be told in each instance there was no room. Even private homes, where guest rooms were usually available for over-floored Jewish visitors at the time of the feast of the Passover were filled.

Shepherds First Visitors
Doubtless it was the way face of Mary, well-nigh spent from her long journey that touched the sympathy of the inn-keeper who proffered space in the courtyard near the stable where they might spend the night. A thick bed of straw was hastily made, and Mary lay down to await a new experience that will link her name with the town's in a fame that promises to be universal and eternal.

During the night, Mary gave birth to her first-born Son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in the manger nearby. Asked if other travelers in the courtyard came to her assistance in delivery of her Baby, Mary replied no one was aware of her need until a band of shepherds, who had been tending the flocks on nearby hillsides, came to verify happenings, which informed them the Child of the Ages had arrived.

It is said that, since she was told in a vision that she was to become the mother of the Holy Child, her manner has been that of a person wholly devoted to a divine mission.

The shepherds said an angel directed them to locate the Babe in a courtyard stable. They were the first to find this newborn Jesus, and to offer homage. Mary accepted their reverent acclaim without comment.

Herod Manifests Fear at Reports Of Messiah Birth

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25, Beginning the Year of Our Lord 1.—King Herod today manifested uneasiness when informed of the birth early today of the Christ Child here. Hearing of presence of Persian wise men, or Magi, he summoned them for questioning, giving the impression he wished to visit the Child and pay homage.

Grave doubt was expressed his motive can be a disinterested one. Herod's unhappy reign, with unrest seething thru the whole country, might seem to indicate the news of a Messiah's birth was disquieting to him and his court. It is said the wise men did not obligate themselves to report their findings to him.

There seems to be a marked difference of opinion as to whether the arrival of the Child is significant from a political or religious standpoint.

World Peace Foreseen

Prophecies concerning Him made clear He would assume both the throne of David and lead Israel as a spiritual shepherd. Differences of opinion are also sharp on the nature of His origin—was it divine or human?

On this point those best informed hold that, in this Child, the two natures coalesce, the spirit of God clothing itself with the fleshy habitation of man that it might have closer fellowship and understanding among those of spiritual discernment. This divine spiritualization of human life is called the Incarnation.

It has been predicted this Child "in the fulness of time" will show His followers how to translate the divine mind, heart and purpose into human affairs and bring about a world-wide reign of peace and good-will among men.

Housing for 212 Families In Two Projects Proposed

Two major home building projects which would provide accommodations for 212 families in this community are expected to receive final Federal clearance of all priorities within the week.

Pat MacDonnell, city housing coordinator, announced yesterday in revealing the details of the units.

Seventy-two-family units of one-bedroom each, designed to provide housing for 140 families, are to be erected on 214th, 215th and 216th sts., east of Western ave., in the Shoestring strip by Hamilton Homes, Inc. Attractively designed in four different styles of exteriors by Hans Wallner, architect, the plans and specifications have been approved by the F. H. A. architectural division.

The necessary applications have been made for priorities and because the homes are designed in compliance with the 1943 W. P. B. defense housing standards, these are expected any day, according to MacDonnell.

Endorsed by Industries

The second housing project includes 72 single family residences to be built on 218th, 219th and 220th sts. between Normandie and Western aves., also in the Shoestring strip. These homes will be erected by S. V. Hunsaker, builder, for the Jefferson Finance Co., MacDonnell said, and will be constructed under provisions of the Federal P55 form.

All necessary clearances have been obtained, the housing coordinator disclosed, except for the approval of the lumber coordinator in Portland, Ore., and he has notified the builders that his okay is forthcoming. MacDonnell said the two projects had been endorsed not only by his office but by officials of the Columbia Steel Co., and the Aluminum Corporation of America.

"The reason why these projects are going in the Shoestring area is because that district has been subdivided into lots and the utilities are already installed," MacDonnell declared. "Of course we would like to obtain similar housing units for Torrance proper but we are glad to assist with any development which will ease the great housing shortage in the whole Torrance industrial area."

Army Helping Postal Deliveries

The Army came to the rescue of Postmaster Earl Conner and his hard-pressed postal battalion and, between surveys of the situation today, Conner hazarded the opinion that "we'll be out of the trenches by Christmas Day."

The 13th Ordnance unit loaned the postoffice three trucks and drivers to help clear the huge mass of Yuletide mail that was engulfing the office despite heroic efforts of the regular crew plus 28 extra workers to get it to addresses. The Army trucks will continue to serve the postoffice until Dec. 28 when Postmaster Conner expects the record-smashing Christmas rush will be history.

"We'll make deliveries of all Christmas gift packages and special delivery mail received by Dec. 24 on that day so that all presents sent here by Christmas Eve will be in the hands of the addressees by Christmas Day," Conner said. "On Christmas Day we'll deliver all Christmas packages and special deliveries that are being sent here by the service or carrier service of other mail on the holiday, however."

Conner has 18 temporary carriers, mostly high school youths, and 10 temporary clerks assisting his regular force.

Historians and Prophets Predict Birth of Savior

BETHLEHEM, Dec. 25, Beginning the Year of Our Lord 1.—The birth of the Christ Child early today here has been forecasted throughout the centuries.

A search of history and the Bible today revealed many references to the coming of the Messiah.

Isaiah, Jeremiah and Luke, the historians and prophets, give many examples of these predictions.

As vital to birth of the Messiah, these quotations are noted: The Lord spake again unto Ahaz saying, Ask thee a sign of the Lord thy God. . . . But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the Lord. And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David. . . . Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.—Isaiah 7:10.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land

of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. . . . For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders, and his name shall be called WONDERFUL, COUNSELLOR, THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE OF PEACE. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.—Isaiah 9:1-7.

"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord;

and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither prove after the hearing of his ears; but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth.—Isaiah 11:4.

I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds, and I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord. Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous branch, and the king shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. . . . and this is His name whereby He shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTOUSNESS.—Jeremiah 23:3-6.

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troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary; for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call His name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David; and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; and therefore shall that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.—Luke 1:26-35.