

THE CROWDED INN

By HELEN CLARK WENTWORTH

ALL day long they had been going by the inn, camels and donkeys stirring up dust, weary men and women resting by the stream outside the inn yard. The little country maid had never seen so much travel.

Just outside the city of Jerusalem, near by the village of Bethlehem, there were plenty of people who stopped for refreshment. And Jerusalem kept a good inn. He was a good man too. But he was hard, sparing neither man nor beast. And his niece Rebecca was hard put to do the tasks that were set before her.

"Why are there so many travelers today?" she asked the little slave girl who helped her prepare the evening meal.

"The tribesmen," replied Fatima, "are going to Jerusalem to be numbered, so that they may pay their taxes. And this will continue for days. There are not times of rest and feasting for us!"

Rebecca looked up as a bearded man, leading an ass on which a young woman rode, entered the courtyard. "Is the inn keeper here?" he asked gently. "My wife and I seek shelter."

"There are no rooms left," Fatima told him, going on with her work. But Rebecca looked up at the man, whose face was weary and touched with pain.

"I will see what provision can be made," the little maid exclaimed. Her eyes never left the young woman's sweet face. The woman smiled at Rebecca, and her husband smiled too. Rebecca's face lightened eagerly and even Fatima found herself softening.

Rebecca had some difficulty finding her uncle, busy as he was with many things. Then it was hard to make him listen.

"There must be some place, uncle. That new stable, with the clean straw, would be warm and comfortable. She cannot go farther, I know."

"So be it," he answered. Then, as they entered the group, he too was impressed by the young woman's beauty and the lovely warmth of her smile. "There is naught but the stable," he told them. "But Re-

becca will seek to make you comfortable there."

Even after she had done everything she could, and had crept into her own dark corner for the night, Rebecca found she could not forget the couple in the stable. Mary, the man had called his wife. There was such a radiance about her. "I wonder what makes her so different," Rebecca thought. And she opened her eyes.

In amazement she saw light in the courtyard, so much that it seemed the dawn must have come. But the light came from a star that shone just above the stable. Out into the yard they got, crept, and suddenly she heard a child's cry, a cooing, happy sound.

Rebecca looked about. No one was stirring. Far off, on the hillside she saw what looked like a group of men, shadowy, indistinct, seemingly moving toward Bethlehem. It must be her imagination. Possibly it was Ephraim's vineyard she saw. Soon she stood in the stable doorway.

There, lighted by a lantern, was Joseph, bending over the young woman and holding in his arms a tiny baby—her firstborn. At Rebecca's exclamation he turned, and in- to her outstretched arms he handed the little figure and showed her the snowy lengths of swaddling cloth. Tenderly the maid clothed the infant and laid it beside the mother.

"Thank you," Mary whispered. "For the child's sake and in His name, I thank you for what you have done. We think her, don't we, Jesus?"

The baby opened his eyes and smiled. "He smiled at me," Rebecca claimed. "I shall never forget, a new born babe smiled in to my face to say thank you."

Mary drew the child into the shelter of her arms. Her eyes closed, Joseph walked to the doorway and watched Rebecca as she returned to her room. He, too, saw the clump of trees or vines, or was it a group of men on the hillside? Then he turned to the manger and settled down beside Mary and the sleeping Jesus.

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INFORMATION

A Weekly Story on Catholicity from the Third Order Secular, at Loretto, Pa.

Albert of the Belgians—Harry On February 17, 1934, Albert I, King of the Belgians, fell from a cliff and the world mourned.

On the very next day, Harry Donahue, of the Philadelphia police, succumbed to a gangster's bullet, and his friends wept.

The sovereign of an entire nation and a guardian of a city's section had one great thing in common—their eyes were not knowing, loving, and serving God. Each assisted at Mass on Sunday. Each confessed his sins to a priest. Each prayed to his breast his God in Holy Communion. Each prayed to the Blessed Virgin Mother and to the saints.

on forever. They have gone, we be- more, but Albert and Harry will live on forever. They have gone, we be- lieve to join, and to nob-nob with Peter, the fisherman, who died on a cross—Pansy, the colored woman who washed other folk's clothes—Michael Angelo, the painter of cathedrals and chapels—Richard Donnelly, the painter of fences and barns—Louis, the scientist who gave us "pasteurization"—Ludwig, the waiter who served smiles with his beer.

The Church that shows the same Life Way, the same Truth, the same Life to a Belgian monarch and an American cop—to a first century fisherman and a twentieth century washerwoman—is surely the one church that can rightfully be called "Catholic"; and just as surely, to our minds, the one kind of church that an all knowing, all-just God could and would establish. Doesn't that really sound logical? And isn't it also logical to ask your own Catholic neighbors for Catholic facts? We promise a courteous reply to all inquiries. Address: Third Order Secular, Loretto, Pa.

Science Gradually Supplants Border Cowboys of 1920s

Applicants Today Must Pass Civil Service Tests and Go to School.

TUCSON, ARIZ.—The hard-hitting, straight-shooting cowboy who was the United States border patrolman of the 1920s has gradually been supplanted by the scientific criminologist of today.

In 1920, when the border patrol in its present form was established, officials published advertisements in the "Help Wanted" column of border-town newspapers:

"Wanted—Experienced cowhands to join the United States border patrol for duty along the Mexican border."

"The group of cowhands who first reported to the office and said they wanted jobs was about the toughest bunch of men I ever saw," R. B. Mathews, assistant director of naturalization and immigration, reminisced.

"When I opened the door and looked at them I wondered if it was a 'necktie party' for me," he laughed.

The original duty of the patrolman was to catch aliens who at that time were attempting to cross from Mexico to great numbers.

Scoutmaster Gene First.

The test for applicants for the job of patrolman in the old days was not how much immigration law they knew, but how well they could handle and care for a horse, cook over a campfire and pick up and follow footprints of men and horses across the barren desert stretches along the border.

"The applicant, if he desired to live very long, had to be fast on the 'draw' and able to fire a six-gun in a split second," Mathews said.

Today, applicants take civil service examination at El Paso. If they pass, they receive physical examinations and are sent to School in El Paso for six months.

At school the applicants are taught courses in finger-printing, how to operate and repair a short wave radio, Morse code, and how to broadcast fingerprint classifications in code.

Since 1930, attempts to enter the United States illegally have decreased, Mathews said, pointing out that in May, 1939, there were 223 aliens apprehended, while in the corresponding month this year, only 23 were caught.

Fewer Jobs Available.

Mathews believed better conditions in Mexico and the changed attitude of large corporations in Texas and Arizona toward employment of alien labor were the main factors in cutting down illegal entries.

"We used to be kept pretty busy," Mathews said, "but now a single truck equipped with a radio can patrol more territory than several cowboys formerly could handle."

Fate will chase across desert and mountains occupy patrolmen today. Most of their time is taken up in searching trains for hidden aliens.

Mathews believes the influx of aliens apprehended, while in the weeks "business" will pick up, far at last reports, the most interesting event in the border patrol's life this year occurred when they rushed an expectant mother across the border in an attempt to prevent her baby from becoming a citizen of the United States.

FURTHER LAW BARRING SANTA CLAUS AND PLEASING OFFICIAL CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE

Christmas is America's most celebrated holiday. But it wasn't always such. Two centuries ago, when America was just getting its start, the Puritans in New England, led by John Winthrop and others, tried to suppress the holiday.

The Puritans—the same ones who gave America the Thanksgiving holiday—didn't believe in the Church of England, which they considered a "popish" church. A law of 1659 provided that anyone observing Christmas would be fined five shillings. But in 1780, the reckless modern constitution showed signs of being adopted. The law that gave a holiday to the day of celebrating Christmas, passed in the Massachusetts legislature. The first Christmas tree was this round when

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Military Sets — \$1.25 up
Billfolds — 79c to \$2
Pipes, from — 25c
Wool Mufflers — \$1 up
Silk Mufflers — \$1
Belt Sets — \$1 up
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Libby's Custard PUMPKIN No. 2 1/2 cans 2 FOR 25c

Libby's Peaches 2 1/2 cans 37c

Hormel's Ham— With sealed in flavor, 8 to 10 lbs. avg. per lb. tin 39c

RINSO
2 Large boxes 37c

LIFEBUOY — 5c
LUX TOILET SOAP, 3 for — 20c
LUX FLAKES — 25c
SILVER DUST — 21c Free Towel
CRISCO, 3 lbs. — 49c
SPRY, 3 lbs. — 49c

SPAM
12 OZ. CAN 29c

JEWEL SHORTENING 49c 4 pound can

FOR HER

Under \$3.00

New Dags — \$1 up
Compiets — 50c up
Kid Gloves — \$1.95 up
Silk Hosiery — 89c up
Make Up Boxes — \$1
Novelty Slippers — \$1.35

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Watch for Big Christmas Circular. COLVER, PENNA.

the Governor gave negative recognition of the holiday. Subsequent conflicts succeeded in making it lawful for children to hang up their stockings on Christmas eve.

TEA POT GOES MODERN.

The tea pot—traditionally old-fashioned—has gone modern on us. Now instead of the usual look of heating water for tea in a separate pot, all that is necessary is just plugging in the electric cord for the tea pot has been wired. A particularly attractive set, which would be ideal as a Christmas gift, includes the tea service of teapot, sugar and creamer, finished in chromium with walnut handles and schumann tray. The teapot may be purchased separately.

JEWELRY FOR GRADUATE.

There is perhaps no more pleasing gift for the young girl than a well chosen piece of jewelry—a brooch, necklace, clip or bracelet that she will want to keep for remembrance.

MATCH JEWELRY.

Ann Seligson, who some claim is "Mable in 'Congo Mable,'" has an assortment of jewelry bolts which match her jewelry. Favorite with the actress is a chunky ball of hammered silver with a fat knobbed handle. In turquoise she uses this on the table when using her silver chain necklace and earrings set with clear turquoise.

SWING TIME GIFT.

A gift in "swing time" which is bound to please the man is a combination clock and cigarette box, ideal for his office desk.

FOR MAN OR WOMAN.

Stationery is always a nice gift for man or woman. And especially if it has the name and address of the person on it.

A combination paper weight and magnifying glass with an attractive leather base makes a fine gift for a man.

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