

EDITORIALS

Christmas reminds us of ideals to strive for

It is disheartening that in the season the three major Western religions celebrate important holidays, the region that served as the womb of Judaism, Christianity and Islam is embroiled in deadly conflict. It is difficult to believe this is behavior Moses, Jesus or Mohammed would have recommended to those who claim to follow in their footsteps. Religion, which has been the inspiration for many of the greatest accomplishments of mankind in music, art, architecture and other forms of creativity, also has often been kidnapped by angry misfits to justify their hatefulness. That is not to say that all violence and evil is spurred by perverted interpretations of spiritual teaching; cer-

tainly more than enough horrific acts have been carried out by vicious killers with nothing but venom in their veins who make no pretense of allying themselves to a higher value. As a holiday approaches to celebrate the humble entrance of God into man's imperfect world, it would be helpful for all of us — as individuals and as nations — to seek the fundamental integrity that undergirds legitimate religious belief, and to set our minds and hearts on a course toward peace and harmony rather than war and discord. That may seem a distant and idealistic challenge at this time, but it is one that must be met if mankind is to reach its full potential for goodness.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

The New York Sun was started in 1833 by Benjamin H. Day, then just 23. The publication - which became one of the great newspapers in America - was the first New York "penny paper."

The Sun ceased publication in 1950, but every Christmas its memory is revived by an editorial printed on Sept. 21, 1897.

Virginia O'Hanlon, a New York City youngster, wrote this letter.

Dear Editor:

I'm 8 years old. Some of my friends say there is no Santa Claus.

Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth. Is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon
115 W. 95th St.

The letter wound up on the desk of Francis Pharacellus Church, an assistant editor of The Sun. A more hardened person might have thrown it away, but Church felt differently.

He wrote this reply.

"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

"Yes, Virginia there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy.

"Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith, then no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world, would be extinguished.

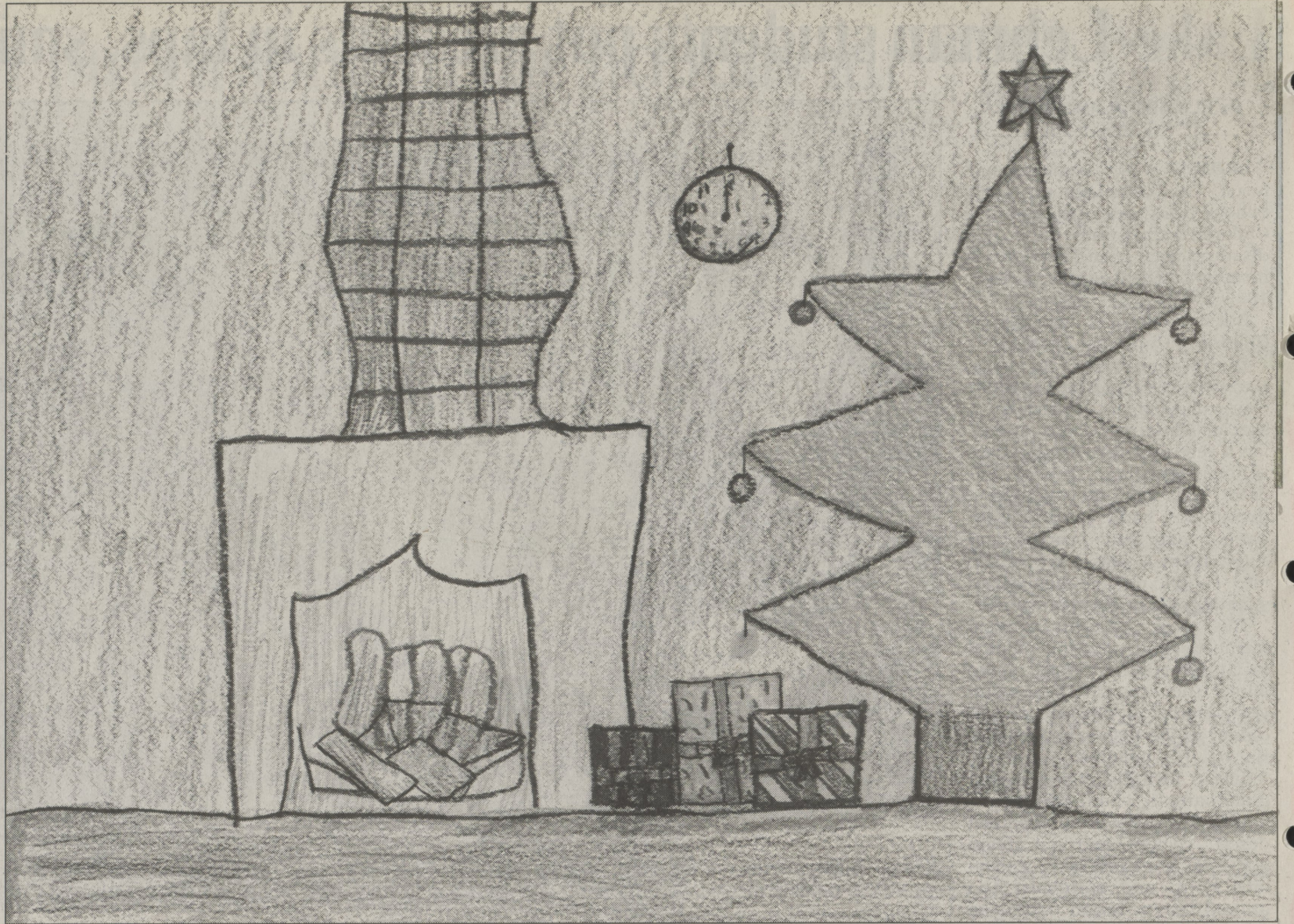
"Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove?

"Nobody sees Santa Claus. But that is not a sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

"You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering in the unseen world which not the strongest man, not even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond.

"Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

"No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now Virginia, nay ten times ten thousand years, from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."



Amanda Austin, a fifth grader at Lehman-Jackson Elementary School, drew this peaceful Christmas scene.



Carol King

Holiday schedule: A reminder of library hours during the holiday season. The library will be closed on December 24 and 25, and on December 31 and January 1. The bookstore

Library lists closings for holidays

will be closed for two weeks, from Monday, Dec. 24, through Friday, Jan. 4.

Registration for story hours: Registration will take place from January 7 to 13, 2002. The story hours will begin on Tuesday, Feb. 5.

Slate boards: Twelve additional slate boards are available now for purchase as Christmas gifts. One is on display at the front desk — come take a look. The 100 boards in the limited edition were cut from the origi-

nal blackboards in the 75-year-old school building which now houses the library. This fundraiser has great appeal for anyone who attended the old Dallas High or elementary schools located there before 1983, or has a child or grandchild who did. With the addition of a stand, it would make a great place to write your grocery list or other reminders! The price is \$25.

New display: Rita Rusnak, a library volunteer, is another library patron who has suc-

cumbed to the appeal of Teddy bears. The bear purchased in 1984 at a flea market started her collection. Succeeding ones were gifts from her family or were flea market or garage sale buys.

Best wishes for a holiday filled with the love of family and friends, and the warmth of happy memories, from all the library staff: the five Ms — Martha, Marilyn, Millie, Margaret and Mikki — and Anna, Brian, Cindy, Dan, Debbie, Edie, George, Janet and Rebecca.



70 Years Ago - Dec. 18, 1931

FIREMAN WILL DISTRIBUTE TO ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES

Great progress is being made by Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company in its work of soliciting clothing, food, and funds for needy families of Dallas and vicinity. Many persons have contributed foodstuffs, clothing and funds while children of the community have helped in gathering used toys and bringing them to the firemen's headquarters.

George Gould became a member of the staff of The Dallas Post. Due to increasing work in The Post's job printing department there was a need to hire another person. Mr. Gould will have charge of circulation and mailing as well as other duties.

A benefit dance for the needy will be held at Kunkle Community Hall. The proceeds of which will be turned over to the use of Henry M. Laing Fire company to use in its work of assisting needy families of the region.

60 Years Ago - Dec. 1941

WAR FAILS TO BLACK OUT CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

In spite of the war with its

blackouts all over the world, Dallas has its finest Christmas lighting this year. A beautiful Christmas tree, trimmed entirely with red lights, has been placed in the center of the community at the intersection of Main street and the harvey's Lake Highway. Strings of multi-colored lamps have been strung along both sides of Main street.

Women of the Dallas Rotary entertained their husbands at their annual Christmas dinner party at Dallas Inn. Mrs. John Nicholson, president of Rotary Anns welcomed the guests and R.J. Breslin, Rotary president responded.

The Navy Department announced that 361 newly-appointed Aviation Cadets, U.S. naval Reserve, have reported for advanced flight training at Pensacola and Jacksonville, Fla., and Corpus Christi, Texas. Among the Cadets, is Robert Lewis Fleming, Dallas.

50 Years Ago - Dec. 21, 1951

FIREMAN GET NEW FIRE TRUCK

Truckville Fire house is sheltering the latest thing in fire trucks for rural communities. The new fire truck was delivered bringing in its 500 gallon tank, a full load of St. Lawrence River water to mingle with that of Toby's Creek.

Plans for modernization of classrooms in Dallas Township School, have finally become a reality. Installation of beautiful, up-to-date chairs and desks for the four classrooms was completed. Modern fluorescent lighting, designed by General Electric, was installed. The new furniture was purchased from Kurtz Brothers, Clearfield.

Ronald C. Doll, son of H. Stanley Doll, Dallas, has won his doctorate in Education at Columbia University, specializing in school supervision and curriculum development. Doll, was a former principal of Dallas Borough and Dallas Township.

40 Years Ago - Dec. 21, 1961

VETERAN LINEAR EMPLOYEE AWARDED FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

P.H. Moore, vice-president, Plant Manager of LINEAR, INC., presented a gold watch to Roy Lear in recognition of 25 years service with the company. Mr. Lear joined in 1936 at Philadelphia and in 1956.

Second Lt. Robert D. Richardson, Dallas, joined the 402nd Military Police Prisoner of War Camp of Wilkes-Barre. Lt. Richardson will serve as camp supply officer, replacing Capt. Frank G. Koronkiewicz.

Lake-Lehman Educators' Association held its annual Faculty-School Board Christmas Banquet at Irem Temple Country Club. mar. James S. Williams was in charge of the arrangements.

30 Years Ago - Dec. 21, 1971

LAKE-LEHMAN PRAISED FOR AUDIT REPORT

Lake-Lehman School District has received accolades from David H. Kurtzman, secretary of education in Pennsylvania, for its third error-free audit report made by the Office of the Auditor General for the Lake-Lehman School District.

Esther Arendt, daughter of Mary Arendt, Noxen, was named

to the academic dean's list at the conclusion of the fall term at Alderson-Broadus College in Philippi, W. Va.

Members of the Ladies Auxiliary of Lehman Volunteer Fire Company were hostesses at a Christmas Party for the firemen of the company. The "Flute Trio" of Lake-Lehman High School entertained with several selections, accompanied by Vera Tough. The girls in the trio are Debbie McKeel, Helen Jean Earl and Lynda Tough.

20 Years Ago - Dec. 16, 1981

WEIS EMPLOYEES TO SHARE \$915,000

Sigfried Weis, president of Weis Markets, Inc., announced Christmas Profit Sharing Bonus checks totaling over \$915,000 have been distributed to more than 6,400 employees. This is the 35th consecutive year that Weis Markets has shared a portion of its profits with its employees.

Dallas Township held a winter carnival which was held in the school's gymnasium. This was the culmination of many weeks of work by many supportive PTO members under the co-chairmanship of Marsha Paczewski and Jean Utter. Hundreds of handcrafted articles were supplied to be sold as Christmas gifts to children in "The Corner Shoppe". Children visited with Santa and played many games.

Airman David J. Williams, son of David E. Williams of Shavertown, and Mary Frelove of Oregon, has been assigned to Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., after completing Air Force basic training.

Early deadlines for holidays

Due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the deadline for all contributed news items, photos and classified and display advertising for the December 27 and January 3 issues of The Dallas Post will be 5 p.m. the Friday prior to the publication date.

Delivery of subscriber and newsstand copies will not be changed.

The Dallas Post

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Back Mountain Food Bank drop points

The Back Mountain Food Bank has established drop-off points throughout the area.

The food bank plans to assemble Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for 120 local families, 38 more than last year. Non-perishable items may be dropped off at any of these locations. Cash donations may be sent to the Back Mountain Food Bank,

c/o Truckville United Methodist Church, 40 Knob Hill Rd., Truckville PA 18708. For information, call the church office at 696-3897.

Pickett's Charge

64 E. Center Hill Rd., Dallas.

The Dallas Post

607 Main Rd., Dallas.

Dallas Photo Shop

447 Memorial Hwy., Dallas.
Century 21, Ruth K. Smith Real Estate, Inc.

358 S. Memorial Highway, Shavertown.

The Treasure Chest

Main Rd., Dallas.

St. Francis Cabrini Church

585 Mt. Olivet Rd., Wyoming.

Truckville

Methodist Church

Church Rd., Truckville.

United