

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

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SNOW

Well, it's a white Christmas, all right. A large part of the continent is covered with snow tonight. Santa Claus says that 's fine. It will help his reindeer a lot and will make it easy for them to pull his sleigh.

CHRISTMAS TREE

Page _____

1 There's a woman out in Los
2 Angeles who is having ^{plenty of} ~~sweet~~ music for
3 Christmas, and ~~that's~~ because she put
4 up a Christmas tree in her front yard,
5 ~~it's~~ a Christmas tree for birds.

6 She dipped it in melted suet
7 mixed with nuts, seeds, popcorn, and
8 other tidbits ^{that birds like for} ~~of a~~ Christmas dinner, ~~for~~
9 ~~birds~~. And, according to the Associated
10 Press, ~~already~~ the birds have flocked
11 to it: ^{by the thousands!} --thrushes, blue jays, linnets,
12 song sparrows, turtle doves, wrens,
13 and goldfinches. They are ^{all} perched in
14 that Christmas tree ~~for birds and are~~
15 singing ~~sweet~~ Christmas carols.

16 That's a grand idea. I think
17 I'll try it. So if you see me running
18 around tomorrow with a lot of
19 suet mixed with nuts you'll know
20 what I'm up to. You'll know I'm
21 trying to make friends with the
22 blue jays and goldfinches.
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BOSTON

It's going to be a Merry Christmas at the Deer Island prison in Boston Harbor - at least it ought to be. A number of prisoners did a rather heroic thing today when a fire x broke out. The blaze destroyed a boathouse, and there was a five hundred gallon gasoline tank near it, also four fifty-gallon drums of gasoline. And that stuff was just about ready to explode. It took courage but the prisoners plunged right in and helped the keepers put the blaze out, and for that they are entitled to a merry Christmas.

Now

1 No, this one isn't any attack
2 on the government. It was just a
3 mistake.

4 Out in Chicago, Thomas Novotny
5 was on trial, charged with running a
6 confidence game. He said he was from
7 Washington and that his headquarters were
8 at 1641 Pennsylvania Avenue.

9 "I think he must be making a
10 mistake about that address," said the
11 State's attorney. But Novotny was sure.
12 ~~Then the State's attorney thought he had~~
13 ~~better see whether he was right. And he~~
14 ~~found he was.~~ The address Novotny gave
15 is the White House, which is officially
16 listed as 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue but
17 also includes 1614.

18 The United Press tells us that
19 when Novotny was told definitely what
20 that address was, he thought it over and
21 guessed he had made a mistake.

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1 Here's an ^{another} item about trees.
2 Not Christmas trees. These forest
3 giants were green eons before Christmas
4 was ever heard of.

5 The United Press says that up ~~north~~
6 ~~in the~~ ^{in northern Alberta,} Canada, a mummified forest has been
7 discovered, and it is believed to be
8 the oldest in the world. Geologists
9 say it's fifteen million years old and
10 it's one of the most important scientific
11 discoveries of recent years.

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FOOD

I suppose some of you are thinking about that Christmas dinner tomorrow. Well I have just learned that a man weighing 170 pounds eats his weight in food every month, and we each eat on an average of a little over a ton of food a year. That seems a lot, and I suppose Christmas does more than its share to help bring the average up so high. Those figures come from an article in the new Literary Digest, ~~and~~ an article headed "Our Changing Food Habits". The Digest goes on to say that our food habits have changed a good deal in recent years.

We eat a lot more sugar than we used to. In 1900 we each consumed 68 pounds per year. Now the figure is nearly double. Also we are eating more pork and veal and less beef and lamb; less rye, corn and barley, and a lot more green vegetables. Yes, and we eat a great deal more spinach.

Spinach is healthy they say. I like it. But tomorrow is one day when I am not going to say "Pass the spinach."

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of the Madonna, but not one of the familiar pictures of the Madonna that we so often see. It's a reproduction of an almost forgotten painting by Correggio, but marvelously done.

1 Of course, there are ^{always} some places
2 in the world where they are not celebrating
3 Christmas in the proper spirit. In
4 Serbia for example 17 army officers ~~are~~ have
5 ^{gone to} ~~in~~ jail ^{tought} on charges of conspiring against
6 the government. According to the
7 International News Service they are
8 members of an organization called the
9 League for Justice and Freedom, and they
10 are charged with circulating proclamations
11 denouncing the king ^{of the Serbs — and}
12 ^{the Serbian government doesn't think}
13 ^{this is the polite thing to do at Christmas}
14 ^{time when all should be "Peace on}
15 ^{earth - Good Will Toward Man."} So
16 they have been hustled off to a dungeon.

1 And in Burma there is trouble
2 in the wild, strange region along the
3 upper banks of the Irrawaddy River. The
4 villagers are in revolt, ~~and are~~ killing
5 government officials and looting railroad
6 stations. The International News Service
7 informs us that the trouble is about
8 some new taxes which the government
9 has decreed.

10 I once floated up and down the
11 Irrawaddy for two months in my own boat
12 and all the people I encountered were
13 cheery, laughing and contented. ^{Out there} The
14 women do most of the work while the men
15 gamble away their wives earnings.

16 Burma is really one of the happiest
17 countries on Earth. A land of rice
18 fields, teak forests, mysterious rivers,
19 people dressed in bright colors smoking
20 whacking white cheroots, a country of
21 elephants, tinkling temple bells and
22 golden spired Pagodas.

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TURKEY

And then in Turkey soldiers are fighting against rebels. The rebels are ardent Mohammedans who are against the modern ways of the present government of Turkey. According to the International News Service they want a sultan once more, a sultan with a big old fashioned hareem, and veiled ladies. In other words they want the good old days.

DOLORES

1 Over in London there is a woman
2 who has asked permission to enter a
3 convent as a nun. She is Dolores,
4 famous as an artist's model and a dancer.
5 They call her the vamp who destroyed
6 a soul. She is famous as a faithless
7 beauty. Three men have ~~committed~~ ^{ended their days}
8 ~~suicide~~ on her account. People avoid
9 her. Men are warned against going near
10 her. And now, ~~according to the~~
11 ~~International News Service,~~ she intends
12 to become a nun. She says she wants to
13 make up for some of her misdeeds by
14 helping the sick and the poor as a Sister
15 of Mercy .

WISHBONE

Well, I never heard of anything quite like this item before. I've seen souvenir hunters of all kinds -- some who would even chip the nose off a jade Buddha or clip the hairs off the tail of a sacred Hindu cow. But here's a new one,

Souvenir hunters are collecting wishbones! According to the Associated Press, Governor Larson, of New Jersey, reports that he got two requests for the wishbone from his Christmas turkey.

"They won't get it," said the Governor. And then he added:- "We always made use of our own wishbones."

BUBBLE

From London comes a dispatch that this universe of ours is just one big bubble. Now, if you've ever blown soap bubbles you'll know that a bubble doesn't last long. You blow it up just so far and then it bursts. From which one would infer that this big bubble which is the universe is liable to blow up at any time. But don't let this thought spoil your Christmas eve celebration because the bubble isn't going to burst.

According to the Associated Press, Sir James Jeans, a famous British scientist, came out with the news that the universe is a bubble, but he says there's no chance that it will explode, simply because it has exploded. It's exploding ~~ix~~ right now. And life, and the world, and the universe are all just parts of a big bubble that's in the process of blowing up, says Sir James. I wonder where he gets his inside information?

Well, from the realm of bubbles let's run up to the Polar regions for a moment, up where they have six months night and six months day.

REINDEER

This next is a true story right from the home of Santa Claus. It's about snow, and the northern lights, and Esquimaux, and particularly about the reindeer, and an interesting family of white people who live up there.

These white people are Santa Claus' chief helpers. At any rate, they look after most of his great reindeer herd. It's a strange story that I am going to tell you and so far as I know it has never been told before. Here's the tale:-

Right at this moment, while we are getting ready to celebrate Christmas, and white Santa Claus is traveling south across the snows with his famous reindeer, Dunder, and Blitzen, and Comet, and the rest of them, a herd of 4,000 other reindeer is in the midst of one of the most remarkable journeys in history. These 4,000 reindeer are being driven from Alaska to Canada. With them are some more of Santa Claus' assistants, Laplanders and Esquimaux, acting as herders.

These four thousand reindeer are being driven all the way across the top of the North American continent in order to

save the lives of thousands of people who are in danger of being wiped out. I mean the Esquimaux of Canada. For the Eskimo, they say, are finding it difficult to get enough food as the result of the coming of the white man with his high-powered weapons. The white man has been killing off the game.

Well, the men who are responsible for this great reindeer migration belong to one of the most famous families in the Far North. In fact, next to Santa Claus himself I think they are the most famous. They are the Lomens of Nome. Perhaps the most widely known member of the family is Carl Lomen. I too, once spent a good deal of time up in Alaska and on a number of occasions visited the Lomen's headquarters at Nome. I have just seen Carl Lomen, and it was from him that I learned about this present reindeer migration.

About forty years ago Uncle Sam

1 discovered that his Esquimaux children
 2 in Alaska were in trouble. Their game
 3 was getting scarce. So Uncle Sam
 4 imported a few reindeer from Lapland to
 5 try and start a new industry. The
 6 reindeer multiplied rapidly; the
 7 Esquimaux became prosperous; and then
 8 the American government permitted white
 9 men to become reindeer owners too.

10 Today Carl Lomen and his brothers are
 11 the reindeer kings of the Far North.
 12 They have over a quarter of a million
 13 reindeer! So you see why I call them
 14 Santa Claus' chief assistants.

15 Recently the Canadian government
 16 discovered that the ~~■~~ Canadian Esquimaux
 17 were in the same plight that the Alaskan
 18 Esquimaux were 40 years ago. ^{Perhaps reindeer}
 19 ~~wanted reindeer.~~ ^{Canada} It was difficult to
 20 get them there by ship. So they called
 21 in Carl Lomen, of Nome. He promised to get
 22 ~~deliver them, and then~~ ^{reindeer for them somehow,} He picked ~~some~~
 23 ~~of his best~~ ^{best} deer and his best Lap and
 24 Esquimaux herders. ^{Then} He started them out
 25 across Alaska, over the vast barren wastes

1 It may take three or four years for
 2 them to finish the journey. Much of
 3 the time they are traveling across
 4 ^{thru a bleak land of barren plains, ice and nameless} unexplored regions, ^{mountain,} ^ Tonight, up there
 5 beneath the sizzling, crackling northern
 6 lights, those 4,000 reindeer are on
 7 the march, on their way to save a race
 8 of people, ^{to save} ^ the children of the Midnight
 9 Sun.

10 The story of what the Lomens
 11 have done with reindeer is one of the
 12 epics of the Far North. Among other
 13 things, they have recently produced an
 14 entirely new animal, a cross between
 15 the wild caribou of Alaska and the
 16 domesticated reindeer from Lapland.
 17 Their experiments were made in
 18 cooperation with experts from the United
 19 States Biological Survey. The ~~is~~ new
 20 animal is called the carideer, ~~taking~~
 21 part of the name ^{coming} ^ from the caribou and
 22 part from the reindeer. The interesting
 23 thing about it is that the ~~average~~
 24 full-grown carideer ^{averages} ~~is~~ ^ 50 pounds heavier
 25 than either the reindeer or the caribou.

It seems to be sturdier and more powerful too.

But the thing that appealed most to me was Carl Lomen's story of those thousands of reindeer that by the eerie, spectral light of the aurora borealis, are in the midst of their thousand mile journey across the snows along the Polar rim, this Christmas Eve.

XMAS CARDS

A week or so ago I mentioned a distnch from London which told us that the first Christmas card was sent in the year 1844. Here comes a letter from Mr. W. A. Holgate of Hartford, Connecticut enclosing a clipping from a Hartford paper which assures us that the first Christmas card was printed in 1843 instead of 1844. It was a picture of a fine Christmas dinner, and that's what I hope all of you are going to have tomorrow when you gather around the turkey.

For days now the mail carrier has been bringing me loads of Christmas cards from all over the country, from radio friends. And I feel right now as I were saying Merry Christmas to each one individually.

Stacks of Christmas cards have been coming in from Children too, and nothing pleases me any more than that. For instance, here's one lad who writes me from here in New York State. His name is Herbert Bowerman, and he says he is eight years old. Herbert sends me a card and a personal note in which he writes:-

"Dear Lowell:

I just want to tell you about my bunny. We have had him a month today. He is Dutch rabbit, and I feed him carrots, bread, celery and lettuce, and I gave him some pumpkin pie today. His name is Skippy. I love him dearly. He has a black tail and four white feet. About twice a week I take him in my x playroom where I have an electric train. My train goes very fast. Well, once, the bunny got in the way of the train, and you should have seen the wreck."

The letter is signed "Your friend Herbert."

Well, if I could just make friends with all the youngsters in the country that would be the finest Christmas present I could get. And before I run along home I want to wish all of you the Merriest Christmas you have ever had, and I hope that old Santa and his reindeer will stop at your house and drop down your chimney a big bag of toys for the kids and loads of good cheer for all. So, Merry Christmas and,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

EXECUTIONER

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Here's one of those bits of news that make us wonder at the strange things that go on in the human mind. Over in Czecho-Slovakia the official executioner gave interviews to newspaper reporters, and ^{the Int. News Service tells us} these were printed far and wide. Then, ~~according to the International News Service~~ ^{Then} six thousand women wrote to the executioner proposing marriage. ^{do you} Just ~~how could one~~ ^{explain that?}

1 Some time ago I believe I told
2 about a debate ~~over~~ in England regarding
3 a name for the little princess, the
4 daughter of the Duke of York.

5 Here's a letter from Sister
6 Mary Vincent, of the College of St.
7 Elizabeth, at Convent Station, New Jersey,
8 informing us that the best name for any
9 girl is Mary.

10 She tells me that while times
11 may have changed and girls may have
12 changed, the good old name of Mary is
13 still popular. Of 259 students enrolled
14 at the College of St. Elizabeth, exactly
15 100 have the grand old name of Mary.

16 Lots of corrections and
17 suggestions are pouring in from
18 listeners, and I am delighted to get them.
19 I enjoy them all whether they are slaps
20 on the back or kicks on the shins. The
21 kicks often are combined with interesting
22 and valuable bits of information and
23 opinion. For instance, a short while
24 ago I mentioned a mule that had worked
25 in a mine for 12 years, and when they

1 took him out he didn't know what grass
2 was. Well, one letter expresses surprise
3 that I didn't know why that poor old
4 mule couldn't recognize grass. It was
5 because he was blind. An animal kept
6 in the ^{semi-}darkness of a mine for 12 years
7 ~~would hardly be able to see grass or~~
8 ~~anything else, of course.~~ would be
9 pretty sure to lose his sight.

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POEM

Newspapers everywhere today are printing Christmas poems. I even saw a Christmas carol on one of the sporting pages. It was in the New York Herald Tribune, and by Richards Vidmer. Vidmer goes rhyming along, telling about a gathering of old sportsmen who are sad because things aren't as they used to be. The great ~~heroes~~ heroes of sports are passing. Bobby Jones has retired, and Babe Ruth is about through, and Jack Dempsey is a has been, and they say there are no more heroes left. And here's the way the poem concludes:

Then out of the night and the new fallen snow
Came a little old man, whom they all seemed to know;
His whiskers were white and his nose was quite red
And his cap sat askew on his little round head
They sat up and grinned, then burst out with applause
One hero was left - there was still Santa Claus!

1 Every news agency carries a
2 story today from Bethlehem, a story
3 telling about the impressive religious
4 ~~RE~~ ceremonies held this morning in the
5 Church of the Nativity, the Church
6 built over the traditional spot where
7 the Saviour was born in the manger. In
8 fact, the solemn mass commenced at the
9 stroke of midnight. The Associated
10 Press correspondent in Palestine cables
11 that it was an affair of great pomp and
12 splendor.

13 According to the United Press
14 pilgrims came to Bethlehem this year
15 from all parts of the world. They
16 arrived afoot, in donkey carts, by
17 camel, and in luxurious limousines.

18 The scene was one of startling
19 contrast. Although it has been years
20 since I was there I can close my eyes
21 and picture that throng just as though
22 I were there last this morning:-

23 Women in glittering evening
24 dress, kneeling beside the picturesque
25 villagers in their garments of many

1 colors; hundreds of priests, from the
2 old world, with their black flowing
3 gowns and their stove-pipe hats; lights
4 from thousands of candles glistening
5 from the crystals of the candelabra
6 that hang from the roof of the church
7 like stalactites in a cavern.

8 At midnight with the tolling of
9 the bell the priests pull the silken
10 cords and draw back the curtain from
11 the spot where they tell us the babe
12 was born in the manger. Then the organ
13 thunders forth and the voices of the
14 choir chant: - "Blessed is he that
15 cometh in the name of the Lord."

16 Thus is Christmas Day ushered
17 in at Bethlehem.

18 Up until the World War, as
19 we all know, the sacred places of
20 Christendom, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, the
21 Mount of Olives, Nazareth, and so on,
22 were in the hands of the Mohammedan.
23 For a thousand years, it had been the
24 dream of Western peoples to liberate the
25 Holy Land, and as we know, this actually

was accomplished during the World War.

By a stroke of good luck I happened to be attached to the Allied Army under Lord Allenby that swept the Turk from the Holy Land.

1 Allenby had under his command
2 the greatest cavalry force in all
3 history. He had 60,000 camels too.

4 He launched his attack against
5 the little town of Beersheba. After they
6 had driven out the Turkish army thousands
7 of Allenby's men and their horses watered
8 themselves at a historic little well, the
9 same well according to tradition, where
10 Abraham and Lot used to water their
11 flocks.

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12 Then Allenby, with a second bold
13 stroke sent his army against the ancient
14 capital of the Philistines, the city of
15 Gaza, the city where Delila cut Samson's
16 hair, and where Samson pulled down the
17 temple.

18 After the fall of Gaza Allenby's
19 army swept on north until they came to
20 the most famous road in the world, the
21 old road to Jerusalem.

22 Finally they surrounded both
23 Bethlehem and Jerusalem, capturing the
24 most sacred places in all Christendom
25 without firing a shot.

1 ~~xxx~~ Very few know that the first
2 Christian Governor of Bethlehem since the
3 days of the Crusades of old, was an
4 American. Allenby had an American officer
5 in his army, a friend of mine, named
6 Colonel Camp, and he appointed him as the
7 Governor.

8 I happened to get an interesting
9 trophy from Bethlehem which I highly
10 prize. It was the last Turkish flag to
11 fly over the Turkish headquarters at the
12 birthplace of Christ.

③ 13 The capture of Jerusalem was a
14 curious affair. The London Cockneys
15 were ~~xxxxx~~ camped in the hills several
16 miles away. An English officer, a friend
17 of mind, who used to be an actor here
18 in America, sent his cook out foraging
19 for eggs. The cook got lost and suddenly
20 found himself before the walls of a great
21 city. In the distance were domes and
22 minarets. But the cook didn't have any
23 idea where he was.

24 As he walked up the road he
25 saw a group come from the western gate

1 of the city, carrying a white flag. The
2 city was Jerusalem and this was the Arab
3 mayor coming out to surrender to Allenby's
4 army. The Mayor tried to give the
5 surrender and the keys to the cook. The
6 **bockney** said:

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8 "Hi don't want your pipers,
9 Mister. What Hi want is heggs for my
10 hofficer."

11 And thus it was that the Holy
12 City fell into the hands of the Christians
13 again.
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1 And now comes a Christmas story
2 that should have been written by Dickens.

3 ~~xxxxxxx~~ It was Christmas
4 Eve in a New York tenement flat. The
5 father was a carpenter out of work. There
6 were no toys for the children, not even
7 food. The poor ^{youngsters} ~~kids~~ went to bed hungry.
8 The father sat up all night brooding.
9 Then at daybreak his desperation got the
10 best of him. ~~He~~ He was an honest working
11 man and robbery had never been near his
12 thoughts before. But now he went to a
13 drawer. There he had a rusty, broken
14 antique, an old pistol. ~~There~~ There were no
15 bullets in it and if there had been it
16 wouldn't work. He took it and went out
17 and the first man he saw was the milkman
18 coming down the line. He went up to the
19 milkman and drew the gun and demanded
20 money. The milkman saw he was no real
21 robber and started to talk to him. The
22 carpenter told his story. The milkman
23 said he couldn't give him ~~any~~ any money,
24 "but here, take this bottle of milk and
25 the kids will at least have some milk

for breakfast." The carpenter took the milk and went home.

But the milkman thought he might be desperate enough to be dangerous. So he called a cop, the cop arrested the carpenter and that poor family seemed to be worse off then ever.

In the police station the carpenter was charged with attempted robbery. He said his name was Pater Nostro and he told about his children at home. The New York Herald Tribune tells us that a lawyer named Leon Goodman happened to be in court and as he listened his feelings were touched. He said he would be Pater Nostro's lawyer and then he phoned around to get a judge to release the man on bail. Next the lawyer got baskets of food and toys and he and the father carried these around to the Pater Nostro tenement flat. It was bright Christmas morning now and the story ends as we could have it end. There was Merry Christmas in the ~~xxx~~ carpenter's household after all. And as we near the end of another Christmas day what could be more appropriate than to hope that all stories today have ended just as happily.

Goodnight until tomorrow.