

On Wednesday, December 22, 1647, the solid townsfolk of the ancient Cathedral city of Canterbury rioted angrily through their narrow streets.

For nearly a week they stoned and bludgeoned and manhandled their angry way around the city, carelessly stampeded. They continued in arms until Tuesday morning. There are none as yet dead, but diverse (many) dangerously hurt.

He added with shocked propriety, that the rioters had broken every window in the mayor's house and had tried to set fire to it.

What had happened which so roused the people of this slumbering backwater?

Just this: dictator Oliver Cromwell and his sin-sniffing Puritan benchman had decided that Christmas as a feast was to be banned throughout England. And the good mayor of Canterbury had been ill-advised enough to send out his town-crier with the announcement that "The Protector's" edict was going to be enforced in Canterbury.

As it happened, the Canterbury outbreak ended in a compromise. The rioters turned in their weapons in exchange for an official undertaking that there would be no prosecutions.

The townsfolk of Canterbury were not alone in their anger. Throughout the county of Kent and in London, Oxford and Ipswich riots flared. And as in Canterbury they were touched off by the town-crier's proclamation banning the celebration of Christmas.

These unhappy officials, however, were only doing their job. For in June of that year Cromwell's parliament had ruled that the feast of Christmas should no longer be observed under pain of punishment. And they had ordered, too, that from then on town-criers throughout England would remind the people of the new law a few days before Christmas. They had to tell the growing mobs that "Christmas day and all other superstitious festivals" were contrary to the law and that market should be kept and shops remain open on December 25th.

This was the climax of a campaign the Puritans had been waging for some years.

When the Civil War broke out in 1642, one of the first moves of the Cromwellian rebel parliament Christmas celebrations.

There was certainly room for moderation, for by tradition, Christmas was a time of unbridled extravagance in England. During the festive period the usual authorities at all levels good-naturedly relinquished their offices to Lords of Misrule (usually men who were underlings of one kind or another for the rest of the year).

A pre-Cromwellian poet described it thus:

Now kings and queens poor sheep cotes (coats) have And mate with everybody; The honest men now play the leave.

And wise men play the noddy fool.

The Lord of Misrule was on occasion provided with a "lady" who "married" him to the accompaniment of readings from the Book of Common Prayer, and discreetly reports a contemporary chronicler — "the affair was carried to its utmost extent."

Long before the Puritans under Cromwell seized power, they had hated Christmas. They never did like to see people enjoy themselves and, in addition, they associated the nationwide Christmas revels with the extravagances of the Royal Court which they detested.

So their first tentative move when they took over the reins of government was to suppress the traditional Christmas plays. These plays ranged from the humble "mumming of rustics (some of which survive even today) to the extravaganzas of the Court with

BEST WISHES



Cordially wishing you all a jolly Yuletide Season!

Queen Street Meat Market

MERRY CHRISTMAS



May your Christmas be surrounded by all the blessings and joys of this festive Holiday Season!

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ed their views even more ruthlessly but for the flare of rioting of which the Canterbury uprising was typical.

There is little doubt that the Government would have loved to be able to squash once and for all the "heathenish adoration" which Christmas Day was to them. But they were politicians enough to know that a nationwide revolt might be touched off if they went too far.

So they confined themselves to pinpricks. People who went openly to church on Christmas Day stood in danger of being arrested, "grilled" Gestapo-style by Roundheads and released after a few hours detention (calculated to scare them into keeping in line). Such a one was John Evelyn, the famous diarist, who was a staunch Episcopalian. He was arrested as he left Exeter Chapel on Christmas Day, 1657.

Under Cromwell's influence England's traditional Christmas mince-pies changed their shape. Hitherto they had been baked appropriately in the form of the crib of the infant Christ. But to the "protector" and his friends this savoured of popery; and so in order to enjoy this traditional delicacy without fear of persecution, bakers and housewives changed the shape to the normal round form which exists today.

So, Cromwell or no, Christmas and its celebration persisted in England in secret.

Who could hold out the longest — Cromwell or the people? In the last year of his life came the sign that Cromwell was weakening; that he wanted, somehow, to mollify the people.

He was approached by zealots who wanted his permission to send troops to suppress "heathenish" ongoings among Christmas celebrants.

Publicly, Cromwell let it be

known that he felt such action would be contrary "to the liberty of conscience so much owned by the Protector and his friends."

With his unparalleled gift for having his cake and eating it Cromwell let himself - publicly - be persuaded that, despite the nobility of his conscience, he was bound to do his unpleasant duty. The troops were ordered out to do their suppressing.

Soon afterwards Cromwell died and his Puritan Commonwealth crumbled. Charles II, the Merry Monarch, returned to the Throne and with him came Christmas again.

But even in the roaring days of the restoration, Christmas never quite got back to what it had been before Cromwell.

In fact it was a better Christmas. For it was as merry as before, but without the old excesses.

Elsewhere, though, the Puritanical influence persisted.

In Massachusetts, where early Puritan pilgrims had settled, Christmas did not become a lawful holiday until 1856.

And the Scots who had in their abhorrence of Christmas, antedated Cromwell's campaigns by nearly a hundred years, never really officially acknowledge the existence of Christmas, preferring to celebrate Hogmanay (New Year's Eve).

MERRY CHRISTMAS

May happiness ring in your holidays and accompany you through this glad season!

GRAFTON STREET ESSO SERVICE STATION
PETER DesROCHE, Proprietor

Hi!

Just poppin' in to wish you a very, very Merry Christmas!

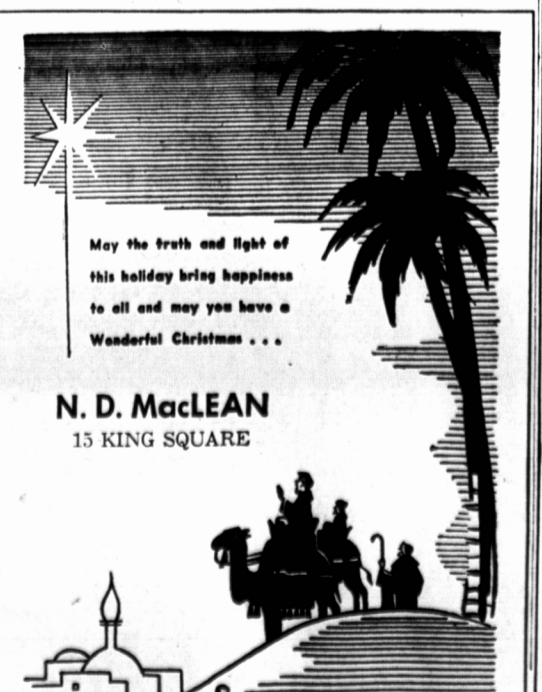
Kennedy's Ladies' Wear
166 QUEEN ST. DIAL 8925

A joyous Christmas is our sincere wish for our friends and neighbors. May good will and good fellowship be yours throughout the coming New Year



HELEN'S DRESS SHOP
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May the truth and light of this holiday bring happiness to all and may you have a Wonderful Christmas...



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The Mystery Of God's Firmament

The "STAR" which signaled "the first Christmas" may be interpreted in many ways. In all such interpretations we must put ourselves as nearly as possible into the social and psychological frame of mind of those whom we try to understand. The astronomer knows that through the ages the word "star" has been used to indicate almost any celestial phenomenon. We still speak of "falling stars" or "shooting stars" which we know quite well are not stars at all. In more ancient times the comet was called a "hairy star" and was derived from the Latin word coma, meaning hair. The planets were the "wandering stars," as opposed to the "fixed stars," and from the Greek word for wanderer we derive our word "planets."

The Star of Bethlehem could have been any of these. It could even have been a "new star" or nova which suddenly burst forth with a many-thousand-fold increase in brilliance. Due to some great stellar catastrophe. These are all explanations of what the "star" could have been. Had it been any of the above, it would have been seen by many peoples, and in literature would have been found references to the appearance of the object which attracted attention. But nowhere in the literature or in the folklore of any of the peoples noted as astute observers of celestial phenomena do these referen-

Christmas Blessings To All...



All of our staff joins with us in wishing you The Many Blessings of Christmas Happiness...

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HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Once again we pause from business details to honor our many fine customers and friends. Gratefully we say: Thanks, and merry Christmas.

URBAN McQUAID
SOUTHPORT



ALL IS CALM, ALL IS BRIGHT

This is the Spirit of Christmas that began on that silent and holy night in Bethlehem. May this same spirit bless your family, bringing you all the heart-warming joy of a Very Merry Christmas.



L. M. POOLE & CO.

\$400,000 Federal Surplus Anticipated For The Year

OTTAWA (CP) — The central government is looking to a \$400,000 budgetary surplus for the current fiscal year. It would be the largest federal surplus in eight years.

Finance Minister Harris said Friday the government surplus rose in November by \$46,548,000. This boosted the total for the first eight months of the fiscal year to \$387,600,000, a sharp gain from the \$105,654,000 in the similar period a year ago.

The expected surplus is well beyond the \$113,000,000 forecast last April by Mr. Harris for the entire 1956-57 fiscal year ending March 31.

REVENUE INCREASES

The finance minister's regular monthly statement showed a continuing heavy flow of revenue in November through individual, corporation and other tax collections. The rise in tax collections, reflecting a buoyant economy, far exceeded an increase in expenditures.

These rose in November to \$368,565,000 from \$340,166,000 a year ago. Expenditures for the eight months increased to \$2,837,000 from \$2,608,320,000.

On the basis of current indications it appears Mr. Harris will show an over-all surplus of between \$300,000,000 and \$400,000,000, the biggest since the \$595,500,000 in 1948-49.

Total revenues in November rose to \$415,113,000 from \$354,287,000 a year ago, increasing the eight-month total to \$3,224,927,000 from \$2,713,974,000.

RECORD HEAT

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP)—A record high temperature of 69 degrees for Dec. 21 was recorded here—the first day of winter. The old record of 67 was set in 1879.

BIG BEN BOOMING AGAIN

LONDON (Reuters)—Big Ben, the bell whose chimes mean London and home to Britons all over the world, will "broadcast" again Sunday morning after a rest of more than five months. The boom-ment, and its clock have been getting a thorough overhauling since July.

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From this we are forced to conclude the appearance of the star was a sight given only to the Wise Men to see.


Merry Christmas



To One And All
JOHNSON and JOHNSON
DRUGGISTS
Corner Prince and Kent Streets

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