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### Christmas Stars

By Norman C. Schlichter

(Written for N.C.W.A. Christmas Supplement)

Christmas Eve! And God's stars are ever the symbols of the holy Christmas Light.

Why not, then take a special look at the heavens on Christmas eve, or at the Christmas season?

The special star of Bethlehem which many believe was "His star in the East" will not be seen above us, but those who look in the eastern sky not long before a December dawn will see Venus, brilliant and beautiful, and some will presently say, "Behold His Star!" For such indeed it is, as are all the others.

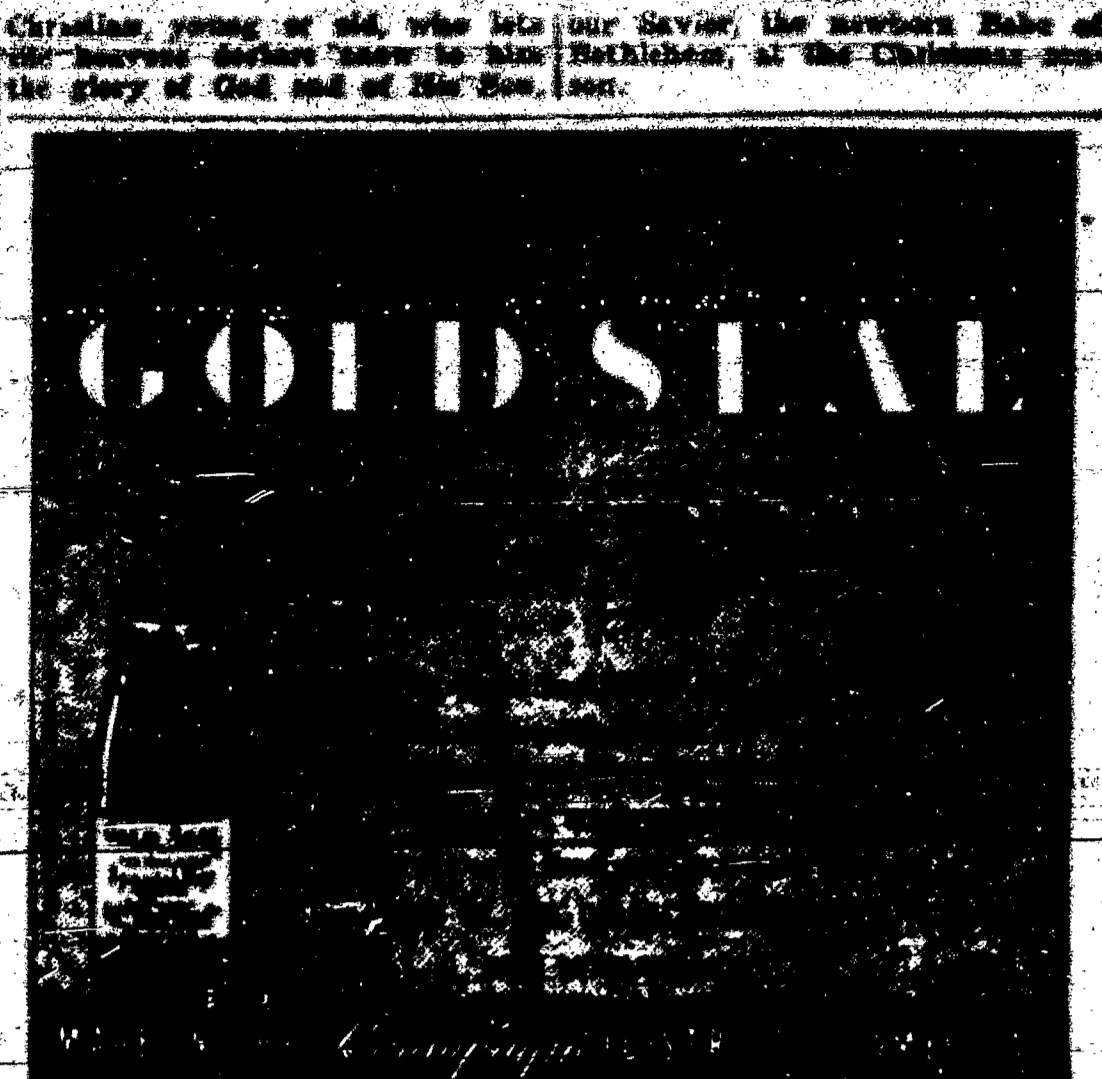
But there is no need to wait until dawn to take our worshipful look at the December night sky. All night long there is a great star of reward for those who look for it. Return in the constellation of Aquarius is very bright, and Mars, a companion planet, shines out from its low position in Capricornus in the southwest.

Many there are who seeing it, and regretting that its name symbolizes a thing so alien to the Christmas spirit as war, will pray anew for the coming of the glad universal Christmas peace.

What a Christmas this would be if such a time were at hand, and all Christendom were uniting in celebration of the change of the name of Mars to Peace! Perhaps the angels would sing their joy over such an event so loudly that we could hear them here on earth.

Uranus, in Aries; Pluto, in Gemini; and Neptune, in Leo; these are other planets in the Christmas star pageant. Those who can have their view through telescopes will, of course, see more of their splendor than is visible to the naked eye.

Sirius, the brightest of all stars, which we find easily in the Greater Dog, and Capella, a bright star in the constellation of Auriga, are right overhead for us to salute. To the south of Auriga, Orion, which many think is the most beautiful of all the constellations, will be displaying its everlasting glories.



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**The Three Wise Men**

The three stars in Orion's belt, Mintaka, Anilan and Alnila, have been thoughtfully renamed by reverent Christians for many, many years, the "Three Wise Men of the East" after the real Three Wise Men who followed His star to the lowly manger in Bethlehem.

And what star did they follow? What was "His star in the east?"

This is one Biblical question of perennial Christmas interest, and one that astronomers never quit studying.

Some of them think that His star was literally a "nova," or new star, created by a collision or near approach of two "dark stars." Such a new star would come out in marvelous brilliancy.

Others, including the renowned astronomer, Kepler, hold to the theory that His star was a conjunction of the three planets, Saturn, Jupiter and Mars. This conjunction occurs every eight hundred years in the constellation Pisces, the Fishes, and astronomical records seem to point to such a conjunction's taking place according to Roman chronology at the time of Christ's birth.

Christmastime star gazers should keep on until they have found three other fine constellations. These are Taurus with its famous plowstar seven, Cassiopeia and Perseus.

Happier and holier thoughts will be the joyful experience of every

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**Daily Morning Prayer**  
—Ship's Order No. 1

WASHINGTON. — Ship's order number one, the first official regulation announced by the captain of a new escort aircraft carrier prescribes daily morning prayer as a part of the ship's daily routine.

A copy of the order received at the office of the Chief of Naval Chaplains recently follows:

Subject: Morning Prayer.

"As part of the ship's daily routine morning prayer will be said by the Chaplain over the public announcing system of the ship. In part this will take place immediately following colon. At sea it will be of light tone at the morning watch, when operations per-

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