

The Courier Journal

Youth Section

JOE AND JUDY

By WALSH



Jonathan's Gift to a Baby

CHRISTMAS TREE PUZZLE

By Walter M. Marcellino, D.S.C.

Jonathan was terribly tired. Since before dawn he had been at busy doing errands of all kinds, and it would be very late, he saw, before he could lie on his hard pallet for a little rest. For the inn was crowded. Never since Jonathan could remember had Bethlehem been so alive.

A decree had gone out from the great emperor, Caesar Augustus, that the whole world should be enrolled, and that each should go to his own city, the home of his fathers, to list. All who were of the house of David were coming to Bethlehem of Judea.

Some came with servants and maidens, dressed in richments, riding in large carriages. Many of these stopped at the inn where Jonathan was, servant boy. What the poor boy did not matter to Jonathan's stern master, the innkeeper. He would take only the man who would pay him well. The innkeeper was wealthy, never did he seem satisfied with what he had. Now that all was prepared for the birth of the child he hoped for, the master was more than ever eager to get up treasure.

Jonathan knew how well everything was prepared for the coming of the expected child. He had been sent on an errand to the spacious part of the inn which was used by the innkeeper. He had seen the cradle, the piles of garments. Because he had dared to gaze in wonder, a curse and a reward had been Jonathan's reward.

Jonathan's reward was a servant boy who was used to the inn. He was cruel and hard. Often when it seemed too much to bear, Jonathan dreamed of olden days when he had gone with his shepherd father out on the hills to the sheep.

Jonathan dreamed of peaceful and good life then, and how joyful their coming to the cottage where his mother had their meal. In the evenings Jonathan's mother had told him stories which comforted the boy, now that God had in both his parents, and he, the humblest servant of the

inn, seemed to Jonathan that night the work would never finish. The inn was crowded with guests who shouted for and drink. There was merriment and fun for these travelers, but no rest for the hard-working servants. The master was shouting or ever ready to add a blow of satisfaction.

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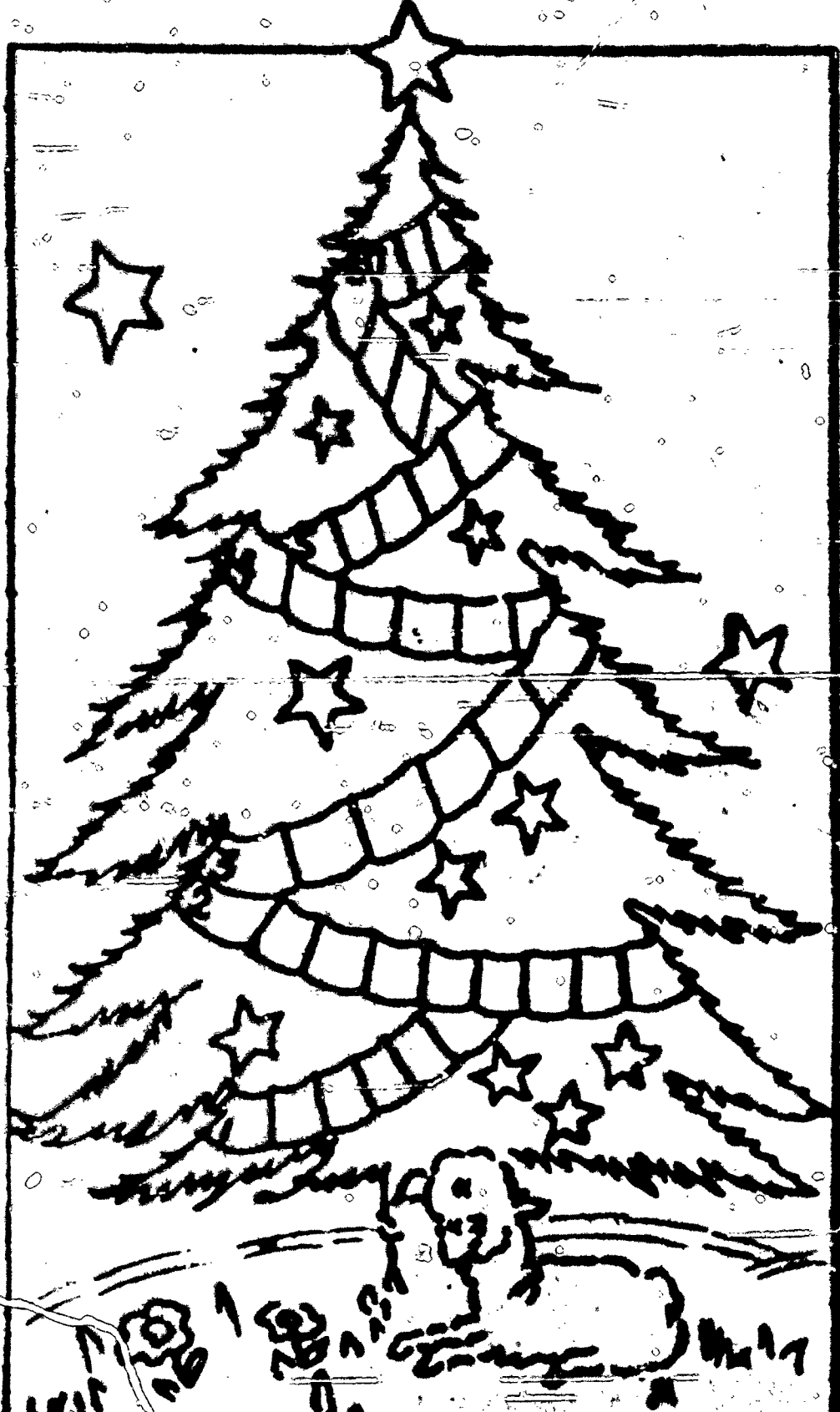
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Can you decorate this tree by filling in the correct words? Each answer is a word which is part of the most wonderful story ever told—the story of the first Christmas.

- 1-The kind of building in which Jesus was born because there was no room in the inn.
2-Simple people who were the first to be told of the coming of the newborn King.
3-The good carpenter of Nazareth who was the foster-father of Jesus and the protector of Mary.
4-Heavenly messengers who announced Christ's coming.
5-First word of the angels' song, "... so God in the highest, and on earth-peace to men of good will."
6-The name of the beautiful mother of Jesus.
7-The angels announced to the shepherds, "Behold we bring you tidings of great..."

Word Scramble

Unscramble the mixed-up words in this little Christmas story.

A TEEBEL was on the roof of the TERLAS that first Christmas night. He saw Baby Jesus. He wanted to be the one to tell the TEBENIC and RUPTESSEL and SRIBD about all he had seen. He stopped an GALEM and said how happy he was. The angel was pleased, and took a LEWEL from his hair and put it on the boy's back, as a Christmas gift. The TEEBEL was so proud, flashing his light over all Bethlehem, telling his friends the good tidings. And his friends gave him a new name. They called him TEEBEL.

Answers

- 1-INN
2-TWO
3-JOSEPH
4-ANGELS
5-GLORIA
6-MARY
7-WE BRING YOU TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY

Christmas Legend

This story was first told hundreds and hundreds of years ago. Because people liked the story, it is still being told at Christmas time.

It was about three days after the first Christmas. One of the shepherds who had been to the stable the night Jesus was born, settled down to sleep on his feather-bed, after a long cold day out on the hills with the sheep.

The shepherd's first dream was of little Jesus and the angel's. Suddenly he awoke, wondering if the Baby was warm and comfortable on His bed of hay in the manger. So worried did the shepherd become that he decided to get up at once, go to the cave, and give his feather-bed to Jesus.

Softly the shepherd went across the courtyard to the watchman at the gate. "I am going to give my warm feather-bed to the Baby Jesus," he said.

The watchman unlocked the gate, and the shepherd hurried over the path toward the stable. He had not gone very far, though, when he was stopped by a beautiful angel.

"Little Jesus does not need the feather-bed," the angel told the shepherd, "the love in your heart is enough for Him."

Then the angel promised that after the shepherd's life on earth was over, and he should be living forever in heaven, on every Christmas Eve he could scatter the feathers from his own feather-bed over the earth. It would be great fun to watch them fly.

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BRANNY BETSY

Many plants and flowers are used as Christmas decorations. Can you name those described here?

- 1-THIS PLANT has prickly points, and red berries which resemble drops of blood. They remind us that Mary's Child was to wear a crown of thorns.
2-Plant with peevish berries that was used by the early Christians to decorate the altars at Christmas time. Beneath it the Christians of long ago gave each other the kiss of peace and good will.
3-BY THE PEOPLE of Mexico, this flower is called "the flower of the holy night." In 1829 the United States minister to Mexico brought this plant home with him to North Carolina. It is named for him.
4-THIS TREE, with lance-like leaves and purple berries, is said to have sheltered the holy family during a thunderstorm. It was believed that lightning would never strike this tree. People took its branches and leaves into their homes at Christmas as a protection against misfortune.
5-THE BRANCHES of this plant are said to have held the little garments of the Christ Child, which Mary placed upon them. The blossoms bear the name of the child.