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Old Story Still World's Great News

BACK in 1936, the National Editorial Association, a newspaper syndicate, conducted a contest for the best story in modern form of the birth of Christ.

The winning news story, written by an Illinois newspaperman, began like this:

"Christ was born last night.

"While thousands who for generations had awaited His birth slept and were unaware, the promised Redeemer of mankind came into the world.

"Not with fanfare.

"Not with pomp.

"Not heralded by armies which so many of His people had imagined would accompany His coming to deliver them from bondage of a foreign empire and to restore to them the full glory of Solomon and his Temple.

"But humbly, with sheep and goats for attendants. He was born in a stable, because there was no room in the Inn of Bethlehem." The story continued with the message of the angels and interviews with shep-

herds, based upon scriptures.

The Ada News, and perhaps other newspapers, headlined this story at the top of Page One:

The Birth of Christ Is Still the Greatest News Story of All Time

No other event has had as extensive influence upon so many people for such a long time. Believers and nonbelievers alike have been affected spiritually and materially by the birth of Christ.

The great news event occurred before newspapers, magazines, radio, television, and tape recorders entered the scene. What would coverage of such an event be like today?

On-the-spot interviews, laser photographs, instant replays, commercials, gift guides, amplified tapes of the angels' voices, shepherds with guitars, background documentaries and hawkers offering commemorative T-shirts and souvenirs?

Some people think we have come pretty close to that state of affairs now, with greeting cards omitting

all reference to the birth of Christ and gift exchanges obscuring spiritual meaning.

"Christmas is more than just another holiday," says Billy Graham, noted Christian evangelist in *Decision* magazine. "Certainly, it can include gift lists, shopping, evergreen trees, tinsel, colored lights, frosted windows, get-togethers, parties.

"Christmas brings excitement, a new light in the eyes of children, and a warmth of heart not known at any other time. But this wonderful season of the year holds little meaning unless we have Christ in our hearts," Mr. Graham concludes.

"How many people discover the true Christmas spirit?"

No other influence in the world has been as beneficial to mankind as the true Spirit of Christmas, the Spirit of Christ.

It still is the greatest news story of all time!