

News of Interest

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“Who has believed our report? And to whom
has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

For He shall grow up before Him as a tender
plant And as a root out of dry ground. He has no
form or comeliness; And when we see Him,
There is no beauty that we should desire Him.

He is despised and rejected of men, A Man of
sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid,
as it were, our faces from Him; He was
despised, and we did not esteem Him.

“Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our
sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten
of God and afflicted.

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He
was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement
of our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes,
we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; We have
turned, everyone to his own way; And the Lord
has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He
opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to
the slaughter, And as a sheep before his shearers
is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

He was taken from prison and from judgment,
And who will declare His generation? For He
was cut off from the land of the living; for the
transgressions of My people He was stricken.

Bible Verses of the Month

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a
sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and
bear a Son, and shall call His name
Immanuel.”

-Isaiah 7: 14

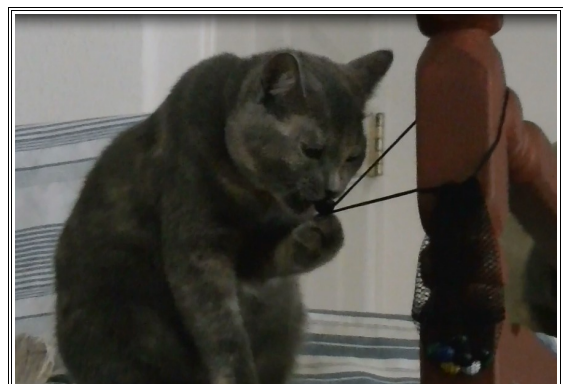
And they made His grave with the wicked – But
with the rich at His death, Because He had done
no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.

Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put
Him to grief. When You make His soul an
offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall
prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord
shall prosper in His hand.

He shall see the labor of His soul and be
satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous
Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear
their iniquities.

Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the
great, And He shall divide the spoil with the
strong, Because He poured out His soul unto
death, And He was numbered with the
transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, and
made intercession for the transgressors.”

-Isaiah 53



Town News

Christmas Concerts

The musicians, theater, and ballet studio have banded together to present a series of concerts throughout the entire month of December. The tickets' cost for the entire month of concerts is \$50 a family (discount price) and \$100 for individuals. Tickets for each concert are \$5 for a family and \$10 for individuals.

Below are the dates of each concert:

Week 1: 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 6th. Begins at 6:00 PM.

Week 2: 9th -12th (Play) and 20th (Concert) Play begins at 5:00 PM each day. Concert at 3:00 PM.

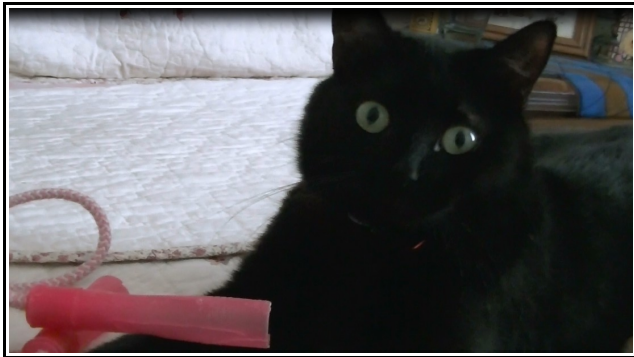
Week 3: 21st -23rd (Opera) Begins at 5:30 PM.

24th and 26th (Choir and Orchestra)

24th begins at 2:30 PM. 26th at 5:30 PM

Week 4: 29th - 31st (Grand Finale) At 5:00 PM.

-Sarah Trotter



J.O.Y. Band Coming in January

The J.O.Y. Band is arriving in January to Farjay during their tour. This band will be performing in the Rose Theater and the Plaza. Very popular, the band is expecting large turn-outs in the cities they will be performing in. Pear County's capital had a turn-out of a thousand people at one concert. "Jesus is the Way" is one of their most popular songs in addition to some story songs. \$3 per Animal and children under 2 have free entry.

-N.R. (News Reporter)

Book Store Opens on the Plaza

The Book Hut has just opened its doors before Christmas week. It already has become a popular store because not only does it sell books but it also offers references to editors, publishing companies (including their own), and printers. Their books range from the newest to some rarer titles. Already, this place has become a resort for book-lovers and writers.



-Sarah Trotter

Missing: Velvet Rose and George Fir

The two cousins have gone missing since the 27th according to Starlight Rose who saw them before they disappeared. "I suspect Velvet and George disappeared because they had an idea about one of the clues to the quest. I do not know what exactly," said Starlight to a reporter.

The two left early on the 27th and were carrying packs. George and Velvet left notes saying that they would be back, but the families have become concerned as the two have not returned for four days.

If you have seen any signs of them, please tell the police and the families. Thank you.

-N.R.

World and National News

Delta Follow-Up

The terrible disaster and loss of life that occurred eight months ago has finally been cleared up. By late November, the remains of the drowned Animals have all been buried including those who died of disease along the coast of Four Winds Harbor. Many of the dead are buried in cemeteries in Pearl County and Pear County.

In December, the shivering refugees who had camped along the outskirts of their damaged towns have been allowed to move into their new homes before Christmas. Officials say that the

towns are now habitable due to the ground drying up and the new buildings. Praise God!

Thankfully, the disease that spread along the coastal cities due to the unburied remains of the drowned Animals has cleared up since November. Roughly 200 Animals died of disease, totaling to 2,503 deaths (Flood victims are in this count).

The terrible loss of life that occurred due to flooding has caused counties to wonder if they can do something so that this does not happen again. Already, Pearl County and Shore County engineers have begun presenting ideas to their governments. We hope that a solution is found soon.

-Sarah Trotter

Civil War in Irisland

Civil war is again raging in Irisland. Two factions, the Freedom Fighters and Patriots, are fighting each other. The Freedom Fighters (F.F.) are technically rebelling against the Irisland government because they believe that it has gone too far with its regulations (interestingly, their main concern has to do with the potato regulations that keep the deadly disease at bay). Wanting to separate into their own nation, the F.F. has declared independence, but the government insists that they stay united.

The Patriots are Irislanders who disagree with the F.F., and are trying to bring them back. They believe that the F.F.'s stance on the potato regulations is dangerous due to possibilities of another epidemic. They insist that the government's regulations are necessary for their survival.

"Irisland is the most northern country on Animal. Many have predicted that our nation would fail in its first five years, but we have held on for thirty years despite two civil wars. The government has certain rigid regulations in order for our survival. It has been noted that during the civil wars the rebels were nearly killed by the harsh environment because they abandoned to keep the regulations that our government had put in place for our survival. Irisland is among the freest nations of Animal, but the F.F. Does not see it that way," said a Patriot.

From the opposite side, an F.F. said, "The Irisland government has too much control over the population. True, they allow us to have freedoms like speech, press, religion, etc.; however, they are seen in every part of life from the fields to the house. We look at other nations like Animalzania and want to be like them with limited government influence in our daily lives."

"How does your government influence your daily lives?" the reporter asked.

"In small ways," the F.F. answered. "In the field, we have regulations over potatoes and certain protocols we have to go through before they can be put on the market or sold. No farmer is allowed to sell his crops unless he has gone through the protocols. In the house, we have to make sure that the children are inside by night, there are numbers of little things we have to check. It is mandatory that our children attend the public school, etc. We feel that the government is too involved."

-Sarah Trotter

Jump Gate Technology

On December 7th, the A.S.S.E. received transmissions that the *Light Speed* had reached Ander IV, a colonized planet, and had begun setting up the experimental jump gate that would be linked to the one by Animal. On the 19th, they received transmissions again that an empty shuttle would be testing the jump gate the next day at 12 noon our time.

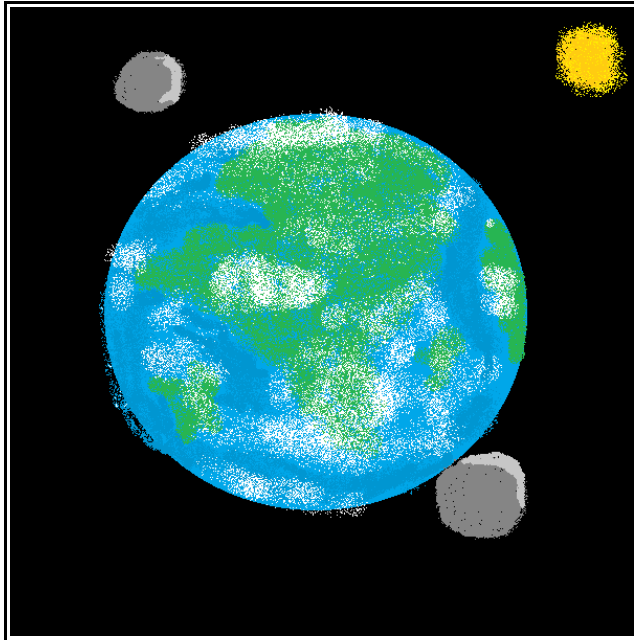
On the 20th, Animals waited to see the results of this test. Would it work this time? Would the ship come safely to Animal instead of some other place?

Noon came. The Moon Outpost monitoring the jump gate signaled that something was coming through the gate. A few seconds later the gate opened and the unmanned shuttle shot through the gate. The Outpost sent a party to inspect the shuttle and reported that it was in excellent condition. Then they sent the ship back through the gate where the *Light Speed* received it.

We have just achieved a breakthrough in jump gate technology that will influence our world for ages to come as Animals go to the

stars, explore, and discover!

-Sarah Trotter



Habitable Planet Discovered

The most Animal-like planet that has ever been found is Nixon X near the Gemini constellation. The atmospheric gases are the same as our planet's and in the same amount. Covered mostly by water, Nixon X has land masses and large islands scattered across its surface. There are signs of animal life, but the animals are herbivores.

Because of the planet's striking similarity to our own, the A.S.S.E. has decided to send a colony ship to colonize it.

-Sarah Trotter

Mr. Knottington Cleared as Investigations Turn to the A.F.O.

Mr. Knottington who was framed for the murder of the late John Green last month has been cleared of charges and released by the police. It appears that the police's further investigations show that the handwriting on the note left in Mr. Green's house was forgery. Closer inspection of the note revealed pawprints that do not match with Mr. Knottington's. Indeed, the notebooks and papers have been spotted in the A.F.O.'s hands, according to one witness who remains unnamed for safety reasons.

After careful comparisons, the police have matched the finger prints with Farcoff's secretary Joy Peace. The woman was arrested with some difficulty as president Farcoff refused to believe that his secretary's pawprint was identical with the one on the note. After being shown that the two were the same, he grew furious and let the police take Miss Peace.

Trials began on the 13th and revealed many strange things. Miss Peace refused to speak when questioned by the judges. But after a few days, replied that the murder involved the A.F.O. The A.F.O. representatives denied such involvement, stating that how could an organization that wanted to enrich the welfare of Animals kill someone they were trying to protect. The A.F.O. insists that Miss Peace is shifting blame so that she will not be found guilty.

But already, suspicions that have arisen since the beginning of the A.F.O. caused the judges to order a thorough investigation of the A.F.O.

-Sarah Trotter

Peace is Dead

On the 18th, Miss Peace was found dead in her prison cell with an similar note that was left with Mr. Green. The note was written using her own blood and said: "Your betrayal has brought this judgment upon you."

The death and bloody note shocked the public, as it should. The A.F.O. mourned for her as a lost person saying, "We mourn over the sudden death of Miss Peace, but we feel that it was deserved due to her murder of John Green. Yet, she was a member of the A.F.O., and we are deeply grieved over her erring ways."

-N.R.

A.F.O. Is in Deeper Trouble as Investigations Continue

Investigations reveal that Miss Peace had been working very closely with Mr. Farcoff at the time of Mr. Green's death and during the investigations. It appears that notes had been passing frequently between them and that Green's notebooks had been given to her for

disposal, from a witness that remains unnamed.

Detectives believe that the A.F.O. is responsible for the murder of both Mr. Green and Miss Peace. Why? They will not disclose the information to reporters, but it is suspected that they have been given inside information on the case.

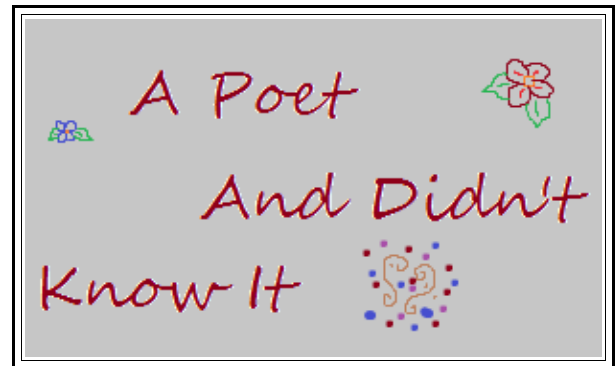
According to the detectives, they believe that Mr. Green was murdered because he had tried to leave the A.F.O. and their agenda disagreed with what he believed was right. A letter Mr. Green wrote to his friend points out that something was wrong:

"... I am afraid that my rash decision to join this movement [A.F.O.] will be my downfall. Already, I am seeing things that I disagree with as I get deeper into their organization. I've written down my observations, but I believe that I shall never be able to see them given to the world. I'm afraid."

"It appears that Mr. Green joined the A.F.O. because they appeared to be a great pro-Animal organization, but as he went deeper into it, he realized he needed to pull out. He tried and got killed/eliminated," said a detective. "That is the reason why the A.F.O. stole the notebooks and tried to get rid of them: he knew too much and had to be eliminated; he was a threat."

Already, the evidence that is being shown against the A.F.O. at the trials is heavily against them, yet they insist that the organization as a whole had not sanctioned the deaths of Mr. Green and Miss Peace.

-Sarah Trotter



"The Legend of the Pool"

In the dark woods,
There lies a silver pool,
Under the stars,
Unmarred by any tool.

The legend is still unknown.

A lady's tears
Were said to form it,
And there it lay for many years.

No ripple ever forms.
The lady cried away
For the man she loved.
She's cried for many a day.

At last her face is pale.
No sign of emotion lies
Upon it now
For her soul flies.

Maybe the pool –
Like her face –
Is waiting for her now,
As she, for her lover's embrace.

Now its waters are dark;
It mirrors only the past.
As strangers wander by it,
They see their own past.

So the dark woods surround
The placid pool,
Which lies beneath the stars
Unmarred by any tool.

-From the ancient legends of Faeriedome

“The Pool of Valaine”

In the dark wood,
There lay a pool
Where silver star
Were never seen like jewels.

Though they spanned
The dark skies; they were never
Mirrored by the pool –
Never, ever.

Valaine, the lady
Robed in blue,
Cried the tears
That fell like dew.

Till they made
A pool of tears:
A memorial of her deep sorrow
Which lay there for many years.

Her eyes were dimmed;
They saw not the stars.
Her soul could not be
Kept behind its prison bars.

Happy now is Valaine,
The lady robed in blue.
Happily, she sees the stars
Beneath the ever-yew.

The pool which lies here
Now is but an empty hollow.
The tears which she had wept
Have flown off like a swallow:

To be with her
Where they will forever
Mirror the jeweled heavens,
And never sorrow, never.

-The continuation of the “Legend of the Pool”;
an ancient legend of Faeriedome.



Author: Elyzabeth McDunn

Title: “The Woman Who Played With the World”
Part 2

Moral: The Corruption of Power

*The Earth's rotation has changed!
Millions are cringing in fear of what might
happen next. Little do they know that it is all
because of a woman in the Central Valley – the
woman with a strange mark on her shoulder –
who is somehow connected to a globe with the
same mark...*

Another person who lived in the Central Valley was a man who was attracted to the woman with the mark on her shoulder. He had known of the mark's existence and history, but he had still loved her. When the strange phenomena occurred, he decided to visit the woman to see if she was all right.

He bicycled to her house and knocked on her front door. “Beatrice!” he called. “It's Arthur!”

When no one answered, he began to worry. He knocked again and called, but no one came. Then, he stood still, pressed his ear to the door, and listened.

He heard a quiet shuffle and an incoherent whisper, but he knew it was Beatrice. “Why does she not answer?” he thought. “Maybe she's afraid.”

He knocked loudly on the door and yelled, “Beatrice! It's Arthur! I know you're in there; open the door. Are you all right?”

Finally, he heard the locks click, and Beatrice opened the door.

"You're not welcome, Arthur," she said coldly.

"What has happened, Beatrice?" Arthur asked. "Are you all right? I came over to see if you were all right."

"I am fine, Arthur," replied Beatrice. "More than fine – I feel wonderful!"

Her excited face caused Arthur to feel uneasy. "No, something is not right here, Beatrice," insisted Arthur. "Why are you acting this way; are we not friends?"

"Fine," said Beatrice. She opened the door wider and let Arthur inside.

He stepped inside, cautiously and carefully scrutinizing everything. He saw the blue bottle lying neglected on the sofa and knew that something was amiss because it was not even opened (he knew Beatrice too well). Then, he glanced at the table. Beatrice had hastily covered the globe with her torn jacket. With a few strides, he reached the globe, lifted the jacket, and saw the mark on the globe.

He turned to Beatrice and asked, "Is this what you were hiding?"

Beatrice's eyes glittered coldly as she answered, "Yes."

Arthur's mind connected the mark on the globe to Beatrice's mark on her shoulder. Since his mind was still vividly imaginative, he exclaimed:

"Don't tell me that it is you who did this!"

"It was I," replied Beatrice. A proud smile spread across her face.

"Why don't you fix it?" Arthur asked. He looked at Beatrice with his stern green eyes.

"There are some things you will never understand, Arthur," began Beatrice mockingly. "You are just a student attending Fresno State in hopes of receiving a B.A. in journalism. What do you know of power? I have felt it – felt its strength. I desire it. With this globe, I can rule the world. I can sway mankind to kneel at my feet for fear of my power. What do you know of this, Arthur? You will never feel it – the awful majesty of power!"

Arthur watched Beatrice as she spoke. The evil light in her eyes flames. She began to speak rapidly with delight. The combination of

her words and appearance gave her a crazed look in his mind.

"I know about power," he replied softly. "It can destroy what is good in a person till she is left evil and empty. How many dictators, kings, and empires have become powerful and fallen! How many men have abused their power – slaughtering millions, innocents and old; raping women; oppressing and enslaving the weak, and devouring their own souls! Power corrupts, and good intentions become bent when power-hungry individuals abuse it.

"Not all power corrupts, though. There are those who do good with their power, but how few are they!

"Beatrice, do not do this. Fix the mess you have made – if you can –, and allow me to destroy this globe."

Beatrice stood there. The light in her eyes was cold and grey. She raised her head proudly, "No." In a fierce voice, she added, "And if you dare lay a finger on that globe – I'll..." Her voice trailed off in uncertainty.

"I'll leave, Beatrice," said Arthur. "Think about all of this. Is it really what you want? Do you sincerely desire that all men be under your power? Will you truly be happy with it? I love you, but I believe what you are doing is not right. Good bye, Beatrice."

He left the house. Beatrice stood there uncertain and thoughtful.

The End of Part 2 Part 3 is Coming.



Thank you for reading our newspaper. We hope it has been a blessing!

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If you would like to become a member, have a question or comment, or want to send in a fiction article, story (one with morals), or poem to the newspaper, please email:

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Why Celebrate Christmas?

Why do we celebrate Christmas? In the world's eyes, one decorates the Christmas tree, receives presents from friends and family, enjoys oneself for a month, and then it is all over. The presents are played with and after a while one pushes them aside. One takes down the tree and throws it out because it is no longer needed. The happiness and "joy" one felt seems to vanish as well. Indeed, it makes one wonder why we celebrate Christmas.

But there is much more to Christmas than what the world would want us to see. It is at Christmas time that we remember how Jesus Christ the Son of God came to earth as a Baby to bring true joy, happiness, and the gift of forgiveness to all mankind. We remember that through Jesus' coming to Earth, His death on the Cross, and His resurrection God fulfilled His promise of a Messiah. Christmas is not about the presents we receive from others but it is about the one Present that God gives freely to all mankind if they will only accept it.

Because mankind is sinful, we could not

have fellowship with God because He is holy. We were condemned to Hell because nothing impure can stand in God's presence. But God loved us so much and wanted us to have fellowship with Him that He promised to send a Messiah to rescue us. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16)." God sent Jesus, God Himself, to be born of a virgin, to live on Earth, to die a terrible death on the Cross, and to rise from the dead three days later – all because He loved us so much and wanted our sins to be forgiven so that we could live for eternity with Him in Heaven when we die. Jesus' sacrifice is able to wash one clean of his sin if one believes on Jesus for salvation. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved (Acts 16: 31)."

If one has accepted Jesus into their heart, Jesus' blood washes him clean of sin. When one stands before God, He does not see one's sin; He only sees the perfection of Jesus Christ covering him. God will not send one to Hell where one is separated from God, burning in torment eternally. Instead, God will welcome one into Heaven because of Jesus.

This is the Present that God gives freely to all. This is the reason why we celebrate Christmas. It is about remembering Jesus. The world, because it hates God, tries to cover it with temporary pleasures that do not give eternal satisfaction. That is why the world's Christmas is so empty. But if one has been forgiven of their sins because one has accepted Jesus into his heart, Christmas is full of true joy and happiness that no one can take away. This is why we celebrate Christmas: Jesus.

Merry Christmas!

**Removed the address and phone number.*