

MONTANA

HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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# Farmer-Stockman

## Christmas Spirit

By DR. JOHN HOLLAND

**L**ITTLE HETTY received for Christmas a model village, with all the things for which a Christian village stands. She sat down on the nursery floor and began to put the village together.

When she had finished, her father asked, "What kind of town is that?"

"It is a Christian town," Hetty replied.

"What would you take out of it to make it a pagan town?"

She reached over and lifted out the little cardboard church.

"Now it is a pagan town," she said.

"Are you sure that the church makes all that difference?" asked her father.

"I suppose it does," she said.

"That's where you're mistaken, honey. You will have to take out more than the church. Take out the schoolhouse. Now lift out that Christian hospital. And that orphanage will have to go."

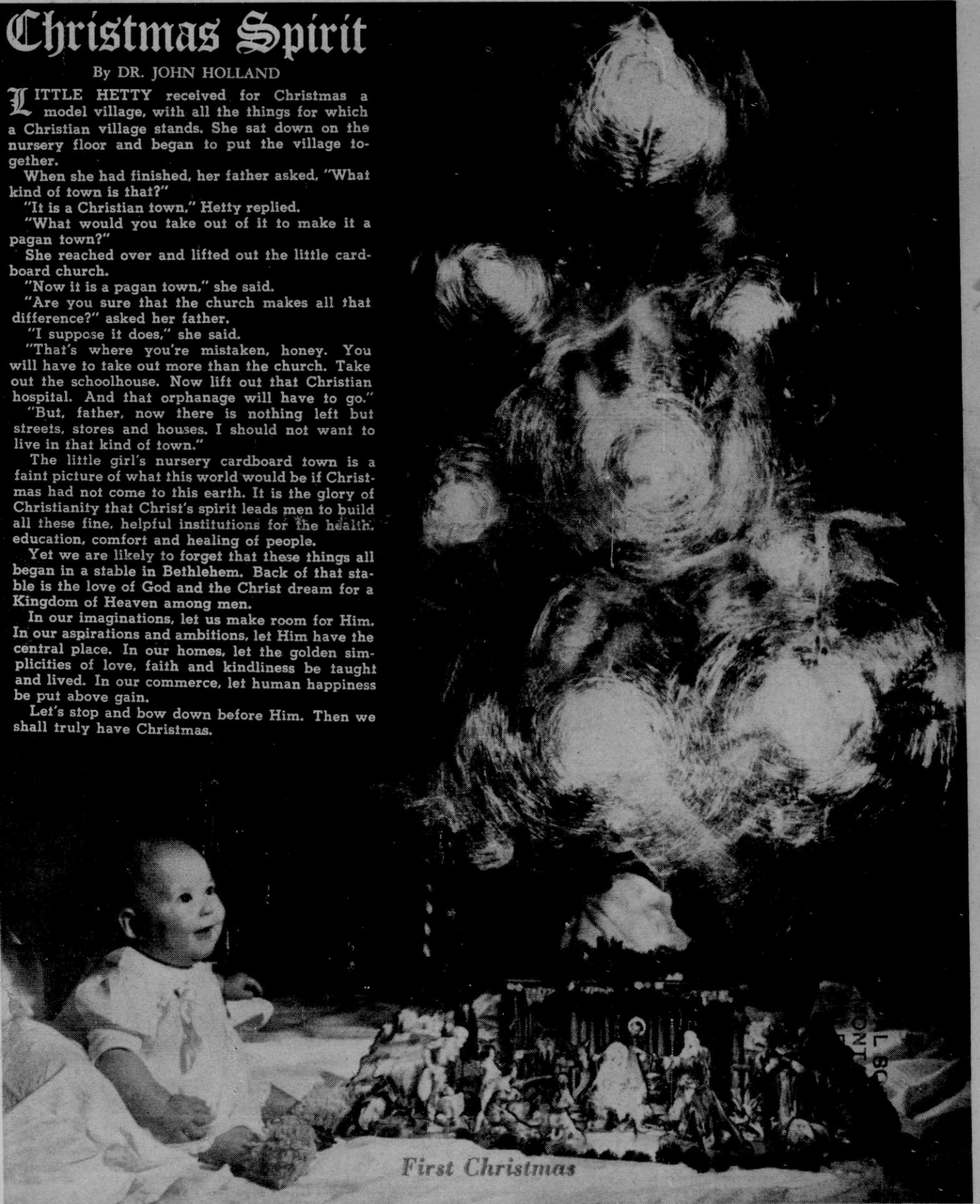
"But, father, now there is nothing left but streets, stores and houses. I should not want to live in that kind of town."

The little girl's nursery cardboard town is a faint picture of what this world would be if Christmas had not come to this earth. It is the glory of Christianity that Christ's spirit leads men to build all these fine, helpful institutions for the health, education, comfort and healing of people.

Yet we are likely to forget that these things all began in a stable in Bethlehem. Back of that stable is the love of God and the Christ dream for a Kingdom of Heaven among men.

In our imaginations, let us make room for Him. In our aspirations and ambitions, let Him have the central place. In our homes, let the golden simplicities of love, faith and kindness be taught and lived. In our commerce, let human happiness be put above gain.

Let's stop and bow down before Him. Then we shall truly have Christmas.



First Christmas

COVERS MONTANA AND NORTHERN WYOMING