

COPYRIGHT UNDER INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT CONVENTION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
UNDER PAN-AMERICAN COPYRIGHT CONVENTION. COPYRIGHT 1954 BY TIME INC.



A FREE PHOTOGRAPHER (LEFT) SPENDS CHRISTMAS WITH FELLOW REFUGEES, FREE COMEDIAN (LEFT) WITH "TWIN"

CHEER AT HOME—AND AT GIA KIEM

Because Christmas traditionally represents many things, joyful or poignant, to many different people, LIFE usually tries at Christmas to reflect as far as possible this wide range of meaning.

From Hollywood comes the success saga (on pp. 69-71) of the year's best and warmest-hearted new comedian, George Gobel, who was surprised that his biographer, Bureau Chief Loudon Wainwright, looked so much like him (above) and still more astonished when Wainwright turned out to be the first one to stay around him for any length of time without trying to tell him a joke.

Also, just for fun, there is a new do-it-yourself in our gay Christmas bauble on pp. 42 through 46, and a newly-discovered set of illustrations for a famous old family favorite on pp. 50 through 64.

But Christmas is more than fun and games. The editorial this week takes stock of the duties and the limits of Christianity in today's world, and the lead story (pp. 4-11) takes stock of an organization to which selfless giving has been a Christian emblem for three-quarters of a century. And though to many the touching real-life parable of the pilgrims of Gia Kiem (pp. 14-17) may seem only terribly grim, it seemed a miracle to at least one observer, Photographer Pierre Schoendoerffer (above), that these brave people were able to celebrate in freedom—however austere and menaced that might be. To Mr. Schoendoerffer, particularly, did Christmas look good—he himself had only recently come back after capture at Dienbienphu and the bitter, 200-mile death march that followed.

CONTENTS

COVER

THE CHRISTMAS STORY BY BRUEGEL: DETAIL FROM THE ARRIVAL OF JOSEPH AND MARY AT BETHLEHEM (SEE PP. 30-39)

THE WEEK'S EVENTS

THE HALLELUJAH ARMY OBSERVES ITS 75TH U.S. CHRISTMAS 4
IMAGES FROM A PRE-HOLIDAY WEEK 12
O LITTLE TOWN OF GIA KIEM 14
THE LAST STOP FOR A WEST POINT ORGANIST 23
PENNIES IN PLENTY 24
GIFT LIFT TO THE NORTH 26

EDITORIAL

CHRISTIANITY AND POLITICS 18

PICTORIAL ESSAY

BRUEGEL'S NATIVITY IN FLANDERS 30

THE COVER AND ENTIRE CONTENTS OF LIFE ARE FULLY PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND

BOOKS

THE SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON 50
DRAWINGS BY JOHANN EMANUEL WYSS

CLOSE-UP

BELIEVE THEE GEORGE!
by LOUDON S. WAINWRIGHT 69

MODERN LIVING

A NEW STAR FOR CHRISTMAS 42
LOW-DOWN FURNITURE FLOORS THE FLEXIBLE 72

MOVIES

YEAR-END MUSICAL POTPOURRI 74

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS 2
LIFE'S VISIT: A VICTIM OF PROGRESS 76
MISCELLANY: COMING UP DOUBLED UP 80

IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND MUST NOT BE REPRODUCED IN ANY MANNER WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF..... Henry R. Luce
PRESIDENT..... Roy E. Larsen
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR..... John Shaw Billings

Edward K. Thompson... MANAGING EDITOR
Maitland A. Edey } ASSISTANT
Robert T. Elson } MANAGING EDITORS
John K. Jessup... CHIEF EDITORIAL WRITER
Charles Tudor... ART DIRECTOR
Philip H. Wootton Jr... SPECIAL PROJECTS
Joseph Kastner... COPY EDITOR
Marian A. MacPhail... CHIEF OF RESEARCH
Ray Mackland... PICTURE EDITOR
Hugh Moffett... NATIONAL AFFAIRS
Gene Farmer... FOREIGN NEWS
William Jay Gold... ARTICLES
Donald Birmingham... ASST. TO THE M.E.

STAFF WRITERS: Herbert Brean, Fillmore Calhoun, Robert Coughlan, Ernest Havemann, Emmet Hughes, John Osborne, Winthrop Sargeant, Robert Wallace.

PHOTOGRAPHIC STAFF: Margaret Bourke-White, Edward Clark, Ralph Crane, Loomis Dean, John Dominis, David Douglas Duncan, Alfred Eisenstaedt, Eliot Elisofon, J. R. Eyerman, N. R. Farbman, Andreas Feininger, Albert Fenn, Fritz Goro, Allan Grant, Yale Joel, Robert W. Kelley, Dmitri Kessel, Wallace Kirkland, Nina Len, Thomas McAvoy, Francis Miller, Ralph Morse, Carl Mydans, Gordon Parks, Michael Rougier, Walter Sanders, Frank J. Scherschel, Joe Scherschel, George Silk, George Skadding, W. Eugene Smith, Howard Sochurek, Peter Stackpole, Hank Walker.

ASSISTANT PICTURE EDITORS: Frank Campion, John Bryson.

FILM EDITORS: Margaret Sargent, Barbara Brewster.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Oliver Allen, David Dreiman, William P. Gray, Mary Hamman, John Jenkinson, Sally Kirkland, Kenneth MacLeish, William Miller, Tom Pridoux, Marshall Smith, Claude Stansh, A. B. C. Whipple.

ASSISTANT EDITORS: Dean Brelis, William Brinkley, Earl Brown, Robert Campbell, Charles Champlin, Lee Eitingon, Stanley Flink, Nancy Genet, Muriel Hall, Jerry Hannifin, Edward Kern, Doris Kinney, Mary Leatherbee, Scot Leavitt, John Luter, Eleanor Parish, Norman Ross, Roy Rowan, Don Schanche, David Sherman, Dorothy Seiberling, Mary Lou Skinner, John Stanton, Margit Varga, Valerie Vondermuhl, Warren Young, David Zeitlin.

REPORTERS: Mary Elizabeth Barber, Margaret Bassett, David Bergamini, Patricia Blake, Peter Bunzel, Margery Byers, Vivian Campbell, Barbara Dawson, Anne Denny, Terry Drucker, Laura Ecker, James Goode, Gerry Gruen, Roxane Guerrero, Kathleen Hampton, Terry Harnan, Alice Higgins, Robin Hinsdale, Judith Holden, Grayce Horan, Monica Horne, Patricia Hunt, Patricia Johnson, Nancy King, James Lipscomb, Ruth Lynam, George McCue, Joann McQuiston, Loretta Nelson, Susan Neuberger, Clara Nicolai, Charles Osborne, William Pain, Patsy Parkin, Maya Pines, John Porter, Henriette Roosenburg, Jane Scholl, Virginia Shevlin, Jeanne Stahl, Marion Steinmann, James Stevenson, Richard Stolley, Tatiana Strage, Lucy Thomas, Alice Thompson, Claire Veater, Margaret Williams, Jane Wilson.

COPY READERS: Helen Deuell (Chief), Dorothy Ilson, Alison Kallman, Virginia Sadler, Suzanne Seixas, Marguerite Toole, Rachel Tuckerman.

LAYOUT: Bernard Quint, David Stech (Assistant Art Directors), William Gallagher, Hilde Adelsberger, Matt Greene, Albert Ketchum, Earle Kersh, Behri Knauth, Fernando Martinez, Anthony Sodaro, Richard Valdati, John Woods.

PICTURE BUREAU: Natalie Kosek (Chief), Mary Carr, Betty Doyle, Margaret Goldsmith, Ruth Lester, Maude Milar.

PHOTOGRAPHIC LABORATORY: William J. Sumits (Chief), George Karas.

PICTURE LIBRARY: Alma Eggleston (Chief), Doris O'Neil, Phyllis Sternau.

U.S. AND CANADIAN NEWS SERVICE: Lawrence Laybourne (Chief of Correspondents), Irene Saint, Tom Carmichael, Helen Fennell.
BUREAUS—WASHINGTON: James Shepley, Felker, William Goolrick Jr., Will Lang; CHICAGO: Sam Welles, Ralph Graves, Jane Estes, Dora Jane Hamblin, Bayard Hooper, Richard Meryman Jr.; LOS ANGELES: Barron Beshoar, Loudon Wainwright, Shana Alexander, Philip Kunhardt Jr., James Lebnthal, Frank Pierson; ATLANTA: William S. Howland, Marshall Lunsdon; BOSTON: William Johnson, George Shiras; DALLAS: Frank McCulloch, Henry Suydam Jr.; HOUSTON: Willard C. Rappleye Jr.; DENVER: Ed Ogle, Robert Ajemian; DETROIT: Fred Collins, Leon Jaroff; SAN FRANCISCO: Alfred Wright, Richard Pollard, Robert Morse; SEATTLE: Robert Schulman, Robert Shnayerson; OTTAWA: Serrell Hillman, Byron Riggan; MONTREAL: William W. White; TORONTO: Robert W. Glasgow.

FOREIGN NEWS SERVICE: Manfred Gottlieb

LIFE

BRUEGEL'S GREAT CHRISTMAS PAINTINGS
RARE EDITION OF 'THE SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON'
THREE-DIMENSIONAL STAR FOR THE TREE



MerMart.com
Gift Quality Vintage Magazines