



MY COVID TEST EXPERIENCE

BEC AND CHANGES FOR 2021

THE CHRISTMAS STORY TEST?

WHY "TAPS" IS PLAYED

TWO FAMOUS CHRISTMAS CAROLS

# SONORA BRANCH 136



## Message from the "Big Sir

**Gene Zanoni (209-532-1989)** As we head into the final month of 2020, looking back upon the current year the appropriate word to best describe this period is *disruptive*. On the second Tuesday in January, January 14<sup>th</sup> to be exact, we commenced our annual activities in the usual manner with seamless regularity. That is, we conducted our Branch Executive Committee (the "BEC") meeting that was immediately followed by our monthly luncheon. The same held true for both the February 11<sup>th</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup> scheduled events, respectively. However, abruptly

**SIRS Mission**

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To improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events - while making

thereafter our entire SIR organization went into a lockdown status for the protection of everyone’s health. This was solely attributable to the global pandemic, branded the Coronavirus, that threw the entire world order into chaos.

As of this writing the pandemic’s chaotic conditions continue to plague us all. As bleak as this period has been, resulting in the prohibition of all in-person regular monthly luncheons, besides our three highly desirable *special events*, we were able to conduct our BEC meetings outdoors during the summer months. As such, always being mindful regarding the employment of strict social distancing guidelines. Alternatively, we resorted to Zoom virtual meetings whenever feasible. Even being dealt with such dire obstacles, the future of our SIR branch appears to be very bright.

Such optimism is generated as the result of our persevering current year’s and next year’s editions to our BEC; and to a very limited number of other concerned members that have all contributed greatly in our engaging and thoughtful discussions. This entire body of gentlemen remain forward-looking and are extremely passionate about initiating subtle changes to our upcoming in-person monthly luncheons; that is, whenever we are permitted to resume such activities. Their objective is to simply improve the overall monthly membership experience. Keep in mind that should you disagree with something it is your right to voice an objection. Perhaps, your concern is the result of another’s oversight. As such, ongoing flexibility and amicable exchanges of ideas amongst our general membership hold the keys to much of our sought-after success.

It is a given the Coronavirus has mightily contributed to the fatigue of everyone. Therefore, we must continue to remain cognizant of the required discipline necessary to comply with the simple guidelines applicable to social distancing. Otherwise, we could conceivably expose ourselves to the inherent dangers associated with this ravaging global epidemic. To remain at home, only to go out to satisfy life’s necessities, just might be the most prudent principle in dealing with this situation.

During the current year Paul Squeri, a former Big Sir, stepped forward to fill the position of Acting Little Sir due to the sudden resignation of our Little Sir. Paul did a very commendable job as a result of his tireless commitment in this capacity for the past several months. As a result, we all owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude and we wish him all the best in 2021 as Area 5 Governor.



Wishing everyone Happy Holidays and a brighter 2021.

## Committee Chairman & Activities

Are you looking for something to do especially during this pandemic! Then please give our various committee chairman a call to get involved in a fun activity.

**Golf** - Danny Lauretta (209-586-4567). Our regular tournaments are typically the third Tuesday of the month. Please call me for specific information as to dates, times, and locations.

**Bowling** - Jerry Fountain (209) 532-0650).

**Pinochle** - Bob Morrison (209-588-0994).

**Car Club** - Rich Rinaldi (209-532-8366).

**Fishing** - Chuck Simmons (209-532-9550). **RV Group** - Eddie Toews (209-532-3970).

**Kayaking/Easy Hiking** - Sol Robin (209-651-1054).

## Covid Testing

**By John White 408-355-5991.** On November 9, I was playing cards with two fellow SIR members (Art and Jerry). We were all very healthy and had a wonderful time together. On November 15, six days later, Art became very ill and had to go to the Sonora Hospital Emergency Room. He had trouble breathing and was tested for COVID 19. The test proved positive and he was later put on a ventilator. For an update on Art, please see note in the “Members” section.

It had been six days since I last was with him and so I thought my wife and I should get tested for COVID too. This article is to share with you our recent experience.

We had been told that we had the following options for getting tested: Certain CVS locations were doing drive by testing with the closet store in Oakdale; we could go to the fairgrounds where the state was testing; we could go to Sonora hospital; or we could get a COVID test through a private company, such as Quest Diagnostics or others. So this is what happened...

**CVS.** We went on line to find the CVS location and to schedule an appointment for a drive through test. No appointments were available at any of the locations near us.

**Fairgrounds.** My wife and I jumped into the car and drove down to the Sonora Fairgrounds to get tested. The security guard at the door said that we had to register online first, that they had no walk-ins or available appointments for at least a week. So we registered on line at [www.https://lhi.care/covidtesting](https://lhi.care/covidtesting). That was a rather lengthy process. They wanted to know what symptoms we were experiencing, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell. We simply stated that we had none of these symptoms but had come into contact with someone who had tested positive for COVID -19. The system then let us schedule a testing appointment for the following

Wednesday, which was 15 days after we may have been exposed. COVID testing results could take up to 3 to 5 days to get back.

**Sonora Hospital.** My wife and I then drove to Sonora Hospital and told the nurse at the door that we may have been exposed to COVID and that we both wanted to be tested. The nurse explained that getting tested is like getting an X-ray and that it had to be ordered by our doctor. Since this was about five days after we may have been exposed, the nurse told us that we were in the testing period (no testing is done for the first 5 days of exposure). The nurse asked if we were experiencing any symptoms, we were not, then she told us to just call our doctor.

**Our Physician.** We sent an email to our doctor explaining what had transpired and asked her if we could get a COVID test. The doctor's assistant called us back and told us that the doctor could not refer us for testing unless we had been referred to them by County Health. She then gave us the number for County Health.

**County Health.** I called County Health and was told that they had no record of the person we had been possibly infected with as a COVID positive person. I thought that was very unusual as he had been in ICU for at least two days and on a ventilator! She then told me that with the increase in people getting tested, that we would need to know if the person who had tested positive for COVID was experiencing any symptoms (see previous paragraph above) within two days of our contact. If not, then we could not get tested. If so, then to call her back for further information.

**Spouse.** So I then called the spouse of the person who has COVID and she could not tell me for sure when his symptoms had first occurred. Friends told us that they had seen him four days after our contact and that he looked very healthy. So what to do?

**Other health providers.** While at my dentist a few weeks ago, I noticed that they were offering COVID testing for \$60 for patients and \$120 for non patients. I also think the results were almost immediate. However, when I needed to be tested, my dentist's office was closed for two-weeks for the Thanksgiving holidays. I also got an email from Quest Diagnostics that they were offering testing whereby you would download an app and then schedule for a kit to be sent to you and either picked up or dropped off at a later time. The app that you had downloaded would be used to obtain your testing results. Also, if you needed to chat with a physician you could do that through the app as well. The test is \$119 and they did not disclose how long it would take to get results back.

**Self-quarantine.** All of our friends and family strongly encouraged my wife and I to self-quarantine ourselves at home for 14 days. Throughout this period we felt fine and experienced no symptoms. Today, 14 days later, we both feel very healthy with the fear of contracting COVID completely gone. But what a mess it was in our schedule of events and daily lives. We all must take COVID very seriously and this article is not intended to downplay this pandemic at all. But rather, I wanted you to have a first hand experience of what we had to go through to get tested. By the way, we go into testing at the Fairgrounds tomorrow, 15 days after any possible exposure. *Now if you are experiencing any symptoms, then you will have a completely different and hopefully more timely testing experience than us. So if you are experiencing any of the symptoms noted earlier, then please seek out a health professional for immediate testing.*

**Test Results.** Contact occurred on November 9; our state testing was done on November 25; (earliest possible for those not experiencing symptoms); we got our results back via website

notification on November 28 - 18 days after our initial contact. My wife and I both tested negative... we do not have COVID.

**Branch 136 Branch Executive Committee**

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**Little SIR:** Paul Squeri 586-4083 paulsqueri@yahoo.com  
**Sec:** Bill Burnes 533-4334 sonorabill401@gmail.com  
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**DIRECTORS**

Bill Guenza 568-7088 Marty Martin 568-1886  
 George Cocores 456-9814 Rex Page (209) 533-4501  
 Chris Methot (408) 218-5221 Robert Morrison (209) 588-0994

**NEXT BEC Virtual Meeting is December 8, 2020**

**Behind the Scenes**

Branch Photographer - Steve Belochi 533-5315  
 Bulletin - John White 408-355-5991  
 Internet - Jerry Bellefeuille 533-3630  
 SIR item sales - Fred Kehr 785-4358  
 Sunshine Chaplain - Steve Gregory 533-0309

**SIR State Officers**

[www.sirinc.org](http://www.sirinc.org)  
<https://sirinc.org/newsletters/>  
 President - Ed Benson  
 Vice-President - Jim Johnson  
 Secretary - Stuart Williams  
 Treasurer - Roy Hodgkinson  
 Region 2 Director - Rick Kindle  
 Area 5 Govenor - Dale Decker

**Save the Date  
for the Next BEC Meeting**

The next BEC meeting will be on **December 8, 2020**. This will be a virtual meeting using ZOOM. Jerry Bellefeuille will be sending out invitations for the ZOOM meeting. Please contact Jerry if you don't receive an invite by the meeting date at 209-533-3630 or sirjerry4@gmail.com.

**Recent Past Big Sirs**

Jim Botto - 2019  
 Paul Squeri - 2018  
 Danny Laureta - 2017  
 Dale Decker - 2016  
 Jim Johnson - 2015  
 John Bristow - 2014  
 Phil VanSwoll - 2013  
 Don Banchemo - 2010  
 Wil Reich - 2007  
 Dick Nutting - 2003  
 Jim Nuzum - 2002  
 Bob Gibbs - 2000  
 Al Limon - 1999

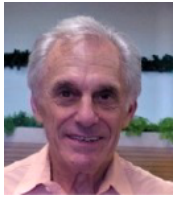
**Branch 136  
Honorary Life Members**

Jim Johnson  
 Frank Taylor  
 Al Limon

**Do we have the right information on you?**

We are in the process of updating our membership records. Sometimes we move, change our phone numbers, or email address and don't even think about letting others know of the change. So please go to our website at [www.https://sonorasirs.org/roster](http://www.https://sonorasirs.org/roster) to verify your information. Should there be a change, then please contact George Cocores directly at 209-456-9814 or [greekbeak1@aol.com](mailto:greekbeak1@aol.com). If there are no changes to your membership information, then no action from you is required. To access the roster, you will need to input a password, the user name is "safety" and the password is "first"(all lower case).

# 2020 Branch 136 Executive Committee



Big Sir  
Gene  
Zaroni  
209-532-1989



Little Sir  
Paul  
Squeri  
209-586-4083



Secretary  
Bill  
Burnes  
209-533-4334



Asst. Sec.  
Dick  
Aberle  
209-532-4066



Treasurer  
Eddie "Ed"  
Toews  
209-532-3970



Asst. Treas.  
Steve  
Aldridge  
209-770-5287



Director  
Chris  
Methot  
408-218-5221



Director  
Bill  
Guenza  
209-568-7088



Director  
Marty  
Martin  
209-568-1886



Director  
George  
Cocores  
209-456-9814



Director  
Robert  
Morrison  
209-588-0994



Director  
Rex  
Page  
209-533-4501

## Changes Effective For 2021



Paul Squeri  
Area 5 Govenor



John White  
Little Sir



Dale Decker  
SIR State Asst.  
Secretary Elect

Photo not  
Provided

Jim Johnson  
SIR State  
President Elect

# Have Something to Share?

I'm always amazed at what comes across my email server from the members of our community, SIRS, family, and friends. This issue of the Bulletin includes many of those stories. If you have something you would like to share, please send it to me for inclusion in our monthly Bulletin. SIRS rules do apply, and not everything may be accepted. But send them anyway to [johnwhitecpa@gmail.com](mailto:johnwhitecpa@gmail.com).

## Dues & Other Changes for 2020 and 2021

**Eddie Toews, Treasurer, 209-532-3970** The Branch Executive Committee (BEC) has voted that the 2021 assessment for member dues will be discounted by 52% to \$12.00 per member. **This will be for the year 2021 only and will revert back to the \$25.00 dues per member in the 2022 assessment. Dues must be paid no later than March 9, 2021 to receive this discount** and should be mailed directly to Eddie Toews, 21795 El Coyote Dr., Sonora, CA 95370. Please make your checks out to Branch 136.

In addition to the dues adjustment for 2021, the first in-person meeting will be a **“Welcome Back Meeting and Luncheon”**. The BEC has voted to lower the luncheon price to \$8.00 per person. All other meals after the first in-person meeting will be at the regular price of \$15.00 per meal, unless the caterer changes the price of the meal. You must attend the first regular in person meeting to get this discount. This will not roll into any other meeting.

**Recruit a new member!** It is time to start thinking of bringing a friend, relative, or new acquaintance into SIRS. The BEC has decided that the \$25.00 new member application fee be waived for the rest of 2020 and through April 9, 2021. Any new members starting after that date, will be required to pay the 2021 annual dues of \$25 plus a \$10.00 badge fee when joining SIRS for a total of \$35. So get your friends before March 9, 2021 for a total of \$10.

Since the membership fee is waived for new members starting prior to April 9, 2021, the new member sponsor will not receive a free lunch when that person joins SIRS during this special limited offer.

### Branch 136 Membership Summary

Beginning of November	200
Additions	1
Deletions	(1)
End of November	<b>200</b>

## Happy Birthday to You!

Both astrological signs Sagittarius (Nov 22 to Dec 21) and Capricorn (Dec 22 to Jan 19) fall within December. Sagittarius kids are honest, optimistic, and enthusiastic. Capricorn kids are loyal, honest, and fearless. Your birth stone is turquoise, which symbolizes “luck.” December’s birth flower is holly, which symbolizes “happiness.”

Wallace, Stuart	12/02
Derodeaf, Brian	12/03
Caplinger, Larry	12/04
Bell, Allan	12/05
Eaton, Herman	12/12*
Myers, Frank	12/15
VanGerpen, James	12/15*
Gelber, Bob	12/20
Cross, Andres	12/20
Long, Ron	12/21*
Bynum, Barry	12/23
Sudduth, Ed	12/24
Soules, Fred	12/25
Vanier, Dennis	12/26
Stevenson, Robert	12/29
Jobling, John	12/27
LaFrance, Mike	12/28*
Price, Chuck	12/30*
Braida, Robert	12/30*

\*Designates age 80 or older.

(Editor’s apologies in advance if I over looked your special day.)

## Message from the Editor

**John White (408-355-5991).** Christmas was always a very special for me and my family. It was one of the few times each year that we would all gather together under one roof to celebrate being a family. We had a large family indeed - my parents, six brothers and sisters, their children (at the time four), then brothers and sisters in law, etc. The list went on and on.

Our family celebrated Christmas by opening gifts on Christmas morning. My father, being an entertainer/musician always worked late and as a result was rarely up early any day of the year except this one. Christmas morning was the lone exception. Dad would roll out of bed around 7am so that we, as a family, could open gifts together.

An older sister, JoAnn, would always get up before anyone else and then sneak into the living room where the Christmas tree was and do a tally of the gifts. She would then tip toe to our bedrooms to let us know what we had. We then waited anxiously for mother to tell us its time to get out of bed and off to the living room in pajamas we would go.

My sisters would then begin to hand out the gifts from under the tree and we opened them, in turn, showing each and everyone exactly what Santa brought us. It was truly a special time that will forever live in my memory.

Christmas is a great time to create memories with your family and to remember those who are no longer with us. May you have a blessed Christmas!





# How “Taps” Originated

**From Danny Lauretta.** If any of you have ever been to a military funeral in which taps was played; this brings out a new meaning to it. Here is something every American should know.

We in the United States have all heard the haunting song, 'Taps...' It's the song that gives us the lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Elli was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of this narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Elli heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army. The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted.

The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician.

The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted.

The haunting melody, we now know as 'Taps' used at military funerals was born. The words are:

Day is done. Gone the sun. From the lakes From the hills.

From the sky. All is well. Safely rest. God is nigh.

Fading light. Dims the sight. And a star. Gems the sky.

Gleaming bright. From afar. Drawing nigh. Falls the night.

Thanks and praise. For our days. Neath the sun Neath the stars.

Neath the sky. As we go. This we know. God is nigh.

## How Well Do You Know the Christmas Story?

Throughout the years we have, at one time or another, heard the Christmas story. The story about the birth of the baby child named Jesus. The story is recorded in the gospel of Luke, Chapters 1 and 2 and in Matthew Chapters 1 and 2; Countless songs have been written about it and you no doubt may be singing them again this year. But how well do you really know the story? Take the following quiz. The answers are provided on the last page of the Bulletin.

1. Who was the Roman ruler during the birth of Jesus?
2. What was the name of the Angel who appeared before Mary to inform her that she would give birth to a son.
3. What is the other name for the City or Town of David.
4. Why were Joseph and Mary in the Town of David in the first place?
5. Magi came from the east bearing gifts for the Christ child. How many Magi came?
6. Who visited the Christ Child first...the Magi or the Shepherds?
7. Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger. Why?
8. "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel of the Lord (before the shepherds) praising God and saying what?
9. How did the Magi know where to find the "king of the Jews?"
10. What were the gifts brought by the Magi and given to Jesus?

### SIR Branch 136 Website

[HTTPS://SONORASIRS.ORG](https://sonorasirs.org)

Please take a moment to go to the website to get information regarding current and previous month bulletins; group activities and contact information; membership information; minutes of the BEC monthly meetings; golf and bowling schedules; and much, much more.

## New Member Section

We are pleased to have added Gene (“Tab”) White to Branch 136 in November 2020. Tab and his wife Jan have recently moved to Sonora from Poway, CA (San Diego area). Tab has three boys, two of which live in Poway and one in Seattle.

Tab has spent a career as a master cabinet maker and is very much looking forward to a more moderate pace in Northern California. His wife will be working at Adventist Hospital in the home health care department. So if you are having a nurse look in on you, well, it may be Jan!

Tab is also a power boater and excellent golfer. He also likes to take his off road vehicle out as well as to play with his two golden retriever dogs. He is also looking forward to his first Giant and 49er games.



Gene & family, Tavner, Jan, and Cody

**Art Barte**, SIR Branch 72, passed away on Sunday, November 29, 2020 at Sonora Hospital. Art is the SIR who was admitted to the hospital, had trouble breathing, and tested positive for COVID. Much loved, Art is survived by his wife Lynn of many years.

**YOUTUBE** What would Christmas be like without music? There is no other holiday in which music is more important than Christmas. So I thought, what would be the top 10 Christmas songs of all time? The following list was compiled by Spotify (a digital music streaming service). This list may surprise you, it certainly did me! Favorites such as *White Christmas*, *Silent Night*, *The First Noel*, *The Christmas Song*, *Blue Christmas*, *Holly Jolly Christmas*, *Jingle Bells*, *Silver Bells*, and *I'll be home for Christmas* didn't make the top ten! What would Christmas be like without songs from Bing Crosby, Nate King Cole, Mel Torme, Jimmy Durante, and Burl Ives? Perhaps, we are just getting a little older.

### Spotify's Top Ten Christmas Songs of All Time

1. Mariah Carey, "All I Want for Christmas Is You" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAkMkVFwAoo>
2. Wham! "Last Christmas" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8gmARGvPLI>
3. Ariana Grande, "Santa Tell Me" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfCdkyQyaJ8>
4. Michael Bublé, "It's Beginning to Look a Lot like Christmas" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUiHsJrRNGE>
5. Justin Bieber, "Mistletoe" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AeRwj3QUTqs>
6. Andy Williams, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJvokYRRuaA>
7. Brenda Lee, "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Idl-K8s1GYo>
8. Bobby Helms, "Jingle Bell Rock" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZoajuTaHBtM>
9. Band Aid, "Do They Know It's Christmas?" (1984) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjQzJAKxTrE>
10. Frank Sinatra "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sE3uRRFVsmc>

## For Everything, Give Thanks

In remembrance of our friend and fellow SIR, Art Bartee, I came across this poem on “giving thanks.” It’s a comforting reminder of how precious life is, to appreciate one another, and how thankful we should be even during these difficult and trying times. Art was a lovely man. We enjoyed our many pinochle games together. Art will be truly missed. Many of us have lost a loved one, some recently. I hope and pray that this simple poem gives you much comfort.

For all God in mercy sends,  
For health and children, home and friends,  
for comfort in the time of need,  
For every kindly word and deed,  
For happy thoughts and holy talk,  
For guidance in our daily walk,  
*For everything give thanks!*

For beauty in this world of ours,  
For verdant grass and lovely flowers,  
For song of bird, for hum of bees,  
For refreshing summer breeze,  
For hill and plain, for streams and wood,  
For the great ocean’s mighty flood,  
*For everything give thanks!*

For sweet sleep which comes with night,  
For returning morning light,  
For the bright sun that shines on high,  
For the stars glittering in the sky,  
For these and everything we see,  
O Lord, our hearts we lift to thee.  
*For everything give thanks.*

## Two Famous Christmas Carols

In 1818, a roving band of actors was performing in towns throughout the Austrian Alps. On December 23 they arrived at Oberndorf, a village near Salzburg where they were to re-enact the story of Christ's birth in the small Church of St. Nicholas.

Unfortunately, the St. Nicholas' church organ wasn't working and would not be repaired before Christmas. Because the church organ was out of commission, the actors presented their Christmas drama in a private home. That presentation put assistant pastor Josef Mohr in a meditative mood. Instead of walking straight to his house that night, Mohr took a longer way home. The longer path took him up over a hill overlooking the village.

From that hilltop, Mohr looked down on the peaceful snow-covered village. Reveling in majestic silence of the wintry night, Mohr gazed down at the Christmas-card like scene. His thoughts about the Christmas play he had just seen made him remember a poem he had written a couple of years before. That poem was about the night when angels announced the birth of the long-awaited Messiah to shepherds on a hillside.

Mohr decided those words might make a good carol for his congregation the following evening at their Christmas eve service. The one problem was that he didn't have any music to which that poem could be sung. So, the next day Mohr went to see the church organist, Franz Xaver Gruber. Gruber only had a few hours to come up with a melody which could be sung with a guitar. They now had a Christmas carol that could be sung without that organ.

On Christmas Eve, the little Oberndorf congregation heard Gruber and Mohr sing their new composition to the accompaniment of Gruber's guitar. The song was "*Silent Night*." In 1863, nearly fifty years after being first sung in German, "Silent Night" was translated into English by either Jane Campbell or John Young. Today, the words of "Silent Night" are sung around the world in more than 300 different languages.

In 1847 Placide Cappeau (1808-1877), a French wine merchant and an amateur poet, was asked to write a Christmas poem by a local parish priest. Cappeau traveled to Paris on a business trip and about half way through his journey, he had the inspiration for the poem *Minuit, Chretiens* ("Midnight Christians"). When Cappeau arrived in Paris, he took it to the composer Adolphe Adam (1803-1856). He wrote the tune in a few days and the hymn was played for the first time at midnight mass that Christmas Eve back in his home town of Roquemaure. The carol was frowned upon by church authorities, who denounced it for lack of musical taste and "total absence of the spirit of religion. However within a few years the carol was being translated into other languages and in 1855, an American Unitarian clergyman John Sullivan Dwight (1813-1893), the editor of *Dwight's Journal of Music*, translated it into English, calling it "*O Holy Night*."

This carol has the distinction of being the first song ever to be played live on a radio broadcast. On December 24, 1906 a Canadian inventor, Reginald Fessenden, broadcast one of the first ever AM radio programs, and the first ever to feature entertainment and music for a general audience, from his Brant Rock, Massachusetts station. After playing Handel's "Largo" on an Ediphone phonograph, he proceeded to play "O Holy Night" on his violin, singing the last verse as he played.

## Answers to the Christmas Story.

1. Who was the Roman ruler during the birth of Jesus? **Caesar Augustus.**
2. What was the name of the Angel who appeared before Mary to inform her that she would give birth to a son. **Gabriel.**
3. What is the other name for the City or Town of David. **Bethlehem.**
4. Why were Joseph and Mary in the Town of David in the first place? **Joseph was a descendent of King David and they had come to register for the census ordered by Caesar Augustus.**
5. Magi came from the east bearing gifts for the Christ child. How many Magi came? **We do not know. They brought three gifts, gold, incense, and myrrh.**
6. Who visited the Christ Child first...the Magi or the Shepherds? **It is believed that the shepherds immediately came after the Angel of the Lord had appeared to them while keeping watch over their flocks. The Magi may have presented themselves to the Christ Child up to 3 years later.**
7. Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger. Why? **"Because there was no room for them in the inn."**
8. "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel of the Lord (before the shepherds) praising God and saying what? **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."**
9. How did the Magi know where to find the "king of the Jews?" **"They saw his star in the east and came to worship him." They came to King Herod and asked "where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? They were then told that the child would be born in Bethlehem in Judea.**
10. What were the gifts brought by the Magi and given to Jesus? **Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**