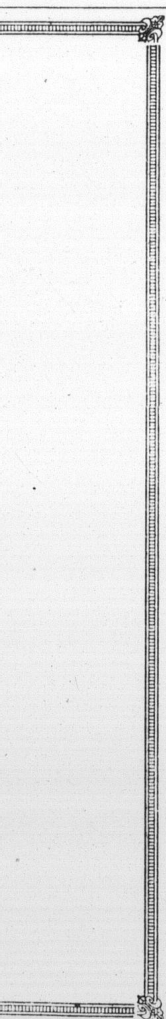


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Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year

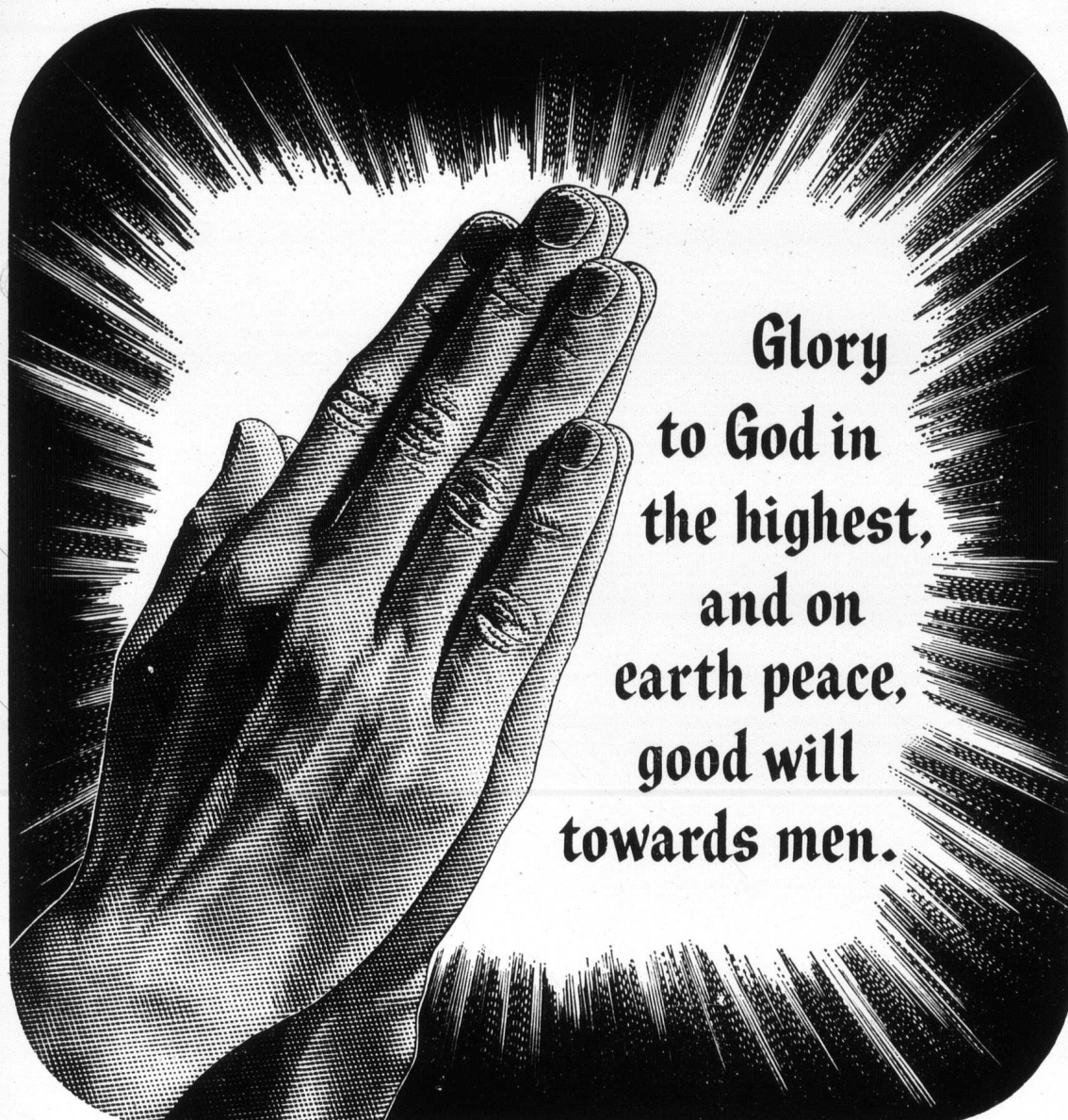


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Glory
to God in
the highest,
and on
earth peace,
good will
towards men.

Frazier Knows I'm Real Champion —Muhammad Ali—

By ED SHEARER
of The Associated Press

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP) — "I imagine it is a funny feeling to be fighting for the title, as they call it," says Muhammad Ali of tonight's heavyweight championship bout in Detroit between champion Joe Frazier and Bob Foster.

"In the back of his mind, Frazier knows I'm the real champion," Ali said after his arrival Tuesday to promote and watch in Atlanta the closed circuit telecast of the fight.

The Frazier-Foster winner probably will get a multimillion-dollar shot at Ali early next year if the former unde-

feated champion defeats Oscar Bonavena in New York on Dec. 7.

Ali, who won the title as Cassius Clay, left no doubt that he expected to meet Frazier for the championship.

"No, it'll be no contest with Bonavena," Ali said. "Bonavena will be rougher than Frazier. Bonavena is four times slower than me, so I see no trouble that I'm down to 210 pounds."

"If Foster wins, I'll be surprised," said Ali. "He'll fight tonight at around 190 pounds

and his frame is built to carry 175 tops. After five or six rounds, that extra weight is going to tell on Foster. He'll give Frazier a good show until then, but in the end his arms will get tired and weary and Frazier will catch him."

Ali, who never lost a professional fight, was stripped of his crown following his conviction of refusing induction into the Army.

He scored a seventh-round knockout over Zora Folley in his last title defense on March 22, 1967. He returned to the

ring for the first time since then in Atlanta on Oct. 26 when he destroyed the then No. 1 contender, Jerry Quarry, in three rounds.

"Frazier is easy to hit," said Ali. "Jimmy Ellis beat him for three rounds and I just played around with Ellis when he was my sparring partner."

"You can't sell him to me," he said. "Frazier has no skills. He's just a machine. He has no sense. He's just like a robot."

"It's a different atmosphere when you fight Muhammad Ali. Russia and China will be watching that fight. He'll be under so much pressure. Me, I thrive on pressure."

FIRST MY LAI VERDICT

Soldier Wins Acquittal

FORT HOOD, Tex. (AP) — S. Sgt. David Mitchell was acquitted Friday night in the first My Lai case to reach a court-martial verdict.

Mitchell, 30, a 10-year United States Army veteran, had been charged with assault with intent to murder by shooting at 30 unarmed civilians at the South Vietnamese hamlet March 16, 1968.

Nine other American soldiers are charged in connection with the incident.

At Fort Benning, Ga., the prosecution in the court martial of Lieut. William L. Calley Jr. turned Friday from testimony about bodies found on a trail near My Lai to a ditch filled with bodies of Vietnamese.

One of the specific acts with which Calley is charged is the murder of 30 unarmed Vietnamese civilians along a trail near the village.

Thus far in the court martial, which began Tuesday, no witness has testified that he saw Calley kill anyone. He is on trial on charges of murdering 102 unarmed Vietnamese civilians.

Mitchell was a squad leader in Company C, the same outfit in which Calley was a platoon leader. The army still is processing charges against eight other members of the Americal Division.

For three days at the Calley trial in Fort Benning, Charlie Company veterans have testified to seeing the bodies of 10 to 20 Vietnamese along the north-south trail during a combat assault on the hamlet.

Four of the five witnesses who testified Friday said they encountered no hostile fire at My Lai.

The court martial is in recess until Friday.

RANDOM NOTES

The Christmas Eve segment of 'Bewitched' was written by 22 black students at Los Angeles' Jefferson High School. The class visited the set of the show about a year ago, and decided to write the script as a Christmas present for producer William Asher.

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