

# The Echo

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## Christmas

Christmas comes but once a year, and what a joyous time! Heart-warming carols, inspirational gatherings, the excitement of giving and receiving gifts—all this is symbolic of Christmas, but in this whirl-pool world in which we live, we are inclined to let the true meaning of Christmas slip into a secondary place. Christmas, that is the mass of Christ, is the birthday of Christ, who is the Saviour of the world. At this Christmas-time we should re-dedicate ourselves to the ideals and teachings of the world's greatest man, whose birthday we celebrate December 25, CHRISTMAS DAY.

## A New Year And New Hopes

Each year about this time most of us count our virtues and check our vices, determined to lead better lives during the coming year. If the old year has treated us badly we are pleased to see it go, if it has been a good year we part with it reluctantly. There are some, of course, who make no resolutions at all, feeling that it is far better to do nothing than to make resolutions which cannot be carried out.

Nevertheless, New Year's does remind us that we could have bettered ourselves far more in the past and that the future can turn out just about the way we make it. In fact we are in much the same position as the chemist. If we follow the correct formula, place the correct elements in our lives, the product is perfect. If we disregard the formula and choose the wrong elements, the product is poor. If we do not even attempt to follow the formula we compound nothing at all.

Since January is the customary time to make new resolutions it would seem as appropriate as any. Remember the days just preceding Christmas. How happy we all were thinking of the other fellow . . . buying gifts unselfishly and forgiving those whom we thought had wronged us. Can that same spirit be carried on throughout the year? It surely can if we make our resolution now. If we falter once or twice during 1947 we can climb back and get on the beam. That formula will make the year 1947 a great year around ECUSTA.

## FAVORABLE VOTE

(Continued From Page One)

county 1,337 votes were cast—763 for and 574 against.

Six of the precincts in the rural communities voted against the issue. These were Cathey's Creek, Dunn's Rock, Gloucester 1, Gloucester 2 and Hogback 1 and 3.

In the Old Toxaway precinct not a single vote was cast against the bond issue.

Supt. J. B. Jones said he was delighted with the outcome of this election and that plans will be started in the near future on a program of construction and improvement.

"Until materials and labor are more plentiful and prices drop some, we will concentrate on pro-

viding relief where the overcrowded condition is most serious and on vitally needed improvements," he declared.

Civic leaders hailed the outcome of the election as proof of the fact that Brevard and Transylvania county are progressive and are determined to remedy the overcrowded conditions in many schools and to provide necessary repairs and improvements for others.

Women here and throughout the county took an active interest in the election.

"On behalf of the board of education, I wish to thank the civic clubs, parent-teacher associations. The Transylvania Times. Harry H. Straus and many individuals too numerous to mention for their active interest in this election," Mr. Jones said.

## The Poet's Corner Beneath The Pisgah

### A Visit From St. Nicholas

"Twas the night before Christmas,  
when all though the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not  
even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the  
chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon  
would be there;  
The children were nestled all snug  
in their beds,  
While visions of sugar-plums  
danced in their heads;  
And Mamma in her kerchief, and  
I in my cap,  
Had just settled our brains for a  
long winter's nap,—  
When out on the lawn there arose  
such a clatter,  
I sprang from my bed to see what  
was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a  
flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw  
up the sash.  
The moon, on the breast of the  
new-fallen snow,  
Gave a luster of midday to objects  
below;  
When what to my wondering eyes  
should appear  
But a miniature sleigh and eight  
tiny reindeer,  
With a little old driver, so lively  
and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be  
St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers  
they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and  
called them by name:  
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now  
Prancer and Vixen!  
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner  
and Blitzen!  
To the top of the porch! to the top  
of the wall!  
Now, dash away, dash away, dash  
away all!"  
As dry leaves that before the  
wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle,  
mount to the sky,  
So up to the house-top the cours-  
ers they flew,  
With a sleigh full of toys, and St.  
Nicholas too.  
And then in a twinkling, I heard on  
the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each  
little hoof.  
As I drew in my head, and was  
turning around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas  
came with a bound,  
He was dressed all in fur, from  
his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all covered  
with ashes and soot;  
A bundle of toys he had flung on  
his back,  
And he looked like a peddler just  
opening his pack.  
His eyes—how they twinkled! his  
dimples how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his  
nose like a cherry!  
His droll little mouth was drawn  
up like a bow,  
And the beard on his chin was as  
white as the snow;  
The stump of a pipe he held tight  
in his teeth,  
And the smoke it encircled his  
head like a wreath;  
He was chubby and plump, a right  
jolly old elf,  
And I laughed when I saw him,  
in spite of myself;  
A wink of his eye and a twist of  
his head,  
Soon gave me to know I had noth-  
ing to dread;  
He spoke not a word, but went



## Our Book Corner

Christmas belongs to everyone  
—through the medium of books  
it is presented to us every day.

Ecusta's Library has Christmas-time reading for every member of the family—Edited by Edward Wagenknecht, *The Fireside Book of Christmas Stories* is a collection of the finest Christmas reading. The book is divided into four sections, Christmas Is Christ, Christmas Is Santa Claus, Christmas Is Dickens and Christmas Is Home. Stories by the following authors are included in the collection, Henry Van Dyke, Frances H. Burnett, Clement C. Moore, James Lane Allen, Katherine Lee Bates, Charles Dickens, Louisa May Alcott and other famous writers. This is truly a treasure chest of good reading and good listening.

Expertly illustrated in delicate pastels, is the picture-song book, *A Child's Book of Christmas Carols*. This lovely book contains the words and music of our best-loved Christmas carols. You and your children will be delighted with this colorful edition.

Telling the Christmas story to your very young children so that they will listen, be interested and want it retold, can be a delicate task. With the aid of Florida Glover's, *The First Christmas* the job can be easy. Related in simplicity, beauty and good taste is this story of the Holy Child.

How would Santa pay a visit to boys and girls if his reindeer became ill? Roger Duvoisin, an author, thought of that and created a means of transportation in the event that the reindeer became ill—A whale is roomy and could carry many toys. In colorful pictures and with an interesting story you'll be happy that you read *The Christmas Whale*, available at the library.

Never has the spirit of Christmas been more joyously and enthusiastically expressed than through passages from Dickens writings. *Christmas In Dickens* is yours for the asking.

straight to his work,  
And filled all the stockings; then  
turned with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his  
nose  
And giving a nod, up the chimney  
he rose;  
He sprang to his sleigh, to his  
team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the  
down of a thistle.  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he  
drove out of sight,  
"Happy Christmas to all, and to  
all a good-night."  
—Clement C. Moore.