



THE BLACKBIRD
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Is It Worth The Bang?

Tragedy sometimes brings a thing home when words and warnings fail. All the words and warnings in the world will not return the four lives, or erase the heartbreak and absolute sorrow of the two families who lost their boys as explosives and gasoline fumes met. In the brief span of a split second, as a boy fired a "harmless" cap gun, two mothers, two fathers, two sisters, and a brother had their lives thrown into panic and grief. These boys did not deliberately doom their mother to a life-time of self reproach; they only wanted to get a bang.

This happened in Middlesex, but what if an "empty" gas truck happened to be on the grounds of RMHS? It could happen. After the warnings and threats of the danger involved, why must the lives of many students, the happiness of many families be jeopardized? Firecrackers hold a little enjoyment but so much danger. The harm far outweighs the pleasure.

There's no safe way to play with firecrackers. Those four boys were simply having fun in their own yard, but an "empty" gas truck just happened to be there. It's "emptiness" and their "safety" killed them.

Many people "get away with it" but some don't. Is it worth the chance?

Let's Buy Seals, For Safety

With the coming of the Christmas season, Tuberculosis Christmas Seals are sent to us through the mail. When we open our envelope, we see these small seals that represent the spirit of Christmas giving. They stand for the help that we can give to those less fortunate. We can buy these Christmas Seals.

The Rocky Mount Kiwanis Tuberculosis Committee, which is affiliated with the National Tuberculosis Association is supported by the voluntary contributions for TB Seals. The funds, from the sale of Christmas Seals are used to prevent and control tuberculosis in Rocky Mount. The local Tuberculosis Committee has three main objectives:

1. CASE FINDING—Weekly clinics are held and free chest x-rays are given to those who cannot afford one.
2. HEALTH EDUCATION—Facts about prevention and control of tuberculosis are taught either by pamphlets or direct teaching. Some of the facts that are stressed are as follows:

Tuberculosis is caused by a germ.
 Tuberculosis is "catching."
 You can't inherit tuberculosis from your parents.
 You can have tuberculosis without feeling sick.
 The doctor can tell whether or not you have tuberculosis by x-ray or other tests.

Tuberculosis can be cured if found early enough and treated properly.

A tuberculosis hospital is the best place to go to be treated and protect others from the germ.

3. REHABILITATION—The Tuberculosis Associations help patients to return to their places in society after they have been dismissed from a TB hospital.

Without aid and support from you and me, how will the local Tuberculosis Committee be able to continue its services to the community, state and nation? Let's buy Christmas Seals for our own safety as well as our neighbors.

By Edward Hallford

Merry Christmas

Finally the moment comes. Everyone is happy and cheerful. It seems that everyone is laughing and joking. Locker doors are jerked open, books are thrown in to stay for two whole weeks, and then the locker doors are slammed shut with a bang. You see, the Christmas holidays have arrived again.

Everyone leaves school for many unknown points. Some of our lucky student have found jobs downtown to pick up some extra spending money. The teachers leave for their homes. Many strange faces show up around town. It seems we have quite a few people visiting here during the holidays.

Everyone has that Christmas spirit. Many people are seen uptown on the streets doing their Christmas shopping. Many nights are spent wrapping gifts and addressing cards.

Then that final period of waiting arrives. During those last few days everyone is wishing everyone else a "Very Merry Christmas" and a "Happy New Year."

Yes, it's truly a grand time, this Christmas season. Friendship and love show up on everyone's face. Each person is sure to remember that Merry Christmas of 1951.

Merry Christmas!!!

A Cold Christmas

A cold Christmas is an exciting thing.

With white snow falling while children sing.

Bells ringing gaily on sleighs gliding by.

Gift buyers hurry while shopping days fly.

The great night arrives with the children a-dither.

Santa comes finally with his pack all a-glitter.

A Christmas cold is another thing, One of much distress.

A miserable feeling—I must admit—

It's a mess.

You have to stay indoors in bed and

Mope around all day.

While other kids are having fun, All out of doors at play.

I guess I'll have to be more careful

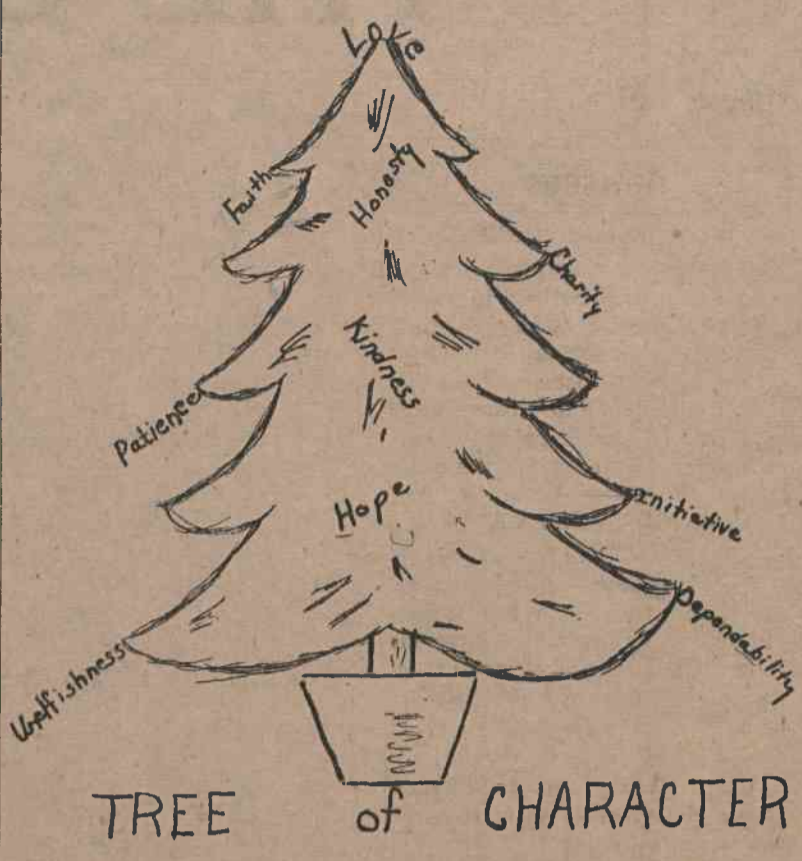
If I want to be—

Up and healthy by the time we decorate the tree.

By Marcia Milne



**STAMP OUT
 TB
 BUY AND USE
 CHRISTMAS
 SEALS . . .**



World Wide Holiday

On Christmas Eve the boys and girls of America hang their stockings for Santa to fill, sing Christmas Carols, go to a church and have beautifully decorated trees. What are other children of the world doing at Christmas time? Let's look and see.

In England, Jane and John hear children singing in the street. They open the door and it is their kinsfolk all of them come in and the children entertain the grownups with a pantomime play.

In Denmark, Hans and Else leave a bowl of rice in the attic for Jul-Nissen, who brings them presents on Christmas.

On Christmas Eve in Mexico, a bright clay bowl filled with candies, nuts, and little gifts and is hung from the ceiling. The children are blindfolded and given a stick. When someone hits the bowl and it bursts open, the children may have the goodies.

The children of Norway make a special Christmas tree for the birds. The tree is made of sheaves of grain with bread crumbs sprinkled on top.

In Holland, St. Nichols rides horseback so the children fill their wooden shoes with hay for the horse. The next morning, the hay is gone and their shoes are stuffed with presents.

Santa, St. Nicholas, Jul-Nissen, or whatever you want to call him, only comes to good boys and girls. Will the hay be gone from your shoes on Christmas morning?

Prayer In Song

"From Every Spire on Christmas Eve," we praise thee dear Lord. "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" for the "Silent Night" that "Came Upon the Midnight Cler" so long ago in the "Little Town of Bethlehem," where the "First Noel" was know "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" in silence. We thank thee for the "Three Kings of Orient" who gave their gifts. "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful" and worship His holy name so all will surely have "Joy to the World."
 Amen

It's Here!

Christmas has come— There's no mistake. The store windows are full Of candies and cake.

Hang up your stockings, For Santa 'll be here To make ail of us happy. Never you fear.

Everyone's singing And full of good cheer, So Merry Christmas And Happy New Year!

By Sarah Lee Moore

Dear Santa, Please

Dear Santa Claus, All we want for Christmas is a one rating when we send the Blackbird to the CSPSA convention.

The Blackbird Staff

Hi, Santa, Please bring us an unbeaten ten season and especially a win over Wilmington.

RM Basketball Team

Dear Mr. Claus, My only wish for Christmas is about 20 more copies of Long's English Literature.

Mrs. Gorham

Dear Kris Kringle, How about a few more warm days so we can meet on the auditorium steps some more.

Mrs. Cuthrell's 4th Period

Spanish Class

Dear Mrs. Santa Claus, Please whip us up some be-yoo-ti-ful evening dresses for the Junior-Senior.

R. M. H. S. Girls

Peace On Earth

Bells ringing, Children singing It's Christmas time again. Snow falling, People calling Peace on earth to men. Candles light Shining bright, Presents 'round the tree. Christmas greeting Long repeating, "Merry Christmas from me."
 By Jane Edwards