

'Tis The Season To Give

Christmas Joy And Cherished Moments

by Malcolm A. Pharr

It seems as if 1987 just began, but as we embark on the holiday season we realize a new year is upon us. The year in retrospect has left us with good and bad memories. There were births that seemed to glow from within those who were blessed with new life and deaths that left empty spots at our tables, in our homes and in our hearts. We loved and we despaired, but with the blessings of God we survived trials and tribulations.

The Christmas Issue of the Phoenix tabloid is dedicated to those who touch our hearts due to both their innocence and wisdom. The youth whom we look to for our future and our senior citizens who have given us a past.

Reverend John Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church has shown the Phoenix family that he is

not just a dynamic orator and minister, but he also has a flair for writing. His Christmas message is a message for all of us.

Phoenix staff writer Dennis Schatzman goes in depth about the plight of our senior citizens. There are not many words that can take the place of hard facts and statistics. Some of these numbers are startling and eventually we must all face the reality of them.

We realize that 1987 has been a new era in local politics and on the national scene. The staff has attempted to pick out some of those events that will be in our history in the very near future.

The holiday season is a time for joy, but it also has its pain. For some the Christmas tree will not bare gifts, stockings, or

food. Some will be outside because of no shelter. By lending a helping hand to those in need the true meaning of the holiday can be enjoyed. The Samaritan Soup Kitchen and the Crisis Control Ministry as well as other agencies which help those who can not help themselves. There are enough churches in East Winston-Salem to see to it that no one goes hungry on Christmas Day. We at the Phoenix through our commentary section really wants to touch some hearts and put everyone in a giving mood.

Bridging The Gap between our youth and our senior citizens is very important. The wisdom of the elderly is especially important in this day and time. There is so much history to be shared. Some refer to stoves past through generations as

folklore. I refer to it as a learning experience without the actual experience. It is very difficult to grow old and not have learned some things along the way.

Our publisher Mr. Rodney J. Sumler has provided us with an article which appeared in last Christmas' Issue. It is entitled 'Christmas Through The Eyes Of A Child'. There are memories etched on paper that persons from all walks of life can relate to.


There are some things that are better explained in photos. Rico and myself have spent numerous hours snapping and setting convenient hours for those who have had shots taken this year. our front cover is compliments of Ann and Rodney Sumler. Rahni, born November.9, 1987

has been a blessing for the couple. She is what our future holds for us. (She may also be heir apparent to the Phoenix tabloid). Our centerfold is compliments of one of Phoenix favorite senior citizens Ms. Eleanor Smalls. Mrs. Smalls a retired teacher helps to distribute the Phoenix tabloid, and anything else the staff has asked of her. Ms. Smalls shares the centerfold with Ms. Megan Wolford. Megan, the daughter of Miss Mae Wolford and granddaughter of Lorenzo and Doris Wolford was so picture perfect that I could not bare to keep her out on her very first Christmas.

The Freedom Bowl All-Star classic was blessed with beautiful weather and outstanding football and music that would soothe a savage beast. The high schoolers rocked and bopped, while the W.S.S.U. Rams and S.C. State Bulldogs gave them a dose of *Jam-ology*, in the form of crisp sound and creative dance. Notes from the game and the halftime show are highlighted in a pictorial.

Yes 1987 has been some kind of year, and next year, particularly with the Phoenix, is going to really be something to write home about.

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