

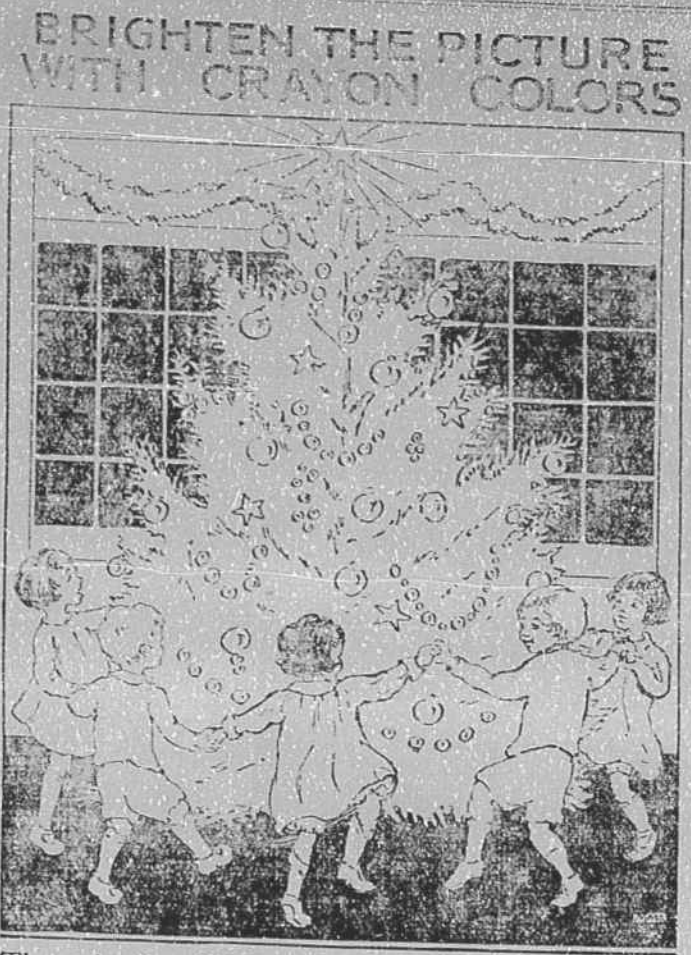
**Spirit of Christmas Is Eternal Foe of Cruelty**  
 From its Christmas has meant to humanity, it has meant no loss to those lowlier fellow creatures who share with man the love and sympathy. Whatever the burden of suffering that rests upon the animal world today, it is less by many fold than it was before that night when a little child was born in the stable of a Bethlehem inn. The spirit of Christmas is the eternal foe of cruelty. No man who yields to its sway can look with other than kindly eyes upon the least of those living things that have capacity for pain.

**"O Little Town of Bethlehem"**  
 Dr. Brooks wrote "O Little Town of Bethlehem" while living in Philadelphia. The organist of his church set the hymn to music. The inspiration for the composition came to the organist the night before the hymn was to be used in a Christmas program.

**Record Private Christmas Tree**  
 The biggest private Christmas tree ever seen in Britain was one which the Duke of Norfolk had cut from his own estate. It stood 70 feet high, weighed nearly four tons, and bore on its branches presents to the value of \$1,500.

**Christmas Wreaths Favored in America**  
 The use of the Christmas wreath is believed by authorities to be traceable to the pagan custom of decorating buildings and places of worship at the same time as our Christmas. The wreath is not used to such a great extent in Europe as in America, although decorations with evergreens are authorized.

**Christmas Candles**  
 Burning of candles in the window the night before Christmas is one of the features of the Swedish celebration of the festival. The candles, lighted on Christmas eve, are supposed to last till 6 p. m. the next day, the traditional hour of the Swedish Christmas mass.



These happy children dancing here around their tree, in brilliant colors, even happier are sure to be. So take your crayons, red and green and gold and blue. They'll brighten up the picture, and make some fun for you.

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THE DEMOCRAT—A REAL XMAS GIFT

**Arthur Plans a Merry Christmas**  
 Clara Acce Hays

ARTHUR BROOKS smiled. For ten years he had looked forward to this Christmas—saying and stamping and dreaming. Maybe it was silly for a fellow's pride to drive him on so long. It was more than pride, though. If Jane Bently hadn't been a thoughtful, beautiful girl, pride wouldn't have kept him to it. That had been why, when he was only fifteen he'd resolved to go back on some Christmas—and surprise the man who had given him the ten-dollar bill and the girl who had given him the muller. At least, he thought it would surprise them to see, instead of a ragged youth, a well-dressed man with a decent bank account.

Ten thousand dollars! He'd been saving toward it the whole year. He'd gone to night school and managed even some day work in college since. Lucky investments had helped. And, this year, by queer fortune, it had jumped to fifteen thousand! A relative worth millions had left him five thousand. Now he hoped he could talk to Jane Bently without being ashamed of himself. That was all he'd wanted the money for—his own self-respect. He'd get her rather a present in token of his gratitude for that other Christmas—and, perhaps, flowers for Jane. He'd made sure she wasn't married.

In the suburbs, Arthur hopped from the train with boyish eagerness. He'd just "happen in," or no, had better telephone, say he was going through, and thought he'd look them up.

Jane's voice came strained and distant over the telephone.

"You probably don't remember me," he said, blushing, hoping she might be the boy who lived in that little old house at the foot of your hill. The Christmas after my mother died you father invited me to your house."

"Oh, yes!" Jane was more certain. "My father is in the hospital. On going to see him and if you'd like, I'll pick you up."

Arthur felt to be sitting in the car beside Jane. Her cheeks were



The Dinner Arthur Hired Cooked Lacked Nothing.

still rosy and dark hair curled about her face, school-girl fashion. But there was a hint of suppressed worry in her manner.

"I'm glad to see you, Arthur," she said simply.

Mr. Bently remembered. "That Christmas," he laughed. "I saw you looking forlorn and invited you to come along to our house. To be sure?"

"Father comes home tomorrow," Jane said, "for Christmas. But he's going to be the joy Arthur expected, and then the Bentlys were friendly, they didn't invite him to the house at all. He said goodbye at the station with queer embarrassment. He had seen Jane and loved her more."

But tomorrow was Christmas and he'd been dismissed!

Frank White, an old classmate, was awaiting the train.

"Saw you with Jane Bently?" Frank remarked. "You had a good time, didn't you?"

"You mean Mr. Bently's being in the hospital?"

"That, too, but losing their home is what got him there."

"Losing their home?" Arthur gasped.

"Yes. Haven't you heard? Foreclosure takes place January first, and they must get out. Don't know what they'll do."

"How much was it mortgaged for?"

"Twenty thousand, I think."

Arthur excused himself quickly. On Christmas day he knocked at the Bently door.

"I've been wanting to celebrate with you folks," he pleaded to Jane, who came to the door. "Let me furnish the dinner, you'll furnish the house?"

The dinner Arthur hired cooked lacked nothing. After it, Arthur shyly extended a package to Jane.

"To prove my gratitude," it held a beautiful scarf. "As near a muller as I could find," he laughed.

To Mr. Bently he handed an envelope. "Interest on the ten dollars. Mr. Bently's hand trembled as he saw his own cancelled notes. "But, my boy, the home is yours now. We can't keep it."

Arthur disagreed. "I've always liked this home, Mr. Bently," he admitted, "but I can't arrange things to stay here just now. Won't you let me in until I need a home?"

Something Arthur sensed in Jane's smile told him it would be hers again as soon as he could "arrange things."

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**Harris Brothers Department Store**

Before-Christmas, Pre-Inventory  
**CLEARANCE SALE**



**Winter Coats**

Luxuriously fur-trimmed Coats, in Broadcloth and Tico Weave... Colors Brown, Black. \$24.50 value

**\$15.95**

A BEAUTIFUL COLLECTION OF THE SEASON'S NEWEST DRESSES IN ALL POPULAR STYLES AND COLORS

CHILDREN'S COATS, in Suede and Broadcloth, \$2.98

**Men's Clothing**

Greatly Reduced in this Pre-Inventory Clearance Sale

1 Lot Men's Serge Suits, formerly priced at \$19.50, \$14.95, \$22.50 to \$27.50 values, for only

**\$15.95**

**Gift Suggestions:**

- |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| For the Ladies    | For the Men            |
| —DRESS SHOES      | —DRESS SHIRTS          |
| —SILK HOSE        | —NECKTIES              |
| —BEDROOM SLIPPERS | —PAJAMAS               |
| —BATH ROBES       | —BATH ROBES            |
| —SILK UNDERWEAR   | —BEDROOM SLIPPERS      |
| —PAJAMAS          | —TOILET SETS           |
| —RED LAMPS        | —BELT SETS             |
| —BOOK ENDS        | —SILK AND WOOL SCARFS  |
| —HANDKERCHIEFS    | —SWEATERS, ETC.        |
| —SCARFS           |                        |
| —KID GLOVES       | For the Children       |
| —PILLOWS          | —SHOES and HOSE        |
| —SHEETS           | —KERCHIEFS             |
| —BED SPREADS      | —BOOTS, BELTS, TIES    |
| —GUEST TOWELS     | —AMOS 'N ANDY TOYS     |
| —LINEN SETS, ETC. | —GAMES, STORY BOOKS    |
|                   | —DOLLS, CATS, DOGS     |
|                   | —TEDDY BEARS AND BALLS |

our Home Chain Grocery We Save You Money

**CAROLINA STORES**  
 BLUE FRONT STORES  
*"Money Spent in CAROLINA STORES Stays at Home"*

In our attractive, clean stores you will find displays of merchandise that meet the popular demand. We specialize in goods you need and want and offer you the utmost in service and value. And Santa Claus Makes CarolinaStores His Headquarters.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**Oranges** Florida Sweet and juicy— **10c**  
 Per Dozen

**TANGERINES DOZ. 15c**

<b>FANCY APPLES</b> Dozen <b>25c</b>	<b>GRAPEFRUIT</b> , 7 for <b>25c</b>
<b>LETTUCE</b> 3 large heads. <b>25c</b>	<b>CELERY</b> , 3 large <b>25c</b>

<b>CANDIES</b>	<b>NUTS</b>
<b>KING'S MIXTURE</b> , lb. <b>15c</b>	<b>LARGE WALNUTS</b> , lb. <b>33c</b>
<b>XMAS MIXTURE</b> , 2 lbs. <b>35c</b>	<b>JUMBO BRITE BRAZILS</b> <b>39c</b>
<b>CHOCOLATE DROPS</b> , lb. <b>19c</b>	<b>PECANS, JUMBOS</b> , lb. <b>60c</b>
<b>COCOANUT ICES</b> , lb. <b>29c</b>	<b>PECANS, MEDIUM</b> , lb. <b>35c</b>
<b>PURE SUGAR STICK</b> , Box <b>29c</b>	<b>FANCY MIXED</b> , lb. <b>29c</b>
<b>CREAM BON BONS</b> , lb. <b>23c</b>	<b>SHELLED PECANS</b> , glass <b>23c</b>
<b>MINT CHOPS</b> , lb. <b>19c</b>	<b>Blanched ALMONDS</b> , 4 oz. <b>45c</b>

<b>DROMEDARY DATES</b> <b>22c</b>	<b>FANCY CITRON</b> Pound <b>39c</b>
<b>BLACK PALM DATES, Small</b> <b>9c</b>	<b>GLACE PINEAPPLE</b> Pound <b>59c</b>
<b>NECTAR RAISINS</b> Package <b>10c</b>	<b>CRYSTALLIZED GINGER</b> <b>22c</b>
<b>LAYER RAISINS</b> 2 Pounds <b>25c</b>	<b>GLACE CHERRIES</b> Package <b>22c</b>
<b>CLUSTER RAISINS</b> Pound <b>15c</b>	<b>CURRENTS</b> Package <b>19c</b>
<b>POP CORN</b> 2 Cans <b>25c</b>	<b>ORANGE AND LEMON PEEL</b> Package <b>14c</b>

**CAROLINA STORES OWNED BY CAROLINA PEOPLE!**  
 THREE STORES IN WATAUGA COUNTY TWO IN BOONE—ONE IN BLOWING ROCK