



point of view

BY BILL NIXON

Editor's note: Nixon, an Edenton native, is vice-president of Parker Brothers Newspapers of Asheville. His column appears weekly in a number of that group's publications.

I've given much thought recently to the proper comments for this week's column. Since it is so near Christmas it would seem fitting to give my own point of view on this, the most joyous of seasons, or to tell some fitting story of Christmas's past. I'll attempt to do neither of these but instead, pass on this story: In the Austrian Tyrol nestles the remote town of Obendorf. Joseph Mohr was the devout priest of the town; Franz Xavier Gruber, his friend, the village choir-master and church organist. Both were lovers of music, and the two often agreed that the perfect Christmas song had yet to be found. Meditating on this thought, Mohr sat in his study on Christmas Eve, 1818. Outside the air was still and cold. Suddenly, thoughts which had been forming in Mohr's mind found clear expression. "Still Nacht, Heilige Nacht."

The next morning, he hurried to his friend's home with the manuscript. Gruber then composed the music, exclaiming with joy in his heart as he sang it for the first time, "It sings itself, young son." Later in the evening they sang their new song before their first audience. The com-

Honored Guest

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Carolina. Christmas gifts were donated by Ivey's Department Stores and McDonald's. Honda's Christmas outfit was donated by Ivey's. The House is operated solely on private gifts and donations. Donations may be directed to: Ronald McDonald House, 506 Alexander Avenue, Durham, N.C. 27795.

Christmas coloring calendars will be sold by participating McDonald's Restaurants to raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House.

pany of auditors thanked their two friends with tears of joy in their eyes.

Tradition has it that the song lay on Gruber's desk for a year. Then it was tried at the church organ. The organ builder was so entranced that he begged to take a copy to a little town across the mountain. There it was sung by four sisters by the name of Strasser. This song became the favorite of the "Strasser quartet." They were invited to sing the hymn in the cathedral of Leipzig. It became known as the "Tyrolean Song."

The song was first honored in 1854 when a full choir sang it in the imperial church of Berlin before Emperor Frederick Wilhelm IV. Thereafter it was ordered to have first place in all Christmas programs.

Translated into English, the song begins: "Silent night, holy night," the most beautiful of Christmas songs to be sure.

Along with receiving, Christmas also provided an important opportunity for us to teach our children about giving. Once past the self-absorption of toddlerhood, children are naturally receptive to generous feelings and enjoy the grown-up role of giver. Encourage them to design their own greeting cards and to make presents — for older family members if no one else.

Even if yours is not a religious family, let them attend a pageant or religious service that dramatizes the holiday's spiritual meaning. By sensitive awareness of what it is your children most enjoy doing, help them create, over the years, those family traditions that will remain a permanent source of strength in the years ahead.

Just as this Christmas is for children, all the Christmas's in the years to come will be for children. What we teach them today will determine what they will teach their children in years to come. Let's do our job well.

Here's hoping you and yours will have a very special

holiday season, and that the joy that is Christmas will bring a touch of happiness to your heart.

Tournament Set

The Edenton Aces will host three area High Schools in a boys and girls holiday basketball tournament. The playing dates are December 28, 29, and 30.

The schools participating in this year's tournament will be: (1) Camden Co. Bruins, (2) Gates Co. Barrons, (3) Creswell Tigers, and the (4) Edenton Aces.

Listed below are the pairings:

- Tuesday - December 28th
 - 5:30—Gates Co. Girls vs. Creswell Girls
 - 7:00—Camden Co. Boys vs. Creswell Boys
 - 8:30—Gates Co. Boys vs. Edenton Boys
- Wednesday - December 29th
 - 7:00—Camden Co. Girls vs. Edenton Girls
 - 8:30—Boys - Consolation Game—Loser of Dec. 28th - 7:00 Game vs. Loser of Dec. 28th - 8:30 Game
- Thursday - December 30th
 - 5:30—Girls - Consolation Game—Loser of Dec. 28th - 5:30 Game vs. Loser of Dec. 29th - 7:00 Game
 - 7:00—Girls Championship Game
 - 8:30—Boys Championship Game

This is the seventh year that Edenton has held a Christmas Tournament but it is the first year that both-boys and girls have participated.

We invite you to come out and support your favorite team and see some very exciting basketball. The price of admission will be \$2 each night.

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Carolina Review: Helms Using Poor Judgement

LONG TIME...Sen. Jesse Helms' battle against the federal gasoline tax increase of five cents per gallon recently may have been the first thing he's done to endear himself to North Carolina voters in a long time. That, of course, excludes his always excellent individual constituency response and service record, which touches a relative few at the polling place.

North Carolinians just haven't been decidedly impressed with Helms' work on behalf of tobacco lately, especially after a yes vote (misplaced or not) for a 100 per cent tobacco tax increase. Although a case could be made for the growing anti-tobacco vote in this state, or at least the "I could care less" attitude about the leaf industry, that lobby is not a part of the Helms' constituency.

Most observers agree that Helms' efforts on behalf of school prayer, anti-abortion, Argentina, and Taiwan, have done little for the folks back

home. Lately, he has even fended for himself, in advance, over a junket to Switzerland ("the White House insisted that I go"). But his efforts of real late reaffirm and preserve in platinum his claim of opposition to any additional tax on gasoline. Tar Heel motorists can appreciate that. On the other hand, Helms' political organization, the National Congressional Club, has the same type of platinum etchings confirming Gov. Jim Hunt's efforts to raise state gasoline taxes a year ago.

During the protracted fight over the increase of three cents per gallon, the Congressional Club was a major opponent. And they spent money to be sure people realized Hunt was out front for it.

With that first skirmish over the state gasoline tax, people speculated that such was the beginning of the definitive political battle of the century—Hunt vs. Helms in the 1984 Senate race. It was. And it was smart politics

on Helms' behalf. Yet Sen. Helms and the Congressional Club have done little to enhance their reputation for smart politics sense. Even now, Helms' protege', John East, is in Washington looking for what might be a typographical error in the Panama Canal Treaty. Agreed that Sen. East went a long way on the Panama Canal in 1980, but this is 1982. When unemployment, Social Security, and out-of-control federal spending deserve his attention.

Helms' efforts against the

gasoline tax do, then, at least placate some of those political gadabouts who were becoming increasingly concerned that Hunt might win the 1984 Senate race by default.

This, while Hunt, and a

growing number of support groups, are collecting their own etchings and continue to tie Helms to an increasing North Carolina disenchantment with the Republicans. Oh, what a race this will be.

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