

The Cherokee Scout

Official Organ of Murphy and Cherokee County, North Carolina

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Murphy, North Carolina, Thursday, December 19, 1935.

A GOOD ENTERPRISE

We should be glad to see that the farmers in Cherokee county have organized for the purpose of sending full and complete articles to the editor.

Last week's Scout carried an article to the effect that a cowboys' cattle club had been formed in this county and that adults interested grow so far ahead as to include sheep, hogs for a game, head cattle sale in March, etc.

It was a good idea and well explained the fact that the county is an exceptional one in this respect.

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IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?

Some years ago a little New York girl wrote the editor of the New York Sun asking if there was a Santa Claus. He replied with an editorial, "Is There a Santa Claus?" which has become a classic.

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They think that nothing can be which is not explicable by ratiocination. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man's mind is an ant in his intellect as compared with boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exists, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how devout would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be a dreary as if there were no Virginia. There would be no childlike faith, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

No, believe in Santa Claus. You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that only children and dog men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the bay's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world, which not the strongest man, nor even the wisest strength of the strongest men that ever lived, could ever tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else so real and abiding.

"No Santa Claus? Thank God! He lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, may ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make the heart of childhood.

LAND OF CHRISTMAS TREES

With a climate ideally suited to the growth of evergreen trees and shrubs of practically every type and variety, the mountains of Western North Carolina present a festive, yuletide appearance to visitors during the Christmas holiday period. Cool, high-altitude summers and mild winters provide the proper environment in these mountains for both broad and needle-leaved evergreens.

Summits of the mountains are crowned with long, serated ranks of spruce and balsam. Hemlocks and white and yellow pines grow in masses on the slopes and in the valley and gorges. The passing of the leaves from the branches of the deciduous trees with the arrival of winter, makes the dark evergreen forests stand out in sharp contrast and terms the highland country into Christmas tree land.

Interspersed among the evergreen trees are the vast areas of rhododendrons, laurels and other broad-leaved evergreen shrubs. Their cloak of glossy green verdure gives an atmosphere of holiday greenery to the mountain slopes. Western North Carolina is also noted for the abundance of galax to be found here. Galax, a small round-leaved plant growing among the rhododendrons and laurels, is much prized as a holiday green. Its colors vary from leafgreen to russet shades and the plant is gathered in quantities by mountain folk for holiday decorations.

Murphy and other towns in the highland country utilize evergreens extensively in landscape arrangements on streets and on private grounds. The Christmas season is made more brilliant each year by the decoration of white pines, spruces, hemlocks and other trees on the levels of the homes with colored lights.

Many of the tracks of evergreen forest in the mountains, particularly in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, are virgin timber. These magnificent stands of spruce and balsam forest are one of the scenic features of the highlands.

MILLION-DOLLAR INCOMES

Only one man in the United States reported a net income above \$5,000,000 in 1934. In 1929 there were 80 income tax returns, showing incomes above that figure.

That looks as if the process of "redistribution of wealth" of which we hear so much, were actually under way. We don't know the name of the fortunate individual, who, according to the Treasury Department, received between 5 and 9 million dollars, of taxable income last year, though it might be easy to make a fairly close guess as to his identity.

There were only 32 million-dollar incomes, all told, in 1934, but there were almost 4 million persons who received enough in that year to require the filing of income-tax returns. More than 2 1/2 million of those reporting incomes below \$5,000 paid no tax, while the 32 biggest incomes, aggregating almost 60 million dollars, paid more than half of their incomes, about 33 million dollars, as taxes. It is obvious that if all of the incomes of a million or more, instead of only 55 percent, were taken, it wouldn't help the Treasury much.

Most folks would be willing enough to pay Uncle Sam half a million dollars or more if they had million-dollar incomes. There would still be a surplus left on which they or somebody could live in comfort. But the fact that a man received an income of a million dollars in 1934 is no guarantee that he will get that much in 1935. The one thing harder than making money, those who have had experience say, is keeping it after you've made it. Even millionaires are alive to the need of laying something by for a rainy day.

After all, the big returns to the Government from the income-tax are not from the few immensely wealthy, but from the middle-class group with incomes of from \$2,500 to \$25,000 a year. And when we get down to those who make reports to the Government, the indirect taxes paid are probably higher, in proportion to income, than those of many of the direct income-tax payers.

THE 200-INCH EYE

The human race is on the verge of learning hitherto unrevealed secrets about the universe. The casting of the great 200-inch telescope lens for the great new observatory in California has been successfully completed. It will take three years to grind it to the prop shape to reflect and magnify the heavens. The unaided human eye can see only six thousand stars. With this new telescope more than a million and a half heavenly bodies will be visible and the moon will appear as if it were only 25 miles away. It is hard to measure the value of knowledge in cash, but the more mankind learns about the composition, the organization and the processes of the cosmic universe, the more we may hope, in time, to learn about how to live on our own tiny speck of dust which we call the earth.

TURNING BACK HISTORY'S PAGES

10 YEARS AGO

Friday, December 18, 1925
Mrs. S. W. Robinson, and daughter, Miss Bessie and Mrs. Mae Barnett and son, James, of Marble left this week for Atlanta where they will make their home.

County agent and Mrs. R. W. Gray left Tuesday to spend their holidays with relatives in Asheville.

Mrs. W. T. Smalley, of Macon, Ga., is visiting her mother, Mrs. A. K. Dickey and sister, Mrs. Fred Christopher.

Mr. W. K. Derberry, of Marble was a visitor to Murphy Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Hyatt of Marble left Wednesday for Miami, Fla., where they will spend the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Striles left last week for Etowah, Tenn., where they will reside.

Miss Gus Whitcomb and Mr. John who have been visiting Mr. A. B. Dickey and Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Doaks returned to their home in Harlan, Ky., this week.

20 YEARS AGO

Friday, December 17, 1915
Capt. and Mrs. M. A. Hyatt expects to leave today for Miami, Fla., where they will spend the winter with their children.

Mrs. Boh Brooks of Franklin, Mrs. Florence Snider of Okla., were the weekend guests of Miss Mayer Meeney.

Mr. W. B. Johnson and Mrs. G. W. Hamilton have returned from a visit with relatives in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Mrs. Mary Rogers of Collierville, is spending the week with her sister, Mrs. J. T. Geible.

32 YEARS AGO

Tuesday, December 15, 1903
A. L. Cooper went south Thursday. G. M. Hooper of Robbinsville, was here Saturday.

Dr. R. J. Orr, of Robbinsville was here Sunday and yesterday.

Binker Carter and family have gone to Marianna, Fla.

John Posey is working at Isabella, Tenn., for a copper company.

M. W. Bell returned Saturday from a professional trip to Bryson City.

Messrs. J. W. and H. R. Ferguson of Waynesville were here the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Dillard expect to leave Thursday to spend the winter in Florida.

Mrs. W. H. Marley of Chattanooga is here visiting her sister, Mrs. L. J. Bayless.

Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Tidwell, came down from Hayesville. Mrs. Tidwell has gone to visit relatives at Canton, N. C.

Dr. W. C. Thomas and Mayor L. G. Edwards, of Blue Ridge, were in town yesterday.

42 YEARS AGO

Tuesday, December 19, 1893
W. A. Griffin, the jolly and thrifty merchant at Ocreeta, was in town Wednesday.

Capt. J. W. Cooper left Thursday for Raleigh, to be in attendance at the Supreme Court.

J. S. Moore and Miss Gertrude Patton spent Friday in Hayesville visiting friends.

Silas Rose was in town Friday.

Mr. R. H. Hyatt returned Friday from Knoxville, where he purchased Christmas stock.

Sam Abernathy has moved to his country home on Owl Creek.

Albert Siler, Esq., from Macon county, arrived here Wednesday and will spend the holidays with friends and relatives.

Mrs. W. H. Woodbury is visiting friends in Atlanta.

Mrs. J. T. Terrell left for Macon yesterday.

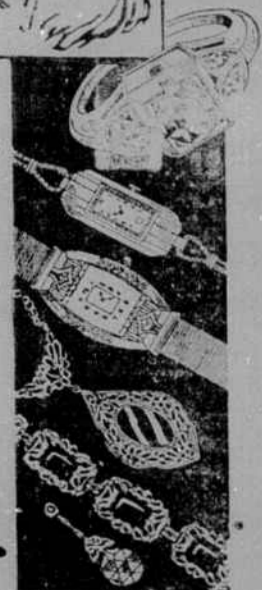
SPECIAL CHRISTMAS DINNER



...At the MURPHY CAFE

You'll like our menu and our fine foods. Come at any time. Enjoy our tasty sandwiches, our cold fountain drinks or a bottle of beer. Candies, Tobaccos. Private booths—Music.

Murphy Cafe



Gift TIME AGAIN!

MASTER craftsmen designed this modern jewelry and the early shoppers will find an extensive display from which to make exquisite selections. . . . Every item carries the strongest guarantee our 26 years of experience can give.

Everything in the line of jewelry, manicuring sets, bill folds, week-end bags, etc.

E. C. MOORE

MURPHY, N. C.