

THE BREVARD NEWS

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1927 OUR NATIONAL HERO'S FIRST TESTING HOUR.

Col. Lindbergh, the young man who has won a place in American history never attained by any other man, is now facing the guns of adverse criticism. For several months the young man has been able to hold the love and admiration of everybody. But that is too good to last. No man is perfect, and no man can perfectly serve 120,000,000 people. Sooner or later the time comes when one crowd swears by him, while another crowd swears at him, regardless of the man's service to his country or his sincerity of purpose.

Lindbergh went to Europe, and was praised for his every word and act. He went from place to place in the United States, and all honored him. He went to Canada, and the folks there approved him and the folks at home were prouder still of him.

A few days ago Lindbergh went to Mexico. As per usual, the young hero captured the country to the south of us. But last Sunday there was staged in Mexico City a bull fight, a sport that seems to be very popular down there. Of course, the officials of Mexico invited Lindbergh. He went. Now the howl has started, and ere long another hero will pass into history, all because the folks in the United States are the kind of people who demand one hundred per cent perfection in one hundred per cent heroes—which is, of course, an impossibility.

Lindbergh simply reached that place which all public men must face—where he is damned if he does and damned if he doesn't.

STILL WE GROW, AND—GROW MORE DISSATISFIED.

On Christmas Eve, just sixty years ago, the little children in Southern homes had but little hopes of a visit from Santa Claus. The Civil War had been ended but two years, at that time, and the South had been so torn by the four-year conflict that Santa could not travel the devastated territory with any degree of safety. Mothers in Southern homes at that time had either received their crippled and maimed sons, or had become convinced that their sons had died on the battlefield, and the task of keeping body and soul together presented such a problem that little thought was given to the coming of old Santa Claus.

Just think of it! Only sixty short years ago the fathers and mothers of the South were starting in all anew, to plan and to plan, to begin and to build anew, all that had been torn to pieces in the war. Field and factory had been robbed and pillaged; store house and school house had to be rebuilt. With scarcely a murmur the men and women of the South went about their task, and ere long old Santa found the way cleared for his annual visit. Of course he did not have the many beautiful presents to bring to the little ones that he now has, yet their happiness was great, for the parents of the children had so wrought that there was a deep sense of appreciation for the gifts of the gods, however small they might be.

On this Christmas Eve old Santa Claus is loaded to the breaking point with presents for the children of the Southland. Santa finds the best of roads over which to travel in his mission of gift-making. Fine homes everywhere he goes in the South will welcome his coming. Great schools, beautiful churches, large business houses, are on the route Santa travels throughout the South.

Right here in Transylvania county old Santa will find a country which in nowise resembles the section he once traveled through while serving the children of this section. Even our middle aged citizens can tell you of the vast difference between this section now and that condition existing here a few years ago. All this rambling talk is simply to ask the one question: Why is it, with all the advances

ment that has been made during the past three score years, that we are more dissatisfied now than ever before? Why is it, when nearly every citizen of this section is living better than he ever lived before, that there is more grumbling about conditions now than have ever been heard in the past?

We're glad old Santa Claus will not be here long enough to hear any of the grumbling and the kicking about present day conditions. We know what he would say to some of us. He would say:

"Boy, do you remember when you were happy as a lark when I brought you six sticks of striped candy, a cap pistol, an orange and an apple? Look what I am bringing you now—a whole load of your children—a whole load of your finest presents." That's what he'd say, and we're glad he'll be here long enough to bowl some of us out, much as we need it.

CAN YOU BOUND YOUR OWN COUNTY?

In another column of this issue of The Brevard News there is reprinted an article from the University News Letter, published at Chapel Hill, in which The Charlotte Observer is quoted as saying the school children of the South know more about Russia than they know about the southern states in which they live. The article is a terrific indictment on one phase of the school work—that which places greater stress upon the teaching of foreign subjects than that of every day interest to the school children of the South.

The Brevard News is gratified over the fact that The Charlotte Observer, The University News Letter, and other periodicals of the South are taking this question and treating it in the frank manner as illustrated in the accompanying article.

It is charged in some of these writings that the average high school student in the State of North Carolina knows but very little of the romance of the terrific struggle this state experienced during the Civil War and through the reconstruction period. It is indeed a romance, and more. A boy or girl, of whatever generation, in North Carolina's progressive family, who fails to study and fully comprehend all that the Civil War and its following years mean, is being denied one of the greatest pleasures of life.

The Brevard News loves every High School boy and girl in the county, as well as the children in the lower grades who will, within the next few years, be in High School. We are just wondering how many members of the graduating classes in the Transylvania High Schools could bound Transylvania county, or tell when this county was organized. Suppose the boys and girls try just for fun and profit, to see how little they really know not only about the South and the State of North Carolina, but of their own county in which they were born and raised.

Then you will understand fully what The Charlotte Observer means in its assertion that the average school boy and girl of the South knows more about Russia than he or she knows about North Carolina.

EXPECTS WORK FROM HIS COMMITTEES.

"Jim Barrett, you are chairman of the publicity committee. I want you to take particular notice of the committees which I appoint to carry on the work of this club. I am appointing a committee here tonight to decorate the streets of Brevard for Christmas week, and whatever committees I appoint to perform any public service for this community, I want the names of the members of that committee published, together with the purpose of their appointments, and then I want you, as chairman of the publicity committee, to tell the folks in the community the results of that committee's work."

Such, in effect, were the words spoken by Thos. H. Shipman, president of the Kiwanis club, in the meeting last Thursday, when he appointed Mac Allison, H. A. Plummer, Walter Cobbie, Bob Garrett and A. H. Houston as members of the committee to procure sufficient funds with which to buy necessary material to decorate the streets of Brevard for the Christmas holidays.

Well, all who have seen the streets need no word from The Brevard News, or the publicity committee, to inform President Shipman that his committee has worked wonders in following out the president's instructions. The money was raised, a man sent to Charlotte for material that could not be obtained in Brevard, Bob Garrett was put in charge of stringing the wires, and Louie Loftis' and Walter Hart's men joined him in hanging the lights that reflect the national colors of red, white and blue. Beverly Trantham brought from his country home the

pine trees which gave the finishing touch to the plan Christmas decorations.

It is safe to say that the streets of Brevard present at this time the most beautiful picture ever witnessed, and by its originator. This picture is the fulfillment of President Shipman's orders to his committee. We know that all rejoice in the work that has been so well done, and that the whole county rejoices in the results brought about through the efforts of the Kiwanis club, working in cooperation with all the business men of the town.

EMPTY STOCKING ON CHRISTMAS MORNING!

Every child has a perfect right to expect a visit from Santa Claus. Christmas morning, as on all Christmas mornings of past ages, there will be some children who awake on Christmas Morn to find that Santa has failed to visit their house. Just why this is a fact is beyond the understanding of a poor mortal like this editor. Yet the fact remains a fact.

Even as you enjoy the pleasure of your little ones in their happy delight of Santa's visit, we're now appealing to you to see to it that Old Santa visits the families of all the poor in your section. You cannot stand it to see the little ones in your own home smile and laugh over Santa's visit, if there is a single child in your neighborhood who has been forgotten by Santa Claus.

Since the day when Jesus Christ hung on the Cross of Calvary, no other picture has been so pathetic as that of the boy or girl on Christmas Morn in the home where Santa failed to visit. In the name of the Christ who died for all, and whose greatest love was for the little children, this paper pleads with the big hearted men and women of this section to see to it that no little child is to awaken here next Sunday morning to find an empty stocking hanging where it had been placed on Christmas eve.

"Even as ye did it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me," said the Master. He is looking to us to keep alive that faith, that most beautiful faith—the faith of the little child in the love of Santa Claus. Let us not fail Him here in this section which He has so wondrously blessed. God forbid that a single empty stocking shall be found by a boy or a girl in Transylvania county next Sunday morning!

FREE PUBLIC BUS FOR ALL

Editor The Brevard News: I notice on Saturdays and Sundays that the school buses are operated. You often see them on the streets. I suppose burning county gas. Who has the authority to let individuals use them?

I think it hard enough on the tax payers to furnish these buses just for school purposes. It seems to me there is too much (FREE) or county gas used. You often see a car standing on the street with engine running, but after investigation you generally find it's (FREE) county gas being burned.

I think it is high time the good citizens and tax payers of this county knew just how much gas is being used and charged to the county and to the town of Brevard.

A CITIZEN. "LET BLAME GO WHERE IT BELONGS"

To the citizens and taxpayers of Little River township: As I was a member of the board of tax assessors of Little River township, and being annoyed by some of the tax payers of the township as to the high assessment of the land, I only want to bear what I am guilty of. As a matter of fact, what myself, Messrs. C. V. Shuford and Manson Hamilton, my associates, did, did not amount to anything, for when we made our returns to the county board of equalization, composed of Messrs. M. W. Galaway, G. T. Lyday, and Alex Kizer, they raised our assessment 40 per cent, also raised the tax rate 15 percent on the \$100.00 worth of property, making the total rate \$2.40 on the \$100.00 worth of property. So you can see that the township board is not responsible for high tax.

Myself and associates tried as best we knew how, to equalize valuation of land in the township, realizing that the assessment we made was too high, but hoping that the rate would be lowered and that would lower taxes. I hope this is sufficient and that you can see where the blame is.

I will stand by any plan that will reduce taxes; abolish offices, such as tax collector, two county commissioners, county treasurer, road supervisor, abolishing chain-gang, and cutting salaries of all county officials. Yet I am as progressive as any citizen in the county.

(Signed) E. A. HEATH. The one great thing that Tarheel farmers may learn from those in continental Europe is the practice of thrift, say those county agents who visited Northern Europe this past summer.

Anyway, the new freedom for youth requires less prevarication than was necessary to establish the old-time alibi.

BUB WHITESIDES GONE FROM HERE

Bub Whitesides, negro, arrested for stealing chickens, and having liquor in his possession, in company with Mrs. George Orr, white woman, was given a sentence of eighteen months in court last week. Judge Walter E. Moore seemed dissatisfied with the fact that he could not, under the statutes, give the negro a longer sentence.

Mrs. Orr, being sharply reprimanded by the court for running around with a negro man, was given a sentence of six months in jail, sentence to be served from now. This sentence was taken when it was pointed out to the court that the woman has an 18-months' old baby and two other small children, and that her husband is serving a sentence now in prison for at this time would leave the children without either of their parents at home.

Judge Moore frankly stated he didn't know what to do with the woman. He called upon the citizens to assist him in arriving at a decision that would meet the situation. He warned Brevard that such conditions, if not checked, would lead to ruination of any community. Of course, the court stated, every community has its problems and un-

pleasant situations. Yet he declared it to be unusual in his experience to find white woman and negro men partners in crime. The court could not conceal the suffering which this case caused him in his endeavor to mete out proper justice to the woman.

SHORT SESSION OF THE ELEMENTARY P.—T.

A short meeting of the Elementary Parent-Teacher association was held Monday afternoon, presided over by the president, Mrs. Oliver Orr. Due to the busy season of the year, only a small delegation of members was present, and no program was presented. Mrs. Ruffy's room was the scene for her grade for the next of the year, for having had the largest number of parents present for three successive meetings. There are now 109 members enrolled in this organization.

George Washington was one of the first farmers in America to promote a farm organization.

North Carolina farmers appear to know the need for a statewide organization but are not unanimous as to the financial support which should be given.

Quite a lot of people have rushed into print to deplore the publicity recently given to a "companionate marriage" at Girard, Kansas. Thus giving it more publicity.

ORIGIN OF CHRISTMAS

The celebration of December 25 in memory of the birth of Christ, dates from the fifth century, before which time it was observed conjointly with the feast of the Epiphany on January 6.

Inasmuch as the exact date of Christ's birth, or even the year, is unknown, the annual observance is in commemoration of the event rather than as the anniversary of its actual occurrence.

The Christmas tree, now an almost universal symbol, is derived from the Egyptian use of a palm branch of twelve shoots to signify the completed year, a custom which prevailed long before the Christian era. Its present significance is, however, more thought to have originated in Germany.

The use of evergreen decorations, particularly mistletoe, has been observed since the time of the Druids. In the Middle Ages the festivities incident to Christmas were marked by wildly hilarious proceedings. These called forth remonstrance from church authorities, who deplored the tendency to stress the festive rather than the serious significance of the Christmas season.

Within the past three years, 861 pure bred registered dairy bulls have been brought into North Carolina through the work of the county agents and dairy specialists of State College.

Give Your Mother-in-Law A Year's Subscription to THE BREVARD NEWS As a Christmas Present

LIVE WIRES

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WE THANK YOU For being so good to us this past year—we didn't deserve it—and all we can say is HERE'S WISHING YOU An old-fashioned Merry Xmas and Happy New Year. May everything that's good and fine be yours during the coming year. THE GARRETT ELECTRIC