

# The Mountaineer

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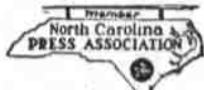
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1942  
(One Day Nearer Victory)

## The Christmas Story

Luke 2:8-16

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

## Need Of Faith

If ever there was a need for faith, now is the time. Much of the world is torn by war. Men in whose hearts there is evil have gained power. Those who toil, in fields and factories; women in the home; little children visited in their innocence with disaster—none have escaped suffering in those lands where greed has swept over all the land. Perhaps the time has come for the testing of spiritual values. Perhaps only those who truly believe, and are willing to fight for their faith in the good, the generous, the kindly way of life will ultimately survive. Let Christmas then, be the symbol for renewed faith. Christmas, that most Holy Day, when a little Child was born, touched with God's own hand in blessing, that He might grow to manhood a Man among men, a Leader in the way of life that is righteous, and gives to every man his just share of this world's goods.

Remembering His word, we can feel certain that the evil will perish, drowned in that every misery they have brought down upon their fellow men. The evil shall be swept from the earth, and the good shall arise from their suffering, to see the dawn of a happier day. He was once a tiny child, like the millions of little children still secure in our own country today. In His name, let us make this Christmas our time to pledge ourselves to the continued safety of our boys and girls—for they are the men and women of the future; who will carry on the spirit of American democracy, which gives to all people the right to live the good life, the free life—without the formenting of "right" and "wrong" conceived by dictators who allow no faith among their people—but demand blind following.

He was a just leader, men and women in all walks of life followed Him because He preached man's inherent right to a happy life. On this day—Christmas—the anniversary of His birth, let us reavow our faith in His word.

## Christmas Night

It is not merely because men forget the meaning of Christmas night that they obscure it and overlay it with pomps and ceremonies. It is because human hearts have not opened to take in the greatness of it.

Of Mary, the mother of Jesus, we know little. We know that she must have had a concept of God which transcended that of her contemporaries and we know that she was akin to her cousin Elizabeth, could confide in her, and tell her something of her great vision of the fatherhood of God, tell her of the Saviour that was coming to bless and save the world.

But of nearly all else in regard to Mary we are ignorant. We see, for a moment, flashed across the page of history, the gem-like story; we see the mother raising the babe in her arms to show the wondering shepherds; and then we see her fade into silence and into obscurity, emerging only a few times into the blazing radiance surrounding her son.

Yet it is this trembling picture that holds our imaginations at Christmas-time. However little men may understand of the happenings on that Christmas night, they feel that here is something greater than themselves. Their hearts begin to melt a little in compassion for suffering; they forget, even if only for a moment, their selfishness, their persecution of others, their hardness; they get a glimpse of some holy world into which they have stumblingly strayed.

There in that dark stable, with the gentle animals shifting quietly in their rude stalls amongst the straw, the mother's vision of God as the Father of man was translated into terms computable by mankind.

What is our lesson today? It is that only in gentleness and affection can we reach the peace of that night? "On earth peace," sang the angels and on earth peace came, as it comes today, to any who will receive it. The road to peace is not easy. Even Mary, traveling the long rough road from Nazareth to Bethlehem, could not have found it easy; but her vision sustained her. We can see the light of that journey and follow it.

## Not For This Year

We notice with gratification that the town and county officials are prohibiting the shooting of firecrackers in Waynesville and Haywood County this Christmas.

The principal element in firecrackers is explosives. It would be unwise and unpatriotic to waste explosives in fireworks this year. They constitute one of the essential materials of modern warfare and this country is needing all the explosives available.

## Christmas Greetings

Christmas has come again and we wish to extend greetings to the community, to the county and to our readers wherever they happen to be at this season.

The Mountaineer has been traveling to far places during the past year. It has followed our Haywood County boys to points of conflict on land and sea. We hope that it has meant something to them to get this message from back home. We have felt it a privilege to be able to give them the news of their community.

To our advertisers we extend greetings and appreciation of their patronage during the past year. We have appreciated the friendly relations enjoyed with you and the mutual confidence that has marked our relations. We wish you a happy Christmas.

To everyone who has contributed to the support of the public, our readers, those who aid us in covering the news and in every other way we wish for you a happy Yuletide season and continued prosperity during the coming year.

## Forty Years Of Service

As one old timer to another, The Mountaineer with its fifty-eight years of services, wishes to congratulate the First National Bank on its fortieth anniversary, and wish for the institution continued success.

Dealing with the other fellow's money is a sacred trust. For forty years that trust has been kept and never once has the confidence of the community been shadowed with doubts of the security of their hard earned savings that have been placed in the First National.

The record of the First National is an example of conservative business that should inspire the people of this community and of the county to greater trust in banking institutions.

The policy of the bank to keep at all times a substantial reserve is a habit that both the individual and the business firm would do well to emulate. We are fortunate in being served by a bank of such high standards.

## HERE and THERE

By  
HILDA WAY GWYN

We wonder if you have been having as much trouble getting the Christmas spirit as we have . . . practically everyone we have talked to seems to lack the spark of enthusiasm of other years. . . . At first it bothered us considerably . . . but now as we come nearer the Day . . . we realize that this Christmas cannot be judged by other standards . . . if we had the spirit of other years, we would be lacking in depth of feeling . . . for Christmas dawns this year upon a world wrapped in conflict . . . it is not the first time in history of the world that Christmas has come in an hour of darkness . . . even though it may be the first time many individuals living today have faced a Christmas with the world in such chaos. . . . Yet Christmas has survived world tragedies for two thousand years.

You may have had the same experience . . . since our adult years we have found that we usually get the Christmas spirit from some incident or an unexpected contact . . . realizing that this Christmas will have to be marked by counting blessings we enjoy, which are now threatened . . . rather than wishing for material things . . . we were looking for some spiritual sustenance . . . and we found ours from a sentence in a letter written by Kenneth Palmer, Waynesville boy, residing in Baltimore, who suffered a terrible accident several months ago . . . Kenneth is now able to walk on crutches after months in bed . . . he wrote a friend here . . . "I do not mean to brag on myself, but I am really doing fine getting about on my crutches" . . . that attitude of courage and humility touched us off with the Christmas spirit for 1942 . . . it is significant for us all . . . for spiritually we are all walking on crutches . . . the depressing conditions today have crippled our thoughts and outlook . . . yet we must not be downed, but must learn to make our way about . . . and rise above the handicaps that would defeat us.

If we feel tempted to have a spirit of cynicism this year let us remind ourselves that the beginning of Christmas, the birthday of the Great Saviour, came upon a world that was dark and unhappy . . . and yet for two thousand years Christmas has survived . . . it is only natural that we Americans are confused and bewildered over Christmas 1942. . . . Last year we were stunned over Pearl Harbor . . . but this year we face the reality . . . the staple things to which we have been accustomed are in danger . . . we come once again to a familiar celebration . . . one with which we have associated only the brighter and happier things of life . . . its message offers inspiration for courage and strength. . . . For the Star of Bethlehem still shines . . . even though the Heavens are filled with aircraft of every kind and description that is bringing destruction. . . . The Angel's Chorus is still sounding even though we may not hear it as easily as we once did . . . for now it must come above the roar of the guns and explosives . . . the spirit of Christmas is still with us . . . with its divine assurance to a suffering world, that the love of God knows no limit . . . and that the power of the Christmas Babe is still the world's greatest hope . . . if we only take time to think it through.

It is natural as Christmas comes this year for our thoughts to dwell on the happiness of seasons of peace and  
(Continued On Page Three)

IF IN DOUBT WHAT TO GIVE HIM FOR CHRISTMAS—



## The Voice Of The People

What is your first recollection of Christmas?

Miss Bessie Boyd—"Getting up early in the morning long before day break on Christmas Day and trying to find the chair on which my stocking had been hung, is my first recollection of Christmas. You see, there were ten children in the Boyd family and the mantel couldn't hold all the stockings."

Mrs. Robert Pearce—"The first remembrance that I recall is how pretty the tree looked on all the excitement and gifts we had at Christmas."

J. C. Brown—"I don't remember how old I was, but they had taken me into the capital of Florida, and I asked what was in the dome of the building at Tallahassee. It was Christmas week and they told me that Santa Claus lived up there, and I remember how I begged the family to take to see Santa Claus."

R. E. Caldwell—"The first thing I remember was a Christmas tree and party at the home of my father over in the Cataloochee section. I recall the decorations of home grown fruits and nuts and home made candies, and how hard I tried to stay awake to see Santa Claus. I also remember the firecrackers and the sparklers."

Mrs. S. H. Bushnell—"The first recollections I have of Christmas are the Christmas trees at the home of my grandparents. I can still see the trees strung with popcorn and cranberries. In those days an orange was an orange, and the fruit was associated with

Christmas. I remember how all the grandchildren and the families met at my grandparents for Christmas Day and how happy the occasion was for us all.

Hugh J. Sloan—"The first recollection I have of Christmas is getting up around four o'clock in the morning to see what Santa Claus had brought."

Mrs. T. G. Boyd—"The sweetest memories of my life are those of Christmas in my childhood. There were five girls in our family and I can still see the five dolls, all differently dressed that would greet us Christmas morning around our tree."

Mrs. E. T. Duckett—"The coming of Santa Claus and the wonder of receiving a china headed doll. I also recall what a treat the oranges and the bananas were, for out in the country forty years ago we did not have such fruit except on special occasions."

L. N. Davis—"We used to get a stick of red candy and possibly an orange, and maybe a pair of metal toed shoes. But I think we appreciated Christmas more than the children do today with a world of toys."

W. L. Hardin—"My first recollection of Christmas is Santa Claus, and my stocking hanging by the chimney. I remember two packs of five cent fire crackers and a pair of boots with copper toes. We did not have as much as the children do today for Christmas, but we got a big kick out of it."



## Christmas Greeting

With faith in the symbols of a Free America and with confidence in the success of our Armed Forces, we wish you a joyful Christmas with happiness and prosperity in the New Year.

The Staff Of

## The MOUNTAINEER

