

With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and showed to him the way of understanding?—Isaiah 40:14.

Editorial Page of the Mountaineer

Truth is justice's handmaid, freedom is its child, peace is its companion, safety walks in its steps, victory follows in its train; it is the brightest emanation from the kosmos; it is the attribute of God.—Sydney Smith.

The People Who Made Christmas

The story of Christ, from his birth to his ascension, was the story of people. His was not an impersonal life, it touched the lowly and the mighty, even in its humble start.

Dr. J. Carter Swaim, director of the Department of the English Bible of the National Council of Churches has written a series of four articles telling how the miracle of Christ's birth affected those who shared in the experience. The first appears today on this page. The other three will appear in subsequent issues of The Mountaineer.

The wicked King Herod, the innkeeper, the shepherds, the wise men, Mary, Joseph, Jesus himself. These are the characters Dr. Swaim has dramatized in his series, graphically illustrated.

The True Christmas Spirit Prevails Here In Haywood

In the 24 Christmas seasons we have spent in Waynesville, have we ever seen the true spirit of the season as pronounced as this year.

On every hand, there seems to exist a spirit of "brotherly love" — and it is so genuine.

People of all walks of life seem more interested than ever in the welfare of their fellowman.

Much of it has been the direct result of the disaster which hit this community on December 1, when the devastating fire destroyed Plant No. 2 at Unagusta. However, had not the deep-rooted feeling and spirit been thoroughly embedded in the hearts of the people, nothing could have brought it to the surface. The feeling of kindness towards one another has always been a well-known characteristic of the people of Haywood, and it is clearly proven time and time again this season.

Somehow the Christmas lights, decorations and everything connected with the season seems a little brighter. Materially we know they are the same, but when seen through the eyes that have looked into the faces of some less fortunate and seen the gleam therein, then everything else appears brighter.

This week the Lions will clothe needy children, spending some \$1,500 on the project.

When a mother needs a way to get a sick child some 250 miles to a hospital, a way is readily provided —

When a worker finds the pay envelope stopped, he and his family are cared for through the liberal contributions of friends—

When a home was destroyed by fire, friends stepped in and made life happy for those who lost much.

And so the list goes on and on.

It can be truly said that the true spirit of Christmas prevails in Haywood.

Haywood's Loss

The \$750,000 fire, destroying a big section of Unagusta Furniture Manufacturing Plant at Hazelwood last Wednesday afternoon, was not only a huge loss to Hazelwood and Haywood County, but to all Western North Carolina. A plant of this nature, using wood as its main raw material, naturally draws from a large territory. A number of Jackson County people were employed in the plant and many more received employment in getting out timber, sawing and shipping it, to the plant. Jackson County has furnished many thousands of feet of lumber to this plant over the years it has operated.

The fact that some 400 people were thrown out of employment just before the Christmas holidays makes the situation acute in that these people and their families not only have lost their regular income but must depend on help from their neighbors to tide them over. This is being taken care of in a big way by a Haywood County Disaster Relief Committee, out to raise \$25,000 for this purpose. Knowing our Haywood neighbors as we do, we are confident that the amount will be raised and more if needed.

It is heartening to know that the owners are making plans to rebuild the plant, which has long been one of the leading manufacturing plants in Western North Carolina. But this will take some time, as buildings and equipment are costly and sometimes slow in coming.—The Sylva Herald.

Madison Wants A Congressional Probe

A group of Madison county citizens, through a resolution, are demanding a Congressional investigation of the proposed routes for the interstate highway connecting Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee.

The resolution, according to a news report, points out that the Highway Commission's comparison of the two routes — French Broad and Pigeon River — "are misleading and without basis."

That is pretty strong language.

Nothing To Warm Us On This

Down at Northwest Mississippi Junior College, in Senatobia, there is a sophomore by the name of Bobby Cole, who has a six-foot king snake that coils around his feet at night to keep them warm. A news dispatch says that Cole's family, and dormitory friends wish he would get something else rather than a snake for warmth.

The very thought of the idea makes cold chills run up and down our spine.

Strong Protests From This Area

The State Highway Commission will hold a special hearing January 26th to hear protests to drop alternate designations from many of the state's presently "A" numbered primary routes.

This area has made protests to dropping the "A" from 19, which runs from the intersection at Lake Junaluska to Ela. This would mean a change in the number, which is now well known and firmly fixed in the minds of the traveling public.

We understand the protests from this area on the change will be very, very strong.

There is only one discordant note in South Carolina's booming economy. It appeared on a truck passing through Greenville. The sign said: "Crime Don't Pay. Neither Do Trucking."—Greenville (S.C.) Piedmont.

MEASURING UP



Looking Back Through The Years

20 YEARS AGO: Haywood County bank is organized from the Bank of Clyde. R. N. Barber returns from extended business trip to Texas and Oklahoma. Miss Mary E. Webster and Miss Stacy Wilburn win essay contest on "Why It Is Good Business to Trade At Home". Waynesville Choral Club plans Candelight service.

10 YEARS AGO: Vivian Watkins, Laura Woody, Julia Ann Stovall, Lane Prevost, and Joan Morris are winners in a Book Character contest sponsored by the county library. The Rev. Paul W. Townsend arrives to begin duties as pastor of the First Methodist Church. Thomas Stringfield, U. S. Navy Medical Corps, is promoted to rank of Lieutenant Commander.
5 YEARS AGO: Haywood Lions entertain 22 blind people of the county at a special party at the Clyde Methodist Church. William R. McClure of Waynesville becomes State Highway Patrolman. Bess Francis and Catherine James, Meredith College students, take part in Physical Education Conference at Chapel Hill.

THEY MADE CHRISTMAS

By DR. J. CARTER SWAIM, Director, Department of the English Bible, National Council of Churches

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of a series of four stories on the people in the Biblical report on the birth of Christ, written by a leading authority on the English Bible.

KING HEROD

The ancient world had no better way of fixing time than by reference to the reigning monarch. Luke 1:5 dates the birth of Jesus "in the days of Herod, king of Judea." In a frantic effort to get rid of any who might take his throne, King Herod "killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under" (Matt. 2:16). But that was not an unprecedented example of his cruelty: he had already murdered two of his own sons, suspected of plotting against him.

Many kings bore the name of Herod, but this one is called Herod the Great. The title was bestowed by the Romans for carrying out in his part of the world the grandiose plans of Augustus. Herod gratified his dreams of magnificence by an extensive building program, which



HEROD—Roman puppet.

included the reconstruction of the temple in Jerusalem, and the erection of the luxurious quarters for his wives, of whom there were ten all told — nine at one time. He decreed that on the day he himself died, all the leading citizens should be put to death. This was to insure that there would be mourning in the land! Augustus said he would rather be Herod's pig than his son.

All that Herod did was done with an eye to perpetuating his sovereignty. It was to make his throne secure that Herod slew the infants. But what a strange reversal is here! History has put

the Child at the pinnacle. Luke dates the birth of Jesus "in the days of Herod, king of Judea" (Luke 1:5). Now there is another point of reference—and one that does not change. Everything now is dated before and after Christ. The reference books even say that Herod became king in 37 B.C.!

THE INNKEEPER

"No Vacancy." Who has traveled much and not seen such a sign? And always at the worst time! A man must reach his destination as soon as he can, and so he will press on 50 miles further tonight. But the endless journey cannot be broken here. There is "No Vacancy."

When the government decreed that all should return to the ancestral home to be registered in the tax rolls, a Galilean peasant went toward Bethlehem, "to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child" (Luke 2:5). The journey had been long—and now the birthpangs seized the expectant mother. Accommodations must be found at once. But everywhere they turned the sign said: "No Vacancy." "There was no place for them in the inn." (Luke 2:7).

This was a wayside stopping-place for caravans. Camels and donkeys would not be stable at a distance, but in the lean-to's adjoining the inn proper, and the smell

Rambling 'Round

By Frances Gilbert Frazier

Christmas means many different things to many people to Heinz W. Rollman, Christmas means the gracious gift of life and of a gift that may mean many years of happy living for a child.

Recently a fire completely destroyed the home and made possessions of the Louis Gibson family. Then their little six-month old baby became ill. Doctors advised the little child be taken to Bowman Gray hospital in Winston-Salem for treatment, said the trip by bus would be too long and inconvenient.

The Waynesville Mountaineer made a plea that any one going to Winston-Salem would be doing a kindly act if they arranged to take the little sick child. As soon as Mr. Rollman heard the item he immediately notified the Mountaineer that his station wagon, a chauffeur and a bed in the station wagon for the child were at the disposal of the Gibson family. So, Mr. Rollman has a happy Christmas knowing that he has provided the son family with transportation and all the rest of us will know Mr. Rollman's creed is that it is more blessed to give than receive.

Definitions Mr. Webster never thought of: "Straight and narrow" . . . A sheath skirt. "In the long run from garter top to toe." "The Nick of time" . . . Santa Claus. "The of Tomorrow" . . . Bills and bills. "Uneasy lies the head" . . . no foam pillow? "Poinsettia" . . . Potted Christmas. "For who bell tolls" . . . Telephone booth. "Charge of the Light Brigade" . . . Kilowatt Hours. "When all is said and done" . . . Midnight, Christmas Eve. "Exchange column" . . . the day after Christmas. "Trade-In" . . . One week's complete rest.

A Christmas gift for three cents. Write a cheery letter to someone you once knew but haven't written to in a long time. It is the resuming of a beautiful friendship.

Uncle Mose was practicing, and of all things, dieting. Do the corner of the lawn, the old colored man was making a pile of raking leaves but he was repeating over and over just two words. With each repetition he brought into play a different tonal. Finally he seemed quite satisfied with the result of his latest so he parked the rake carefully in the tool house and ambled toward the Big House, then proceeded to make his way up the steps and on to the threshold of the kitchen. There he stopped lifting his head high sniffed in delight and inhaled deeply, a smile spreading over his face. Fruit cake in the making filled the air.

He softly opened the kitchen door and tiptoed in. Mammy, singing (most inappropriately) "When the Saints come marching and was unaware of her visitor. Then came Uncle Mose's comment. In a bellow that rattled the windows, he let out his achievement. "Chris'mus Gift", he shouted and it came like a der blast in the sweet scented kitchen. Mammy Jo left her stranded in their march and dropped a pan in her fright. The turned and let her fury fly. "You great big ole lumbering fool, Ah didn't have work to do, Ah'd lambast the hide offen you for back." She paused for breath. "Get out and stay out, you hear. She drew down the corners of her mouth as she continued, "a hunk of tasin' cake. Now scoot!" As the old man, grinning, for the "tasin' cake," Mammy Jo concluded, "An Ah hopes you

Paradoxical as it sounds the last week before Christmas is longest in the year (for the youngsters) and the shortest (for parents).

of the stables would reach into the guest chambers. It is likely that the hosteler owned the inn and that he and the family did all the work. No powerful landowner he, but a small business man by make an honest living, and content upon the patronage of who passed along the road, not dispossess the Holy Family. (Continued on Page 3)

Inside WASHINGTON MARCH OF EVENTS

'Geneva Spirit' Neither Dead | West and East Both Record Dying, Say Top Officials | Hazard of Atom Bomb Woes

Special to Central Press Association WASHINGTON—Top United States officials insist the "Geneva" is neither dead or dying. Eisenhower administration policy-makers profess to be neither heartened nor disappointed at failure of the Big Four foreign ministers to reach agreement on German reunification and the problem of disarmament.

It is the contention of these experts that neither the powers nor the Soviet Union could have made this time, the sweeping concessions such agreements would have required.

In the view of many administration members big achievement at Geneva was the tacit recognition by all parties concerned that the world would not risk the mass suicide an atomic-hydrogen would mean.

The argument is that this recognition is a performance, a willingness to settle disputes by great powers by diplomacy rather than by force of arms.

Privately, some western diplomats are pleased that otherwise that Russia's tactics at Geneva were less than conciliatory. This, they say, prevented Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov and his Kremlin bosses from winning anything even remotely resembling a propaganda victory.

BAGGAGE CHECK—Look for the nation's commercial airlines to adopt strict new safety checks on passengers and baggage as a result of the sabotage of a United Airlines plane which blew up, killing persons.

While such crimes fortunately are extremely rare, the airlines that the publicity surrounding the tragic incident may have a severe effect on air travel unless new procedures are adopted to insure safety.

Therefore, they probably will order close scrutiny of all baggage placed aboard airliners to ascertain whether any explosives are concealed. Airline personnel also will be ordered to be on the alert for suspicious-appearing individuals.

It is unlikely that the government itself can tighten any laws or regulations to prevent recurrence of such hideous crimes. The problem is largely one of intensive observation at the airport.

SILVER LINING—Republicans profess to see a silver lining in the clouds created for them by the recent off-year elections in which Democrats scored heavily in local contests. Particularly, GOP leaders cite the stunning defeat suffered by the CIO in Ohio, where they rejected a proposed change in state law strongly endorsed by labor groups.

The change would have allowed industrial workers to collect unemployment compensation even while receiving layoff pay from their employers.

The Republicans say the vote in Ohio proves that the CIO has very little political power with the electorate in general or with union members in particular. Thus, say the GOP bigwigs, there is no reason to fear the CIO's expected endorsement of next year's Democratic presidential candidate.

The Republicans also say there was one other thing about the off-year elections indicating that they're still pretty popular with the voters.

This was the defeat in many localities of various proposed issues for public improvements. GOP chieftains say this proves American people are tired of "spend and spend" policies which, according to the Republicans, the voters associate with Democratic administrations.

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



Voice of the People

What Christmas traditions do you observe in your home?

Mrs. Irving Leatherwood: "The usual Christmas tree and hanging of stockings—and then on Christmas Day, we always join the Leatherwood family at "grandma's" for an old-fashioned family dinner and exchange of gifts."

Mrs. J. H. Howell, Jr.: "On Christmas morning we have breakfast first and then Daddy reads the Christmas story from the Bible before we open our packages. We have Christmas dinner with 'grandmother' and another tree at her house."

Mrs. J. H. Kirkpatrick, Jr.: "Of course we always have the stockings and Christmas tree—the children always go into the woods with their Daddy to find the tree. About a week before Christmas we play a recording of Dicken's Christmas Carol over and over—the children (Continued on Page 3)



THE INNKEEPER — There was no room at the inn.