THE WAYNESVILLE MOUNTAINEER

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christ's Birth Celebrated In Six Different Months

month in which Christ's birthday is celebrated by Christians all over the world, research and study show that Christ's nativity has been celebrated in January, March, April, May, September and October by various peoples.

And although few people know it, it was for the purpose of subsututing a Christian festival for pagan ones of Romans and Druids that celebrations of Christmas in December were popularized.

No historian pretends to fix the actual date of Christ's birth or the date at which Christmas became a general festival

About all that is known is that of the Nativity was observed in all | Christ. western world churches at different dates.

a definite date for the celebration. The eastern churches did not cooperate until the sixth century when December 25 was set as the day to be observed.

Christmas, 1804

the one in Chicago in 1804.

splendid Christmas tree.

er in one of the blockhouses gave a warning shout that Indians were approaching; but they turned out to be friendly Indians who came bearing gifts to the feast. They watched the white folks dance, and when the whites were exhausted, the redskins took the floor and begen a wild, whooping dance of their own which climaxed Chi-

cago's unique Christmas celebra-

Nearly half of the foreign stu-

dents in the United States come

here on their family's funds. The

remainder receive financial assis-

tance from private organizations in

the United States. About ten per-

cent receive aid from United States

It may seem strange to claim that

the pagan riotousness might be the

forebear of the Christian holiday

of goodness and love, but inter-

mingled with that which was ob-

jectionable, were things that have

gene straight to the hearts of peo-

ple throughout the Christian world.

and foreign governments.

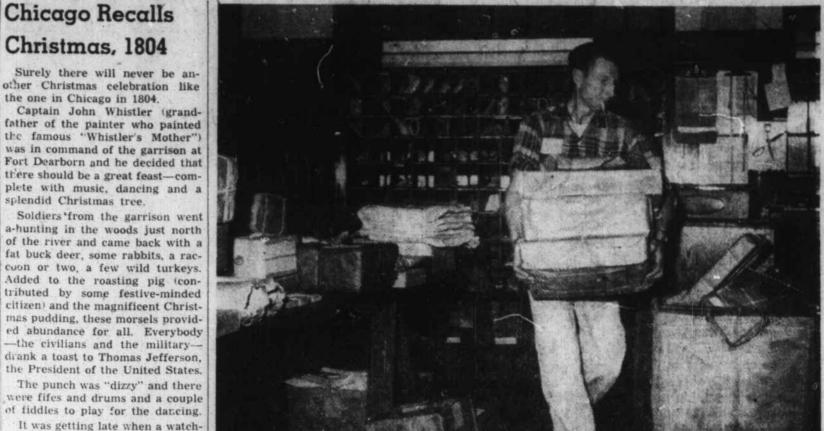
ed to the Roman Saturnalia.

tion in 1804

The question has arisen innumerable times as to why December was selected as the month for rejoicing. The answer is that this month was chosen in order that a Christian festival could compete with those of the pagens, because December was noted for its feasts of the river and came back with a and holidays in nearly every civil- fat buck deer, some rabbits, a racized land.

Scandinavians all took part in the tributed by some festive-minded celebration of these festivals which during the fourth century the feast had originated before the birth of

From the Saxons came the cere- drank a toast to Thomas Jefferson. mony of burning the Yule log. The the President of the United States. The onfusion resulting from Saxons burned great bonfires in ons in seven months of the honor of their god Thor. From the year caused the western church Romans came the giving of presauthorities to meet in 340 to set ents, for this custom has been trac-



during the Christmas rush, but carriers especially have to bear a heavy load. Here William P. Boyd.

Jr., rural carrier on Route 2 Waynesville looks for a spot to deposit the stack of parcels in his (Mountaineer Photo).

Many thanks for giving us the opportunity to serve you in 1956. Hope we continue to be so favored in 1957. Happy holidays! BALENTINE'S SUPERETTE

Waynesville

Christmas Does Not Change Russian People With Passing Of Centuries

"How I long to see just one more 'old-fashioned Christmas'." These are familiar words at this time of the year. Before the Yule- Moveable Feast tide season is over, some member of the family, grandfather or grand- In Early Times mother, probably, is certain to pass that remark, as they have done each Christmas of the past.

And yet, if we search back into Christian church usually celebratthe records . . . to the turn of the ed it in April or May, Western century, say . . . we find that, even Europe sometime in January. then, someone was wishing for "an old-fashioned Christmas." It is of Jerusalem, set out to make the then that we realize that the cele- date universal. With the permisbration of the birth of Christ has sion of Pope Junius I, he appointed not changed greatly with the pas- a commission to determine, if possage of centuries. Basically, Christ-sible, the precise date of Christ's mas is the same, year after year. It is only the world and the people who are not the same.

He may not admit it, but when mas customs and heralding the have managed to keep abreast. approach to "complete commercialism" of the Yuletide celebration. mas is basically unchanged in its

since the days of early America. No matter how great or how small date has been celebrated. Yet, so has the entire nation. In the presents piled beneath the tree, and Ukrainian Orthodox churches each Christian heart never ceases and Ukrainian Orthodox churches the days of our ancestors there to remember that Christmas is in the 20th century observed the were none of the vast trading cen- Christ's day.

Christmas Was

feast. The eastern branches of the

In 337 A.D., St. Cyril, bishop

ters and commercial marts that we know today. Our very way of grandfather first began to raise a life has been greatly changed with family, he overheard his elders modernization. Our holidays, and musing over the changing Christ- Christmas is the principal one,

Still, without reservation, Christtrue meaning as a celebration of nativity, No one can deny that Christmas the birth of the Christ-Child re- Church finally agreed upon Decemhas been greatly "commercialized" deemer, come to save the world, ber 25, and since the year 354 this the presents piled beneath the tree, Members of the Greek, Russian

Also Can Say 'Merry Christmas'

"S Rojdestvom Xristovym." That's what a Russian would say to you if you were in Russia on Christmas day and he wished to extend the season's greetings. The phrase is the Russian's way

of saying: "Merry Christmas." In the past, the Russian's Christmas' was closely associated with his church; but how the day is oberved now that the religious life has been subjugated in the Soviet. one would have to be behind the 'iron curtain" to know.

But it was not always like that. In other days, the Russian Christmas was much like the Ukranian. There was a Santa Claus known as "Dedushka Moroz" and there were traditional gifts of red boots for children and golden slippers for

"baboushka" (grandmother) was the legendary dispenser of

Holly Superstition: It Will Determine Ruler Of House

Husbands and wives! Attention! There is an old superstition about holly that will interest you. It was a belief of the ancients that the first to bring Christmas holly into the house, either husband or wife, would be the one to rule the household during the ensuing year.

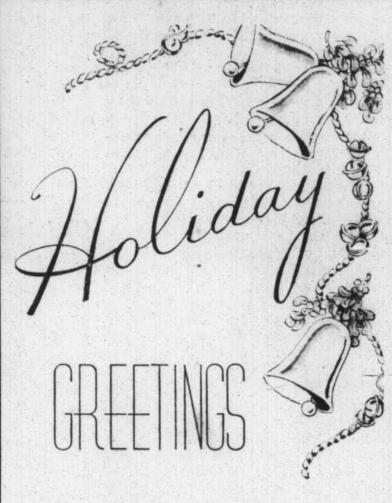
repented of unkindness and ever since has tried to make amends by distributing gifts to children at door is believed enough to frighten

But don't put too much stock in the belief. Like other Christmas legends, the truth might be lost in history.

The Druids were great admirers of the holly plant. They believed that its evergreen leaves attested to the fact that it was never deserted by the sun, and was there-

fore sacred. Legends have related how the crown of thorns was plaited from holly. The leaves of the plant were white until the Crucifixion, after which they turned a deep, blood

red. A holly wreath placed on the away even the boldest of witches



As the years roll by

we realize more and more

how much it means to have



the confidence of folks like you.

It is a pleasure to wish you

a Merry Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Jake Schulhofer

Waynesville, N. C.

ishing you a very merry Christmas.



TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE

J. H. WAY, MAYOR .

, G. C. FERGUSON, CITY MANAGER

ALDERMEN:

HENRY GADDY - HENRY MILLER - JOE LINER



Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Gans