

The News-Journal

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This being our last issue of The News-Journal this year, we wish to express to our patrons and friends our deepest appreciation for the loyalty and support given us since we entered the newspaper game in January and assure everyone of you that we appreciate the encouragement that you have given us more than we can find words to express. As we have stated once before, we believe that a county newspaper is, in a measure, the property of the people that it serves and we have done what we could to render the kind of service that we think you are entitled to. We have made mistakes and hope that we will be making them a hundred years from now, but our aim is to make as few as possible. Our patrons have been most generous toward us, however, and we appreciate it, so much, in fact, that it gives us a deeper determination to strive all the time to give you an ever improving service.

Here's hoping that 1930 will bring to you those things that you strive for and that a year hence the relations between you and us will be just as cordial and friendly as we feel that they now are.

Santa Claus is American

English Children Know Him Only as Father Christmas; German Kiddies as Kriss Kringle.

French and Italian Youngsters Get No Gifts.

Memory of Ancient Bishop of Myra Perpetuated in Custom of Putting Presents in Stockings at Christmas Time.

By CALEB JOHNSON
All over the world on the 25th of December Christians of all creeds and sects celebrate the birth of the Messiah with the festival of Christmas—the Mass of Christ. But only in countries whose traditions and culture derive from Teutonic sources do folk celebrate the day by giving presents.

In Italy, France, Spain, the nations of South America and other countries where the Latin culture prevails, Christmas is celebrated as a great church festival, but nobody thinks of giving anybody a present at Christmas time. New Year's Day is their gift time.

In Germany and in all the countries having the Teutonic background, which includes Norway, Sweden and Denmark, Austria, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, England and the British Dominions and the United States, Christmas has become the great gift-giving season of the year, especially the time for giving presents to children.

Santa Claus himself, however, is an American!

The children of England have never heard of Santa Claus, unless they read American stories. The jolly old chap with white whiskers who fills the stockings secretly on Christmas Eve is known to the little ones of the British Empire as "Father Christmas."

German children call the stocking-filler "Kriss Kringle," and by that name he is known in some parts of the United States and elsewhere. "Kriss Kringle" is a corruption of the German "Christkindlein," the Christ Child. The peasant folk of Germany have come to believe that the giving of Christmas presents is a tribute to the bringing of gifts to the manger at Bethlehem by the Wise Men of the East. But that is not the source from which Christmas giving originated.

Secret gifts to children are a tribute to the memory of St. Nicholas, just as the name "Santa Claus" is an Americanization of the Dutch name of that good old father of the church. "San Niklaas" as the early Dutch settlers of New York called the patron saint of children, scholars, merchants and sailors, sounded like "Santa Claus" to the ears of English children, who learned of him from their Dutch playmates. And Santa Claus he has been ever since to generations of American children, though up to fifty or sixty years ago it was not considered dignified by the grown-ups to refer to him except by his full name, St. Nicholas.

The figure of St. Nicholas as a little fat man in a fur-trimmed coat, riding in a sleigh drawn by reindeer, and slipping down chimneys with a pack on his back, to fill the stockings which hung from the mantel of the open fireplace, was given its present fixed form by Clement C. Moore, whose poem beginning "Twas the night before Christmas" was written nearly a hundred years ago. Mr. Moore did not call him Santa Claus but entitled his poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas."

Who was the real Saint Nicholas? Why is he associated with the giving of presents to children?

Nobody knows very much about him. Like some of the other leaders of the early Christians, a mass of legend and myth has grown up about his name, but the records are strangely silent.

All that is known definitely is that he was the Bishop of Myra, a town in Asia Minor, about three hundred years after Christ. Nobody knows how the legends about him started, but he was held in such high esteem that within a century or two after his death the legends of his

land alone there were at one time a thousand church of St. Nicholas, and he was established as the patron saint of Russia away back in the Middle Ages.

Pictures of St. Nicholas usually show him standing in a tub with three boys. The legend back of this is that he miraculously restored to life three youths who had been killed by an innkeeper and their dismembered bodies packed in a salt-tub. But the story of St. Nicholas which associates his name with secret gifts is that he learned of a poor man with three daughters, who were unable to get husbands because they had no dowries. Their father was planning to kill the daughters and himself when St. Nicholas slipped into their cottage by night and filled the stockings of the daughters with gold!

St. Nicholas Day is December 6th, and for a thousand years the Eve of St. Nicholas, December 5th, was the date for filling the stockings. Christmas was not fixed on December 25 until the Christian church was nearly 500 years old. In some parts of the church it was celebrated on January 6th, elsewhere on March 25th. There is, of course, no record of the date of the birth of the Savior. But the Angles, the ancient German people whose blood and traditions still rule the English-speaking world as well as the German, had a pagan festival on December 25, "Modranecht" or Mothers' Night, when their New Year began, and in the course of centuries that festival came to be celebrated as the anniversary of the greatest event in the life of the greatest Mother of all time, Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

Christmas was still, however, distinctly a religious festival. St. Nicholas Day remained the day when the children had their innings, until the sixteenth century. On St. Nicholas Day it was the custom to elect a Boy Bishop, who appointed other boys to the offices of the

church, and the youngsters ruled their towns (since in those days the church dominated everything) until Holy Innocent's Day, December 28. In some parts of Germany the Boy Bishop ceremony persisted until 1799, but in England Henry VIII abolished it in 1542. Queen Mary restored it in 1552 and Elizabeth abolished it finally a few years later. The festivities which had been a part of St. Nicholas Day then began to be transferred to Christmas. Though there was a time when even Christmas celebrations were forbidden in England. That was in 1644, when Cromwell's Puritan Parliament passed an act forbidding any merri-

ment or religious services at Christmas on the ground that it was a heathen festival! This feeling against Christmas persisted among the Puritan settlers of New England down to the nineteenth century.

The exchanging of gifts by grown-ups on Christmas Day is a very modern idea indeed. And children today know where their presents come from; they no longer believe in the good "San Niklaas" who fills their stockings secretly by night. Perhaps the world was happier when Christmas giving was less of an obligation and more of a joy and the little ones still believed in "Father and Santa Claus."



THE FAMILY DOCTOR

By JOHN JOSEPH GAINES, M.D.

A BLESSING

Just a small, glittering, razor-edged fragment of cold steel. There is the hint of creepiness at its mere mention; it is such a stern little thing after all; its business is to make wounds—most feared of all, wounds upon the bodies of our dear ones; wounds upon, and within the bodies of the ones we sympathize with most—the ones stricken, with death just around the bend ahead. The one that mother is praying over in the little room where nobody can hear but God. Ah, this little sharp fragment of steel called merciless by the unthinking—what a blessing!

Yes—it's the surgeon's knife that I am talking about. And so few speak of it as a blessing; some orate from the house-tops that it is a villain—a murderer! They try to inflame us against this little benefactor, too often for their own personal financial ends.

No incantation, mesmeric hocus-pocus, or sleight-of-hand juggling on the surface ever removed a deadly

tumor from the suffering woman—never did—never can. Thousands of invalids put their trust in these substitutes until it is too late, because they dread "the knife." I do not blame the poor, timid creatures—they are not to be blamed. They are to be pitied in their mental torture—their suffering unrest and indecision; they do not know. They will espouse any measure that promises relief—any measure except that little sharp, glittering fragment of steel.

A deep-seated focus of deadly poison involving a vital unit within the human structure—it can't be charmed out, rubbed out, medicated out, dieted out—it will kill—kill! The little silvery-looking piece of cold steel—quick! There may be death in delay.

Yes, the surgeon's knife is a blessing, one of the very greatest, used in time, by competent hands. I do not mean the butcher's knife—no, no. I refer to the one that has given my dear ones back to me, sound and well!

Catch the community spirit. Every dollar spent at home means something to you directly in the long run.



Merry Xmas

With another mile-post in sight, a New Year beckoning to us with its hopes and opportunities, we pause to reflect upon the pleasant business relations that we have enjoyed among our many customers during the year about to close, and we take note of the good friends about us with a feeling of gratitude. Thus doing, we wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with happiness and success.

Baucom's Cash Store

Established 1908
Raeford, N. C.

As The Bells Ring Out—
The old year and ring in the new... here's sending New Year's Greetings to you. Trust yours is a cheerful outlook for 1930 and that the year brings you the Success and Happiness you've long wished for!

Page Trust Co.

Drivers Must Carry Registration Cards

Raleigh, N. C.—With a view to reducing the number of automobile thefts in North Carolina, all drivers will be required after the first of the year to comply with the law requiring them to carry their automobile registration cards with them, according to Captain Charles D. Farmer, director of the state highway patrol.

Twenty-four cars were reported stolen to the theft bureau of the revenue department one day recently, the majority being within a 75-mile radius of Raleigh where there has been such an increase in the number of cars stolen that officers suspect an organized gang is at work. Thefts usually show an increase, however, between Thanksgiving and the middle of January and Leland S. Harris, head of the theft bureau, is urging owners to securely lock their cars when leaving them only for a short

while. Drivers of all cars stopped by the highway patrol for any reason, will be required to show their registration cards, and failure to do so will result in the car's being stored until the card is procured, similar action being taken now when automobile license plates are missing. Not only will drivers be required to carry their registration cards at the first of the year, but they will be penalized if they do not renew license plates on their cars. January 1, the 1929 legislature is taking from the commissioners revenue the authority to grant extension usually granted by expressly prohibiting such an extension.

"I see Goldbaum had a fire last night."
"Vell, he's a nice fellow, serves it!"

IT PAYS TO AL



To All Our Customers & Friends

We extend the season's greetings and wish for you a

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Successful

New Year

McLauchlin Co.



Happy New Year!

Resolve to turn over a new leaf by having us inspect your car OFTEN. This will be one resolution that will be easier to keep as time goes on and will make the new year happier and more prosperous for you. Have our expert mechanics inspect and test your car REGULARLY. This will make it worth more. Let US Care for YOUR Car.

Teal Bros.