

CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES

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Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus

Back in 1897, little Virginia O'Hanlon wrote the following letter to the editor of the New York Sun: "I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in The Sun it's so.' Please tell me the truth—is there a Santa Claus?" The editor wrote a newspaper and literary classic in reply to this childish plea. It is reprinted below:

"Yes, indeed!

"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age—they do not believe except what they see—they think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds.

"All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little.

"In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

"He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

"Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies!

"You might get your papa to hire men to watch all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus—the real things in the world are those neither children nor men can see.

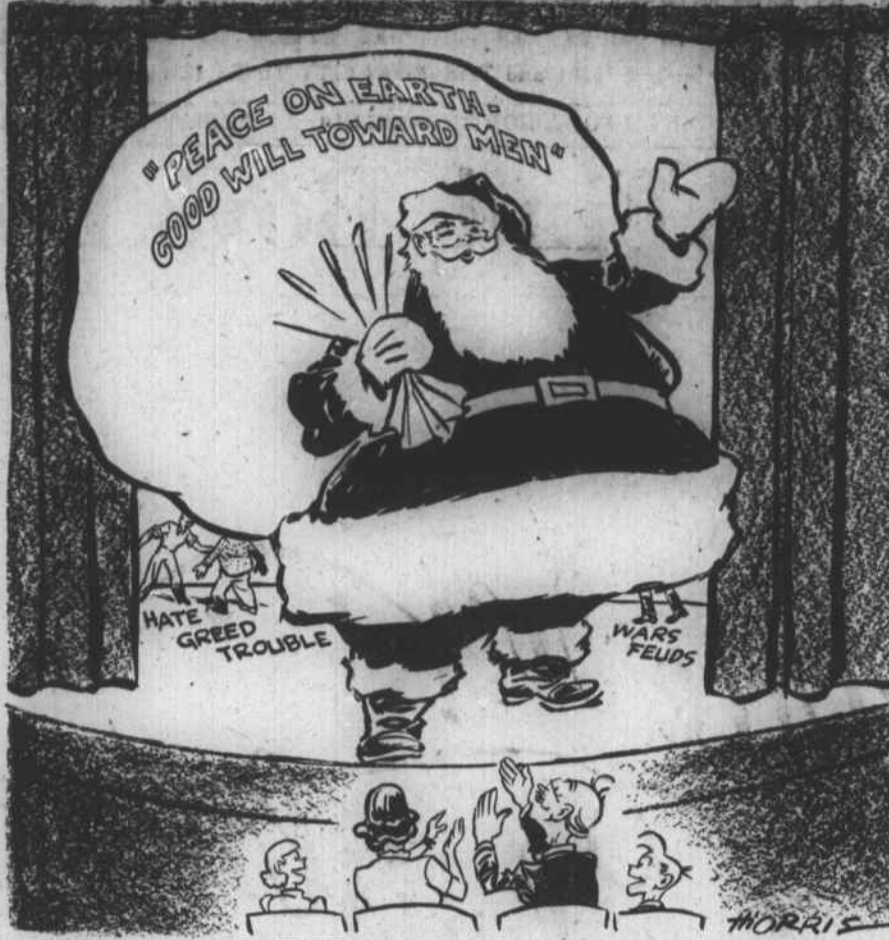
"Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there—no one can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the world.

"You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, or even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance can push aside the curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond.

"Is it all real?—ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

"No Santa Claus! Thank God!—he lives, and he lives forever—a thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

SCENE STEALER



Raleigh Roundup

By Eula Nixon Greenwood



YEAR'S END... With Christmas holidays beginning for State employees on Friday—or at the completion of Thursday's work—and continuing until Tuesday, little work will be done by State employees until 1950.

There will be skeleton staffs, of course, and the offices will be open most of next week. However, there is the matter of annual leave to consider. Since most of the workers still have several days coming to them during 1949, it seems a safe prediction that less than one-third of the State employees here in Raleigh will be on their jobs for the remainder of the year.

OPPOSITION?... Insurance Commissioner Waldo Cheek of Asheville may have opposition when he makes his first run to succeed himself next spring. The talk in Raleigh is that D. R. Graham, long-time State employee and superintendent of the Credit Union Division of the State Agriculture Department, may get in the race. A native of Tabor City, is no kin

to Sen. Frank Graham, but they think a lot alike. Bob Graham is president of the Southern Co-operative League.

"That man is a-dying to run for something," remarked the Rev. Joe Hunter, colored mail man (Agricultural Review, etc.) for the N. C. Agricultural Department last week when he read something about Bob Reynolds' activities in the direction of the U. S. Senate. Hunter, known as "Rev." by associates said a mouthful.

"Anything can happen in politics. As this column reported weeks ago, Asheville's Reynolds is writing letters to everybody. Now most of them have the extra touch of being laboriously flourished in long-hand.

Our Bob's slogan should be: "Reynolds rides again." It certainly will be like old times, Square.

CHARGING NOW... A year ago last October Tommy Pierce's wife shot him in the stomach, later telling arresting officers that he was moving toward her with a butcher

knife. He stayed in a Raleigh hospital for quite a while, paralyzed from his waist down, and this past August he died. During his long sickness his mother looked after him at his home with loving care. When he died, the good-looking, brunette wife was arrested for murder.

Tommy's mother had a beautiful funeral for her son. Shortly after the funeral, she built a fine little mausoleum near his grave and decked it out with the be-beaved one's wheel-chair, radio, and other items he kept in his room during his illness. Visitors came by the hundreds each Sunday to go through the little house.

Last week Tommy's mother came to the Revenue Department here and got her license. Now, while another son acts as a sort of barber and shows the curious about the place, the grieving mother collects 25 cents per person for admission. She's making money.

DOUBLED GUARD... George Cherry, Bertie County native, is

in charge of buildings and grounds for the State here in Raleigh. The Governor's safety is his responsibility. Kerr Scott early last week received two or three letters regarded as "threatening" in connection with his failure to interfere with the death sentence hanging over murderer Jack Bridges. The Governor's Mansion here is not only many-gabled, it is many-doored, and this not only worries Cherry, but added gray hairs to the late John Bray's head when this Pasquotank County gentleman had Cherry's job. So, Cherry doubled the guard at the Mansion, and this action happened this time to get into the papers. The public seemed very much surprised.

Governor Cherry didn't say anything about it, but during the hard days of the James Creech case he received unwelcome visitors at the Mansion and on one occasion his chauffeur drove up in time to flush a group of men who were easing unannounced up to the Mansion. This is all part of the wear-and-tear placed on the Governor by the silly, preposterous, and abinine law which gives him the final sayso in death cases.

IN NEW ORLEANS... Speaking of death cases, you recall that James Creech, Smithfield man who killed his wife, was put to death after a last-minute appeal by the late J. M. Broughton failed. He was from a prominent and rather wealthy Smithfield family. He was buried in strict secrecy. In fact, only a handful of people know what happened to his body after it was removed from the death room at Central Prison here.

The story now is that Creech is not dead and was seen in New Orleans a few days ago. Rumor persists that he was not killed by the poison fumes and that another body was carried to Smithfield. A yarn along this line was carried some time back in the August "New York Times," the paper which runs only the "news that fit to print." The Gotham daily had Creech in South America. Now he has worked his way up to New Orleans.

NOTES... N. C. State's freshman basketballers beat the varsity in a practice game last week... Raymond Moley, original New Dealer and editor of "Newsweek" will speak here in January... Stores are stocked with toys. Next week do your 1950 Christmas shopping early.

Smile Awhile

Reuben: "Some one has said that in this world a man must be either anvil or hammer."

Glyn: "He was wrong. Some men are neither; they are merely bellows."

Thoughts for an open mind.

Gentleness that shall touch all life in such a way as shall preserve its beauty. Graciousness that shall woo the hidden power and establish it in the realm of expression. Generosity that shall freely give and as freely receive the fullness and the joy of life. Cheerfulness—that shall warm the heart, illuminate the countenance and inspire the words of friendly helpfulness. Courage that will enable you to choose the right way.

—J. R. Morrill.



Dec. 19—The Christmas program, given at the Methodist church Sunday night before a packed house, was complete with readings, recitations and music. The solo by Miss Anita was greatly enjoyed by all. A beautiful tree of holly was decorated with lights and gifts for old and young. After the program was over the MYF served cake and punch to each and everyone in the church.

Mrs. Fred Bates and daughter, Wilma, of Charleston, S. C., visited Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Chadwick, and Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Chadwick here Saturday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Adams, Jr., and Mrs. George Adams, Sr., of Morehead City were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Vivian Chadwick, Sunday. In the afternoon all made a trip to Merrimon to spend a few hours at Dr. Ben Royal's camp at which a large party of other invited guests had assembled. All reported a very nice time.

Mrs. Hugh Willis was on the sick list for the past week. All wish her to get well soon. Mr. and Mrs. Bert Mears and son, James, of Gloucester, spent Sunday afternoon here with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Simpson of Beaufort, visited Mrs. Irene Simpson Sunday afternoon. Rev. Haywood Harrell filled his regular appointment at the Methodist church here Sunday at 11 o'clock.

Mrs. Hettie Stead Willis of Gloucester visited relatives here Saturday night. Mrs. Willis will leave Tuesday for Tallahassee, Fla., to spend Christmas with her son, John and family, and then on to Fort Pierce, Fla., to spend New Year's day with her son, Edwin and family. Then she is planning to spend the balance of the winter months in Bradentown, Fla.

The garden pea, originally from western Asia, has been cultivated since remote antiquity.

Santa's Pants LONDON—(AP)—Christmas fashion note: Flame-red corduroy trousers for the British male.

Men's wear manufacturers say the traditionally reserved Briton is asking for them, especially in southern England. In the midlands and Wales, clothes in bottle green, light navy and rust are catching on.

The Scot? He likes many colored kilts - but sober shades and conventional cuts in his other clothes.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



MUTUAL INSURANCE AGENCY

S. A. CHALK, JR. CARL V. NELSON

First-Citizens Bank Bldg. Morehead City, N. C.

Phone M-8362

To Our Friends



We send this greeting to wish you a Very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year, and to express our true appreciation of the favors you have shown us. If it were not for folks like you, there would be no firms like ours — and we are sincerely grateful for your patronage. May all the good things of life be yours, may the sunshine of happiness be on your side of the street for 365 days of every year, and every day be full of good luck, health, and prosperity.

That Is the True Wish of

Felton's

FRONT ST. BEAUFORT



Large advertisement for T. T. "Tom" Potter, Sinclair Refining Co., Morehead City. Features a large star graphic and the word 'Greetings' in a decorative font. Text includes: 'Once again we greet the gay Yuletide season - when young and old gather 'round in good fellowship... with a heartfelt wish that you and yours may enjoy the Merriest Christmas - and a Happy, Happy New Year! T. T. "TOM" POTTER SINCLAIR REFINING CO. MOREHEAD CITY PHONE M-375-1'