

Another Big Jaycee Square Dance At The Whitehall Tonight

Mount Holly News

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Annual Theatre Party On 22nd

A total of \$113 was donated by local merchants for the annual Christmas Theater Party which will be held at the Gaston and Holly Theaters Friday, December 22 at 9:30 a. m. In addition to the cash donations for the expense of the theater party, which is a highlight in the lives of youngsters here each year, grocers donated plentiful supplies of fruit to be given to the youngsters. Many stores, as per the usual custom, donated prizes which will be given to the youngsters during the party. The party this year is going to be an outstanding success from all indications.

Santa Claus will be right on hand for the party as is his annual custom and children attending the theater party will have an opportunity to win one of many fine prizes being given away.

On the schedule for the film portion of the party are a number of cartoons including such kid favorites as the Three Stooges, Popeye, Bugs Bunny, a ghost cartoon, and an Our Gang comedy.

Cooperating merchants have been making the theater party possible for a number of years and the party has grown in scope each year since it was first begun by theater manager Kenneth Davis. Last year it was necessary to use both the Gaston and Holly Theaters and it will probably be necessary again this year, ac-

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Prizes To Be Given Friday

A list of the prizes to be given away by Mount Holly members of the Riverbend Township Merchants Association on Friday, December 22, at 2 p. m., bringing "Shopportunity Days" to a close, has been released this week. Mrs. Kathleen Herald, secretary of the association, told News reporters that merchants who are not planning to give individual prizes to winners of the drawings which many stores will have are planning to cooperate in furnishing the fifty dollar grand prize to be given away at the big drawing.

Drawings for both individual store prizes and the grand prize will be held at 2 p. m. next Friday at a location which has not been stated yet.

Stanley members of the Riverbend Township Merchants Association, who are cooperating in presenting "Shopportunity Days" are holding their drawings Saturday of next week, December 23, at 2 p. m. A fifty dollar grand prize plus a large list of individual prizes will be given away in the drawing.

A ticket giving the holder an opportunity to win one of the many prizes is being given away with each one dollar in cash sales by participating merchants both in Mount Holly and Stanley.

The prizes already listed with the association which will be given away by the following merchants, are: Barnette's Florist—orchid corsage; Charlie's Drug—ladies toilet set; Central Service Station—car wash and grease; Edna Black, Flowers—white dish garden with imported figurine; Clark Radio and Jewelry—electric perculator and pen and pencil set; Paul Derr—Ten dollars in merchandise, five dollars in merchandise; Clara Hager—dress and box Nyon hose; Harris—White—merchandise; Holland Drug—sportsman toilet set; Ivey Henkle—watch band and Ronson lighter; Massey-Clark—electric iron; Mount Holly Furniture Company—all wool blanket; Mathis and Son—grease and oil change; Pryor Esso—wax and polish job; Percy Roberts—twin holster and gun set; River Valley Gas and Appliance—electric broiler; Frank Rankin—ten dollars in merchandise; five dollars in merchandise; Summey Drug—bill fold and cosmetic set; Triangle Service Station—pressure cooker; Western Auto—electric perculator.

Shopportunity Days is being sponsored by the merchants association to bring to the attention of local residents the fact that merchants and values being offered by local merchants is every bit as good and sometimes better than that obtainable in larger cities, and many times the prices are much cheaper. Save time and temper by shopping with your friends and neighbors who are members of the Riverbend Town-

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School Holidays Are Announced

Mount Holly Schools will close for the Christmas holidays Friday, December 15, and open January 1st. Principal S. H. Helton announced this week. All parents are asked to make a note of these dates.

Ceremonies For School Buildings

The official groundbreaking for the new elementary school building to be constructed at the Mount Holly Schools was held Thursday morning of this week at 10:30 a. m. at the school. Due to the weather, the program was held in the gymnasium with the student body of the elementary school attending.

Present for the occasion, which marks the high spot in the construction of the new elementary building which is being built here, were representatives of the civic groups and veterans organizations in Mount Holly, as well as Mayor Gary Kendrick, members of the Town Board of Aldermen, and other civic leaders.

Representing the Junior Chamber of Commerce was President J. B. Rhyne; Commander Jack Summey represented the American Legion; Noah I. Huffstetler, Jr., represented the V.F.W., President Ewing Robinson represented the Rotary Club, President Leo Fuller represented the Lions Club, Mrs. Joe Jones represented the P.T.A., and Mrs. Clyde Loftin, president, represented the Women's Civic Club.

The program was opened with the National Anthem, sung by the student body accompanied by the Mount Holly High School Band. The invocation was given by Rev. Carl Fisher, President of the Mount Holly Ministerial Association, and the school song followed the invocation.

J. Milton Craig, Riverbend Township representative on the county school board, delivered a brief address outlining the plans for the building and pointing out the great need for the building.

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Church Reports Week's Activities

A full week of Christmas activity is reported to be scheduled for next week at First Presbyterian Church here.

The regular services will take place on Sunday, with messages by the pastor, the Rev. D. O. McInnis.

On Monday evening at 7 o'clock the Men's Club will hold its annual Ladies' Night Dinner in the dining room of the church school building. Dr. Robert F. Boyd, pastor of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Charlotte will be the guest speaker. Ewen D. Robinson, president of the club, will preside. Mrs. Boyd will also be a special guest.

R. L. Ward, a leading layman in the church, will conduct the midweek service Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

On Thursday evening the Youth Fellowship of the church will honor the college students home for the holidays with a dinner in the church dining room at 7 o'clock. At this meeting the visiting speaker will be the Rev. W. Chester Keller, pastor of Tenth Avenue Presbyterian Church, Charlotte. Mrs. Keller will be a special guest at the meeting.

The annual Christmas party for the children of the Sunday School will be held Friday evening at 7 o'clock in the church school building. A decorated Christmas tree will be the central attraction in ornaments, and treats will be provided for the small guests. A program will be presented by the children under the direction of Mrs. D. O. McInnis and Miss Eunice Springs. The highlight of this will be the presentation of a short play, "The Story of Christmas" in pantomime.

Climaxing the week will be the presentation of "The Story of Christmas in Scripture and Song," arranged for reader and choir, at the evening worship hour, Sunday, December 24. The reader for the service will be the pastor, the Rev. Mr. McInnis, and the music will be in charge of Mrs. David W. Smith, who will also be organist for the service.

ATTEND CHURCH

Silent Night... Holy Night



Peace on Earth... Good will toward men... May these blessings return to His children, the world around, during this Christmas season and the New Year so soon to come. Let us pray that this hope to be ordained with fulfillment, by attending church for the Christmas services.

CHRISTMAS--- How It Originated

By Victor C. King

One of our truly great holidays, all of which could well be celebrated by all peoples of the world, Christmas, quite like our Thanksgiving Day, originated under very trying circumstances, suffered many fluctuations and finally had the date of observance changed.

Strange as the fact may be, it was not intended, in the first instance, to commemorate the birth of Christ; but instead to glorify what the first Christians thought was the first great event in His life—His baptism in the Jordan by John, the Baptist, and one that symbolized His spiritual or divine birth.

The date set for the observance of this momentous event was January 6th. No special rites were authorized. Nor was the day called Christmas. Instead, it was called the "Feast of Epiphany."

This was a Greek word, taken from ancient Hebrew, and has been interpreted by biblical scholars as descriptive of a divine apparition.

Up to Christ's baptism no one had any idea He was of divine origin. He had not yet started on His ministry. The Christians thought this was the opening event in His divine mission. They recalled John wrote, as may be read in Matthew and in the book of St. John, that when Christ came up out of the water the "heavens opened," and Jehovah was heard to say: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

John also wrote that when he first saw Jesus in the crowd (He had not then been named Christ) he observed "the spirit of heaven descending and it settled upon

Him."

He was accordingly convinced that Jesus was the Messiah and said to the spectators: "This is He of whom I spake."

Some what overwhelmed, he at first declined to honor himself by baptizing Jesus, considering himself unworthy of this great honor; but Jesus insisted, saying the "law must be fulfilled."

(The first mention in the Bible of Jesus as "Our Lord Jesus Christ" was not made until about 25 years later when St. Paul in his letters to the Thessalonians used these words to encourage and support his belief of his converts.)

Why was January 6th selected as the date for the "Feast of Epiphany?"

Some biblical scholars thought it was the date of Christ's baptism by John, the Baptist; others concluded it was His birthday; that He was 30 years of age when the baptism also symbolized His divine birth. But calculations established it instead as the date Jesus was visited in the manger in Bethlehem by the three magi or Kings or Wise Men and that this event truly occurred on the 12th day after His physical birth which would carry this blessed event back to December 25th.

All great events in His life were called "epiphanies," such as His first miracle—turning water into wine, which occurred three days after His baptism at the wedding in Cana; the feeding of the 5,000; the annunciation, crucifixion and resurrection, each indicating certain divine manifestations.

While no special days for ob-

servations of these epiphanies were at first established, they were recognized on January 6th when His divine origin was disclosed for the first time. But in the centuries that followed, beginning particularly soon after the Roman Emperor Augustus decreed Christianity (300 A. D.) should be the state or legal religion of the empire (for which the church later canonized him), a special date was established for each separate epiphany.

The Church Fathers eventually disagreed on the observance of Christ's spiritual and physical birth. Both, they thought, should be observed; so in the course of centuries the physical birth of Christ was established as December 25th according to present day calendars, and was designated as the "Feast" or in church lore the "Mass of Christ." This event, however, did not occur until about the 9th century. But during the "dark ages" of history, it barely escaped extinction; that it did not is a debt of gratitude the Christian world owes to the Catholic church.

The original association of Christ's spiritual birth with the visit of the three Wise Men to the manger 12 days after His physical birth, when they presented Him with gifts—gold, frankincense and myrrh—accounts no doubt for the gift-and-present custom of today at Christmas time.

But regardless of how Christmas originated it is sufficient Christ was born; that he lived by his life inspired the most beloved holiday in all Christendom.

Stores To Be Open Late Three Days

Stores in Mount Holly which are members of the Riverbend Township Merchants Association are planning to remain open until 8 p. m. Thursday night, Friday night, and Saturday night, of next week. These special hours will be for the convenience of last minute Christmas shoppers.

This does not apply to grocery stores.

Jaycees To Have Big Tree Sale

The Mount Holly Jaycees will again have Christmas trees on sale here beginning tomorrow (Saturday) President J. C. Rhyne announced Thursday. The trees, which were donated to the Jaycees, have already been cut and will be sold at the Massey-Clark parking lot tomorrow (Saturday).

Trees will also be sold by the Jaycees at the Mount Holly Ice and Fuel Company, President Rhyne stated, and a wide selection of sizes will be on display at the location tomorrow and through Christmas.

Arrangements for delivery of trees can be made at the Mount Holly Ice and Fuel Company or at the Rhyne Shoe Shop on East Central Ave.

Prices will be extremely reasonable as they were last year, the Jaycees point out, with the price of the trees depending on the size.

Tommy Dunn and Peter N. Chagaris will be in charge of the sale of the trees this year. Last year the Jaycees made a substantial sum which was immediately applied to the Community Building Fund through the sale of the trees.

The Jaycees are asking prospective purchasers of Christmas trees to visit the Mount Holly Ice and Fuel Company and view the wide selection of trees which they have this year. Proceeds of the tree sale will again be added.

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First Meeting New Building

The congregation of the Tuckasee Baptist Church will hold special services Sunday, December 17, beginning with the eleven o'clock service, in the new church building which has just been completed. This will be the first service to be held in the new sanctuary and a special invitation is being extended to former pastors, members, and friends of the church to attend if possible. Rev. O. B. Reel, pastor of the church, said that special music and a special service will be held in the afternoon with visitors invited to attend and to inspect the church building during the afternoon.

During the afternoon service messages will be heard from former pastors and friends of the church. Special invitations to attend this service are being issued to sub-contractors and everyone who helped in the construction of the church as well as to the public in general. V. P. Loftis and Company of Charlotte were contractors on the massive job. Rev. Reel said. Drawings and architectural work was done by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Dinner will be served at noon at the church and everyone is asked to bring a full basket of food for the occasion.

The morning service at eleven o'clock will be a memorial service for three members of the church who lost their lives in the service of their country. They are Calvin Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Smith, Odell I. Pryor, husband of Mrs. Hazeline Pryor, and John Robert Wagstaff, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Wagstaff. Memorial windows will be dedicated to these three men.

The families of these men are requested to sit together at the morning service.

Booklets giving the history of the church have been published and will be distributed to those attending Sunday.

Former pastors of the church who are expected to be present for the occasion are Rev. David B. Roberts, now living in Marshville, who served from 1943-46; Rev. W. B. Adams, who served the church from 1934 to 1943, and who is now serving at Rutherford; and Rev. A. A. Locke, (Continued on Back Page)

City Increases It's Size Today

Today (Friday) is the first day during which Mount Holly residents of the areas recently annexed to the former Town of Mount Holly become residents of the City of Mount Holly. At midnight last night, or rather early this morning, the Town of Mount Holly became officially the City of Mount Holly with a population well in excess of three thousand people.

Today police protection, and fire protection are officially available to residents of the annexed area for the first time and one of the first benefits to be received by these people will be garbage pick-up by the Maintenance Department.

It is not yet known when it will be possible to begin regularly scheduled garbage pick-ups in the new area within the city limits. Schedules have to be made and tried out before the garbage pick-up crew can tell exactly when it will be possible to reach each section.

Police protection and fire protection are different matters and they will begin immediately.

With Mount Holly now officially a small city, a great advantage over previous status can be achieved. The City will now present more attractive possibilities to outside businesses which may wish to become established here.

Vets Plan For Distributing Toys

The James Parks Warren Post of the V.F.W. is ready to distribute toys which were recently donated during their toy drive by local residents. The toys have been repaired and repainted and will be distributed Friday night of next week, the Friday before Christmas, Commander Rudy Cole announced this week.

The veterans are anxious that the many toys which were donated during the recent drive be distributed to deserving families as widely in this section as possible. They have decided to deliver the toys to the adults in the families on the Friday night before Christmas in order to give the parents an opportunity to plan their own arrangements for the children.

The members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars are requesting anyone in Mount Holly who knows of a deserving family which might not otherwise enjoy Christmas, to notify them of the (Continued on Back Page)

Baptist To Have Pageant Sunday

On Sunday evening, December 17, at 7:30 a Christmas pageant will be given at the First Baptist Church. "The Adoration" is a pageant whose central theme is the adoration and praise of the Christ Child. The pageant is divided into three parts: the praise of Him before His birth; the praise of His birth; and the adoration by all the nations through the ages. In the last section each nation will be represented by a child and a coral from each nation will be sung. Those taking part in the pageant will be Mr. and Mrs. Johnston Miller, Mr. Ronnie Estridge, Mr. Bobby Blankinship, Miss Ann Painter, Miss Doris Miller, Miss Sue Whitner, Miss Betty Garrison, Mr. Joe Dunn, Mr. I. C. Thomas, Mr. Baxter McIntosh. The children representing the nations are Jerry Mullis, Emily Patterson, John Dunn, David Mullis, Ellen Eaves, Ronnie Edwards, Elizabeth Jones, Perry Hall Roberts, Catherine Powell, David Hager.

The Junior Choir, Youth Choir, and Senior Choir will present songs in accord with the setting. The Choirs have worked hard and are singing some beautiful numbers. Some of these are:

"Now Let Every Tongue Adore Thee" by Bach
"Angels We Have Heard on High"—Old French Carol
"Adeste Fideles"—Italian Carol
"Carol of the Bells"—Ukrainian Carol
"Praise God, Exalt Him"—Norwegian Carol
"God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen"—English Carol
"O Little Town of Bethlehem" by Phillips Brooks
"Hallelujah Chorus" (Messiah) by Handel

The public is cordially invited to attend the pageant.