

State And National News Condensed In Brief Form

National News

Atlantic City, N. J., Dec. 21.—A \$100,996 fire occurred yesterday in the City Hall at suburban Ventnor—and no one tried to put it out. Scrip once worth that much was burned in the furnace by order of the City Council. Issued in darker days, it had been redeemed in payment of taxes, license fees and other municipal charges.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The new York World's Fair will have the United States fleet as a major attraction next year, but the San Francisco Exposition.

Workmen were busy at the Navy Department today boxing up models of naval vessels for shipment to the San Francisco Exposition.

West Chester, Pa., Dec. 21.—Nine year old Nicholas Connolly saved his nickels and dimes for a year to buy a clarinet for Christmas. When he had accumulated \$28, he gave it to his father for safekeeping. Then burglars stole the money from a safe in his dad's office.

Kingston, Pa., Dec. 21.—State Police investigating the disappearance of Margaret Martin, attractive 19-year old business college graduate, advanced a belief today that she was being "detained" somewhere near here, unharmed.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The American Medical Association, three local medical societies, and 21 individual physicians were indicted today by a Federal Grand Jury for violation of the Sherman anti-trust act.

Downey, Calif., Dec. 21.—A new warplane, capable of swift attacks and medium-range bombardment missions, was in production today at the Vultee plant, a subsidiary of Aviation Manufacturing Corp.

Paris, Dec. 21.—A proposal that the United States relax immigration restrictions to provide temporary relief for more than 50,000 Jews of Germany was advanced today by representatives of Jewish organizations, meeting with Sir Herbert Emerson, assistant to the League of Nations high commissioner for refugees.

San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 21.—A flaming United States Coast Guard plane crashed at Boerne, 30 miles northwest of here, killing four men late last night.

Chief Burns Warns Firecracker Shooters

Police Chief Jimmy Burns issued a warning to those who must shoot firecrackers to do so on their own property and not in the business section. Several of the merchants have complained to Chief Burns. It is a violation of the law and Chief Burns stated that he did not desire to cause anyone any trouble about the way they choose to celebrate Christmas, but for the safety of the public he hoped firecracker shooters would be very careful.

State News

Newton, Dec. 21.—Funeral services will be held tomorrow at the home here for Grover E. Murray, 46, traveling salesman of the Armour Fertilizer Co., who was killed almost instantly yesterday afternoon when his light coupe struck a telephone pole beside the highway just outside of Cherryville.

Cincind, Dec. 21.—It is believed here that a fire of serious proportions in the business district of Concord was prevented yesterday by the timely arrival and prompt action of Fred Locke, negro shine boy at a local barber shop.

When Locke showed up for work before the arrival of other employees, he found the inside of the shop filled with smoke and called the fire department. Firemen found that a stove had set fire to the floor. They were able to extinguish the fire before much damage was done.

Raleigh, Dec. 21.—Attaches said today the North Carolina Supreme Court would probably adjourn its current term late in January.

Oral arguments of the Fall term have been concluded. To date this year the court has disposed of 400 cases, and 89 others are to be considered before the adjournment.

Presbyterians Present "Nativity"

The Pioneers and Seniors of the First Presbyterian Church presented their "Nativity" Sunday, Dec. 18, at 8:00 o'clock in the Fellowship Hall to a large congregation.

The persons appearing in the program were as follows: Mary, Mrs. Carl Davidson; Joseph, Hunter Neisler; Shepherds, Mr. Lee Ramsour, Lawrence Patrick, Eugene Goforth and Charles Egan; the Littlest Shepherd, The Wisemen were Paul Neisler Jr., Jim Nickles, Charles Campbell and their attendants were Charles Neisler and Woody Rawls, the latter a Camel Boy. Prologue characters were a young Jewish Father, Mr. George Moss, and his ten year old son, Henry Neisler, and the Keeper of the Inn, Mr. Clarence Goforth.

Music was played by Miss Virginia Parsons throughout the service and the Nativity story was read by Rev. P. D. Patrick.

At the close of the service the annual "Joy Gift" offering for aged ministers was taken. The singing of the loved carol, Silent Night, Holy Night, brought the impressive service to a close.

FREE SHOW FOR CHILDREN AT DIXIE THEATRE

All children are invited to attend the Christmas Eve free show at the Dixie Theatre Saturday morning at 9:00 o'clock. A full two hour show of comedies and shorts will be shown, and free fruit and candies will be given away by local merchants. Other prizes will be given. Manager David Cash wants every child to come, so remember the time and date.



Midnight Services At Presbyterian Church

Groups of young people from the Methodists, Baptists, Lutheran, and two Presbyterian churches will assemble at the First Presbyterian Church at 9:00 o'clock on Christmas Eve. They will go throughout the city singing carols to many persons. The groups will return to the church at 11:25 for a Midnight Service. The Feast of Candles and Carols, which will begin with the choir and carollers' Processional, Joy to the World. Just at midnight the organ chimes will broadcast to Kings Mountain, "Adeste Fideles. O Come All Ye Faithful"—proclaiming the dawn of Christmas Morn.

All persons who wish carols to be sung who have not notified their own pastor may announce their wish by placing a single lighted taper in their front window. Any carolling group passing will pause and carol such a home.

It is with genuine eagerness and joy that the young people of Kings Mountain unite in ushering in Christmas with their songs. An invitation to join in the service at the church is cordially extended to all persons in the city, for Christmas Eve and Christmas Morn belong to all people everywhere.

Christmas Mail Sets New High

Postmaster W. E. Blakely said last night that the volume of Christmas mail to date for the local post office set a new high with 26,200 pieces being cancelled Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Day by Day statistics show that 7,500 were cancelled Monday, 10,200 Tuesday, and 8,500 Wednesday. Twenty six thousand 1½ cent stamps have been sold to date. This is far ahead of sales for last year. In order to take care of the large volume of both incoming and outgoing mail the postal force at the local office has been working until ten o'clock at night sorting and cancelling it.

Along with the announcement, Mr. Blakely extended an invitation to late mailers to make use of special delivery so that mail which would not otherwise go out on Christmas Day, or Monday, will be delivered. This service is always at the disposal of the public, and mail goes out any time that it is received, including Sundays and holidays.

Today, Shortest Day Of Year

Those late Kings Mountain shoppers who have waited until today to do most of their shopping, and have a big day's work ahead will have to rush to get in a full day's work today. In fact, they'll have less time to do their work in, because of the fact that this is the shortest day of the year. The sun rose this morning at 7:17, and will set at 4:45, making nine hours and twenty six minutes of daylight.

Although you were not aware of the fact, any may refuse to believe it, winter didn't get here until a few minutes before sunrise this morning. December 22nd, also being the official day of entrance for the season. Don't blame us for giving you so little time to do your work in today, or for giving you chills with the advent of the snow king, but it was news to us until we looked it up.

ATTEND COUNTY TEACHERS BANQUET

The following from Kings Mountain attended the meeting at Cleveland County Teachers at the High School in Shelby last Wednesday afternoon and the banquet held in the evening at the school cafeteria: Mesdames Jim Willis, W. K. Crook, Ruth McGill Hallman, Carl Davidson, Aubrey Clap, Misses Annie Roberts and Madge McDaniel. A number of others from Kings Mountain attended the meeting in the afternoon.

STORES TO BE CLOSED MONDAY

Kings Mountain will have two Sundays in a row as merchants and business houses will be closed Monday, December 26th, in observance of Christmas.

The Post Office force will take the day off and try to rest up after the holiday rush. The First National Bank will be closed, as well as the freight depot. The Public Library will be closed Monday.

The merchants and clerks are looking forward to the two-day rest period after one of the busiest Christmas seasons in the history of Kings Mountain.

Business will be resumed as usual Tuesday morning.

Last Appeal For Stocking Fund

The firemen of Kings Mountain are sending out this last minute appeal to the public to aid in the Empty Stocking fund by contributing to it, and thus make happy the poor children of the town whom Santa will not visit unless they do help. Said Grady King, Fire chief: "We must have more than just the toys which we have repaired. There are 200 children in Kings Mountain who will have absolutely nothing on Christmas unless we provide for them. It has been pointed out that it is the fault of the parents, in many cases. That is true, but the children are not to blame for the parents' faults. They have the right to happiness, and it's up to the public to make them happy."

Mr. King cited two cases, one only one block from the "Herald" office, in which the children would not be visited by Santa Claus. In one case, he said, the father sold his only suit of clothes to a WPA worker in order to buy food for his children. Can such things be possible in Kings Mountain? They can and they are. Will the people of the 'Best Town in the State' let such a condition exist? That is up to you.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." This is a chance for you to make a real investment in happiness, by knowing that you have made some child happy on Christmas morning.

The merchants of the town have agreed to sell toys to the firemen at cost, in order that the money they get will go further. The Chief of the local Firemen said: "We need fifty dollars yet. If the people could see the conditions as I see them, and hear the heart-rending pleas, I am sure that we could get that amount easily."

Donations may be given to any member of the Junior Woman's Club which is assisting in the move, any Fireman or Policeman, or turned in at the Herald office.

Will Rogers' Humorous Story

By WILL ROGERS

I CAN never understand where some people get their ideas on charity. If a guy comes up to you and asks you for a dime for something to eat, I think he deserves it



just because he is hungry. But there are lots of people who would ask him a million and one questions wanting to know what happened to his last job, whether he is married or single, why he never saved any money, etc.

A little while ago a tramp came up to the back door of a house, and when the mistress came out, inquired about his chances for a meal. The woman looked at him and said, "I'd be glad to do something for you, my good man, but first answer me one question. Do you use liquor?" The tramp looked her over and replied, "Well, lady, that all depends on whether this is an invitation or not."

(American News Features, Inc.)

"What Does Christmas Mean To You?"

Interesting Facts Found Tracing Post Office Site

When Uncle Sam buys a piece of property on which to build, or for any purpose, they have to know who they're buying from and who that person bought it from, and on down the line. That's how it all started with the site which has been chosen for the new postoffice in our town. Mr. J. R. Davis, local attorney, was given the job of tracing the title of the land, and in doing so he found out a lot about the history of Kings Mountain. In delving back into the past of the piece of land, Mr. Davis found out some things that we wouldn't have believed if we had read them in Ripley's column. For instance, did you know that only sixty three years ago the one-third acre of land sold for slightly less than seven dollars. And this is not a typographical error. We have the facts before us. You can figure it out for yourself if you wish. The whole acre of ground in 1875 sold for \$20. The building will occupy one third of the acre, for which the government paid \$6,247.50. Quite a difference, as you can see.

Mr. Davis also found out a lot of other interesting things about it, as well as the town as a whole. Mr. George Patterson received a large grant of land from the government in 1783. That's where it all came from after the Indians had been chased out. What happened to the land from that date until 1843 is rather obscure, except that the Pattersons (no relation to the Building and Loan man) probably raised their corn on it. The next title couldn't be found, but we again find trace of ownership in 1847, when one John Blackwood sold the land to Robert Falls. Mr. Blackwood was a shrewd business man, it seems. Any way, he got \$275 for a hundred acres on which the major portion of the present town of Kings Mountain now stands. At \$2.75 an acre, Mr. Falls most probably crawled up on a stump and yelled "gypped!" But after he cooled off he seems to have decided to hold on to the land, which he did until 1875, when he got \$20 for just one acre of it—the acre on which our new postoffice will stand.

This acre, which Mr. Falls sold to A. P. and M. M. Carpenter, brought an elaborate profit, and showed the influence of the crossroads which made up our town about that time, we believe. The one-third acre stayed in the Carpenter family until it was sold to the government for \$6,247.50, which probably makes Mr. Falls want to jump out of his grave and yell even louder than he did when he paid the \$2.75 for the whole acre.

Getting a little more ambitious, we decided to figure out what the third of an acre was worth when Mr. Falls bought it from Mr. Blackwood. He paid \$275 for the hundred acre tract. That was \$2.75 per acre. One third of an acre, at that rate, cost ninety-one and two-thirds cents! We may sound screwy, but that's what the papers showed. And we don't feel inclined to argue with court records!

Local Man To Attend Rose Bowl Game

Kings Mountain, The Best Town In The State, will be represented at the Rose Bowl game, January second, by Mr. Halbert Webb, Chemical engineer at the Margrace plant. Mr. Webb plans to depart from Kings Mountain on Dec. 26, and will be gone for two weeks. All through the past football season Mr. Webb has followed the glories of Duke, and is one of that team's most ardent boosters. The Herald wishes for Mr. Webb a happy New Year on the Pacific Coast.

Two Small Fires During Past Week

Firemen were called last Friday morning at 7:00 A. M. to the home of W. F. Logan on Gold street. Very little damage was done by the slight blaze caused by a spark on the roof. Sunday afternoon a grass blaze caused the firemen to be called to the used auto lot of the Cleveland Motor Co. on Railroad avenue. Firemen arrived in time to extinguish the fire before any of the cars were damaged.

LOCAL PEOPLE ELUCIDATE

By "George" Whittington
Christmas comes but once a year, and is undoubtedly the most universally celebrated of all days. In fact, it might be called the Day of Days, so it's only natural that the Editor of the Herald should want to bring to the readers of this paper the general public's idea of Christmas. Unfortunately for the readers, he asked yours truly to interview persons downtown and find out what they thought. We really got some fine answers, however, and it was worth while hearing them elucidate.

Mrs. E. W. Griffin seems to have the best conception of true Christmas Spirit. We dashed madly all over town trying to catch Mrs. Griffin, but it was worth it when we did get her. Here's what she had to say about it all: "Christmas is a time of year when I really have a lot of fine impulses to do some nice things for others. The spirit creeps into me and really makes me want to keep it all the year long, by doing those things. However, the hustle and bustle of the commercialized ideas usually ruin the beautiful thoughts, and leave me wishing that I could have held on to the spirit a little more firmly."

Mrs. Griffin has the whole idea, and has expressed that feeling we get when we hear a Christmas Carol or see a Christmas scene more clearly than we thought it possible. It may be the idea of "Peace on earth, good will toward men," and it may be something else, but the deepness of it can easily be seen by this answer given by Mary Frances Gantt, the Cashier at the Imperial Theatre.

Miss Gantt: "I don't know why, but it's the biggest time of the year for me," which expresses it as well as I could.

Mrs. D. E. Cash, the cashier at the Dixie expressed the idea of "More blessed to give than to receive." Says she: "It's the biggest thrill one can have to see the look in the eyes of children when they find the things that Santa brought them."

Confusion marks many as seen in the answer that Gloria Cornwell, High School Student, gave us. Her answer: "It means a whole lot, but I don't know just how to express it." E. T. Bennett, textile worker, has a definite idea: "It means a whole lot to me. It's the celebration of the birth of Christ, and that should mean a lot to everyone." Mr. Bennett's answer probably shows the real idea of Christmas more definitely than most of us can, and his is the real underlying cause of "Joy to the World."

Mr. Chas. Dilling, Town Clerk: "I don't know yet. This is the first year that I have a child to prepare for. See me next year and I'll tell you more about it." We know that Mr. Dilling will have a lot of fun being Santa for the first time.

"Red" McClain, furniture salesman, also has a very definite idea. Says "Red": "A time of year when we realize that it's more blessed to give than to receive."

Mr. J. B. Maloney, radio service man at Western Auto, has some good advice along with his idea: "It means a day of real rest, and a day that everyone should have a good time without future regrets."

Sarahoe Harrell: "It means that Santa's coming to see all good children—And am I good?"

And there they are. They all show the idea of Christmas as most people have — no matter how they are expressed. We like to take the idea of Mrs. Griffin and Mr. Bennett as an explanation of the feeling which the Christmas Spirit lends us, and like Mrs. Griffin, we'd like to keep it all year, but that's impossible, so we'll take the week or so of it and be happy for it.

Washington Snapshots

by JAMES PRESTON

(Opinions Expressed in This Column Are Not Necessarily the Views of This Newspaper.)

Those in Washington high places pinched themselves and each other last week just to be sure they were fully awake. When they had reassured themselves that they were not dreaming, astonishment turned to confusion.

To appreciate the situation, that sent the brain trusters into a dizzy whirl, it must be recalled that on several occasions in recent months government spokesmen have said

(Cont'd on back page)

Laughing Around the World With IRVIN S. COBB

Obstructing the Highway

By IRVIN S. COBB

THERE was a corner in a Southern state, down near the Mississippi River, where formerly lynchings occurred more frequently than they do these times. In the days before the rural-free-delivery system was adopted, Uncle Gip Thomas held a contract for delivering the mail in



this neighborhood. So regular was he that the residents almost could set their clocks by him.

But one day he was nearly two hours late in reaching the end of the line, where there was a tiny cross-road hamlet. Just as the citizens were forming a posse to set out in search of him, for fear that some mishap had befallen him, Uncle Gip ambled into view.

"What delayed you, Uncle Gip?" asked the postmaster. "Did you happen to an accident or did an accident happen to you?"

"Nary one, or both," stated Uncle Gip. "But about ten o'clock this mornin' jes' before I crossed the Creek, I come to where some of the boys had done left a feller hangin' right thar in the public road. Well, suh, my mare she got skooked and shied back, and I jes' natchelly couldn't make her go past him noways; so finally I had to tear down a panel of rail fence and lead her through the gap and lay the fence back again and go through the woods down into the hollow and ford the creek and then tear another gap in the fence before I could get back again on the turnpike—and that was what kept me so late." Uncle Gip paused a moment and then went on again in an aggrieved tone:

"Honest, boys, it does look to me like there oughter be a law against leavin' a feller hangin' in the public road."

(American News Features, Inc.)