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Pvt. Bumgardner Finishes Training

FORT KNOX, Ky. — Army Private Joe G. Bumgardner, 20, whose wife, Deborah, lives on Route 1, York Road, Kings Mountain, N. C., recently completed eight weeks of basic training at the U. S. army training center, armor, Fort Knox, Ky.

He received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, combat tactics, military

courtesy, military justice, first aid, and army history and traditions.

Pvt. Bumgardner is a 1969 graduate of Kings Mountain high school. Before entering the army he was employed by Fiber Industries, Earl.

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Stories Of Best-Loved Carols; "Silent Night" Most Popular

Silent Night, Holy Night: This is perhaps our most beloved and most frequently sung Christmas carol; it came to us from Germany, well over a hundred years ago.

On Christmas Eve in 1818, a young priest, Joseph Mohr, sat in his church stuy wishing he had something special for midnight mass. The stillness of the night and the beauty of the snow-clad mountains inspired him to write this beautiful carol. On Christmas morning he hurried to the home of a friend who was organist at his little church, and asked him to compose for the verse he had written. His friends loved the words and was happy to have an opportunity to compose the melody. After he had completed it the two men sang it over and over again and that night, Christmas night, they sang it for the villagers who came to worship together in the little moan church. Twenty-four years later it was published and written in other languages so that it could be sung the world over.

but it is generally believed that it came to us from France about one hundred years ago.

Hark The Herald Angels Sing: This beautiful hymn came to us from England. Charles Wesley wrote the words. The joyous ringing of the church bells as he walked to church one Christmas morning inspired him to write them. His love for music and his ability to write grew out of his early home training. He was one of nineteen children. His family lived too far from the good schools for the children to attend so his mother taught all of the children. Each of them was taught the Lord's Prayer as soon as they could speak and each was taught to read at a very early age. From childhood Charles grew to love music and poetry, and he became one of the greatest of all hymn writers.

Away In A Manger: This beautiful hymn, which children sing the world over, came to us from Germany. Martin Luther wrote both the music and words for his small son, Hans, (John), for a Christmas Eve festival. Luther, the son of a miner, was born in a small German village. He loved music from earliest childhood and had unusual talent. He sang well and played the flute and the lute. The story is told that at Christmas time he used to sing up the windows of the wealthy people. They would toss coins to him and he (Luther) in turn gave them to the poor to help make Christmas for them.

Joy To The World: This happy Christmas hymn came to us from England. It was written by Isaac Watts in 1719. Watts is best known because of his hymns for children. At his death a monument to his memory was put in Westminster Abbey, the highest honor an Englishman can receive. The monument pictures Watts writing while angels whisper in ears.

O Little Town of Bethlehem: This lovely carol is one of our very own. (Most of our songs, customs and traditions have come to us from other lands). As we sing this we may think back with gratitude to Phillip Brooks who

wrote this Christmas Carol after he had visited the "little town of Bethlehem" where Jesus was born. In that year he was the young rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity (Episcopal) in Philadelphia. Later he became one of the best-loved American preachers. Phillips Brooks had spent a year traveling abroad, visiting the Holy Land in December. On Christmas Eve he went to Bethlehem, the scene of Jesus' birth. He saw the shepherds "keeping watch over their flocks," just as they had on that night when the angels came to tell them of Jesus' birth. He attended a midnight Christmas in the Nativity, built at the spot where it is believed Jesus was born. Three years later after Phillips Brooks had returned to his church in Philadelphia, he wrote a Christmas song for the children of his Sunday school.

The beautiful scenes of the Holy Land were still in his memory. So he wrote verses describing the little town of Bethlehem as he had seen it sleeping under the stars.

When he had finished the song he took it to Lewis H. Redner, his organist and Sunday school superintendent, and asked him to compose a tune for the carol so the children could sing it on Christmas day. Redner worked hard all the week trying to compose the right tune. He went sadly to bed on Christmas Eve for the most disappoint his pastor and the children of his Sunday school. Suddenly he was awakened in the night by a strange ringing in his ears. He got up and wrote it down. The next morning the lovely carol was sung by the Sunday school children in Philadelphia, Christmas 1898.

MISTLETOE HAS POWERS

Mysterious powers by the dozens have been credited to mistletoe, among them the power to heal, to ward off evil, to summon ghosts and force them to answer questions.

At present, the most prized property of mistletoe is the license for plenty of Yuletide kissing. Fortunately, there's plenty of mistletoe.

Thanks to the birds, the plant spreads widely. The birds eat mistletoe berries and carry the seeds to trees near and far, say the editors of the Encyclopedia International.

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Radiantly, a star shines across the years... recalling the joy of the first Christmas, and gleaming still in hope and happiness for all. Let us rejoice, as we cherish the manifold blessings of this holy season.

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Isaiah 9:6 — For unto us a child is born, Unto us a son is given: And the government shall be upon his shoulder. And his name shall be Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

PEACE

"Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord"

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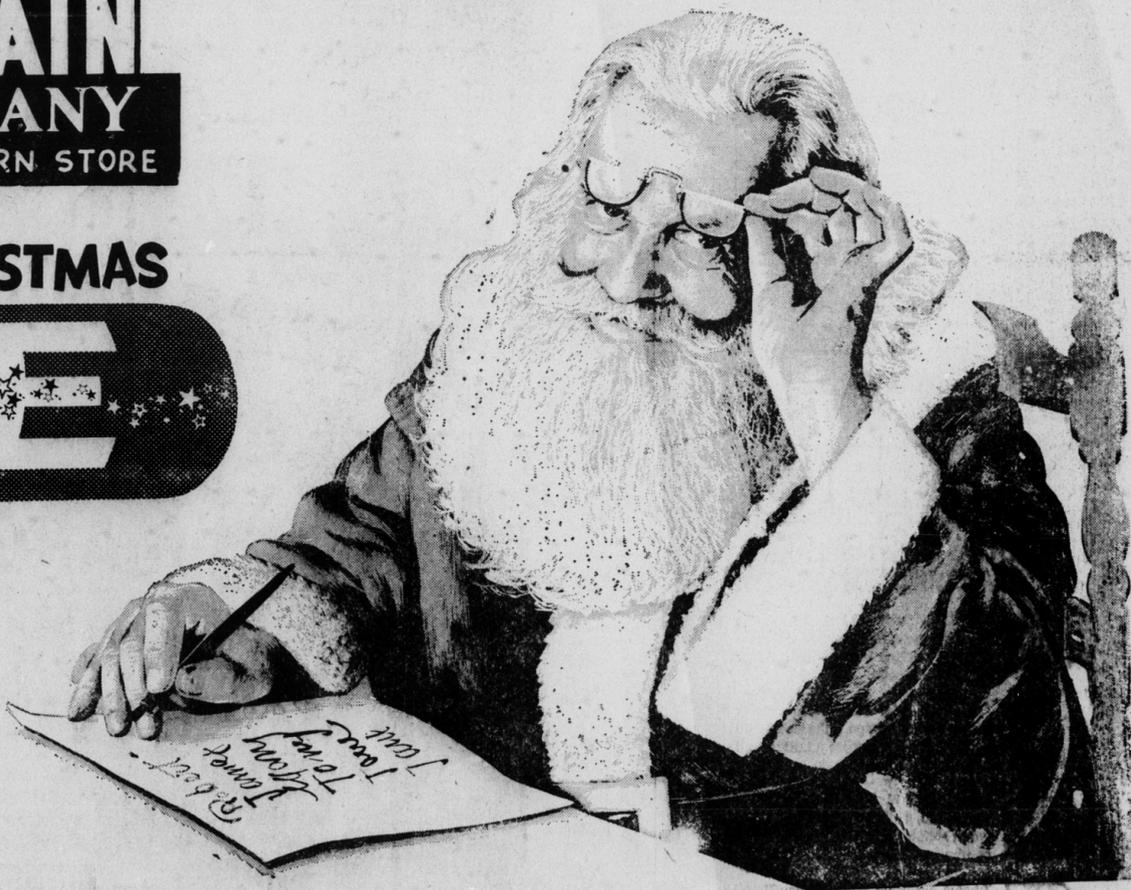
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