

IN MEMORIAM

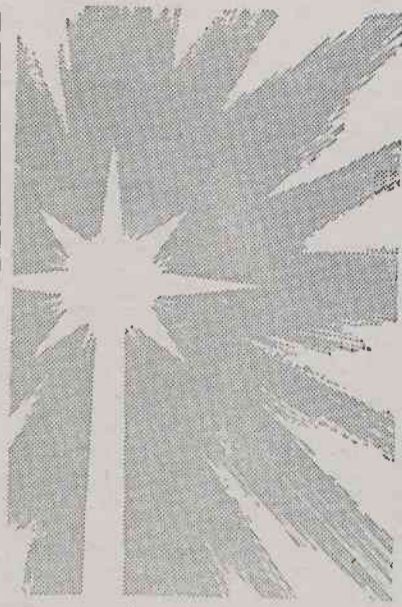
It seems that just yesterday they were waving hello or nodding a friendly greeting on the street or in the school halls, but today they cannot be found: their voices are not heard any longer, an accident has taken them away—never to return again.

There were many somber faces seen around Rocky Mount when the tragic news was heard. Tommy B. and Oscar Taylor had been riding in their family car, and then just as light leaves a candle when someone blows out the flame, their lives were taken from them.

These two boys were known by a great number of people. Their friends grieve because of their absence and are finding it difficult to adjust to not having them around. Their family has suffered greatly from this tragedy and the pain in their heart will never be completely soothed.

Even those who didn't know these boys realize the sadness of the accident. It seems that this calamity has affected all. Everyone may not be mournful, since they were not close friends. Yet, they have left a space which cannot be filled and will be remembered by those who knew and admired them for a long time.

Greater tributes have been paid to these two fine boys in other publications—what else is left to say that will explain more fully the great loss of the community. Their places cannot be filled by anyone else. Because of their popularity and friendliness, they can never be forgotten.



Blessings of Christmas

Handed down through the centuries, amidst difficulties, trials, and tribulations, the Christmas Story reaches many ears and fills the listeners with Christmas spirit and inspiration that comes from no other source.

Inspiration is aroused anew in those who have heard the story. Their forgotten hopes are once more brought forth and set as new goals. To those who hear the story for the first time, it brings great beauty and softness.

Even though it took place centuries ago, it is still the same perfect story. Guiding and inspiring, the significance of it is greater than anything that has happened before or since. The music of the angel choir is reproduced again and again by earthly choirs in majestic churches of today, celebrating the birth of Christ.

Celebrations today are worldwide. All Christian countries acknowledge this birth. In Norway, oats are placed on high poles for the birds. In old France, one dressed as

Saint Nicholas would ride through the streets giving gifts to the children. In Yugoslavia, salt is sprinkled on a burning log as the people proclaim Christ's birthday.

All sorts of customs are practiced in America. Carols are sung, cards are sent as greetings to friends, and gifts are exchanged as tokens of love. Houses are colorfully decorated. Holly, used in many decorations, dates back to Roman times. The yule log custom comes from the Celts. The most common and favorite decorations are the brightly strung tree, with the idea coming from a clergyman who wanted to share the glory of the stars with his family, and the stockings "that hung by the chimney with care" which hail from the Dutch settlers.

Sharing is a tradition of all countries. The joy of wanting to share comes from the heart. "Christmas is too commercialized" is heard more and more today. Yet, the true gifts of faith, hope, and love come from deep within. These gifts are not bought; they are not for sale. Instead, they must come only from the deepest depths of the heart.

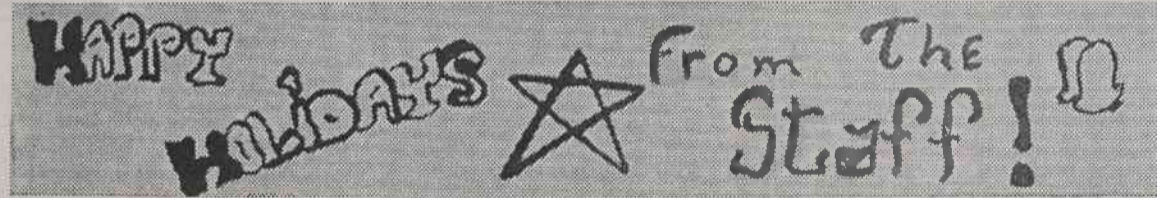
When gifts are mentioned, we remember the riches for the King that the wise men bore. They gave the most expensive gifts, but all gifts cannot be as rich as theirs. Remember that "there were also shepherds abiding in the fields" who came to visit this child. They bought only simple gifts, but these were gifts from within—gifts that were rich to them.

This Christmas remember the King of the common and the rich. Remember the leader, who was born in a stable, and the bright star whose rays fell on darkness to light the whole world. For a more rewarding Christmas, set a goal to seek friendship, answer softly, forgive, attend church, and put others FIRST.



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- EDITOR ALLEN CASEY
- Business Manager Burt White
- Circulation Manager Margaret Carmicheal
- Advertising Manager Jayne Crumpler
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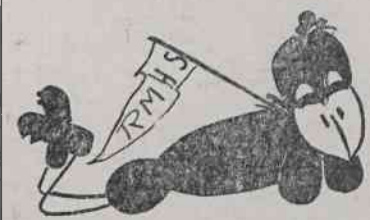
Letter Of "Wants" From Students To Santa

Dear Santa,
With Christmas only a few days away, many students of Rocky Mount Senior High have expressed their desires in this letter, since there hasn't been time to write individual letters, because of the burden of homework.
Most students have been good, so please try to see what you can do to fill their stockings with pleasant presents. Most of the girls want clothes, among these are Connie Knight, (who also wants a watch band) Francis Stevenson, and Chris Reavis.
Among those girls who are "in the mood for love" and want a boy friend are Dee Ann Hardy, and Lillie Mae Delmar, with Lillie Mae giving special instructions to have her's with a red bow around his neck. Cecelia Harris wants a boy named John and a siamese cat, while Vicky Ellen will be satisfied with just Roger Sellers. Peggy Jo Proctor wants Tommy Capps, as well as a Thunderbird. Kenny Sue Shepherd wants Mayo Stencil, but I don't think this will be too hard

for you to arrange.
There are a few strange demands to fill, but see what you will be able to do. Ernestine Hollingsworth wants a pony. Linda Klitzner is unsatisfied with the time set for her to come home from dates so she wants an unlimited curfew. Mary Jo Williams wants her front tooth, and Peggy Thurman wants false eyelashes. Virginia Souther-

land wants to grow shorter — is this possible?
There are a few conscientious students who want good grades. Among these are Debbie Stallings, who wants an "A" in American History — she has the TV class, and so dear Santa, please help her. Miss Iola Parker is striving for this too, for she wants 88 "A's" in the American History class.
Poor Miss Josephine Grant wants a vacation. Mary Carole Cochran wants a razor blade that won't cut. Sylvia Bell wants to be 16 and Joe Murrill wants a Mickey Mouse hat. Janet Wynn thinks everybody is bad and wants switches.
Lynda Mears wants some oranges. Ginger Jackson, like all the rest of the young in heart, wants some snow. Steve Moore wants a bag full of goodies, while Judy Forbes wants a French poodle. Shirley Hagins wants anything and Pat Reardon wants a surprise, so there are two gifts that should be easy to find.
That's all for now, Santa. Have a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a restful NEW YEAR.

Ben Blackbird Sez



To receive the true joys of Christmas —
Give with a warm heart,
Give, not expecting to receive,
Give not the expensive, but those gifts you, yourself wouldn't be ashamed to own.

To Keep Or Not To Keep

After the celebration of Christmas has passed and everyone has had fun "living it up" at all the parties, the gala activities begin again as New Year's day arrives, bringing with it numerous things to be made or changed.
Fashion designers make various changes in the dress styles and new cars take on modern looks. Old calendars are thrown out and new ones are put in their place. New rules and regulations are made to replace others that seem inadequate.
Every year it's the same old story—new year's resolutions are made by well meaning people, but somehow these resolutions are usually broken or forgotten. The bad part about it is that some of these don't even last through the first month let alone the whole year.
Finding a fault within oneself or his personality isn't very hard to do—but, admitting that fault or faults, is the reason that keeps many from making resolutions in the first place. Once the bad points have been sought and realized, it isn't too hard to begin the list of changes that need to be made.
When the list is finished, there is the test of a person's desire to improve. This desire helps one to keep in mind the planned improvements. Keeping the resolutions unbroken is so simple when one sets a high standard for a goal, makes the "I resolve" list as his guide, and has the determination to succeed constantly pushing him.
Regard this new year as a book. Each person is the author of his own and is responsible for what goes into his text. As he begins, the pages are empty and clean, but as he begins the work of each day, it becomes filled with his activities. It is up to him to decide as to whether these pages become messy and embarrassing.
Rules are made for the good of the people. Therefore, new year's resolutions are made by the individual for the good of himself. Everyone should care enough of himself to fulfill the goal he has set for himself!