



The Johnstonian-Sun

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Tommies Hold Vigil in the Desert



These are not shepherds but British Tommies assembled around the silent glow of a bonfire in the Libyan desert. The Tommies are holding their own Christmas eve vigil far from home under a bright North African moon. An accordionist accompanies them in the singing of their hymns.

The Johnstonian-Sun Is 27 Years Old Today

Four Members of Editor's Family, As Well As The Johnstonian-Sun, Have Birthdays The Last Half Of December.

This is The Johnstonian-Sun's 27th birthday, on which it completes its 26th volume and begins on the 27th. The paper is happy on this day that its stay in Selma has been welcomed by so many people of Selma and Johnston county, who have been its supporters by their subscriptions and advertisements throughout its long career, and especially since the present management has been in charge.

Fourteen and a half years has elapsed since we printed the first copy of The Johnstonian-Sun, and we are indeed appreciative of the loyal support given us throughout that entire period of years; and at this Happy Yule-tide season we want to thank them all and wish for them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

During our stay in Selma we have enjoyed the work of publishing The Johnstonian-Sun, as well as the privilege of knowing and associating with so many fine citizens of the town and surrounding territory.

During the past 14 years we have operated the paper there has been few changes in the personnel of the office force, save for the fact that we have lost two of our key men to the armed forces—Alton G. Stancil, former office foreman, and Jay Batten, linotype operator. H. H. Lowry came with the paper on January 1, 1930 and is still with us. He has been the Advertising Manager through all these 14 years and has made a good one, and "Shorty" (Bill) Stancil, son of the editor, promises to be an indispensable asset to the paper as linotype operator and stereotyper. These last two, with the editor, constitute the present office force.

In speaking of birthdays, it seems rather singular that December is not only the month in which The Johnstonian-Sun is celebrating its birthday, but the editor will celebrate his birthday next Tuesday, Mrs. Stancil will celebrate her birthday on December the 25th, his oldest daughter, Mrs. J. A. Martin of Suffolk, Va., celebrated her birthday on December 23, and his youngest daughter, Betty Jo Stancil celebrated her twelfth birthday on December 17. This makes four birthdays in the editor's family during the last half of December, and that of his paper builds it up to five.

Alton G. Stancil, who is now located somewhere in Greenland, writes that he is getting along fine. He says the Northern Lights are a spectacle which he would not attempt to describe. Jay Batten, who is located somewhere in South America, writes that he will be mighty glad when the war is over so he can come back to Selma and see some more pretty white girls.

"This Christmas"

By MRS. CARL K. PARRISH

It is December. Every December is fascinated by the story of Christ's birth.

What will be your watchword this Christmas? May we suggest, "Watching With Christ This Christmas?"

The adoration of the Wise Men inspires us; the story of the eager shepherds fills us with humility; the history of Mary gives us a most timely inspiration. She it was through whom Christ entered into the world. If only people everywhere would become instruments of bringing God to men!

Holly wreaths are emblems of joy; hearth fires always seem to burn more brightly at this glad season; love in the hearts of mankind appears to grow deeper. Even the Christmas Cards are sent with a new note of gladness.

But listen friends: Joyous festivities must not blind us to the suffering in the world. We wonder if there is so much suffering because there is so little of God in the world?

"O Worship The King," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," and "Silent Night" all proclaim joyful news, but the world is still forlorn unless His spirit be born again within human hearts this day.

Jesus came as a Prince of Peace. But how many do you know who have that peace that passeth understanding? There are times when everything runs smooth. Then something happens to upset us. Even so with our national life. A leading educator reminds us that we have had a major war about every twenty years for the past two hundred years.

What are we really seeking this Christmas? Brotherhood? Joy? Worship?

Let us try to recover Christ this Christmas. Bow at His cradle, dedicate your life to follow His way of life.

After Christmas, our greatest gift will not be the material gifts that loved ones or friends have given us, but it will be the New Light that has come into our lives and faces because we watched with Christ this Christmas.

"Build Me a World" said God; Not with a navy's strife. Not with a boast in arms, Compassing death, not life. Out of man's fairest dreams; Heaven must be its dome, Lighted by prophet gleams; Justice shall be the stone On which my world shall rise; Truth and Love its arches, Gripping my ageless skies. Out of dreams on the earthly sod 'Build Me a World' said God. 'Build Me a World.'

The Gospel According To St. Luke

AND it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

2. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

3. And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.

4. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David;)

5. To be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child.

6. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

8. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9. And, lo, an angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10. And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying:

14. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

20. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

21. And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

THREE GET PRISON TERMS FOR ROBBING SELMA WOMAN

MORE THAN 70 ARE KILLED IN WRECK

Two Streamliners Pile Up On Track About 12 Miles From Lumberton, Causing One Of Greatest Railway Catastrophes in History of Railroad—Death List Placed At Over 70 and 100 Wounded.

What was characterized as the worst train wreck ever to occur in the South took place last Thursday morning about 1 o'clock when two streamlined Atlantic Coast Line passenger trains piled up on an icebound stretch of track in Robeson county near the small town of Buies, and about 12 miles from Lumberton.

The first train to wreck was going south, which is thought to have left the track when a rail broke, derailing several cars, and killing one person and injuring others. This train is reported to have jumped over between the two tracks but not onto the northbound track.

Another streamliner headed north from Florida to New York, was due in about 40 minutes, but for some unknown reason, when the northbound train approached the scene of the wreck it failed to stop or even slow down, according to reports, and ran into the wreckage of the derailed train, causing one of the greatest train catastrophes in the history of the state. It was first reported that 50 persons had lost their lives and 100 or more had been wounded, but later reports showed that the dead had reached between 70 and 80 and the wounded were still listed around 100.

It was one of the coldest nights to visit that section in many years, and much suffering was experienced by horror-stricken passengers and by those summoned to the scene to render aid to the wounded in an effort to release many from the wreckage by attempting to get the wounded to hospitals for treatment.

Hospitals in Lumberton and Fayetteville were soon filled with the others from the wreckage as the toll in dead and wounded continued to mount in staggering proportions.

It was reported that the larger per cent of the dead and wounded were soldiers, many of whom were on furlough headed for their homes to spend the Christmas holidays.

An investigation has been under way by railway officials ever since the wreck occurred in an effort to place the blame for the accident, but so far no definite decision has been made. One remarkable thing about the accident is that the engineers on both of the mangled trains escaped death and are still living to tell the story. One report from the engineer on the northbound train is to the effect that the headlights of the engine to the southbound train blinded him so that he failed to see the wreckage or any signal of warning.

William Davis Hamm, Thurmond and Raymond Hardy of Scotland Neck Found Guilty In Johnston County Superior Court—Take Appeal To State Supreme Court.

Considerable interest was manifested by the people of Selma in the outcome of the trial of three men from Scotland Neck, who were tried in Johnston County Superior Court last week before Judge Clawson L. Williams, on a charge of having entered the home of Miss Ardella Evans, 77, who lives one mile east of Selma, and robbed her of a large sum of money, estimated to be around \$5,000.00. The robbery took place about October 1.

Ever since the robbery occurred officers have been on the alert to find some clue that would lead to the apprehension of the guilty parties, and after working on a number of cold tracks, they seem to have gotten on the right track, according to evidence produced in court last week when William Davis Hamm, Thurmond and Raymond Hardy, all of Scotland Neck, were hailed before Judge Williams on the charge of having committed the robbery. The trial consumed about two days before the case was given to the jury, which brought in a verdict of guilty, after which Judge Williams imposed sentences ranging from 7 to 10 years in the State penitentiary. Notice of appeal to Supreme Court was given.

The defendants were ably represented by Attorney E. G. Hobbs of Selma, and former Solicitor Claude C. Canaday of Benson, both of whom made strong pleas for their clients. The State was represented by Solicitor Jack Hooks.

Selma Boy Arrives In Selma From Iceland

Yeoman First Class Earl Lane, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Lane of Selma, arrived Tuesday evening from Iceland where he has been located for the past sixteen months. He joined the Navy in April, 1942. While overseas he spent some time in England and Scotland.

Speaking of the weather in Iceland, he said it does not appear so cold there along the coast where he was stationed, but that farther away from the coast in the mountains it retily gets cold.

Sp. 1-C M. B. Lane, Jr., also a son of Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Lane of Selma, is stationed somewhere in the South Pacific area for about 18 months, and is the only one of the Lane children who will not be home for Christmas, except the former Miss Hazel Lane, who was recently married to Lieut. Shelburne Brannan in Hattiesburg, Miss., and whose wedding announcement appears elsewhere in this issue of The Johnstonian-Sun.

John Jeffreys, Jr. Has Enlisted With U. S. Navy

John Jeffreys, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. John Q. A. Jeffreys of Selma, has enlisted in the United States Navy. John left Monday, December 13, for Jacksonville, Fla., where he will be stationed for some time. This young man will be missed in this town. He was active in Boy Scout work and was a member of the choir of Edgerton Memorial Methodist church here. He was also managing editor of the high school paper, "The Yellow Jacket."

Read all the Christmas ads in this issue. You will enjoy the beautiful sentiment contained in each one.

Many Selma People Are On Sick List

Mr. R. P. Oliver, owner of Oliver's Market, is ill at his home, suffering from a heart attack. Mr. Oliver was stricken Sunday at his home. His condition today remains about the same.

Mr. John H. Talton, popular barber at the City Barber Shop, is confined to his home with an attack of flu. Mrs. Talton and little granddaughter, Miss Patricia Lewis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Lewis, are also on the sick list.

Mayor Bernie A. Henry has been suffering from an attack of flu for the past few days. The Johnstonian-Sun wishes for these splendid citizens a speedy recovery.

Rear Of Town Hall Building Decapitated

Another of Selma's eye sores is being removed this week, this time it being the decapitation of the old unsightly annex to the rear of the Town Hall Building. Carpenters have begun the dismantling of the roof of the structure, which we understand will be torn down to the level of the main

KEEP ON *Backing the Attack!* WITH WAR BONDS

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