

Christmas Wishes

BY LELA BARROW

I wish you some new love of lovely things; and some new forgetfulness of the teasing things, and some sweeter peace from the hurrying things, and some closer fence from the worrying things - John Rushin.

I never feel Christmas has come and gone till January 6th. Old Christmas has come. In my early life we didn't put up the tree or Christmas decorations till Christmas Eve, then we decorated the tree, and, if in churches, presents were arranged. If at home, stockings were filled then gifts were put in front of the tree. The tree wasn't taken down till Old Christmas Day.

I like to think of Simeon and Anna who lived, the latter part of their lives, in the Temple in Jerusalem. When they saw the Christ Child for the first time—all they saw was a simple Hebrew couple crossing the lower court, slowly, almost shyly, as awed by the splendor of the Temple. In her arms, the young mother carried the baby. This humble, plainly dressed man and woman were going up the stairs to the court of the women. Anna saw Simeon watching them and hurrying to meet them, unmindful of his weakness of falling; Simeon raised both hands in the air and began praising God in a loud voice. "Lörd, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation for all people." Joseph said: He knows Mary; This old man is a man of God. He knows the child is no ordinary child." "He is the long-looked-for Messiah."

How great, O how great was that Revelation of an old man of God; knowing this little baby would be the Savior of the world. I wonder if what he felt resembled electric shocks running through his body. God has many ways of revealing His presence to us.

You remember a few years bck—maybe 55 years, where Sybil

was a little girl, Bylo-dolls were the vogue then as the Cabbage patch are today. So many were sold, the supply gave out. Sybil was fortunate and got one. Christmas Day was very cold, we had no heat except fireplaces—it took hours to heat this house. Ed rose early and made fires; Sybil came running in bare footed, grabbed her baby and back to bed—not a word spoken and no other gifts noticed. Those dolls were so natural. My mother who was an invalid, decided Sybil was too young, she might drop the little baby and hurt her. So she took the baby in charge to keep her warm. Sybil cried a few times, but she loved her Grandmother so much she let her have the doll. I hope there are many unselfish little girls today who can share their Cabbage patch dolls with friends who didn't get one.

In our Christmas Wish—let us ask for clamness: Most of us forget to say, "Let me be calm in times of noise, anger, explosive tones, passion, add nothing to the harsh words that cause hard feelings. The harsh tonque causes anger, the tamed tongue subdues and brings kindness.

The name of Jesus is lauded today more than ever before. You may go to the remote seas of the world, and His name is there. You may visit every land and clime, His name is there, His name spans eternity past and eternity to come. There have been great spirits in every race, but only one Great Spirit. The hills are mute; yet they speak of God.

My Christmas Wish: To thank all the people, who read my column, for the nice things they have said to me. Again I thank Mr. Cannon for the Life Line and fixing my telephone and Christine and Edith for being patient with me. Thanks for the nice Christmas you have given me.

Annual Seedling Harvest

The majority of the big, tall pines you see across Eastern North Carolina and the South began their growth in the Weyerhaeuser Company seedling nursery on Goose Creek near Washington, North Carolina. The "lifting" of the genetically superior seedlings from their beds started this year on December 6th, according to Production Manager, Ron Ramsey.

"This is the second consecutive year that we have started taking the seedlings on this date", said Ramsey, who also noted that the harvest would total 42-million seedlings when harvest is concluded in mid-February of 1985. Ramsey said that the beginning of the lifting operations is controlled by the weather and that the colder the weather, the better, since temperatures of 50 degrees and below help the seedlings to go dormant, a condition necessary for their survival from the "tender loving care" they get in their beds to the sometimes harsh growing environment of the forests.

A team of 45 part-time employees is working to get the seedlings sorted and bagged for a short stay in refrigerated rooms, and

according to Ramsey, are really having to work hard to keep up with orders.

"One thing that makes it nice for us is that our neighbors are farmers and this is the off season for them", Ramsey noted. He added, "Cold weather is best for planting loblolly pine and we need the help. So with us needing help and our neighbors needing the work, we're able to accommodate each other right here in the community.

The North Carolina Region is planting a fairly significant number of acres in its Neuse and South Albemarle forestry districts this year and will require 13-million of the 42-million seedling harvest; with about 10-million going onto company - owned lands and the other three million to Tree Farm Family members. The remaining 29-million seedlings will go to other Weyerhaeuser Company tree farms across the South as well as to other companies and individuals in North Carolina and other southern states.

The seedlings, which are about 10 to 12 inches tall now, were produced from seeds grown at Weyerhaeuser's nearby orchard and will reach maturity in about 30 years.

Deadline Set Jan. 2 For Agent Orange Claims

Vietnam veterans and their families with health problems which they believe are associated with Agent Orange have until Jan. 2, 1985, to file a claim.

According to the Division of Veterans Affairs in the N.C. Department of Administration, 203,000 Vietnam veterans are living in North Carolina. They represent 31 percent of the state's total veteran population of 658,000.

The claim is a part of a settlement procedure which grew out of a 1979 lawsuit against the manufacturers of Agent Orange. The chemical companies have agreed to establish a \$180 million settlement fund.

Agent Orange was the code name for a herbicide used in Vietnam to defoliate the jungle and destroy crops.

Not everyone filing a claim will receive money. The purpose of the claim form is to give the court an idea of how many people will be filing requests for part of the settlement fund.

Veterans' groups are seeking to ensure that Vietnam veterans know about the January deadline, and the Division of Veterans Affairs is assisting in the effort through its field offices located throughout the state. Efforts have been made to notify incarcerated Vietnam veterans in North Carolina. According to a U.S. Department of Justice study, 5 percent of the prisoners in the United States served in Vietnam.

Veterans can request a copy of the claim form by calling a toll-free number: 1-800-645-1355.

Letter to Editor:

We at the New Bern-Craven County YMCA wish to express our sincere thanks to the **West Craven Highlights** for your interest in the YMCA during the 1984 year.

We are extremely appreciative of you including our various PSA's concerning programs at the "Y". Hopefully, we can continue with this support during the 1985 year.

Again, thanks and we wish all of you a Happy Holiday Season and Best of Luck in '85".

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