

Happy New Year



This charming young daughter of a marine corporal is all set to welcome the advent of 1945. Judging from her attentive look, she is waiting only for the 12 o'clock whistles heralding the arrival of the new year.

New Year's Day Antedates the Birth of Christ by 452 Years

The celebration of New Years on January 1 began in 452 B. C., and therefore, contrary to logical reasoning, had nothing whatsoever to do with the birth of Christ.

The ancient Roman calendar began in, and with, the month of March; there were ten months, the last six of which were named Quintilis, Sextilis, September, October, November, and December—or, the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth months respectively. Numa added two months, January and February, placing the former at the beginning of the year and February at the end. In 452 B. C., February was placed between January and March; thus establishing the order of months as of today. The ancient calendar year did not correspond to the solar year and by the time the days of Julius Caesar rolled around the actual and calendar equinoxes were months apart; a situation

which Caesar set out to remedy. Caesar's astronomers and calendar experts fixed the calendar year at 365 days—and because they estimated the solar year as of 365 1/4 days—an extra day was to be added every fourth year. This Julian calendar was effective, by decree of Caesar, on January 1, 46 B. C. Actually, the earth goes around the sun in 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds; and by 1582 A. D., the Julian calendar was 10 days behind the sun. Pope Gregory XIII remedied the situation by ordering that the calendar play leap frog and the intervening days between October 5 and October 15, 1582, were lost forever.

In order to prevent repetitions of the sun running away from the calendar and vice versa, Pope Gregory decided that a leap year should be omitted now and then; hence only those years divisible by four—exclusive of years numbering the centuries—should have 366 days, and the century-marking years shall be leap years only if divisible by four after the ciphers have been omitted.

The Gregorian calendar has been officially adopted in most countries of the civilized world; however, many creeds and peoples still celebrate their religious and traditional festivals in accordance with ancient calendars.

Pre-Christian Roman inaugurated the new year by offering sacrifices to the gods, exchanging greetings, and bestowing gifts. During the early Christian centuries, New Year's festivities persisted and became so boisterous that the faithful were forbidden to participate therein.

After December 25 had been established as the day of nativity, the church made January 1 a religious festival honoring the circumcision of Jesus; the day being thus observed in the Roman church since 487, and in the Anglican church since 1549.

Bowl Game Feature of New Year's Since 1916

Since 1916 the Rose Bowl football game has been played annually on New Year's day as a cofeature of Pasadena's Tournament of Roses.

The championship team of the Pacific Coast conference invites an Eastern contender selected from among the teams which have made

the best records during the autumn playing, thus making the game one of America's outstanding intercollegiate sporting events.

A Good Resolution

One of the New Year resolutions that would mean increase of happiness in many a family is this: Not to speak of mistakes which make no difference. How arguing over nothings mars the home harmony. An erroneous opinion may need correction, but what possible difference does it make whether Aunt Jane came to dinner Tuesday or Wednesday, or whether it rained Friday or Saturday.

Everybody Sign

Why not have somebody delegated to draw up a set of good resolutions for us all and just have us sign them?

New Year With Hindus

Among the Hindus the first day of the year is celebrated with sacrifice to the god of wisdom.

New Year's Eve Festive Occasion For Native Scots

Christmas never aroused much enthusiasm in Scotland—but on New Year's eve the Wassail bowl goes around, filled with savory liquid, nostalgically fragrant.

Floating atop the Wassail bowl, apples stir memories of the "apple-howling" when boys switched the trunks of fruit trees petitioning "a good howling crop"; somehow, the "lamb's wool" (as the decoction of the Wassail bowl is often called) seems reminiscent of young folks rushing to the nearest spring at the stroke of 12 to drink the "cream of the well"—the first one so doing, might expect good luck during the ensuing year.

Handsel Monday—the Monday after New Year's, is traditionally the "big day" for Scotch boys and girls; and, in addition to being the Scotch day of gift-giving, it is a day of feasting and gaiety.

Small wonder, that families and friends gather on New Year's eve to "Drink a cup of kindness yet For Auld Lang Syne."

English New Year

The English New Year celebration was changed from December 25 by William the Conqueror, because he was crowned on January 1.

Three Wise Men Of Ancient Time; Relics at Cologne

Biblically we know very little about the Wise Men who came from the East bearing gifts to the Christ Child and, having adorned Him as the King of the Jews, returned to their own country.

It is generally accepted that there were three Wise Men because of the three specifically mentioned gifts: church tradition has identified these as Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar.

Melchior, king of Arabia, brought a casket of gold; Caspar, king of Tarsus, brought myrrh; and Balthasar, king of Ethiopia, brought frankincense. These gifts are considered symbolic of what Jesus was to become—gold for a king, frankincense for a high priest, and myrrh for a great physician. Collectively, the Wise Men received the gifts of charity and spiritual wealth, perfect faith, truth and meekness.

When they returned to their own country, the three Kings reputedly sold their possessions and went about preaching the Christ-King. Legend continues, that they were martyred in India for their faith.

The bodies of the Wise Men, transferred to Constantinople in the

fourth century—by the Empress Helena, mother of Constantine—were enshrined at Milan for a while after the first Crusade. Frederick Barbarossa authorized removal of the relics to Cologne where they remain to this day deposited within the magnificent Cathedral of Cologne.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Dear Lord, I ask Thee For this New Year, An extra gift of courage My little trials to bear. I ask not for success; For wealth or fame or power; I ask for added faith To live life, hour by hour. Give me kindly thoughts, Lord, To use for charity. I want no gold to give, I'll spend kind thoughts for Thee. —Ruth Richwine Smith.

Wreaths for Christmas

The best material for the large wreaths is white pine, fir, Douglas fir, blue spruce, boxwood, Oregon Hollygrape, English ivy, glossy privet, galax, southern evergreen, huckleberry, groundpine, mountain-laurel, American holly and English holly.

For the small wreaths the Colorado Juniper, box, arborvitae and yew can be used to advantage.

Preserve Log

Lombardians also preserve pieces of the Yule log. These are placed in the fires which protect the mill-worms, and are believed to ward off disease which might beset the insects.

with liberty the theme...
HAPPY NEW YEAR 1945
'Let Freedom Ring'

As another New Year dawns we are thankful for the American heritage of freedom—thankful, too, for the friends who have helped us gain the manifold blessings of this freedom.

With this in mind we wish you all a very Happy New Year.

HAPPY HOLIDAY 1945

Charles Lamb said:
"Of all sounds, of all bells, most solemn and touching is the peal that rings out the old year..."

Had Charles Lamb lived in the year of grace, 1944, he might hear only joyousness in these pealing bells that ring in a New Year filled with hope and promise of better things to come—for surely they are on the way!

Happy New Year to all—and 365 days of good luck!

Griffin Drug Company
O. GRIFFIN, Mgr. ROANOKE RAPIDS

Joyner Furniture Co.
WELDON, NORTH CAROLINA



IT IS INDEED A PLEASURE
Right now, on the eve of New Year's, when 1945 is ready to make its bow, it is indeed a pleasure to extend hearty greetings and good wishes to the people of this community.
We are at your service—always.

Roanoke Hardware Co.
ROANOKE RAPIDS, N. C.

ATTENTION ALL FARMERS

Bring your Tractor, Truck, Farm Machinery, or anything else you have to be fixed to Turner's Repair Shop in South Rosemary, or stop in and see us about doing the job on the farm. See us first for your welding, blacksmith, wood-work or mechanical work. Fair service on all parts.

TURNER'S REPAIR SHOP
South Rosemary



We All Send New Year Greetings!
All of our best wishes and all of our best efforts will be with you in the New Year as they were in the old. You can count upon us to do our utmost to deserve your continued confidence during 1945.

ROSE'S 5, 10 and 25c STORE
WELDON, N. C.



Blow, Whistles, Blow! Ring, Bells, Ring!

Full steam ahead! The past is behind us—opportunity lies ahead. Let's go, America!

In the midst of the gay clamor we pause to consider your part in the success we have enjoyed during 1944. Your support has meant everything to us.

In this spirit of appreciation it is a genuine joy for us to wish for you a very

Happy New Year

Leggett's Dept. Store

"Halifax-Northampton Counties' Shopping Center"

Roanoke Rapids, N. C.

Closed Monday and Tuesday, December 25th. and 26th.

Weldon Furniture Co.
WELDON, NORTH CAROLINA