



CLASS OF 1916, APPALACHIAN TRAINING SCHOOL.—The members of Appalachian's graduating class of 1916 may go down on the records as being one of the most gregarious groups in the history of the university. They met for the "first time in a long time" in 1966, their 50th anniversary. But the classmates enjoyed their get-together so much that they have been meeting yearly ever since. Assembled last month at homecoming, they

recorded a long-playing album of each other's voices so that they could preserve fond memories even longer. The class members are (l-r, seated) Mrs. Carrie Williams of Boone, Mrs. Mary Graybeal of Marion, Va., Mrs. Faye Hodges of Boone, and Mrs. Rebecca Choate of Sparta. Standing (l-r) are J. E. Johns of Boone, Grover Greene of Milton, Del., Dr. Edgar Sykes of Greensboro, and Walter Wiles of Chicago, Ill.

CHRISTMAS IS LOVE

Christmas is a universal holiday. Christmas is a great reality. Around this reality, man of good will have added much tradition and, perhaps, a fair amount of legend. Yet the reality of Christmas remains unchanged. Some nineteen hundred and sixty-nine years later, the story of the First Christmas, the clear vision of the Holy Birth at Bethlehem keeps constant the spirit of abiding love.

Many inspiring words have been written about the proper keeping of Christmas. The spirit of love permeates these famous words of Henry Van Dyke:

"It is a good thing to observe Christmas Day. The mere marking of times and seasons, when men agree to stop work and make merry together is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life.

"Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear on their hearts; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open — are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

"Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world — stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death — and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem some 1900 years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas. And if you keep it for a day, why not always?"

We leave you with these thoughts and our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

New Word Coined On Beech

BANNER ELK, N. C.—A new word has been added to the language of skiing: "Beechkommer."

Not to be confused with "beachcomber," which had a different meaning altogether, the word will be used frequently this winter by skiers who use the slopes of Beech Mountain near the Blue Ridge Mountains town.

It's a noun, meaning, (1) any one of a growing number of skiers who has skied Beech Mountain slopes, or (2) any skier who has visited Stowe or Aspen and is still looking for something else.

"Beechkommer."

More than 49,000 skiers used the slopes of Beech Mountain, Eastern America's highest ski resort, last year. The resort has more than three and a half miles of slopes and trails and an elaborate lift system with a capacity of over 9,500 skiers per hour.

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CANDLES HAVE ANCIENT USAGE

Candles, long a part of the Christmas observance, were in use long before the birth of Christ. Romans burned candles to honor their pagan gods. Later, Christians used candles to light the catacombs for forbidden Christian services. In early America, the custom of putting lighted candles on the Christmas tree gained widespread popularity. It was hazardous, but so was life itself. Through the years, candles have been traditional in many countries. In Ireland, a candle in the home was considered a profession of faith. Italian families burned a candle before the crèche throughout the Christmas season. In Spain, the faithful observed the holiday by placing a lighted candle over the door.

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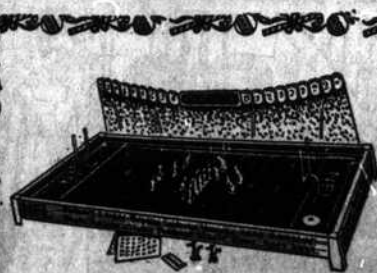
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