

"True Communion Of The Heart..."

Tom McKnight, author of the Democrat's Uncle Pinkney column, and gifted Mooresville newspaperman, who died over a year ago wrote a column in 1964 at Christmas time which is particularly timely. His recounting of the "one time in his life he had had true communion of the heart with Jesus Christ," is good reading, the experience having occurred during a Christmas eve visit to the home of a poor negro couple living in a log cabin in Iredell County. He wrote:

"Each Christmas season a cheap, faded holiday Christ shone from a front window of this humble abode. Fed by an electric current piped into the cabin from a nearby source, the glow spattered over the lonely hillside and into the night like blue spangles bounding on the Gulf Stream under a full moon.

"And every Christmas it was there and all night it was there and always it seemed it was there, standing out as a symbol of the true belief that the birth of Christ was the sole meaning of Christmas.

"Those were the lean years in the early forties when I was commuting from Troutman to Mooresville on an 18-hour shift trying to keep a struggling young newspaper alive.

"As one Christmas followed another I became enthralled, almost hypnotized by this reverence of a Negro

family to the birth of Christ. It became, as Christmases went by, the most beautiful soul-reaching scene my eyes had ever gazed upon.

"And, if you will indulge personal credentials, I had gazed on some interesting ones in my time. I had stood with awe in five continents in some of the world's greatest cathedrals and art museums, I had walked along the Mediterranean seashore with Bill Gant from Greensboro and watched the moon come up over the distant snowcovered peaks of the Alps. I had sat with Fizz Horton of Raleigh and sipped beer in front of a joint in Fes in Morocco and watched the boiling sun fall behind the scorched floor of the Sahara Desert. I had seen the beauty of the sunkissed vineyards of Seville in southern Spain, the frozen grandeur of the port of Punta Arenas in the Strait of Magellan on a winter morning, I had viewed in Peru, Chile, and in the Argentine some of the most beautiful Latin festivals ever dreamed up by man.

"But there was no scene on earth to compare with this lonely light of Christ beaming from this humble Negro cabin each Christmas through the years.

"It was late but I had to stop. No power on earth could have deterred me..."

McKnight stopped and had coffee with the old couple living in the cabin.



TALK WITH SANTA—Little Martha Watson appears to reflect uncertainty about whether she believes this Santa is the right one for her to tell about her Christmas wants. A student at the Lucy Brock Nursery on the ASU campus, Martha is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willy Watson of Route 4, Boone. Santa held a special audience for the tots Wednesday morning last week in Plemmons Student Center. (Staff photo)

Shop For Christmas Gifts
at
The Wayside Shop
Just Across The Street From
Thrifty Food Store

Hours are from 1:00 P. M. — 5:00 P. M.
Children's Chairs and Rockers
Lamps by Dunning (Early American)
Early American Oval Rugs
Chairs and Rockers in Many Styles and Colors
Fire-side Benches and Clocks
Children's Desks (Antiqued and old)
Kitchen Stools and Occasional Tables
Valets for Men's Clothing
Mirrors and Many Other Smaller Gift Items
Also Many Antique Bottles

GREETINGS

A purr-fect fun-filled holiday is what we are wishing all of you. Do accept our sincere gratitude for your favors.

Fin-Feather-Fur Pet Shop



JAYCEE SANTAS—Being Santa Claus is a major event of the year for the Boone Jaycees. Each year the members team up and treat youngsters from the elementary schools in the county to a shopping trip to Boone. This year 33 boys and girls were escorted into local stores for new clothing and toys. The club spent a total of \$757.20. The youngsters above were assisted with new shoes by Mrs. Dallas Hodges, sales clerk, and Mrs. Wade Wilmouth, a wife of a Jaycee. (Staff photo)

BREMCO Doers Council Meets In Wilson Home

Members of Blue Ridge Electric's Doer's Council from Watauga and Caldwell Counties met at the home of Mrs. Odes Wilson in Zionville recently. The business session of the meeting was conducted with Mrs. Jack Simpson, chairman of the Watauga County group, presiding. The women were shown small electrical appliances which they will be using during the coming year in cooking demonstrations for various clubs and groups throughout the two county area. Use and care of the appliances was explained. Each woman will have an opportunity to use the appliances in her home to become familiar with their operation so she can give effective demonstrations.

The Doer's Council of Blue Ridge Electric is made up of women volunteers of the cooperative who give of their time and talents in helping the cooperative implement and interpret its programs and services to the membership. Members of the group are community leaders, representative of the counties of Watauga, Caldwell, Ashe and Alleghany. They will be working with local agencies and groups on projects of mutual interest, such as the Rural Electric Youth Tour, scholarship program, 4-H Electric and American Business Systems projects, county-wide Christmas lighting contests, food and nutritional programs, and area and community development.

Mrs. Wilson's home was decorated for the Christmas season with many of her own creations, including electric candles, which she makes and wires, a small church, the manger scene, and other traditional decorations. One of the more unusual and attractive displays was a shadow box containing a Madonna. The box is outlined with gold tinsel garlands and tiny blue lights illuminate the display. The location in a dimly lit hallway makes the scene particularly impressive.

Following their business meeting the group had lunch at Hound Ears. Guests included directors Bill Brown, Bert Mast, and Charles Suddreth and their wives, and directors John Dawson and D. R. Moore. District managers Nell Farries and Newland E. Walker of the Boone and Lenoir operations of Blue Ridge Electric respectively, were also present.

Watauga County Members of the Doer's Council present for the meeting were Mrs. Jack Simpson, Mrs. Bill Rucker, Mrs. Harry Dean, and Mrs. Odes Wilson.

The meeting was coordinated by Mrs. Rachel H. Smith, home service representative with Blue Ridge Electric, and council members.

Befana's Search Ancient Legend

An ancient legend tells of Three Wise Men stopping to ask directions of an old woman, Befana. They invited her to go with them to worship the new-born King, but she would not leave until she had swept her house and baked her bread. So the Wise Men left without her.

When her housework was finished, Befana packed a basket of toys for the Christ Child and set out after the Wise Men, but she never overtook them. So every Christmas she searches for the Christ Child with her basket of toys, leaving gifts for the children in each house she passes.

Look For Safety

When buying toys, look for safety and quality. These are the two biggest things, not just the price. Make sure toys are flame-proof, free of sharp edges and sturdy. Don't be one to waste money on junk toys.

Wise family Santas can make Christmas a happy one for youngsters by providing durable, bright, and creative toys.

TO DECORATE

Wall ornaments, mirrors, prints and reproductions of famous paintings make decorative gifts for Christmas.

ADD ENJOYMENT

Books and stationery are personalized presents that add home enjoyment.

COLOR IT FUN

Cans of colorful spray paint make creative fun gifts.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Our sleigh is overflowing with holiday wishes and sincere thanks for one and all.

Mix-Mates, Ltd.
East King Street — Boone

To wish you
Peace, Joy

To each and every one of our good friends and patrons, we extend, with sincere appreciation, warm wishes for a most memorable holiday.

Jones Garage
Lester & Kenneth Jones
East King St. — Boone, N. C.

Josef Sokora

(Continued from page three)

research, either in physics or electrical engineering.

Lasers are the electronic beams that can be harnessed by scientists to perform work, guide excavation projects, and even kill organic life. Development of their applications are fairly recent.

Some idea of the technical nature of Joe's project on his laser communication system project shows in his written description:

"My interest and extensive readings about lasers and long-standing hobby in electronics gave rise to the objective of this project, namely the design and construction of a laser communication system. This involved the design of three main components: the laser, the modulators and the receivers. Two touch-tone trimline telephones on each end formed the two-way system among the four phones.

"My design of the laser tube developed from studies in the physics of gas-laser design and through contact with persons who had constructed experimental lasers.

"For the modulating system I chose after experimentation the electro-optic effect in ammonium dihydrogen phosphate (ADP). The crystal requires a modulating voltage of 3-4 Kv; a radio frequency coil was constructed to accomplish this. The light then becomes modulated with an audio-modulated RF signal.

"The receiving end requires a system to demodulate the light to obtain the audio frequency. For this purpose a photodiode was employed in an RF receiving section of a standard AM radio.

"My current work with this project is expanding to include two-way video as well as audio communication and the use of computer programming to achieve more rapid perfection of laser designs than through the usual manner of experimentation."

UNUSUAL STAMP

The 1968 Christmas stamp for Canada had an unusual design. It featured an Eskimo carving of Mother and Child by Munamee of Cape Dorset, Baffin Land, which was presented to Queen Elizabeth during her visit to Canada in 1957.

Boone Closing Dates Are Set

Boone businesses and governmental offices will be closed for two days this week, Christmas Day and Friday.

Most stores plan to re-open Saturday as usual after a two-day rest for Christmas.

All county and city offices will be closed Thursday and Friday. However the magistrates office in the courthouse will not close. The town hall will be open Saturday until noon.

Also the offices of the Boone Chamber of Commerce will be closed Thursday and Friday. Watauga County Schools are on vacation all this week. They closed at 1 p. m. Friday and will re-open at the regular time on Monday, Dec. 29. The schools will be closed one day next week, on Jan. 1.

Administrative employees at the school board also are getting a week's vacation this week, the school offices will open again Monday, Dec. 29.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

The Recreation Department would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every person who contributed to the success of Boone's Christmas Parade.

DOGGIE, UNFORGOTTEN

Family pets can be in on the Christmas gift action with bright new dog chains, complete with rings and swivel snaps, or tie-out chains that keep the dog from roaming, but give him reasonable running room.



One of the most exciting features of Christmas, which everyone in Spain attends, is called "Parade of the Gigantes".

Immense figures 20 or 30 feet high are made from wood or cardboard representing kings, queens, historical or even a mythological figure. These are carried by men of vigor.

The figures are placed on their shoulders (with the aid of a peephole... and a snorkel to breathe through) and jig and whirl and frolic, to the music of fife and drum.

A pair of gypsies usually follows along passing the hat among the parade watchers and collecting pesos with great hilarity. This later goes to their favorite charity.

We would especially like to thank the following: car dealers; the businesses that contributed money otherwise, the individuals, businesses, and clubs that helped to make or sponsor floats; the ASU Band, Watauga High School Band, and their Directors; to Police Chief Clyde Tester and his staff, Sheriff Ward Carroll and his staff, and the ASU Security Police, for the very efficient manner in which traffic was controlled for this parade. Thanks also to the Watauga Democrat for the extensive coverage of the parade, and to the WTA Radio Station for their many spots concerning the parade. I would like to thank everyone personally, but since that is impossible, let me try to do it in this way.

Again, thank you! It is appreciated and cooperation which we receive that makes a public servant feel that his job is worthwhile.

Sincerely yours,
BOONE PARKS & RECREATION
JAMES HASTINGS
President

Greetings

From all of us to every one of you, may we offer a sleighful of the best holiday greetings and a sincere thank you for all your kindness.

Blowing Rock Crafts
321 By-Pass — Blowing Rock, N. C.