

Weekly Devotional Column

By JAMES MACKENZIE

What is the meaning of Christmas? To some of you it means just another excuse to get soused. To others it is merely a time of giving and exchanging presents—and bills, and bills, and bills, and bills. Judging from the songs one hears on the radio these days, to many Americans it means Santa Claus, Rudolph the red-nose reindeer, mistle-toe, holly, and snow ("It just doesn't seem like Christmas unless it snows;" though, frankly, I can remember but one or two White Christmases in my life). But do these embody the real meaning of Christmas?

What did that first Christmas mean to God the Father? It meant the giving of His Son. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). The first and greatest Christmas Gift was the only begotten Son of God, and the eternal life that is given to all who believe in Him.

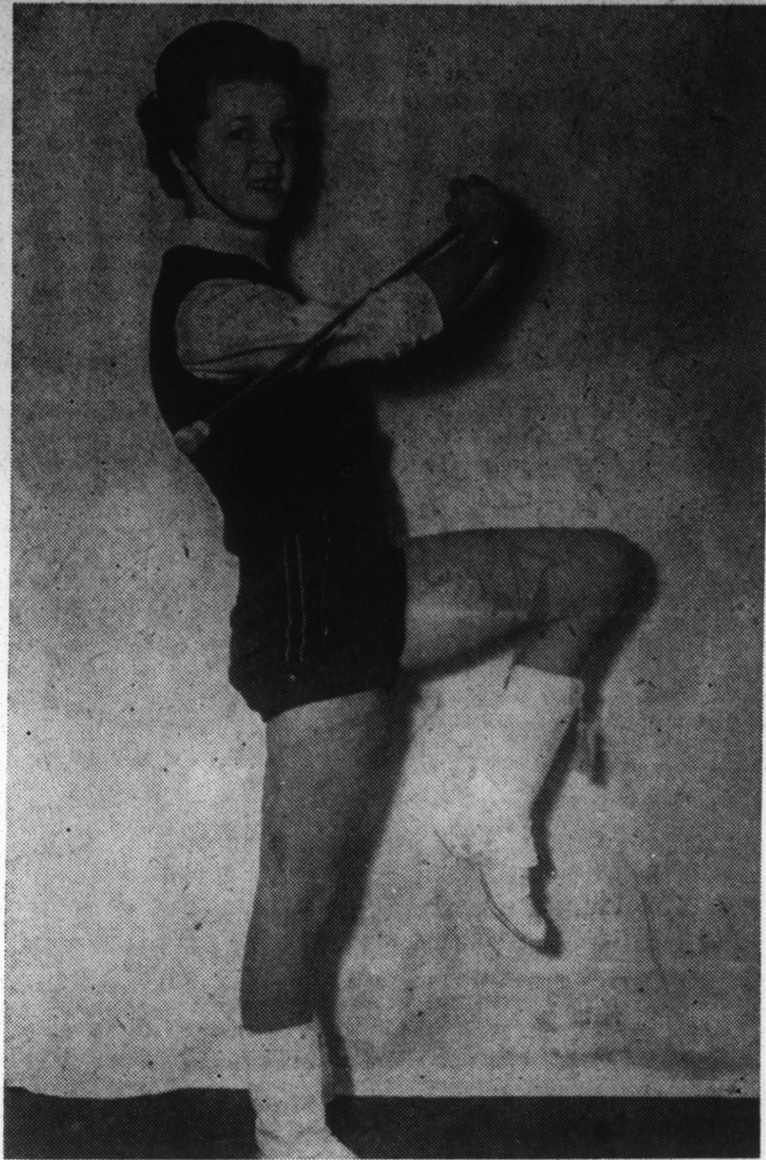
What did that first Christmas mean to God the Son? It meant leaving heaven's glory to become a Servant obedient unto death. "Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient unto death, yea, the death of the cross" (Philippians 2: 5-8, RSV).

What does Christmas mean to the world? It means that God has provided a Saviour. "I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2: 10, 11). To the world, Christmas means the birth of One who was born to die—to die in the guilty sinner's place, to pay the penalty of his sins, and purchase the redemption of his soul. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way, and the Lord hath laid upon Him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53: 6).

What does Christmas mean to you? To you it means that God offers you eternal life as a gift. "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6: 23). "To as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" (John 1: 12).

Do you believe on His name? Have you received Him? Right now, bow your head, confess your sins to God. Ask Him to forgive you for the sake of His Son, and the pardon He purchased for you with His own blood on Calvary's cross. Right now receive and trust Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour and Lord. How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven. No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,

EDENTON MAJORETTE IN "WHO'S WHO"



Above is pictured Libby L. Small, a senior at the Edenton Junior-Senior High School, who was recently informed that she had been included in the 1954 edition of "Who's Who In Baton Twirling." The book contains biographies, contest records and histories of America's greatest twirling stars and features a large picture of each. Miss Small has been a majorette for the local band for three years. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Small.

Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Cotton Council Meeting In Atlanta February 1-2

Twenty-two members of the North Carolina-Virginia cotton industry will represent the area at the sixteenth annual meeting of the National Cotton Council at Atlanta, Georgia, February 1-2. B. C. Lineberger, chairman of the Council's North Carolina-Virginia unit has announced.

Council delegates representing cotton producers, ginners, warehousemen, merchants, cottonseed crushers and spinners at the Atlanta meeting, will take part in formulating 1954 programs designed to improve cotton quality, increase efficiency and step up sales promotion.

In announcing the delegates who will represent the North Carolina-

Virginia unit, Mr. Lineberger asserted that "the cotton industry has come a long way since the Council's inception in 1938. The quality of cotton products, the efficiency of the industry and the acceptance of the products of lint and seed have all climbed to a level where cotton now enjoys a unique advantage and a real opportunity to score new gains. However, it must be stressed that a redoubled effort is needed if cotton is to consolidate its position in established markets and capture and hold new ones. In these tough, competitive times an all-out selling job, based on research and promotion is necessary to keep our industry strong and healthy."

Delegates elected to represent the North Carolina-Virginia cotton groups include:

Producers: C. H. Smith, Scotland Neck, N. C.; T. B. Upchurch, Jr., Raeford, N. C.; and Fred P. Johnson, Raleigh, N. C.

Increased Quotas For Coast Guard Reserve

Greatly increased quotas have been assigned all U. S. Coast Guard Organized Reserve training units in the Fifth Coast Guard District, it is an-

nounced.

The additional quotas allow seven port security training units and three vessel augmentation training units from Baltimore to Wilmington, N. C., to expand their complements, which currently average about 100 for port security units and 20 for vessel augmentation group.

Vessel augmentation groups go aboard Coast Guard cutters or Naval Reserve ships for offshore training cruises during their summertime active duty period.

The Coast Guard Reserve particularly wants for their training unit ex-servicemen, especially former Coast Guard and Navy personnel. Ex-Coast Guard and Navy men are enlisted in the reserve with their old rates.

Also wanted are men between 17 and 18, whether still in high school or not, and men over 26 without prior military experience.

Necessary uniforms are given all enlistees.

Persons interested in joining a Coast Guard Reserve unit should contact Coast Guard Recruiting offices in Baltimore, Norfolk, Washington, Wilmington or Durham, N. C.

Wake Forest College Plans To Move In 1955

If Wake Forest College maintains the timetable necessary to complete the move to Winston-Salem by the fall of 1955, a total of 15 buildings

exclusive of faculty housing will be under construction by the end of 1954.

William J. Conrad of Winston-Salem, chairman of the College Board of Trustees and the architect's committee, reviewed the construction timetable recently.

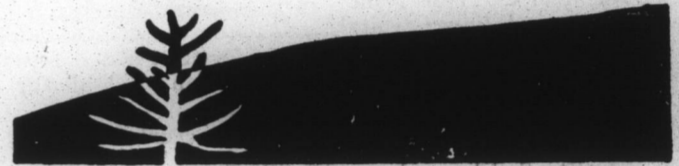
"We're extremely fortunate in being able to plan an entire campus over a short period of time. Wake Forest's new home will not only be one of the most beautiful in the nation, but it will also be one of the most functional and economical to operate," Conrad said. "We will get it."

a tremendous boost toward speeding the moving of Wake Forest if we're able to meet the \$2,000,000 challenge gift."

Conrad had reference to a proposal made by a group of anonymous donors who have said they'll pay \$2,000,000 to the college if friends of the institution raise \$3,000,000 by the end of December. At present an intensive campaign has raised \$2,247,000. That leaves \$753,000 to be raised between now and December 31. "That," Conrad said, "will take leadership gifts in the five and six-figure brackets."



As the Merry Christmas time returns with greetings of good cheer, we hope for many happy days ahead for all of you.



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May you receive many, many pleasant remembrances from friends and loved ones this Christmas - enough to make this occasion one of long lasting happiness and contentment for you and yours. We sincerely wish you the best of everything . . . this Christmas and always.

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