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**THURSDAY, DEC. 24, 1936**  
**THE HUMAN TOUCH OF CHRISTMAS**

Tomorrow we again celebrate Christmas, the birthday of the Christ, the climax of the year. And tomorrow, as happy children go through their lumpy stockings and as adults exchange their more or less useful gifts we shall be looking beyond the stockings and the gifts, seeking that which is more significant of the real spirit of Christmas.

Looking about us, here in Shelby, in North Carolina and in the country as a whole we find this real spirit of the first Christmas, the spirit of sharing what we have, the spirit of giving, more in evidence than it has been in many, many years.

In many years, throughout the country, Christmas will be a brighter occasion because of wage increases and distribution of dividends by a number of large corporations which have moved to share increased profits prior to the holiday season, thus enabling their employees to meet the increased expenses attendant upon it. In Shelby, many of the homes of the unfortunate will be brightened by gifts of food and clothing, fruits and toys, shared by those whose lot in life is happier.

The Salvation Army, in cooperation with a number of other organizations, is putting on a drive to see that there will at least be food on the tables of those who might otherwise do without on Christmas day and are also striving to furnish toys and some of the less necessary Christmas joys for children in these homes. Members of the local Kiwanis club are "adopting" for Christmas two needy children each to whom they will play Santa Claus. Each of the local Lions club will take into his home on Christmas day a child from some other home where Christmas promises to be a not very happy day and share with that child the good things prepared for his own children. Members of book clubs and Sunday school classes are preparing baskets for distribution to the poor or "adopting" families in a manner similar to civic club members.

And so it goes. In Shelby at least there seems to be a renaissance of the Christmas season. The spirit of Christianity, of desiring to share blessings in order to enjoy them the more, which is the true spirit of Christ's birthday, is abroad and promises increased joys for both those who give and those who receive.

The Star sincerely hopes this spirit of service and good cheer may reach into every home in Shelby and Cleveland county to bring you all a Happy Christmas.

**SHOULD GRACE BE ALLOWED?**

It is license buying time again for motorists and more than a half million motorists are warned that if they do not have the new 1937 tags on their cars by January 1st, they will not be allowed to use the highways.

This strict regulation is not the law of the revenue department, it is the command of the General Assembly. January 1st being the beginning of the calendar year is a suitable time for the new license plates to begin, but it is most inconvenient for the majority of motorists to dig up the price of a license tag immediately after having run the gauntlet of Christmas buying.

A number of other states have changed the date to April and find that they have worked a definite convenience to the public without musing up the collection machinery. Whether North Carolina does this too is a matter for consideration by the legislators.

What we are concerned about, however, is the fact that no grace period is allowed for purchasing. A 1936 tag allows a car the privilege of the highway to December 31st. It is not fair to expect every motorist to invest in a new plate before the expiration of his old license. Suppose the first 15 days of January were allowed as a grace period for buying new tags, he would be paying for the whole year because the price remains the same for the first quarter. The state would lose nothing in the way of revenue and the motorist would find the grace period a convenience and a courtesy to which he is entitled.

**HOW SHALL IT BE SOLVED?**

The ever-present problem of what to do about the liquor question in North Carolina is causing daily discussion, now that the re-

ports of the Liquor Study Commission have been filed.

Dr. Poteat, dry leader in the state would have another state-wide referendum, qualified voters from all parties of course being privileged to say whether the state should supervise the sale of liquor or whether the state should remain divided, some wet and some dry. This leader as well as others would have a majority dry vote, abolish the liquor stores in 18 eastern Carolina counties.

The wet counties of the east are drawing their customers from dry counties, hence they prefer that the balance of the state remain as it is. No doubt, our neighboring states of South Carolina and Virginia would find it to their advantage for a majority of the counties of North Carolina to remain dry so they could continue to profit through sales.

If the matter is left for each individual county to solve in its own way, we would have the same situation that obtains with reference to our wet neighbors. Some counties would have ABC stores, others would have the bootlegger, thus presenting an enforcement problem beyond the control of the officers.

Whatever steps are taken will be a "hodgepodge." Sentiment will always be divided with neither side willing to concede anything to the other.

**What Other Papers Say**

**OUR SNAKE FRIENDS**

(Spartanburg Herald)  
Dr. H. K. Gloyd, director of the Chicago Academy of Science, thinks that of all wild creatures snakes are least understood and most maligned. In the United States there are few venomous snakes except the rattlers and moccasins and, strange to say, they are hunted down and destroyed by the harmless and non-poisonous varieties.

Ever since that snake incident which happened in the Garden of Eden men and snakes have been deadly enemies. Yet, in destroying many varieties in North America, man really destroys his friends. The garter snake, the king snake, the blacksnake, the water-snake and many other varieties in the United States are non-venomous and should not be killed because they destroy insects, mice and other pests and some of them are bitter enemies of the rattler, the moccasin and the coral snake. Ninety per cent of the snakes known to naturalists are non-venomous and there are more than 1,000 species of them in the world.

It is unfortunate that mankind has such a hatred of snakes that all families are marked for destruction. Scientists have been telling us for many years that most snakes are useful but their knowledge and advice cannot check the slaughter. We just don't like snakes.

**LOW BONDS**  
(Greenville Piedmont)

In Buncombe county, North Carolina, a Greenville youth is held under \$3,500 bond because he was the driver of an automobile that struck and fatally injured a pedestrian near Asheville.

The case gives reminder that bonds in South Carolina criminal cases are extremely low. Prisoners charged with murder often are released under bonds as low as \$1,500 and \$2,000. In northern states bonds as high as \$25,000 are not uncommon.

All too often South Carolina deals loosely and leniently with those charged with the most serious of crimes.

**Nobody's Business**

By GEE MCGEE

**THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS IN FLAT ROCK**

dear readers:— well, friends, I and the other assistant sandy claws are setting in front of the fire and medder-taling. Big socks and little stockings is hung from one end of the mantelboard to the other, all waiting to be filled by deer old sandy.

the wind is howling outside, and it has blowed the old quilt down which hung up against the back door, and the newspapers and the 2 old pillows that we had stuck into the broken glass winders have also been yanked out by the breezes ansforth.

the pile of wood over in the corner of the fire-place has shrunk to only 4 peaces, and no more is cut outside. this situation fetches forth much pain and worry onner count of the roomy-ism of the present old sandy claws. It is hard for him to stoop and twist to the tune of a axe.

old sandy claws has done his best this year to show his love and affection for his off-springs. each sock and stocking will receive one-half stick of nice peppermint, 2 brazeed nuts, a handful of raw goobers, and a tooting horn for the small fellers. we could not go very far with our relief check which amounts to not much.

old sandy claws has slipped a nice present under the cover lids of the bed for his wife, vizily: a pink blanket for our comfort, and she has washed up and re-decorated the much-tash cup she has been regivng me for years, that is—ever since the federal land bank took over our farm.

our old rooster has been baked and is setting out on the back piazza shelf waiting to be et tomorrow. we will also have some turnip sallet, the world looks fairly bright to us tonight, but I have only half a plug of tobacco in sight, our clothes is thin, our pantry is empty, but we are all as happy as a family could possibly be while on relief. If the wpa keeps up, we will make the grade.

vores trulle, mike Clark, rtd

**BRINGING HIM TO LIFE**



**A Washington Daybook**

By PRESTON GROVER (Associated Press Staff Writer)

WASHINGTON.—Long after the depression is over its problem child—the unemployables—will remain to trouble and perplex both local and federal administrations.

It has been at least six years since a man could get a job about any place and any time he wanted it. Six years is a long time in the 30 or 40 year working period of a man's life. What may have happened to him in those years?

Economists, welfare workers and employers have had experience before with depressions and their aftermath. They know it takes something out of a man to be without a satisfying job for an extended period. Morale falls and skill diminishes.

Holdover Problem  
The net effect on a once skilled man, three to six years away from his trade, is to make it hard for him to get back the job he once had. Naturally it is toughest on the less skilled, the "marginal" worker, who had employment at his trade only when times were fair to middling good.

With his skill diminished from disuse, several years added to his age, he represents a holdover problem to worry relief agencies long after many loose ends of the depression have been gathered up.

When Administrator Harry Hopkins turned back to the states the care of "unemployables," a million more or less, he had reference largely to aged, ill and lame whose condition could scarcely be chargeable fully to the depression.

But what about the "moderately employable" man who can't quite cut his way back into private employ even when better days bring more jobs.

Looking at that spectacle, relief experts predict a dozen years hence public money—federal, state or local—will be dribbling out to veterans of the great war of the depression.

**N. C. Lowland Areas Are Under Water**

RALEIGH, Dec. 24.—(P)—Large lowland areas were under water today as the Neuse river continued to rise at Kinston.

Lee A. Denson, head of the weather bureau here, said he expected the rise would halt late tonight.

The Kinston-Wilmington road was under water at Harpersville but highway officials estimated damage was slight.

When Leland Stanford, Jr., died in 1884 in his seventeenth year, his parents founded the university of that name at Palo Alto, Calif., as a memorial.

**HOW'S your HEALTH**

Bookkeeping Health  
Statisticians have been roundly abused for long. Many people resent the cock-sure certainty of statistical figures. One somehow feels so helpless when up against "the facts" mathematically expressed. But the fault is seldom with the figures and mostly with the interpretation.

In public health statistics, these difficulties are encountered. And it is borne in mind, the subject is not one of mere academic interest. On the contrary, vital statistics, as they are termed, serve as the basis for many medical and public health activities. They therefore touch every man's purse, in taxes and every man's health and welfare in numerous ways.

Tuberculosis, for instance, is a communicable disease, each case of which physicians must report to their local department of health. Why? Basically because each active case is a real or potential menace to all those around him. Theoretically the state, in self-defense can when necessary protect its people by forcefully quarantining the infection-spreading individual.

Fortunately such drastic procedures are but seldom necessary. Either the individual freely withdraws into his own home and learns to live without hazard to others, or he voluntarily goes to a tuberculosis sanatorium. And here is a pertinent point. Without statistical knowledge of how many persons in a given community are sick with tuberculosis and the severity of their illness, the responsible agencies would be without guidance as to how many clinics, tuberculosis hospital beds and tuberculosis sanatorium beds the community requires.

Statistics of illnesses and deaths according to causes also point out the weak places in health work, and serve as a guide in concerting remedial efforts. They measure the effectiveness of health work and the respective values of various techniques. They are in a word the valuable accounting of our vital resources.

Correctly interpreted vital statistics are as frequently reassuring as they are alarming. This has been witnessed recently in the case of cancer an dread disease. Crudely understood, the increasing number of deaths charged to both points to an alarming rise in these disease categories. But, critically evaluated, the figures reflect rather a decline in the death rates from other diseases. This allows for a larger number of persons to live "long enough" to die of the diseases which are more common to the advanced age group.

In Jerusalem's 33 centuries of history, she has endured over 20 sieges and blockades, about 18 reconstructions and six changes from one religion to another.

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**EVERYDAY LIVING**

Witching Hour  
This my honest belief that no hour in the year is quite so full of eerie bewitchment as Christmas eve. Greetings on Christmas morning are well enough, but they lack a sly, secret joy.

No, Christmas Eve is the magic hour, when the earth around us, the sky above us, and the heart within us are holy and happy. If it makes us divinely foolish, 'tis then that we are truly wise.

If you have doubts, and would rekindle the dying embers of a faded faith, go stand on the restless corner of a city street on Christmas eve, and watch the procession of faces as they go by.

Yes, some of them are marked with anxiety, but it is anxiety for the happiness of others! For a brief time that throng is moved by the spirit of giving, and their faces cannot hide the wonder of it.

Some seem half ashamed of their selfishness, and try to look self-possessed and nonchalant, as if it were a kind of childish game of make-believe. But that is all just a bluff.

Even their smile betrays a wistfulness, a longing to be free, if only for an hour, from the binding, blinding wisdom that is so hard, so dry, so weary withal, which makes life such a bore.

If you still doubt, just follow them home and you will see them tip-toe along the hall, as if hiding some awful secret, while joyous thoughts are tugging at their hearts with all the pull of playtime.

Later, men and women, otherwise sensible, even dignified, will creep up the stairs at midnight, with elongated bundles in their arms, listening at bedroom doors, where little children dream.

It is the one winged hour in the heavy-footed year—an escape from grey haggard realities into the lovely land where what ought to be true is true, and the impossible things that love can do.

God be thanked for an hour of magic, mystical and mellow, made holy by memories of days that come not back, and happy with the tenderness that shakes the poison out of all our wild flowers.

**State Recognizes Social Needs Now Thinks Mrs. Bost**

RALEIGH, Dec. 24.—(P)—Mrs. W. T. Bost, state welfare commissioner, said today that the "greatest advancement" had been made in public welfare work in North Carolina in the past two years.

"An aggressive awareness of the social needs of the people on the part of the local communities and county officials," Mrs. Bost reported in her biennial summary of the department's work, "has become a moving force in securing increased budgets for relief and general welfare purposes."

Mrs. Bost noted that Governor Ehringhaus aided in securing a federal grant of \$225,000 for the department, which enabled it to establish active welfare service in each of the 100 counties.

"The commissioner noted the state was sharing in certain phases of the federal social security program but needed legislation to enable complete participation. She added that if counties wished to share in the full benefits they will be expected to put up funds to match state and federal appropriations to meet the needs of certain underprivileged groups and to share in the administrative expenses for these services."

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**FIRE WORKS AT THE SNACK SHOP**

**BETTERS to the Editor**

PROTESTS CRACKERS, SPEEDING AND LIQUOR  
To the Editor of The Star:  
Allow me to thank you for your editorial relative to fire crackers. If we have law, why not enforce it or repeal it and let each person fight for his own existence.

It's not the duty of enforcement officers to wait for public sentiment to drive them to their duty. It's within the province of their duty to help create sentiment by enforcing the law.

There is too much lawlessness in it to her respects. We need attention paid to the smart fellow who is continually disturbing people by exploding gas in the muffler.

Then there is the menace of people driving at night with only one light. A few without any light. Would I like to be pulled for every little infringement? No, but society must be protected, and this terrible menace of breaking speed law in our city limits. A very fine young man was killed a few Sundays ago. Well, who was to blame? Can all the blame be placed upon the driver? Who will be the next? This fast driving can be stopped, it must be stopped. We have the law, why is it not enforced?

A few months ago, our courageous county judge put the gambling machines out of business, for which every right thinking person should be thankful. But why do away with the tables and allow other things as bad to run and curse our young folks as well as older ones who should have more sense.

I know the question arises in the minds of the people who are doing these things. How much of your business is my business. Its just this, no good man will undertake any enterprise that will curse his patrons. Some of our people and a very great number of them, are engaged in trying to help run the churches and Sunday schools, and I don't mean these church members who sell beer and wine, that is no better than running a gambling den, or running business on Sunday, in order to make this town a place where it is a little bit easier for the boys and girls to live right.

Now I ask the question who has the floor? How long good people will continue to pay money into and give their time in the interest of church work, and put up with some things in this town is about the biggest question confronting us right now.

Who is it that don't know that it is a violation of our laws to sell goods on Sunday, subject to a penalty of one dollar per each sale. No one could afford to stay open and pay that fine. What's the trouble? Big business says you must stay open if you do business for us. Thus the little fellow, in order to hold on must violate the laws of his state and his own conscience for those who care nothing for our

And where does the fellow who absolutely will not work on Sunday come in? No provision made for him. He is penalized for doing right the business he should have, a would get on Saturday or Monday goes to the fellow who stays open on Sunday and violates the law. I know many rather good fellows who would be glad to stay closed on Sunday if all would close. That would be perfectly fair to all. We hear a-howl about being able to purchase gas on Sunday. There are the fewest who could not buy a Sunday's supply on Saturday. Then if the doctor or the tourist come along, let them secure a script from the police department and get his gas. These are rather crude expressions but my feelings are stirred deeply. Something should be done and right now is a very fine time to start. The liquor question is bound to come up right soon, and the Christian people of our great county should not wait for the coming legislature know where we stand.

Shelby, N. C. A CITIZEN.

**LINESMAN IS BURNED AS HE TOUCHES WIRE**

HIGH POINT, Dec. 24.—(P)—Wayne Connor, 25, a linesman, was burned so badly when he contacted a high tension wire that one leg and one arm were amputated.

The Jesuits' order was founded in 1539.

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