

GREETINGS FROM MISS 1953 . . . The little girl personifies a bright and shining year ahead as she burns the last page of a tattooed and torn 1951. Millions throughout the nation are preparing to welcome the New Year with prayers for an enduring peace.

Lillington Club Gaily Decorated

Lillington's Community House, beautifully decorated for the holiday season, was the setting for the party. Mrs. Harvey O'Quinn of Manners gave on Thursday night honoring Miss Betty Sue Spence, bride-elect of Saturday. Approximately 50 guests from Manners, Lillington, Fuquay Springs, Spring Lake and Raleigh

were invited for the miscellaneous shower and bingo party. Miss Spence, who is a student at Meredith College, Raleigh, is to be married to Tommy Stephens of Raleigh on Saturday, December 22 at 4:30 p. m. at Antioch Baptist Church. The honoree is the daughter of Mrs. G. B. Spence and the late Mr. Spence. Refreshments of green and white bridal cream, decorated cakes and nuts were served from a refreshment table decorated in the Christmas motif.



Glad Tidings

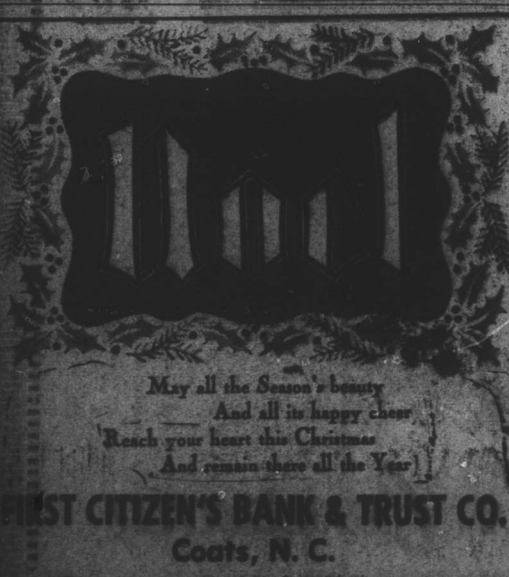
The joyous peals of Yuletide bells find their cheerful echo in greetings to our friends for a very Merry Christmas and a bright Happy New Year.

POPE'S 5c & 10c STORE Coats, N. C.



GREETINGS FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

O. K. KEENE DRY GOODS - NOTIONS SHOES COATS, N. C.



May all the Season's beauty And all its happy cheer Reach your heart this Christmas And remain there all the Year!

FIRST CITIZEN'S BANK & TRUST CO. Coats, N. C.

Perfect Present

By Willard Oivan Persing

THE REASSURING WEIGHT of the nickels and dimes in his pocket took the bite out of the raw Saturday afternoon. Surveying the street from the eminence of three dollars for the first time in his eleven years, Jimmy Sands thought it was a pretty nice world after all.

After enjoying this sense of prosperity for a few seconds, he remembered that he'd have to hurry if he wanted to hide the Christmas present before his mother woke up from her nap. A frown came over his face as he glanced around to locate his pup. Mike wasn't anywhere in sight.

He started to whistle, but his attention was caught by little Sammy Farr, big-eyed with excitement and fright, running toward him.

"Hey, Jimmy!" called Sammy. "They took Mike!" Jimmy's heart sank. He knew who "they" meant, but he had to make sure. "Who took him?"

"The dogcatcher. Mike tried to run away, but they caught him down at the corner."

Little Sammy wiped his nose on a ragged cuff. "I didn't have time to hide him like we always did be-



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fore when that old dogcatcher came around.

"I shouldn't have left him down here by himself, but I didn't want to wake Mom up." Jimmy sat down on the step and buried his face in his hands. Sure, he thought, they'll keep Mike five days before they get rid of him, but a license will cost two dollars and a hole.

Then he straightened up; he had three dollars in his pocket, three dollars all his own, that he had earned by running errands, selling junk, and saving the few pennies that his mother had given him for candy.

If he bought a license for Mike, he wouldn't be able to buy the new purse for his mother, but he could buy a nice handkerchief or something with the fifty cents that he would have left.

A boy of eleven couldn't cry in front of a seven-year-old so Jimmy blinked away the tears that came when he thought of fuzzy, playful Mike being tossed into a pen full of big snarling dogs.

"I wonder if they'll feed him good?"

A SENSE OF SHAME kept returning when Jimmy thought of his mother's shabby old purse. She'd had it as long as he could remember, and he had seen her sing several times to admire the shiny black one with the gold-colored clasp that was in Mother's window. He had been looking forward to Christmas morning when she could carry the new one proudly to church instead of hiding the old one's shabbiness by tucking it under her arm. It just wouldn't be right to spend that money for Mike's license.

"Come on, Sammy, if you'll keep it a secret, I'll let you go with me to buy Mom's present." Maybe he could leave the purse with the landlady until after his mother had gone to work. Jimmy was glad that he wouldn't have to clean up those clothes on Christmas Eve and Christmas night.

Jimmy's mother called at him over the pillow she was peeling for lunch supper. "Didn't you come up the front way?"

"Yes," Jimmy closed the door and walked over to stare out the one window in their room.

"You didn't leave Mike out in front?"

"No." The tears that he had been holding back poured out. "The dogcatcher took him away." Jimmy sank into a chair by the table and buried his head in his arms.

Smiling to herself, Jimmy's mother placed a comforting hand on his shoulder and said, "I think it will be all right with Santa if you get your present tonight instead of tomorrow night." She took an envelope out of the shabby purse that lay on the table. "Merry Christmas, Jimmy."

Something in her voice made Jimmy open the envelope and look inside. "Mike's license!" Jimmy grabbed his cap and started for the door.

"You had better wait till the morning, Jimmy. We late, and it's a long way over to the dog pound. They'll take good care of Mike."



CHRISTMAS LECTURE

"Now this is a Christmas tree," big brother appears to be telling the toddler. "It grows in the living room only once a year, and it always has a lot of nice presents under it."

Games for All. Make Christmas Family Party

Christmas is the time for family get-togethers. One of the best ways to make these gatherings memorable for all concerned is to engage in games which the whole group can play.

A nice one to start off with would be a Sugar Plum Hunt. Have one member of the family hide Christmas candies ahead of time in various nooks and corners around the house. At a given signal everyone starts hunting and gathering the pieces. The one who gathers the greatest number would be given a prize.

The Christmas Puzzle is another good one to get things going. Look through some magazines, which are filled with pictures of Santa Claus at this time of year. Cut out enough of these to go around, paste them on stiff cardboard, and cut them into pieces. Then put each group of pieces in a separate paper bag. At the signal, everyone opens a bag and starts putting the puzzle together.

The Xmas Scramble Contest is good for a group with older children in it. This is simply a contest to see who can unscramble a group of words the fastest. Just for fun, see if you can work out the following—astna, eridren, chagil, dynea, goskinct, erie, teopen, hupna, alsorc, and nihorb.

If Santa Misses, Reindeer Supply Will Be at Fault

If Santa Claus misses some youngsters this year, it could be offered plausibly that he was not able to round up enough reindeer for his yearly trip around the globe.

The reindeer shortage has become, in recent years, much too acute. It has been estimated that wolves have destroyed 500,000 of Santa's helpers within the last decade or so, leaving an approximate 50,000.

The difficulty of keeping the animals alive in a temperate climate makes it unlikely that any of the few remaining will be transported



from their native regions to other lands for the holiday season, as has been done in the past.

American boys and girls will have to be satisfied with stags. The few department stores featuring Santa's complete outfit this year will be using native deer as substitute for Dasher, Francor, and company.

England Once Forbade Christmas Observance

Did you know that the observance of Christmas was once forbidden in England—the home of the Yule Log, the Carol-singer and the wassailer?

During the Reformation many believed the undue jollity of Christmas day was sacrilegious. Parliament, on December 24, 1562, ordered that "no observance shall be held of the five and twentieth day of December, commonly called Christmas day, or of any other day used or observed in any manner that day in respect of Christmas."

This edict proved to be very unpopular with the masses of the people. It was not until many years later, however, that Christmas was once again regarded as a holiday.



THE FESTIVE MINCE PIE

OF ALL THE holiday delicacies, none carries more of the old-time traditions and associations of good eating and festivity than mince pie. Many writers give credit for its origination to Germany, while others claim that its beginning is lost in the annals of history. English literature dating to the 15th century is full of references to this Christmas favorite, an essential part of Yuletide celebrations in England.

Old superstitions held that any person refusing to eat mince pie would be unlucky for the coming year. Should he accept the invitation, and partake of mince pie, he would have the same number of happy months during the year as the number of houses at which he ate mince pie.

The oriental character of the spices and flavoring was said to represent the rich gifts of the wise men to the Christ Child.



LIGHTING UP . . . This young lady isn't trying to burn the candle at both ends—she just wants to get the New Year off to a good start. May it start, and finish, the same way for you.



AND ALL GOOD WISHES FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON KELLY'S DRUG STORE Lillington, N. C.



Merry Christmas Greetings. Add to the good things of Christmas—our wishes for a joyous holiday! COATS MERCANTILE COMPANY COATS, N. C.

BLIND BUT VALIANT SALER, III. (John Curtis, Jr., Marine veteran who lost his eyesight in World War II, is competing a four-year horticulture course in three years and will be awarded his degree from the University of Missouri in February.) Greetings We extend to our many friends our wishes for a Christmas that will be rich in joy and good health. FORBES FLORIST AND REMNANT SHOP COATS, N. C.

"O come, all ye faithful" Let us glory in God's promise of Joy and Peace on Earth, Good Will to all men. May the many blessings of Christmas be with you throughout this Holiday Season. DORMAN'S JEWELRY Coats, N. C.

Season's Greetings To you, our friends and neighbors—we extend our best wishes for the merriest of Christmases and the happiest of New Years and add the prayer that your homes be blessed with Peace and Good Fortune. STEPHENS HARDWARE COMPANY COATS, N. C.

Merry Christmas To our many friends, whose good will and loyalty have contributed so much to the pleasure of every day business, we send these sincere greetings for happiness this Christmas and prosperity for the coming year. D & S MARKET Phone 9464 Coats, N. C.