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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1961

EDITORIALS:

WORLD'S BIGGEST BUSINESS

brings your mail every day six days a week, fair weather or foul, is a representative of the biggest business in the world. He is your postman, one of the 500,000 employes of the Post Office department. His department grosses over \$3 billion every year but, as we are accustomed to accept, the agency loses money every year.

His is a service to the people. Fewer letters and a less number of packages would go by mail if the rate were sufficient for the department to break even.

But there, is another story about this federal agency which, some say, is our country's greatest institution. Its beginning started over 200 years ago when, in 1737, Benjamin Franklin was appointed postmaster at Philadelphia. Mr. Franklin was so adept at organization that he was given the job as postmaster for all of the colonies in 1753. Then, in 1775, he became the first Postmaster General under the Continental Congress at \$1,000 per year.

From the very beginning of the new nation's independence, communication and its enabling instrument, the Post Office, took on added prestige and importance. Keeping frontiersmen and city people informed, governing officials felt, was fundamental in the success or failure of the new venture in freedom. As we all know, the Post Office was the one and only means by which this could be accomplished.

Unlike other private and public institutions, its growth has been constant, demands have increased year by year. and the services it provides today would eclipse the fondest imagination of the founding father, Mr. Franklin.

Benjamin Franklin poured a firm foundation but it was not given for him to become the first Postmaster General under the new constitution, an honor he deserved but denied by age. The ap-

We have just read a little piece about Christmas written by a mother of three down in Texas. The first line or so had something to say about Christmas being a family affair, and that took us right on through to the end.

and the father, a typical New Englan- can ever tire of Scrooge, especially der, tells about some of the contrasting when you know he is going to have a practices to which the two had been accustomed and how they, as parents, met a happy medium in resolving them. She discusses Christmas trees, how big it should be, when it should be decorated, and whether to hang each strip of tinsel or just heap it on to catch as it may. Then she tells about how they enjoy giving gifts to one another, but their greatest joy comes in remembering those who are less fortunate than they are. Through the husband's company, they select a needy family and prepare a gift for the family remembering, meanwhile, to get the ages of the children and gifts to suit the ages.

The man in the blue-gray attire who pointment went to Samuel Osgood who assumed the post in 1789.

There were only 75 Post Offices in the country when Mr. Osgood took office. Today there are 35,750.

Famous names connected with the development of the Post Office system include Washington, who surveyed many of the post roads, Paul Revere, one of the first post riders, and Buffalo Bill (Bill Cody), a pony express rider.

The Pony Express, it is interesting to observe, was promoted by a private company to speed the interchange of mail between the east and west coasts. It began in 1860 but continued for only 18 months. Some 75 ponies were used in the cross-country run and the fastest time was seven days and 17 hours. The promoting company first charged \$5 for half an ounce but reduced the charge to \$1 later.

When the eastern and western sections of the first transcontinental railroad were joined at Promontary Heights, Ogden, Utah, in 1869, mail service coast to coast began on regular schedule.

Here are some of the high points on the history of this great institution: 1806, the first national post road started; 1813, navigable waters declared post roads; 1819, mail carried by steamships; 1838, railroads declared post roads; 1847, adhesive postage stamps introduced; 1855, registered mail; 1858, first street letterboxes; 1861, small parcels of merchandise carried by mail; 1864, railway mail and money order service; 1867, international money order service; 1873, postal cards; 1885, special delivery; 1896, rural free delivery; 1911, postal savings; 1913, parcel post, insurance and COD; 1918, air mail; 1924, day and night air mail; 1941, highway post offices; 1943, zone system and, 1955, certified mail.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

told.

"The season," she writes, "is for us a time of slowing down, a period of taking stock, of looking ahead."

Then there is time for music and time for reading. Early in December they get our Dickens' "Christmas The mother, Georgia born and reared Carol" and read aloud. Who, she says, change of heart. And dear Tiny Tim.



SOUTHPORT LADY

Continued From Page One ings.

Joy Gregory, dressed as a SHALLOTTE DOP rundown Daisy Mae from Hog-Continued FrPage 1 wash, Ky., looked properly bucolic, Gordon bowled her usual strong game, bowled her usual strong game, and yet managed to retain an viets, Bradley Sirt 501, Bill Sirtary; Troop ex-officio air, as of courthouses. Sue Jones, a brunette filled Terry Blackman, by Richardby Richardwith joi de verve, departed from son: Troop Weaver. her usual nimble self long enough Star Rank 503. Allen to appear as an old fashioned Pajama Girl, replete with a pol- Turner, Jir ow and L. 508, Gordon ka-dotted night-cap and sleeper R. Oiham. Tro with bright red pants or culate to keep even a Rip Van Winkl

wide awake. Sue could do noth-ing, however, to make her eyes (Continued Fram Fa n Fage Onel 's many akes purely for look baggy with sleep. propert The gals all wore one thing in ornan It is suspectntal purpo common: shapeless, thick-soled ed that id up in somebowling shoes. a single ornaone's kpot. No Blake Builders holds second mental duck is le t on the wideplace in the ten-club league and spread 15,000 act

Not Exactly News

Among his Christmas gifts John Burdette came up with a boomerang, and like all boys who have come into possession of one of these curved weapons, John had a curiosity to know if it would work. So, he took it down to the street in front of the Garrison, where there is plenty of room, and he let it fly. And curve it did-curved and curved and curved. And when finally gravity caught it the boomerang was over the water, where it hit and immediately sank from sight. . . . One other near tragedy for a Christmas present happened to Rip Howard Monday morning while he was out for a spin on his new bike. His big dog, Bones, got into a fight with a neighborhood dog, and in the fury of their battle they rolled into the mudguard of his wheel and bent it in. Fortunately, the damage was superficial, not structural.

We never saw such a flood of northern tourists on Highway No. 17 as were traveling South this morning. One time we were passed by six consecutive cars bearing out-of-state license plates . . . Until today we never had seen a seagull perched in a tree, but this morning near Shallotte there was one crew sitting high on a limb overlooking the trash dump, probably waiting for the next load of post-Christmas goodies . . . At the junction of the Ash-Longwood road with Highway No. 130 there is a sign which carries the basketball schedule for the Waccamaw High School basketball teams.

Christmas decorations have been outstanding this year, not just in Southport and in Kingtown, but all over Brunswick. Here at home we were as impressed as a small boy with the Santa Claus, sleigh and reindeer that Guy Garrett spent a good part of his spare time in recent weeks sawing out . . . Millie Martin has done an effective job of decorating simply by placing a red candle in each of the many windows of her large, twostory home

We thought that the duck and goose season might pass before we heard of a single one of the latter game birds being killed locally. Jack Hickman told us Tuesday that he had heard that Sammy Rees had got one. Incidentally, Jack, who is an old duck hunter, says that he has hardly killed enough this year for a one-day limit . . . There will be a lot of basketball fans traveling to Hallsboro Thursday and Friday nights of this week for the Holiday Tournament in which Southport is playing.

Don't forget the New Year's Dance Saturday night for which Tebo and the boys will be playing . . . If dancing and basketball are too fast for you, see "The Devil At 4 O'clock" at the Amuzu over the weekend . . . "Twist Around The Clock" is the quiet piece that will be showing on those dates at Holiday Drive-In at Shallotte.

material for a Cimeeting as send as many as you do have. I wrote about was my great grand them one. it compared Christy to Bud- don't know what the charges on dad. I am very interested in hav-

Very truly yours,



On Christmas Eve the family gathers around the tree to hear again the story of the birth of Jesus as recorded by Luke. Never was there a sweeter story

"We resolve then and there," the mother goes on, "to follow more closely the life of the Master throughout the coming 12 months. We remember the words of the poet, John Greenleaf Whittier:

"The outward symbols disappear

From Him whose inward sight is clear, And small must be the choice of days To Him who fills them all with praise."

THE FARMER'S SHARE

An official of the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service spoke in Stanly county the other day about how much the farmer is getting out of some of the crops he produces.

Quoting from a report on the speech by the Stanly News and Press, the speaker held up a 28-cent loaf of bread. baked locally, and estimated that the man who grew the grain got about hree cents for the raw product in the



Then he pointed to a can of tomatoes saying the man who produced the tomatoes got less for them than the cost of the label on the can.

A package of cigarettes, he said, cost about 25 cents but the farmer got about four cents for the tobacco in the cigarettes.

He said turkey raisers were going to lose about 50 cents on each bird this season because of low prices.

What is the cause of all of this? Basically, it is the inbalance prevailing in supply and demand.

Labor-saving machinery and scientific advancements in fertilizer and its application have completely reversed farming practices.

The typical rugged individualism of other years in farming must now be modified for collective efforts to hold supply and demand within reasonable balance lest profit be destroyed.

Whittling Stalin From Map Soviet Premior Krushchev seems to be having his way in erasing the name and memory of former Premier Joe Stalin from the Russian scene.

It all suggest that Mr. Krushchev, by removing Stalin from beside Lenin, is preparing to hold the vacant tomb for himself when his time comes.

has rolled the highest far this season. LETTER TO THE EDITOR Raymo Decem ille, Texas HOLIDAY LETTER er 13, 1961 Continued From Page 1 Editor quite narrow and I hit high cen- State Port Pilot ter with the car. I could write Southport, N. C. pages telling of the traffic and Dear Sin the sights that I see daily, and I understand th t you had a paper dated of the people themselves. of the people themselves. I sent an interesting paper to Nola Tyler that reveals the hid-about the Varnams. Would you opies of that den beliefs of the Japanese. I please send me 7 copies of that thought it would make interesting paper or if you don't have 7

Time and Tide Continued From Page One

British Naval vessel had gone home to sing the praises of the hospitality shown them here. One of the ship's officers had said that it was not done with any thought of "lease-and-lend."

January 1, 1947, and we came out on New Year's Day. The previous year had been classified in a front page headline as "Building Boom Throughout County." On another front, the county agent was optimistic about farming prospects in Brunswick during the coming year.

In the Christmas lighting contest in town Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Butler had won first prize in the outdoor decorations division; deer hunters were sad-this being the last day of the season on their favorite game; and a group of Whiteville men, headed by Oscar High, had discovered that rockfish were still here and still biting.

In 1951 The Pilot came out the day after Christmas. The drive still was on for funds for renovation of Dosher Memorial Hospital, and the sum of \$500 had been added in gifts received during the holiday period. There was a big, front page version of The Christmas Story, including a re-run of "Yes, Virginia-."

The USE Dredge Lyman was due for maintenance dredging on the bar, and a Southport man, Capt. John G. Swan, was master of this vessel. The editor found time to pay a tribute to the post office crew; and greetings had come to friends in Southport from Mrs. Mae Bamber from Southport, England.

Five years ago this week everybody was assuming an optimistic outlook for the New Year. This extended particularly to two of the churches: The Methodists were to stress attendance; the Baptists were planning a school of missions

Reports said that shrimping was good at Key West, Fla.,where a lot of Brunswick county shrimpers were spending the winter; and UNC Alumni had seen a picture version of "The Hodges Story" at a dinner meeting here; and all city and county offices were back on schedule after the holiday breaks.

AMBULANCE Oxygen Ph. GL 7-6161 GILBERT'S FUNERAL SERVICE GILBERT'S MUTUAL BURIAL ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 94 SOUTHPORT, N. C.

As a new year dawns, we offer our fervent prayer that it will bring lasting peace and prosperity for everyone. SAFETY BE Save It Steady YOUR SAVINGS NSUREI Have It Ready ! DIVIDEND Southport Savings & Loan Asso. SOUTHPORT, N. C. W. P. JORGENSEN, Sec'y.-Treas. he Nation's homes FINANCED BY SAVINGS AND LOAN