

THE DAILY COURIER

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"Over 10,000 People Welcome You to Asheboro, the Center of North Carolina"

U. S. SEIZES JAPANESE BOAT ON PACIFIC

Bailey's Coalition Sweeps Nation; 1940 Indicated as Goal

Washington, Dec. 24.—The new Senate coalition for safe and sane legislation to aid business, headed by Senators Bailey of North Carolina and Arthur H. Vandenberg of Michigan, is rapidly gathering momentum. The result is that it may develop into the national movement that has been proposed by the Michigan lawmaker, with all anti-New Deal interested fused to combat the now wavering trend of Roosevelt legislation.

Never could a more propitious time have been selected to launch the movement in which senators like Burke of Nebraska, Tydings of Maryland, Gerry of Rhode Island, and other foes of the repudiated court plan, have joined with Bailey and Vandenberg to change the legislative trend.

It was broached just when the House was voting the death knell to the wages and hours bill which was opposed in the Senate by all the coalitionists, and when a farm bill was being passed by the Senate that was a battered and patch-work measure, in final form.

With adjournment of the special session with few accomplishments the coalitionists found themselves stronger than ever before, with indications that they will be a potent factor in the next session.

Senator Vandenberg, who is frequently mentioned as the next Republican presidential nominee, stated talking coalition months ago, saying he was ready to join with Democrats who stood willing to put an end to the steady growth of bureaucracy and the concentration of powers in the hands of the President. It was not at all strange therefore to find him one of the prime movers in this Democratic-Republican coalition in the Senate. It is frankly his opinion that alliance of the anti-New Deal forces is as certain by 1940 as death and taxes.

Xmas Music To Feature Church Service At M. P.

Much has been made of music and decorations in Asheboro this Christmas, which is the most fitting way to celebrate this happy season. Several of the local churches held their Christmas services last Sunday with musical programs and pageants that put people in that spirit of Christmas.

This Sunday morning, however, the Central Methodist Protestant church will hold their regular Christmas service with sermon and music appropriate to the occasion. In the evening, the church choir and the junior choir will combine in a program of music and Christmas stories centering around the theme of the Nativity. The program for the day follows:

- Morning worship: Hymn No. 96—"Come All Ye Faithful", Portuguese. Prayer. Hymn No. 87—"Angels From the Realms of Glory", Smart. Responsive Reading—"The Magnificent" and "The Benedictus", pages 620-21. The Gloria Patri. Scripture Lesson—Luke 2:1-19. Offering. Anthem—"Angels' Song", Loring. Sermon—"Four Aspects of Christmas", pastor. Hymn No. 89—"Joy to the World", Handel. Benediction.

- Evening service at 7:30: Hymn No. 86—"Hark the Herald Angels Sing", Mendelssohn. Hymn No. 82—"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear", Willis. Scripture Readings. Prayer. Hymn—"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear", Willis. Christmas Story—"The Other Wise Men", Van Dyke. Christmas Poem—"The Three Kings", Longfellow. Instrumental Duet—James Hendrix, Lacy Lewis, Ja. Anthem—"Jesus Christ", Harrington. Hymn No. 100—"O Little Town of Bethlehem", Redner. Silent Meditation. Hymn No. 106—"Silent Night", Gruber. Benediction.

Federal tax collections increased \$1,133,000,000 in 1937 over 1936.

Merry Christmas

McRae, Jr., Believed In Shanghai, Wires Dad From California.

It was a merry Christmas at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Carl McRae, 512 South Fayetteville street this morning.

A few hours ahead, it is true, but the telegraph messenger brought one of the most welcome and joyous greetings to that home ever received.

It was a message from the boy—William Carl McRae, Jr., who until this morning, was believed to be with the 4th Batt., United States Marines stationed at Shanghai.

The last the parents heard from their son was early in September when information relative to the dangerous times in that Chinese city was received.

Young McRae enlisted in the Marines in September, 1935, and has been in constant service since that time.

The message dated, Vallejo, Calif., leads the parents to believe, their son has received his honorable discharge and is enroute to this city.

Merry Christmas—Pop and Ma.

Official Report Filed On Panay Incident

Washington, Dec. 24.—(AP)—The Panay's wounded commander reported officially today that the American gunboat was sunk without warning by Japanese planes which he said flew as low as "100 or 200 feet" to drop their bombs.

Lt. Commander James J. Hughes also said the Yangtze river craft was marked with huge American flags, "there was good visibility and the weather was clear."

His report gave the first eye witness account of the bombing which has strained relations with Japan was made public after President Roosevelt and Secretary Hull read it. It related:

- 1. Three hours before the first plane attack, by two bombing planes, the Panay was boarded by Japanese army officers who vainly sought information on the movement of Chinese troops. 2. The first attack came with warning from two Japanese naval planes which power-dived from an altitude of about 4,000 feet. 3. The Panay was marked by two American flags, 18 by 14 feet on her top deck and was subjected to 56 minutes of machine-gunning. 4. Hughes, severely wounded by the first bomb which exploded, said he was informed two small boats bearing wounded ashore was machine-gunned by the attacking planes. 5. Lying wounded on shore, he heard the rattle of machine guns and was informed an armed Japanese boat was firing on the Panay. 6. Every one on board the gunboat "acted with fine courage and initiative. Three lives were lost."

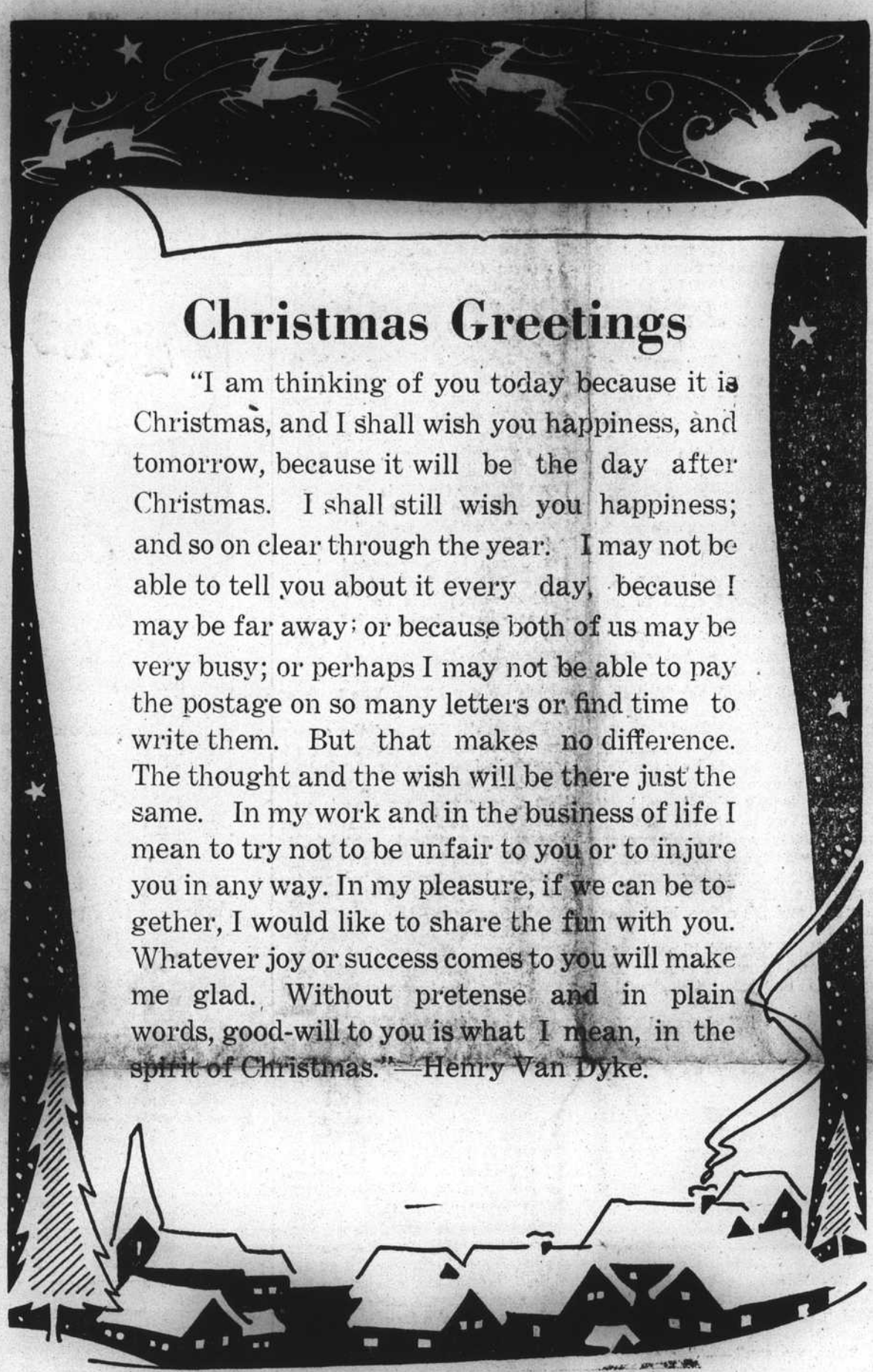
E. L. Reece Blows In, Rivaling Santa

E. L. Reece of the Pleasant Ridge section of Randolph, has been in town today in advance of Santa Claus and was laden with the most beautiful Christmas greens which he was presenting to D. B. McCrary and the friends at The Daily Courier office.

Mr. Reece made a gorgeous wreath for the McCrary home from trailing cedar, pine, fern and bright red berries. A seasonable gift, indeed.

The gift at The Courier office included sprays of berry-laden holly, cedar, fern and other lovely local greens with a surprise bag of scaly-barks that are calculated to take any grown-up back to childhood Christmas days.

Aged Woman Killed Durham, Dec. 24.—(AP)—103-year-old Jennie Wilkerson, Durham negroess was beaten to death with clubs and her granddaughter, 19, was battered into unconsciousness late Thursday by unknown persons.



Christmas Greetings

"I am thinking of you today because it is Christmas, and I shall wish you happiness, and tomorrow, because it will be the day after Christmas. I shall still wish you happiness; and so on clear through the year. I may not be able to tell you about it every day, because I may be far away; or because both of us may be very busy; or perhaps I may not be able to pay the postage on so many letters or find time to write them. But that makes no difference. The thought and the wish will be there just the same. In my work and in the business of life I mean to try not to be unfair to you or to injure you in any way. In my pleasure, if we can be together, I would like to share the fun with you. Whatever joy or success comes to you will make me glad. Without pretense and in plain words, good-will to you is what I mean, in the spirit of Christmas."—Henry Van Dyke.

Burglars Loot Local Dwelling; Take Watch And Xmas Presents

Meanest Burglar Ransacks Home Of Alton W. Dail

The meanest burglar came to Asheboro last night.

And, today, the city police department is following meager clues to apprehend him and possible companions.

The burglary took place sometime between yesterday afternoon and last night at 9 o'clock, when unidentified persons forced an entrance into the residence of Alton W. Dail, 110 North Cox street.

Mr. Dail is employed as foreman of the Cretchik Silk Mills and was away from the home most of the day.

Mrs. Dail is employed in a local department store and she discovered evidence of the burglary upon returning home last night.

An early investigation, showed among other losses, a watch of Mr. Dail's and a new bath robe, which had been given Mr. Dail as a Christmas gift.

The police, under direction of Chief Dewey Bulla, are investigating the affair. Little evidence of value was left behind by the burglars.

The residence, recently constructed, was thoroughly ransacked. It is believed persons learned the routine of the family prior to entering the home and were aware of the fact that both Mr. and Mrs. Dail would be absent most of the day and evening.

In addition to the Dail's loss, Miss L. Butler, Liberty, who has been rooming with them for about a month, lost several boxes of hose and other gifts she had received and was planning to distribute among friends.

"Yes, There Is A Santa" And, He Arrives Tonight

We take pleasure in answering the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that the faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

"Dear Editor: I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says 'If you see it in the Sun, it's so'. Please tell me the truth: Is there a Santa Claus?—Virginia O'Hanlon, 115 W. 95th St."

Virginia, your friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith ther no poetry, no romance make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys at Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus com-

ing down what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither men or children can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world, which not the strongest men, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah! Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia; nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.—Editorial from: The New York Sun, 1897.

Senate Group Endorses Plan For Easy Change To Constitution

Washington, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Strong support developed today in the senate judiciary committee, for a constitutional amendment offered by Senator Norris (Ind.-Nebr.) to make it easier to change the constitution.

The proposal would require that if congress should submit a constitutional change, it would automatically go onto the ballot for a direct vote by the people, in each state, at the next general election.

This would hasten its consideration and prevent state legislators from blocking a decision.

Thirty-six states still would have to ratify the amendment.

The suggestion was one of a score or more offered, since last year over the fight on the Supreme court bill.

Labor Relations Board Accuses Ford Company

Washington, Dec. 24.—(AP)—The national labor relations board decided last night that the Ford Motor company had violated the Wagner labor disputes act and ordered the company to reinstate 29 employees.

These, the board said, had been discharged for union activity.

The company was ordered to stop discouraging membership in the United Automobile Workers, or any other union, and to post notices in its Dearborn and Highland Park Mich., plants stating it would comply with the board's order.

The decision resulted from complaints by the U. W. A., which is a C. I. O. union, A. U. A. W. complaint that the company had discharged six other employes for union activity was dismissed.

Insurgents Shut Off From Rescue

Tuel, Spanish-Franco Frontier, Dec. 24.—(AP)—A circle of steel locks General Franco's Aragon forces today from securing a band of 400 insurgents, apparently doomed by the government capture of the city.

The 400 kept up drum fire with machine guns and rifles from a dozen buildings in the old quarter of the city.

Their supply of water and electricity had been shut off. It was believed they had plenty of food.

First Lady At Daughter's Home

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 24.—(AP)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt completed today an eventual plane-train transcontinental trip to spend the Christmas season with her daughter and grandchildren here today.

Off To Rockingham Durham Bonuses

Mrs. Hal Worth left this afternoon for Rockingham where she will spend the holiday weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dicks and family, returning to Asheboro on Monday.

Durham, Dec. 24.—(AP)—The Durham Sun said today that more than a million dollars had been paid in the last week to Durham employes as extra salaries or bonuses.

Navy Tightens Guard At Navy Base; Patrol Doubled Off Coast

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.—(AP)—The navy tightened its guard over the entire Pacific coast today, following seizure of a sheaf of letters, described of a "suspicious nature" from a Japanese liner and capture of a Japanese fishing boat by the United States customs agents.

Destroyers doubled their patrol off San Diego and San Pedro, fleet bases, and at Mare Island navy yard.

At San Francisco was reinforced with 100 additional guards.

Reports of a rain on the Japanese liner, Tatsuta Maru, by customs agents, just before sailing time at San Francisco was reported by United States attorney Frank Hennessey. They garnered a sheaf of letters, supposedly connected with operations at the Bremerton Navy Yard in Puget Sound yesterday. Hennessey said he did not know the letter's contents.

The government men acted in secret, but a San Francisco newspaper said it was understood the letters were for transfer to San Francisco from Seattle.

The letters bore no stamps, it was reported, but were entrusted to an unidentified person aboard.

Tokyo, Dec. 24.—(AP)—The Japanese government today acknowledged full responsibility for the sinking of the United States gunboat Panay by Japanese planes and said the flying squadron commander and "all others responsible had been punished" and assured the American government that "definite and special steps" had been taken to prevent a recurrence of the incident.

Foreign minister Koki Hirota, personally, handed the note to U. S. ambassador Joseph G. C. Grew at 5 A. M., (EST) after it had been approved by the cabinet and sanctioned by the Emperor.

The text was not published in Japan.

It answered American representations after the bombing of the Panay and three Standard Oil vessels in the Yangtze, above Nanjing, on December 12.

Hirota did not make clear how the responsible bombers were punished except that they were "dealt with according to law."

The note, while holding the sinking of the Panay was "entirely due to a misunderstanding" nevertheless said:

"The Japanese nation has issued, without delay, strict orders to exercise strict caution in every sector where warships and other vessels of America or any other third power are at present.

Shanghai, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Japanese tonight announced that Hangchow, rich seaport and capitol of Cheikang, 100 miles south of Shanghai was captured today by troops entering all the city's gates.

Fall of the city to the invaders, who have overrun thousands of square miles, came as United States authorities made strong representations to the Japanese over a reported insult to the American flag at Wuhu, December 13.

There was no information on the extent of the fighting around Hangchow, but indications were, the city had capitulated to avoid bombing, shelling and street fighting.

Six Americans in Hangchow were believed safe.

Three hundred Americans were ready to leave Tsingtau on three American warships in face of attack there.

Mrs. D. J. Eure In Auto Wreck

Wilmington, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Mrs. D. J. Eure, a sister-in-law of Thad Eure, was resting comfortably today in a hospital here where she is undergoing treatment for injuries sustained in an automobile accident yesterday.

French Strikes Causing Trouble

Paris, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Rumblings of a political crisis grew louder in strike-harressed France today after the communistic bloc in the Chamber of Deputies voted moral support for the strikers.

The Weather North Carolina. Cloudy, probably mists or light rains tonight and Saturday. Warmer in the central and northeast portions.