

Christmas 1967

The traditions of Christmas—the tree with its lights, tinsel and decorations, the holly wreath on the door, the mistletoe and the colorful collection of Christmas packages, all contribute to the Spirit of Christmas.

It is a time of year when old acquaintances are renewed — a time for family reunions.

Sometimes in our effort to make this a bigger and better Christmas, we are inclined to let the material things of life overshadow the most festive holiday of the Christian world.

Let us pause and reflect on its

true meaning — and in our mind's eye go back to the first Christmas—the birth of the Christ child in a stable in Bethlehem. Just what message should we draw from this momentous event? It conveys a dual message, as a famous clergyman once said, "The family that prays together, stays together," and it also in a dramatic way points out the attribute of humility.

And when man is on the threshold of nearly a half - million mile round trip to the moon, one should conjure the thought that a woman traveling 65 miles on the back of a donkey made the most significant trip of all time.

"Big Government At Its Worst"

Another instance of the blessings of a free press and the penetrating editorial competence of thousands of editors across the land who make up that press may be seen in an item from *The California Farmer*. The editor briefly summarizes the history of the Tennessee Valley Authority, the federal government's gigantic socialized electric power enterprise in the southeastern part of the United States, with the words, "What started out as a single dam to provide cheap electrical power and flood control for the Tennessee Valley mushroomed into a socialist's dream . . ."

Today, TVA is the nation's big-

gest purchaser of coal and is in the process of entering in a major way the atomic energy field. But that is not all. According to the editor of *The California Farmer*, "Now TVA wants to buy 200,000 acres of land to set up a showcase for the Nation of how an area can be developed for recreation and conservation education programs. Land and homes in the area would be condemned if they refused to be brought out." He concludes, "In our book, this is big government at its worst."

Many thinking editors wonder, and with good reason, how far down the path of big government we can go and still retain freedom of the press.

A Gift For Humanity

With our modern techniques, a single American farmer feeds and clothes nearly 40 of his countrymen. In the underdeveloped countries, the average farmer barely feeds his own family.

Christmas sharpens the contrast. While we shop for festive items for family and friends, half the people on earth are hungry. Surely most of us, in this season of "goodwill" towards all mankind, can afford to add a gift for humanity through CARE's Food Crusade.

Every dollar donated delivers a food package, in the name of the American people. The U. S. helps by donating commodities and host governments share operating costs. A total 6,500,000 packages are needed to complete CARE programs that will help feed 37 million people in 32 countries during the coming year.

The food sustains war refugees in South Vietnam and the Middle East, famine victims in India. In villages from Latin America to Africa, it brings hope for a better life. Served at schools, it helps educate children for a more productive role as the farmers and workers of tomorrow. At preschool centers, it saves malnourished youngsters from permanent mental and physical damage. Paid as wages, it feeds fami-

lies while men build schools, roads, water systems and other facilities essential to economic development.

Compassion is reason enough to send a holiday contribution. But it is good to know that by our giving we also help the hungry feed themselves in the future. You can mail your check to: CARE Food Crusade, 615 Forsyth building, Atlanta, Ga. 30303.

Paragraphics . . .

One of the biggest troubles with success these days is that its recipe is about the same as that for a nervous breakdown.

Toupees are for men who have nothing to hide.

Some people work like a horse—only when the boss is riding them.

A conservative is usually someone who thinks nothing should be done for the first time.

Too many women would rather mend their husband's ways than his socks.

Ginger ale, according to Ez, is a drink that tastes like your foot feels when it's gone to sleep.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

9 December, 1967

Mr. John I. Anderson
Editor
Transylvania Times
Brevard, N. C.

Dear Mr. Anderson:
You may remember me — if I mention my father's name — Howard Schmidt. As you may know, I (Ann) enlisted in the Women's Army Corp. last year. Since leaving home, I must tell you how much I appreciate receiving my home-town newspaper. It's a good feeling — to at least know how things are on the home front! This newspaper is tremendous, and delightful to read.

My fiance, who is presently serving in Vietnam, thoroughly enjoys reading your paper. I send it to him, after I'm finished, and he reads it, then lets the other men read it. The others enjoy it also, as it brings out many points of interest.

May I please drop a few hints to your readers — concerning items needed by U. S. servicemen in Vietnam. Many items are on the blackmarket, and many who are stationed away from shopping facilities (LPX's, etc.) can't get there every often — if at all. Footpowder (for athlete's foot) is a badly needed item, corn pads, pencils, and joke books. Old magazines — discarded — es-

pecially Reader's Digest, etc., would be greatly appreciated. Also, hand candy, etc. is also appreciated, along with cakes of soap.
Thank you for taking time out to read this letter, and thanks again for a great newspaper.

Sincerely,
Ann E. Schmidt
Sp/5 Ann E. Schmidt
William Beaumont Gen. Hosp.
P. O. Box 603 (Wac. Co.)
El Paso, Texas 79920

December 1, 1967

Mr. John I. Anderson
Transylvania Times
Broad Street
Brevard, North Carolina 28712
Dear Mr. Anderson:

The members of the Brevard Junior Chamber of Commerce would like to express our appreciation for the publicity in the *Transylvania Times* and for the announcements on WPNP on our recent pumpkin sale.

We would also like to thank you at this time for your cooperation in the past.

Very truly yours,
Paul Adkins
Chairman of Pumpkin Sale

PA:vm

Pick of the Press

Old-Fashioned Chapel Hill

(The Chapel Hill Weekly)
There is all this talk about "liberal" Chapel Hill, about the modernists taking over, and about how the world has moved into our midst.

Well, it bears pointing out that Raleigh, which in some ways is the cradle of Tar Heel tradition and custom, held its Christmas parade last Monday, a full three days before folk could so much as get the Thanksgiving turkey on the stove.

Durham has had its downtown Christmas decorations up for a week or so, and others throughout the land seem to be trying to proclaim Yuletide sometime around mid-October.

Here in modern, liberal Chapel Hill, the first strand of tinsel is not yet visible, and our Christmas parade won't take to the streets until Thanksgiving leavings have been warmed over at least thrice.
Talk about old-fashioned . . .

Guest Column

Retired Status Means Nothing To Mr. Varner

BY WALLACE THROWER
(Charlotte Observer)

Some people just won't quit.

A good example is the Rev. Robert M. Varner. Mr. Varner retired last year after 37 years as a Methodist minister, and almost immediately became full-time minister of Steeleberry Methodist Church.

Today he is in Washington, D. C., in his capacity of national chaplain of Veterans of Foreign Wars. He will deliver the invocation and place a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, as part of the VFW's annual Veteran's Day memorial service.

The quiet, white-haired man was elected to the national post in August at the convention of the VFW in New Orleans. During his one-year term he will be in charge of all religious affairs of the group on a nationwide level.

He supervises and assists district and regional chaplains — a position he is well familiar with. He has been chaplain of the North Carolina area for 14 years, and for the last two years he has served as chaplain of the Southern Convention, which includes a 14-state area.

During his years as a minister, Mr. Varner served Methodist Churches in Mooreville, Lexington, Concord and High Point.

After his retirement 18 months ago, he was appointed "on a retired basis" as supply pastor at the Steeleberry Church. Despite his retired status, he's "doing full-time work, the same as any minister would do," he says.

Last month Mr. Varner went to Kansas City, Mo., for the meeting of the VFW's national council, the governing body of the organization. This month there is the memorial service in Washington, and next month he goes to Denver for the annual Founder's Day program marking the group's founding Dec. 3, 1868.

How does his wife, the former Elizabeth Handfield of Pineville, feel about all this activity?

"She's very interested in it," says Mr. Varner. "She's happy for me that I could receive this sort of recognition. Besides, she goes along on most of the trips, unless they're too long."

While he's in Washington he'll visit



SENATOR
SAM ERVIN
★ SAYS ★

WASHINGTON — On December 7, 1967, the Senate unanimously enacted S. 1843, a bill of rights for the American Indian. I am delighted that the members of the Senate gave our first Americans a vote of confidence and paved the way for them to have rights other Americans enjoy.

full protection from either tribal, state, or federal governmental organizations.

Title I of the proposal makes the bill of rights applicable to the actions of tribal governments, and provides that any Indian detained by order of a tribal court is entitled to a writ of habeas corpus in a U. S. Court to test the legality of detention by the tribal court.

Because of my long standing interest, concern, and admiration for the Lumbee and Cherokee Indians in North Carolina, since 1961 the Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights has studied the reservation Indian's lack of constitutional rights. This study has been nationwide.

Title II directs the Secretary of the Interior to recommend to Congress a model code governing the administration of justice by Courts of Indian Offenses on Indian reservations.

This effort represented the first study that the Congress had ever attempted in this field, and the results were startling indeed. Subcommittee investigations showed that the American Indian lives in a legal no-man's land — without

Title III repeals a law which permits states to assume criminal and civil jurisdiction over Indian tribes regardless of the wishes of the tribe. Under this title, any state desiring to assume civil and criminal jurisdiction —
—Turn to Page Seven

THE EVERYDAY COUNSELOR

BY
DR. HERBERT SPAUGH



The debunkers are back with us. They call themselves realists. They are pulling literature and entertainment down into the gutter. Even some theologians promoted the "God is dead" movement.

They come up about once every generation. Some of you can recall that they were rife prior to the Great Depression of the thirties. Then, of course, they debunk Santa Claus. These learned brethren might well read that classic which appeared in the *New York Sun* about the year 1893 (following the Depression of 1892). It was written in reply to the following letter: "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."

"Virginia, your little 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 to 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 our 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 childish faith then, no romance, to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal 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 all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus but that is no sign there is no Santa Claus."

"The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men 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 man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the unseen beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Oh, 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."

Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ who came to show man what God is like. And He demonstrated the virtues of hard work in a carpenter shop.

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