

Happy New Year To All

A New Year begins at midnight Friday.

Yes, the old year is rapidly drawing to a close, and we are all waiting for the birth of the New Year.

Beginning again. To start all over with the freshening spirit of new resolve. This is an urge that rest deep within us. It extends upward and outward to have a voice even in the destiny of nations...

"When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary..."

The Declaration of Independence was a beginning and an establishment of a democratic, orderly government.

And the greatest book of all, the Bible, opens with the words, "In the beginning..."

Abraham Lincoln's simple words

at Gettysburg were, above many things, a beginning and a new devotion of the real nobility of man's brotherhood:

"That this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people and for the people, shall not perish from this earth..."

Let us remember these beginnings of ours. None of them coincided chronologically with a New Year, but apart from the date, each was of itself a new year, a new age, a new point in human progress.

May each of the New Year's 365 days prove richly rewarding in friendships strengthened, success achieved, happiness enjoyed and cherished dreams fulfilled!

This is our sincere New Year's wish for one and all.

Those New Year's Resolutions

The season of the New Year's resolution is almost here. The decade of the 70's will be two years old on December 31. Aside from the usual pledges to reform having to do with smoking, drinking and what-not, it would seem the time has come for all thoughtful citizens to take the pledge in a number of matters beyond the strictly personal—matters that may determine the kind of a nation we will be living in at the end of the 1970's.

A few good resolutions in behalf of the environment, the solvency of government, a higher quality of performance on the job and the rights of the other fellow are certainly

badly needed. The countryside could use less cans and litter. Every level of government could do with less demands from private citizens and groups trying to get something for nothing.

A new dedication to pride in a job well done might do more than anything else to restore a national sense of values. Finally, if everyone abided by a resolution to respect persons and property, the law and order issue would be resolved at a single stroke.

Good resolutions like these could make the difference between just another miserable year and a truly happy New Year.

Cleaning Up A Lake--Electrically

Lake Tahoe, on the California-Nevada border, has for a number of years presented, in a classic manner, the potentially catastrophic conflict between a rising population and natural beauty. The natural beauty of the 200-square-mile lake is world renowned. The water is so crystal clear that objects can be seen at a depth of 100 feet—and it is pure enough to drink. As more and more people flocked to Lake Tahoe each year, pollution threatened the clarity and purity of the lake. Ironically, the preservation of Lake Tahoe is now possible only through the most advanced application of technology and the utilization of electric energy—both of which have been anathema to the antitechnology, antienergy environmental purists.

An advertisement in a leading news magazine of a large electrical equipment supplier describes how one of the most effective sewage treatment systems in the world has been installed at Lake Tahoe. The

water from the system is pumped over an 8,000-foot mountain pass into a reservoir for swimming, fishing and irrigation—only natural mountain streams continue to flow into Tahoe. The advertisement points out, "The system is a good example of how technology can be used to preserve the environment."

This most advanced sewage treatment system could not be operated without electric energy. The nation's hundreds of investor-owned power companies are working to have generating facilities—both nuclear and fossil-fueled—on the line as they are needed to meet the gigantic energy requirements of thousands of clean up jobs like the one at Lake Tahoe.

Paragraphics...

Your children are growing up when they stop asking where they came from and start refusing to say where they are going.

SENATOR

SAM ERVIN

★ SAYS ★

WASHINGTON — The all mighty dollar faces the prospect that it will be officially devalued for the first time since the darkest days of the Depression. President Nixon has agreed that he will begin the complex negotiations that will reduce the dollar's purchasing power in terms of other currencies.

What this means is that the American consumer will soon have to pay more for imported goods and travel abroad. This will be achieved by raising the price of gold which has been pegged at \$35 an ounce for more than three decades. At this stage, it is predicted that the devaluation will be in the range of 7 to 8 percent with the prospect also that other currencies may go up several percentage points to achieve an overall downward change of about 11 percent in the dollar's purchasing power overseas. Insofar as domestic goods are concerned, the dollar's value may remain unchanged.

This monetary decision came about in large measure because of the deteriorating trade position of the United States. The accumulation of deficits by the federal government has brought on inflation and our overseas markets have not expanded as fast as our importation of foreign-made goods. Last year, we imported about \$40 billion worth of non-domestic goods and services. Automobiles, electronics equipment, and clothing accounted for the major share of consumer imports into this country. And, for the first time since 1893, the United States this year will probably run an overall trade deficit (excess of imports over exports).

By devaluing the dollar, the Administration hopes to raise import prices, boost our exports to other nations, and increase employment in this country. The fact is that the shockwaves of an increase in the cost of living to achieve this salutary goal have yet to be felt by con-

sumers and this has probably accounted for the fact that the new policy has produced little outcry. Actually, most Americans are resigned to the inevitability of change in the value of the dollar. Unofficially, it has been going on for several years while we have sought to bolster our currency through stopgap measures.

How this all came about is a subject far too complex to be discussed in a brief commentary. Many governmental policies have contributed to it. But any resume of the matter ought to recount that we have squandered much of our resources in "give aways" in the form of foreign aid and that a vast amount of these expenditures were financed by borrowed moneys. Moreover, our government has also devised the same "painless" way of financing a multitude of new social welfare programs so that we are presently faced with the prospect of incurring a deficit of more than \$32 billion for fiscal 1972. After many years, the national policy of living beyond our revenues has caught up with us.

I have no quarrel with the official recognition that the dollar is worth less and is not so mighty as it once was. Indeed, I have been saying this for many months. I do lament the fact that at a time when we are willing to face up to this reality, the Administration and the Congress have cut revenues through the enactment of the Revenue Act of 1971. I fear that this will add new fuel to the fires of inflation and further weaken the value of the dollar.

I am constrained to say that there is something wrong in such a policy and that there is a lot of truth to what James Reston of New York Times said about it a few days ago: "Maybe in this situation, it is not merely the dollar but the politicians and their principles that have been devalued, and in many ways that's a lot worse."

THE EVERYDAY COUNSELOR

BY

DR. HERBERT SPAUGH



Don't throw that Christmas tree out today. Put it in some water, if you haven't already done so, and let the soft glow happy experiences of Christmas linger on in your home.

We moderns have just gotten too smart too fast. We have developed the juggernaut of the atomic bomb without lifting man's moral and spiritual level up high enough to know how to handle it. Then we have gotten into this hurry habit. We try to hurry everything along—including Christmas. We get our Christmas decorations up so early that they were worn and dried out by the time Christmas arrives.

The frame work of the old Church Year gives us a good pattern for Christmas observance. It commences with the Advent season, four Sundays before Christmas, which calls us to true spiritual preparation for the Christmas season.

Then the Christmas season itself opens on Christmas Eve. In former days this was recognized in the home and the Christmas tree wasn't put up until Christmas Eve... Then it was a delightful surprise for the children, and could be kept up during the whole Christmas season, which continues to Epiphany, January 6th, which commemorates the coming of the Wise Men.

Too many of us try to compress Christmas into one day after a period of feverish preparation. Christmas is a season of twelve days.

According to the Biblical record, the shepherds came to worship the newborn Savior on Christmas Eve. Then the Magi, or Wise Men, came later, after the Holy Family had moved into a house. In home and churches where the nativity scene is arranged correctly, the Magi and camels are not displayed with the other figures until January 6th, which is Epiphany.

If we extend our observance of Christmas over the entire season, we will find it easier to carry the message and blessing of Christmas on over into the New Year. Christmas is the birthday of the Prince of Peace. Men, women, and children all need and desire peace more than anything else. The world desperately needs the spirit of Christ.

Go slow with dismantling that Christmas tree, in taking down your Christmas decorations. Now that the pre-Christmas rush is over, let the true message of Christmas permeate your home and your life.

According to tradition, both the shepherds and the Wise Men, after they had worshipped the Christ child and brought Him gifts, returned to their homes rejoicing in the good news and sharing it with others.

Let this Christmas season be a time of such spiritual enrichment that it will tone up your life for the New Year, and, if you have not already done it, lead you into partnership with the Prince of Peace.

EDITORIAL PAGE

THE TRANSYLVANIA TIMES

PAGE TWO Thursday, December 30, 1971

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Editor's Note: Letters must be brief, signed, typed or written legibly on one side of paper. We reserve the right to reject, edit, or condense. Letters should be received by The Times by Monday morning.)

Black Man's Gifts Brightened Yule

My most memorable Christmas was just before the turn of the century about 1898-99. It was the opening of a package given to my parents by Jim Aiken.

Jim Aiken was the father of the well-known comedienne Moms Mabley. He was a large, Negro man, always immaculately dressed. He owned a store on Main Street in Brevard. In one side of the store he had a barber shop and in the back he had an eating place where home cooked food was served on a long table.

During court weeks the visiting judges and lawyers considered it an honor to have Jim Aiken shave them and eat in his restaurant.

My parents, like a lot of other white families, often traded at his store.

On this particular Christmas after my father and mother had bought the usual

Christmas things, oranges, raisins, candy, etc., he gave them a box "for your children" but not to be opened until Christmas day.

Never will I forget the joys we had when the box was taken from under the tree and opened. Among other things for my sister was a doll and for me a small book of children's stories. After some 70 years the book is still one of my most valuable possessions.

Jim Aiken had a tragic end. When Moms Mabley was a small girl he was accidentally killed fighting a fire in Brevard.

After his death I often wished he could have known the joy and happiness he brought to two white children.

D. H. Orr
Riverside Retreat
Pisgah Forest

Guest Column

Christmas 1925

If You're Well Past 50, You Too Will Remember

Bill Stanber
(Chapel Hill Weekly)

I remember Christmas 1925. The hours it took to crack and pick out enough walnut meats to satisfy the half pint that went into Mom's fruit cake recipe.

Looking forward to my older brother coming home from Carolina. Then being mad at him 20 minutes after he arrived.

Mutilating my fingers trying to shred a fresh coconut, and Mom throwing it out because she didn't like blood in her coconut. Practicing for the Church Christmas program. (The only reason they picked me for a wise man was because I had a bathrobe.)

Lying on the floor thumbing through the Montgomery-Ward catalog, hoping for a movie projector which I didn't get.

Listening to KDKA, Pittsburgh, fade in

and out with Christmas music on our AT-waiver-Kent radio.

Rushing out to start the Delco when the lights started going dim.

Keeping fires going in six fireplaces and two stoves because everybody was back home to spend Christmas Eve night. (It must have been at least three miles to the coal bin and woodshed.)

Mom interrupting the festivities by coming in with a pan of hot, soapy water to scrub up the tobacco juice Pop had unloaded on the hearth.

That wonderful aroma from the kitchen and the gay chatter from the dining room as everyone enjoyed Christmas dinner. Well, almost everyone.

It didn't come off quite that way at the second table.

Pick Of The Press

It Is Responsibility Of News Media And Government To Inform People

Chatham News
Siler City

Two weeks ago the Sheriff's Department reported to the County Commissioners on the operation of its new patrol cars.

The report was made at a regular meeting of the county commissioners by Chief Deputy Currie Willett in the absence of Sheriff C. A. Simmons who was sick.

Willett reported the cars had recorded extremely low gas mileages but he pointed out that there were certain factors causing this, and not the cars themselves.

This newspaper had a reporter at that regular meeting of the board and reported Willett's findings as he presented them.

Although the mileage figures were not figured properly, they were reported by this newspaper just as they were presented to the commissioners.

Last week, Sheriff Simmons explained why the figures showed such a low mileage and noted that now the figures were being compiled properly.

He said he had no complaints whatsoever with the new cars and was pleased with the mileage which he expected to average 10 or better miles per gallon.

It is unfortunate that inaccurate figures were reported to the commissioners although an explanation was made.

Sheriff Simmons showed extreme fairness, we feel, when he made further explanation of the situation.

What is upsetting is the consensus by

some that the figures should not have been made public.

"I thought those gas mileage figures were just for the commissioners," one person said. "Do you think you should have printed them?"

Yes, the editor of this newspaper does feel like the newspaper should have printed those figures.

They should print any such reports made to the county commissioners, town boards, or any other governmental agencies.

It is our responsibility to the people of this area whom we serve.

The people have a right to know and we have an obligation to serve our area as best we can.

The commissioners just as easily could have received a report saying the county was spending more money than it had and taxes were going to have to be doubled next year.

Would those same people who thought the mileage figures were just for city hall or whatever have wanted that type of report concealed?

No one was hiding anything or trying to degrade any product.

It was merely that the cars had not been driven long enough and were not filled with gasoline properly to give accurate mileage figures.

What we need is more concern in what our elected and appointed officials are doing. That's what makes good government.

Insidious Sifter

(Tulsa Tribune)

It wasn't intended that way, but American technology has produced in the past generation the world's greatest electronic babysitter—the television set.

A report to the American Academy of Pediatrics got the sobering statistics in a recent report. According to the study a child spends more hours watching television before he goes to kindergarten than a student spends in the classroom in four years of college.

There's an even more frightening sta-

tistic. That same pre-kindergarten child spends about 64 per cent of his waking time before a television set. Television has educational qualities, you might say. Indeed it has. By the time that child is 14 years old he will have seen 18,000 people killed on television.

But television isn't to blame, of course. And neither is the child. The guilty words must fall on parents who have virtually abdicated the day-in-day responsibilities for what their children do. If you wonder that children grow up with warped senses of value—

—Turn to Page Three

The Transylvania Times

107 Broad St.

Brevard, N. C. 28715

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