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THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

ST. LUKE 2:1-16
And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.
And Joseph also went up from Galilee out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem;

And so it was that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another: Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.
And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.
But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.
And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?

In 1897 the New York Sun received an inquiry from a little girl regarding the existence of Santa Claus. Her letter was referred to Francis P. Church, a member of the editorial staff of the Sun and the masterpiece which we are reproducing below was the result.

"We take pleasure in answering at once, and thus prominently, the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

"Dear Editor—I am 8 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 West Ninety-fifth Street."

"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what 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 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 child-like faith then, no poetry, 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 in 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 that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those 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 that are unseen and unseeable in the world.

"You may tear asunder 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 the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view the picture of the supernatural 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 forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, may ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

Roosevelt Greeting Card
Washington, Dec. 24 (AP)—A simple pencil sketch of a tiny, snowbound farm carries the Christmas greetings of the President and Mrs. Roosevelt this year. The card is a greeting, which carried miniature depictions from previous holiday photographs of the Chief Executive and his wife in some fireside scene.

"HEARTS IN BONDAGE" AT THE STATE THEATRE
The feature picture "Hearts in Bondage" showing at the State Theatre today will surely appeal to most of the people of this section. It is a story everybody is familiar with and the settings for the photoplay were made around Norfolk, Va. The cast is headed by James Dunn, Mae Clark, and David Manners.

The humming-bird of the Amazon grows no larger than an inch and a half.

Today is the Day

By CLARK KINNAIRD
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Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24; Fast of Tebet—Tebet 10,5697 in Jewish Calendar. Morning stars: Mars, Neptune. Evening stars: Mercury, Venus, Saturn, Jupiter, Uranus.

TODAY'S YESTERDAYS
Dec. 24, 1803—Jerome Bonaparte, 19, youngest brother of Napoleon, wed Elizabeth "Betsy" Patterson, storekeeper's daughter in Baltimore. When he took her abroad, Napoleon refused to recognize the marriage, compelled Jerome to divorce her, betrothed him to a princess and made him king of Westphalia.

Betsy bore Jerome a son whose descendants chose both French and American allegiance and live in both countries today. Dec. 24, 1822—Dr. Clement Clarke Moore wrote "A Visit from St. Nicholas," popularly known as "The Night Before Christmas," to amuse the children in his family. It was first published, anonymously and without his permission a year later, and he did not acknowledge its authorship publicly for 22 years. He was ashamed of it!

FRIDAY IS THE DAY
Friday, Dec. 25, a legal holiday in every country of the world except Soviet Russia, Iran (Persia), Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. In the latter two it is observed on a later date in accordance with the old calendar. It was once an illegal holiday in this country: The General Court of Massachusetts enacted a law which stood for 20 years: "Whosoever shall be found observing any such day as Christmas or the like, either for feasting or bearing of labor, feasting or any other way, as a festival, shall be fined 5 shillings."

CHRISTMAS
Dec. 25 was celebrated as a feasting, gift-giving holiday long before the birth of Jesus in 4 B. C. It has no Christian significance until 354, when Pope Julius chose it as the date for observance of Christmas, largely because it coincided with the greatest of pagan festivals—celebration of the Winter solstice. It was the diplomacy of the early church not to forbid customs associated with the old religion, but to consecrate them to Christian uses. The great spring festival of the pagans became Easter. Before the 5th century, the birthday of Jesus was observed variously, on January 6, March 25, April 19-20, May 20, Nov. 17. Even in these times Christmas is still observed in some localities in January.

Any state legislature could abolish Christmas, as Massachusetts once did. Christmas is not a national legal holiday in this country. It's a holiday declared by states. Congress has no power to declare a holiday for anything except the District of Columbia. And, legally, this is not a Christian nation. The "Star of Bethlehem" was probably one of the rare conjunctions of three planets—Jupiter, Mars and Saturn. They appeared in the Constellation Pisces, the Fishes, and the astrologers of the day, who had no telescopes, might easily have mistaken them for a single symbol and construed their bright light to hold special significance for the Jewish people. This triple conjunction happens

What Do You Know About North Carolina?
By FRED H. MAY
1. In what way did the coming of the first train to Raleigh nearly craze some people?
2. How many North Carolinians were killed at the battle of Gettysburg?
3. What was the total amount of retail sales of all North Carolina stores in 1929?
4. What qualifications does the constitution require of a governor?
5. What was the first railroad charter issued in North Carolina?
6. What was the weight of the largest gold nugget ever found in North Carolina?

ANSWERS
1. Paul C. Cameron, of Raleigh, wrote a friend under date of March 26, 1840, "Our rail road is nearly completed. Cars now come daily to the depot, and judging from the noise that we hear at this distance, the good people of the town seem well nigh crazed!"
2. Seven hundred. The total Confederate losses were 2,592 killed and 12,707 wounded. The killed for the states were as follows: North Carolina—700; Georgia—425; Virginia—699; Mississippi—258; South Carolina—217; and Alabama—204.

3. The 28,831 retail stores in the state reported for that year total sales of \$653,419,000.
4. He must have attained the age of 30 years, he must have been a resident of the United States five years and of the state two years before the election. He can hold only four year term within an eight year period, unless he attained the office from the lieutenant-governorship. The same qualifications are required of lieutenant-governor.
5. The Petersburg Railroad in 1830 with a terminus on Roanoke River at Weldon's Orchard. Two years later this was followed by the Portsmouth and Roanoke route also building to Weldon's Orchard, now Weldon.
6. Twenty-eight pounds, found at the Reed mine on the farm of Joel Reed, Cabarrus county in 1803. This nugget was dug up by a Negro laborer. It was valued at \$8,000. Other nuggets found at this mine weighed 16 pounds, 13 1/4 pounds, 9 pounds, 8 pounds and many smaller ones. It was estimated in 1829 that \$10,000,000 of gold had been taken from this mine.

DECEMBER

When back the year you go
8 7 1 3 2 4 5
1 3 1 4 1 5 1 2 4 1 2
2 2 1 2 2 2 2 4 1 2 2
2 7 2 2 2 3 0

The World War 20 Years Ago. Dec. 24-25, 1916—From Feb. to Sept., the monthly average of all Allied and neutral merchant ships sunk of German and Austrian submarines had been 76 ships and 153,521 gross tons. But now, figures showed, the monthly average had risen to 173 ships and 346,405 gross tons, and the campaign had extended with success to the Azores, Canaries and Madeira, where Funchal was bombarded by a converted merchant-ship.

IT'S TRUE
Greenland has no laws against murder, and never has any murders. The size of children is affected by the United States in which they live. "The first conception was not in 1814, but in 1781 when George Rogers Clark was given the power by Virginia to draft men for the expedition in that year against Sandusky and Detroit," says Earle R. Forrest, Washington, Pa. But he overlooks the conception of men in New England for the American wars. The tarpon can swim 80 miles an hour! Queries, reproofs, etc., are welcomed by Clark Kinnaid.

TODAY'S ANNIVERSARIES
1745—Benjamin Rush, physician, Pennsylvania signer of the Declaration of Independence, born near Philadelphia. Died April 19, 1813.
1794—Chauncey Rose, Terre Haute, Ind., philanthropist, founder of its Polytechnic School, born at Wethersfield, Conn. Died Aug. 13, 1877.
1806—Christopher (Kit) Carson, guide, western scout, hunter, one of the advance guard who spanned the continent, born in Madison Co., Ky. Died at Fort Lyon, Colo., May 23, 1868.
1815—Orrington Lunt, Chicago, noted merchant and philanthropist, born at Bowdoinham, Maine. Died April 5, 1897.
1822—Matthew Arnold, English essayist and poet, born. Died April 16, 1888.
1864—Fred E. Smith, Y. M. C. A. worker, moderator of the National Council of Congregational Churches, peace worker, born at Lone Tree, Iowa. Died at White Plains, N. Y. Sept. 3, 1936.
1875—William B. Wherry, University of Cincinnati's noted bacteriologist, born in India (of American parentage). Died in Cincinnati, Nov. 1, 1936.

TODAY IN HISTORY
1803—Marriage of Elizabeth Patterson of Baltimore to Jerome Bonaparte, Napoleon's brother.
1813—"Silent Night, Holy Night" (Stille Nacht) a poem by Joseph Mohr, village priest, first sung this Christmas Eve at Oberndorf, Austria.
1827—General strike in Philadelphia, first begun by carpenters for an 8-hour day; out of which grew first union of organized workmen in city.
1865—Ku Klux Klan originated in Pulaski, Tenn., by six young Confederate soldiers, and intended as a social club.
1925—Closing of holy door in Rome ended Holy Year—next one opening Christmas Eve in 1950.
1929—Police guarded new grave of Father Patrick J. Power at Malden, Mass., scene of pilgrimages and miraculous cures in the preceding months.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS
Harlice Branch, second assistant postmaster-general, born at Polkton, N. C., 37 years ago.
Prof. Robert M. Lovett, famed University of Chicago's retired professor of English, born in Boston, 66 years ago.
Ruth Chatterton, actress, born in New York City, 43 years ago.
Lucezia Bori, soprano, born in Spain, 48 years ago.
Edward G. Lowry of New York, journalist, born at Atlanta, Ga., 60 years ago.
Dr. Thomas R. Garth of the University of Denver, noted psychologist, born at Paducah, Ky., 64 years ago.
George P. Schaller of Chicago, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, born 63 years ago.

TODAY'S HOROSCOPE
Today's disposition is apt to be vacillating and uncertain. There is not the force of yesterday and procastination may be a besetting sin. There is considerable ability and there is no reason why the labors should not be crowned with success, if the mind can only be kept tied down and concentrated.
(December 25, 1936.)

TODAY'S ANNIVERSARIES.
1642—Sir Isaac Newton, famed English scientist, born. Died March 20, 1727.
1798—Edward T. Taylor, Boston's noted Methodist chaplain of seamen making port there, born at Richmond, Va. Died April 5, 1871.
1818—William H. Herndon, Lincoln's law partner and biographer, born at Greensburg, Ky. Died March 18, 1891.
1821—Clara Barton, Civil War nurse, founder-organizer of the National Red Cross in the United States, born at Oxford, Mass. Died April 12, 1912.
1829—Patrick S. Gilmore, noted American bandmaster, born in Ireland. Died in St. Louis, Sept. 24, 1892.
1840—Princess Agnes E. Salm-Salm, the American-born wife of a German soldier noted for her attempt to save Emperor Maximilian in Mexico, nurse in the Franco-German war, born in Franklin Co., Vt. Died in Germany.

TODAY IN HISTORY.
1776—Washington crossed the Delaware at night, amid snow and sleet and ice, to surprise British at Trenton.
1868—Pres. Andrew Johnson proclaimed full amnesty for those engaged in the late rebellion.
1914—English and German troops fraternized in trenches this first Christmas of the war.
1925—Marshal Chang-tso-lin (father of the rebel Chinese marshal who lately kidnaped the Chinese war lord)



having captured a rebel leader and his wife, mutilated them both and then had them killed.

1925—Maj. Chester P. Mills awarded \$25,000 Durrant prize for best plan to make prohibition effective.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS.
Robert L. Ripley of "Believe It or Not" fame, born at Santa Rosa, Cal., 43 years ago.
David Lawrence of Washington, D. C., journalist, born in Philadelphia, 48 years ago.
Ferdinand A. Slicco, Chief U. S. Forest Service, born at Columbus, Ga., 54 years ago.
Gladys Swarthout, singer born at Deepwater, Mo., 32 years ago.
Kathryn Sellers of Washington, D. C., lawyer, born at Broadway, O., 66 years ago.
Paul Manship of New York, famed sculptor, born at St. Paul, Minn., 51 years ago.
Gen. Evangeline Booth of London, World Salvation Army head, born 71 years ago.

TODAY'S HOROSCOPE.
Today gives a profound mind endowed with prudence and foresight. In some special way, today's native will show special ability and fame will be the reward; not only a reputation at home, but scattered broadcast over the world. Financially, it is not always so successful.

New York, Dec. 24.—Interview With a Chinese Laundryman:
Q. What do you think of the kidnaping of General Chiang Kai-shek by General Chang Hsueh-liang?
A. I am glad you asked. You might have gone to someone of my countrymen whose talents, while far greater than mine, at the same time would not have descended to the low level of linguist. I am thus able to put my poor thoughts into your beautiful language for I have made a study of it for twenty-four years. General Chiang Kai-shek is the savior of my people, while his jailor, General Chang Hsueh-liang is a wicked man.
Q. Do you think it was a genuine kidnaping? Or was it the manifestation of some intrigue previously arranged?
A. Nothing in China happens as it seems to happen. Thus the Chinese with a philosophical turn of mind learns to accept everything at face value. This is not as illogical as it sounds. We Orientals try to avoid waste mental effort. They tell me General Chiang Kai-shek was abducted. Did he arrange it himself? That is none of my business. I know he is essentially an honest man, with a pure heart.
Q. But what about Kai-shek's honesty, if, as you admit is possible, he deceived his people as to the true status of his imprisonment by Hsueh-liang and then kept the people in the dark as to the true nature of the negotiations which followed?
A. I did not say I suspected General Chiang Kai-shek, if I may boldly remind you, of any such thing. I merely pointed out that in China things are rarely what they seem. If Kai-shek seems to have been kidnaped, he very probably was not kidnaped. Do you see, sir? The great general surely has a true heart.
Q. Not very clearly, I am afraid. What accounts for your admiration for Kai-shek?
A. I sense in him a great leader of my people, a man of absolute integrity. Did he not accept the offers

WANT ADS

NOTICE—MOTOR OIL 10-15-25c QT. at 847 Garnett Street. Come here and save. Greases, patching tires. Also white gas for cleaning purposes, lamps, stoves and cars. 24-3.
SECOND HAND TIRES OF ALL sizes and makes. See us before trading for new tires and let us save you money with Firestone. Carolina Service Station, Firestone Distributors, Garnett St., at Andrews Ave. 12-1f

LADIES TRY BAKER'S FOR your next full soles or 1-2 soles, we sew them only. No nails. Hats cleaned and blocked 39. Call Baker's Phone 42-J. 26-1f

WANTED TYPING AND MULTIGRAPHING work. Miss Gussie Black-nall. Phone 568-J. monthlies

TURKEYS — WE HAVE A FEW turkeys left. Billie Roy Service Station, Norlina Road. 21-4f

STRAYED FROM MY HOME — Liver colored setter about 8 months old. Liberal reward for return to O. V. Faulkner, route 1. 23-4f

RADIOS, ELECTRIC, WINDCHARGER and battery, also electrical supplies. Modern Electric Appliance Co., across from Busy Bee Cafe. sat-tue-thurs.

LOST BILL FOLD CONTAINING \$73.00—23 cents, one twenty one ten and four fives. \$25.00 reward for return. Thos. E. Falkner, 225 Davis street. 24-1f

SEE OUR SELECTIONS OF gifts for the entire family at prices you can't beat. Tricycles, wagons, scooters, and dolls at reduced prices. Special lamp and shade combination 97c. Home Furniture Exchange, 101 N. Garnett Street. Phone 80. 18-6f.

READ THIS AND SEE WHY crowds are always at Student Center. We sell gigantic milk shakes, 5c; delicious toasted sandwiches, 3c; cigarettes, two packages, 25c. 24-1f

WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT you can get rid of the itch and other forms of skin trouble without advertising the fact by using Tolson's Scabeknox. It is odorless and every jar is guaranteed. Two sizes 75c and \$1.00. Sold only by Peoples Drug Store, Henderson, N. C., manufacturing and dispensing druggists and chemists.

PHONE 820—THE PEOPLES GROC. and Meat for quality and service. Your patronage appreciated. We carry a full line of choice wines and beers, nuts and mixed candies. Ask for James. 332 Winder street. Free Delivery. 10-24 f

FOR SALE
108 acre farm near Townsville. 72 acre farm near Hicks Crossroads. 150 acre farm near Hicks Crossroads. 390 acre Young land near McMillan place. Store building on Garnett Street occupied by A. & P. Tea Co. Al. B. Wester Phone 139-J.

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JOEL T. CHEATHAM, Pres.

ANSWERS TO TEN QUESTIONS

See Back Page

- 1. Kentucky.
2. Mrs. Julia M. Peterkin.
3. 1898.
4. Ishtar.
5. A section of a circular cone made by a plane parallel to an element or generatrix.
6. Alexander the Great.
7. Max Baer.
8. Scottish writer.
9. The whale.
10. The race is exclusively for three year olds.