

**A War Time Need---  
A Peace Time Necessity  
is Merchandise that is  
Comfortable, Economical,  
Modest, Efficient,  
and Becoming.**

We have these fine features all combined in our Clothing for Men and Boys.

Men's Blue Serge Suits, \$30.00  
value for ..... \$20.00  
Men's Gray Serge Suits, \$25.00  
value for ..... \$18.00  
Men's Black Serge Suits, \$30.00  
value for ..... \$25.00



**BOYS' SUITS**

Boys' Norfolk Suits, \$6.50 to \$15.00  
CAPS to match suits, all wool,  
from ..... 75c to \$2.50

Remember this is the store that sells everything you have to buy, AND, boys, everything you have to sell.

**Co-operative Mercantile Company**

"THE FAMILY STORE"

WE ARE THE LEADING GENERAL STORE FOR UNION COUNTY

**PEOPLE**

**Who SAVE Money**

have no fear of the wolf at the door—it never appears. The savings just keep on growing, and growing, until there is plenty of money in sight for everything.

Why not get in that class yourself—begin saving YOUR money—and keep on saving something every day, and every week, and every year? You will be surprised at the rapidity with which the account will grow, for we pay interest.

**The Savings, Loan and Trust Co.**

R. B. Redwine, President. H. B. Clark, Cashier.



Use pure drugs only at all times. We can furnish them.

**A Warning to Sick People**

If you are ill you probably need medicine, prescribed by a doctor. Nature must be assisted. But only pure medicines can help nature. We carry that kind. Especially at this time, when the war has prevented the importation of certain drugs, you must be sure that you buy pure drugs. Our reputation cannot be questioned in this respect.

**English Drug Co.**

"The Store That Always Has It"

Phone 39 Monroe, N. C.

**We Are Prepared to Save You Money**

on Fancy Groceries, Country Produce, Meal, Oats, Corn, Mill Feed, Sweet Feed, Dairy Feed, Cotton Seed Meal, Hulls, Hay, Etc.

Our prices are right. Phone us your orders.

**BENTON'S CASH STORE,**

Phone 178. The Store That Appreciates Your Trade.

**CELEBRATING DEC. 25**

**Yuletide Festival Once Marked  
Return of Sun God.**

**Observance of Day is Habit of More  
Than Twenty Centuries' Standing—  
"Yule" Means Sun—Community  
Christmas Tree.**

Celebrating the 25th of December is a habit of more than twenty centuries' standing. It is a remnant of that good nature of our early ancestors, which has disappeared to a great extent with the irritating problems of civilization. All the rest of the year, writes Frederic J. Haskin, we fight and grab things away from each other and wear our nerves to a frazzle, but at Christmas we close our commercial exchanges, eat tremendous quantities of food and send presents and postal cards to our friends and relatives bearing our good wishes. At least this is what we are supposed to do. Many people do a great deal more in the way of community Christmas trees, visits to the hospitals and baskets for the poor, and still others regard the whole thing as absurd and consider abstinence from Christmas gifts a sign of strength of character.

Long before the birth of Christ our ancestors in northwestern Europe celebrated the 25th of December, which marked the passing of the winter solstice or the return of the sun in the heavens after conquering the powers of darkness. That was the day of the sun worshipers. The problem of the universe was just beginning to puzzle and our ancestors figured it out in a straightforward manner that was not half bad for supposed savages. All plant life, it was observed, depended on the sun for its existence, and all animal life depended on plant life, so that the power of the sun was greatly respected and it was personified in the person of the god Thor. Thor was watched with considerable interest, since there was always some doubt as to whether he would survive the winter solstice. Hence the feasting and merrymaking when he continued to shine clear and strong in the heavens.

**Meaning of the Word "Yule."**

Besides Thor there were numerous gods who lived in the branches of trees. Therefore the people gathered mistletoe boughs and holly branches and put them in conspicuous positions in their houses, where they might easily be seen from the outside, in the hope that some wandering god would take a fancy to them and take up his residence among the red berries. In Germany the early Huns chopped down the evergreens and brought them indoors for the same purpose. The burning of the yule log and the term yuletide are survivals of these early December festivals whose influence is still to be seen today in our own Christmas celebrations. "Yule" means sun.

With the dawn of Christianity and the conversion of the sun worshipers, the birth of Christ was substituted as the cause for celebration and the festivities became religious demonstrations. The people still gormandized, trimmed their houses with holly branches and gave presents, but the 25th of December usually saw them comfortably seated in church.

**Community Christmas Tree.**

Among the finest Christmas institutions today is the community Christmas tree, which originated in Madison square, New York, five years ago and since then has spread to communities all over the United States. The community "Tree of Light" is usually planted in a central location in the city, trimmed with balls and ornaments and lighted with electricity. Citizens are organized into committees to collect donations for the tree and employ bands of musicians to play Christmas carols and hymns. In Baltimore last year groups of men and boys carrying holly-trimmed lanterns walked through the streets singing and greeting each pedestrian with "Merry Christmas!"

While every year there is an increasing number of persons who decide to "be sensible" and send cards in the place of Christmas presents, the average person lacks the courage to face his family empty-handed on Christmas morning. But Christmas is a spirit, which you either have or haven't. If you haven't it, the holidays are only a bore; on the other hand, if you allow yourself to become enthusiastic there is really a lot of fun to be derived from it, even though you're lonely and away from home. Last year a traveling man who was compelled to spend Christmas away from his family in a strange city gathered a number of little tenement waifs together, took them into a large restaurant and treated them all to a Christmas dinner. "I never had so much fun in my life," declared the traveling man.

**The Christ-Babe.**

We give the Christ-babe his cradle in our hearts, and afterwards he sets up his cross in our hearts, and in our hearts he plants his throne.

**A Real Good Fellow.**

A real good fellow is a man who keeps something of the Christmas spirit all the year round.

**Safety First**

Don't allow children to touch the lighted tree.

Don't remove presents from the tree while it is lighted.

Don't leave anything highly inflammable near the tree.

Don't set the tree up haphazardly. Be sure it is securely fastened so it will not tip over easily.

Don't blow a candle out. The flame might be carried against a dry branch and set fire to the whole tree.

Don't fasten any tinsel ornament near any lights on the tree. If one should ignite the blaze would spread all over the tree.

Don't forget to fasten the candles securely to the tree if candles are used. Also avoid placing them under another branch.

Always have a wet sponge convenient to the tree. A candle often burns up too quickly, and the sponge could be used to extinguish it.

Don't leave the tree until you are sure the lights are all extinguished, and never trust the work of extinguishing the lights to children.

Don't light the tree after it has stood in a warm room for three or four days. It becomes so dry it will burn almost as quickly as powder.

Don't trim the tree with cotton to represent snow. Use an asbestos preparation which looks like cotton. This applies particularly to those who illuminate their trees with candles.

Don't light the trees with anything but electric bulbs, if possible. Where it is impossible to use electricity never leave the lighted tree alone and never allow children in the room unless accompanied by a grown-up person.

Don't set the tree up near upholstered furniture. The danger of sparks setting it afire is great. A piece of such furniture might smolder for hours without being discovered—probably not until the family has been in bed some time.

**VALUE IS ONLY SENTIMENTAL**

**Mistletoe One of Most Greatly Admired of Evergreen Plants But Is Practically Worthless.**

Perhaps none of our evergreen plants is more loved and admired than the mistletoe, with its modest yellowish-green leaves and its clusters of small white berries. For centuries it has been considered an important feature of the Christmas decoration. Yet, in regard to the real value of the plant, the mistletoe is practically worthless.

It is a small shrub comprising more than four hundred known species, mostly tropical and parasitic. In the eastern and southern parts of the United States the common mistletoe grows on various species of deciduous trees. In Europe, it seems to prefer the apple-tree to any other host.

It sends its roots through the bark of the tree and draws sustenance from the sap. However, it is only a partial parasite, for it has green leaves which enable it to do some work in making food for itself.

In some species of mistletoe the flowers are showy, while those of other species are more modest. The pistils and stamens do not grow within the same flower, or even on the same plant, but the pistillate flowers grow on one plant and the staminate on another.

The berries contain flat seeds, surrounded by a very sticky substance, from which birdlime may be made. This birdlime is spread upon places frequented by birds, to impede their movements and render them easily captured. In a similar way it may be used to snare ground-squirrels and other small animals. This is the only practical use that has ever been made of the mistletoe.

The plant grows very slowly, and "not until it is four years old does it bear its first white, translucent berries. However, it drains the vital juices necessary to the growth of the tree, and when many bunches find lodgment upon the same tree, they ultimately cause its decline and death." —Shining Light.

**The Circle of Divine Love.**

Christmas reverses creation. One gave us man in the image of God, while the other gave us God in the image of man. The two complete the circle of divine love. That the gods should come down in the likeness of man was long recognized as a universal possibility. And yet Christmas stands alone. It has no counterpart in all the recorded manifestations of deity. The story is natural when one recalls of whom it was written. That a man like Jesus should have entered the world by a special door is not strange. He was different from all others. The wine press of his life no one could tread but himself. That night belongs to no calendar. The very stars wore their brightest faces, when from before the depths of space God drew aside his curtains of richest blue. Jesus did not come alone.

**Y. M. C. A. Conducts  
Classes While Men  
Wait For Discharge**

Atlanta, Ga., Dec.—While the soldiers and sailors in the various camps of the country are waiting to be demobilized, they will be given an opportunity to take advantage of enlarged educational programs which will be operated in all camps by the Y. M. C. A.

In the Southeastern department, which includes the states of Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina, Prof. A. M. Souby, department educational director, has advised a plan to better prepare the soldiers for civilian life when they are discharged from the service.

Under Mr. Souby's new program of educational activity, the number of classes in various subjects will be increased and speakers will be exchanged by the different camps, all of them

discussing questions of importance to the men attending the classes. Special historical topics will be selected for discussion, and speakers will be borrowed from schools and colleges to speak in the camps and cantonments.

It is also planned by the Y. M. C. A. to keep in touch with the men even after they leave the service. This will be done by correspondence, and will be undertaken in the cases of illiterates and naturalized Americans unfamiliar with the English language. The city Y. M. C. A. secretaries will aid in this work.

Since the signing of the armistice the duties of the camp soldiers are not so strenuous, and they naturally have more time at their disposal. This time will be used to advantage by attending the new Y. M. C. A. classes.

**Peace For Life  
Pleasure Forever.**

To over three hundred thousand homes, colleges and churches that are now equipped with one of the world's greatest pianos, the wonderful celebrated KIMBALL piano is their choice. This is one of the largest piano factories in the world. The output of this factory is more in one year than many smaller factories will build in fifty years. The KIMBALL piano is known and used the world over, and this factory is worth millions of dollars; and while small factories have been forced to advance their prices from \$75 to \$150 the Kimball piano is being sold here in your county with only \$25 to \$50 advance of 4 years ago when your cotton was selling at 6c. How can this be done? J. T. Hollaway is a factory dealer, and not an agent, and buys in car lots. He has just received a car of fine Kimball pianos. Have you had J. T. Hollaway or any agent of his ringing your door bells and worrying you at all hours for the past 7 years? No, No! Yet J. T. Hollaway has sold over 50 cars of Pianos, Organs and Talking Machines since coming to Monroe, and not a dissatisfied customer, and we do not bribe your music teacher by giving her \$10 or \$25 to tell you the Kimball Piano is the best. The greatest artists in the world use the Kimball Piano, the Redpath Chataqua uses no other make. This Kimball piano will stay in tent for years and stand the rainy weeks and have no trouble with your keys sticking like other makes. If you want to save money, get catalogue and prices from J. T. HOLLAWAY PIANO COMPANY, Monroe, N. C.

**Peace and Prosperity**

With the return of peace a period of great prosperity may be expected.

A connection with a strong bank is essential to the success of every business at this time.

**The First National Bank of Monroe**

with resources of ample proportions is able to take care of the needs of its depositors and invites the accounts of farmers and business men, assuring them an absolutely satisfactory banking service.

**The First National Bank of Monroe**

J. W. Laney, Cashier. J. H. Lee, President.

D. J. E. Ashcraft, Vice-President.

**Quit Guessing!**

Guessing at the strength and purity of your food stuffs is dangerous.

Come to the store that sells only guaranteed

**PURE AND FULL STENGTH  
GROCERIES.**

Our stock is bought with a view to benefitting our customers. We positively will not handle an inferior article of food if we know it. We use every means to get the best, knowing that it is the cheapest for our customers in the long run.

You may place confidence in the groceries you buy from us. Quit guessing and know.

**PARKER & MOORE**

Luther Williams Old Stand—East Franklin Street.