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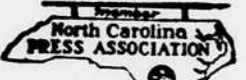
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CHRISTMAS, 1944

The people of the United States celebrate Christmas, 1944, in the consciousness that sons, husbands and others are engaged in bitter warfare against the enemies of the nation.

It is a sobering realization but, nevertheless, the great Christian holiday will mark again the hope of mankind for a more glorious day. Designed to honor the Prince of Peace it brings to us all an opportunity to give expression to happy hopes and to participate in the festivities that carry joy to the hearts of children.

Even a people at war can turn momentarily to gaily decorated trees, multi-colored lights, holly wreaths and sprigs of mistletoe, exchange gifts and friendly greetings. These Christmas costumes, this year will be tinged with an overtone of sadness over the absence of loved ones whose memory add to the meaning of the Christmas season.

Peculiarly sacred to the children the present Christmas must not fail to reach the growing hearts of millions of little boys and girls. This is their great holiday, the day of magical gifts and supreme happiness. Let all adults have a hand in making Christmas real to children. In so doing they will share the great joy of the celebration.

In Christian countries the holiday has a special religious significance, commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. It is appropriate for us, in the midst of our festivity, to remember the natal day of the Christian Savior by observing its religious significance. Many churches will have special services and all will feature special programs on the Sunday before the 25th.

Families with members overseas, facing the enemy, will reverently pray for the safety of their men. No finer day for supplication can be found than the one which marks the advent of the Prince of Peace who expounded the principles of life for which our soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen fight. With our appeals to the Master of Man will be our hope that next Christmas will see millions of families reunited.

MUST WORK TOGETHER

The future peace of the world depends, in a large degree, upon the willingness of the people of the United States to cooperate with the governments of the other United Nations.

If, when Germany is whipped and Japan folds up, each of the United Nations goes out for every possible advantage, without regard to the welfare of other nations, the world will witness a cat-and-dog fight along economic lines. It will be only one step removed from battle.

We have been much impressed by the fact that various agencies are expressing concern about the welfare of enemy peoples without exhibiting much worry over the fate of the peoples of countries that have fought on our side.

Surely, if we have been able to cooperate with the British, the Russians and others, to prosecute a war to victory we will be anxious to continue the same relationship in the years of peace that follow. This will be especially important because of the necessity that our allies speedily recover from their war exertions.

The main business of the nation, after Germany is defeated, will be to proceed in such a manner as to convince the Japanese, the next time they want to start a sudden war, to steer clear of the United States.

When Woodrow Wilson went to Europe in 1918, he did not believe that millions of American fighting men would be there in 1944.

In case our readers have any doubts whatever, we now wish each and everyone a merry Christmas.

One Friend To Another...

As good a friend . . . as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town or borough, in the good old world"—A Christmas Carol.

These words of Charles Dickens express exactly what this newspaper tries to be to the people of this community.

Because it is during the season of Christmas that the strength of friendships is most evident we choose now as the time to express our resolve to continue to be worthy of the friendship you have shown us.

In turn we wish for you the most Merry Christmas you have ever had. Despite the anxiety and worry which the war has brought to many of our homes in the past year, we urge you to remember that the bells of Christmas were ringing long before the warriors of wrong rose up and they will be ringing still when the scars of this generation's conflict are healed and forgotten.

Make faith in such thought your closest companion during this Christmas season.

Let friendship and faith then keynote our Christmas this year.

With such solid foundations our wish for you is certain to become reality—

A Merry Christmas



WHO READS THE BIBLE?

Thirteen per cent of American women and six per cent of American men make it a daily practice to read their Bibles, according to a nation-wide survey just completed by the American Institute of Public Opinion.

The survey revealed what one would naturally suspect, that interest in the Bible appears to increase with age. Of people over fifty years of age, fourteen per cent read their Bibles daily.

The Institute is rather liberal in its definition of a Bible-reader, taking its survey on the basis of individuals who have taken time out one or more times during the year to read the Bible. By this test, sixty-two per cent of the people of this country qualify in 1944.

The percentage varies in certain sections of the United States. South of the Mason-Dixon Line, the percentage is seventy-nine; in the West Central area, it is sixty-nine; but in New England and the Middle Atlantic region, the percentage is the lowest.

The test gives us figures for those who read their Bibles daily and then jumps to the other end of the scale, to those who read them one or more times during a year. This is a wide variation. Even with this comparatively light requirement, thirty-eight per cent of our people cannot qualify, and, it must be presumed, do not read their Bibles at all.

We have repeatedly stressed our belief that every individual can study the Bible with profit. We are not among those who believe that the Holy Book can be utilized as a sort of mystic fortune-teller, to give the answer to every materialistic question, but we are quite satisfied that its reading will develop the spiritual growth of individuals.

The Bible, according to the Christian belief, provides the basis for understanding the divine plan for man. It is, in our opinion, designed to reveal the truth of the spiritual world and develop spirituality among men. This, in turn, will help men solve worldly problems.

If you appreciate what fighting men are doing, buy a bond if possible; if not, do some kind of war work.

The world will be excellent when nobody violates the law.

BETHLEHEM

Toward the little town of Bethlehem,
O'er the lone Judean hills,
The shepherds stood at silent gaze,
Their hearts with wonder filled.

With staff in hand, on weary feet,
They travelled from afar;
There the 'Promised One' to greet,
'Neath that bright celestial star.

There, to that lowly manger bring,
All homage, love and praise;
And crown their humble 'Peasant King'
Supreme, through endless days.

For unto them a 'King' was born,
As from the skies there came again,
The angel chorus; that bright morn,
"Peace on earth, good will toward men."

The eastern wise men, bearing gifts,
Their frankincense laid down;
But from the humble shepherd's hands
'He' received his earthly crown.

From Bethlehem to Calvary,
His rugged pathway lay;
And there 'He' left to us the gift
For which we honor 'Him' today.
—David P. Allison.

CHRISTMAS IN HOLLAND

For the first time in four years, the children of The Netherlands celebrated the arrival of St. Nicholas in mass gatherings on December 5th, the day that the saint of childhood regularly arrives in Holland.

During German occupation, children were compelled to celebrate their festive day in their homes but this year, teachers led their charges to parties where British soldiers delivered army rations, toys and everything else they could scrape up to assist the saint in the performance of his traditional function.

FLASH LIGHT BATTERIES

Retail ceiling price of 10 cents each has been established by the Office of Price Administration for more than twenty million surplus United States Signal Corps BA-30, size D flashlight batteries to be sold by the Government for civilian use. A wholesale ceiling 6½ cents each was also established.

Nations, like people, try to get as much as possible for as little as possible.

Holy Night





1944

The Season of Christmas

**EVER
THAT SAME
STAR**

★ The wise men saw it over the hills of old Judea . . . it glows in the Christmas sky tonight, though clouds may obscure the heavens. It is a beacon of hope in a world in which there is ever so much room for improvement. Its spirit travels around this earth, encouraging, sustaining, and beautifying.

Our Christmas greeting to every man, woman and child in this community . . . a greeting as warm and hearty—we hope—as if it were made to each in person with a friendly smile and a shake of the hand.

Merry Christmas!

Smith Furniture Company

Good and Bad Furniture



**FROM US
TO YOU!**

† † Dusk . . .
Christmas Eve . . .
children moving
about stealthily,
wide-eyed and expectant . . . you
know the signs.

Christmas is here, let us all be merry, for it comes but once a year.

With gratitude for your kind favors during 1944 we send you heartiest Christmas greetings.

ROYAL CAFE

AT FIRST SIGN OF A

COLD

USE **666**

Cold Preparations as directed

Read the advertisements. It pays

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administratrix of the Estate of Charles L. Norwood, deceased, late of McDowell County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned Administratrix at Old Fort, N. C., on or before the 18th day of November, 1945, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This the 16th day of November, 1944.

MRS. JEMINA M. NORWOOD,
Administratrix of the Estate of Charles L. Norwood, deceased.