

THE MARION PROGRESS

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY THE
MCDOWELL PUBLISHING CO.
MARION, N. C.

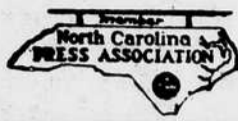
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Entered at the Postoffice at Marion, N. C.,
as second class matter

SUBSCRIPTION RATE

One year \$2.00
Strictly in Advance



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

It's Christmas time again. Smiles and tears are nearer the surface, and nostalgia of childhood joys somehow renews within us a child-like faith and hope and love for all the world.

Perhaps the reason the Wise Men were wise was that they had this strangely reassuring belief. For theirs was a day of taxes and terrors and tribulations, of pestilence and tyranny and war. Yet their welcome to the Prince of Peace reflected an eternal conviction that Darkness cannot last forever.

And so this Season, as we forget worries and deprivations and—if only for a little—lose ourselves in the happiness of others, may we reaffirm their faith.

THOUGHTS ABOUT PEACE

As the Christmas season approaches, the minds of our people naturally turn to thoughts of peace—"Peace on earth and goodwill toward men." And yet, thoughtful people realize that there is no peace in the world.

Three or four hundred years ago, there might have been some excuse for a nation to isolate itself from the rest of the world and attempt to insulate itself from the troubles which beset other peoples. However, the development of modern civilization, and particularly, the rapid strides made in communications and transportation, have altered the conditions under which men live. We must accept the fact that we cannot live, prosper or develop apart from the other people in the world.

Even in the face of the present crisis in world affairs, the people of the United States look forward to a day when wars shall cease. Recognizing warfare as an evil to humanity, they resolutely determine that, as far as we as a nation are concerned, we will do nothing to plunge the world into another disastrous conflict.

Just as it takes two to make a quarrel, it requires the cooperation of all to maintain peace. Regardless of the peaceful intentions of any people, the continuance of peace depends upon neighbor-nations.

We are very anxious for peace in the world. We will pass any number of resolutions affirming our love of peace. We want peace, we hope for peace and we are ready to pray for peace. But, in general, the people of this country are not ready to pay the price for peace.

What is the price that we must pay for world peace? In part, it involves the surrender of extreme nationalism, a willingness to cooperate with other peoples, a tolerant understanding of the problems of others and a desire to help other people by sharing with them the fruits and blessings of civilization.

"IT WON'T HAPPEN TO ME"

In reading about accidents that kill other people, we are apt to dismiss the matter with a careless, "It won't happen to me."

Maybe not, but just the same, it might be a good idea to remember that the victim of the fatal accident was just as confident before the accident and as irrevocably dead afterward.

Not so long ago, a young woman, using a health lamp, took a sun bath in her bathtub. Somehow, there was a contact and she was shocked. Later she was found dead.

This illustrates the danger of using electrical appliances in and around the bathtub. There is danger that the cord will become wet, thus charging the water, or that the individual touching the cord will receive a serious shock.

The moral is to be extremely careful how you handle the cord that comes with your electrical appliances. Be on guard when water is around. Do not handle electrical plugs, etc., with wet hands or while standing on wet floors or wet ground. Watch yourself and you may live longer!

There is no law against giving your son or daughter, away from home, a Christmas present in the form of a year's subscription to The Marion Progress.

DON'T LET DEATH TAKE YOUR HOLIDAY!

The wreath is a traditional symbol of Christmas. In windows and on front doors of homes all over America, the bright red and green of holly will signify the joyous festivities of the holiday season.

For Christmas should be a time of happiness. Every family looks forward to the joy and celebration that the holiday period should bring. But every year thousands of families in our country see Christmas turned into suffering and tragedy because of needless and preventable accidents.

The National Safety Council points out that hundreds of persons are killed and thousands more injured by accidents during the Christmas-New Year's holiday season—the year's peak accident period. The No. 1 killer is traffic, and its death toll on Christmas Day is two or three times the annual daily average.

To keep death from taking your holiday—or the holiday of your loved ones—is a simple thing. It costs nothing, takes no time and requires only a little effort. It only means being aware of the extra holiday hazards and of the extra caution, common sense and courtesy needed to overcome them.

Refuse to drink if you are driving. Wait for the light to change. Yield the right-of-way. Discard a string of Christmas tree lights with worn insulation. Throw away gift wrappings as soon as presents are opened.

These are little things—but they pay off big in holiday happiness. These little extras go a long way toward keeping the lights on in your home and the red and green holly wreath on your door.

They will preserve for you and your loved ones the joy and delight that is America at Christmas.

SALE OF SEALS FINANCES WAR ON T. B.

The continued sale of Christmas Seals means the waging of incessant warfare against the scourge of tuberculosis. It ought to be comforting to every buyer of these stickers in McDowell county to know that he, or she, is making a definite contribution to a great cause. Some of the money that is given locally may mean the saving of human lives in this community.

At this time of the year when everybody is looking forward to the happy Christmas season, it should be easy to make a purchase list so convenient and useful. If you have not already bought your supply of Christmas Seals for 1949, buy them today.

The organization that promotes the sales of Christmas Seals and Bonds throughout the United States is doing a great work, made possible by the men and women who conduct the sales campaign and those who carry out the routine, but important, battle against the disease that has threatened man for many years.

You can show your appreciation of their efforts by making a purchase of particular usefulness at Christmas time, with the knowledge that you are participating in a worthy campaign for health.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

When one thinks of veterans finishing their education under the GI Bill of Rights he probably thinks almost entirely of returned soldiers, sailors, or marines studying in college.

There is a feeling, then, of bumping into a very solid fact on reading that, according to the Veterans Administration, nearly 500,000 veterans of World War II have used their benefits to obtain not a college education or to go to high school but rather to complete their elementary education.

The figures are a reminder that, notwithstanding the immense spread of education in America, there still are millions of persons in the country for whom completion of the eighth grade is an unattained goal. It speaks well for these men and women that they have been willing, even in maturity, to go back to learn some of the lessons of the pre-high school grades.

Through them the benefit to the nation is likely to be fully proportionate to the gains made by others in high schools, universities, or, graduate studies.—Christian Science Monitor.

"The statistics of every state show a greater amount of crime and misery attributable to the use of ardent spirits than to any other source." Who said this? The Supreme Court of the United States—none other.

Many a man who boasts of his intelligence and culture is scared to death by a new idea.

Life is short, but there is always time enough for courtesy.—Emerson.

The best way to subscribe to The Progress is to send a check to the office today.

Support the hospital drive.

OUR DEMOCRACY—by Mat



ROSES - ALL AMERICAN ROSES THROUGH THE YEARS

By Mrs. Annie Miller Pless

The rose has been a favorite in art and poetry from ancient times. The rose is a favorite flower in our own country. The rose was probably a native of Persia, whence it was introduced to Europe by Alexander the Great. The oldest cultivated species of the rose comes from Persia and Northern India. Persia has its national flower the Cherokee rose.

In Rome, rose petals were used in the manufacture of medicines. In modern times they are used for perfume. Attar, an essential oil, is pressed from the petals of the rose; commonly known as attar of roses.

The rose was imported to England from the Orient. It is the official flower of the houses of Lancaster and York in England; and the states of New York, Iowa, the District of Columbia, and Georgia.

The rose grows wild in practically all temperate regions and on the mountain heights in the tropics. Roses flourish particularly well in mild climates like those of Southern France and the Pacific-coast regions of the United States. In Portland, Oregon, which is preeminently a "Rose City," a day in June is set aside each year for the celebration of the carnival of roses, and this custom is followed in other cities of the West.

The rose belongs to the family, Rosaceae. In this family of plants are about 2,000 species of trees, shrubs, and herbs, and it is represented by some of our most valuable fruits and loveliest flowers. To the rose family belongs a large proportion of the commercial fruits of the temperate regions, notably, the apple, pear, and quince; the berries, and the peach, apricot plum and cherry. Its numerous ornamental plants include, besides the rose, the meadowsweet, the mountain ash, and the hawthorn.

Centuries of floriculture have developed an immense number of varieties of the rose which are widely grown in temperate regions. Some twenty species of wild roses grow in North America.

America has contributed few roses to the great list of varieties popularly known today. Yet two important groups are credited to us. About the year 1814 the first of the Noisette class was raised—a class that has in it some of the most pleasing of all cluster roses.

John Champney of Charleston, South Carolina, fertilized the White Musk with pollen from the Blush China, which was named Champney's Pink Cluster. A Charleston florist raised a seedling from this which he sent to his brother in France—Louis Noisette—about 1817. From this beginning the charming class of Noisettes (which properly, however, should have been called Champney Roses) was raised and distributed. The modern members of this group having a

large admixture of Tea in them are not quite hardy. Some of the greatest of the yellow roses are of this section, including Marechal Niel and Chromatelle.

From that one notable beginning little was done until quite recently, when the immense possibilities of the multiflora group (as exemplified in Crimson Rambler) and Rose Wischuriana gave a new impetus to rose production in America. We are today only beginning to realize the development in this group, which bids fair to be one characteristically American. These varieties answer the requirements of the average American garden better than many other plants, and though not roses of the older type, which will always be grown for cut flowers, still they are roses and fill a place in the garden and about the porch that no other plants have done so far.

Four roses of spectacular beauty have now the coveted All-American selections for 1950—Capistrano, Fashion, Mission Bells, and Sutter's Gold. These "Oscar" winners of the horticultural world were chosen by the National Rose Jury on the basis of impartial tests covering a two year period in eighteen test gardens throughout the country.

Capistrano is a vigorously sturdy hybrid, deep rose pink, on extra long stems. The open flowers reach a full six inches across. It was named for the famous old California Mission, San Juan Capistrano, founded during the Revolution and famed in song and story.

The plants of Fashion are full, bushy and generous, reaching a height of two and one-half feet. In England this rose was given the Gold Medal for the best new variety shown in the National Rose Society's exhibition. The buds are oriental red and open slowly into flowers of about 3½ inches across.

Sutter's Gold features long-pointed bright yellow buds, shaded with orange and red. The buds open into high-centered flowers with twenty-four to thirty petals. It was named in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in California. This man won the Foreign Gold Medal at the International Bagatelle Contest in Paris.

Mission Bells is a beautiful deep salmon pink that opens to a clear shrimp color. The buds are long and pointed and the fully centered flowers sometimes measure a full 5½ inches across. The canes have few thorns.

In the words of Elizabeth Barrett Browning:
"For the rose, Lo the rose! is the grace of the earth,
Is the light of the plants that are growing upon it!
For the rose, Lo the rose! is the eye of the flowers,
Is the blush of the meadows that feel themselves fair."

Library Notes



BY ALICE BRYAN
County Librarian

When Christmas comes—there is so much rejoicing
With voices raised in song, the happy smiles of children
When Santa comes along.
The wreathes within the windows and trees transformed with light
As families gather closely upon a winter night.
There's something very peaceful there's something in the air,
That brings us close to Heaven and lifts our hearts from care
When Christmas comes.
—by Hilda R. Farr.

New members who have registered at the library during this Christmas Season: Dorothy Jean Brown, Johnnie Franklin Burgin, Rita Burnette, Frankie Dysart, Emily Elliott, Petty Jo Frisbee, Betty Jean Hollifield, Michael Lewis, Charles R. Lowery, Virgie Mae Miller, William Franklin Ward, and Jack Wingo.

Among the new books: "Deep In My Heart" by Elliott Arnold—Thomas who enjoy Sigmond Romberg's music will want to read this story of his life and his recent triumphs. The author takes the reader behind the scenes in the world of music and tells a host of memorable stories about the great and near-great.

"Global Mission" by General H. H. Arnold—"The story of the Commander-in-Chief of the AAF begins with his boyhood in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, and carries through to his retirement after the end of World War II. It tells about the earliest pioneers of flight, the air lessons of World War I, how America invented the buzz-bomb in 1917, Billy Mitchell's court martial, "Hap's" own exile, the years between and, how the Army Air Forces of World War II were forged out of nothing into greatest military power in history."

"Chips Off the Old Benchley" by Robert Benchley—Collection of Benchley's writings that have not been published before in book form.

"I Married a Redhead" by M. M. Musselman—Milly wasn't only a redhead, she was an actress to boot, and her ability to earn a living more than made up for the fact that she rarely stayed in one place long enough to set up housekeeping. And so it went, either in the lean years or stock companies and pulp magazines or the fatter ones of radio, Broadway, and Hollywood. The nostalgic history of a mildly explosive marriage between an aspiring actress and a struggling writer, by the author of "Wheels in His Head."

(For children):
"The Little Auto" by Lois Lenski—Another story of Mr. Small; this one about Mr. Small's little red auto.

"Read Me Another Story" compiled by Child Study Association of America—Stories for both the preschooler and the young child. The preschooler listened and also for the beginning reader.

"Tell About Tales" illustrated by Jill Johnson—A big picture book chock full of stories for the little ones.

"A Little Princess" by Frances Hodgson Burnett—A beautiful new edition of the old-fashioned story of Sara Crews, a kind of Cinderella story.

"Stories to Grow On" by Gertrude McKelvey—Applying five well-known parables to everyday living for boys and girls in the younger age group.

EARLY RELIGIOUS PROGRESS

Ecclesiastically, North Carolina was not very active in its early days. The first church in the colony was built in 1701-2 by the vestry of Chowan Parish, afterwards St. Paul's. In 1715 a colonial law recognized the Church of England as the established church in North Carolina. Other Protestant denominations developed slowly but by the end of the colonial period most of the Protestant sects were well represented.

The practice of placing burning candles in the windows on Christmas eve is tied up with an Irish custom which holds the thought of the Christ child alone in the dark, needing light for his way.

To reach the most people for the least money use Progress advertise-