

This, That and the Other

BY MRS. THEO. B. DAVIS

How are you feeling about Christmas this year?

When first I began to hear different persons in different places say they had little or no Christmas spirit I felt somewhat like the poet who said, "Come, child of misfortune, come hither; I'll weep with thee, tear for tear." But after I began thinking of what the real Christmas spirit is, I decided that if ever we need to possess it, this is the time.

When I was a child we had a neighbor who was fond of singing in a loud unclassified voice:

"Christmas comes but once a year; Drink eggnog and 'simmon beer; I get drunk then, I don't keer."

And he felt that he was chock-full and running over with Christmas spirit.

Then there's the idea that getting ready for Christmas means elaborate decorations, feasting, giving and receiving presents, having parties, taking trips. If we can't key ourselves up to that pitch, we deplore not being in such mood.

However, none of these things has over much to do with Christmas spirit, which depends not upon material possessions, but upon intangibles. He whose birthday we are supposed to celebrate this month began with earthly life the journey which led from Bethlehem's stable to Calvary. His spirit should be sought. All else is largely superfluous, like embroidery which ornaments a wrap but adds nothing to its warmth.

It might be well for us to read again that passage from last Sunday's lesson which bids us "above all these things put on charity," for there are many hungering through no fault of their own; many suffering who have done no wrong. It may be well if we find no joy in buying baubles for ourselves or for friends, IF we will donate to the starving what in ordinary times we would have spent for pleasure.

We need not try to argue ourselves or others into the Christmas spirit; it comes with no roll of stirring drums, but with deeds of love and kindness. We might go on as if we were enjoying those deeds no matter how we feel—and then we might be surprised to find that the Christmas Spirit had come in a fullness never known before.

As I write this column I keep thinking of Mrs. W. L. Wiggs who was for some time my next door neighbor, and who died last Sunday night. Strangely, I find myself remembering little neighborly things instead of big, important happenings—how nice she was the time Ted cut off all Francis' curls; how she sent me vegetables; how she'd buy all the cloth for the costumes Eric and Will, Jr., needed at Wakelon and I'd make both with her help. Will and Eric were in the same grade and usually had parts on the same programs. And the time Crystal went over to ask for ivy leaves to go in a centerpiece for the table when company was coming, and Mrs. Wiggs misunderstood and said she had something to beat that and sent me a lot of celery, claiming she had more than she needed. Happy, friendly memories, all of them, and treasured by me. In death like hers after long illness one can be resigned and say "For so He giveth His beloved sleep."

THE ZEBULON RECORD

Volume XIX.

Zebulon, N. C., Friday, December 11, 1942

Number 19

Griffin, Chamblee Rotary Speakers

Two weeks ago Durward Chamblee had the program, his subject being Thanksgiving. Durward gave a history of the first Thanksgiving and how it was made one of the national holidays. We have today more to be thankful for than the ones who first started the idea. If we wish to continue celebrating Thanksgiving we must win this war.

Last Friday evening Rev. George Griffin had the program. George used his program by a round table of questions. The Rotary members were equally divided to see who could best answer these questions. A good many questions were asked about Rotary to learn how well the average member was informed. There were some catchy questions that furnish much fun to all. Each side was counted a 50-50 of losses and gains.

The Club enjoyed George's program as he brought us something of interest, informing and amusing.

The Club is still going strong, and writing to the two absent members, Bob Sawyer and Ferd Davis. Their names are called every meeting to remind us of them.

Woman's Club

The December meetings of the Woman's Club and the Garden Club will be held together at the clubhouse on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 15, with the Garden Club giving the program. Feature of the occasion will be an address by Pastor C. F. Vale of the Methodist Church. This will be Mr. Vale's first appearance before these organizations and it is hoped that all members may be present to hear him.

Christmas decorations will be arranged by committees from the Garden Club and may serve as hints for others.

Swashbuckler In Lather Over Soap Operas

Never until recently did I get both barrels of the soap opera campaign. It occurred while I was living in beautiful, spacious, Portsmouth by the sea.

A bit of liver we picked up at one of the local meat markets was eligible for a pension, but in some way got in the consumer's line instead of the social security row, and, running true to form, that particular decrepit morsel was sold to me. "It must have been something we ate," said the little wife early the next morning, as we heaved and hoed. "I believe," I acidly retorted, "you had something there." "Yes," she said, "but it got away."

Next day we spent in bed recuperating from a (so the doctor said) slight ptomaine attack. If that was slight, I hope I never get a full broadside of the stuff.

But that's here and there. We lay as comfortably as possible, and since sleep was out of the question, turned on the radio just as *Meet Miss Julia* came on the air. Apparently Miss Julia and her program had needed airing for a good while, because confidentially—. Then came Sweet River, with the narrator oilily describing the scene for us. The author could have just signed his initials to that

CHURCH NEWS

PAGEANT AT CHURCH

The program of Missionary Night at the Baptist Church last Sunday was given as a pageant presented by young people of the church. Written to emphasize the importance of the Christmas offering for foreign missions, the pageant was in four scenes. The first showed Miss Lottie Moon making known her decision to resign as teacher in a Virginia school for girls and go to China as a missionary. Scene two told how Miss Moon refused because of the great need in her chosen field to come home for a much needed rest, preferring to remain with those who needed her so much. The third scene related some of the accomplishments of mission offerings for foreign lands and the fourth, with a home setting in our own country reiterated the meaning of Christmas and the continued need of gifts to what is now called the Lottie Moon offering that foreign mission work may progress.

Miss Dorothy Brake was reader, Mrs. George Griffin, director, Mrs. L. M. Massey was soloist with Mrs. J. D. Horton at the organ. Taking part were Pastor Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Russel Temple, Beth Massey, Anne Massey, Dorothy Glover, Nancy Whitley, Carolyn Massey, Edith Medlin, Georgia Ruth Edkins, Judy Robertson, Rachel Bunn, Charles Horton, Roderick Horton, James Debnam, Wilbur Conn, A. V. Medlin, Billy Brantley.

BAPTIST CHURCH

Services for Sunday, Dec. 13:
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Morning Worship. Sermon topic: "Watch Your Scripture Reading"
6:45 Young People meet
7:30 Baptismal Service

METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Vale announced the regular services here for next Sunday. He preaches here in the morning and at Wendell at night.

Registration Date Is Set

The following pertinent information is quoted from a Proclamation of the President of the United States:

"The registration of male citizens of the United States and other male persons, who shall have attained the eighteenth anniversary of the day of their birth during the periods indicated below, shall take place in the United States between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on the days hereinafter designated for their registration as follows:

(a) Those who were born on or after July 1, 1924, but not after August 31, 1924, shall be registered on any day during the week commencing Friday, December 11, 1942, and ending Thursday, December 17, 1942;

(b) Those who were born on or after September 1, 1924, but not after October 31, 1924, shall be registered on any day during the week commencing Friday, December 18, 1942, and ending Thursday, December 24, 1942;

(c) Those who were born on or after November 1, 1924, but not after December 31, 1924, shall be registered on any day during the period commencing Saturday, December 26, 1942, and ending Thursday, December 31, 1942;

(d) During the continuance of the present war, those who were born on or after January 1, 1925, shall be registered on the day they attain the eighteenth anniversary of the date of their birth; provided, that if such anniversary falls on a Sunday or legal holiday, their registration shall take place on the day following that is not a Sunday or legal holiday."

Registration place: local Board office.

CLASS MEETING POSTPONED

The regular meeting of the Senior Fidelis Class was postponed from last Monday night to a date to be decided next Sunday.

Christmas Play At School Sunday

A Christmas Pageant will be presented December 13th at 4:30 p.m. in the Wakelon High School Auditorium.

The Pageant, "The Nativity Story," by Virginia Moffat, will feature the following characters:

Reader, Eloise Bobbitt; Angel, Mary Fisher Finch; Mary, Elizabeth Ehrie; Joseph, Harold Pippin; Three Kings, Earl Pierce, Fred Pippin, and Charles Horton.

Children from the Primary and Grammar Grades will compose the Angel and Shepherd Groups.

Special singing will be presented by the Glee Club, Primary and Grammar Grades. Also on the program will be singing by the congregation of Christmas songs.

All parents and friends are urged to attend and participate in the program which has become an annual event through the years.

Allies On Offense As War Rolls On

Allied forces, on the offensive in nearly every battle arena over the world, have smashed to the sea at another point south of Gona in New Guinea, have battered German and Italian cities with ever-increasing numbers of bombers, have put the Germans very much on the defensive in Russia, and are fighting a purely holding action in Tunisia.

Nevertheless, despite the daily news reports of more successes, United Nations victories have been comparatively small except for the great North African coup.

The Russian General Timoshenko, taking advantage of Hitler's withdrawing his first-line troops to give them a winter's rest, has smashed through inferior Hungarian and Roumanian troops in a number of places, but as yet has made little important gains.

The British First Army, ably backed by American troops, has lost vitally-needed control of the air over Tunisia, giving German dive-bombers a chance to get in hard blows at our already extended supply lines. Until the British and Americans gain complete control of the air, they can never expect to break the Nazi grip on the seaport of Tunis and Bizerte, which bar the way to an attack on Rommel's rear in Libya. The ease with which the slow German dive-bombers, which are easy prey for our fast fighters, are operating is indicative of the small size of the present Allied Air Force in North Africa.

The Marines in the Solomons, unhampered now by fear of the Japanese navy, are continuing the necessarily slow operations of mopping up the remaining Japs on the island of Guadalcanal. The area held by the Marines, however, is still small when compared with the vast areas of Jap-held jungles which cover the island. When the proposed new air field is completed, cargo planes will be able to ferry additional troops, guns, and ammunition to the forces there with, no danger from Jap submarines which infest these waters.

MacArthur's men are working with better equipment in New Guinea. Using heavy guns, 155 millimeter howitzers ferried by air 1,500 miles from Australia, they are giving the Japs no rest. These guns can throw shells five
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episode, particularly if his name had been something like Philip Upchurch, signed P-U would have been swell.

Just as that went the way of all along came Mother O'Neil who was slugging it out with a rival network matron named Ma Perkins. Danny's wife was having a baby (as were most of the other soap opera female stars at that time) and she was in labor in fifteen minute instalments each day. I believe she gave birth to her child in something like two weeks flat, stepping gracefully aside for the bright announcer to inform us that Duz does everything. Evidently it did. I later found that Danny's wife had spent one week getting to the hospital and then it took three days to find her doctor. I believe they finally had to borrow Dr. Brent call surgery, from *The Road of Life* program which came on an hour later.

Dr. Hansen was in Switzerland in *When a Girl Marries* or *Against the Storm*, I forget which, at any rate I note from today's program that he's still trying to escape. He may get home for a duck dinner New Year's Day, but it looks pretty bad right now.

Helpmate, brought by that stuff that cleans your bathtub 34 more

times than something else, was having one heck of a time with man trouble, and that afternoon they caught *Portia Facing Life* again with a forty-four in one hand, her son in the other, and her dead husband at her feet.

Larry Noble's *backstage wife*, now *war wife*, was still telling Larry Goodbye (a continuation of the preceding four days) and *Big Sister* was having one heck of a time deciding whether to marry Joe Doaks or Howard Ricks, I believe she finally married Joe posthumously when the President gave the Navy Cross.

By the time *The Barbers* at the Sky Ranch, just over the hill from San Francisco, got through with us, we were nervous wrecks, chewing on what was left of our cuticles. I heard last Sunday night that the young man who for the past seven years has played the part of 6-year-old Dickie Barber has been drafted. If he sticks by uncle Sam like he has his sponsor, Uncle has a find!

"What was that question? Do I still listen to them things? Who, me?" Well, to put it in the words of one of my current favorites, now starring in *Pepper Young's Family*—"Yes".