

Wistful Thinking

(Letters to Santa Department)

Dear Santa:

I have been a good boy, and I backed the right man for Governor. Please bring me the 4th Division highway commissioner's job for Christmas.

Bob Winston

Dear Santa:

I have been a good boy, and I backed the right man for Governor. Please bring me the 4th Division highway commissioner's job for Christmas.

R. O. Heater

Dear Santa:

I have been a good boy, and I backed the right man for Governor. Please bring me the 4th Division highway commissioner's job for Christmas. I will leave some ice cream on the mantel for you.

George L. S. White

Dear Santa:

If you bring me the 4th Division highway commissioner's job for Christmas, I will accept it.

R. E. Earp

Dear Santa:

Me, too.

Ferd Davis

Dear Santa:

I don't care which one of these boys you bring the road commissioner's job to, just so it's the one who will keep me on as divisional engineer.

Romilous Markham

Please Send Crystal Balls

Dear Santa:

Please bring me a crystal ball so I can always tell where Kerr Scott is. Last time he left the state, I had to send a reporter by his farm twice a day so I'd know when he got back, and, Santa, you'd be surprised how expensive that is.

Jonathan Daniels.

Dear Santa:

I want a crystal ball, too. I ran as a presidential elector for a man nobody thought had a chance, and got a half million votes, but I couldn't get 200,000 for either of my candidates for Senator and Governor, and they were supposed to have things sewed up.

John Dawson

Dixiecrats Want New Necks

Dear Santa:

Please bring me a new neck. I got mine chopped off in the November presidential election.

Wiley Barnes

Dear Santa:

Likewise.

John Hinsdale

Dear Santa:

Please bring some friends who are on speaking terms with Kerr Scott. I got him to make a speech for our forestry association, expecting a nice recital of platitudes, but he gave us hail, Columbia!

Don P. Johnson

A Few Other Modest Requests

Dear Santa:

Please bring me a nice, inexpensive house back in Gastonia for Christmas. Or you can wait until January 6 to deliver it, if you prefer. I sold my place for what I thought was a good price, but how times have changed! It seems that ex-governors are supposed to pay twice as much for real estate as anybody else. If I had known that, maybe I wouldn't even have run.

R. Gregg Cherry

Dear Santa:

Don't bother about bringing me a gift at Christmas, Santa. I got mine back in November.

Harry S. Truman

Dear Santa:

Please bring me a 12-gauge shotgun for Christmas. When a man doesn't have any more friends than I have, he needs a gun.

Henry Wallace

Dear Santa:

Please bring me a shipload of pumpkins for Christmas.

J. Stalin



Sunday School Lesson

The greatest story of the year is told in simple language in next Sunday's scripture lesson — the story of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Christmas, the fourth ranking holiday of the Roman and Orthodox churches (coming after Easter, Whitsunday and Epiphany), has become the most popular holiday in Protestant countries. Certainly it is the commercialized feast day in America, but the grandeur of the nativity has been dimmed only imperceptibly, if at all, by the giving of gifts in this country.

Joseph and Mary came to Bethlehem by necessity. They were required to list their taxable property and themselves, and could find no lodging in Jerusalem. Nor could they in Bethlehem, save in a barn.

In the barn, or grotto, the Christ child was born, probably about 6 or 8 B. C. (The date is subject to question, but faulty calendar calculations are generally believed this much in error by Bible students.)

To this barn from Persia came the wise men, or magi, who previously had been adherents to Zoroasterism, to bring gifts and

worship at the manger. There are popularly supposed to have been three wise men, because their gifts were three in number: frankincense, gold, and myrrh.

The celebration of Christmas began first about 200 A. D. At that time it was believed that the birth occurred in the spring, because of the custom of listing of taxes by the Romans in that season. Before the calendar reform, the date had been shifted to January 6, but when January 6 was set as Epiphany, the date was moved back to December, at least in Anglo-Saxon countries, where advantage was taken of the December 22 holiday of the Druids, who worshipped the sun with rituals on the shortest day of the year.

We should not be disturbed by the supposed pagan beginnings of the greatest popular holiday, just as we should not be worried by the mass of gifts bestowed on Christ's birthday. The important consideration is the use made of the holiday today — and the spirit in which gifts are given.

Let us think of the poor, the bereaved, the distressed at the Christmas season, and Christmas will remain what tradition has taught us it should be.

Farm Home Hints

By Ruth Current
State Home Demonstration Agent

People who are careless about their breakfasts may ask whose business it is if they choose to live that way. But it does concern others. Ill nourished people are not at their best, and in this machine age they jeopardize the safety and lives of others. Children in families which start off the day with scanty or unappetizing breakfasts are off to a bad start for school or work. Thus continually deprived in their growing years, they fail to build the stamina necessary to resist disease and premature aging. There is no end to the ills of a people who cheat their stomachs at the first meal of the day.

The new prune spice cake, recently developed by home economists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for school lunch kitchens, is a good choice for a family

dessert. It is suitable for children and grown-ups alike, features the dried prunes now on the list of plentiful foods, is easy to make, not expensive, and holds its moisture and freshness for a day or two.

This recipe furnishes about 16 portions. The ingredients are: 1-2 cup fat; 1 cup sugar; 2 eggs, well-beaten; 1 1-4 cups finely chopped, cooked, pitted prunes; 2 cups sifted flour; 1 1-2 teaspoons soda; 1-16 teaspoon nutmeg; 1 teaspoon cinnamon; 3-4 teaspoon cloves; 3-4 teaspoon salt; and 1-2 cup sour milk or buttermilk.

To make: Cream the fat and sugar. Add eggs and beat until light and fluffy. Blend in prunes. Sift flour, soda, spices and salt together three times. Add to the creamed mixture, alternating with the sour milk. Line a greased 8 x 10 inch pan with waxed paper. Pour in batter. Bake in a moderate oven (350 F.) for 35 to 40 minutes.

Insurance Rates

There has been much to-do and ado recently in the daily press of North Carolina about insurance rates, particularly insurance rates paid by automobile owners. The many columns of type which have been devoted to this subject appear to us to have been mis-directed.

Insurance rates, as we understand them, are based in the final analysis, whether there is a public hearing on them or a star chamber hearing, on experience, and on nothing else. How the hearing is held is not important. The important thing is: WHAT STEPS, IF ANY, ARE BEING TAKEN TO REDUCE INSURANCE RATES.

This is the important factor, because it also represents what steps, if any, ARE BEING TAKEN TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF DEATHS ON THE HIGHWAYS.

A human life is a precious thing. Human life should not be sacrificed on the altar of carelessness, ignorance, or indifference.

Highway accidents, both fatal and those which only cripple or result in property damage, have been and are being reduced in those states which have adopted common sense methods of combatting this scourge of modern life.

But here in North Carolina we are content to rest supinely upon the methods which were up-to-date in the days of the Model T.

We don't educate our people in highway safety; we don't properly engineer or mark our highways — curves are laid out for Model T vehicles, centerlining is a hit-and-miss experiment of here today and gone tomorrow; and markers in most instances appear to have been pulled out of a grab-bag and installed.

Based on Experience

We repeat: insurance rates are based upon experience. Any eighth-grade student knows that if fatalities are numerous and property damage is extensive the insurance companies must pay out huge sums of money. That money comes from premiums collected; and the higher the losses, the higher the rates.

A competent, up-with-the-times and on-its-toes highway department could do much to reduce highway accidents in North Carolina through placing in effect modern engineering practices in the building of highways and in the proper marking on highways. An educational program in highway safety — and in this field the newspapers of North Carolina could make a valuable contribution — and a fairly and squarely administered law enforcement program, all three of these together, could and would reduce accidents, both fatal and non-fatal, and would also bring about a material reduction in insurance rates.

Let's don't continue to kid ourselves. Highway travel and liability insurance rates are high, not because of the manner in which they are set, but because of carelessness, ignorance and seeming indifference. There is a remedy, and it is our prediction that the people have elected as their Governor the doctor who will cure the desperately ill patient.

Death, as far as is possible, should be banished from the highways of North Carolina.

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