

**The Daily Tar Heel** Christmas Issue

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**Photos and Features**

**West Berlin Holiday Is A Lot Like Home—Almost**

By **CHUCK FLINNER**  
(Daily Tar Heel Staffer Flinner spent last Christmas in Berlin. Below are some of the things he remembers about a cold holiday in a cold war city.)

fronts are decorated with Christmas displays that range from Santa Claus to the twinkling stars in the sky. Even the smaller stores help spread good cheer with their displays on a slightly smaller scale. The children, of course, are the key. Their faces are painted with the expressions of awe, anticipation and merriment. Their red cheeks glow in the cold air as they are pulled from shop to shop by their parents who are making the same last minute purchases American parents find themselves making. A glimpse at a child standing before a shop window with a pensive expression makes one think of American children who are also dreaming of wagons, bicycles, dolls and other toys. Perhaps Berliners are not as fortunate as Americans, but their

Christmas spirit is certainly not injured. One of the unusual customs of the city is the giving of Christmas gifts to the policemen. Here in America we may be apt to take that cop on the corner for granted, but in Berlin he is well thought of at Christmas time. One may see a tiny Volkswagen or a tremendous bus pull near the policeman who helps the driver get to work through the heavy West Berlin traffic every morning. Down comes a window and out pops a friendly arm bearing a gift for the traffic director. It may hold up traffic but no one seems to mind near Christmas. In the evening the policeman who usually walks home to save a few marks must take a cab in order to handle all of his presents. Such is not the case on the other side of Brandenburg Gate. Some of the homes may have

Christmas decorations in their windows and beautiful Christmas candles are sold on the streets, but there is lacking the real holiday spirit of the streets. The streets are the same as any other day—drab. East Berliners are Germans, yes, but under a different economic situation. There can be no lavish decorations, no expensive Christmas dinners, no thoughtful gifts to policemen—or women. On Christmas Eve Berlin becomes quiet. As a little snow drifts down, the traffic decreases, the shops are closed, the buses have fewer commuters, and the people leave the streets for their homes. Christmas day is also quiet except for the heavy flow of people to and from their churches. There is some visiting, as in America, but Berlin is reasonably quiet. Christmas night the people appear on the streets again. They come to Kurfurstendamm, the main street, and look proudly in the shop windows. They know that things which appear in those windows from Fords to food are not only for sale but can be bought by Berliners themselves. They walk the festive streets gazing at the crowd, and being happy. But all in Berlin is not quite perfect. There is the refugee problem, the housing shortage, fear of communism, and some vacant lots still piled with World War II rubble. Perhaps the most impressive Christmas display of all is indicative of both what has been done and what remains to be done. High in the ruins of Kaiser-Wilhelm Kirche once a beautiful church in the heart of Berlin, stands a single lighted Christmas tree. It stands where once there were stained glass windows. It can be seen either from Kurfurstendamm or from the other side of the Church where there was formerly a nave. Christmas in Berlin is memorable.



CHRISTMAS DECORATION AT KEISER WILHELM KIRCHE  
Photo by Chuck Flinner

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- 1954 WILLYS Station Wagon, Overdrive—6 cyl.—Low price **\$745.00**

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**Girl's Letter To Newspaper Resulted In Christmas Edit**

Every Christmas newspaper all over the United States reprints an editorial written in response to a simple letter to the editor. Francis P. Church, according to what has almost become a legend, didn't want to write the editorial. Finally it was assigned to him, and his effort has made him famous. Below is the letter and editorial which have become as much a part of Christmas as carols and tinsels. "Dear Editor: I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in The Sun it's so.' Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?"

"Virginia O'Hanlon. '115 West Ninety-fifth Street.' Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge. Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they

abound and give to our life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no child-like faith then, no poetry, no romance, to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished. Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to



JOLLY OLD ELF... yes, Virginia

hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world. You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**

TO OUR CUSTOMERS

Come by before going home for the holidays and get your car checked. Our garage can put your car in SAFE driving condition for the holidays ahead.

**DAVIS AMOCO**

Chapel Hill By Pass — Next To Tradewinds

**Episcopalians Plan Party Tonight At 8**

A community Christmas party will be held at 8 tonight at the parish house of the Episcopal Chapel of the Cross under the auspices of the Chapel Hill Fellowship for School Integration. It will feature Christmas songs and dances. All residents of Chapel Hill and Carrboro are invited.

Among those who will provide entertainment are a choir led by Mrs. Vivian Foushee in "When the Lord of Love Was Born" and "There's a Song in the Air"; and Reverend Loren Mead, who will read a Christmas story; a group of fifth grade children, led by Mrs. Charlotte Huse, who will sing "Frere Jacques" and "Il Est Ne, le Divin Infant"; Joseph Lightsey, giving "Twas the Night Before Christmas"; a group of dancers directed by Miss Lucille Caldwell; another dance recital given by children trained by Mrs. Joseph Straley; a choir from the Episcopal Church, which will sing a French Noel and "Good Christian Men Rejoice"; and a choir directed by Mrs. James Roberson.