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GOD REST YE MERRY!
How long it is since we have been able to write the words MERRY CHRISTMAS without reservations!

While the war was going on no one but the littlest children could be merry, and now, since it is over, the carefree whole-hearted joy which the words imply is equally beyond us. How can we be merry when most of the world is so sad, when most of its people are underfed, homeless still, living in fear of what the next day may bring in the way of further suffering!

The only way we can be merry is to go back to the real meaning of a merry Christmas, to the message of hope and joy that Christmas brought to the world and brings still, just as it always did. "Love and joy come to you!" said St. Paul, and the old carol starts; "Make me joy."

"Let Christians all with joyful mirth,
Both young and old, both great and small,
Now think upon our Saviour's birth,
Who brought salvation to us all."

There is hardly one of the old carols that does not call us to "make joy," and in a great many of them we sense the same feeling of contrast that we do in our Christmas today, when there is almost a feeling of guilt in the words: Merry Christmas.

For the old carols were deeply human; they humanized the emotions of the Bible story, the suffering of Mary, the cold and lonely stable, the cruelty of the mythical inn-keeper, the fear of the shepherds. "This is what our life is like," the singers felt, "This is what life is like, but, oh, the bright hope of Christmas."

And, because of the very contrast between their own troubled existence and the brightness of the Christmas vision, their hearts lifted and they sang with joy and gladness of a Merry Christmas.

So let us today think of Christmas as they did, as a light of hope coming into a fearful world. The world was fearful when Christ was born; it was fearful when the first carols were sung and it is fearful now. But now, as then, hope comes with the tidings of comfort and joy of the Birth in Bethlehem. And so we can sing with the carollers of old:

God rest ye merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day.

KEEP AMERICA GREEN!
It is ironic that, usually, forest fires become major news only when they kill people and burn towns. It is ironic, because, every year, forest fires destroy enough potential lumber to house all the residents of a city of 400,000, plus millions of dollars worth of paper and other needed products of the forest. They destroy, too, the future wages of thousands who, otherwise, would harvest and manufacture this timber.

Recent fires in Texas and New England were dramatically destructive. If one great catastrophic fire were to sweep an area as large as all of New York state, the nation would be aghast. Yet, that happens every year. It doesn't make the national news, because many thousands of fires, widely scattered and most of them all, cause this frightful loss. Many of them burn only young trees, which some people consider worthless, not realizing that today's seedlings are tomorrow's timber harvest. These fires merely eat away at our national wealth.

Millions of dollars are spent every year by forest industries, state and federal governments to detect and fight forest fires. Fires must be fought, of course, but it's far cheaper and much more effective to prevent them. In the case of forest fires particularly, prevention is the key, for less than nine out of 10 of them result from natural causes. The rest are caused by man.

Our attention has been called by the American Forest Products Industries to a growing national movement which strikes directly at the cause of forest fires. It is called "Keeping America Green." Twenty-three states have adopted

ed this program. It is an unending campaign that stresses the public's responsibility for most forest fires and which points out how to prevent them. We can't have a policeman at the side of every smoker, of every person who lights a match, who goes camping or who burns brush. These people must be their own policemen. They must guard and control their own thoughtless acts. That is the message of "Keep America Green."

We hear much about the future of America's timber supply. We engender a great deal of heat blaming the other fellow for timber waste. Actually, more would be accomplished if we looked in our own mirrors and asked: "Did I leave that campfire smoldering?" "Why didn't I use the ash tray in my car instead of throwing my cigarette out the window?" "Was that match really out?"

Such simple things! Yet they can mean the difference between timber abundance and timber scarcity. Keeping America green, surely an inspiring goal, cannot be left to the other fellow. The responsibility is upon us all.

CHRISTMAS IS EVERYWHERE

Phillips Brooks wrote a carol "Everywhere, Everywhere, Christmas Tonight."

This year, though December 25 will come everywhere, there will be many hearts and places where the Christmas Spirit will be absent as a result of human failure and sin. Hunger, want, bitterness, sorrow—these unwelcome guests will be present in many a home.

In our own good fortune we must remember in word and deed these our brethren of other places and lands.

But in the deepest sense, Christmas is everywhere. Jesus came to bring life to all men of every race, of every clime. Even though many do not realize the truth, this is an historic fact. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

Everywhere, everywhere Christmas, for "God so loved the world." Here is to be found a center of unity for mankind—a divine Love which transcends our weakness, a source of Hope and of Joy. Wherever "meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in."

God grant to us all this supreme Blessing of this Season!

—Rt. Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill, D. D., in The N. C. Churchman.

A MACHINE GUN SPEAKING

"I'm as tolerant as they make 'em."

"I never gave a hoot whether the lads I mowed down were Catholics, Protestants or Jews. I never was the least bit fussy about the shade of the skin I sprayed."

"To me, all men are equal—equally brave, equally foolish, equally doomed."

"It really kills me how—even after all that you folks have gone through—some of you still can sneer, snarl, giggle or gloat at the color or creed or birthplace of someone who is not exactly like you."

"That 'race' baloney, of course, is cheap, easy stuff to dish out. Gets you action, too."

"It needles different groups into discriminating against each other, hating each other, lining up against each other for advantage. Then fighting each other for power. They'll do it every time."

"And that's where I come in—again—laughing at all of you, in short bursts."

"Can I count on you? Are you going to keep up this moron's game of prejudice peddling? Or are you going to swear off it—have no patience with it?"

"It's up to you."
—The Highland Churchman.

The Public Speaking

Editor The Pilot.
Dear Editor:

Again it is my pleasant privilege to wish you a happy holiday season. I have had this delightful season. I have had this delightful privilege for many years. We have worked together as a sort of team to try to bring about a better understanding of farming problems to our rural friends so that we all might go ahead together to a more satisfying life. During those years, I think almost everyone will agree that progress has been made.

We hear very little about book farming anymore. The successful farmer of today knows that science has aided him in his progress towards better things and he also knows that without facts and information, he could not do the same job of farming that he is doing at present. You have had a very important part in this because you have used the best of the late information and facts

Saint Day Carol

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,
And Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk;
And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,
And the first tree in the greenwood it was the holly, holly!

Now the holly bears a berry as green as any grass,
And Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross;
And Mary bore Jesus who died for us all:

Now the holly bears a berry, as black as the coal,
And Mary bore Jesus who died for us all:

Now the holly bears a berry, as blood is it red,
Then trust we our Saviour, who rose from the dead;
Then trust we Jesus Christ, our Saviour for to be,
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly, holly!

And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly, holly.

"Sing We All, Both Great And Small, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!"

The word "carol" came from the Old French word "caroler," and on back through Latin and the Greek "chorales" which meant a flute-player for chorus dancing, to "choros" which was a circling dance. So it seems that carols fit in well with a merry time at Christmas.

In the beginning, they were sung at other times during the year: at special occasions, on holy-days. And always they were sung by the people, rather than by trained choirs or priests, and hardly ever in a church.

Because the carol was based on gaiety and dancing it did not come into its own until the gloomy Dark Ages were well past and the lighter, humanistic spirit, with its love of beauty, had spread through Europe and England. The coming of carols into the lives of all the people was a sign that the gloomy old puritanism which had suppressed dance and drama and festivities was at an end. Then the mystery plays started, and, as the Christmas play grew in beauty and intricacy music was added to it, and the first carols were sung. Probably the Coventry Carol was one of the earliest. It was sung in a pageant given by the Shearmen and Tailors in Coventry. It was presented yearly and was attended by no less noble personages than Richard II and Henry VII.

Gay Dance Tunes
It looks as if carols got started because people wanted something less severe than hymns to sing at the happy time of Christmas. They were used to the gay ballads, many verses in length, rollicking and wild, often, and some of the carols, such as Greensleeves and The Holly and the Ivy, were set to lilting dance tunes. The earliest book of carols was published by Caxton's assistant, Wynkyn de Worde, in 1521. That contains the Boar's Head carol.

"The boar's head in hand bear I
Bedecked with bays and rosemary
And I pray you, my masters,
be merry!
Quod estis in convivio!
Our steward hath provided this
In honor of the King of bliss
Which on this day to be served
is
In Regimens ario."
Someone has said that carols are unclerical like Gothic architecture in that they are the work of all the people combined, but the people didn't have very long to enjoy them. When Cromwell came into power the English carols disappeared, going underground to be preserved in old

people's memories and passed on as folk songs. The words were sometimes printed on humble broadsheets and sold for a half penny apiece at fairs or on holidays among the lowly folks of the land. And though some new carols were written and sung by the gentry and intellectuals such as the poets Ben Johnson and Herrick, carol-singing in the 18th century had become a rare thing. Goldsmith mentions it and Washington Irving telling of his trip to England in 1811 tells how he was awakened by "a strain of music that seemed to break forth in the air just below the window. I listened and found it proceeded from a band, the waits of some neighboring village." He says the sound "broke upon the mid-watches of the winter night with the effect of perfect harmony."

Just In Time
A few intellectuals brought out books of carols, the first one of traditional songs being issued in 1822, but it was another 20 years before scholars here and there began to delve into the treasury of old carols and start really collecting them in any number. Just in time, when the carols were on the verge of extinction, they apparently attracted the attention of music-lovers who were also scholars and their preservation was assured. The most important occurrence, was the publication of "Christmas Carols New and Old," in 1871, collected by the Rev. Bamley, a Fellow of Magdalen College, and the great church musician, Stainer.

There are several great collections of carols in America, one of the finest being at Yale. The history of carols is that of folk songs. Through the love of simple folks for their own music, and their tenacious habits, clinging to what they know and their fathers and forefathers have unflinchingly researched a few scholars, something of rare beauty and great value has been preserved for the enjoyment and inspiration of the world today.

Christmas Events At Flora Macdonald

Christmas vacation at Flora Macdonald began Friday morning at 10:20, immediately after the second class period, and class work will be resumed Tuesday morning, January 6.

Pre-holiday activities during the week have included the annual White Gift service Sunday evening, sponsored by the Student Christian association; the beautiful Christmas concert by the glee club of 82 voices, on Monday evening; a Christmas party at the college home management house on Tuesday evening, with two senior members of the home economics class, Eloise Lane of Wagram and Ida Ray Vann of Clinton, as hostesses; a Christmas party for the members of the domestic staff and their children, also sponsored by the FMAC, Wednesday afternoon, with a tree, gifts for the staff, and stockings for the children; the annual Christmas banquet in the dining hall on the evening of departure, Thursday; and the Dome Service the same evening at 10 o'clock.

LANG HONORED

John A. Lang, Jr., of Carthage, secretary to Congressman C. B. Deane, was elected president of the North Carolina Democratic club in Washington, D. C., at the club's annual election held last week.

Support the nation-wide campaign to stamp out tuberculosis. Buy Christmas Seals and use them on your holiday mail.

At Local Churches

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
New York avenue at South Ashe
Rev. James Lamar Jackson
Bible school, 9:30 a. m. Worship, 11 a. m. Youth choir 6 p. m. Training unions, 7 p. m. Worship, 8 p. m.
Kindergarten, 9 a. m. Monday through Friday.
Scout Troop 224, Tues., 7:30 p. m., faculty meeting, Wed., 7 p. m.; prayer circle, Wed., 7:40 p. m.; choir practice Wed. 8 p. m.
Missionary meeting, first Tuesdays, 8 p. m. Businessmen's supper, second Thursdays, 7 p. m.

EMMANUEL CHURCH (Episcopal)
East Massachusetts Avenue
Rev. F. C. Brown, B. A., B. D.
First Sunday, Holy Communion, 11 a. m. Church school, 11 a. m. Other Sundays, Holy Communion, 8 a. m. Morning prayer, 11 a. m. Church school, 11 a. m. Wednesdays, Holy Communion, 10 a. m.

CHURCH OF WIDE FELLOWSHIP (Congregational)
N. Bennett at New Hampshire
Rev. Tucker G. Humphries
Sunday school, 9:45 a. m. Worship, 11 a. m. Story-Telling hour for children 8 to 12, 6:30 p. m. Teen Age group, 7:15 p. m. Fellowship Forum, 8 p. m.
Circle meetings, second Thursdays. Missionary meeting, third Thursdays. Women's society, fourth Thursdays.

ST. ANTHONY'S OF PADUA (Catholic)
East Vermont avenue at May St.
Rev. Herbert A. Harkins
Rev. Edward Rigney
Mass at 7, 8 and 10:30 a. m. Confessions heard Saturday 5-6 p. m., 7:30-8:30 p. m., also first Fridays 7:30 p. m.
Sermon at 8 and 10:30 masses. Weekday mass, 8 a. m.
Holy Communion distributed at all masses.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY
East New Hampshire
Lesson-sermon, 11 a. m. Sunday school, 11 a. m. Testimony meeting, 8 p. m. Wednesday. Reading room in foyer of church open Wednesdays and Saturdays, 3-5 p. m.

BROWNSON MEMORIAL CHURCH (Presbyterian)
South May at Indiana
Rev. Thompson E. Davis, Th. D.
Worship service, 11 a. m. Sunday school 9:45 a. m. Women's auxiliary, 8 p. m. Monday following third Sunday.

Pinehurst Chorus Will Give Concert Dec. 30

A request repetition of a concert given by the Pinehurst Community chorus last September will be presented as a Christmas Week event, according to announcement made this week by Paul V. Peck, director. Miss Eloise Wicker will be the pianist.

The concert will be held at 8:30 p. m. December 30 at the Carolina theatre in Pinehurst, through the courtesy of Charles W. Picquet. As before, it will be sponsored by the Pinehurst Recreation association, for the benefit of the town's recreation program. Tickets will go on sale in a few days and reserved seats will be available.

Many requests have been received to repeat the concert, but it has been impossible to do this until now as many of the members have been away at college, according to Mrs. True P. Cheney of Pinehurst, who is chairman of the recreation association. Arrangements were made for the presentation while they are home for Christmas holidays, with a view also to extra holiday pleasure for winter residents and guests who were not able to hear it in September.

Senior Boys and Girls Elect Superlatives

Boys and girls of the senior class at the Southern Pines High school, last week taking stock of their own characteristics in their graduating year, played that fascinating question - and - answer game called "Superlatives"—asking and also answering questions on that subject of most immediate interest: themselves.

Results of a vote showed the following senior superlatives: most popular, Carolyn Chester and Alfred Viall; most friendly, Peggy Phillips and Scott Burns; most intelligent, Patricia Caddell and Bob McClellan; best Athletes, Patricia Caddell and Eugene Maples; most likely to succeed, Shirley Dana and Bob McClellan; best looking, Carolyn Chester

and Wyndham Clarke; most vivacious, Sue Hall and Bill Warner; best citizen, Algene Wilson and Jerry Thompson.
Pictures were made of the chosen ones, for the 1948 annual.

Voting was held under supervision of Miss Phoebe Witherspoon, senior class advisor.
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Season's GREETINGS

Good cheer
Good luck
and may
happy days
be yours



COLLINS DEPARTMENT STORE
ABERDEEN

OLD Fashioned Greetings 1948



● A New Year looms before us. Our wish for it is that happiness will bless our homes and contentment reign among our families—that friendship will continue to grow in our community from day to day and in its afterglow come the serenity of good will to each and all.

C & C CLEANERS
ABERDEEN

IN STOCK 5 V - CRIMP ALUMINUM ROOFING \$10.00 Per Square SANFORD HARDWARE