

### Old Romans Gave Gifts to God Janus

The word January comes from the Latin word "Janus", Janus was a god to whom the Romans offered sacrifices at the start of a new year to insure prosperity and good health for the days ahead. Strenia, goddess of the earth, was also honored on the first day.

As early as 747 B.C., the Romans gathered gifts of gold, silver, and incense for New Year presents. As the years passed and Rome prospered, the gifts became more elaborate yearly, and, in time, it became the custom to bestow them upon the emperor, a habit that contributed greatly to the wealth of the Caesars. Claudius, recognizing the fact that the giving had graduated through the years from a voluntary tribute to a regarded duty, issued a decree limiting the amount which might be given.

Rome continued to celebrate the

### January 1 Date - Fairly Modern

The custom of welcoming in the New Year on January 1 is a relatively modern one. Down through history the holiday was a movable one, many people and nations celebrating at different times of the year.

The vernal equinox, March 22, was observed as the start of the new year by the Jews. The Greeks celebrated on December 21, the time of the winter solstice. The autumnal equinox, September 22, marked the beginning of a new year under the Christian emperors. The idolatrous rites of the people, however, caused the church to ban Christmas from participating in the celebrations, and it was not until December 25 was legally fixed as the date of the Nativity that the church made January 1 a religious festival, in commemoration of the circumcision of Jesus.

### New Year's Day Passes on All Old Superstitions

Through centuries of celebrations, New Year's Day has managed to pass on to each succeeding generation the superstitions that people of olden times held about the first day of the year.

Residents of England once believed it to be an ill omen if one saw a black cat on New Year's morning. English maidens and Scotch women well, made a custom of rushing to the well at the stroke of midnight. The first to taste of the water would have the best luck during the ensuing year.

Residents of the Isle of Man held that a dark complexioned person brought good fortune with him if he were the first to enter a house after the new year had begun. A light-haired visitor was believed a bearer of misfortune.

In early America, New Englanders considered it inviting bad luck to get outside the house on New Year's Day until someone had entered.

Southerners believe that it invites prosperity when black-eyed peas are included on the New Year's Day menu.

year for ancient Egypt.

It was not until the coming of the Gregorian calendar, instituted by Pope Gregory in 1582, that the groundwork was laid for a universal celebration. The continent of Europe, having celebrated New Year's on March 25 since medieval times, was the first to adopt the calendar popularly.

Yet it was not a complete adoption. Great Britain provided the weight that finally tipped the scales in favor of Gregory's calendar in 1752, when the British parliament officially established New Year's day as January 1.

Two Edgecombe County farmers increased their peanut yields by five to eight bags per acre by spacing their rows closely, according to County Agent J. C. Powell



### EAGER PROMISES Is There an Easy Resolution?

New Year resolutions have long been a common practice of humanity—and the brunt of a million jokes.

Neither fact is too surprising. Man always has been eager enough to make promises to himself and to others, just as he has been quick to criticize his own failures.

Yet there are always reasons why resolutions fail. True, they are made with seriousness, but still lacking in strength or perseverance. The fallen resolutions are always those

that were impracticable, and not easily adapted to the general pattern of living.

There is a parable: "No man putteth new wine into old wine skins."

A fermenting wine would easily burst the seams of an old wine skin, just as a non-practicable resolution would burst the seams of daily living. If one is to make new and strong resolutions, there must be a new and stronger pattern of living.

The easiest resolution of all to make and follow is one of work for a world of peace and harmony.

### Baby Bed Folds To Suitcase Size

Any mother who has ever traveled with her baby knows it is not all peaches and cream.

With the innumerable odds against it, that have to be carried along especially for baby, the trip becomes almost pilgrimage. Frequently even a bed has to be included in baby's equipment, if grandparents or other relatives cannot fish an old baby bed out of the attic.

To simplify parents' traveling, a new baby bed called "Porta-Bed" has been designed to fold to a snug suitcase size. A strong aluminum frame supports a crib of sturdy cotton duck and netting.

The folding waterproof mattress rests on a masonite bottom, and there are no latches, nails, or screws.

The cotton duck bed comes in a soft blue color. It is ideal for small apartment or outdoor use, as well as for trips.

### Chatham Islanders First In World To See New Year In

Shepherds watching their flocks on the Chatham islands, New Zealand, will welcome the New Year while milkmen in America are making their rounds.

When the bells of the little church on one of the islands ring at midnight to welcome a new year, it is high noon according to Big Ben of London and is but 7 a. m. in sleepy New York.

Chatham islands always celebrate the New Year first because they are located nearest to the starting point of time—the admiral's date line. It is made to curve east and west of the 180th meridian in such a way that it lies always in the ocean. The islands are just east of the line.

The incoming year leaves the islands and races westward along the equator at a speed of 1,100 miles per hour. Chatham islanders will be preparing to sit down for their New Year's dinner when howling mobs are warming up to greet 1952 on Times Square.



LIGHTING UP . . . This young lady isn't trying to burn the candle at both ends—she just wants to get the New Year off to a good start. May it start, and finish, the same way for you.

California cotton growers will harvest about 650 pounds of lint per acre on their 1951 crop. Arizona growers will do even better, harvesting 707 pounds of lint per acre.

Now Is The Time to go to COURTNEY'S For FURNITURE

### Federal Pay Averages \$3,954 Per Employee

The average salary of the 604,624 full-time Government workers is \$3,954 a year, according to a report of the Civil Service Commission. This figure includes a \$358 pay increase granted by Congress to all Federal employes on July 8.



Take advantage of this special offer on your car parts to drive on highways and in traffic. When your wheels are rechecked on our "Bear" Wheel Balance Machine your tires last longer! Steering is relieved of dangerous wear from vibration. Let us make your steering sure and steady for greater safety and economy.

SINCLAIR Service Station Asa J. Manning

TRADE IN THAT OLD INEFFICIENT FUEL HOG

STOP PAYING FOR WASTED HEAT! YOUR OLD HEATER IS WORTH UP TO \$25.00 ON A NEW Coleman OIL HEATER PRICED AS LOW AS \$64.95 LOW PAYMENTS EASY TERMS

GREY COLEMAN OFFERS -

Includes Fuel Air Control that saves up to 25% on every heating season fuel bill. Big volume circulation of warmed air—gives off-over comfort from two to five rooms. Styling and beauty that will fit in with and complement your present home furnishings. A wide range of styles and sizes to suit your own taste to buy.

we want to offer another winter of mild and memorable comfort. We will be glad to extend you this liberal trade-in allowance and arrange terms that will suit you. See us today while our stocks are complete. It may be years before such a wide selection will again be available.

WE OFFER FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Dixie Motor Co. Washington Street Williamston, N. C.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 1952

BELK-TYLER'S

# LIST YOUR TAXES NOW

All persons owning Real Estate or Personal Property, or both, on the 1st day of January, 1952, are required to give in same for taxes during the month of January. All male persons between the ages of 21 and 50 years are liable for poll tax. All persons who are liable for poll tax, and fail to list, and all persons who own property and fail to list, will be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor; and, upon conviction, fined or imprisoned.

All persons owning dogs six months old and over are required to list the same for taxation at the same time property is listed.

The list-takers will be at the following places between 9 a. m. and 6:00 p. m. (unless otherwise stated) for the purpose of listing your property:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| JAMESVILLE TOWNSHIP ----- O. W. Wamilton, List Taker          | WILLIAMSTON TOWNSHIP ----- O. S. Anderson, List Taker                            |
| Padgett's Store, Angetown ----- January 9                     | Courthouse ----- Every Week Day Through January 31                               |
| Paul Allen's Store ----- January 16                           |  |
| Swinson's Store, Dardens ----- January 23                     |  |
| All Other Week Days in Jamesville except Fridays.             |  |
| WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP ----- C. L. Daniel, List Taker              |  |
| Jim Williams' Store ----- January 7 from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m.   |  |
| Major Gardner's Home ----- January 8 from 9 a. m. to 12 Noon  |  |
| Richleau Station ----- January 8 from 1 p. m. to 4 p. m.      |  |
| County House ----- January 10 from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m.         |  |
| County House ----- January 14 from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m.         |  |
| Home ----- January 31 from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m.                 |  |
| GRIFFINS TOWNSHIP ----- Lester Griffin, List Taker            |  |
| Manning & Gurkin's Store ----- January 4                      |  |
| J. Eason Lilley's Store ----- January 7                       |  |
| John A. Griffin's Store ----- January 9                       |  |
| Dewey Perry's Store ----- January 11                          |  |
| S. E. Manning's Store ----- January 14                        |  |
| Noah Roberson's Store ----- January 16                        |  |
| BEAR GRASS TOWNSHIP --- Wheeler Rogerson, List Taker          |  |
| Rogers Supply Company ----- January 14, 15, 23, 29, 30 and 31 |  |
| Worth Mobley's Store (Old Mill Inn) ----- January 16          |  |
| Lucian Peel's Store ----- January 21                          |  |
| W. B. Knox's Store ----- January 22                           |  |
|   | ROBERSONVILLE TOWNSHIP ----- H. S. Everett, List Taker                           |
|   | Gold Point (Forbes Store) Jan. 10 from 9 a. m. to 3:30 p. m.                     |
|   | Parmele (Roebuck Store) Jan. 17 from 9 a. m. to 3:30 p. m.                       |
|   | All Other Days in January at Robersonville City Hall from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m.     |
|   | POPLAR POINT TOWNSHIP ----- L. G. Taylor, List Taker                             |
|   | At LeRoy Taylor's Home ----- January 29, 30 and 31                               |
|   | HAMILTON TOWNSHIP ----- L. R. Everett, List Taker                                |
|   | Everett-Matthews Equipment Co. --- Jan. 8, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 28, 29, 30 and 31 |
|   | Hassell, Paul Edmondson's Store ----- January 18 and 25                          |
|   | Beddard's Store ----- January 23   |
|   | GOOSE NEST TOWNSHIP ----- J. F. Crisp, List Taker                                |
|   | Smith Brothers' Store ----- January 16 and 23                                    |
|   | J. H. Ayers' Store ----- All Other Week Days                                     |

M. L. PEEL TAX SUPERVISOR MARTIN COUNTY