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Washington County News

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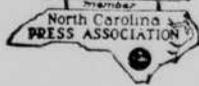
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For December 23, 1943

Celebrate Properly

(From an Editorial by the Late W. C. Manning)

The good shepherds followed the star that stood over the cradle, and were permitted to look down into the face of the Babe of Bethlehem, and they heard the songs of the angels of heaven singing, "Peace on earth towards men of good will."

Since that day we have had 1900 celebrations, with much rejoicing, though these celebrations have not always been a spiritual feast. Too often we observe it with rowdiness and boisterous revelry, without a thought of the reason for Christmas.

Gluttonous eating and gorgeous drinking seem to be about as far as some of us get in our thinking and acting at this season.

If people could divert their actions and thoughts that are entirely foreign to the spirit of Christmas toward the things that honor His name, we would be much happier than we are in indulging in our usual habits of revelry.

Let this Christmas be one of real joy and happiness through worship and service. Let us sing the carols and do all we can to imitate the acts of the Wise Men of the East and the angels who sang—

"Peace on earth towards men of good will."

"Glory To God in the Highest"

By RUTH TAYLOR

"And behold in that country there were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night."

Not to the rulers of the land, not to the proud of heart, but to the humble of spirit did the heavenly host appear on that Night of Nights. It was the simple shepherds keeping watch on a rocky hillside in Judea who first heard the angel song, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, good will to men."

"Glory to God" is a paean of praise to the highest, an acknowledgment of Him who is all goodness. "Glory to God" is not mere lip service, but a cry of exaltation, a full cognizance that right and justice,

Religious News and Views

By REV. W. B. DANIELS, JR.

"BETHELEHEM"— "O Little Town of Bethlehem," one of the best known and best loved of the Christmas carols, was written by Phillips Brooks, Bishop of Massachusetts and the greatest preacher in the history of American Christianity.

Brooks was inspired to write this carol while a student at Virginia Theological Seminary, in Alexandria, Va. During his seminary career (1856-1859), Brooks often went up in the school's tower located on a hill which overlooked the then little town of Alexandria some three miles away. Late one night, as he was watching the scattered lights of Alexandria twinkling in the darkened valley below, Brooks was caught by the similarity of this scene to what Bethlehem must have looked like on that first Christmas long ago.

This vivid scene and its inspiration stayed with the young man even after his graduation, and several years later he penned the words to that tender carol that we all love so well.

Alexandria today is no longer the peaceful little town which gave the poet his inspiration. Located just across the Potomac from Washington, D. C., Alexandria now is a large city, overflowing with people and bustling with the hectic activities of war industry. A huge torpedo plant sings its song of destruction, large apartment houses crowd every space, bombing planes zoom overhead on practice flights, searchlights send their arrows of light through the night sky.

The scene of the poet's inspiration has been changed by the hands of man and is no more. And yet, cities may prosper and decay, wars fought and won or lost, nations rise and wane . . . we know deep within our souls, that we still have our "Bethlehem" . . . the Bethlehem of quiet, and peace and love that lives in the hearts of those who worship the Christ!

"O little town of Bethlehem! How still we see thee lie; Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light;

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight."

truth and love must prevail over the forces of evil. "And on earth peace"—this does not mean a peace of servile acquiescence of compromise, of appeasement, but a peace founded on justice, a peace of honor, a peace of joy, a peace of good will to all men. Not to any one group was the promise made—not to any one creed, any one race, any one nationality, but to and for all men.

This is the lesson of the angel's song. Only as we give glory and honor unto whom it is due, not to man-made rulers, not to ambition, pride or selfish desires, but to Him to whom we owe our first allegiance can we attain peace on earth for all mankind. Only as we let the Eternal Goodness, the all powerful, all wise, all loving Father of all mankind, rule our lives, can we have good will for all men to all men.

If and when we do this, then like the shepherds keeping watch under the stars that night long ago, we, too, may hear the herald angels sing: "Fear not; for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord."

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men.'"

Get Behind the War Program

War factories may lag behind if they can't get wood. Forest and sawmill output is down, and largely because of labor shortage . . . but war production must go on. If you have any experience in woods or sawmill work, put your abilities squarely behind the war program . . . help get the timber out. Check with your nearest U. S. Employment Service office and get lined up for either part-time or full-time war work in wood production. Let overalls be your uniform . . . and an axe or saw your war weapon. Get in the fight.

An Italian domestic radiocast recently boasted of the "highmorale" of the Italian people and then went on to admit that "here and there a little grumbling is heard in the corners of the alleys and stairways, the halls and the sidewalks."

American golfers are urged by their national association to explore the possibilities of using parts of golf courses for Victory gardens, without digging up valuable turf of fairways, greens, or tees.

Peace On Earth

Good Will Toward Men

By PRESTON E. CAYTON
Pastor Saints Delight Christian Church

Soon after John the Baptist was born, Joseph, the carpenter of Nazareth, the husband of Mary, had a dream. In this dream he saw an angel from the Lord standing beside him. "Joseph, I have come to tell you that Mary, the young woman whom you are to marry, will have a son, sent by the Lord God. You will call His name Jesus, which means salvation, because He shall have His people from their sins."

Soon after Joseph and Mary were married in Nazareth, a command went forth from the emperor through all the lands of the Roman empire for all the people to go to the cities and towns from which their families had come, and there to have their names written down on a list, for the emperor wished a list to be made of all the people under his rule. As both Joseph and Mary had come from Nazareth to Bethlehem, there to have their names written upon the list.

It was a long journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. When Joseph and Mary came to Bethlehem they found the city full of people who, like themselves, had come to have their names enrolled or written upon the list. The inn was full, and there was no room for them; for no one but themselves knew that this young woman was soon to be the mother of the Lord of all the earth. They went to the stable, where the cattle were kept. They waited four thousand years for Jesus, and when He came to the world, there was no room for Him. When He comes to the world again, many will not be ready for His coming.

On that night, some shepherds were tending their sheep in a field near Bethlehem. Suddenly a great light shone upon them, and they saw an angel of the Lord standing before them. They were filled with fear, as they saw how glorious the angel was. But the angel said to them: "Be not afraid, for behold I bring you news of great joy, which shall be to all the people; for there is born to you this day in Bethlehem, the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord, the anointed king. You may see Him there; and know Him by this sign: He is a new-born baby, lying in a manger at the inn."

And then they saw that the air around and the sky above them were filled with angels, praising God and singing, "Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace among men." While they looked with wonder, and listened, the angels went out of sight as suddenly as they came. The shepherds

herds said, Let us go to Bethlehem to see this wonderful thing that has come to pass. They told the news to all the people. They were filled with wonder, but Mary kept all these things in her heart.

While we are worshipping a Christ, who came to the world to bring peace, most of the world is in war. Our boys are fighting that we may have freedom. That we may have the American way of life. We are blessed in America. While I am writing this article, planes are flying over; but, thanks be to God, they are American planes. They guard our land at night while we sleep. God bless our boys who are fighting that we may sing, that we may pray and preach the good old gospel of Jesus Christ—a living gospel.

On the other side, they won't have a white Christmas, unless Mother Nature sends a blanket of snow to the earth. Instead of Santa Claus, the Germans will send bombers. But, thank God, it won't last always. Some time peace will come to the world, when those who would enslave the world are beaten to the earth. Many of our boys will be away Christmas. All over the world, the sun never goes down on our American boys. They will be thinking of home on that day. The greatest Christmas gift they could receive would be for the war to be over and they could come home. We people back home are somewhat ungrateful. We are worrying more over a steak, our drink, than the ending of this war. We are trying to get rich out of this war. Many are saying, "If you don't make it now, you won't get it. Some will say, When this war is over, I'll be out of a job."

We in America may not get what we want, but truly we get what we need. A little boy went to the movies sometime ago. After which, he mailed a letter to the editor of his local newspaper. In this letter he stated, "Every time I sit down to eat, I almost choke, to think of the little children on the other side, without food, clothes, nowhere to stay, no place to call home."

On the other side, they call it raining when the Germans are bombing. A little child asked his mother one night, Mother, when will it stop raining? America will answer that question. Then peace will come to all the world. A new world will be set in order. Then we can say with the angels, On earth peace, good will toward men.

When our boys open their packages from mother, sweetheart, or wife on Christmas, they will smile, to know that they were made by American people, and wrapped by Mother, wife or sweetheart. May God bless all the girls and boys in service, until peace comes, and the lights go on again all over the world.

The PUBLIC Forum

THE CHURCH AND THE THEATRE

One of the greatest lessons of this war is the power and effectiveness of mutual cooperation. It is the principal which has developed civilization and it was emphasized in the earliest Biblical teachings. It was practiced for self-preservation by even the uncivilized throughout the early history of the world. Cooperation is the watchword of the past, present and future.

The church and the theatre each have a definite place in any community and while the church has matured to its present greatness over a period of hundreds of years the theatre is but a babe by comparison. Yet in its infancy great strides have been made by the theatre, through the medium of motion pictures and sound, great stories, plays and people. The motion picture has become a part of almost every school in the country, due to its great educational powers. On the screens of the motion picture theatre great messages are forcefully conveyed to our people daily that they might become more enlightened on world conditions. Through no other medium could this be accomplished so effectively. Our people must have entertainment and relaxation to make them better fitted for their daily work thereby helping them to become better citizens. The motion picture theatres fulfill this most essential need, to the farthest corners of the world.

As religion is a very vital and essential part of our daily lives, it is quite befitting that we of the theatre strive to encourage religious habits, thereby further assisting in the great work of helping to build better citizenship for our communities. Better citizenship means better communities. Go to the church of your choice every Sunday.—The Management of the Plymouth Theatre, Plymouth, North Carolina.

THE RECORDER'S COURT

In October, 1942, I agreed to serve as judge of the recorder's court for Washington County in the absence of Judge Gaylord, who was called to serve in the armed forces of our country. At the time, I did not see how I was going to do it, in view of so many already existing duties and jobs which were on my shoulders due to an unusual shortage of manpower. One never knows what he can do or accomplish until he puts himself to the task.

During the 15 months I have served as emergency recorder, \$5,502.50 has been turned in by this court to the county in costs and fines, about \$4,000 of which was fines, which have been turned over to Washington County School Board in the place and stead of money normally budgeted and assessed the taxpayers of the county. This means that your court has been on more than a paying basis to the extent that it should be a help toward reducing our county tax rate another 10 per cent during the year 1944.

The success of any court can be gauged by the impartial attention of

protection and safety. Judge Gaylord has returned to us and will resume his duties as recorder's Judge next Tuesday. According to his past record, he has made us a good recorder. I feel sure that he will continue to function with the same fearlessness as heretofore. I am glad to return the affairs of this court to his hands. Respectfully Yours,
Edward L. Owens.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



from 3,989 VEPCOVIANS on the home front, and 886 on the battlefronts!

REDDY (S. CLAUS) KILOWATT

Seventeen Years—

of extending the greetings of the season to our patrons have only served to make more sincere our good wishes for them . . .

In the uncertain and difficult days which lie ahead for all of us, we hope to continue serving you as in the past. Come what may, the entire facilities of our organization are at the disposal of our customers whenever we can be of service

To you and yours at this Christmas season, we would extend our sincerest wish for happiness, both now and throughout the years to come.

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