

# The Story Of The First Christmas

According To Luke

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree—from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, 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 Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

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.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord has made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



## Visions of Christmas

In our romanticizings Christmas and white are inseparable. Perhaps, amid the lickety-split tenor of our times, we long for the delicious immobility and inundation of snow.

Whatever the impulse, most of us conjure Christmas as a time when the weather turns madly, glorious white. And if we were asked to write or draw a Christmas scene most of us would have a white landscape. J. P. McEvoy accuses Irving Berlin ("I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas") with starting the white Christmas breast-beating; McEvoy points out Berlin's Christmases are always green, under palm trees in Florida or California. And Christmas is certainly a time when much long green changes hands. Although we are obsessed with white weather, the land is flooded with long green, the need for long green and with green designs of an infinite variety.

Of course, Bret Harte, Dickens,

Irvin Russell, Sir Walter Scott Whittier and many others, conjured white Christmases long before Irving Berlin was born. Even if Christmas originated in a snowless land, robust, openhanded Europeans and Americans were as eager to deck the forest with white as they were to deck the hall with holly. But whether white or green, or green-white, naughty old Mark Twain expressed a passionate Christmas hope, one as Twainian as the master's mop of hair and shaggy mustache: "It is my warm and world-embracing hope and aspiration that all of us, the high, the low, the rich, the poor, the admired, the despised, the loved, the hated, the civilized, the savage (every man and brother of us all throughout the whole earth) may eventually be gathered in a heaven of everlasting rest and peace and bliss, except the inventor of the telephone."

## A season of special meaning

The Christian religion is centered around the worth and importance of the individual. By his own performance, by his faith in the Lord and adherence to His teachings and values, each individual person can achieve his own salvation.

Jesus spoke the words above to illustrate the factor of personal responsibility. Much will be expected from those who have the ability and resources to lead and serve well.

But, for them, also, the penalty should be heavy for lack of concern, avoidance of duty and turning away from the word of the Lord. By contrast, those who act in a similar way, not by design, but simply through lack of the ability and resources to do better, deserve little blame and light punishment. In these simple words, we were given a fundamental guide by which to gauge our own lives and evaluate the actions of people and nations.

This Christmas Season the Lord's words should have special meaning for all Americans. We have, in freedom and as responsible individuals, built a nation with unprecedented power and capacity to advance the quality of human life and the cause of peace on earth that is the message of Christmas.

Our people have moved among the stars and have shared the experience with all the world. They search for ways to end poverty and hunger from the abundance and

strength that is theirs. With restraint in the use of immense military force, they seek the freedom, not the territory or treasure, of other nations.

Let us be thankful for the strength that is ours and for the spirit of the Lord living within us. Ours is not the easy road, nor should it be. "...to whom men have committed much, of him, they will ask the more." So it is with our nation and with our people.

## Down-to-earth

President-elect Jimmy Carter is a down-to-earth sort of fellow.

He has made it plain he wants no frills. He has cut hundreds of thousands of dollars from the expense account of the inauguration. He wants lumber saved for 1980 instead of selling it as scrap.

He prefers to carry his luggage. He will not wear a top hat for the inauguration, no long frock coat, just a business suit.

He has also made it clear he will use as his official name "Jimmy Carter" and not James Earl Carter Jr. Bills will be signed in this manner. He used the name Jimmy as governor of Georgia and plans no change as president.

The Carters seem to be just our kind of folk, and intent on giving us economy in government by setting an example.

## Cooperation needed

It takes cooperation to make any business successful and publishing a newspaper is no exception.

Have you ever thought how YOU might assist in making this newspaper a more interesting publication? There are many ways you can help the editor whose duties compel him to stay near the office, the telephone and the typewriter. It is impossible for the editor to "cover" news stories which occur in different places. Therefore, many news articles are not printed unless someone helps.

We welcome news from all towns and communities. It is our desire to print all factual news including church activities, public meetings, socials, sports, engagements, weddings, obituaries, and all other types of news which is acceptable. This newspaper also welcomes

pictures of interest and feature stories. The only way people can be informed is to inform them and this is where you can help.

With the exception of advertising, practically all items are printed free. Many people do not understand this.

The main requirements are that the articles are plainly written (typed preferred) and arrive in the office here before noon on Tuesdays.

We solicit your cooperation and should your article be "crowded out" in one issue, we will publish it as soon as possible.

Community news is urgently wanted from throughout the county. Please sign each article if possible, include your phone number in case we need to contact you.

If you want to read news from your community, please send it in.

## Governor's office restored

Governor-elect Jim Hunt is going to have his office in the old Capitol building. The governor's office is now in the new and swank administration building. Former Gov. Bob Scott worked in the new office and for certain occasions he went back to the Capitol. Former Gov. Dan K. Moore was the last governor to use the capitol exclusively for his office.

Gov. Jim Holsbouser has been in the administration building all the while, because workmen were renovating the Capitol.

Gov. Jim Hunt will be sharing the Capitol with Secretary of State Thad

Eure. He just stayed on in the old building, even though the renovation period was rough. Eure has occupied one-fourth of the ground floor since 1936. He offered to move if Hunt needed the space, but the incoming governor feels that three offices will be sufficient.

We are glad to see the governor back in the Capitol and we can understand Hunt's view as he walked through and remarked, "this is where the history is, the heritage is here."

We feel it would be better for the President to have an office in the Capitol and not work at home.



THE BIG LAUREL COMMUNITY CLUB presented the Laurel Day Care with a \$50 check on Monday. Shown at the presentation, left to right, Pat Wallin, Emery Wallin, Carol Wallin and Doris Conner, head teacher. The Laurel Day Care began its operations in September.

There was a desire expressed for some needed things at the Day Care. The Big Laurel Club was formed in March, 1975. It is their desire to give some happiness to someone at this time of the year. It is a joy for the club to share with and support this new facility in the Laurel area.

## Heard and seen

By POP

Attending the Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner in the fellowship hall of the Marshall Baptist Church last Thursday at noon was a pleasant affair... don't know exactly what age a person must be to be a Senior Citizen, or an elderly person... anyway, I'm old enough to be either or both, I suppose... anyway, I enjoyed being there and also enjoyed the delicious ham dinner along with about 50 other "60 or above" men and women... Mrs. Geneva Ramsey and Mrs. Dora Rice prettied up the place all Christmasy and the tables and Christmas tree were very attractive... the unique lamps as centerpieces on the tables were attractive... Sallie McHone told me how they were made... very clever, Mrs. Ramsey... you certainly have talent... always enjoy being around Maria Cox... she is so cheerful, inspiring and friendly... plus being a top-notch cook... I'm anxious to visit them in their new home on Hayes Run and see their solar-heating system... it's the most, I understand... Ella Baker is another person who always seems happy... I have never seen her look angry or sad... I like Jackie Houston's new hairdo... noticed it recently up at Ingles where she is a cashier... I've got a might good neighbor in "Shorty" Rector... his TV antenna is close to mine up on the mountain and when he checks his, he also checks mine... and when a tree or limb falls over on my antenna, he clears it out and fixes my antenna... he's that sort of friend and I appreciate his kindness... a suggestion to several store owners in town... take out the Christmas pageant notices in the windows... they have done their duty... and the pageant is over till next Christmas... it's sorta sad to see the little "white house" on Main Street being torn down... but changes must be made if progress continues... sympathy is extended Virginia, Eldridge, and the entire Leake family on the passing of Charlie Leake... I was among those attending the open house at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Niles Sunday p.m... as usual, the home was beautifully decorated... Ed and Nell are always so cordial... and Cynthia looked beautiful... Dewey Phillips, of Route 1 Mars Hill, brought a huge Nigerian gourd and an odd-looking potato to the office Monday a.m... when I took a picture of them (elsewhere in this issue) Dewey said they were my Christmas presents... thanks, Dewey... the hollowed-out gourd (60 inches in circumference) will make a fine storage piece... it's always nice to have college friends drop by to say hello, etc... Fender Allison (Berea College) dropped by Mon-oh, gosh, I've run out of space so guess I'd better close... wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas.

## Bicentennial medals deadline draws near

As Christmas and the end of 1976 draws near, people will have their last chance to purchase one of the official State of North Carolina Bicentennial medals.

The face of the medal depicts a collage of the state's agricultural, recreational, industrial and human resources. The reverse features the great seal of the state, adopted in 1775.

Medallic Art Company, the oldest private mint in the United States, and producers of the Congressional Medal of Honor and many official Presidential Inaugural medals is the producer of the State of North Carolina.

## The News-Record

NON-PARTISAN IN POLITICS

JAMES I. STORY, Editor  
Published Weekly

By Madison County Publishing Co. Inc.

BOX 367

MARSHALL, N.C. 28753

Subscription Rates In Madison County		Subscription Rates Outside Madison Co.	
12 Mos.	\$4.00	12 Mos.	\$8.00
6 Mos.	\$3.00	6 Mos.	\$6.00
		3 Mos.	\$4.00

(Plus 4 percent U. S. Sales Tax)

Second Class Privileges Authorized At Marshall, N.C. 28753