## The First Christmas

By Rosalie J. Hynds, in the Wisconsin Farmer.

"Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!
Clangs the heavy, deep-toned bell,
And all the world gives back the answer:
Christ is born, and all is well."

OVER nineteen hundred years ago there lived in the little town of Nazareth a humble carpenter and his wife, Mary.

At this time the ruler of the Roman empire, Augustus Caesar, required all persons to pay taxes for the upkeep of the kingdom. Joseph was a descendant of King David. Although he was living in Galilee, the law required him to go to Bethlehem in Judea to pay his taxes.

When it was time to pay the tribute, Joseph took Mary with him on the journey to Bethlehem. It was a tiresome journey. They were very weary when they reached the little town. Joseph went to the hotel to get a room where they could rest. But poor Joseph was disappointed, for so many other people had come to the little town that day the rooms were all taken. No doubt Joseph and Mary felt lonely and discouraged as night came on. At last they went to a stable to find a place to sleep. Here in a manger the Savior of the World was born.

This was a very lowly place indeed for the Prince of Peace to be born. Prophets had been foretelling his coming for many years. People were expecting him to come, but in some very grand way. Some thought he would make the kings leave their thrones and himself be the ruler. But he came as a sweet, dear little babe.

Now, you wonder how the people heard of his birth, in those long, long ago days when there were no telegraphs or telephones? Perhaps you think so important news as this would be announced publicly by the highest officials or the richest people in town and a holiday declared.

But not so. The first news of his birth was told to people engaged in a very humble and lowly work.

Methinks it must have been a beautiful warm night. Far out on the hills of old Judea the shepherds were herding their sheep. No doubt they were talking together about the big crowd in Bethlehem that evening. Suddenly there appeared in the sky a bright light. The shepherds were afraid. An angel spoke to them and said, "Be not afraid; I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people." Then he told them that Jesus had been born in Bethlehem; that they would find him, a babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger with his mother, Mary.

Suddenly there appeared with the angel a host of other angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will to men."

After the angels were gone the shepherds talked over the wondrous news. Then they hurried away to Bethlehem to see if it was true. Sure enough, there were Mary and Joseph and the little babe, Jesus. They then went out to tell others.

God also told the news of his gift to the world by placing a new star in the sky. The wise men saw it and followed its shining rays until they, too, found the "Babe of Bethlehem." These wise men worshiped him and gave him gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense.

This was the first Christmas.

### CHRISTMAS IN THE AIR

By MARY G. BONNER

THE air was keen and cold and invigorating. The snow was falling gently. In every house Christmas presents were being wrapped, cheery messages and cards and letters were being sent. Almost - forgotten friends were thought of and remembered by a card, a wish, a small gift.

For Christmas was in the air!

(© 1922, Western Newspaper Union.)

## The Christmas Wreath

### HOLIDAY MAIL IS HANDLED WITH DISPATCH OVER LAND

Washington, Dec. 20.—Despite heavy increases in holiday mail in some sections of the country, no congestion was reported in any of the 15 mail service divisions of the country in telegraphic reports received today by the postoffice department. Marked improvement in the operation of trains also was reported. The Atlantic division reported an increase over last Christmas estimates of 50 per cent, and San Francisco showed a gain of 20 per cent.

## Relic of Saxon Days

(© 1922, Western Newspaper Union.)

THE New Year begins precisely at midnight, and almost everyone nowadays sees the New Year in by general festivities and many good resolutions, which are promptly forgotten on January 2.

The festivities marking this occasion, says Hereward Carrington, scientist and author, are very ancient, and in old Saxon days it was the custom to partake of a bowl of spiced ale, which was passed around with the expression "Waesheal," which meant "to your health!" Hence the origin of the Wassail, or Wassel bowl.

We now keep New Year on January the first; but the Chinese, Jews, Turks and many others do not observe it on this day. Even Christian countries have not always so observed it; the Romans began the year with the March equinox. The later Teutonic nations for a long time continued counting the beginning of the year from March 25.

It was only in 1563, by an edict of Charles IX, that France changed the time of the beginning of the year to January 1. In 1600 Scotland made the same change, and England only did so in 1752, when the Gregorian system was adopted there. It will thus be seen that the New Year, observed on January 1, is relatively new, though we are accustomed to think that it dates back from time immemorial.

It was Julius Caesar, in the year 46 B. C., who first reformed the calendar—aided by the Egyptian astronomer Sosigenes. He made it a few minutes too long, and a second correction was necessary. Pope Gregory made certain changes in 1582, A. D., and additional minor changes were made later on, from the "old style" to the "new style" calendar." We now employ the new style.

After the French revolution France decided to set up an entirely new order of things. A new calendar was made. The Christian era was wiped out, and was replaced by the new French era, beginning September 22, 1792. Instead of our week of seven days, a week of ten days was established—in accordance with the decimal system—the tenth day being set aside for rest.

Instead of the mythological names of the months, others deduced from the prevailing seasons of the year were substituted.

Everything was to be based upon reason! The Notre Dame was converted into a "Temple of Reason." Mme. Momoro, the young and beautiful wife of a Jacobin printer, was chosen to represent "Reason." And so it went.

The months were chosen and given French names which were thought to be characteristic of them. Thus, autumn had a vintage month, a foggy month and a sleety month. Winter, a snowy month, a rainy month and a windy month. Spring, a budding month, a flowery month and a pasture month. Summer, a harvest month, a hot month and a fruit month.

Each month began somewhere between the 18th and the 22nd—according to our reckoning. Thus the first month of the autumn trio began on September 22, and lasted until October 21, etc.

With the restoration of a stable government in France, this calendar was repealed, and the usual one substituted. But for a time, as we have seen, New Year day did not begin on January 1, in France, so late as the last century, and it does not begin [illegible] in non-Christian coun-

## Your Christmas Room

By MARTHA B. THOMAS

(© 1922, Western Newspaper Union.)

THERE is always a place to which one may flee in time of need. That place is the inside of our own heads! Provided, of course, that the inside of our own heads is properly furnished with imagination and that the key is not rusted in the lock from long disuse. If you are a little lonely on Christmas eve, or a little unhappy, or a little anything that tends to tarnish the glow of the season, why not climb up to that place inside your head, rattle the lock, be quite firm with the key no matter how stubborn it is, then enter into what joy you may summon by your thoughts?

Glad wishes for friends are the green wreaths we may hang in the windows of our Christmas room.

Hopes for another year are the candles we light on the table.

New plans are the fruit to deck the board, and very likely there will be a guest or so to share them.

Think of the Fire of Purpose you may light on your hearth!

Think of the glow and warmth it will cast over you!

Think of the castles and dreams you crowded out of your heart because you were too busy; the fine, adventurous ones; the funny ones you have laughed over all to yourself; the shy ones you would not reveal to a soul at any price. Call them all back and see what a splendid set of inspirations they are. You'll feel like a new person.

And don't forget to put a present on the Tree of Faith for yourself; something you've wanted all your life. If you can't have it this year, waiting will make it more precious; and if you can (oh, think of that!) you'll be all the better prepared.

Do spend a little time in your Christmas room!

### FATTY ARBUCKLE TO GET ANOTHER CHANCE

Los Angeles, Dec. 20.—Roscoe Arbuckle, rotund comedian, barred from the screen since last April because of the encounter with the law, was today restored to the privilege of coming back to the place he once occupied in his industry, if he can. Will H. Hays, head of the picture industry, announced that all restrictions against the actor were to end January 1.

The Famous Players Lasky Corporation, which distributed Arbuckle's pictures, announced that no effort would be made at present to market some films that were withdrawn or films that were never released. Joseph M. Schenck, producer, said he [illegible] Arbuckle and the latter was thankful for the [illegible] would strive to [illegible] a brief statement [illegible] every man was entitled [illegible] and that the film industry not only wanted to live and let live but it wanted to live and help live.

A man smokes to quiet his nerves —woman powders her nose.

Don't be afraid of what "people will think"—people don't think about you half as often as you think they do.


## Cotton Seed Wanted!

[illegible] will exchange for—

MEAL
HULLS
OR

[illegible] by many farmers [illegible] recommended by those who used it.

N. B. Lee and Fred Baggett
agents for
Lee County Cotton Oil Company



## Apples and Oranges

**Buy Your Christmas Fruits From Dibs, the Fruit King, and Save Money**

We are selling out at a price that fits your purse and will give you a big reduction on large quantities. We are expecting two car loads of sweet Florida Oranges first of week and will have plenty for all.

You will find at our store a big stock of apples, oranges, candy, nuts, raisins, cocoanuts, grapes, grape fruit, dates pineapples, celery, tomatoes, or anything else you want in the fruit line. And don't forget that our home-made candy is the best. We will sell you cheaper than the other fellow and in addition to this will give you a 5 per cent discount on orders amounting to $5.00 or more.

**Wholesale Prices To Schools, Churches and Charitable Institutions**

Special—5-lb box assorted chocolate candy, splendid grade ..... $1.75

Come to see me. I did not grow this excellent fruit, but my brother did. I guarantee it.

M. S. DIBS

PHONE 69 —:— DUNN, NORTH CAROLINA



The Officers and Directors of the First National Bank, Dunn, N. C., wish to its customers and friends a—

MERRY CHRISTMAS

— — — and a — — —

HAPPY NEW YEAR


## Tell Me Again

TELL me again the story
That you told when we both were young!
You were my prince in glory,
A prince with a golden tongue,
And the touch of your hand was thrilling,
The first that you lived was joy—
But I was only a girl then, dear,
And you were only a boy.

Tell me, the way you told me
When our love was the song of spring!
Hold me, as you would hold me
When our love was a sacred thing!
Let the silver that's in your hair, love,
Be felt, as it used to be
When I was so new to sorrow
And you were so good to me!

Here by the fireside sitting,
As the pictures in flames rise up, • • •
Sweet be the moments flitting,
And children, just you and I!
For the love of our age is stolen,
And yet—I would feel the joy
Of the love that was only a girl's, dear,
For her prince, who was only a boy.

—*Henry Edward Warner, in the Richmond Times-Dispatch.*


## "Slimy Taste"

"When I feel stupid, get constipated, or bilious, I take a good dose or two of Black-Draught and it sets me straight," writes Mr. George B. Haislep, of R. F. D. 2, Columbia, S. C. "It cleanses the liver and I feel all right, and have not used any other medicine as I do not see the need of it. I am a guard at the State Reformatory, and have been for three or more years. When I first heard of

BLACK-DRAUGHT
Liver Medicine

and the good medicine it was, I had been having a tired feeling when I'd get up in the morning. I would be stiff and sore, and had a slimy, bad taste in my mouth, but didn't think so much of it till I began to feel stupid and didn't feel like eating—then I knew I needed medicine. It was then I began Black-Draught, and I felt all made over, ready for any kind of work, ready to eat and sleep. So, for any return of this trouble, I take Black-Draught, and for 25 years it has been my medicine, and I wouldn't be without it at all. My work is constant. I am on my feet a lot. I am out of doors, and fresh air and Black-Draught are all the medicines I need. I recommend it to others for I know it is good."

Sold Everywhere.

1 87



THE COMMERCIAL BANK
Dunn, North Carolina

Thanks You for the Full Support Given it in 1922, and Wishes You

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a

HAPPY NEW YEAR

You will Profit through making it Your Bank in 1923.

Studebaker

## Veterans Perform Like Youngsters

Nine Studebaker Big-Six Touring Cars, with a total of one million miles to their credit, recently participated in an economy-reliability contest conducted by the Studebaker dealer at Los Angeles.

All came through with perfect scores except two—one had dirt in the gasoline pipe, the other required a slight adjustment of brakes.

This is the most convincing demonstration of motor car reliability of which we know.

The run was from Los Angeles to Big Bear Valley and return—230 miles—of which 90 were on steep, rough mountain roads that necessitated stamina in every part. Yet the Big-Sixes reached every checking station on time.

One of these old veterans has piled up the amazing total of 351,000 miles of practically uninterrupted service of two trips daily between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara.

Another has 250,000 miles to its credit, and so on.

No such group of cars was ever before assembled for such a strenuous proof of endurance. Their entry in competition, over one of the most difficult of Southern California's mountain roads, was an expression of confidence of the owners in Studebaker everlasting goodness.

The dependability of the Big-Six Touring Car, its low cost of maintenance, its comfort, fine appearance and complete equipment make it the most desirable seven-passenger car on the market. Its price is way below cars that do not even approach it in value.

The name Studebaker is your assurance of value and satisfaction.

Motometer with ornamental radiator cap. Front and rear bumpers. Rain-proof, non-glare windshield. Automatic windshield wiper. Courtesy light on the driver's side which promotes safety in passing other cars at night. Tonneau lamp with long extension cord. Cowl parking lights. Cowl ventilator. Jewelled eight-day clock. Rear-view mirror. Theft-proof transmission lock. Tool compartment in the left front door. Shock absorbers.

MODELS AND PRICES—*f. o. b. factories*

| LIGHT-SIX 5-Pass., 113" W. B., 40 H. P. | | SPECIAL-SIX 5-Pass., 119" W. B., 50 H. P. | | BIG-SIX 7-Pass., 126" W. B., 60 H. P. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Touring | $ 975 | Touring | $1275 | Touring | $1750 |
| Roadster (2-Pass.) | 975 | Roadster (2-Pass.) | 1250 | Roadster (4-Pass.) | 1833 |
| Coupe Roadster (2-Pass.) | 1295 | Roadster (4-Pass.) | 1275 | Coupe (4-Pass.) | 2400 |
| | | Coupe (4-5-Pass.) | 1875 | Coupe (5-Pass.) | 2550 |
| Sedan | 1395 | Sedan | 2050 | Sedan | 2750 |

*Non-Skid Cord Tires, Front and Rear, Standard Equipment*
*Terms to Meet Your Convenience*

SMITH & McKAY
Dunn, N. C.

THIS IS A STUDEBAKER YEAR