

The Mountaineer

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Congratulations

We hear of many gaps in merchandise, yet from the appearance of the windows of the local merchants with their attractive arrangements and displays there seem to be a variety of desirable and acceptable gifts.

If you lack the Christmas spirit we recommend that you take to Main street and make the rounds of the stores for while you may not find that gift you had in mind, you will find substitutes just as attractive and useful.

We congratulate the merchants on the presentation of their Christmas gifts to the public in their window displays. They show thought and talent in arrangement, and should draw many window shoppers inside to inquire and buy.

Crime Increase

The juvenile delinquents of the war years are now branching out into major crime, and the increase of it is noted over the country according to J. Edgar Hoover.

Director Hoover cites that the "kids who were stealing tires from automobiles and bicycles yesterday are now stealing cars." The increase from September, 1944, to September, 1945, is estimated by Mr. Hoover as 15.8.

This crime wave is said by the authorities to be expected as a natural moral breakdown that follows war, which offers a challenge to every community in America, for this backwash must be counteracted. The broken threads of home life must be gathered once again in firm hands for there is where the foundation of character of the youth is laid.

Yet with all our post-war problems we have fewer than most of the nations who have been at war, for our material development has been untouched.

A Lesson

We will personally be glad when they finish with the investigations about Pearl Harbor. One fact we all know by now is that the Americans were not on the alert. Maybe at this stage we can forgive them more than we did at the time, when the world was shocked beyond belief over the attack.

We did not want war. At this time it is easy to look back in view of what has happened and say that we should have been more aggressive.

Maybe those responsible for the resistance of the attack were of the opinion that we here at home hold. "It couldn't happen here." You may recall how stunned we were at the news. It did not seem possible. We thought the Japs would not dare to do such a thing against a nation so powerful as the United States.

All the military authorities who have testified have pointed out what a risky and dangerous move it was on the part of Japan to start war in such a manner.

It is hard in 1945 to recapture the old feeling of security we had back in 1941, which in some ways makes it harder for us to understand why we ourselves were so shocked and why our armed forces were not more on the alert.

We should, no matter how we pass judgment in the final analysis, take a lesson from Pearl Harbor, for the days of false security are over forever. We should take this as a serious warning to be ready and prepared for the next time. It is in the past and no amount of investigation can remedy the fact that they gave us a terrific jolt and set back.

One of the biggest problems of the post-war era will be getting a large number of people working for what they are worth.

Help The Lions

Remembering the needy has changed in methods just as many other systems of doing things have found new avenues for old ways.

There was a time when the needy in our community were utterly dependent on individuals. Now here, as in other communities, those who would not have cheer for Christmas are still remembered by individuals, but indirectly in the majority of cases, for today clubs and organizations have taken this responsibility.

The money that goes on the dime board of the Lions Club finds its way into the homes of the unfortunate, just as surely as if you spent it yourself on some family, you knew, so give generously to this appeal made by the Lions.

If you know of any one person or family whose Christmas will be barren without some outside help, give their name or names, as the case may be, to whoever is operating the dime board at the time you place your money, and be assured that they will be remembered.

We're Interested Now

A new and relatively high-salaried State position may be created if plans for the North Carolina Tobacco Advisory Council are carried to completion, according to the Raleigh News and Observer.

The council recommends that a specialist in tobacco economy be employed by the council to promote markets for the State's largest agricultural product and to represent the industry in the field of taxation.

While it would be necessary, it was pointed out to pay a rather high salary, according to Kerr Scott, commissioner of agriculture, it might be well worth it to the tobacco growers of the State.

There was a time not so many years ago that we had little interest in tobacco problems in the State, here in Haywood, but with our flourishing hillside crops of burley we prick up our ears now on any discussion of tobacco questions.

For The Six Footers

At least men of extra height are to be considered by bedding manufacturers, for we read that there is a movement on foot by two national associations to provide more sleeping acreage for six footers. It has been suggested that an additional standard length of 78 inches (the present is 76) for beds and mattresses be established to improve sleeping comforts for basketball centers and the likes.

We have an idea that the news will be well received outside of basketball centers. We have heard a good many wives of six footers on the subject of keeping the sheets tucked down at the bottom, and of the habit their husbands have of sleeping diagonally across the bed with only a triangle left for them.

We recently heard of one six footer plus, who donned wool socks at night and let his feet hang over the foot of the bed, regardless of what kind of weather, but even so that system would tend to let in a considerable amount of fresh air not calculated to make sleeping any too comfortable.

Loans

It would seem that this country has debts enough, yet our loans to Great Britain, now under consideration are based on American long-run, enlightened self-interest. And the fine thing about them is that they will serve not only the interests of the United States and Britain but of many other countries. For they will help to free the channels of world trade at a critical time.

These loans are going to help to move goods to the places where goods are needed and to create jobs in the making and moving of these goods. Since the loans are dollars they will eventually be used to buy American goods and to contribute to high levels of employment in this country as the veterans are returning.

Sometimes when we hear local citizens complain, (and we at times are guilty ourselves) of bare shelves in stores of the so-called necessities of life, we stop and think of conditions in Europe. Think of how many years it will be, no matter if we do make them a loan, before their shipping supplies are back to normal.

The agreement for the loan also provides for cancellation of the Lend-Lease balance which remains outstanding against Britain after deduction of "reverse Lend Lease." This is alright and proper, for the lend-lease was devised to put American weapons, food and equipment in the hands of Allies for use against the Axis, because it was to American interests that these things be so used.

The United States trade touches that of England at many points. Since increased buying power in Britain means increased prosperity throughout, America should soon feel advantages from the loan, so government authorities point out.

To our mind such a loan is one of the wisest pieces of "American Defense."



HERE and THERE By HILDA WAY GWYN

It is amazing how many new friends we have added to our circle during the last four years. Maybe you wouldn't call them friends in the strictly technical use of the word, because they are not conscious of our friendship, which has given us much pleasure and pain.

We have had eyes on John to know him until he left for induction in the service. We happened to stand by his mother as he left with his group in the early part of the war. He and his mother had made an agreement that they would have no dramatics at parting. They had said their good-byes at home. They said farewell with a sporting air, in public, as if John might be going on a trip. They got by fine, but we recall after the bus pulled out the mother was still there, she could not hide the strain of acting so casual. We knew that underneath her calm front was an aching heart of anxiety. Now John is an example of what we mean by new friends. We will follow with interest his career, as we will many others. We had a nice letter from John while he was overseas. We would like to have printed it, but he requested that it not be made public, so we abided by his request. In other words the boys, we have followed through the years of the war by writing of them, will always seem like old friends, even though many of them we know only by name. In like manner we will, in remembering their fine records, retain a friendship for their parents, especially those to whom we have offered our sympathy in their dark hour of sacrifice.

Have you noticed the advertisements of the new magazine that the Curtis Publishing Company is to get out, the first edition to be on the newsstands on Wednesday, Feb. 6, of 1946, with the March issue? It is to be called "Holiday," and will be a magazine of travel, recreation and play. We were intrigued by the description of the new publication, because we felt it an outgrowth of the times. It is an answer to the trend of things. People have stayed at home so long due to war and rationing of gas, that they have "itching feet" to go places. They want to travel, see new sights. Such a magazine will meet the needs of the times and will no doubt stimulate a desire to many to take to the road on a gay holiday. Another thing with so many much traveled veterans, the civilians are going to feel that they must get out and see the world to hold up their end of the conversation. They could at least be conversant on the wonders of America. We hope our section gets its share of notice in the articles on travel and recreation.

Christmas recipes naturally draw our attention like honey does a fly. We never tire of reading about new candies and cookies even if this year we haven't any sugar with which to make them. We are hopeful of the return of the day when you can buy all you want. But when we see a recipe telling you what to do with left-over turkey, we get peeved to the point of exasperation. Do you suppose there is a living person who does not know what to do with "left-over turkey"? We wish the food specialists would stop taking up space and time with offering suggestions as to how to improve left-over turkey. It is like "trying to paint the lily white" to use an old-time expression. Who wants to do anything with cold turkey but eat it as it

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL



HERE and THERE By HILDA WAY GWYN

is, with all those nice little scraps of browned skin and dressing that fall around it, until of course it has definitely reached the hash and soup stage?

The Dutch are certainly gaining our admiration for their indomitable spirit of trying to reclaim their land. It is no small job to tidy up their front yards, after they have spent years of effort in reclaiming their land from the grip of the sea and then to have lost it all in 50 hours of German Sabotage, was not easy to take. We read now that another battle is raging in Holland—a battle with water, both the friend and foe of the Dutch for generations. We are sure they will win back with their thrift and energy. We recall at the beginning of the war in Europe, before we entered the conflict, a couple, natives of Holland, who were guests in our home for a fortnight. The man was a retired doctor, and the couple had come to America to stay during the greater part of the war. They had two daughters who had become American citizens. They were horrified with the waste in America. They cited as an illustration the way the American housewife peels a potato. They could not understand the waste lands in America. We tried to explain that there were not enough people to cultivate it all as they suggested. But they came back, but why do so many of your people live crowded up in cities when they could all have an acre farm and grow their own food. We couldn't answer that one, but since so many of the veterans have told us of the neat small farms in Europe, we understand better what they meant.

The following was handed to us for use here. We think it was taken from the "Saturday Evening Post," as appropriate quotations out of the past that might well apply to Christmas shopping in this year 1945. I stand in pause where I shall

YOU'RE TELLING ME! By WILLIAM RITT Central Press Writer

THAT hunting dog which got its name in the newspapers for shooting and wounding its master must have a keen sense of publicity. Hunting is a hazardous sport enough without having a trigger-happy pooch around. Grandpappy Jenkins thinks it's only another sign of a changing world when a hunting dog takes sides with the rabbits. Other hunting news includes two horses which were shot by a couple of hunters who must

Voice OF THE People

What is your favorite scripture version of the Christmas story?

Mrs. Frank Ferguson—"Luke's version of the birth of Christ is my favorite scripture of the Christmas story."

Rev. M. R. Williamson—"The second chapter of Luke."

Rev. L. G. Elliott—"The second chapter of St. Luke's."

Mrs. W. T. Crawford—"That verse in the second chapter of Luke, 'Glory to God in the Highest, Peace on earth, and Good Will toward men.'"

Rev. S. R. Crockett—"Each one is distinctive, but I have memorized Matthew's account, and perhaps it is my favorite, but Luke gives us the message of the Angels, which has perhaps given more inspiration to the world than Matthew's version."

Rev. Walter B. West—"The version from St. Luke's is my favorite."

W. C. Allen—"I think the story from Luke is the best version."

Mrs. H. G. West—"It is hard to say, for two people never see alike, and it seems to me that Luke and Matthew together tell a complete story, so I could not say which is my favorite."

Mrs. R. N. Barber—"I think we usually think of the version which refers to 'Good will and peace to all men,' for at Christmas we think of love and kindness to people."

Dr. Frank Love—"Of course it is the Nativity story as taken from Luke."

first begin—Hamlet. Act iii, Sc. 3. This weighty business will not brook delay—King Henry VI. Part II. Act I, Sc. 1.

Bugle bracelet, necklace amber, Perfume for a lady's chamber—The Winter's Tale. Act. iv. Sc 4

Rob me the exchequer—King Henry, IV, Part I, Act iii, Sc. 3

Courage, man; the hurt cannot be much—Romeo and Juliet. Act iii, Sc. 1.

Alone I did it Boy!—Coriolanus. Act. v. Sc. 6.

O, it is excellent To have a giant's strength—Measure for Measure. Act ii, Sc. 2.

Give him a present! give him a halter.—The Merchant of Venice. Act ii, Sc. 2.

Fire Accidents The National Safety council has pointed out that burns are responsible for 25 per cent of farm home deaths, compared with 17 per cent for the national total. The winter months are the dangerous fire months on the farm. The use of kerosene or fuel oil to build the fire in the kitchen range is a dangerous practice and should be avoided. The use of paper and kindling might take a little longer, but lives are safer.

Grain Exchange The Winnipeg Grain Exchange was formed in 1908.

The Everyday Counsel

By REV. HERBERT SPAUGH, D. D.

A proper observance of Christmas is one of the most stabilizing and comforting experiences one can have. Restless, harassed and disturbed people of today should realize this.

The spirit of Christmas is as simple as the heart of a child. Men have never improved upon the original message. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will toward men."

Christmas is pre-eminently the festival of the Church and the Home. They should have our first time and effort. The modern commercial Christmas is in danger of monopolizing the Season. We need to be on guard.

As an aid in the proper observance of Christmas I am passing on the following by an unknown author:

Ten Commandments For Christmas

I. Thou shalt not leave Christ out of Christmas, making it "Xmas," for this is the sign that thou art busy minded and spiritually listless. To most minds "X" stands not for Christ, but for the algebraic unknown.

II. Thou shalt not value thy gifts by their cost, for many shall signify that love is more blessed and beautiful than silver and gold.

III. Thou shalt give thyself with thy gifts. Thy love, thy personality and thy service shall increase the value of thy gift a hundred fold and he that receiveth it shall treasure it forever.

IV. Thou shalt not let Santa Claus take the place of Christ. In many homes Santa Claus supersedes the Christ Child and Christmas becomes a fairy tale rather than a sublime reality in the spiritual realm.

V. Thou shalt not burden thy servant. The shop girl, the mail carrier and the merchant should have thy consideration.

VI. Thou shalt not neglect thy church. Its Christmas services are planned to help spiritualize the Christmas season for thee, thy child and thy household. Remember the Church is a symbol of what we fought for in this war.

VII. Thou shalt not neglect the needy. Let thy bountiful blessings be shared with the many who will go hungry, and shiver with cold unless thou art generous in their time of want.

VIII. Thou shalt be as a little child. Christmas is the day of the Christ Child; not until thou hast become in spirit even as a little child art thou ready to enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

IX. Thou shalt prepare thy soul for Christmas. Fewerly most of us spend much time and money, getting gifts ready, but few seconds in preparing our souls.

X. Thou shalt give thy heart

Inside WASHINGTON

Cuban Ambassador Smart. Britain Eventually Brings Own Food Along. Get That Dispute Special to Central Press

WASHINGTON—When the youthful Cuban ambassador United States and his wife sailed recently on the Queen Mary, London, their baggage included bulky packages and many square boxes. The occasion for the trip was to attend the primary commission meeting of the United Nations Organization.

The ambassador is 37-year-old Guillermo Belt and some might believe he was loaded down with documents and an international law.

Instead, they were taking 100 pounds of Virginia ham and crammed with tinned meats which should be useful in London, where food still is scarce of their hungry London friends no doubt appreciate an invitation to dinner.

BEST INFORMATION ON CAPITAL is that Congress eventually will dig Uncle Sam's pocketbook to loan Great Britain a few billions again—this time for post-war reconstruction and reconversion.

Rumblings of discontent have been going on over the British policy in Palestine. They are not expected to grow out of a four or five billion dollar loan.

Members of the House and Senate regard financial transaction as a matter of national self-interest, although most of them would have moved Downing Street had headed the United States plea for free Jews into Palestine.

In some quarters there is talk of attaching a rider to a grant in an attempt to pry the doors of Palestine open, but move is almost certain to meet with defeat.

The consensus is that Britain will get her credits when a down specific proposals—although whatever figure she submits almost certain to be pared down.

TALK HAS DIED DOWN IN CONGRESS—for the time on proposals to give World War II veterans a bonus. Rep. John E. Rankin (D) of Mississippi, chairman of the Veterans' committee, insists, however, that the issue is not settled and that when the opportune moment arrives he will press Rankin is favoring an amendment to the GI Bill of Rights would give every veteran an outright grant of \$20 per week.

THE WAR-TIME OBLITERATION of air navigation on cities for security reasons now is causing concern to the Aeronautics Authority and other organizations interested in private flying.

Before the war many communities painted huge signs on largest buildings to give amateur airmen a clue to their whereabouts. Now the CAA has set a goal of 100,000 markings for war private flying but doesn't have the funds to carry out the program unless communities volunteer to shoulder the burden.

According to best estimates, a community may mark its buildings for as little as \$25. The CAA also hopes it can push through a plan for a uniform marking system.

THE OLD HOME TOWN By STANLEY

