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The Heart At Christmas

Why is it all right to feel a flush of pleasure upon being remembered with a lovely card from a friend at Christmas time, and yet wrong to feel the same emotion if the expression of your friend's regard takes the form of an expensive gift?

There are those who maintain that with the entrance of money into giving comes automatically a host of wrong ideas. Some argue that a card containing friendly sentiments awakens only the same emotions within the recipient, while an expensive gift from the same person stirs one to envy, to greed, to despair, or some other weakness.

Christmas is a time of sharing—Christ gave his life for man. He gave; man received. To share, man must receive as well as give. Christ was a gift of God to man.

Christmas should not be just a matter of receiving. No one will dispute that, but neither should it be only a matter of giving. If man is too weak to share, then he lacks the understanding of brotherhood, the knowledge of "oneness" that makes Christmas the one day a majority of people can actually feel good will toward man.

Christmas Story

Somehow we seem to have slipped a long way from the first meaning of Christmas and from the simple and clear observance of the Yuletide, according to The News-Herald of Morganton. The paper goes on to remind us:

Almost without our knowledge and almost against our wishes, the business of Christmas has grown ever more complex, extending tentacles into our time, efforts and pocket-books. Many a mother and father, straining their circumstances to satisfy the wishes of their youngsters, their respective families and their friends, breathe a sigh of relief when December 25 passes without injured emotions.

Some find unique ways to travel backward into the spirit that Christmas is alleged to have inspired many years ago. There's the story of the man of means who, each Christmas, travels the toy counters of his native

city. The clerks know him and out of the corner of their eye they watch for this man's signal to give a gazing youngster the toy of his choice.

There are other stories; all of them equally simple. The Bible story of Christmas is a magnificent relation of greatness in humble surroundings; or fiction stories of less magnitude and inspiration like the Dickens' Christmas Carol.

Right here in Morganton there's another version of the same type of simplicity.

In Burke, as in any other county, town or State, there are those who regard Christmas with dread, not because they harbor any ill-will toward the season, but because their economy will not allow for giving presents, a ritual that has come to represent Christmas expression of esteem throughout the land.

There are others in Burke who will have more than ample Christmas this year for the reverse of the economic story.

There is no duty involved. The haves are under no obligation to share with the have-nots. All that can be said is: Try it. If you've never given freely for unselfish reasons, you'll be amazed at the results.

It is not possible to elaborate on all the needy in the County. But the contributor may be assured, regardless of the size of his donation, that it will go to a worthy cause in Burke.

As long as Christmas good will is thought of in terms of presents, the persons in a position to give have the advantage. It is much better to receive the intangible returns.

Christmas Is What We Make It

At this season of the year, one often hears the remark: "I'm sure glad Christmas does not come but once a year."

Many times this season, as well as in the past, this statement has been heard time and time again.

We honestly believe that the temporary tired feeling causes this, and that deep down in their hearts, we would not miss this one time of year for anything.

Christmas is the time we think, to really take stock of our blessings. And we know of no one who can say with truth that they have absolutely nothing to be thankful about. For at this, the best season of the year, there is a lifting of the spirit, a feeling of good will, that is contagious, and should make us all thankful for our blessings and concerned about the welfare of others.

Already this Christmas spirit is at hand, although Christmas Day will not be here until Tuesday. Even in the face of the most critical crisis our nation has ever faced, it is apparent. And it is good that hearts can be lifted up, for there is much these days to depress and worry.

At all Christmases too many of us tend to forget the real meaning of the holiday. We forget that Christmas is in reality a Church holiday; that it is the day when we should observe the birth of Christ. But as man has a way of doing, the true meaning of the occasion is oftentimes dimmed by the more worldly glitter of tinsels and shiny lights. And while we wouldn't think of doing away with the pretty things that make Christmas the grand time it is, we think that all of us—and especially in days like these should remember that Christmas is in reality Christ's birthday. And in our merriment and happiness we shouldn't forget that there should be reverence, too.

To really get the most out of Christmas it is necessary that selfishness be put aside and concern for the welfare of others translated into action. For after all, everyone is not as fortunate as others, and can we really

They'll Do It Every Time By Jimmy Hatlo

I'M STAYING IN THE HOTEL, SO I'LL SIGN THE TAB—AND I'LL MARK DOWN THE TIPS—A RECORD FOR THE INCOME TAX, Y'KNOW—AND OH, YES—WILL YOU MAKE OUT DUPLICATE BILLS FOR MY EXPENSE ACCOUNT?

A DIME TIP IN WRITING, I BET—A—NOT ONLY THAT, BUT WE GOTTA KEEP AFTER THE MANAGER OR WE DON'T GET IT!

A COUPLE MORE CUSTOMERS LIKE HIM, AND I TAKE A CPA COURSE...

HE TRAVELS STRICTLY ON HIS FOUNTAIN PEN—HE AIN'T PAID CASH SINCE JOHN BUNNY WAS A BOY ACTOR—

HE'S BEATING IT BOTH WAYS—THE COMPANY PAYS AND UNCLE SAM WILL HAVE TO FIGHT FOR HIS CUT—

WATCHING THE BIG FINANCIAL MAN PREPARE FOR THINGS TO COME...

THANK AND A TIP OF THE HATLO STOVEPPE TO JOHN P. KEEGAN, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Looking Back Over The Years

- 15 YEARS AGO**
Work is started on expansion of the Carolina Hill Billies plant at Lake Junaluska.
- Three hundred people attend first community sing at the Park Theatre.
- Miss Gussie Martin, who is teaching in the school at Waterville, arrives to spend Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Martin.
- Miss Sarah Welch, student at Western Carolina Teachers College, is here for the holidays.
- 10 YEARS AGO**
Joe Scruggs enlists in the Army Air Corps and is stationed at Keesler Field, Biloxi, Miss.
- Florence Anne Bowles has party on her fourth birthday.
- One hundred and fifty persons volunteer for Civilian Defense.
- One thousand new motor vehicle licenses are sold to date.
- Del J. Howell announces the opening of Howell Motor Company on Main Street.
- Mr. and Mrs. Jack Elwood arrive from Canton, Ohio, to spend the Christmas holidays with relatives.
- 5 YEARS AGO**
M. D. Watkins is named chairman of the campaign to raise funds for the Polio drive.
- Fred Martin, Jr., student at the Arizona State College, arrives to spend Christmas with his parents.
- Mrs. Seba Bryson and Mrs. Clifford Harrell give coffee hour honoring Mrs. Gudger Palmer.
- Phil Medford, student at Emory University, arrives to spend the holidays with his parents. Dr. and Mrs. N. M. Medford.

RALEIGH Round-up
by JAMES H. POUL BAILEY

SELLING—The Distributive Education Service of the State Department of Education is working with merchants on a series of sales clinics in the smaller cities.

T. Carl Brown, native of Statesville, who heads up the work, reports on a class held a few days ago in Selma. There were about 60 students, including employers, and one of them was putting on a selling demonstration with washing machines. She was an apt pupil, as you will presently see.

She went along talking about the finer points of the machine. Finally, one of the observers could stand it no longer. "I want that machine," he said. Bought it the next day to give his wife as a Christmas present. The sales girl's employer is now probably thinking of providing her with a raise.

YEAR-AROUND—If you are an average North Carolina resident, you have stood in line—or will have to between now and January 31—to buy your license tags for the flivver.

At least one manager of an automobile club handling the sale of licenses is suggesting that the plates be sold throughout the year. For instance, if you bought yours in March of this year they would carry you until March of next. This, he says, would avoid the 60-day rush during the holiday season. The practice is being followed successfully in Maryland.

A similar move in North Carolina would no doubt prove confusing the first year in operation. The plan would at least provide more Christmas money.

Voice of the People

What will be the highlight of your Christmas?

Major Cecil Brown: "Having five Christmas Trees for 560 children; taking dinner baskets to 15 families; keeping three orphan children from Crossnore School through the holidays; and sitting by a telephone on Christmas Day and having all my friends call after living 17 years near Max Patch without a telephone (the number is 982-M-2)."

Mrs. Frances Davis: "Helping put through telephone calls for people who cannot spend Christmas with their families—and taking care of local people, mostly children, who want to tell each other what they got for Christmas."

Mrs. James Toy: "The greatest thing about Christmas to me is that the family will be together and this year we are looking forward to our little grandson being back with us."

Mrs. Harry Lee Limer: "The highlight of Christmas for me will be Christmas night when all the presents are opened and Christmas dinner is over and the dishes washed."

Mrs. James Atkins: "Having my family together, including my son and daughter-in-law from Atlanta."

Mrs. Charles Whitman: "I'm looking forward to being off duty for the first time in a long time and spending Christmas Day with my husband and family."

MIRROR OF YOUR MIND By LAWRENCE GOULD Consulting Psychologist

Are some marriage advice books misleading?

Answer: Yes, warns Dr. Lena Levine, marriage counselor, in 'Today's Woman'. Many women are made needlessly unhappy and dissatisfied with marriage by taking too literally the high-pitched emotional descriptions of marital bliss offered by some such volumes, or by getting the idea that "sex technique" alone can abolish inhibitions that grow out of inner and unconscious conflicts. Important as sex is, it can't take the place of mutual love and understanding. Couples seeking marital advice should ask their doctor to recommend accepted volumes—his own favorite is "Modern Pattern For Marriage," by Dr. Walter D. Stokes.

Can psychoanalysis be "learned"?

Answer: "As much and as little as the art of musical composition," says Dr. Theodor Reik, who was for thirty years a member of Freud's staff in Vienna. And Dr. Emil A. Guthell says that the interpretation of dreams—an essential part of psychoanalytic technique—"will always have to be augmented by the analyst's capacity for loving empathy with his patient and his unfettered intuition; two qualities which are beyond the scope of any instruction." No matter what training he has had, only a person with what seems to be an inborn "gift" for seeing things through other people's eyes can succeed in this difficult profession.

May borrowing be a "compulsion"?

Answer: Yes, in the sense that it may become a habit which the person cannot break, even when there is no real need for it—and no real intention of repayment. In such a case, borrowing is a more subtle form of kleptomania or compulsive stealing, since the unconscious, underlying motives are the same: a revolt against

THE MULETIDE!

enjoy this most sacred of all holidays when we know that there are homes where there is no cheer, no holly or mistletoe, no glittering Christmas tree, or the carefree laughter and glee of little children looking forward to the visit by Santa Claus. What more unhappy thought than that of children hanging their worn stockings by the fireplace on Christmas Eve night only to find them dangling bleak and empty on the morrow?

Those of us who have been blessed more than others can do our part in making Christmas happy for the less fortunate by contributing food and money, clothing and toys.

Yes, Christmas comes but once a year. And although the hustle and bustle of frenzied activity takes our time and saps our strength, we have no one to blame but ourselves. For we are responsible for the fact that it has become so highly commercialized. But despite our faults and our interest in material things, Christmas is still a wonderful event. And may the spirit which was breathed into this great day in Bethlehem so many long years ago continue to endure as countless other years come and go.

Rambling 'Round
—Bits Of Human Interest News—
By Frances Gilbert Frazier

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Holly wreaths and Christmas trees; Tinsel, bells and wrappings gay— Minds confused in all the rush, No time left to rest or play.

It's all part of the great game The world plays this time each year. Each move means a gain is made And the end is very near.

Then it's here! The festive day, With laughter, peace and good cheer, Wishing all a joyous time, And a bright and happy year.

THE OLD HOME TOWN By STAN

FOLKS!—DON'T TAKE OFF YOUR COATS—YOU BETTER START HOUSE-HUNTING RIGHT NOW—WE HAVE TO MOVE—THE LANDLORD WON'T STAND FOR OUR BABY-SITTER AND HER ROWDY GANG OF BOY FRIENDS!!

GOOD NIGHT!!

Inside WASHINGTON

MARCH OF EVENTS

U. S. A-Bomb Edge In Delivery Jet Jobs No Evidence Revealed Of Russ Long-Range Bombers

Special to Central Press

WASHINGTON—The United States Air Force believes America's biggest atomic advantage is not in the stockpiles of A-bombs but in the big jet planes being developed to deliver them. There is as yet no evidence that the Russians have developed long-range jet bombers. In fact, the Soviets have a version of the conventional B-36. Their latest bomber is a version of the B-52.

On the other hand, the 600-mile-an-hour jet bomber is now being delivered to the United States Air Force in quantity, and the B-52 is to take to the air soon after the first of the year.

Incidentally, the B-36s may eventually be converted into tankers to refuel strategists in the jets could then be described as intercontinental bombers.

PRIVILEGE ENDED—Senators enjoy a lot more of these privileges recently caused considerable embarrassment, and as a result it is cut off.

Atom Blast
This was the courtesy extended senators of pieces inserted in the Congressional Record without obtaining unanimous consent on the floor, as required by the rules.

What happened was that Senator Spessard L. Holland (D), Fla., received a letter from Gov. Fuller Warren of his state blasting crusading Senator Estes Kefauver (D), Tennessee. Holland read the letter and told a Senate page to take it to Senate Secretary Biffie. The page by mistake took it to the Senate reporters, who put it in the record.

When Holland saw the letter in the record next day, his face red. When Vice President Alben Barkley found out what had occurred, he cracked down. "This practice grew like Topsy," he said. "It will end today."

"SMOKEY THE BEAR" PROTECTED—Smokey the Bear, well-known cartoon character of the United States Forest Service, becoming too popular. The result is that the Forest Service is taking to see that no one else uses him.

"Smokey," of course, is the big husky bear with the striped shirt that the service uses to warn people against forest fires.

On behalf of the Forest Service, Rep. Harold C. Ostertag (R), New York, has asked Congress to give the service sole rights to "Smokey."

Said Ostertag: "He has been so successful in his mission, and has endeavored himself to so many people, that he is in danger of being commercialized."

THE PRINCE—Princess Elizabeth's husband proved himself a man of quick wit during the royal couple's visit to Washington. During the press reception, a newsman asked the prince to meet his wife. The duke thrust out his hand to shake the woman's hand. However, an elderly man standing nearby took advantage of the situation to put his own hand into the prince's.

So, when the newsman finally called the duke's attention to his wife, Prince Philip, looking at the elderly man, said: "Oh, I didn't think he looked like your wife."