



Something for Love

Lesson for December 24, 1950

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-20; Philipians 4:1-8; DEVOTIONAL READING: Matthew 3:1-12

THIS is a true story but it also is a parable for Christmas.

Once upon a time there lived a lady who had everything. As Christmas time came on, her many friends racked their brains to think what they could give her. It would have been absurd to send her a check, for though she was not rich she did not really need money.

Dr. Foreman

Dr. Foreman speak of that she seemed to need for her house, for she had lived in one place for some time and she had collected about all the furniture and bric-a-brac that her house would hold.

A Lovable Person

HOWEVER, her friends were determined to give her something, for she was a lovable person; so when Christmas time came her table was piled with gay parcels from near and far.

So she appreciated them, but because she could have bought any of them herself, she did not appreciate any of them quite so much as she did one present that when Christmas morning came could not be seen at all.

This lady had a cook. She was not a very good cook when first she went to work, because she was young and no one had trained her and she did not like to be trained.

The Invisible Gift

ON the day before Christmas the girl went home early to spend the day with her family. But before dark on Christmas day, in the same hour the kitchen stove went out of order and visitors came to spend the night, and the lady fell ill.

So the girl came and made the stove behave and cooked a meal and took care of her friend and made everything as it should be on that day.

So when the presents lay opened, on the very top of the pile, visible to the inward eye alone, were the hours of work given because the giver wanted to do something for love.

The True Gift

GIFTS that are sold in the stores, gifts that crowd the post offices, carloads of gifts that pass each other in the night on roaring wheels, the little gifts and the great; which of these are given for love?

It can never be seen, for it cannot be sold in the stores and the post office does not know the rates on it. It comes silently, and sometimes only the giver and God know about it, and the one who receives it does not suspect.

That is what Christmas means. On the first Christmas Eve, Mary the blessed Mother, was in pain, but it was pain borne in love.

Experimental Station Issues Publication Concerning Duplin County Soil Condition

Gene Goldston of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station and head of a soil survey party operating in Duplin County, asserts that some farmers are unknowingly using their poorest soils for growing crops, while large areas of fine soil more suitable for crop raising go uncultivated.

Goldston's report on the Duplin survey is contained in the new autumn issue of "Research and Farming," quarterly publication of the Experiment Station.

The report also reveals results of hybrid breeding tests with cotton. In an article describing the development of a "triple hybrid," Dr. Gladys F. West, who is carrying on cotton breeding work at the Station, says fifth generation strains are now being tested.

she says, and yields show definite improvement.

Bound in an attractive photo-cover and written in non-technical language, the autumn "Research and Farming" makes available to the public information on some of the latest discoveries in agricultural science. Single copies are free on request.



Raleigh, N. C. — The Hackney Brothers' firm of Wilson is happy. The outfit was clipped \$8,500 for failing to live up to a contract with the State, and has powerful friends trying to get its money refunded.

On April 7 Hackney Brothers got a contract to build bodies for 450 badly needed school buses. Under the contract, the Wilson firm was to deliver the buses at the rate of seven percent (32) buses a week, starting one month after the chassis were delivered to them.

By July 27 not one single bus had been delivered. Hackney pleaded wartime difficulty in getting steel -- but the contract was given him April 7, two and one half months before the Korean war started and while he still could have ordered the steel.

On July 27, Contract and Purchase Division Director Charles Williams sent a registered letter to Hackney Brothers calling for delivery or else. The "or else" was covered by a clause in the contract which says: "In case of default of the contractor, the State may procure the articles or services from other sources and hold the contractor responsible for any excess cost occasioned thereby."

Williams pulled 100 buses from firm to have bus bodies put on them. That cost \$45 per bus above the Hackney bid of \$1,110 per bus, plus some \$40 per bus extra in transportation and inspection charges. In other words, each of those 100 buses cost the State approximately \$85 more than the Hackney bid.

When Hackney submitted his invoice, calling for full payment for the 350 buses, Williams deducted the approximately \$8,500 extra it had cost for the 100 buses built by the Georgia firm. Hackney was unhappy, he felt he should have the full amount, despite the fact he had not lived up to his contract.

Williams refused. It wasn't long until Larry Moore of Wilson, chairman of the finance committee in the House in the 1949 session and thereby a member of the Advisory Budget Commission, was "suggesting" that Hackney couldn't help his inability to get steel and "shouldn't be made to suffer" because of an unforeseen war.

More enlisted the aid of fellow-Advisory Budget Commission member Frank Taylor of Wayne. Taylor was chairman of the 1949 House appropriations committee -- a post he is reportedly slated to hand Moore if Taylor is named speaker of the 1951 House.

Recently Hackney was allowed to argue his case before a secret -- as always -- session of the Advisory Budget Commission, which also is the board which awards contracts. What happened at that session has not been reported, but reliable sources say no action was taken on the Hackney matter despite efforts of Moore and Taylor.

P. S. This isn't the first time the Hackney outfit has been a little slow delivering school buses it had contracted to build. The firm was given a similar contract on April 9, 1946. By June 13, 1947 -- more than a year later -- the firm still had not delivered. A letter from then-Contract and Purchase Director W. Z. Betts said in part: "Your lack of cooperation in fulfilling any part of your contract has given us serious concern."

The new buses are used to replace old school buses. Failure to deliver them on time could mean a serious accident, killing or maiming school children who had to ride in rickety school buses that were scheduled for replacement.

It's going to ask the General Assembly to grant 10 days sick leave a year -- cumulative -- with full pay for teachers. This is in addition to the sick leave setup they have now, whereby the teacher is allowed to stay out while sick as long as necessary, making up the difference between state pay and local pay to a substitute.

NCEA claims it is a professional organization and not a union. However, the organization has recently taken in a "Department of Transportation," made up of the people who maintain school buses and can by no stretch of the imagination be classified as "professional" people.

Few people realize the enormous job that John Gold undertook when he took over as prisons director. He says he's learning as he goes along.

His ideas are sound. Rehabilitation of the prisoner should be the primary aim of the prison, Gold says. Every effort should be made to turn him out as a good citizen, able to live and work with his fellowmen. Being in prison is, of course, punishment for law violation. But Gold believes the prisoner should be taught discipline, through obeying prison rules and regulations; a trade, so that he will be able to care for himself when he gets out.

Gold is taking everything in stride. He's investigating every report of mistreatment of prisoners, misfeasance in office. He's keeping the boys on their toes, and believes he is cutting out graft -- petty or otherwise. He pays for his own meals at prisons.

Apparently, the former Winston-Salem police chief is the man for the job.

Drafting of doctors in North Carolina apparently is hitting hardest where doctors are most needed. The first call seemed to hit the rural sections or small towns where there had only one or two doctors.

Any doctor who got his training at government expense should be ready and willing to repay his country by entering the service. But there has been a dearth of "country doctors" for a long time. It seems ironical that the young men who entered general practice where they were most needed should be the first to get the nod.

While on the medical subject, let's toss a few orchids to the doctors for the plan to give a half-million dollars to aid in training more doctors. It's a shame they didn't use their million-dollar anti-socialized medicine propaganda campaign money for the same purpose.

The telephone companies are doing all right in the raise-getting field. Recently the Utilities Commission has granted a number of boosts. Week before last, for example, the Western Carolina Telephone Company of Franklin was allowed an \$8,000-a-year boost in gross income. The Norfolk and Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Co. of Elizabeth City got a raise of \$2,000 gross income, which will add \$25,000 a year to its net take -- and raise rates in Elizabeth City, Hertford, Edenton and Manteo.

The boosts are being granted on the basis of added investments in the companies. They are justified on the basis of the company getting a certain-percentage return on its total investment.

It seems to me that if you're getting a return of one dollar each per telephone that you'll get the same rate of return no matter whether you add to your investment by adding 1,000 more phones or not. In other words, if the company is valued at \$1,000,000 and has 10,000 phones the rate is set so that these bring in a return of around six and one-half percent. If you spend another \$100,000 and add another 1,000 phones, it would mean that the same rate on these additional phones would bring in the same percentage.

The road-building contractors are claiming they've been insulted -- that they don't try to dictate to the Highway Commission in its policy and operation.

Then why is it that they're using every pressure trick they can think of to get the commission to lower the specifications for a 24.4-mile strip of U. S. Highway 301, for which the contract for resurfacing and widening will be let Dec. 19?

Incidentally, the strip in question is from Whitakers to Weldon, via Enfield and Halifax. And 301 has become the most widely used north-south route in the State, particularly for the New York-Florida traffic. If there ever was a highway that needed to be top grade, that's it.

One contractor got caught trying to put down a road that didn't meet specifications. He was resurfacing a strip on one of the more widely-traveled east-west highways. He didn't see fit to put as thick a coating on it as he was supposed to, but a sharp-eyed Highway Department inspector caught him. He had to go back and put down another layer. Estimated cost -- out of his own pocket -- because he didn't do it right the first time varies from \$60,000 to \$100,000.

Big corporations are expecting the excess profits tax and are doing something about it. There's a flood of applications for new corporations going through Secretary of State Thad Eure's office these days. Many of them have identical names on them. In other words, one big corporation would have to pay a big excess tax. But if it divides into three small ones, splitting profits, it will pay smaller excess taxes -- if any. The individual taxpayer still is hooked though.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as executor of the estate of D. B. Johnson, deceased, late of Duplin County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at Chingnapin, N. C., or Grady Mercer, Beaufort, N. C. on or before the 14th day of November, 1951, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

This 14th day of December, 1950. George Frank Landen, Executor of D. B. Johnson. Grady Mercer, Attorney at Law 1-28-01. GM

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INSPIRATION Knowing God

AN EDITORIAL

NO HUMAN BEING can love another whom he has never known. Love grows through intimate contact. What is true between human beings is true also between human beings and God. The more truly we know God, the more deeply is love for Him embedded in our hearts.

To know God is not mere privilege; it is a duty enjoined by religious faith. God expects men to approach Him without fear or hesitation. It is only through knowledge of God and the cultivation of His friendship that men can be moved to practice those virtues that make them pleasing in His sight. Only familiarity with God can prompt the unselfish service which genuine love demands.

Some may ask: How is it possible to know God? We discover a "friend" God through religious indoctrination, through the study of the Scriptures, through the guidance and inspiration of spiritual leaders. Not only that: all around us are nature's endless manifestations of the glory, wisdom and power of the infinite Being.

Knowing God we must of necessity serve Him, and in so doing merit the eternal reward for which we were created. But again a question may be asked: What is meant by serving God?

The answer is simple enough. Service to God means, first of all, loyalty to His commandments. It means recognizing God in our neighbors. We please God by our prayers, our firm dedication to His laws. But most of all we honor Him by doing good to others, without reservation or discrimination.

Men look for God in the Heavens; but He is also in every human heart. That is one of the profoundest truths of religion. Every word of kindness, every deed of unselfish charity, every gesture of encouragement to another is an offering laid at the feet of the Creator Himself. To recognize and live by this truth is to walk by His side all through our lives.

The above editorial and other material appearing in this column, was prepared by Religious News Service.



ANCESTORS' COSTUMES... Dressed in costumes of their Quaker ancestors, Walter C. Horton and Mrs. Lester Collins of Moorestown, N. J., chat with Gov. Alfred Driscoll.

Religion Question Box

Q: What was the Scots Confession? A: A Calvinistic confession drawn up by John Knox and five other ministers and adopted by the Scottish Estates in 1530. It served as the creedal basis of Scottish Presbyterianism until it was replaced by the Westminster Confession in 1647.

Q: What was the leaven used by the Ancient Jews? A: The leaven spoken of in the Bible is a simple form of yeast probably made from the wild yeast common in hot countries. It is in no way different in its action from the commercial yeast of today.

Q: What is the Angelus? A: A Roman Catholic prayer said three times a day in honor of the Incarnation.

Q: What is the sublime sometimes applied to the Book of Proverbs? A: The Poetical Book of Practical Piety. It includes maxims, fables, riddles, sayings, proverbs and poems.

Q: What is the meaning of the word Deuteronomy? A: The Greek word means repetition of the law. Supposedly the book was written by Moses who received the law direct from God and repeated it to the people.

Archbishop Repudiates Assumption Dogma

LONDON -- The Church of England has always honored the Blessed Virgin as the mother of Jesus Christ but cannot accept the dogma of her bodily assumption into heaven shortly after her death. Dr. Cyril Forster Garbett, Archbishop of York, declared in a presidential address to the Convocation of York. Dr. Garbett's repudiation of the Assumption dogma came after he claimed it hurt understanding.

White: Bullin James Thomas and Wynona Quinn; Carl Fuson Savage and Sybil Ellen Vernon; Woods Sholar and Mageline Henderson; Jerald Harper and Virginia Jones; Earl Ray Williams and Mildred Katharine Brown; Rayford Franklin Garley and Mae Anderson; John William Bryan and Nell Gynn Mitchell; Allen Quinn and Catherine Edwards; Norwood Lanier and Hannah K. Kennedy; Joseph E. Quinn and Frank... Duplin County: Alfred... banks, Washington, D. C. and... nette Darden Faison, Duplin, James W. Pope, Duplin and Mary... Harrold, Pender; Norman Edward Brown, Duplin and Agnes... Holland, Johnston; Foyce Clayton Jones and Elizabeth Esther Pittman, Wilson; Robert Alton Keith and Sara Eleanor Moore, Pender. Colored: Leston Kenan and Pauline Keith, Duplin County.

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