

**'White Christmas'
Is Traditional
As Plum Pudding**

For a quarter of a century people have been sentimentally dreaming their way through a 'White Christmas.' It was in 1941, the black-clouded war years had already begun, when Hollywood leased a motion picture entitled: "Holiday Inn." The star of this movie was the ever-popular crooner, Bing Crosby. But perhaps the real star of "Holiday Inn" was the song written especially for the movie by Irving Berlin: "White Christmas."

Through the ensuing 25 years, over 100 versions of the song have been recorded by almost as many artists, yet "White Christmas" is synonymous with the name of Bing Crosby.

The poignant Christmas message that's found in the song has made it popular round the world. It has been translated into Italian, French, Chinese, German, Spanish, Hungarian, the Scandinavian languages, several Polynesian tongues and even Swahili.



MORGANTON -- In a few weeks, the nation will turn its attention to the realities which confront us from all sides.

The War in Vietnam continues to require in a sive numbers of man and more dollars. For this reason, the war is certain to shape much of the legislation coming up in the new session. Already Federal spending is getting a review by Government agencies, and this in turn has brought much discussion about the priorities that ought to be observed in cutbacks and spending in the months ahead.

Along with money problems for existing programs, there is counter pressure for any number of more expensive projects to mold the citizen-

ry into the progress that advocates envision for the new society. There is less quarrel oftentimes about the needs expounded than with the total faith cited that pouring an unlimited number of Federal dollars into these plans equals progress. The sad fact is that Federal spending for all causes does not automatically produce results.

One of the realities that we are slowly learning is that even the wealthiest nation in the world has its limitations in what it can do and what it cannot do. Even a powerful nation cannot adjust all the differences between nations nor can it long carry a disproportionate share of the military burdens of the world. This being true, a great nation ought not to scatter its military might beyond its means. At some point, sooner or later, we must reckon with this fact.

Neither can the Federal Government with all its massive power and its ability to obtain revenues go beyond sound limitations in remodeling the civilization of any age. If we attempt to scatter the Federal tax dollar in unlimited commitments to support every cause and attempt to eradicate every social evil, we risk building a bureaucracy that will attempt to control man's best responses as well as man's worst responses. The end result may be disillusionment in a futile effort to instill motivation where none exists. For progress at best is made by man's will to build a better world. There is no formula yet devised by which governments can instill this spirit in individuals. Indeed, motivation most often springs from a free society where initiative has its rewards. Government can help within limitations, but governmental cost is always a consideration, because such costs must be paid for ultimately by tax revenues.

Like Britain in the last century, we are finding that great power brings internal and external conflicts, and the road to continued progress is fraught with many perils.

Programming the needs of the country and consideration of these needs in legislation is at best a matter of judgment involving many choices and many priorities. Yet in spite of all the considerations involved in dealing with great national problems, the public senses what must be

The Old Wish In A Modern Setting

Again, it is CHRISTMAS. This is the season the Church's calendar that the birth of Jesus Christ is celebrated. Space does not allow here the historical setting in which this date was fixed. We would simply observe that it is a day set apart to commemorate the greatest event in all history. We happen to be one of those who believe that the stories about His birth which we have in the New Testament are substantially correct. God has always manifested Himself to man, and in divers ways. In this Baby in Bethlehem He manifested Himself in full and extraordinary manner. For later on, when this Baby grew up and went about teaching, He said: "He that hath seen me hath seen the father". So, this birth in Bethlehem was no ordinary even, though in His coming he showed the greatness of every human birth, and the reverence with which human life should be treated.

There are some things in our celebration of Christmas that are to be commended: there are some things to be deplored. The celebration has become too commercialized, and too overdone. The money-changers do not occupy the outer courts of the temple; they are in the plush marts of trade, with gala advertisements of their business. Extravagant gifts in interchange become, not genuine expressions of love, but social pressures; Children are so satiated with gifts that a sense of appreciation is lost, and the gifts soon discarded. Christ the Redeemer and Saviour is displayed by jolly old Santa Claus. Of course, Jesus Christ came that people might have abundance of things, but his giving was costly, not in terms of material things, but in the gift of Himself, and for Him that involved a sacrificial giving that was costly indeed.

If we are going to celebrate Christmas, let us celebrate it in a manner befitting the nature, the mission, and the sacrifice of Him who came. He should not be used as a means to promote sales, but in a manner which will reflect a reverence for His person, a concern for the people whom He came to save, and services of worship marked with genuine adoration. The true celebration of Christmas calls for more than pompous parades, extravagant exchange of gifts, elaborate services of worship. Rather: "O Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ The Lord."

It is in this spirit, and with these things in mind that we extend to our subscribers, advertisers, readers and friends the old greeting—a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS. We hope that you will find the real joy of Christmas. Our town is a small town, but Bethlehem was a small town, and Jesus came to it. We would like to think of all our friends giving and receiving gifts: in eating delicious foods, and in the activities of the day, as finding the real and deep joy which comes in the simple things of life, and in the thoughts and habits born in the spirit of Him whose birth we celebrate.

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

done to resolve the issues. As of now, there appears to be a strong national feeling that Vietnam must be dealt with first and that the purse-strings will have to be tightened in non-essential programs to do this.

EDUCATION

Continued from Page 1
rything in its place".

One thing that a teacher needs to remember is to plan well, leave a pleasant mental note with the children.

This year the three classes of Special Education at the Cooleemee School took on as their project—making presents for their parents. If you could visit the classroom you would see the many different articles made by the pupils. Shuttles cleaned and sprayed gold with flowers added, Santa Clauses made from Reader's Digest. Some made Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, candle holders made of spoons and acorn hulls, black print Christmas cards, pot holders, candles de-

corated, Christmas tree and windows that say "Merry Christmas" along with the murals on the wall painted by the pupils of manger scenes.

Wednesday the Davie County American Red Cross gave the three classes a party with the Mocksville Senior Scouts in charge. Off they go home happy with a gift for their parents that they made.

THE LOW-GEAR TYPE
It's entirely possible that you have heard about the woman who called her husband "Hydramatic" because he was shiftless.—Chicago Tribune.

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Stocking Is Just Legend?

Did a spinster hang up the first Christmas stocking? Legend says yes, but history says no—or at most, "Maybe."

St. Nicholas, a fourth century bishop, secretly gave gifts of gold for the dowries of poor spinsters. His method was to toss the gold down a chimney by night, at Christmas.

On one occasion, so legend says, the gift landed in a stocking, hung by the fireplace to dry.

History casts a dubious eye on this "origin" of the Christmas stocking custom. The spinster probably didn't have a stocking -- not in the fourth century.

Knitted form-fitting hosiery was unknown until the thirteenth century. Barber, people wrapped cloth or rags around their feet as substitute for modern stockings.

Even after William Lee invented the stocking frame, a more efficient method of production, in the late 1500's, it was some time before the poor could afford to buy stockings.

History makes one concession to the legend tellers. Paintings from Pompeii show that early Romans did wear some form of stockings, even before the birth of Christ.

Passage from Hamlet
... the crowing of the cock.
Some say that ever 'gainst that season
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,
The bird of dawn singeth all night long;
And then, they say, no spirit dare stir abroad;
The nights are wholesome; then no planets strike
No fairy takes, no witch hath power to charm,
So hallow'd and so gracious is the time.

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