

BOOST
FARMVILLE
EVERY DAY!

Farmville Enterprise

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VOLUME THIRTY-EIGHT

FARMVILLE, PITT COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1947

NUMBER THIRTY-THREE

STATE OUTLINES PROCEDURE INSPECTING CARS IN SAFETY LANES; PROJECT BEGINS JAN. 12

As your car or truck enters the safety lane, which is approximately 160 feet long, an inspector will be at the entrance to check your operator's or chauffeur's license and vehicle registration card. It is necessary to show these credentials before an inspection can be made. You will then pay your \$1.00 fee and the inspector will fill out an "inspection card," which will be checked throughout the lane for all types of mechanical defects. This card becomes your personal property, and will be used later to aid garages and repair shops in correcting defects on your car.

You then proceed with the inspection card to the wheel alignment and steering tester. It is very important that these vital mechanisms of your car be kept in good condition at all times. You will be asked to drive the front wheels of your car across the wheel alignment tester, and the reading will be recorded on your inspection card. Then the front end of the vehicle will be jacked up to check the wheel bearing and steering mechanisms. After that, the car is dropped from the jack and the rear wheel alignment is recorded.

At this second point the inspector will also check the tie rod, drag links, mountings, joints, tires, horn, windshield wiper, rear view mirror, windshield and other glass, license plates, muffler, and brake drag to see that they all come up to the minimum requirements.

When this check is completed, you will proceed to post number three where the lighting equipment will be checked. The inspector will test your parking and driving lights, lens and reflectors, headlights, stop light, tail light, and signal light. Special equipment will be provided for testing lights.

After the lights have been checked thoroughly and the inspection card has been punched accordingly, you will proceed to the brake tester, where your hand and foot brakes will be checked, and the grading will be recorded on the inspection card.

Now your vehicle is ready for the final grading. So you drive to the end of the safety lane, where an inspector will examine your inspection card and tabulate the results. If your vehicle measures up to the minimum requirements, a bright blue approval seal in the shape of the State of North Carolina will be stuck in the corner of the windshield. You can drive away happily, knowing your car is in good, safe operating condition.

However, if a vehicle fails to measure up to the minimum standard requirements, its owner will be given a red, diamond-shaped sticker, bearing in black letters these words: "This vehicle must be delivered to a N. C. Mechanical Inspection Station on or before (date)." This vehicle must not be operated or parked on any street or highway after the date shown unless it carries an approved safety inspection sticker.

Once a vehicle has been rejected, it is then up to the owner to take it to a garage or repair shop and get his defects corrected. If the owner is a mechanic or has the ability, he may make the repairs himself. When the defects have been corrected, the owner then returns to the inspection station for another test, and if the car is found to be in good order, its owner will be issued an "approved" sticker. On this second visit, only the part that failed to pass inspection the first time will be checked, and there will be no additional fee.

Your inspectors will be as lenient as possible at the beginning of the inspection program. They realize that due to the recent war, automobiles and parts have been hard to get.

However, if they occasionally inspect a vehicle that is in such unsafe condition that it is definitely a hazard to life and property, they will use the windshield with a large 8 by 10 inch yellow sticker, bearing a red cross, labeling that vehicle CONDEMNED. Printed on the sticker will be these words: "This vehicle is unsafe and must not be operated or parked on roadways or any public place." Condemned vehicles cannot be driven away from the inspection stations. They must be towed away.

A copy of the CONDEMNED report will be sent to local law enforcement officers, who may take what action they deem necessary. If the owner of such a vehicle wishes to have extensive repairs made to bring it up to the minimum requirements, he may have it towed to a garage and get a certificate from the person or firm making the repairs. He may then return to the inspection station for another check.

Out of concern for the safety of our citizens, Mrs. Fred Johnson will have as her guests during the holidays her daughters, Mrs. Jane Johnson of Baltimore, Md., and Mrs. Lucy Johnson of Washington, D. C.

Christian Church To Dedicate Memorial Gifts Sunday, Jan. 4

The Farmville Christian Church will have a special service on Sunday, January 4, to dedicate several memorial gifts recently donated to the church.

These gifts include: an electric organ given by James Y. Monk, Jr., Mrs. R. V. Fiser and Mrs. H. L. Watson in memory of their mother and father, the late J. Y. and Reide Lang Monk; a pulpit Bible by Mrs. Winifred Lang and the Opportunity Class and other friends in memory of James Lang; a desk for the study given by Mrs. Fred G. Smith in memory of her husband; a light for the study given by C. H. Flanagan in memory of his mother; a gas stove given by Mrs. Hubert Sugg of Snow Hill in memory of her mother.

The church has been redecorated and many improvements have been made. These include a new roof, entrance to the basement, an enlarged vestibule with new steps and new front doors. The basement has been redecorated and a new kitchen and two new laboratories have been installed. The pulpit has also been moved from the center to the left side of the auditorium.

The Enterprise hopes to publish a history of the Christian Church on its church page next week.

Local Firms Express Season's Greetings

Farmville business firms are using this issue of The Enterprise, their newspaper and yours, to extend season's greetings and to express their appreciation for the patronage they have received.

With these greetings go their best wishes and a desire that good luck, good health and prosperity may be yours throughout 1948.

First Santa For U. S. Sketched By Artist

Thomas Nast, the famous cartoonist who created our conception of Uncle Sam, the Republican elephant and the Democratic donkey, is also credited with giving America its first modern pictorialization of Santa Claus.

Nast first sketched his notion of Santa Claus in 1873. This Santa was a rollicking, chubby old man smoking a pipe and dressed in what looked like a night shirt with fur collar and cuffs. Since that day he has grown taller and rounder, has developed a full white beard and mustache and above all has acquired the traditional red suit bordered in ermine.

The story of how our American version of Santa Claus evolved is interesting. According to legend, children of Lapland and Siberia, raised on tales of the good and generous St. Nicholas, thought of their benefactor as dressed in furs and traveling in a reindeer-drawn sleigh, just as they did themselves.

Wondrous stories of this great Fourth century saint, who gave handsome presents to good little children, were repeated at the firesides of all Europe from the time of his death in 342. The Dutch children observed the anniversary of his death on December 6 and received presents in their wooden shoes.

These Dutch youngsters thought of St. Nicholas as a stern old man with a long white beard, garbed in bishop's robes and carrying a stick to chastise naughty children.

The little Hollanders coming with their presents to found New Amsterdam brought Santa Claus with them. In no time the English colonial children whose fathers had taken over the Dutch settlement and renamed it New York caught on to this wonderful man. The English moved his yearly visit from December 6 to New Year's Eve.

German coming to America brought their Christmas customs; Christmas trees and Christmas candies burned in honor of the Christ Child, whom the German children called "Kris Kringle."

At about the time that these festivities were making Christmas Day important, families beginning to spread across the country chose this celebration as a day of reunion. They the Dutch figure of Santa Claus, the German traditions of Christmas and the English custom of celebration became combined in one single holiday.

Misses Louisa and Virginia Harris arrived Monday from New York City to spend the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Harris.

Mrs. Fred Johnson will have as her guests during the holidays her daughters, Mrs. Jane Johnson of Baltimore, Md., and Mrs. Lucy Johnson of Washington, D. C.

We Wish You All A . . .

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Season's Greetings!

Another year of Life's little uncertainties and worries has all passed, and the traditional season of Good Cheer is upon us. Somehow the Christmas season creeps from memory so many of the past year's irritants that we wonder why we ever worried at all!

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST

Church tradition, presumably oversizing the Biblical mention of three specific gifts as presented to the Infant Jesus by the Wise Men, has identified the Magi as Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.

Twelve learned men who lived in a far Eastern land appointed themselves to watch for the star of benediction which they believed would announce the birth of the Messiah. Each year, after the crops were harvested, the patriarchy ascended to a cavernous retreat upon the plains of a vast mountain in order to prepare for the coming of the star.

It will be good to gather around the hearth again with family and friends. The banter of grownups, the laughter of children, the opening of presents—well, it all adds up to another Christmas.

LEGION AUXILIARY

The American Legion auxiliary Thursday afternoon. Mrs. E. Y. Rollins, president, presided. For the devotional Mrs. E. B. Fields told the dramatic story of Gen. Patton's miracle prayer. Mrs. O. G. Spell, program chairman, presented Mrs. Herbert Hart, who in a most interesting manner described "The Nativity Scene," as portrayed in wood carving, an art which deserves a more prominent place in America than it is now accorded. She named John Rude and Alois Lang as outstanding artists of wood carving and described some of their work.

living, and that many more happy holiday seasons are coming. It's time for good wishes and good cheer, and for the warmest, finest greeting of all.

WISDOM MEN CAME FROM THE EAST

During a social hour recordings of Christmas carols were enjoyed. The hostesses, Mrs. Tyson and Mrs. W. M. Willis, served handsome coconut cake on plates decorated with burning miniature candles. This was followed by coffee and hot tea.

JUNIOR CHAMBER COMMERCE WILL COLLECT SCRAP PAPER SUNDAY; SCOUTS TO BENEFIT

Other Lands Have Their Own Ways Of Observing Christmas

CHINA HAS SHENG DAN JIE—A HOLY FESTIVAL

The celebration of Christmas is gradually becoming widespread in China as more and more families are converted to Christianity.

Sheng Dan Jieh—literally, Holy Birth Festival—is the Chinese name for Christmas. Private homes are decorated with large white posters inscribed with Chinese characters meaning Peace, Good Will, etc. The Christmas tree is also popular; symbolically called the Tree of Light, it is usually made of paper mache and trimmed with paper flowers and ornaments, it is not artificially lighted.

Gifts are exchanged within family circles and there are "surprises" for the children: American lead pencils, picture books and even cast off Christmas cards are exceedingly popular.

Early service on Christmas morning is the focal point of the religious observances. Lantern-lit processions enter dark churches before dawn and, after service, wend their way home singing Chinese translations adapted to the original melodies of "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," "Silent Night," and other traditional Christmas carols.

ST. LUCY HONORED THROUGHOUT SWEDEN

St. Lucy's Day, on December 3, inaugurates the Christmas season in Sweden.

On that day the prettiest girl in the household is chosen to impersonate Lucy; very early Christmas morning she will go through the house awakening the household and giving each person a cup of coffee or some sort of sweetened beverage. Her costume is traditionally a white dress with a red sash, and she wears a wire crown entwined with holly twigs—similar to the American cranberry—studded with albe candles.

Liturgically, St. Lucy was martyred about 300 A. D. The story goes that Lucy gave her dowry to the Christians—whose courage she admired—instead of turning it over to her fiancé. The enraged young man informed against her and she was condemned to be burned at the stake; unharmed by the flames, she did not die until thrust through with a sword.

Lucy is commemorated somewhat diversely in Switzerland where she is the legendary wife of Father Christmas. Wearing a round cap over her long braids, a laced bodice and a silk apron, she marches around the village with Father Christmas and distributes gifts to the girls while he looks after the boys.

DUTCH OBSERVE DEC. 6 AS DAY TO EXCHANGE GIFTS

When Christmas rolls around in Holland, it is quietly and religiously observed: St. Nicholas Day, December 6, is the day of gift-giving and jollification.

For weeks, life-sized figures of St. Nicholas have decorated show windows and men dressed as Nicholas have stood in front of business establishments, and driven around in horse-drawn carts delivering parcels.

At last the great day arrives; there are several children in the household, sometimes they are gathered together from neighboring households. Bishop Nicholas (dressed in full vestments and accompanied by his Moorish servants) attends the children's party and impresses them by his knowledge of their shortcomings and chides them liberally before distributing the trinkets and gifts he has brought for them.

After the youngsters have had their fun, the grown-ups sit around a festive table and open their surprises. Small gifts are baked leaves of bread, packed in emerald crates, wrapped in holes of paper—each wrapper directing the gifts to a different person; the longer the donor or final recipient remains unknown, the greater the general jollification.

Indicative of the spirit of the season, packages containing gifts are often entrusted to strange passers-by who are instructed to leave the parcel on such and such a doorstep and ring the bell.

Rev. and Mrs. O. W. Rogers and Miss Mary Rogers of Chatham, Tenn., are spending the holidays with relatives here.

Mr. and Mrs. James Joyce are spending Christmas holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Hickey, in Memphis, Tenn.

Miss Louise Smith arrived Monday to spend the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Smith.

While most of Farmville will be bidding farewell to Christmas and getting back to normal after what we hope will be a happy Yuletide, the newly-organized Junior Chamber of Commerce will be collecting scrap paper and carrying out its first project.

Trucks will collect the paper Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock and all in the community are asked to pile their papers, magazines and cardboard in orderly fashion in front of stores and homes where it will be picked up by trucks.

Proceeds from the sale of the paper will go to Girl Scouts. Magazines and cardboard are what the Jaycees want most. These are the heaviest items and since the paper is sold by the pound, these items will bring the greatest income.

The truck will make its rounds at 2 o'clock. In the meantime, arrangements have been made to gather up scrap paper in the business district. The committee in charge of the event is composed of Red Newton, Jr., Frank Harris, Jack Darden, and Vassar Fields.

At The Kiwanis Club

T. K. Fountain of Falkland, who served as a lieutenant-colonel in the Army during World War II and is a former State Commissioner of Safety, spoke to the Kiwanis club Monday night on the value of our freedom.

Mr. Fountain was introduced by Dan Jones, his brother-in-law, who had charge of the program.

Zeb Whitcomb reported on playing Santa Claus in the club's name, to one of the community's less fortunate families. Rod Williams summarized a meeting he recently attended in Greenville.

Howard Harris was the guest of Frank Harris.

ALTON W. THOMAS IS STATE COLLEGE GRADUATE

Alton W. "Boots" Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Thomas, graduated from State college Friday with a degree in ceramic engineering. He will leave December 27 to be associated with Serval, Inc. in Evansville, Ind., as an engineer.

After graduating from Farmville high school he completed his freshman and sophomore years at State before entering the Air Corps where he served two and a half years.

He was a member of the student council his junior and senior years, held membership in Phi Kappa Tau, social fraternity; Kappa Psi, professional fraternity; the Engineers council and Mu Beta Psi, music fraternity and was on the Agrimeck staff before the war.

P. T. A.

"All Ye Faithful," a dramatization interpreting the significance of the coming of Jesus to the world and offering an opportunity for individual meditation on the meaning of Jesus for lives today, was given by Miss Mariah Thompson's third grade pupils at the P. T. A. meeting Thursday afternoon. Decorations consisting of trees, candles and a poinsettia were used back of the footlights and the manger scene formed the background. Modern people from all walks of life came to pay homage to the Christ child.

A vested sixth grade choir under the direction of their teacher, Miss Anne L. Jones, sang carols.

Mrs. R. T. Williams, president, reported that a maid had been secured by the association for work in the school.

The Christmas story from Luke was read by Rev. E. R. Clark, who closed the devotional with a prayer. Miss Thompson's grade won the prize for having the largest percentage of parents present.

EASTERN STAR

Featuring the Christmas program at the Eastern Star meeting Thursday night was a talk on the origin of carols and the symbolism of Christmas decorations by Mrs. LeRoy Rollins, a humorous poem, "Christmas in Africa," read by Jo Ann Webb of Fountain. "The Mysticism of Christmas," given by Wilma Grace Owens of Fountain. Carols were sung.

Cards received from the state and district officers were read and the chapter voted to send a gift to its adopted guest at the Masonic-Eastern Star home.

Attended by a large number of members, the meeting was opened with the regular ritual, followed by the singing of "America."

Homemade wafers were served at the social hour when gifts were exchanged from the Ladies Aid. Mrs. Herman Dukes, an adopted member, served homemade candy and fruit. The program was closed with a tray bearing an Eastern Star.