

# Poole's Medley

BY B. SCOTT POOLE

Christmas was on Sunday in 1876, and snow began falling Saturday morning about six and ceased falling at 4 p. m. Monday. That snow was two feet deep, I do not remember a winter without snow until these later years.

Snow in winter freezes insects, and they are not so damaging to plants we want to grow. Not so good crops follow mild winters, said the old folks.

I have never read of so many wife murders by husbands before in my life. This is due to two reasons. We have better news facilities than we used to have, and more people are drinking liquor.

The Christmas of 1876 a man with a load of whiskey camped

in our neighborhood, and there was more evidence of drunkenness, too.

If we could get a law passed for each county like the one passed for Richmond county by State Senator Everett in 1905, we would not ask for a return of prohibition.

I am writing more about liquor this time, because if people drink at all they indulge about Christmas, while they are celebrating the advent of the Savior of men. What a mockery.

We are all making a mistake if we are not as friendly all the year around as we are at Christmas time. Let's try to be this year.

"Oh the good we all may do, while the days are going by." You will be remembered by the good you may do, fortunately. Folks seem to forget the wrongs we do. But let's cut that out.

We remember the Raeford with frame stores, and a sandbank Main street. I hope we have all improved as much as our town.

Doubtless some will be making new resolutions soon. That may help out, but not unless you have proper respect for your promise.

One Mr. Hiss is over the coals about this spy business, and it is quite natural that he should continue to hiss.

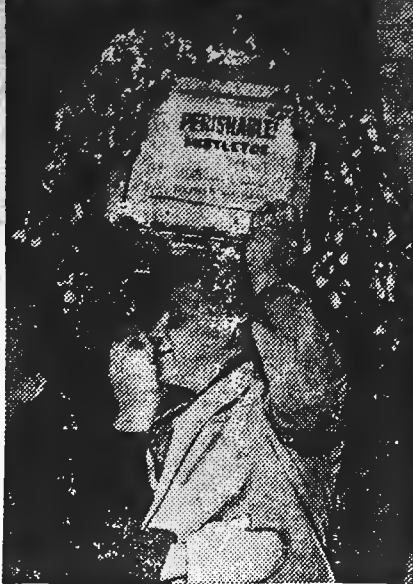
John Barleycorn is bringing his usual Christmas sales, whether stockings are empty or full.

One thing this writer has learned, Hoke has done more in the way of defending Democracy than other like population. Hoke County sent into the ranks of defenders 1,461 men, seventy odd of these were commissioned officers.

The Russians are planning and expecting to gain control of all Germany through the aid of unfaithful Germans. Whoever turns traitor against his own government should be shot.

Grain crops in the United States were greater this year than in many years. Our government is sending food stuff frequently to Europe

My wife and I enjoyed sixty happy Christmases, and I hope all my readers will enjoy that many, or more Christmases.



GOOD JOB . . . How would you like the job of delivering boxes of mistletoe during the Christmas season? Nice work—if you can get it.

## Columbus Unlucky On Christmas Eve

America's first Christmas was celebrated by Christopher Columbus. It happened on Christmas eve of the memorable year 1492.

Columbus was planning to observe the Feast of the Nativity with the Indian chieftain, Guacanagari, who ruled over the island of Haiti. Already he had received fine presents from the chief who he believed to be great Khan of Cipagno, that fabulous realm of the Orient. Columbus mistakenly thought he had found.

But Columbus' plans went wrong. He was so tired from long watches while the Santa Maria cruised the island channels that he retired to his cabin for a nap. While he was sleeping, the next in command also decided to take a rest and went below. The helmsman, as tired as the others, decided that he deserved a rest as much as they and turned the tiller over to a cabin boy.

**Abandon Ship.**  
The worst happened. Within a few minutes the Santa Maria was fast on a reef. The rolling surf drove the ship higher and higher upon the reef and opened her seams. Soon she fell over on her side and the water poured into her hull. Columbus and the crew were forced to seek refuge on his other ship, the Nina.

Early next morning Columbus sent word of the wreck to Chief Guacanagari. Promptly the chief sent a message to Columbus assuring him that he would give him all the assistance possible.

The noble chieftain was better than his word. He assembled a great flotilla of canoes and despatched them to the Santa Maria to bring all its valuables ashore. Amid the cargo the natives saw many things that made their eyes open wide with envy. Yet so strong was their friendship for the white men and so careful Guacanagari's supervision that not a single article was stolen.

**Christmas Banquet.**  
After the last article had been brought ashore, Guacanagari had another plan. His guests had missed Christmas, but there was no reason why Columbus and the men should not enjoy the finest banquet he and his followers could provide.

There was game from the woods, lobster and fish from the sea; and all sorts of tropical fruits and vegetables. A thousand natives danced in Columbus' honor after the feasting and the climax of the ceremonies came when the chief brought out a coronet of gold and placed it upon Columbus' head. There were also presents of gold for the crew.

In the journal which he was keeping for Ferdinand and Isabella, Columbus wrote: "These people love their neighbors as themselves; their discourse is ever sweet and gentle, and accompanied by a smile. I swear to your majesties, there is not in the world a better nation or land."

## Secret Gifts Left By St. Nicholas

The story of how St. Nicholas became associated with secret gift-giving, and even today comes covertly at night to leave his presents, is one of the most important in the history of his life.

Once upon a time there was a man with three daughters, all of them wishing to marry, but with no dowry forthcoming. Sorry, indeed, was their plight. Their father had about decided to sell them as slaves, but the good St. Nicholas heard of it, and filling a purse with gold, went quietly by night to their home. Seeing a window open, he threw in the bag of gold and then stole away in the night. This money enabled the eldest daughter to marry. A second and a third time St. Nicholas made the trip and finally all three daughters were married.

After the saint's third trip, the girls' father, who had been watching to see who brought the gifts, ran after St. Nicholas and thanked him for his kindness. St. Nicholas made him promise not to divulge his gift-giving and after that he always deposited his presents so secretly that no one ever saw him. Yet people knew, somehow, that it was he who brought gifts during the night, and so whenever they found a package mysteriously delivered they instantly exclaimed, "St. Nicholas has brought it!"



All the fragile beauty of a snowflake symbolizes this shimmering season of joy and happiness. May this Christmas be the most joyous of them all.

# The Bank of Raeford

MEMBER OF FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION



Cheerily we add our voice to the many happy ones raised in the wish...  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**Raeford Hardware Co.**



As the wonderful, star-crowned story of Christmas moves once more through our lives, there is no one of us who is not conscious of the inexpressible divinity of the season. It is a time to be generous, a time for deep happiness, a time for neighborliness and good will towards all.

**Dundarrach Trading Co.**



As the Spirit of Christmas unfolds itself over the countryside, we add our greetings and best wishes of the season.

A Christmas of joy and contentment, of peace, good cheer and happiness—that is our wish for you and yours this joyous Yuletide season.

**Collins Dept. Store**

RAEFORD, N. C.