

"Things That Matter"

by Lucien Coleman

WILL THE REAL SANTA PLEASE STAND UP?

You really can't blame kids for developing some doubts about Santa Claus, nowadays. Everywhere they go, as Christmas draws near, they bump into imitations of the real thing. In department stores, shopping malls, and on street corners, they see people dressed up in red suits and imitation beards, all claiming to be that jolly old fellow from the North Pole.

Santas tall and short, fat and skinny, black and white, youthful and elderly, male and ... heaven help us ... female. And Mommie insists that all of those characters are the real thing. A kid would really have to be stupid to buy that line.

What has happened here is that we've taken a perfectly lovely legend and tried to reduce him to concentrate reality. And you just can't do that with a legend. That's like trying to hold a moonbeam in your hand.

About 1,700 years ago in a small Turkish village lived Nicholas, son of well-to-do parents. But he was no spoiled brat. His heart was filled with love and compassion for the poor and needy. And, soon, he became well-known for his charitable deeds. Later, as bishop of Myra, he became a favorite saint of the early church. More specifically, he was the patron saint of virgins, traveling students, barren wives, thieves, financiers, and pirating vandals.

But he didn't become that round-bellied, red-suited fellow with chubby cheeks and a reindeer-drawn sleigh until 1822, when Clement Clark Moore wrote his poem, "The Night Before Christmas." Following the descriptions in Moore's poem, artists began painting representations of St. Nicholas, their images ranging from tall, thin men to short, rotund elf.

The artist who deserves the most credit for giving us our present vision of Santa Claus (the name, by the way, is a corruption of St. Nicholas) was Haddon Sundblom, who began a series of Christmas advertisements for the Coca-Cola company in the 1920s. Sundblom's Santas were roly-poly, pink-cheeked, and exuberant, just as we know the old gentleman today.

The real Santa doesn't belong in

shopping malls or department stores. The real Santa belongs to the magic world of fantasy. Real? Sure, he's real. As real as the mysterious disappearance of those cookies left for Santa by young believers on Christmas Eve. As real as the soft tinkling of reindeer bells, heard by kids everywhere as they try hard to go to sleep on the most exciting night of the year. That's a lot more real than plastic boots and Dacron beards.

So, why don't we quit conning the kids. Just tell them the truth. That Santa and his elves are much too busy up at the North Pole to visit every store in town. And that's why all those guys have to put on red suits and play like they're Santa Claus.

Service Personnel

Capt. Michael M. Adkinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mondell Adkinson of 2227 U.S. 401 Bypass, Raeford, has been decorated with the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal at Arnold Air Force Station, Tenn.

The Air Force Commendation Medal is awarded to those individuals who demonstrate outstanding achievement on meritorious service in the performance of their duties on behalf of the Air Force.

Adkinson, a civil engineering officer, is a 1976 graduate of North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro.

Army Staff Sgt. Billie H. Locklear, son of Perlene H. Locklear of Red Springs, participated in training exercise Bright Star, designed to test the U.S. ability to deploy troops to the Middle East.

Locklear is serving with the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, as a squad leader.

His wife, Patricia, is the daughter of Retha Welman of St. Pauls.

Locklear is a 1969 graduate of Pembroke Senior High School.

Jerry T. Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Barney B. Brown of 300 McQueen Road, Aberdeen, N.C., has been promoted in the U.S. Air Force to the rank of first lieutenant.

Brown is a contracting officer at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., with the Eastern Space and Missile Center.

His wife, Barbara, is the daughter of Gladys O'Neill of 120 Demore Ave., Avenel, N.J.

The lieutenant is a 1979 graduate of Troy State University, Montgomery, Ala.

Parade First Since 1971

Raeford's Christmas parade Saturday was the first for the city since December 6, 1971, though Santa Claus came in the years after that just the same.

Santa arrived by parachute in 1972 and 1973 and in a less strenuous manner in other years. After he dropped in at Army Park November 29, 1973, he was escorted from there and through downtown by the Hoke High band.

The 1971 parade was later than it was originally scheduled for. It was planned for December 3, but two inches of snow fell during the day before the parade was to start, so the change of dates had to be made.



CHRISTMAS PLAY -- These fourth-graders at Scurlock School gave a Christmas play for the Reading Is Fundamental program Tuesday morning in the school library. The actors and actresses were: L-R, Xerceria Little as Ting, Ann Weathersbee as Santa Claus, Leslie Tatum as Mrs. Claus, Katina Virgil as Sand Man, Vanessa Campbell as the Narrator, and Leslie Ashburn as Sue. The children's teachers are Marilyn Semones and Maxine Colston. [Staff photo].

Hoke ASCS

It has just been announced by Everett Rank, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service, that eligible wheat farmers will shortly receive and estimated \$420 million in deficiency payments on their 1981 crop, while barley farmers will get about \$50 million in payments.

Deficiency payments are required under the 1981 wheat and barley programs when the average market price received by farmers during the first five months of the marketing year is below the established target price. Because of this, eligible producers will be paid 15 cents per bushel for their 1981-crop wheat and 11 cents per bushel for this year's barley crop.

Deficiency payments will be made to Hoke County wheat and barley farmers who reported their 1981-crop acreage and filed an application for payment with the local ASCS office. Local producers were being issued payment checks by the Hoke County ASCS Office shortly after December 10.

If 1981-crop deficiency payments for sorghum are required, they will be made next April. If deficiency payments are necessary for cotton, producers can expect payment next February.

QUOTA UNCHANGED

The 1982 flue-cured tobacco national marketing quota will be 1,013 billion pounds, the same as for the 1981 crop and should assure adequate production to meet domestic and export needs, according to Rank.

The 1982 national acreage allotment is the same as the 1981 allotment—546,386 acres.

Rank said USDA estimates over-marketings will exceed under-marketings by 32 million pounds, thus making the 1982 effective quota about 979 million pounds, or 133 million pounds below the 1981 effective quota.

He said estimated marketings from the 1982 quota are expected to be 940 million pounds, down 204 million pounds from the 1981 crop.

Supplies of flue-cured tobacco—the quantity on hand at the start of the 1981 marketing year plus 1981 marketings—are about 588 million pounds in excess of the reserve supply level. The reserve supply level is the quantity considered adequate to meet domestic use and export needs.

Beginning January 1, the interest rate on Commodity Credit Corporation loans will be set at the rate charged CCC by the U.S. Treasury during the month that the loan is issued, according to Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block.

Loans disbursed since April 1, 1981, and which have interest rates subject to change, will have their interest rates adjusted January 1. These loans, which currently have a 14.5 percent interest rate, will be adjusted to the interest rate charged CCC by the Treasury in January. Previously, CCC interest rates were set semi-annually—on April 1 and October 1.

The interest rate paid by CCC has declined from a peak of 16.75 percent in October to 13.625 percent this month. Farmers should benefit from this downward trend in interest rates, Block said.

Pastor's Anniversary Celebrated

The Church of Daniels Temple Revival Inc. celebrated the 14th anniversary of the pastor, Eldress Pauline Daniels, at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, November 29.

The pastor was presented with a bouquet of roses which was followed by a devotional and praise service.

Expressions of appreciation were given by members and friends.

The first-place winner for the Penny Drive was Stacey Demetris Nicole Baldwin who raised 10,500 pennies. Her parents, Nigel and Regina Baldwin, express thanks to all the people who donated on behalf of the drive.



Stacey Baldwin

Sandhills Community College

Registration for the Winter Quarter classes will be held 4-8 p.m., Thursday, January 7, 1982, in the Hoke County Public Library. If you are interested in a class, please come register at this time, \$8 fee for under 65, no fee for over 65.

New Classes: Sewing and Quilting have been added at Wayside Community Building, U.S. 401 North, with Mrs. Meta Smith as the instructor, sewing in the mornings, and quilting in the afternoons. These classes will be held on Wednesdays starting January 13. You may call Mrs. Smith at 875-3834.

Tax Clinic: Ray Graichen of Pinehurst will conduct a tax clinic on Mondays, 10-12 a.m., starting February 8 and ending March 8. This will be a general survey of such topics as 1) NC and federal economics, 2) property tax, 3) personal income tax, 4) gift tax, and 5) inheritance tax. The many new changes will be discussed. This day class should appeal to retired personnel.

Income Tax: There are two "how-to" classes, how to do your income tax returns, a night class, starting Monday, Jan. 11th, 7-10 p.m.; and a day class, 10-noon, starting Wednesday January 13, Mrs. Elizabeth Jones will be the instructor for each of these classes.

Returning Classes: After an absence of a few quarters typing will be offered on Monday and Tuesday evenings, 7-9, with Mrs. Shirley Parsons of the Hoke High School faculty as the instructor. Room 4 MacDonald Building, Hoke High School. This is an excellent opportunity to get that typing you previously missed.

Great Decisions: Glen Langdon will lead the discussions of the current Great Decisions program on Tuesday afternoons, 3-5:30, February 2 - May 28, in the Board of Education building. Teachers may get two CEU renewal credits for this course. A daytime class for retired people is planned for later in April and May.

SHARING IS CARING



LEGALS

401 right of way, 1115 feet to the point of BEGINNING, containing 13.3 acres, more or less.

This being the Northern portion of that 12 acre tract deeded to Wesley Monroe, and Elvina Monroe by J.W. McLaughlin in Book 16, Page 148 of the Hoke County Public Registry. All of that tract conveyed to Alex Monroe by J.W. McLaughlin in Book 57, Page 63 of the Hoke County Public Registry. Also identified as Lot No. 1 as shown in Map Book 1, Page 178 of the Hoke County Public Registry. All of that property described in Book 16, Page 296 of the Hoke County Public Registry in which Henriette Coggins received from the daughters of Israel. EXCEPTION THEREFROM: That lot conveyed to John D. McAllister in Book 87, Page 490 of the Hoke County Public Registry to which reference is hereby made.

This sale will be made subject to all outstanding taxes, if any, and prior liens of record, if any.

CASH DEPOSITS: Ten percent (10%) on the first \$1,000.00 and five percent (5%) on any additional amount bid will be required at the date of the sale.

Done, this the 8th day of December, 1981.

BOBBY BURNS McNEILL, TRUSTEE

HOSTETLER & McNEILL
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
RAEFORD, N.C.

34-35C

CREDITOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of the estate of Henry Bullard, deceased, late of Hoke County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before June 10, 1982 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 10th day of December, 1981.

Jessie James Locklear
Administrator
Hostetler & McNeill
Attorneys at Law
P.O. Box 277
Raeford, N.C. 28376
33-36C

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA HOKE COUNTY

Having qualified as Executor of the estate of Ruby Lane Stewart of Hoke County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said Ruby Lane Stewart to present them to the undersigned within 6 months from date of the publication of this notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate please make immediate payment.

This the 19th day of November, 1981.

Warren L. Martin
1417 Mack St.
Spring Lake, N.C. 28390
33-36C

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA HOKE COUNTY

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE
Having qualified as Administrator of the estate of Johnny Pridgen, Jr. of Hoke County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said Johnny Pridgen, Jr. to present them to the undersigned within 6 months from date of the publication of this notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate please make immediate payment.

This the 16 day of November, 1981.

Mary Frances Pridgen
Route 1, Box 653A
Red Springs, N.C. 28377
31-34C

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA HOKE COUNTY

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE
Having qualified as Administrator of the estate of Gladys Pridgen of Hoke County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said Gladys Pridgen to present them to the undersigned within 6 months from date of the publication of this notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate please make immediate payment.

This the 10 day of November, 1981.

Pearlie Pridgen
Route 1, Box 653A
Red Springs, N.C. 28377
31-34C

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