

# Opinions

## 'Things That Matter'

by Lucien Coleman

### WHY CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS?

Christmas before last the row of stockings hanging on our fireplace expanded from nine to eleven, to accommodate the two new babies born to our daughters the previous August.

Then, during the post-Christmas sales last year, my oldest daughter and her husband came in with yet another stocking.

"Why did you buy that?", my wife asked.

"We got it for half price," they responded.

"That was silly," I told them in a fatherly tone, "a bargain isn't a bargain if you don't need it."

Then they dropped the bomb. "By next Christmas," they said, with knowing looks, "we'll need it."

And, sure enough, with young Joshua now in the family, there'll be an even dozen stockings on our fireplace this year.

The other day, as I contemplated what it would mean to fill 12 stockings, at today's prices, I asked myself, "Why do we do it?"

"Good question," myself responded. "Why don't you find out?"

That sent me to the library on a search for the origin of Christmas stockings. And, just in case you, too, are among the perpetrators of that quaint and expensive custom, I thought I'd share the results of my research.

It all goes back to a familiar legend associated with the life of St. Nicholas, a fourth-century bishop of Myra, in Asia Minor. He's the fellow whose name was changed by the Dutch to Sint Nikolaas, then to Sinter Klaas. This name, brought to our country by the Dutch settlers of New Amsterdam, eventually became Santa Claus.

Anyway, it seems that St. Nicholas got three sisters out of a real pickle. Since the father of these unfortunate young ladies couldn't afford a dowry for them, they were doomed to stay forever unmarried. Or it seemed.

But St. Nicholas heard of this predicament and went to their house on three successive evenings, heaving a bag of gold through a

hole in the roof each time.

That hole in the roof was there to take care of the smoke which came from the fire pit below. (This was before the day of fireplaces and chimneys).

Following their usual custom, the three daughters had washed out their stockings and hung them to dry on the rail around the fire pit.

With saintly precision, Nicholas not only tossed each bag of gold through the smoke hole in the roof, but, also, into the appropriate stocking each time.

With the possibility of more bags of gold dropping into stockings by night, a tradition was born.

To this day, hopeful children everywhere hang up their stockings on Christmas Eve, knowing beyond doubt that St. Nicholas (now Santa Claus) will come down the chimney (no longer a smoke hole in the roof) and fill them with -- if not bags of gold -- all kinds of good things.

I'm not a kid anymore. But I like to keep my stocking hanging in an accessible place on that magic night before Christmas. Just in case.



## Library News

Open house was observed at the library Mon. Dec. 6. Our own Suzanne Cameron Linder spent Monday morning with us as part of our Open House program and was presenting the booklet "Railroads in Hoke County"; which she helped Paul Fu, Regional Consultant, compile from existing material.

Folks came, visited a while, and upon leaving received home made candy made by members of the Woman's Club.

Members of the library board were so generous with their time to come and be hostesses for this occasion.

This occasion was also designated as a commemoration of Sandhill Regional Library System's 20 year existence of which we have been a member for seven years.

### DECORATIONS

Mrs. Elizabeth Jones is showing an ice creamy snow scene; a lovely, colorful village with all the little folks, houses, sleds, dogs, etc. The young folks are really enjoying this. Hope you will too.

Also, the Woman's Club spent so many hours decorating the library. Please, while you are in town shopping come by and see the lovely, live Christmas tree with homemade decorations with nostalgic toys at the base to intrigue any child. Seasonal poinsettia and hurricane lamps with candles.

There are lovely camellias, red and white, that were also given by one of our trustees. The library has never looked so pretty. We want everyone to see it and enjoy it as we do.

We owe so much to the Woman's Club. We remember so well when, seven years ago; the new library project got off to such

a good start with all the good ladies who worked so hard, from the Woman's Club. Again we want to thank them for everything.

### SRLS - CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Mrs. Cameron and Mrs. McDiarmid spent Wednesday, Dec. 8 in Rockingham at a book buying session and a special Christmas covered dish luncheon in honor of Ms. Karen Sewell who is leaving the Regional Office and will be joining the staff of Cone Hospital in Greensboro as the Area Health Educational Center librarian.

There were gifts given out to all with lucky numbers. Other gifts and coupons from local and general short order restaurants, health spas, etc., and Ms. Sewell received gifts from all regional library members.

### BOOKMOBILE

The Bookmobile is still off the road until further notice. Patrons will be notified by phone and news paper. We are sorry for this inconvenience but shortage of help is felt in the library as well as in many other places.

### WORKERS - GOING AND COMING

Two students who were working a few hours in the afternoon with us have going to work at Sky City. Audranita Morrison is still with us on Saturday and Monday nights. We hope to get another student for a few hours a day.

There isn't much satisfaction in keeping someone just long enough to learn which shelf books go on and which are adult, junior or easy readers. This does not include learning our filing system, the desk, and so many other things we need extra help for to keep your library running smoothly.

## From The Desk Of Congressman Bill Hefner

Eighth District Rep. Bill Hefner, D-N.C., voted against the nickel-a-gallon increase in the federal gasoline tax that would finance \$5.5 billion in highway, bridge and mass transit improvements.

Hefner said, "The tax burden of our people is already too great, and our people must depend on their automobiles for transportation to and from work, often from great distances."

He said, "Our economy is just too weak at this point to penalize our people with additional taxation."

Hefner pointed out that North Carolinians began paying an additional three cents a gallon for gasoline in July of 1981. The three-penny levy was approved by the North Carolina Legislature to help pay the costs of improving the state's highways.

North Carolina is a "donor" state, which means it pays more taxes into the Highway Trust Fund than it receives in return from the fund.

Although Hefner voted against the gasoline tax bill, it passed the House by a vote of 236-169. The Senate is expected to begin its deliberations on the proposed tax soon.

Hefner said he supported an alternate proposal to obtain the money for the highway, bridge and mass transit improvements by capping the third year tax cut at \$700 for those individuals who earn more than \$45,000 a year.

He said, "This was another approach that would have raised the necessary funds without hurting middle class taxpayers. Unfortunately, the House didn't have an opportunity to vote on that proposal."

Hefner said he strongly supports new federal jobs that would be created by putting people to work repairing and improving the rapidly deteriorating highway infrastructure.

However, he said he could not support a bill that would do so much harm to the citizens of our state and the trucking industry that is so vital to the North Carolina economy.

While the trucking industry has supported the five-cent per gallon fuel tax increase, it has opposed the special truck taxes. Truckers say the special taxes on their vehicles would be "devastating."

The proposal would increase federal highway taxes on the trucking industry by almost \$2 billion annually, forcing a lot of trucking companies out of business and resulting in a high loss of jobs.

Hefner said, "Those which do survive will pass the increased costs on to their customers. Since so many consumer goods are transported by truck, this will surely fan the fires of inflation."

The proposed new federal gasoline tax would take effect on April 1 of 1983.



## A&P... Your Complete COLDS & FLU CARE CENTER

PRICES EFFECTIVE THRU SAT., DEC. 18 AT A&P IN RAEFORD.

ROBITUSSIN	
Expectorant	4-oz. 1.49
CF	4-oz. 2.09
PE	4-oz. 1.99
Night Relief	4-oz. 1.99
DM	4-oz. 1.99

VICKS COLDS RELIEF	
Nyquil	10-oz. 4.69
Formula 44	6-oz. 2.99
Formula 44D	3-oz. 2.19
Inhalers	6-oz. 3.89
Vaporub	3-oz. 2.49
	6-oz. 3.99
	1.49
	1.5-oz. 1.49
	3-oz. 2.79

**NEW!**

HEAD & CHEST TABS	HEAD & CHEST CAPS	HEAD & CHEST LIQUID
379 36's	379 24's	269 4-oz.

COLD RELIEF & HEADACHE REMEDIES			
Contac Severe Cold Formula	10's 2.19	Alka Seltzer Plus	20's 1.89
Contac Capsules	10's 2.19	Afrin Nasal Spray	5-oz. 1.99
Dristan Decongestant Tablets	24's 2.69	Comtrex Liquid	6-oz. 3.39
Comtrex Capsules	16's 2.59	Comtrex Nighttime Liquid	6-oz. 3.39
Comtrex Tablets	24's 2.59	4-Way Nasal Spray	5-oz. 1.79
Coricidin "D" Decongestant	24's 1.99	Sucrets Lozenges	24's 1.79
Triaminic Syrup	4-oz. 2.59	Anacin Tablets	100's 2.99

**Merry Christmas**

**MIKE'S PAWN SHOP**

**GREATEST SALE EVER!**

**ALL REDUCED ITEMS**  
Cash & Carry Only...

**COSTUME JEWELRY - MEN'S & LADIES' RINGS** Reg. \$12.95 & \$18.95

**THIS WEEK ONLY \$9<sup>95</sup>**

**SHOTGUNS & RIFLES 10% OFF**

12 ga. Remington 1100  
- 16 ga. Remington 1100  
- 20 ga. Single Barrel Shotgun  
- 30-06 Rifles

12 & 20 ga. Brownings - 22 Cal. Rifles

12 GA. PUMP Reg. \$139.00

**THIS WEEK ONLY \$99<sup>50</sup>**

- AR - 180 SEMI-AUTO RIFLE Reg. \$395.00 NOW \$299<sup>50</sup>

**ALL CAMERAS 10% OFF**



**NEW IN-DASH CAR CASSETTE STEREOS**  
Reg. \$119.00 **THIS WEEK \$89<sup>00</sup>**

**HOUSE STEREOS \$59<sup>00</sup> & up**

**CAR SPEAKERS**  
200 Watt 6x9 **\$48<sup>00</sup>**

**ALL MEN'S & LADIES WATCHES**  
NEW BOOT & POCKET KNIVES  
DIAMOND RINGS - CHAINS  
GOLD MEN'S RINGS  
CAR STEREOS & SPEAKERS

**10% OFF**

**ALL GUITARS & BANJOS 10% OFF**

GIBSON GUITARS  
12 STRING & 6 STRING BASS GUITARS  
**\$69<sup>00</sup> & up**

YAMAHA GUITAR Reg. \$175.00 NOW \$159<sup>00</sup>

GUITAR STRINGS \$4<sup>95</sup> Set Many More

Come In and Sign Up For a FREE Gift at:

**MIKE'S PAWN SHOP**

110 W. South St. Aberdeen  
944-7323

OPEN MON.-SAT. 9 A.M.-6 P.M.

