

## A Child is Born . . .

Today is Christmas. We believe there is no more fitting comment on the significance of this day than to let the story of the birth of the Christ child speak for itself. The story, as told in Luke and taken from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, is reprinted below.

But let us digress for a moment — choosing the Christmas story from the Revised Version recalls the fact that cries of protest were raised by certain religious groups when the new version of the Old and New Testaments was published early this year. The protestors objected to changes that were made to make the meaning of the Bible clear to today's readers.

The new version eliminates words such as whosoever, insomuch, peradventure and others which are never used in normal English conversation or writing. The most difficult task encountered by the learned students who undertook the revision was to make intelligible the words in the King James version which are still in use today but have a different meaning.

For example, the King James version uses "prevent" to mean "precede," "communicate" for "share," "conversation" for "conduct." There are more than 300 such English words in the 1611 (King James) version which convey a meaning different from the meaning of the words as we use them today.

Is it any wonder, then, that most of us are familiar with comparatively few portions of the Bible? Scores of chapters go unread, untaught, uninterpreted by even our ministers because their meaning is shrouded and sealed in a language that was best understood more than 300 years ago.

The Scriptures are devotedly read by many of us, not because we understand what they say but because they are a part of a Book we have been taught to revere. People brag about how many times they have read the Bible from beginning to end. Could they, with truth, add "And I understood every word of it"?

As stated in the preface to the Revised Standard Version, it is unfair to the King James translators and to the truth they expressed, to retain words in the Bible that convey meanings that were not intended.

Regardless what words are used—German, Spanish or modern English—a vibrant promise of hope shines forth in this story of the birth of a child:

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

And the angel said to them, "Be not

afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

"And this will be a sign for you; you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds had told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Thus came true the prophecies of the Old Testament as set forth in Micah and Isaiah:

But thou, Bethlehem, which art little to be among the thousands of Judah, out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.

And she shall stand, and shall feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God: that they shall abide, and shall be great unto the ends of the earth.

And this man shall be our peace.

For unto us a child is born, and unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government, and of his peace, there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom to establish it, and to uphold it, with justice and righteousness from hence forth, even forever.

## A World at Peace?

For a number of Christmases, almost too many to remember, the Christian world's most fervent prayer has been, "Let there be peace." Ever since the late 1930's when Japan sent her forces into China, the surface gaiety of the Christmas season has been undrained with rumbling of guns.

With the truce in Korea we were hoping this year that the Christmas stars would look down on an earth at peace. But from Seoul come reports that there is a mysterious "tightening up" on the northern side of the boundary that separates the UN and the Reds. Blasting that ominously sounds like noise accompanying the building of underground fortifications comes drifting southward to Marine outposts.

The period of truce will be over next month. It seems as though we will not be amiss this Christmas in continuing to pray for wars to end — but even more basic than that, perhaps we should pray that the non-Christian Communists may come to know our Prince of Peace.

## IF WE COULD ONLY LEAVE THE WRAPPINGS ON



### Ruth Peeling

## Horace Hamlin Starts 'Look Out' in 1907

The "Look Out" was established in Beaufort in 1907. Horace H. Hamlin was editor and publisher. The paper, consisting of eight pages, came out on Friday. Circulation was claimed to be 1,000.

The population of Beaufort at that time was 2,500 and the county population 11,811. (It's almost double that today). Beaufort was described as being on the Newport River, four miles east of Morehead City. It was served by the Norfolk and Southern Railroad, had telephones, express service and banks.

In 1908 the paper "The Enterprise" was established in Morehead City with "Webb and Gaskill" as publishers. First names of the publishers were not given. Morehead City's population at that time was 1,379. It was described as being on Bogue Sound, 37 miles southeast of New Bern. It too was served by the Norfolk and Southern Railroad, had telephones, express service and a bank.

"The News" was founded in Beaufort in 1912 with Frederick J. Ostermeyer and J. A. Wright as editor and publisher. The "Look Out" was still being published too. "The News" came out on Thursday and "The Look Out" on Friday. Mr. Hamlin, publisher of the

"Look Out" evidently branched out, for in the same year, 1912, the "Coaster" of Morehead City was being published with Horace H. Hamlin at the helm as both editor and publisher. He was claiming 1900 as the establishment date of the "Coaster," yet first mention of the paper in the directories gives the date as 1901.

The town of Beaufort of 1912 which supported two weekly newspapers was described as being "on Beaufort harbor at the end of the new inland waterway, four miles east of Morehead City. Port of entry . . . manufactures fish oil, canned goods, naval stores and lumber. Cotton and truck growing. Shore whale fishery." Its population was 2,483.

In 1912 Morehead City's population was 2,039. Morehead City was described as follows: "Manufactures lumber, naval stores, fish oil, fish scrap, boats. Lumbering, fishing. Truck, cotton, watermelons grown. Fish shipping point."

By 1915 Hamlin's paper in Beaufort, the "Look Out" had dropped out of the picture. The "News" continued to be published by Ostermeyer and Wright while the "Coaster" continued in Morehead City with Robert T. Wade as editor and publisher.

### Part I

## This is Our Farm Problem

By EZRA TAFT BENSON  
Secretary of Agriculture

(First of a Two-Part Series)

This nation has a serious farm problem.

It does not affect agriculture alone. It is everybody's problem. Today your government has approximately \$5 billions of your money invested in farm commodities.

You own outright more than \$2.5 billions worth of wheat, corn, cotton and other surplus farm products. You have outstanding loans on agricultural commodities totaling about the same amount. This figure is growing daily.

You are paying more than \$14 millions each month just to store these surpluses. This bill is growing, too, as additional inventories are accumulated by your government.

The losses which your government sustained in disposing of just a small portion of your holdings during the first three months of this fiscal year amounted to \$47 millions.

But, you ask, don't we have a farm program designed to insure agricultural prosperity and prevent the very situation we find ourselves in today?

The answer is that we are operating under the same farm program we had last year and for several previous years. Actually we have strengthened it in several important respects to permit farmers to take broader advantage of its provisions. Existing legislation binds us to a continuation of price supports at 90 per cent of parity on basic commodities through the 1954 crop year.

Nevertheless, farm prices have declined steadily from the record peaks established under the impetus of the Korean war in February, 1951. During the 12 months immediately before I became Secretary of Agriculture, the farm price parity ratio slid from 113 to 95 per cent. Since February of this year, prices have been more stable than in 1952, averaging about 93 per cent of parity.

This story of declining farm prices and mounting agricultural

surpluses is the best evidence that our present program is not functioning effectively.

For more than a decade, our farmers have been producing under pressure. To meet the war-time needs of ourselves and our allies, they turned out record amounts of food and fiber between 1941 and 1946. With the end of the second World War, they were asked to provide the commodities required in the rehabilitation of Europe and other sections of the earth. Then came the Korean War, with new and heavy demands for farm goods of all kinds.

Suddenly this situation was radically altered. World food production had been climbing since 1946. By 1952 this was exerting strong pressure in the market place. Our wheat exports dropped by one-third in a single year, cotton by even more. Not only had importing nations increased their own production, but they found that they could supply their reduced needs at lower prices from exporting countries which had no farm price support programs.

Just as many American consumers have turned from butter to less expensive spreads, so have other nations sought cheaper wheat, cotton and other products.

We have learned through sometimes bitter experience that when the farmer is in trouble, there is likely to be trouble ahead for everybody. This year, net farm income is expected to be nearly \$1 billion less than it was in 1952. And in 1952 it was more than \$1 billion below the preceding year. While farm income has been dropping, our total national income has actually increased.

This disparity cannot continue in an economy such as ours. When the farmer can't buy the products of industry, there are certain to be serious dislocations.

How we got into this situation is not as important, at the moment, as what we propose to do about it. I have outlined here some of the major problems facing agriculture. In an article in Tuesday's NEWS-TIMES I will discuss some of the possible solutions.

### Today's Birthday

GLADYS SWARTHOUT, born Dec. 25, 1904, in Deepwater, Mo. At 7 she sang a solo in a Kansas City church and was so good that she was sent to Chicago for voice study.



Singing with the Chicago Civic Opera she was signed for the Metropolitan Opera in New York. After that she sang most of the mezzo-soprano roles, more than 52, at the Met. She has sung leading roles in many Hollywood musicals.

## Fishermen Find Snook In Warm Florida Seas

This intriguing name is applied to a number of fishes closely kin to Centropomus undecimalis, a fish related to our fresh-water basses and perch. Snook are found in the warmer seas that border

Florida and the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. In the Texas region they may be found in large schools and were formerly abundant in the Everglades area. They run up many coastal streams and sometimes are at their best for sportmen in brackish waters.

A representative of the group is found in the Pacific from Mexico to Peru. As is usually the case the common name is applied to a



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number of fishes recognized as being different species by fish students. The so-called "snook" of the coast of Africa is not a close relative.

While snook weighing to over 70 pounds have been taken, the average size is between 5 and 10 pounds. They are excellent fighters when hooked, leaping into the air frequently to free themselves and making strong runs.

The lower jaw of a snook has a superficial resemblance to that of a pike or pickerel while the rest of the fish bears some resemblance to a perch. The lateral line is black and the dorsal fins are well separated from each other. The tail is moderately forked. Superficially the snook looks like a green and white or silver fish, the upper parts being green or sometimes brown while the underparts are silvery or white. The dorsal fins are gray to dusky and the paired fins, yellowish.

The baits used in taking snook are usually small aquatic animals such as shrimps, crabs, molluscs and fishes. The best fishing may be expected around pilings or wharfs, the very places that are considered as inviting by the average fisherman.

The bottoms over which snook feed may be either sandy or muddy and the feeding areas may shift with the changing tides so that a spot good at one time may be bad at another. At another time the reverse may be true. I well remember catching my first snook off the West Coast of Florida and wondering at the time what it was. So unique is the shape of the fish that I am sure the identification made for me by my boatman was correct.

I regret to state that to my knowledge I have never tasted snook but for that matter there are few fishes outside the trout that make any important appeal when they are served on my table. I much prefer to be identified with catching them in their native element than with eating them. The fish I

### Kidd Brewer

## Raleigh Roundup

HOLIDAY . . . State employees are being blessed with long weekends here in the dark days of December because of the dates upon which Christmas and New Year's Day are falling.

They got off work at the end of the day's business on Dec. 23 and come back to their labors on Monday, Dec. 28. That's four days away from the office—time for most of them to get home for the holidays. Raleigh is merely the second home for thousands of people living here. Their first homes are scattered from one end of North Carolina to the other. State employees count home as the place of their legal residence: the place there they vote.

Many a State employee in the higher echelons of governmental officialdom maintains his legal residence far afield from his city of employment. A large percentage keep home ties and acquaintances sharply intact for the time when they might return there—voluntarily or otherwise—to take up where they left off many months or many years previously to go on the state payroll in Raleigh.

A number of State departments and divisions have already had Christmas parties. In visiting various buildings on and around Capitol Square, we have counted five Christmas trees as big as that one down on the edge of the pasture. While they have added a festive note to the atmosphere, they have not slowed down the duties for year-end brings on additional chores.

For New Year's, State employees get off on Thursday, Dec. 31, and come back to work on Monday, Jan. 4. A lot of them who have not taken their full quota of vacation days or "annual leave" are catching up on them in the last month of the calendar year.

Until Kerr Scott became Governor, State employees got 15 days off each year. If they didn't take the full 15, they lost them. Frequently a State employee would suddenly discover around Thanksgiving that he had seven days left of his annual leave. You could count him out for about the last two weeks of the year, including Christmas.

Governor Scott had it fixed that you could accumulate as much annual leave as you wanted to. With

a five-day week in effect, this meant that an employee could gain three weeks employment when he retired through not taking vacation for one year. If our math is right, this would run to 36 weeks—or about nine month's full pay—if an employee went 12 years without taking his annual leave.

Governor William B. Umstead's administration has not gone back to the old rule, but it has changed the Scott one. Now an employee can accumulate 30 days annual leave, no more.

All in all, Christmas around Raleigh — at the Mansion where the entire Meredith College student body gathered to sing one night last week—at the Capital and up and down the halls of the various State buildings, is like it is in your hometown and everywhere else—the gayest, merriest, finest time of the year.

YEAR'S END . . . Now as we come down to the short, dark, thought-filled days of year's end, we find ourselves looking back over our shoulders at 1953. How has it been? And 1954 may well depend upon what we did with 1953.

"Everything in this world has its price, and the price buys that, not something else. Every harvest demands its own preparation, and that preparation will not produce another sort of harvest.

"Thus you cannot have at once the soldier's renown and the quiet of the recluse's life. The soldier pays his price for his glory—he sows and reaps. His price is risk of life and limb, night spent on hard ground, a weather-beaten constitution. If you will not pay that price, you cannot have what he has—military reputation.

"You cannot enjoy the statesman's influence together with freedom from notoriety. If you sensitively shrink from that, you must give up influence; or else pay his price, the price of a thorny pillow, unrest, the chances of being today's idol, tomorrow the people's excrement. You cannot have the store of information possessed by the student, and enjoy robust health; pay his price, and you have his reward. To expect these opposite things . . . would be to mock God, to reap what has not been sown.

"Now the mistakes men make, and the extravagant expectation in which they indulge, are these: They sow for earth, and expect to win spiritual blessings; or they sow to the Spirit, and then wonder that they have not a harvest of the good things of earth. . . .

"The unreasonableness of this appears the moment we have understood the conditions contained in this principle. 'Whatever a man soweth, THAT shall he also reap.'

The above quotation is from a sermon by one F. W. Robertson in 1849.

MAN-OF-THE-YEAR . . . Bill Sharpe is trying to find North Carolina's Man of the Year for 1953. Among those listed as possible nominees, we like Louis V. Sutton, president of Carolina Power and Light Co. for his "Finer Carolina" program of developing communities in his company's far-flung territory. With the help of Jack Riley, sharpest publicist in these parts, Advertising Manager Red Pope, and a fine team all-around, Carolina Power & Light is rebuilding scores of fine little cities in North and South Carolina. Sutton is our man—with Ag. Comm. L. Y. (Stag) Ballentine running a close second and Lt. Gov. Hodges next.

understand is excellent, being flaky and white when well cooked.

Snook are frequently called Robalo. The Robalo Blanco, or White Snook, is considered to be superior as a fighter to the Robalo Negro, or Black Snook. The former is considered to have a softer mouth and because of this to require more skill in taking a landing. They may be taken by plug casting, by baited hook, on artificial flies and by spinning.

In the Florida area they are commonly taken in mangrove-bordered waters and once hooked they recognize in the mangrove an excellent place for tangling a line and getting free from the hook. Because of the sharp edges exposed on the cheeks and gill-covers, a wire leader is almost essential in the tackle. Snook breed in May through July in large schools and are taken by commercial fishermen at these times. — E. Laurence Palmer.

**Vic Vet says**

IF YOU'RE PLANNING TO APPLY FOR EDUCATION OR TRAINING UNDER THE KOREA GI BILL, BE SURE YOU ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS ON THE VA APPLICATION FORM . . . THAT WILL SPEED UP YOUR CASE

## Carteret County News-Times

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