

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Farmers Urged To Participate In Conservation Program

Yancey County farmers will be given an opportunity to request the Federal Government to share the cost, if needed, to aid them in carrying out eligible practices on their farm, according to ASC officials here.

The Yancey County, ASC committee has set the initial spring sign-up period for filing requests under the Agricultural Conservation Program from January 5 to January 20, 1959. The forms on which the requests for cost-sharing must be made, if cost is desired, may be obtained at the ASC county office during the meeting or visit to the county office, on which one or two practices ACP cost-sharing is most needed.

The Agricultural Conservation Program is for every farm in the county and the ASC officials encourage farmers to request a needed conservation practice to be carried out on their farm. It is hoped that 90% of all farmers in the county will participate in the 1959 Agricultural Conservation Program.

NEW BURLEY ALLOTMENTS Farmers may apply for a new farm allotment anytime before the 15th of February if they can meet the following requirements: Experience-The farm operator shall have had experience in growing the kind of tobacco for which an allotment is requested either as a sharecropper, tenant or as a farm operator during two of the past five years;

Provided that a farm operator who was in the armed services after September 16, 1940 shall be deemed to have met the requirements of this subparagraph if he had such experience during one year either within the five years immediately prior to his entry into the armed services or within the five years immediately following his discharge from the armed services and if he files an application for an allotment within five crop years from date of discharge.

And provided further, production of tobacco on a farm in 1955, 1956, 1957 or 1958 for which, in accordance with applicable law and regulations no 1955, 1956, 1957 or 1958 tobacco acreage allotment, respectively was determined shall not be deemed such experience for any producer. The farm operator shall live on and obtain 50% or more of his livelihood from the farm covered by the application.

The farm covered by the application shall be the only farm owned or operated by the farm operator for which a burley tobacco acreage allotment is established for the 1959-60 marketing year. The farm shall be operated by the owner thereof.

Further information may be obtained at the ASC office. The ASC office will be closed on December 25, 26 and January 1.

Funeral Services For Wesley D. Edwards

Wesley D. Edwards, 76, died at his home near Burnsville Sunday. Services were held Tuesday at 2 p. m. in Mine Fork Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Walser Penland and the Rev. T. E. Woody officiated and burial was in McCurry Cemetery.

Surviving are the wife, Mrs. Rebecca Renfro Edwards; four daughters, Mrs. F. R. Deyton of Erwin, Tenn., Mrs. Biss Laws of Burnsville RFD 2 Mrs. Paul Aldridge of Jonesboro Tenn., and Mrs. J. E. L'anner of Mesa, Ariz.; four sons, Clarence of Washington, D. C. Garth of Kinston, Ga. Boyd of Wynnsville and Ed of Burnsville RFD 1; four brothers, J. H. J. W. and Gus of Burnsville and J. S. of Erwin, Tenn.; and three sisters Mrs. Martha Renfro, Mrs. Carrie Edwards and Mrs. Mary Henson of Burnsville.

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Lions Club Members Distribute Baskets

Members of the Burnsville Lions Club are distributing 17 Christmas baskets in the county. The Bald Creek Club is distributing five additional baskets.

This is an annual project of the clubs.

NOTICE

The French Broad Electric Co. office will be closed from noon, December 24, until December 27 when the office will be open until 12:00 noon, per regular schedule.

Locals

Rommie Burns with the U. S. Air Corps, formerly of Burnsville, has been promoted to the rank of Captain.

Captain and Mrs. Burns are living in Buffalo, N. Y., where Captain Burns is an instructor in the University there.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Peterson and daughter's, Sandie and Jeannie, of Birmingham, Ala. are visiting relatives in Burnsville during the holidays.

Miss Betty Presnell of Charlotte is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Presnell, here during the holidays.

Mrs. J. G. Fox is spending the Christmas holidays with her son, A. J. Fox and family, in Fernandina, Beach, Fla.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Y. Fox of Morganton visited relatives here Friday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Jess Styles and children visited Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ramsey and son in Hickory recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Holcombe of Mars Hill are visiting relatives here during the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. John English and children of Hickory visited Mr. and Mrs. Roy King last weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wilson of Maryland are visiting relatives here and in Pensacola during the holidays.

Many of the town and county college students are home for the holidays. Tommy Tilson and Muriel England from the University of Tennessee, Charles Adair, Frank Howard Lewis and Gerald Murdock from Mars Hill, Lester Ralph Heavner from The Citadel, Teddy Styles from Carson Newman, Joan Huskins from Berea, Barbara and Beverly Hensley from Woman's College, Greensboro, Ronnie Peterson and Glen Fox from Wake Forest, Linda Banks, Susie McCurry Gale Hall and Mary Ann Buchanan from Appalachian State Teachers College, Boone, and Cynthia Randolph from Salem College, Winston Salem.

"God With Us"

A CHRISTMAS STORY

by

WARREN S. REEVE

"Mamma," exclaimed Helen, who came bursting into the kitchen where her mother was busy preparing breakfast. "I dreamt that Harry will be coming home for Christmas! It was such a real dream. I saw him coming in the door, and all of us being so excited we were crying. Oh, Mamma, when a dream is so clear as that, mustn't it come true? Oh, Mamma," she cried.

Her mother turned from the stove and gasped, knowing not what to reply, for two opposite emotions were violently struggling within her. Helen's excited certainty that Harry was alive and would soon be back with them bumped against hard common sense and against her disciplined acceptance of facts even when they were grim.

Harry, the only son in the family, had perished when the plane of which he was the pilot had crashed in the Caribbean three or four months earlier. Alfredo Perez, a Venezuelan youth, on his way to enter Columbia University in New York, was the only survivor a rescue ship had been able to find. He had suffered so much from shock that he had not been able to give a very coherent report of what happened, but it would appear from his story that Harry must surely have perished.

Poor Mrs. Phillips, widowed four years earlier when her husband had died of cancer, was overwhelmed with this second loss, and at the time of Helen's dream was only at last becoming reconciled to the facts. Her minister had been in to see her frequently, and gradually, more by the spirit that emanated from him than from what he said, she began faintly to perceive that behind the two colossal losses that she had suffered there was a strain of divine wisdom and mercy. She asked herself whether maybe there would come a day when she would really feel God had been loving her most in those hours when she was most crushed. And so she was trying on these autumn mornings just to be patient and to bear her pain of heart without complaint.

Then came Helen's dream. Dared they hope it meant Harry was alive and would be with them at Christmas? Oh, no, she had not courage to yield to such hope, because if it weren't true, the disappointment would be too awful to face.

She phoned her minister and asked him to come around. She told him the whole story and wondered how he would advise her. He, of course, listened with the greatest interest and sympathy, but something within him re-

strained him from encouraging her too much. It is better to be cautious, he reasoned. Dreams are mysterious things and have, to be sure, deep significance, and might point to what is fact. But not necessarily. And it would be better cautiously to restrain our over-egged spirits. They prayed for grace to take the way of patience and to live just one day at a time, content to let the future be what God would make it. They prayed that if Harry were alive, God would be with him and bring him home. But if he were dead, they asked for faith to be glad that he was where all things are perfect and where he would face no more dangers or temptations or struggles.

Mrs. Phillips, much comforted by this interview, steered herself to go on living day by day as if only in Heaven she would ever again see both Harry and her dear husband.

Helen, in her youthfulness, could not be equally as restrained; and as Christmas drew near, felt she just had to make preparations for Harry's coming. She fixed up his room and she bought him some Christmas presents. This she did as secretly as she could because she knew instinctively her mother was against their doing anything out of the ordinary.

Christmas morning Helen was up bright and early, putting the finishing touches on preparations for Harry's coming. Mrs. Phillips too, could hardly keep herself from an indulgence in the same excited hope that animated Helen.

While they were sitting at the breakfast table, Helen said, "Mamma, let's not open our Christmas presents yet. If Harry came, it would be much nicer to open them after he got here." All during the morning Helen thought he might come; and, with any unusual sound, she dashed to the door to see if it could be he, and each time, her heart sank. No one was there.

The day wore on, exasperating for both Helen and her mother, in the disappointment it brought them. The strain of expecting Harry's coming and the repeated frustrations of their hopes left them exhausted by night. They had not the heart now to open any Christmas presents which still lay so prettily at the base of the Christmas tree.

After supper Mrs. Phillips suggested they read from the Bible. Selecting the fourteenth chapter of John, she read it through. Comfort came to them as they heard the Lord's biddings and promises. "Let not your heart be troubled. . . . I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. . . . I go away. . . . If I go and prepare

a place for you, I come again and will receive you to myself, that where I am, there ye may be also. . . . Let not your heart be troubled. . . . Peace I leave with you."

They were silent for a time. Then after a while, the mother said "Isn't the meaning of Christmas summed up in just one word that we often forget? Do you remember that Matthew's story of the coming of Jesus a special, extra name was given Him? He was to be known as 'Emanuel' which means 'God-With-Us'. To many people nowadays this is an odd name, hard to understand, but in Palestine everybody knew at once what it meant. Whenever they saw Jesus and thought of His name, they were to be assured that God Himself had come to them. We, too, must remember and believe that."

They sat quietly, then, for a while, until presently Mrs. Phillips continued:

"The 'Emanuel' who was born at Bethlehem is with us too. God is here, indeed, my darling girl, and if God is here, everything is all right. This is truly the peace that Jesus said He would give us, a peace that the world cannot give—'His peace', He called it."

Bed time drew near, but no Harry, in any physical form, had come home. Strange to say, however, the frustration and disappointment of the day had gone, and in their hearts even a quiet contentment had come.

"Mother", said Helen, "the name, 'Emanuel,' never meant anything to me before. But now it has a world of meaning. Harry, I suppose, is dead, but I see that God gave us a substitute. God Himself came to us in place of Harry. Yet, Mama, how we want Harry too!"

"Helen dear" said Mrs. Phillips, "we have Harry. We mustn't say that he is dead, or that Daddy is dead. If 'Emanuel' means all we think it means then everybody who is dear to God is always with Him. And if God has actually come here tonight to be with you and me, Daddy and Harry cannot be far off."

Again they were quiet, and in Helen's mind her mother's words kept recurring, "Daddy and Harry . . . not far off! . . . If God is here, everybody dear to Him is here, too." The minutes passed, and still they sat, absorbed in thought. Then an extraordinary thing happened. Simultaneously, they each had a thought, a vision so startling that in unison they cried out: "Harry!"

They saw him there. He was utterly real. He had come, no doubt about it. It was only a vision, you will

Tax Listers For County Appointed

Tax listers for Yancey County have been appointed by W. P. Honeycutt, tax supervisor, and approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

The listers include Charles L. Brown, Burnsville township; Clyde Buckner, Cane River Township; Don Renfro, Egypt township; O. C. Honeycutt, Ramseytown Township; Noah Hughes, Green Mountain township; Ray Higgins, Jacks Creek township; Gaw, Sparks, Lush Creek township; Elbert Brewer, Crabtree township; Fred Robinson, South Toe township; Billy B. Wilson, Pensacola township; and Lawrence Towe, Prices Creek township.

Tax listing will begin on January 2, and listing places will be posted at various places in the townships.

say, but to them it was 'Harry'. Never had he appeared so handsome or so glorious. They thought he looked like Jesus Himself! He did not open his mouth to say a word, but in h's eyes they could see him saying: "Mother Darling, Helen dear, don't sorrow any more. Where Daddy and I are, Life reigns gloriously. You have God's Great Name, 'Emanuel', to hold by. Glorious Life that we have in full abundance in Heaven falls on you, too, as long as you let LOVE shine in your hearts. Love brings you up to Heaven, and by Love we come down to you. Abide in Love. 'Abide in Me', said Jesus. That is the way to Emanuel's Land."

Then, again, a wonderful thing happened. Helen and her mother caught sight of Daddy, too, standing a little back of Harry. On his face there was a sweetness that surpassed anything they had seen when he was alive. Helen gasped, "Mother, how lovely! God not only brought Harry back to us on Christmas Day but sent Daddy with him, too!"

The vision faded, now, and Harry and Daddy were gone. But the feeling was, they hadn't gone, and never would go. For where God is, they are, "God is with us", they repeated. "Emanuel will never leave us or forsake us."

As they turned to go to their rooms for the night Helen looked into her mother's face and said, "Mummy, my dream did come true after all didn't it. . . . only in a different way from what I expected. Perhaps it is more wonderful the way it is than if it had been the way I thought I wanted."

"Yes, my dear", said Mrs. Phillips, "I believe that is true. And certainly it is true that there is nothing more wonderful than 'Emanuel, God-With-Us'."

Eighth Grade Of South Toe School Receives Message

A telegram was sent to the 8th grade of the South Toe River School on Monday of this week, arriving via radio from a ship at sea it contained this message: "Best wishes to your class from the Captain and crew of the S. S. American Chief."

The message arrived after school had closed for the holidays and it is hoped that most of the class will see this issue of the Record. This is the latest communication in a correspondence that has been going on this fall between the South Toe Eighth Grade and the American Chief, a freighter in service between the U. S. and Western Europe. This is part of the Adopt-a-Ship program whereby American school children are in correspondence with ships of the American Merchant Marine.

The local children have been learning the operations of an ocean-going ship and also becoming familiar with the route covered by a freighter on regular transatlantic service. The children send their questions and the Captain and members of the crew write at least once on each voyage. The latest letter came from Bremerhaven, Germany.



LACKLAND AFB, TEX.—Airman Donald R. Tipton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Tipton, of Bald Creek, N. C., has been assigned to a unit of the Military Air Transport Service at Charleston AFB, S. C., for training and duty as a Painter. He recently completed basic military training here. Airman Tipton is a graduate of Bald Creek High School.

Airman assigned directly to a duty station from basic training at Lackland will receive on-the-job training under highly-qualified specialists. They are selected for assignments on the basis of interests and aptitudes.

NOTICE

North Carolina license tags and title transfers available at Yancey Merchants Association on the Square.