

*Happy Holiday*

# Christmas Observance Was Illegal In Early American Times

IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFT  
Buy your Garden Club  
Cook Book at the Cherokee  
Scout Office.

## CONSTIPATED?

Free 6 Day Trial Size  
With 4 oz. Purchase  
Money Back Guarantee  
(on the unopened 4 oz. can)

**Senokot**  
GRANULES  
Natural Vegetable Concentrate for  
Gentle, Effective Relief Overnight

Proven by  
use in over 3,000 hospitals.  
Proven in use by millions.

Widely recommended by medical specialists for common or functional constipation. SENOKOT Granules are not a harsh irritant...they gently stimulate the nerves of the large bowel for comfortable evacuation. Their action is predictable. Take your correct dose of SENOKOT Granules at bedtime and you may expect gentle overnight relief. Cocoa flavored SENOKOT Granules are delicious plain, in water, milk or sprinkled on cereal or ice cream.

(NOTE: If you prefer tablets, Senokot Tablets are now sold in Handy Packs of 16 and 32.)

**Mauney Drug Co.**  
Murphy N. C.

Celebration of Christmas the most widely observed religious holiday of the modern world -- was at one time illegal in early American history.

Colonial New England did not celebrate Christmas, according to researchers at Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia, because the stern Puritan colonists believed that such activities were wholly pagan and forbade them by law. Christmas came to the American colonies while it was the subject of strenuous controversy in England. English puritans condemned it as "popish" and the secular celebration as "wanton Bacchanalian feast."

Opposition of the English Puritans to festivals culminated in an act of Parliament in 1647 which abolished the observance of Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide. This was echoed in the American colonies in 1659 when Puritans enacted a law in the general court of Massachusetts to punish those who "kept Christmas."

The law read "Whosoever shall be found observing any such day as Christmas or the like, either by forbearing of labor, feasting, or in any other

way.... shall be subject to a fine of five shillings."

The law was repealed in 1681 but many of the Puritans were not reconciled to this action. Secular reveling at Christmas had often interfered with religious devotions and offended the Puritan's moral sense. This intensified their sectarian hostility to the religious observance of Christmas -- an attitude they maintained for the better part of two centuries in parts of New England.

The fun-loving Dutch colonists of New Amsterdam, however, celebrated Christmas as their chief holiday. They brought the old customs from their homeland, especially the Christmas stocking and observance of the feast day of St. Nicholas.

In the Southern colonies, the planters celebrated the yuletide with feasting, singing and dancing. On many plantations slaves were given a holiday as long as the great yule log burned.

The latter half of the eighteenth century saw a swing of attention to the realm of economics and politics and religious controversies became of less importance. The fact that English and Hessian troops celebrated Christmas during the Revolutionary War may have added a patriotic note to the denominational controversy.

General Washington crossed the Delaware River on the night of December 25, 1776 to surprise and defeat the Hessian troops stationed at Trenton, N. J. In the opinion of one writer, Washington's bold venture succeeded because the Hessians were enjoying their customary Christmas revels and failed to maintain the usual watch and patrols.

However, denominational opposition to the ecclesiastic observance of Christmas continued into the second half of the nineteenth century. An account in the New York Daily Times for December 26, 1855 read: "The churches of the Presbyterians, Baptists, and Methodists were not open on Dec. 25 except were some Mission Schools had a celebration. They do not accept the day as a Holy One, but the Episcopalians, Catholics and German Churches were all open. Inside they were decked with evergreens."

In the twentieth century, all denominations have embraced Christmas widely both as a religious and as a social celebration. Today, men, women and children in every Christ-

ian land crowd into churches to give their thanks. More than one fourth of the world's population about 8--million people profess some form of Christian faith.

The splendor and beauty of Christmas observances is very different from the humble stable in Bethlehem where Christ was born; but the message he brought to the world is the same -- "Glory be to God in the highest; and on earth peace, good will toward men."



**Ed Davis, 82,  
Of Route 3,  
Dies In Hospital**

Edgar Earl Davis, 82, of Rt. 3, Murphy, died Wednesday morning, Dec. 11, at 1 a.m. in a local hospital.

He was a member of Hiwassee Baptist Church. His first wife, Mrs. Mabel Palmer, preceded him in death in January, 1931.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Sally Kate Fricks Davis; two daughters, Mrs. Charles Beavers of Blairsville, Ga.; and Mrs. Alice Davis of the home; two sons, Sam L. and John C. Davis, both of Murphy; two daughters by his first wife, Mrs. O. J. Peavy, and Mrs. Lee Thompson of Waldboro, S. C.; and three sons, Frank D., and Robert E., of Canton, N. C.; and James L. Davis of Cartersville, Ga.; one brother, Fred Davis; seventeen grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Arrangement, under the direction of Townson Funeral Home were incomplete on Wednesday.

Cherokee Scout & Clay County Progress, Thurs., Dec. 20, 1962

# ATTEND CHURCH

## ON Christmas SUNDAY



First Methodist Church  
Valley River Avenue  
Clark W. Benson, Pastor



Free Methodist Church  
Valley River Avenue  
G. K. A. Haase, Pastor



Messiah Episcopal Church  
Peachtree Street  
Hamilton C. Witter, Pastor



Murphy Presbyterian Church  
Valley River Avenue  
Robert A. Potter, Pastor



St. Williams Catholic Chapel  
Andrews Road  
Father Raymond Dehen, Pastor



First Baptist Church  
Peachtree Street  
William J. Thompson, Pastor

These Religious Messages Are Published Under The Auspices Of The Ministerial Association And Sponsored By The Following Business Firms

<b>Community Motors</b> VE 7-2001 Murphy, N. C.	<b>"Security Feeds"</b> <b>Wayne's Feed Store</b> Murphy, N. C.	<b>Murphy Florist</b> Flowers For Every Occasion Murphy, N. C. VE 7-2213
<b>Hicks GULF Service</b> Hill Street Dial VE 7-3464 Murphy, North Carolina	<b>This Space For Sale</b>	<b>This Space For Sale</b>
<b>Townson Funeral Home</b> Murphy, N. C.	<b>This Space For Sale</b>	<b>Family Restaurant</b> For "Fine Family Food" Murphy, N. C.
<b>E. C. Moore Dodge</b> Murphy, N. C. VE 7-2316	<b>St. William's Church</b> Murphy, N. C. For FREE INFORMATION about the CATHOLIC FAITH Write IN F O R M A T I O N 4422 Lindell Blvd. St. Louis, Mo.	<b>Mauney Drug Co.</b> Specialists in Professional Service VE 7-2192 Murphy, N. C.
<b>Davis Esso Servicer</b> Murphy, N. C.	<b>Swanson Furniture Co.</b> Hayesville, N. C. Phone 3591	<b>This Space For Sale</b>
<b>Woodard Electric</b> Hayesville, N. C. 2127	<b>GULF Wimpoy and Mull</b> Your Friendly Gulf Service Murphy, North Carolina Telephone VE 7-9644	

## NOTICE

### SALE, POSSESSION, AND SHOOTING OF FIRE CRACKERS IS A CRIME !

State Law and Ordinances of the Town of Murphy prohibit the sale, possession, or use of fire crackers. G. S. 14-410:

"It shall be unlawful for any individual, firm, partnership or corporation to manufacture, purchase, sell, deal in, transport, possess, receive, advertise, use or cause to be discharged any pyrotechnics of any description whatsoever within the State of North Carolina.

"Possession of Pyrotechnics (Fire Crackers) by any person shall be prima facie evidence that such pyrotechnics are kept for purchases in violation of this article."

Protests from many of the citizens of Murphy have resulted in the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Murphy instructing the Town Policemen to arrest any and all persons violating the above law.

## THE EMPTY STOCKING...



THERE'S A MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR "present" missing from your Christmas stocking this year, but it is not our fault. We tried to put it there.

More than a year ago we asked permission, as present laws require, to make a deep reduction in the prices we charge for hauling grain into and within the South. These lower prices would have saved you--the people of the South--some \$37 million in transportation costs this year, and every future year. This is money that belongs to you.

Despite this great saving to the families of the South--to everyone who eats bread, meat, poultry, eggs--our request to lower freight charges on grain has yet to be granted. A few selfish interests (largely waterway barge operators) who profit--at your expense--seek to keep railroad

freight rates high. They have done and are doing everything possible to block us because our lower prices would reduce their high profits. But we have a duty to serve you well at the lowest possible cost and we will not shirk that duty. We will continue our efforts until these rates are put into effect.

We're not Santa Claus. Our lower prices will save you money--they will make money for our railroad, too. In the public interest, it is high time that we be allowed to stuff your stocking with these enormous savings in transportation costs--not just at Christmas time, but the year around!

*Arthur Homan*  
PRESIDENT

**SOUTHERN RAILWAY SYSTEM**  
WASHINGTON, D. C. SOUTHERN SERVES THE SOUTH

