

Merry Christmas

A Story Of Christmas

The Story of Christmas is many stories:

Foremost, of course, Christmas is the story of the birth of Christ; the wondrous signs and events which were climaxed with the birth of the babe in a manger, in the stable of Bethlehem.

The star in the east that led the Wise Men, the Angel appearing to the shepherds, the Roman Census which caused Joseph and Mary to be in Bethlehem, are all parts of the story handed down for nearly 20 centuries and celebrated now as the birthday of Jesus Christ, in whose name the many Christian Religions of the world were founded.

In Christendom and in the home and hearts of Christians who may be living in other lands the Christmas Season awakens memories of this most celebrated Nativity Scene and also brings back the memories of Christmases Past, to borrow a line from Dickens.

There is perpetual criticism on the part of many whose views are strictly confined to the austere religious aspects of the Christmas Season. People of this persuasion feel it is blasphemy to have a good time in this remembrance of the Birth of Christ.

Their attitude is summed up in the phrase, "Christmas has been commercialized."

But when they feel that a joyous celebration at the birthday anniversary of the founder of one of the world's great religions is wrong; they have every right to not celebrate joyously.

But on the other hand, and perhaps in the majority view, the joyous celebration is the order of the day.

If parents find joy in preparing wondrous magic for their little ones, if grandparents glow warmly in the package-opening madness of Christmas Morning and have moist eyes watching some measure of their immortality play before the gaily decorated tree few people feel that this would displease, or desecrate the memory of one of the most human men ever to walk the face of the earth.

If beautiful cards express a warm and sincere wish for a happy season, even if sometimes absurdly between next door neighbors is this "too commercial"?

Certainly it is commercial. Someone made the cards and has sold them, but how is it possible to express appreciation or well wishes without the use of anything from the channels of trade.

No one can deny that the chatter of cash registers is beautiful music to the shop keeper, but each tinkle of the cash register bell means another token of friendship and love is being hastened on its way to remind someone that another has remembered.

If voices are raised in song, and toasts punctuate the chorale, is not that tiny corner of happiness and all-key harmony some the better for its presence?

One of the noblest messages of the religions that bear the name of Jesus Christ is "Love Thy Neighbor."

At no other time in the year is this message and mood more in

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The First Christmas

St. Luke 2:1-20

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.

And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David).

To be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

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

La Grange Negro is Charged in Double Thanksgiving Deaths

Although he is still hospitalized from injuries suffered in the same accident Carlton Hood, La Grange negro, has been indicted for manslaughter in the Thanksgiving Morning wreck which claimed the lives of Herman Newbern and Willie Norman Graham, also of La Grange.

Local Highway Patrol investigation has led to the warrants being issued for Hood, naming him as the driver of the car which left Highway 70 just west of Kinston and scattered its five occupants over a 200-foot area in a corn field of the Hodges Farm.

Still hospitalized are Christine Graham and Willie Hood, also of La Grange, the other two occupants of the car which skidded, rolled, flew and plowed for some 700 feet before coming to its scattered halt.

Bad 'Sandfiddler'

At least one South Carolinian who came to Kinston for the holidays wore out his welcome before the celebration had gotten fully underway. Monday night Gilbert Williams of Spartanburg, S. C. broke bad at the home of Mrs. Rosa Phillips of 801 McLeween Street and ended up in jail in triple trouble. He is charged with assault upon a female, malicious damage to private property and for good measure was placed under a \$1,000 peace bond by Magistrate Tom Wade.

Pilfering Plague

Kinston Police for the past several weeks have been plagued by a series of robberies believed to be the work of the same careful individual, who is believed by the police to be a teen-aged boy. The object of this lad's affection is Coke boxes, which he pries open and relieves of what cash is on hand, possibly pausing for refreshment. Some over a dozen Coke boxes have suffered this abuse, much to the alarm of Lee Dorsey, serviceman for the Coca Cola bottling plant, whose job it is to repair the damage done to these machines. More than a dozen such lootings have taken place and police admit that they are no where nearer a solution now than when the first took place.

Child Hit By Car

At 9:40 a. m. Saturday David Earl Horne, a government employee from Washington, was driving south on US 258 when seven year-old Melvin Lee Dale, son of M. and Mrs. Clarence Dale of the Mewborn Crossroad section, darted into the path of the car. The child suffered a broken leg, cuts over the left eye and less serious cuts on the lower left leg. Patrolman C. E. Edwards, who investigated, said there was no evidence of any negligence on the part of Horne and no charges were preferred.

the back, and exchanges presents and maybe a "small toddy". The children are more coy, if possible, the cop on the beat a trifle more cheerful and all the world seems filled with a spirit that can only be described as the Christmas Spirit.

Embryo Still Ruined

Embryo still ruined by fire in Jones County. Officers of the Jones County Sheriff's Office reported that a fire in the

upright boilers and other less costly gear being installed for a whiskey still in the Woodington section of Lenoir County. The rig was found in a wooded area between Southwood School and Woodington. Officers had kept the expensive equipment under observation for several days, hoping that more gear would be brought in and its owners apprehended, but apparently the officers were also being watch-

New Management for Hotel Kinston Jan. 1

Robert Bovell, a native of Johnson City, Tenn. and present resident of Charleston, S. C., will become manager of Hotel Kinston on January 1, according to an announcement made Monday by Ely Perry, official of the company which owns the local hostelry.

Bovell will succeed Mrs. W. F. Somers, whose lease expired in March, but who felt that it would

be a good idea to let the New Year see the hotel under new management. Mrs. Somers was managing the hotel under a lease to her late husband who died earlier this year.