

Old Fashioned Christmas Dinner

Four-Day Holiday For Civilian Employees On Schedule

Religious worship, a series of parties, an old-fashioned Christmas dinner, and a four-day holiday for civilian employees are on the Yuletide schedule for Moore General Hospital, a survey of activities planned reveals.

In line with War Department directives, civilians employed at Moore General Hospital will be off duty December 22-25 inclusive, Saturday through Tuesday. Saturday and Sunday are not regular work days, and Monday, December 24, will be an off-day instead of Saturday, December 29. Post office also announced that civilian employees will have December 30 and 31 and January 1 off, Sunday through Tuesday.

Military personnel will observe holiday hours on both Christmas and New Year's Day.

As on Thanksgiving Day, military personnel will be permitted to bring their families and one additional guest to the Christmas dinner to be served at noon.

The menu will include fresh fruit cocktail in orange baskets, crackers, roast turkey, oyster dressing, giblet gravy, candied yams, parried potatoes, buttered green peas, celery curls, cranberry sauce, olives, hot rolls and butter, mince pie, tutti frutti ice cream, fruit cake, coffee, milk, cigars, cigarettes, nuts, and candy.

Post Chaplain Ellis U. Youngdahl has announced a full schedule of religious worship during the Yuletide. A midnight mass will be said on December 25 by Chaplain Charles Meyer; and a second mass will follow at 9 a.m. Protestant services will be held at 10:15 a.m. to be conducted by Chaplain Youngdahl. Episcopal communion services are scheduled for 11:30 a.m. to be conducted by the Rev. John H. Rhys of Black Mountain; and Christmas vesper services are slated for 4:15 p.m. Special decorations are to be placed in the post chapel for the services.

Chaplain Youngdahl also announced for the post chapel a Christmas cantata to begin at 8 p.m., Thursday, December 20. The cantata will be presented by the Moore General Hospital choral group augmented by the Community Chorus of Black Mountain. A total of 75 voices will be heard. The cantata is entitled "The Story of Christmas" by Matthews and will be broadcast from the chapel over WWNC, Asheville.

Chaplain Youngdahl also announced a Christmas party for the children of all military personnel in the post. It will be held at the post theater, Monday, December 24, at 3 p.m., and will feature Santa Claus, movies, a Christmas stocking for each child, and a ventriloquist.

Mrs. Frank W. Wilson, wife of the commanding officer, heads the party committee, and she is being assisted by Mrs. Lyman

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Bill Hill says
MERRY CHRISTMAS



The Origin of Christmas Celebration On December 25th

"Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord."

"Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King,
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing."

The Gospels do not tell us the day of Christ's birth. Christmas was not celebrated in the Christian Church during the first century. The celebration as the birthday of Christ is wholly arbitrary. The world about us celebrates the winter festival. They now call it Christmas. The season is one of the most beautiful of the year. The celebration for many today is as apart from the birth of Christ as it was for those celebrating the festival before Christ came to give it a more joyous and a hallowed significance. As Christians we can combine the Christmas customs, using the Christmas tree, the evergreen advent wreath, the candles, the fireplace log and Santa Claus. We must not, however, become so engrossed with Kriss Kringle that we fail to see the Saviour. We would not give up the pageantry of Christmas—stores dressed for the festival occasion, wreaths, the display of gifts, dancing lights, streets decorated, carols pealing Zout into the frosty December air. Yet, we must go beyond all these. In the midst of the joys and festivities, we must not lose sight of the One who is the Sun

of Righteousness, made flesh that those who believe in Him might share His eternal Glory."

Native customs of nearly every nation in the world have been appropriated in our Christmas celebrations. The singing of carol is an inheritance from the first Christmas. During the 7th century when songs of low sentiment were allowed to be included, carols fell into disfavor. During the middle ages they returned to favor. When the Old Morality plays of the 13th Century began to lose their spiritual qualities, they fell into disrepute. The sacred tableaux have been reclaimed.

The Romance before Christ during their midwinter festival, the Saturnalia, decorated their halls with holly and exchanged gifts ornamented with sprigs of holly.

On Christmas Day in Alaska, superintendents of Government Reindeer Stations are said to harness the tamed of their reindeer and hitch them to sleighs. These sleighs are filled with bags containing gifts and provisions. One sack is left at each village hut as a reminder of the Christ Child. The custom of placing lighted candles in the windows comes from Ireland we have been told. It is believed there that every Christmas Eve the Christ Child walk once more through the land. These lighted candles are His guidel est He lose His way.

"Now the birth (literally Genesis) of Jesus Christ was on this wise." (Mat. 1:18). No other

"wise." Angels announced both His conception and His actual birth. The angel Gabriel announced the begetting (Luke 1:19-35.) the angel Michael (Luke 2:9-12) and Jude V-9) announced the birth. With him there was a multitude of the heavenly host (Luke 1:3).

On September 29, "Michaelmas Day" or "the feast of Michael and all angels," is celebrated in many parts of the world.

On the 15th of the Hebrew month Tishri, September 29th of our calendar, is the Feast of Tabernacles of the Jews. Shepherds were still in the fields. They did not keep their flocks out in the open during the winter months. The Roman census usually fell between August and October.

"The word was made flesh and tabernacled among us, (John 1:4) His manifestation to the world at the time of the Feast of Tabernacle would have been most appropriate. (His sacrificial death was at the Feast of the Passover. (Frim December 25th to September 29 is 280 days. The Great Day of the feast (John 7:37) was the eighth day. Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day.

Clement of Alexandria record the keeping of December 25 as a very special day as early as A. D. 98.

In the second century the celebration of Christmas had come in and Origen, a very distinguished theologian of the early church felt that it humiliated Christ to the

status of "a king Pharaoh." That the celebration had a pagan origin is correct. Many customs of the church have been borrowed from paganism of sun-worship, of Baal worship, for instance.

There was much controversy about the date for Christmas. In

the 5th century the decision was made as to whether it should be celebrated January 6th, March 25th, or December 25th. In Armenia there were even riots about the question. Little by little, the date of December 25th spread

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CHRISTMAS CAROLS

By Harley L. Barrett

Ever since the shepherds of old saw the low hanging star of Bethlehem in the Heavens that December night, and raised their voices in praise to the Glory of God, carols have been sung in His praise at Christmas time. Peace on earth good will to men, have inspired men to write carols that will live to the end of time.

The first recorded Christmas carol was the song that the angels sang on Christmas Eve. It was and has always been, one of the loftiest aims and aspirations of the Christian faith, announcing and setting the theme and spiritual purpose of the Christmas celebration down through the ages to the present time. Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, good will to men. Perhaps at no other time in the history of the world has this Christmas message meant so much to so many. Emerging from the tragic sacrifices and suffering of the recent and war ravished old world the lesson that the angels sang still holds true. . . .

The First Noel, is thought to have had its origin in France and later translated into English is one of the earliest carols. From the Sixth Century to the middle of the Thirteenth Century Christmas carols went into eclipse having been banned by the Popes, since they had become coarse and vulgar. Apparently they were their true purpose, they were sung at drinking bouts and wherever boisterous people made merry. However, in 1224 St. Francis of Assisi formed a group of straggling singers and slowly revived their popularity and it has grown increasingly since that time.

Examples of the historical carol with little or no religious significance, are God Rest You Merry Gentlemen, The Boar's Head In Hand I Bring, and Good King Wenceslas Looked Out. After the crusade of St. Francis, the carols took on more of the religious significance climaxing with the lovely Silent Night, Holy Night, the most beautiful of all the Christmas carols.

Veterans Are Offered Help

Veterans Are Reporting To Employment Service In Great Numbers

War veterans numbered more than one out of every three persons who visited local offices of the United States Employment Service in North Carolina in November, it is revealed by Robert M. du Bruyne, acting State Director of the USES.

Of the 114,678 visits in which service was given in the State's employment offices, 45,465, or 40 percent, were of war veterans—99 percent of them World War II veterans. This is a big increase in the proportion of veterans, the percentage growing from about 31 percent in October, 23 percent in September, 19 percent in August, and nine percent in January.

In November, 7,485 war veterans were referred to non-agricultural jobs; 2,992 were placed in local jobs, and 60 were placed in jobs in areas away from their homes. Of the 454 handicapped veterans who applied for jobs, 210 were placed on jobs suitable for their handicapped conditions.

Veterans whose problems could not be handled by local USES offices were directed to proper agencies in November, as follows: Veterans Administration, 2,442; Vocational Rehabilitation, 68; Selective Service, 136; training agencies, 983, and other agencies, 1,906.

A decrease of about 20 percent in the number of job openings in the State from the first to the end of November is shown in the drop from 35,493 November 1 to 28,494 November 30, Mr. du Bruyne reports.

Of the 122,356 visits recorded in local USES offices in November, 114,678 of the visitors were rendered special services; 19,749 were referred to jobs; 8,411 were placed in local jobs; and 130 were placed in jobs in areas away from their homes. Forty-nine others were given some assistance in locating suitable jobs. All of these were non-agricultural jobs.

Lt. Robert R. Clements Home On Furlough

Lt. Robert R. Clements, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clements of Black Mountain, has been enjoying a furlough at home for the past several weeks. Robert entered service in June 1942 and was commissioned in January 1943, leaving for overseas in February of the same year. He landed in North Africa in February, later going to Tunisia, then to Algiers where he stayed until July 1944. He then went to Corsica which was the taking off place that sent him into Southern France, later to Northern France and Germany and Austria. Robert was in Dillingen, Germany, when the surrender came. He was later sent to La Harve, France where he left for home in November and arrived in the States about the U.S.S. Barine Fox. Robert will return soon to receive his discharge from service.

Slagle Coming Home

S. J. P. Slagle is to arrive home in the middle part of January. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Slagle of Black Mountain, received word in a letter from him telling them not to write any more because he was being sent home. He has been in the Southwest Pacific for about 20 months.

Some Beet

A beet, grown by Mr. Mills of the Mills Feed Store, now on display in the window of his store, weighs 14 1/2 pounds. The tops on the beet are still fresh after being in the window for several weeks.

Space Limited

Limited space this week forces us to leave out some of the articles that have been sent in. These articles will be printed next week if they are not dated articles.