

# Christmas Miracle

By Maud McCurdy Welch

PATTI WAS TRYING to forget it was Christmas. Last Christmas there had been Jimmy and a ring on her finger. Then there was a girl named Ann and everything was over. Patti had packed up and come to this part of the city to live.

So there were no holly wreaths or Christmas trees in Patti's Pie and Bake Shop just off one of the bustling avenues. There was only Patti with her brown curls and mellow brown eyes and the long rows of pies and cakes in the show-cases.

People came from all over to buy Patti's cakes and pies and drink her coffee. There was the little old lady who sold magazines on the corner, who came in every day. She was the first to come in on Christmas Day, and she was lug-ging a big wreath of holly and mistletoe. "Hang it in the window, dearie," she said.

Patti looked at the wreath and a sick pain caught at her heart.

Then there was the telephone operator who worked in a branch exchange, and later the little boy who always stopped by from school. He had such sad blue eyes it made Patti's heart ache. Patti always gave him a huge slice of pie



When he saw the wreath his eyes brightened. "Gee, that's pretty."

and he ate it with relish, but the sad bewilderment of his eyes never seemed to go away.

When he saw the wreath, his eyes brightened. "Gee, that's pretty. You goin' to have a Christ-mas tree too, Mis' Patti?"

Patti started to say no, but choked. Instead she asked, "Tom-my, you have a Christmas tree, Don-ny?"

He shook his head. Patti said, her voice still choky. "Then we'll have one here. You can help me trim it."

In no time at all the tree was up and they were trimming it. In spite of her stern efforts, Patti was conscious of a slow excitement. Tommy asked if she believed in that Kris Kringle stuff, and she had to stop to think before answer-ing. At last she said, "Yes, Tommy, I think I do. Kris Kringle may be just a symbol, but he's really alive in the hearts and spirits of hundreds of people all over the world."

Tommy's blue eyes grew bright. "Then do you think if I told him I only wanted my daddy back, and nothing else, he would bring him back to us? My mommy told him to go, but she didn't mean it. Now she's sick, but if Daddy would come back, we'd both be happy and she'd be well."

An idea was slowly dawning in Patti's mind. "We'll see what we can do, Tommy," she promised.

Patti hurried like mad and got a personal ad. In the late edition of one of the big dailies. It read: "Mr. Thomas Baker, please call at Patti's Pie & Cake Shop at once."

PATTI WAITED and waited. The little shop was brightly lighted and the Christmas tree was a beau-tiful sight to see.

But no one came. Everything had been sold, so Patti was putting out the lights when a tall young man walked in. He said, "I may be the Thomas Baker you're looking for. Of course I don't know."

Patti just felt it in her bones that he was the right one. She said, "Do you have a wife by the name of Margaret and a little boy named Tommy?"

"Yes, yes, I do."

"Then you're the right Thomas Baker. They want you to come home."

"Are you sure Margaret wants me too?" The young man's eyes were suddenly full of hope.

Patti nodded. "I'm very sure," and the young man thanked her, turned to go and almost collided with another tall young man who had just come in. He was looking at Patti with his whole heart in his eyes. "The minute I saw that per-sonal, I was sure it was you. No one ever spelled Patti with an 'i' as you do." Then he reached for her hands. "Patti, won't you forgive me for thinking I could ever love another girl? Won't you let me put this ring—here it belongs?"

Patti was choked up with happi-ness as he slipped the ring on her finger. "Finding you is like a Christmas miracle," he whispered as he took her in his arms.

About 275,000 farm families have obtained loans from the Farmers Home Administration during the past 12 months. Some of the most successful borrowers have increased their crop pro-duction from 40 to 60 per cent per acre as a result of the loans:

Production of fresh vegetables this fall was about 10 per cent lower than a year earlier.

## Grover Baptist Church To Present Christmas Cantata-Pageant Sunday

By Lola Faye Hordin  
The First Baptist Church of Grover plans to present a Cantata-Pageant on Sunday evening December 23, at 7 o'clock.

The text is written by Mattie B. Shannon and the music by For-est G. Walter.

There was a joint officers' meeting Thursday evening at the Presbyterian Church for the purpose of examining the newly elected officers prior to their or-dination and installation Sunday.

The Annie Armstrong Circle met in the church Tuesday De-cember 11, the topic of the pro-gram was "Let us Worship and Bow Down". Those taking part on the program were: Mrs.

Bub Herndon, Mrs. Bill Camp, Mrs. Jack Herndon Mrs. Charles Queen and Miss Annie Randall. Each member took a covered dish sup-per. Instead of exchanging gifts, the members gave an offering to provide for underprivileged chil-dren in Grover School Lunch room.

The W. M. S. met Monday in the church basement. The inspir-ing talk of Miss Coleman was given by the recorder. The talk was the one that Miss Coleman gave in Shelby for the Day of Prayer, December 7.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Tedder an-nounce the birth of a daughter, Hilda Marie, on December 12 at Gaffney Hospital.

Mrs. Holmes Harry entertained Circle No. 2 of the Presbyterian Women of the Church Monday evening.

Jim Montgomery, USA, is spending a furlough with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Montgomery.

Carl Reynolds, of the Army Medical Corps at Fort Bragg, is spending a leave with his wife.

The Intermediate R. A.'s met Monday evening at the home of Tommy Keeter in Grover.

Cpl. and Mrs. J. F. Harry of Fort Benning, Georgia, are now spending a furlough at home be-fore leaving for over seas duty.

Students have started coming home for the Christmas holidays. Those home now are: James Mc-Ginnis, from Wake-Forest, Ellis Tate and Annette Harry, from Gardner-Webb.

Mr. Frank Jackson of Friday at

home. The funeral was held in the home on Sunday afternoon and then the body was sent to Schemenady, New York, for burial.

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Quinn, of Spartanburg, S. C., visited Mrs. Quinn's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Byers, over the weekend.

Mrs. Charlie Martin has returned to her home in Burlington after spending several weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Watterson. Mr. Watterson's con-dition hasn't improved.

Mrs. Iva W. Black, from Char-lotte, is visiting Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Watterson.

Those visiting Alex Sheppard Sunday were Frank Sheppard, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hambricht, and Dewitt Patterson. Mr. Sheppard's condition has improved.

Mr. and Mrs. Grover Nunney and daughter, Deborah, of Char-lotte, visited Mrs. R. E. Ham-bright, Sunday. Grover, Jr., re-

## Rambling Sketches Of Oak Grove News

By Mrs. William Wright

Mr. and Mrs. Talmadge Ran-dall and daughter of Hickory, were recent visitors with Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Randall.

Rev. C. C. Crow of Shelby was the Sunday dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. Riley Allen and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Bell, Giles, Betty, and Gall, Mary Wright, Peggy and Bob were Sunday af-ternoon visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Bell and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Blanton.

Miss Duckworth, French teach-er of Beth-Ware school, Messrs. Walter Ware of Charlotte and Dean Costner of Penley's Chapel

turned with his parents after vis-iting with his grandmother for a week.

were visitors for the morning worship service at the local church Sunday morning.

We had one new member added to our church Sunday morning, Mrs. Laura Wolfe, mother of Mrs. Stokes Wrights, joined by letter. I wish everybody that reads this list of news a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Lovelace spent a few days the past week with their daughter, Mrs. Pearl Ware and family.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Stacy and sons of Long Creek were Satur-day guests of Mr. and Mrs. Eu-gene Bell and children.

Mr. Bobby Randall of State col-lege is spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Randall.

Mrs. Stokes Wright, Mrs. Lau-ra Wolfe, and Mrs. William Wright visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Wolfe and

Miss Mary Pearl of the Beulah section Sunday afternoon. Other visitors in the Wolfe home were Mr. and Mrs. Blair Wolfe of Gas-tonia, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Wolfe of Shelby, and Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Goforth of Stony Point.

Miss Carolyn Bell was the Sat-urday night guest of Miss Helen Thornburg.

Mr. Wray Thornburg spent a few days in Tampa, Fla., recent-ly.

Farmers in Granville County, one of the State's oldest tobacco counties are rapidly turning to livestock and dairy enterprises as important sources of supplement-ary income.

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