

Yule Stocking Is Just Legend

Did a spinster hang up the first Christmas stocking? Legend says yes, but history says no—or at most, "Maybe." St. Nicholas, a fourth century bishop, secretly gave gifts of gold for the dowries of poor spinsters. His method was to toss the gold down a chimney by night, at Christmas.

On one occasion, so legend says, the gift landed in a stocking hung by the fireplace to dry.

History casts a dubious eye on this "origin" of the Christmas stocking custom. The spinster probably didn't have a stocking—not in the fourth century.

Knitted form-fitting hosiery was unknown until the thirteenth century. Earlier, people wrapped cloth or rags around their feet as substitute for modern stockings.

Even after William Lee invented the stockings frame, a more efficient method of production, in the late 1500's, it was some time before the poor could afford to buy stockings.

History makes one concession to the legend tellers. Paintings from Pompeii show that early Romans did wear some form of stockings, even before the birth of Christ.

INFANT BAPTISM

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jones will be christened Sunday at the morning worship services at First Presbyterian church. The child is grandson of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Jones and Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Broadwater.

Largest of the deer family is the moose.

Santa's Beard, Red Suit Are Recent Garb

Genial, jovial, red-cheeked and white-bearded. As any child can tell you, that's how Santa Claus looks.

But the benevolent giver of presents has not always been pictured like this, nor has he always traveled by sleigh or brought his gifts on Christmas Eve. In fact, he has not always been named Santa Claus!

"Santa Claus" is in truth a child's euphonic way of expressing the Dutch "Saint Nikolaas," or St. Nicholas, says The Encyclopedia Americana.

St. Nicholas, a fourth-century bishop, was later honored, in Europe, as a friend to children. Legend finds him making his rounds on December 5th, the eve of St. Nicholas Day, with gifts to reward children for good behavior.

Instead of a jolly red suit, St. Nicholas wore a robe, or tabard, and for that reason he really didn't need a sleigh, or even a horse. His robe enabled him to travel from place to place, instantly.

In Holland, however, he was said to use a horse for his journey at night over the roofs.

Dutch settlers brought St. Nicholas to the New World, where he gradually changed his name to Santa Claus and traded his horse and robe for reindeer and a red suit.

It was Clement C. Moore, in his poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas," who made Santa into a jolly elf "Saint Nick," who rides

"in a miniature sleigh drawn by eight tiny reindeer." In more-recent years, St. Nicholas in his new guise as Santa Claus has journeyed to many parts of the world, becoming the most widely known of gift givers.

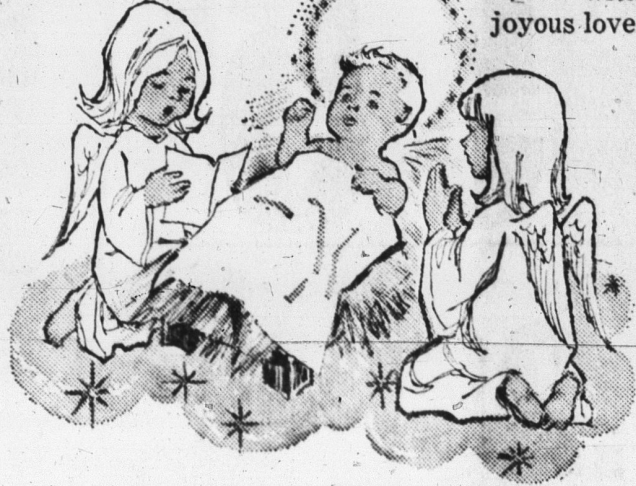


May all the peace, happiness and blessings of this holy season be bestowed upon you and yours. A very Merry Christmas to one and all.

Harris Funeral Home

Joy to the World

May the spirit of His birth warm your hearts with joyous love.

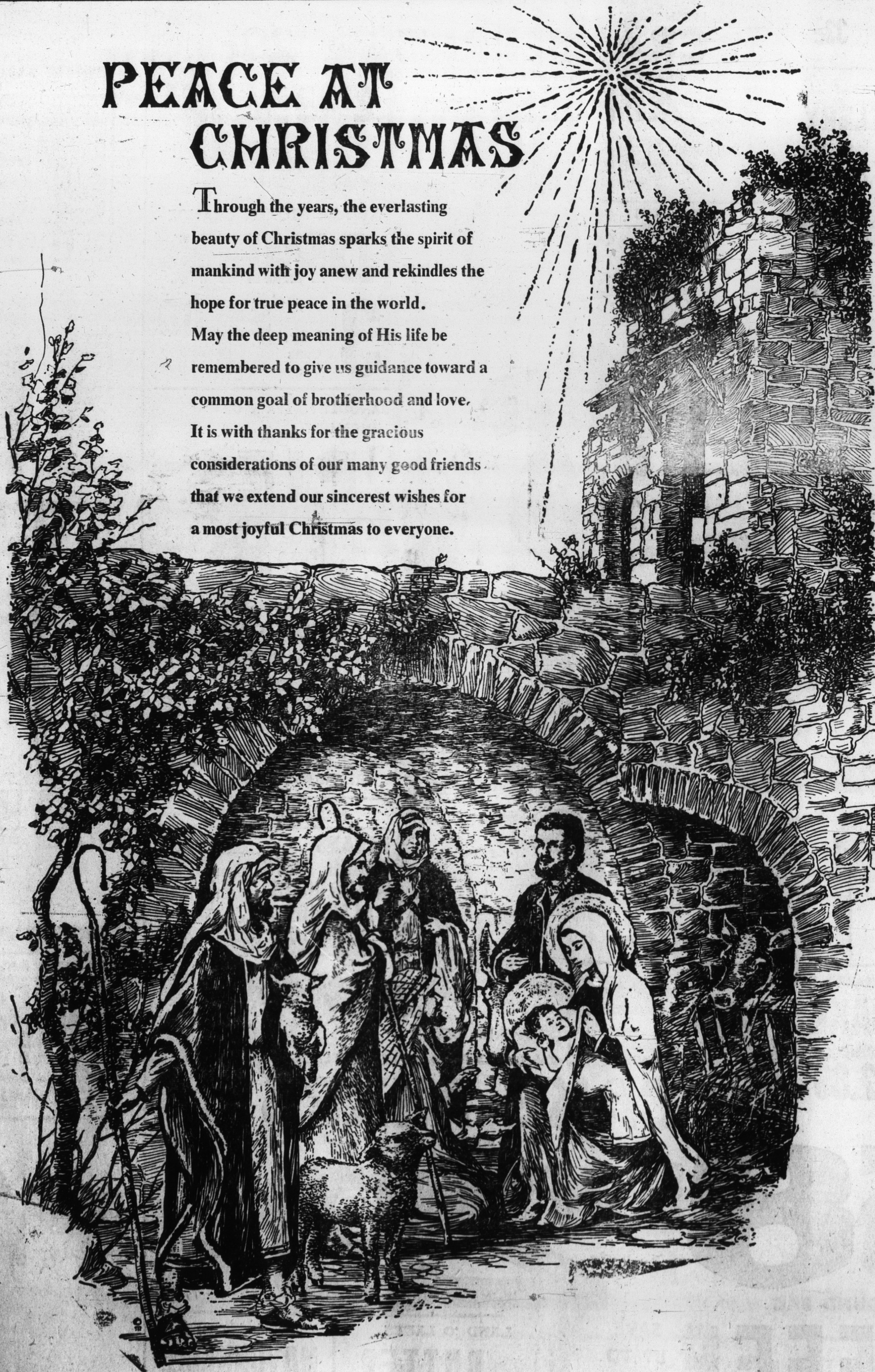


LIBERTY LOAN CORPORATION

Don Falls, Charles W. Bolin, Judy White

PEACE AT CHRISTMAS

Through the years, the everlasting beauty of Christmas sparks the spirit of mankind with joy anew and rekindles the hope for true peace in the world. May the deep meaning of His life be remembered to give us guidance toward a common goal of brotherhood and love. It is with thanks for the gracious considerations of our many good friends that we extend our sincerest wishes for a most joyful Christmas to everyone.



Spangler Ready-Mixed Concrete

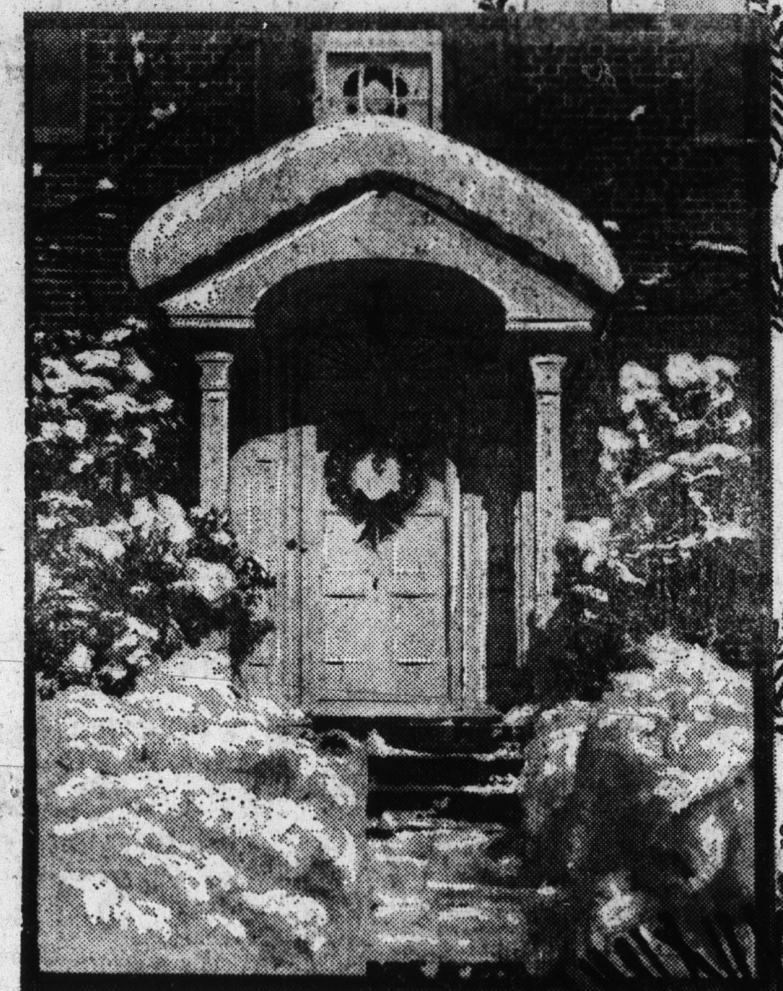


With fond hopes that all your holiday dreams come true, we send you our best wishes for a Merry Christmas.

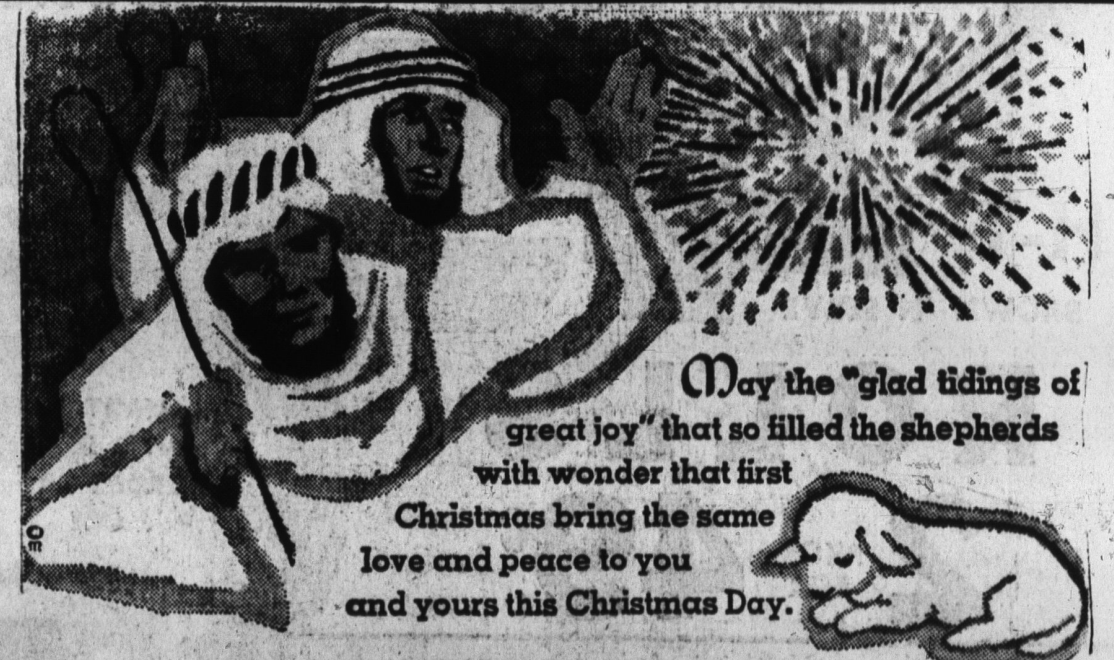
Lynch Furniture

Merry Christmas

Doorways wear garlands of welcome... candles beckon with a hearty glow. The season of good cheer arrives, in all its friendly warmth. May the joys of Christmas be yours!



PLONK'S



May the "glad tidings of great joy" that so filled the shepherds with wonder that first Christmas bring the same love and peace to you and yours this Christmas Day.

MODERN CLEANERS

E. C. (Abie) MARTIN, Owner