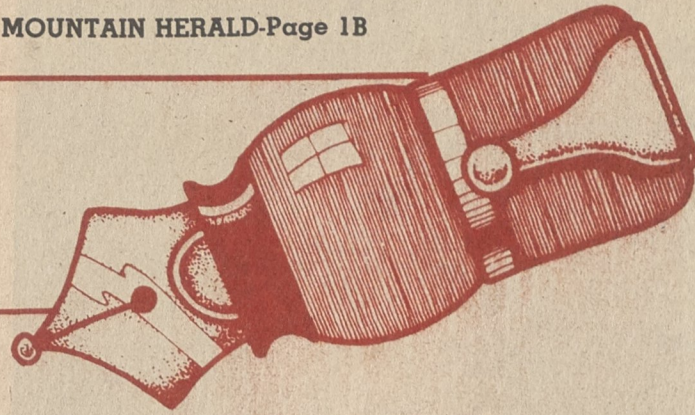


EDITORIAL
OPINION

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord." St.Luke 2:11



Lib
Stewart

Images Of Christmas

Nothing can shut out the images of Christmas. There is that smile on the face of the elderly woman being surprised in the nursing home by church carolers.

There is that wonderment in a child's eyes on Christmas Eve. There is that soul-fortifying experience of a candlelight church service.

There is that appreciation in the face of a family being served a Christmas dinner of turkey and ham and all the trimmings when they would not otherwise have had but for caring people of Kings Mountain.

Christmas is a happy time but Christmas is also melancholy, memories flooding in of times that might have been or times that will be no more.

Yet, that solemn, yet splendid celebration of the birth of Jesus the carpenter's son who is the Messiah to Christians, transcends the lights and the gift wrappings. That birth, yea long ago, is reason enough to get us through the holidays in better spirits than we might otherwise have known under any current circumstances.

Sometime tonight, just after midnight, another mystical time will occur. It comes every year, if we can find it. There will be no automobiles whirring, and screeching. There will be no trains running through town. There will be only the traffic lights, blinking their red-yellow-green, quietly in the stillness of an early Christmas morning. That is the time for remembering that Christmas is special, if perhaps we forgot in the hustle and bustle of the weeks preceding this holiday.

Be glad during this time of self-imposed pressure and remind yourselves why you are doing so much for so many.

The beauty and meaning of the miracle of the manger have not dimmed in 1984 and we hope the true spirit of Christmas may fill your hearts and homes all over Kings Mountain during this annual observance of history's finest hour.

LED BY THE LIGHT OF FAITH
SERENELY BEAMING, WITH
GLOWING HEARTS BY HIS
CRADLE WE STAND: AND LED
BY LIGHT OF STAR SO SWEETLY
GLEAMING, HERE COME THE
WISE MEN FROM THE ORIENT
LAND ... BEHOLD YOUR KING!
BEFORE HIM LOWLY BEND.
BEHOLD YOUR KING! YOUR
KING, BEFORE HIM BEND.



Reaffirmation Of Faith

From The New York Sun

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that is faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun.

Dear Editor: I am eight years old.

Some of my friends say there is no Santa Claus.

Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so."

Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon
115 West Ninety-First Street

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary were no Santa Claus. It would be dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did see him coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see the fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's not proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is still a veil covering the unseemly world which not the strongest men, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia may ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Don't Forget These, Santa!

Dear Santa,

Hey, big guy! I know you're swarmed under by all the requests of the children of the world. Just filling the wishes of all the kindergarten through fourth grade students in Kings Mountain who wrote to you through the Herald will load down your sleigh.

But, you and Rudolph have magical powers, and I'm sure it wouldn't hurt you to consider the following requests:

A Southwestern 3-A Conference football championship next fall for Kings Mountain's Mountaineers and Coach Denny Hicks. Leo Durocher once said that "nice guys finish last." I never believed it until last fall, because Denny Hicks is truly one of the nice guys in the high school coaching profession. He deserves much better than a 1-9 season...

A major college football scholarship and East-West all-star honors for Tracy Johnson of Kannapolis, who gave Kings Mountain fans two years of exciting running and tackling before joining the A.L. Brown program. I'd love to see Tracy in a Clemson Tiger uniform...

All-SAC-8 and NAIA District 26 honors next fall for Kings Mountain's two contributions to the Gardner-Webb football team, offensive tackle Darryl Strong and running back Curtis Pressley...Continued success to other former KMHS athletes on college basketball teams, Carl Smith at Massachusetts, Demetris Goode at Limestone, Sheryl Goode at J.C. Smith, Arnold Jordan at Lees-McRae and Frank Parker at Chowan...

A Southwestern 3-A Conference basketball title for Larry Sipe and his KMHS Mountaineers. Sipe is doing a marvelous job with the KM program, and if that championship doesn't come this year, it won't be too long in the future...While you're at it, Santa, throw in SWC Player of the Year honors for Kings Mountain's Lavar Curry, by far the most exciting little man in the SWC...

A sudden death or extra period playoff for college football games. Players have to work too hard in practice to have to settle for a tie. As ex-Clemson coach Frank Howard used to say, a tie is like kissing your sister...

Many more successful fishing trips to the coast for former KMHS teacher and coach, Bill Cashion. Cashion snagged over 300 flounders in a recent trip to the Outer Banks, and I'll tell you, Santa, if you've never eaten fresh flounder, you've missed one of the best things in this world...

A USFL franchise for Charlotte. If you could arrange it, move the L.A. Express to Charlotte so local fans could see Kings Mountain's Kevin Mack in action...

A Super Bowl title for the Washington Redskins. A plane ticket to Washington for Kelvin Bryant of the Philadelphia Stars. The Redskins have the NFL rights to the former UNC star and he'd be a good one to replace the aging (by football standards) John Riggins...

A successful pro football career for Heisman trophy winner Doug Flutie. They say he's too small to play pro football, but he's one of the most exciting college quarterbacks I've ever seen...

A successful summer for John Henry Moss's South Atlantic League. For years, through the old Western Carolinas League and now the South Atlantic, the KM Mayor has brought exciting Class A baseball to the Carolinas. Hundreds of his players have gone on to star status in the majors...

Another Western Junior High championship for the Kings Mountain Junior High wrestling team, which has won all nine conference championships since the league was formed. You can't get much better than that, unless you run up a string of victories (118) such as Sullivan Junior High of Rock Hill did in the 1970's and early 1980's...

Success for East Gaston's Warriors and the Crest Chargers as they go into the 4-A ranks next year. Both teams have enjoyed some good



Stewart's
Slants

By
Gary Stewart

years in the Southwestern 3-A Conference but they'll be up against much-better competition in the Southwestern 4-A. They'll be competitive, but they won't be enlarging their trophy cases anytime soon...

Good health and many years of happy retirement for former KMHS teacher and Coach Bill Bates of Hendersonville, who had to retire recently after suffering a heart attack...Continued success for all former KMHS athletes and coaches who are now coaching at other schools. Let's see, that would be Bob Hussey at Davidson, Charles Lockee at Belmont Abbey, Nancy Scoggins at Limestone, Darrell Van Dyke and Jerry Adams at East Gaston, Mike Ware at Newberry, Charles Greene at South Point, Charles Barnes at Richmond County, and Frank Morehead at Cherryville. There may be more, Santa, but as you get older your mind goes...

Another big flounder for my neighbor and good friend (and, I might add, the Mayor of Dixon), Rob Caveny. But, Santa, teach Rob to keep his fingers out of the flounder's mouth...A 10-pound bass for my fishing buddy, David Hughes, and a two-pound crappie for me...

An .800 year for football prognosticator Fearless, known 42 weeks of the year as Dwight Frady, Editor of the Belmont Banner. He was horrible last fall until he persuaded his 14-year-old nephew to bail him out...

Another 1,250 good, name-filled columns for Sarah Nixon of the Mount Holly News. She finally put my name in her column last week, so I'm returning the favor. Hey, Sarah! I go to Holden Beach a lot...

A 12-point buck for Paul Bowen, who thus far has struck out in the deer-hunting business this year. One day, he went deer hunting down in South Carolina and two bucks bagged him, tied him to a tree limb and carried him out of the woods...

A peaceful Christmas for all rescuers, firemen, policemen, doctors and nurses, and all others who have to work on Christmas Day. If they could spend their day at work without seeing a wreck, picking up a drunk, or healing a wound, it would probably be the best Christmas they ever had...

Food for all who are hungry, clothes for all who are naked, the filling of any need that anyone in the world might have this Christmas. And, above all, the knowledge of what Christmas is all about.

To my readers (all three of you), Merry Christmas and a very prosperous 1985. May you always catch the limit and do such a good job in life that when your time comes to leave this world, you'll be judged big enough to keep.

Kings Mountain Herald

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