

The Winters Enterprise

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THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS



When it became known that the Son of God was born to Mary, all bowed down to worship him. The Wise Men set forth on their journey, for to them alone had the Star miraculously appeared. It guided them to where Jesus lay. There they presented their regal gifts and adored Him.

The awesome wonder of Jesus' holy birth and the lesson of His life will forever enlighten the hearts and minds of people everywhere. As all join to celebrate in the exultant spirit of this hallowed season, we extend best wishes and heartfelt gratitude to our many cherished friends.

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TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Winters Enterprise

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Poe's Corner
 BY CHARLIE POE

Christmas Remembered

Usually the most memorable Christmas that people recall has to do with childhood dreams come true, but some consider every Christmas special.

Myra Dorsett was nine years old when she saw a beautiful doll in the drug store window as she passed on her way to school. It was a bisque doll about a foot tall with pink cheeks and blonde curls. And everyday she wanted that doll just a little more. When Christmas Eve came and she went with her parents to the church, that doll was right in the top of the Community Christmas tree and she wondered what lucky girl would receive it. Her suspense grew as gift after gift was handed out...the doll was last...and Myra's name was called. Her aunt had bought the doll.

Billie Burton had a different experience when she played Santa Claus. Her daddy was a missionary Baptist preacher and he was away from home. Her mother was ill and to keep the little children from being disappointed she made a list and sent Billie to town. She had to walk about a mile and on the way home with the packages she dropped her little sister's doll. A kind

GREETINGS
 Here's hoping Santa has something special for you in his bag of gifts!
 Have a very merry Christmas, friends!

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Fireman of the year...

Mayor Lee Colburn presents a plaque to Leon Hilliard, Winters Fireman of the Year. Receiving 15-year service pins were Charles Dry and Joe Emmert, and receiving 10-year pins were John

Merrill and Buddy Miller. They were awarded these at the annual Christmas party last week.

Deadline nears for C-C livestock "shares"

The first week of January has been designated as the deadline for the annual sale of "shares" in the Junior Livestock Show. The funds are used to pay awards to exhibit winners at the livestock show, to be held January 17-18. At least \$3000 is needed this year, according to a Chamber spokesman. Shares are being sold at \$10 each to businesses and individuals. Members of the Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee are Tobin Burns, Chairman; Charles Allcorn, Ray Alderman, Preston Barker, Bud Davis, Jerry Priddy, Erwin Schroeder, G. W. Sneed, and Arnold Thormeyer.

neighbor woman said, "Santa Claus dropped the doll and broke it." She carried it home with her and made it a cap. All the children in the neighborhood came to see the doll Santa Claus dropped.

Rhuenell Poe recalled the year she and her sister, Genie Lou, received dolls that looked just like them. Hers had brown hair and Genie's was blond. They also got rocking chairs and played house all day long.

Oneita Williams said there was one holiday that her children never forgot when they had the Christmas tree at 3 o'clock in the morning. Grandpa Williams always wanted all of his family at home and they must have the tree as near Christmas Eve as possible. One daughter and her husband drove a long distance after he got off work. Everyone went to bed and they had wall to wall beds, even had one on the dining table. When the couple arrived everyone got up and they had the tree.

We always went to the church for the Christmas tree and hung up our stockings at home. My sister, Gladys, and I received a gift or two and some fruit and candy. But one year when I was a teenager, I thought there really was a Santa. Owens Drug Store always had a jewelry sale the last thing on Christmas Eve and that's when my dad shopped, as he worked late in the grocery store. He probably had a good year for he bought me an ivory and amber dresser set and both my sister and me a strand of pearls, also ruby dinner rings with a diamond in the center.

Lillian Roberson said that one year she and her sisters decided they would have their own Christmas tree. Since they lived in the country they improvised. A tall okra stalk in the garden was brought in and wrapped in white butcher paper. It was then decorated with strings of cranberries, paper chains and popcorn, and Lillian was so proud of her baby doll that cost 50 cents.

Hallie Sims thinks that every Christmas is special and it is the best season of the year. She loves the music, the lights, decorations and food.

She lived with her grandmother and when they moved to Ballinger in 1920, there was always a decorated tree with candles. Every year her grandmother invited the children and grandchildren and did all the cooking for the dinner.

Hallie has been creating special trees at the holiday season for twenty years. This year she has a gold and white color scheme in her living room with a Christmas tree made out of broom weed. She began with a background of plywood covered with polyester batting. The broom weed was dipped in white paint and fastened to the background. Decorations are gold butterflies made out of metallic ribbon and white balls etched in gold designs. As the tree turns, a music box plays familiar tunes. Clear lights illumine the tree.

Other decorations are five candlepoint brass candelabra with green candles. The den, hall and other rooms have holly and rice straw bells at vantage points.

Year before last, Hallie had four tall, slender trees at her four long windows. They were covered with gold paper and long white tinsel wrapped diagonally around them and all four on turning stands that turned the same way. She could use only one music box as the four couldn't be made to synchronize.

One year, a tree made out of chicken wire and stuffed with orange paper towels was decorated with clusters of gold grapes.

Other ideas that Hallie has incorporated in her tree decorating are a blossom from a century plant decorated with crystal teardrops on white. Then there was the post with aluminum curled around it that she had gotten from the manufacturing plant where she was working.

Her most original idea was a modernistic tree cut out of plywood, covered with lime green paper. Five sizes of circles were cut in the board and fuchsia colored balls hung in the circles.

Hallie says she already has her idea for next year's tree. She does it to beautify the thought and feeling of Christmas.



Lutheran pre-school provides senior citizens with program

Approximately 37 children from St. John's Lutheran pre-school brought Christmas joy to the residents of the Senior Citizens Nursing Home last Wednesday.

The youngsters, three and four years of age, raised their voices in song with their renditions of Christmas favorites such as, "Rudolph, The Red Nosed Reindeer", "Jingle Bell", and several other songs.

The children's choir, under the direction of Mary Kurtz, closed their musical program by singing "We Wish You A Merry Christmas", to which the residents responded by singing, "We Wish You A Merry Christmas."


After passing out fruit, much to the delight of the Senior Citizens, the children returned to St. John's for refreshments and a surprise visit from Santa Claus.

Director and teacher for the 4-year-olds is Mary Kurtz; teacher for the 3-year-olds is Sue Keene; and providing music on the piano was Mrs. W. F. Minzenmayer.

Students enrolled in the Lutheran Pre-school

Chane Reagan, Cody Whittenburg, Stephen Herrington, Alisa Presley, and Dusty Gray. Also enrolled is Zane Guy, Matthew Blake, Jeff Miller, Jason Mitchell, Katy Rives, John Belew, Allie Foster, Amanda Colom, Dean Evans, Alicia Smith, Brooke Killough, Misty Hicks, Kevin Jarose, Jamie Sims, Shauna Nitsch, and Joe Sims.

joy to the world



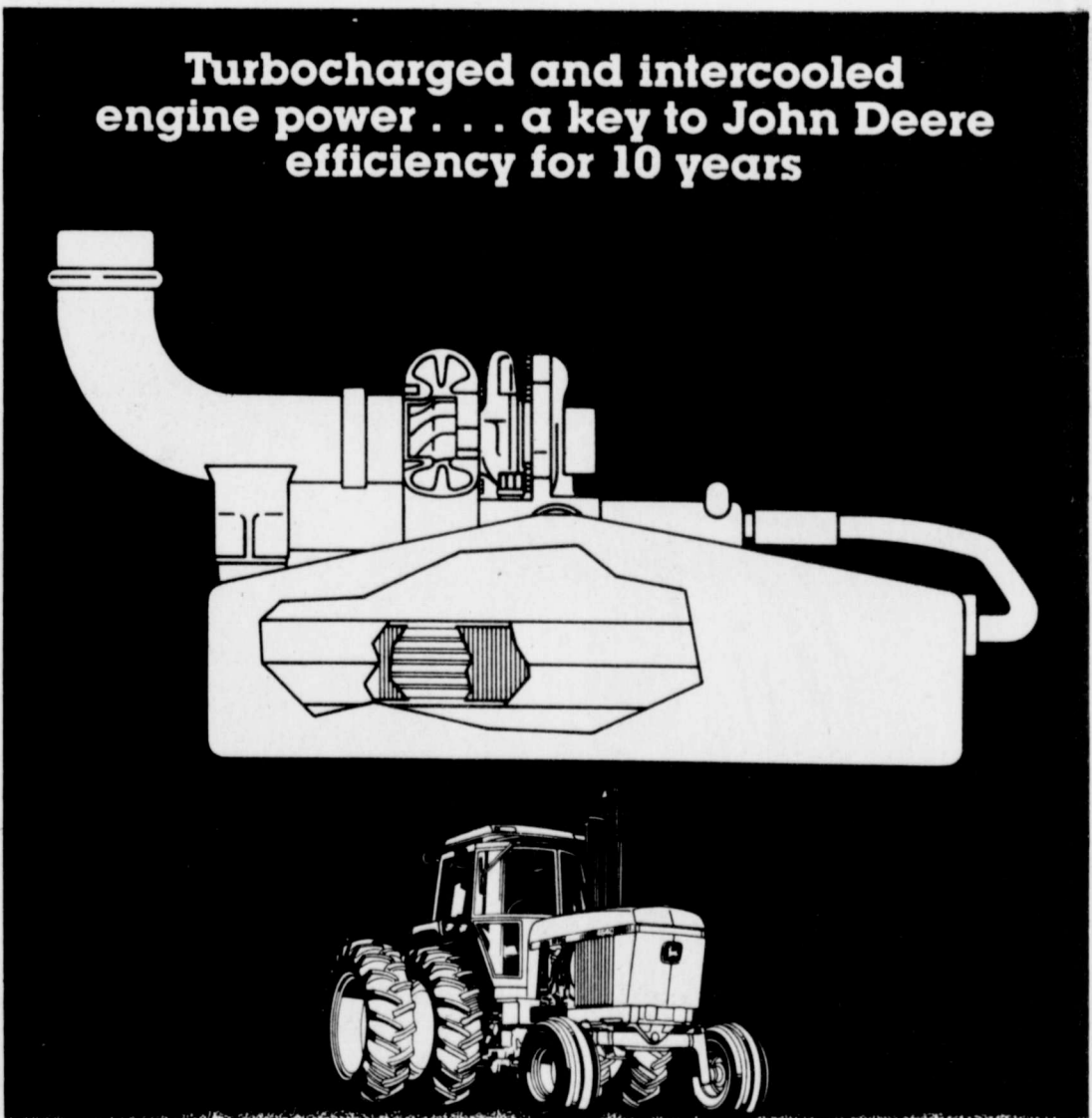
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Christmas Inspires Interesting Customs

Charming customs add to the beauty and meaningfulness of Christmas in Bulgaria. The kravai, a large round cake decorated with pastry birds, flowers, and a cross, is brought out with the appearance of the first star on Christmas Eve. The cake is lighted with a candle, and incense is burned while prayers are offered. Then the father and mother of the household break off a piece of cake for good luck.

On Christmas Day, the Yule log is brought in by the father, while other members of the family sprinkle him with corn. This is to insure good health for all and a bountiful crop. The corn is also placed in a stocking and sprinkled upon the doorstep to insure a happy new year. The Yule log is then lit and the children of the family make wishes as they strike the log.

After church services, Bulgarian children receive their gifts from Grandpa Koleda, the equivalent of our Santa Claus. The parents in turn receive gifts from their youngsters on the last day of the year.

In Rumania, on the day before Christmas, young boys visit neighboring homes to sing a Christmas greeting, Colinde. They are rewarded with apples, cakes, and coins by the listeners. The singing visits begin at dawn and last until after sunset. One can imagine some rather

stuffed little boys at the end of the day!

In an ancient Rumanian custom, villagers gather at a river bank clad in biblical costumes, to sing Christmas carols. A young boy is selected to break the ice that has formed upon the river and a wooden cross is thrown into the water. A scramble then ensues, for the rescuer of the cross is assured of good fortune in the coming year, according to the custom.

Just as in other parts of the world, feasting is an important part of the holidays in Rumania. Roast pig is the center of attraction of the holiday table. It is served with turta. The latter is a cake made of layers of thin, dough, shaped to form leaves, and symbolic of the Infant Jesus' swaddling clothes.

Yugoslavia also has some interesting customs with which to celebrate Christmas. On the day before Christmas, the men in Yugoslavian families

rise early to look for a Yule log, the Badnyak. This is no simple task, for many strict customs must be observed in bringing in the log. It must fall toward the east at the moment of sunrise and its branches must not touch another tree, as that would mean bad luck in the year ahead.

When the log is brought in, the men are greeted with singing and food. Later, fire is made and the family gathers around the log to await the arrival of the polaznik, a village lad. He must be the first to enter the house on Christmas morning. As he enters, he throws a handful of grain at each member of the family, asking a blessing as he does. The log is then struck so that many sparks will fly into the air; this means many sheep and other livestock for the household.

The polaznik next throws some wine on the log, leaving a coin at one end. This assures the family of prosperity in the coming year. After the ritual of the log is completed, the polaznik is feted by the grateful family for the rest of the day.

In Mexico, colorful customs add to the festive atmosphere of the holiday season. The most popular custom, as far as the children are concerned, is the tradition of the pinata.

This is an earthenware bowl, decorated to resemble animals usually, and filled with fruit, candy, nuts, and coins. The pinata is strung up and the children gather around it as one youngster is blindfolded. The blindfolded one now takes a swing at the pinata with a stick. If he can't break the pinata, another youngster attempts. At last one of the children breaks open the earthenware bowl and its contents spill out for the delighted youngsters.

Customs may vary from country to country, yet they all have one common denominator... a joyfulness of heart, in celebration of that most wonderful of seasons... Christmas.

Mrs. A. Coward died Tuesday in Coleman

Mrs. Andrew Coward, 59, died at 6 a.m. Tuesday at the Overall-Morris Hospital in Coleman following an extended illness.

Services were held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday from the Winters Memorial Chapel with Bill Hooten, minister of the Main Street Church of Christ, officiating. Burial was in Northview Cemetery under the direction of Winters Funeral Home.

She was born Lillian Alexander on October 27, 1922 at Providence, Rhode Island. She married Andrew Coward there on April 29, 1944.

With the exception of two years in Missouri, she had lived in Winters since 1946.

She was a member of the Church of Christ.

Her husband preceded her in death in 1957.

Survivors include two daughters, Sandra Wilborn of California and Cynthia Clark of Austin; her father, Harold Alexander of Providence, R.I.; a brother, Albert Alexander of Cranston, R.I.; and two grandchildren.

Pallbearers were J. F. Priddy, Michael Briley, Bill Cathey, Jerry Priddy, Gary Wilson, and Lanny Bahlman.

Pointers on how to buy the perfect gift

Here are some pointers for buying a special person (and everybody is special) a perfect present:

1. Don't buy a present that you'd like to receive - but something the recipient would appreciate.
2. Gifts that are practical yet have pizzazz go over big.
3. Quality is more important than quantity. You'll get more value if you purchase a gift that's the best in its class rather than a so-called bargain.
4. Give something that the person wouldn't think of getting for himself, but "something I've always wanted."

If you follow these hints, you're likely to make a lot of people happy this holiday season.

Advice for airbound Santa Clauses

If you're flying back home to visit relatives or friends for Christmas, or celebrating the holiday season in some exotic port of call, travel service experts advise that you pack your gifts in luggage, and wrap them after you arrive at your destination - not before.

This hint is based on two regulations: First, airlines discourage passengers from boarding with bundles of prewrapped presents because of safety reasons and limited storage space. Second, if you must clear customs, you may be required to open your prewrapped gifts.

The following tips will prevent delays and embarrasments.

- 1) Save space in your luggage for unwrapped gifts and collapsible department store boxes for each present.
- 2) Protect glassware or other breakable gifts by wrapping them in heavy garments or even hosiery.
- 3) Rolled wrapping paper can be unwrapped, folded and packed into neat squares.
- 4) Packing soft yarn and flat ribbons is better than taking fancy, ready-made bows.
- 5) Adhesive decals require less space than tape holders.

NORTH RUNNELS HOSPITAL REPORT

ADMISSIONS

Dec. 15
Amy Grun
Eva L. Reese
Jake R. Hines

Dec. 16
Charlie Eubank
Julia Hinds

Dec. 17
Bertha Tharp
Gregory Ochoa
Sam P. Wood
Harry Jonas
Scott Briley

Dec. 18
No Admissions

Dec. 19
Barbara Dyess and baby boy

Dec. 20
Robert A. Dickinson
Wilma M. Irvin
Maggie Ortiz

DISMISSALS

Dec. 15
No Dismissals

Dec. 16
No Dismissals

Dec. 17
Amy Grun
Jake Hines

Dec. 18
Mrs. Cora Matthews, exp.

Dec. 19
Salvador Esquivel
Scott Briley
Gregory Ochoa

Dec. 20
Bertha Tharp
D. E. Pinegar
Sam Wood



NEWCOMERS

Jason Douglas Nitsch
Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Nitsch announce the birth of their son, Jason Douglas, born December 12. He weighed 7 lbs. 11 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Dewitt Bryan of Winters and Mrs. Lucy Nitsch of Winters.

Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Hale of Bradshaw, and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Bryan of Crews.

Jason has a sister, Shauna.

season's best

Warm Wishes for a Cozy Christmas!

HARRISON'S AUTO PARTS

Happy Holidays!

May the radiance of the Christmas Star cast its light upon you, bringing with it renewed faith and wonder at the miracle of the Nativity.

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Bobby Mayo and Staff



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The Rice Family & Employees

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Wes and June Hays

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CARD OF THANKS

We would like to express our many thanks to the Winters City Council and to the Winters Volunteer Fire Department for the fire truck that was given to us.

A special thanks to David Carroll, Ralph Whittenberg, Leonard Bowden, and Marvin Bedford for the instructions given on it.

CARD OF THANKS

We would like to thank all of our friends for helping to make our anniversary party so wonderful.

To Dr. Lee and the staff at the hospital for taking such good care of our son, while he was in the hospital; we really appreciated it.

To all our family and friends who helped in any way; we want to say Thanks. We love you.

CARD OF THANKS

We would like to express our thanks to all our friends and neighbors for the flowers, food, kind words, deeds, and prayers that were given during the illness and death of our loved one.

WEEKEND VISITORS

Shara Sneed of San Antonio was honored Sunday on her eighth birthday with a dinner in the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Sneed.

Others present were Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Claxton of Modesto, Calif., Mr. and Mrs. Don McCullough, Jeff and Kelley of San Antonio, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Sneed, and Mr. and Mrs. Terry Sneed of Winters.

Measles and rubella — don't get them confused

Many people confuse measles and rubella — perhaps because a popular term for rubella is "German measles." This is misleading since rubella is not measles but a different virus, says the Texas Medical Association. Rubella was first identified by doctors in Germany and this is probably why the misleading name "German measles" took hold.

The confusion wouldn't matter if it were not for the fact that both diseases can produce serious complications. Because of these complications, medical authorities urge vaccination against both, ideally at age 15 months.

Before the vaccine became available, measles was an almost inevitable disease of childhood. It lasts about 10 days. At the onset the disease is characterized by a dry scratchy cough, running nose, inflamed eyes and an irregularly elevated temperature. At the end of the first three days the temperature may peak at 104 degrees, at which point a rash will appear.

Although the measles rash usually covers the entire body, itching is seldom severe. After another three or four days the rash begins to fade.

Complicating pneumonia or ear infections may require antibiotics. The most serious complication of measles is encephalitis, which can be deadly or cause severe brain damage.

Rubella is often so mild a childhood disorder that

many adults may either have forgotten their childhood illness or had an illness which was not recognized as rubella. Many adults, therefore, have naturally acquired immunity against rubella. The disease usually lasts about three days. A rash often accompanies rubella but may be so faint that it goes unnoticed. It usually causes painful swelling in the glands at the back of the neck and behind the ears, along with slight fever.

Rubella is such a mild disease in both children and adults that there would be no cause for alarm were it not for a tragic exception — the danger of severe physical and mental damage to a pregnant woman's unborn child if she acquires the disease in the early months of pregnancy. Since boys and girls in early childhood are the most common carriers of the infection, most doctors recommend that they be immunized to reduce exposure of mothers-to-be.

Women should be immunized before becoming pregnant, and they must avoid any possibility of pregnancy for two to three months afterwards. While the risk of the vaccine to the unborn baby is not known, it should be avoided.

Young women can be tested for immunity to rubella at the time of their premarital exams or a test can be given during the prenatal examination.

METRIC MEASURES

Helpful Information From The U.S. Metric Board



Q. Does the U.S. Metric Board have a consumer policy?

A. While the Board has no regulatory powers it does closely monitor conversion activity to protect consumer rights and it will call questionable practices to the attention of the appropriate authorities. Consumers also have their own representative on the Board.

The U.S. Metric Board is a government agency which does planning, research and coordination in connection with voluntary usage of the metric system.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

In compliance with Sec. 43(a) of Art. 1446c, V.A.C.S., West Texas Utilities Company hereby publishes NOTICE that it has filed, on November 25, 1981, its statement of intent to make changes in its rates charged for electricity and services sold and rendered inside and outside municipal jurisdictions, such proposed changes to be effective January 1, 1982. Such Statement of Intent includes the proposed revisions, tariffs and schedules, and a statement specifying in detail each proposed change, the effect the proposed change is expected to have on the revenues of the Company, and the classes and numbers of utility customers affected. Gross revenues are expected to be increased 15.4 per cent over adjusted test year revenues by the new rates. Statements of intent were filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas and with the following municipalities:

Abilene	Hawley	Quitaque
Alpine	Hedley	Rankin
Anson	Impact	Rising Star
Aspermont	Iraan	Roaring Springs
Baird	Jayton	Rochester
Balmorhea	Junction	Rule
Ballinger	Knox City	San Angelo
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Bronte	McCamey	Spur
Buffalo Gap	Melvin	Stamford
Childress	Memphis	Sterling City
Cisco	Menard	Talpa
Clarendon	Merkel	Throckmorton
Clyde	Merton	Trent
Cross Plains	Miles	Turkey
Crowell	Moran	Tuscola
Dodson	Munday	Tye
Eden	O'Brien	Valentine
Eldorado	Paducah	Weinert
Estelline	Paint Rock	Wellington
Goree	Presidio	Winters
Hamlin	Putnam	Woodson
Haskell	Quanah	

Areas affected by the filing with the Public Utility Commission of Texas are in the following:

Albany	Chillicothe	Dickens	Cities	Lakeview	Matador	Robert Lee	Rotan
Baylor	Brewster	Briscoe	Counties	Foard	Gillespie	Hall	Pecos
Brown	Callahan	Childress	Haskell	Hardeman	Haskell	Iron	Presidio
Coke	Coleman	Collingsworth	King	Kimble	Knox	Mason	Reagan
Dickens	Eastland	Edwards	Fisher	Jeff Davis	Jones	Kent	Reeves
Donley	Eastland	Edwards	Fisher	Kimble	King	Kimble	Runnels
Edwards	Fisher			Notlan	Notlan	Notlan	Schleicher
							Shackelford
							Stephens
							Sterling
							Stonewall
							Sutton
							Taylor
							Throckmorton
							Tom Green
							Upton
							Wheeler
							Wilbarger



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A Christmas Present For Mary's Teacher

By Keith Douglas
Medford, Mass.

*"Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow,
And everywhere that Mary went
The lamb was sure to go..."*

Her full name was Mary Sawyer and she lived on a farm in Sterling, Mass., during the early years of the 19th century.

She was the family favorite. Her father adored the girl, and enjoyed taking her on long walks around the 150-acre farm.

It was during one of these strolls, in the spring of 1814, when 5-year-old Mary encountered the lamb destined to make her famous.

There were two newborn lambs in the sheep pen. One was full of life, but the other was frail and seemed to lack the strength to survive. Mary adopted the little lamb, bottle fed it, and nursed it to good health. She loved the little white creature, and named it Snow.

In the fall, Mary began to attend classes at the Redstone School, a half-mile from her home. Before leaving for school in the morning, she always dropped by the sheep pen to pet Snow. The lamb often attempted to follow her, but Mary closed the gate before the animal got loose.

One morning, Mary's brother, Nathaniel, left the gate open to see if the lamb would follow her. It did—all the way to the little red schoolhouse.

Miss Polly Kimball, the teacher, allowed her scholars to play with the animal for a few minutes, then locked Snow in a shed at the rear of the school for the rest of the school day.

There was a budding poet in the class named John Roulstone, and he took great delight in the friendly creature's antics that happy school day. At Christmas that year, John, who was only 13, decided to write a poem about the lamb as a gift for his teacher.

All of the students brought "special Christmas surprises" to the school for Miss Kimball. The girls baked cookies and cakes or made aprons. The boys tried their hand at carpentry.

In those days, practically all Christmas gifts were labors of love, made by hand. Young Roulstone's was a poem.

It went:

*"Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow,
And everywhere that Mary went
The lamb was sure to go.
He followed her to school one day,
That was against the rule.
It made the children laugh and play
To see a lamb at school.*

*And so the teacher turned him out
But still he lingered near
And waited patiently about
Till Mary did appear."*

The boy gave Miss Kimball a copy of his poem. It is believed he gave her the only copy of the poem. Four years later, while a divinity student at Harvard University, John Roulstone collapsed and died in class one day. He never knew he had written a poem that would become a classic.

The years flew by, and Miss Kimball's Christmas poem remained buried beneath a pile of papers in her desk drawer. In time, the teacher married and went away. But the poem remained in the desk drawer at the Redstone School.

In 1830, Mrs. Sarah Joseph Hale, editor of *Godey's Magazine for Ladies*, revealed to her subscribers she was busy at work on a book of poems. She requested readers to send poems to her. One arrived in the mail from Mary's home town of Sterling. It was from the teacher who had replaced Miss Kimball. The teacher's name is not known.

"My offering is about a child and a lamb," wrote the teacher. "I do not claim authorship. I found the poem in a desk drawer when I first arrived at the school where I now teach. It is a sprightly little verse. Please use it as you see fit."

Sarah Hale decided the poem needed some additional verses to give it "a moral." She added three verses to the Roulstone original:

*"And then he ran to her, and laid
His head upon her arm,
As if he said, 'I'm not afraid
You'll keep me from all harm.'
'What makes the lamb love Mary so?'
The sager children cry.
'O Mary loves the lamb, you know,'
The teacher did reply.*

*'And you each gentle animal
In confidence may bind,
And make them follow at your call,
If you are always kind.'"*

Parents recited the verse to their children back then, when the book was first published. They still do it today.

Santa to make annual visit to Watson home

Anyone driving down N. Melwood would be attracted to the home of Wallace (Buck) Watson. The blaze of lights on the house entice young and old alike as Christmas draws near.

Santa will be visiting in the Watson home on Christmas Eve from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. All children are invited to come by 317 N. Melwood and talk with him, and receive candy.

According to Mrs. Watson decorating began in 1973, soon after they were married.

The first year they strung lights around the door and two windows. The second year Santa Clause was on the roof. He was then moved to the eaves and big lights have been added.

The project started out as entertainment for their grandchildren and ended in being for all children. "Many visitors come by and stop and sometimes there will be a pickup load of kids," according to Watson.

The third year, lights were placed around the rose arbor and in 1977 many additions were made. A cross and star were anchored on the roof and lights were strung on each side of the walk. Snow men and little elves settled on the lawn, also several small Santas driving reindeer.

Two tall candles add to the scenery. Inside decorations include a decorated tree loaded with presents, poinsettias everywhere, a snowman in the window and candle holders adorned with holly.

This year more lights, along with strings of lights down the walkways have been added. A wreath has taken the place of Santa on the eave of the porch, and the jolly old man has been given a place of honor on the porch. A manger scene has also been added.

Watson is a veteran of World War II, having served in the 36th Divi-

sion, 142 Infantry of Company F for three years. Machine gun fire amputated his leg in a battle at Salerno, Italy, and he was in the McCloskey Hospital at Temple when he married Ruth Sellers. She died in 1970. They had two sons, George and Larry.

Mrs. Watson raised six boys and three girls from a previous marriage.

The Watsons, wanting to see the country, sold tickets for various carnivals. They worked for Ray Cammack from South Dakota, the Dick Dudley shows out of Wichita Falls, Bill Haynes and others.

They traveled over the Northern United States and Canada. They visited Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, North and South Dakota, Utah, and Idaho.



25-year pin...

Postmaster Ann McDorman presents Wilson Marks with his 25-year government service pin; 21 years with the Post Of-

fice and 4 in the Military. He was also appointed Superintendent of Postal Operations, effective Dec. 26.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Puritan ban on all Christmas celebrations was enforced in the New World by the Massachusetts Bay Colony in this decree reprinted from its legislative record of May 11, 1659.

For preventing disorders arising in several places within this jurisdiction, by reason of some still observing such festivals as were superstitiously kept in other countries, to the great dishonor of God & offence of others, it is therefore ordered by this Court and the authority thereof, that whosoever shall be found observing any such day as Christmas or the like, either by forbearing of labour, feasting, or any other way, upon any such accounts as aforesaid, every such person so offending shall pay for every such offence five shillings, as a fine to the county. And whereas, not only at such times, but at severall other times also, it is a custom too frequent in many places to expend time in unlawful games, as cards, dice &c, it is therefor further ordered, and by the Court declared, that after publication hereof, whosoever shall be found in any place within this jurisdiction playing either at cards or at dice, contrary to this order, shall pay as a fine to the county the some of five shillings for every such offence.

Information About Electricity From Experts

ELECTRIC CHARGES



Electricity costs are not rising nearly as fast as most other household expenses.

In 1978, the average annual residential electric bill was \$356.61, or \$29.71 a month—about 98 cents a day. Average home use of electricity in 1978, according to Edison Electric Institute, the association of America's investor-owned electric utility companies, was over seven times that of 1945, but prices were only about eight and a half times that of 1945, much less of an increase than on most other items.

Peace on Earth!

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The HOMER • N2320PN
Captivating Country American Styling. Wraparound gallery. Bracket foot designed base conceals casters. Wood and simulated wood products in Knotty Pine finish. One-Knob 12 VHF and 6 UHF Channel Selector. Electronic Power Sentry. Picture and Sharpness Controls. Automatic Fine-tuning Control. Illuminated Channel Numbers. Cabinet size: 33 3/8" H (incl. gallery and casters), 34 3/8" W, 17 1/2" D. (86.0 cm H, 87.3 cm W, 44.1 cm D.) Add 3 1/2" (8.9 cm) to depth for tube cap. Dimensions exclude controls.



The MARETOLL • N2318P
Impressive Classic styling. Full, flaring, contoured base conceals casters. Wood and simulated wood products in Pecan finish. One-Knob 12 VHF and 6 UHF Channel Selector. Electronic Power Sentry. Picture and Sharpness Controls. Automatic Fine-tuning Control. Illuminated Channel Numbers. Cabinet size: 30 3/8" H (incl. casters), 37 3/8" W, 19 3/8" D. (78.4 cm H, 94.9 cm W, 48.6 cm D.) Add 3 1/2" (8.9 cm) to depth for tube cap. Dimensions exclude controls.



Every Inch A Zenith

Make and receive phone calls through these compact 19" ZENITH SYSTEM 3 TABLE TV WITH ADVANCED SPACE PHONE

- QUARTZ-CONTROLLED ELECTRONIC TUNING
- 112 CHANNEL CAPABILITY
- TIME CONTROL PROGRAMMER

The VAN GOGH • SN1973P
Computer SC4000 Remote Control with ADVANCED SPACE PHONE

Distinctive, modern styling. Genuine Pecan veneers with brushed Nickel-Gold color trim. All tuning controls in front concealed behind a door finished in matching grained Pecan color with polished Nickel color trim. PRP (Peak Resolution Picture) Circuit. Up/Down Channel Scanning. On-Screen Channel Number and Time Display. 112 VHF/UHF/CATV channel capability without converter (except scrambled programs). Audio Output Jack. Earphone. Cabinet size: 18 3/8" H, 27 1/8" W, 18 3/8" D. (47.3 cm H, 68.9 cm W, 46.4 cm D.) Dimensions exclude controls and antenna protrusions.



WESTERN AUTO

Winters, Texas

Bret Harte Story Tells Of Western Christmas

A poor mountain cabin housing a group of rugged characters forms an unlikely setting for an excellent Christmas story by Bret Harte, famed for his writings about the Gold Rush days. Set in 1862, in the Sacramento Valley, "How Santa Claus Came to Simpson's Bar" is considered one of Harte's best stories.

The story centers around a little boy, Johnny, who is ill in bed on Christmas Eve. His home is a poor cabin at Simpson's Bar, a cluster of similar cabins huddled around a little store, situated on Table Mountain.

Little Johnny is wise beyond his years due to his rough-and-tumble environment but when he hears about Santa Claus, he is mystified. So when Johnny's father comes home with some drinking companions, Johnny asks his father a very natural question. Just who is "Sandy Claws?"

His father brushes the question aside but one of the other men, Dick Bullen, is moved by the boy's ignorance. He borrows a mare, Jovita, and sets out to find some Christmas presents for the youngster.

Unfortunately for Dick Bullen, it's not a propitious time to run errands. It's been raining

heavily, and the river has overflowed its banks, while the creek is impassable. He reaches his destination, the town of Turleville, where he awakens some disgruntled shopkeepers to do his last-minute shopping.

The return trip is even harder for poor Dick.

When he gets to the creek, he finds it has become a river. Undaunted, Dick discards his coat and boots and saddle and rides the mare bareback through the rushing waters.

It is dawn before he reaches the mountain cabin at last; when he arrives he is half-naked and exhausted. But he has carried his cargo of toys to their destination and he tells Johnny's father to place the gifts in Johnny's stocking.

"Tell him Sandy Claws has come," he says, and so ends a marvelous story written in the best tradition of Bret Harte.



"Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus"

Sims' home setting for Literary, Service Club Christmas party

The Literary and Service Club met for its annual Christmas party in the Floyd Sims home. Hostesses for the occasion were Hallie Sims, Nadeen Smith, Darlene Sims, Billie Middlebrook, and Dorothea Laughon. Twenty-two members and five guests were present.

The Sweet Cider Quartet of Ballinger entertained the group with Christmas carols and novelty songs. Quartet members include Glorianna Tadlock, Joanne Chessier, Delpha Caudle, and Barbara Wilson.

Ouida Nichols read a Christmas story, "The Littlest Angel". Members and guests exchanged gifts after being served Christmas "goodies" from the gaily decorated table.

Present were Pat Russell, Theresa Briley, LaBelle Michaelis, Lela Thormeyer, Lula Harrison, Janie Humble, Eula Mae Kruse, Emily White, Loyle Lewis, Myra Dorsett, Lillian Roberson, Ouida Nichols, Pinkie Irvin, Dolly Airhart, Nancy Jones, Ann McDorman, Barbara Carroll, Nina Bedford, and guests, Diane Davis, Glorianna Tadlock, Joanne Chessier, Delpha Caudle, and Barbara Wilson.

America's First Carol Written For Indians

As far as it is known, the very first Christmas carol composed in America was written for an Indian tribe by their missionary priest. The priest, Father Jean de Brebeuf, was born in France in 1593 and came to the New World in 1626 to spread the Gospel of Jesus.

Preaching Christianity to the Huron Indians, Father Brebeuf sought to convey the meaning of Christmas to his parishioners by composing a carol that the Indians could sing in their own language. The priest selected a popular 16th century folk song from France, "Une Jeune Pucele," for his tune and wrote new words for the Indian worshippers.

The French priest had been very impressed by the Hurons and their comprehension of the Nativity. In his writings, he describes how the Hurons had built a small chapel of cedar and fir branches to house the manger of the Christ Child, and how they prepared themselves to receive the Infant Jesus into their hearts on Christmas Day by performing some sort of penance. He wrote, "Even those who were at a distance of more than 2 days' journey met at a given place to sing hymns in honor of the newborn Child."

Father Brebeuf wrote the lyrics to his carol in 1641; on March 16, 1649, he was martyred by the Iroquois, along with other prisoners. But after the villages of the Hurons had been destroyed by the Iroquois, the surviving parishioners of Father Brebeuf resettled near Quebec, preserving the carol along with their tribal traditions. Later on, the Catholic Mohawks, who had settled south of Quebec, learned the hymn from the Hurons. The carol has since been translated into English, retaining a few of the original Indian words.

Start a new tradition with baby's first Christmas

If there's a new member in your family this Christmas, you, like many new parents, may want to start a tradition that grows as the baby grows. It should be something lasting and something that the child will remember through the years.

This special tradition can take many forms. It might be a special ornament for the tree, his or her very own. It might be one present to open Christmas Eve. Or, it might be a special prayer you read each Christmas morning.

Whatever you choose, the child care experts recommend you remember that this first Christmas is a totally new experience. The sparkling lights, glittering tree and houseful of relatives all are strange. The newest member of the family needs to get used to it gradually.

Show Reassurance

You can help by showing the wee one constant reassurance that Christmas is a wonderful time, full of love and the joy of giving. Allow Baby to explore the excitement at his or her own pace and with calm and comfort, and your child will soon have the "holiday spirit" like everyone else.

One of the most memorable of holiday moments is the lavish Christmas dinner. Even the youngest can and should share in the warmth and companionship that flow around the family table. For the child, there can be a banquet of variety of convenient, nutritious strained meats, vegetables and fruits. These special menus help teach appreciation of color, texture and flavor in foods. They help the infant develop socially and personally as he or she shares the joy of family involvement.

Easy Gift-Giving
Parents and grandparents alike benefit at

gift-giving time from the wide variety of reasonably-priced baby care products available in the supermarket baby department. Everything from rattles and pacifiers to easy care vinyl pants and sneakers outfit your toddler in style for the new year.

After the holiday season, you'll only have to see the shine in Baby's eyes to know that your little angel's second Christmas will be even more special than the first.

Legend of The Lamb

There is a beautiful legend concerning one of the creatures in the stable where the Infant Jesus was born. It seems that there was a little

lamb sharing the Blessed Child's first abode. As the animals all gazed in silent adoration upon the Holy Babe, this little lamb felt badly because it had no gift to offer the Newborn King.

Suddenly the lamb noticed how thin the Babe's blanket was. Surely the Infant must be cold! The straw upon which He rested offered very little warmth. The little lamb knew then that there was indeed something it could offer to this Holy Child. Quickly, the lamb nestled by the Child, sheltering Him from the cold.

Warmed by the animal's shaggy coat, the Christ Child smiled and touched the little lamb. According to the legend, the lamb's coat was suddenly transformed into

soft, curly wool. And that is why, the legend says, all sheep now bear a warm and woolly coat. . . as a symbol of a special gift offered by that little lamb on the first Christmas night.

Hope your holidays are just heavenly! Greetings to all!

Winters Flower Shop

Warm Holiday

May the magic and mystery of Christmas burn brightly in your hearts. Let our sincere thanks trim your holiday.

Sears Catalog Store

Kobert and Betty Paschal

Glad Tidings



We hope your Christmas is filled with Joy and Happiness.

PIGGLY WIGGLY



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May love light your way, and friends bring a glow to your life.

JOY

Glad Tidings of Joy to everyone.

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WINTERS FUNERAL HOME

Ted Meyer — Mike Meyer

Christmas Blessings

WE EXULT IN THE DIVINE MIRACLE AND REMEMBER ITS TRUE MEANING. AT THIS SACRED SEASON, IN THIS HOLIEST OF ALL TIMES, WE ARE WARMED BY HIS GIFTS. AND IN THAT SPIRIT, WE EXTEND OUR REVERENT GRATITUDE TO OUR FINE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.



MANSELL BROS.

JOHN DEERE FARM MACHINERY

Merrily, merrily, we sing
a song of Christmas
and hope its love
will add a
bright note
to your
celebration.

Frankie & Mary Berryman



JOY
TO
ALL

We wish to take this
time to thank you,
our patrons for your
support during the
past year.

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A Visit from St. Nicholas

by Dr. Clement C. Moore

'Twas the night before
Christmas, when all
through the house,
Not a creature was stir-
ring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung
by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas
soon would be there.

With a little old driver, so
lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must
be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his
coursers they came,
And he whistled, and
shouted, and called them
by name.

And then, in a twinkling, I
heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing
of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and
was turning around,
Down the chimney St.
Nicholas came with a
bound.

He was chubby and
plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw
him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a
twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I
had nothing to dread.

The children were nestled
all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-
plums danced in their heads;
And Mamma in her ker-
chief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains
for a long winter's nap.

"Now, Dasher! now,
Dancer! now, Prancer and
Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid!
on, Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! to
the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash
away! dash away all!"

He was dressed all in fur,
from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tar-
nished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had
flung on his back,
And he looked like a ped-
dler just opening his pack.

He spoke not a word, but
went straight to his work,
And filled all the stock-
ings; then turned with a
jerk,
And laying his finger aside
of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the
chimney he rose.

When out on the lawn there
arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see
what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew
like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and
threw up the sash.

As dry leaves that before
the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an
obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the house-top the
coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys,
and St. Nicholas too.

His eyes, how they
twinkled! his dimples,
how merry!
His cheeks were like roses,
his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was
drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin
was as white as the snow.

He sprang to his sleigh, to
his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like
the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim
ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all
... and to all a
goodnight!"

The moon on the breast of
the new-fallen snow
Gave a lustre of mid-day to
objects below,
When, what to my won-
dering eyes did appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and
eight tiny reindeer.

The stump of a pipe he
held tight to his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled
his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a
little round belly,
That shook when he
laughed, like a bowl full of
jelly.

Here's to a
CHRISTMAS
that sparkles with
good times and
happiness!

**SWATCHSUE
ELECTRIC**

NOEL

A wealth of warm wishes from us to all our wonderful customers we delight in serving throughout the year. We invest our best efforts in fulfilling your banking needs. Christmas greetings to all!

We invite you to have refreshments with us
December 22-23-24
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Winters State Bank

PET FACTS & FIGURES

After a kitten is born, it develops a sense of taste and smell within a few days and, soon after, an ability to hear. But a cat does not begin to see until about the ninth day. However, still more time must elapse before it is able to focus and see truly well.



Kittens must be "litter box" trained. In the meantime, they'll probably have "accidents," and any cat lover knows how that can odor-up a house. Luckily, there's Lestoil Deodorizing Rug Shampoo, the clean way to keep odors away. You just spread the shampoo's foam on the rug, let it dry about 15 minutes, then vacuum. Results: a clean, odor-free rug.

JOY AND PEACE



WISHING YOU A
HOLIDAY FILLED
WITH HAPPINESS!

Judge
&
Mrs.
Bill Stultz

The Most Beautiful Picture in the World

An artist sought to paint the most beautiful picture in the world. He asked a clergyman.

Going further he made the same inquiry of a soldier who answered,

"Peace is the most beautiful thing in the world. War is the most ugly. Wherever you find Peace you will find beauty."

"Faith," answered the clergyman, "you can feel it in every church, find it at any altar."

The artist searched further and found a young bride. Upon asking her the same question she replied,

"Love. Love turns poverty into riches, sweetens tears, makes much of little. Without it there is no beauty."

So he painted "The Most Beautiful Thing In The World," and when he finished he called it

"HOME."

To Our Loyal Subscribers and Our Valued Advertisers
A Very Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year from

The Winters Enterprise

Handwritten signatures: Sandra Radford, Kallagren, Kenning, Lois Osburn



Tom Loeffler
Congressman
21st District - Texas

Reports from Washington

Congress in Review

As the first session of the 97th Congress comes to an end we should reflect on the historic events of this legislative year. For me, my first session's service in the leadership of my party as Deputy Whip has proven to be one of the most exciting and personally rewarding periods in my life.

In the Whip's job, I have been in the vanguard of change in my work with the Republican leadership, the White House, and my colleagues in Congress who share our goals for developing sound fiscal programs that will get our economic house in order by reducing the growth of government spending and ultimately achieving a real and lasting balanced budget.

The first session of the Congress is now part of the historical record. Up until the final hours of the session some 5,216 bills had been introduced and only 91 public laws enacted. For the same period in the first session of the last Congress, 6,232 bills had been introduced and 187 public laws enacted. It is also interesting to note that in the first session of this Congress we had only 363 roll call votes, compared to 758 in the first session of the last Congress. Clearly, what we have lacked in volume, we have made up for in intensity and dramatic change.

We have put in motion a new program for economic recovery. Congress literally has been the workshop where this bold, bipartisan body of law has been hammered out. We have made striking departures from a half century of advancing social welfare programs through evermore centralized government spending and regulations. In its place we have sought to restore to state and local governments control over Federally-funded programs.

We are working to restore the principle that no government can do as much for the people as they can do for themselves. In the course of this session we have forged a coalition which will make this the guiding force in our democracy. To this end, I am convinced that working through coalitions is the most effective way to develop consistent policy.

Look at how far we have come in one year. The Congress in May approved a target multi-billion-dollar budget reduction and then set the plan firmly in place in the reconciliation process that followed. We came up with a second round of budget cuts in the fall and have set the stage for still more work in 1982.

Additionally, working in a bipartisan fashion, we passed a major tax cut bill to offset the massive confiscatory tax increases so severely penalizing working Americans. The tax cuts provide for tax reductions totaling 25 percent across the board for three years on the personal level. It provides business tax relief with investment tax credits and accelerated depreciation for cost recovery. It reshapes estate and gift tax rates so that the legacy of family ownership of farms, ranches, and small businesses can be preserved. The law also provides certain tax relief for our nation's independent energy producers and royalty owners.

As was obvious at the time of passage, the old types of economic programs were not assisting the American people at large and they certainly did not provide real and lasting assistance to the poor and truly needy — for the worst enemy of less fortunate Americans is a failing economy. A revitalized economy will bring new opportunities for all.

The bipartisan tax reduction program was essential to restore the certainty needed to increase savings, investments and economic growth. It has also put pressure on Congress to continue to hold the line on government spending.

Restoring incentive to the economy and unleashing the genius of the American people has been the driving force behind the program. Cutting taxes was a message to all that we no longer will be penalized for trying to earn a living, for trying to save more of the money we earn.

Congress must bring truth in government to its policy decisions. Congress can no longer tax through inflation and bracket creep the unknown and uninvolved taxpayer constituency. It must confront the fiscal imbalance — the deficit — that has been there for decades. The illusion of large future revenues to cover the spending side of the budget is gone.

We know in the months ahead — through much of 1982 — we face formidable challenges. Inflation, the accompanying high interest rates and unemployment and their effects are deeply embedded in our expectations and behavior patterns. But as we deal with these unpleasant realities we are working toward a solution that will put us on a true course toward economic recovery. The Halls of Congress are quiet, now. But do not be fooled by the silence. Come January, the budget battles will begin anew.



1981 Christmas Parade Elves

Power packed ideas for the holidays

Chances are that among the gifts you give or receive this holiday season many will be battery-powered. So, plan ahead. Stock up on batteries now and avoid a last-minute energy crisis. With a good supply on hand, you won't be disappointed by gifts that don't come supplied with batteries, or be unable to revitalize a youngster's new toy when its first set of batteries runs down. Here are a few suggestions to help keep your holiday bright:

1. Be sure to find out whether the gift you are buying comes with batteries or if you will have to purchase them separately.
2. If batteries are included, check them to determine that they are still fresh, or, if you buy batteries separately, be sure you get the right size and quantity.
3. You might also decide whether you want standard batteries, long-life or the heavy-duty alkaline type. The battery salesperson should be

able to advise you on the best choice. While you're at it, it's usually a good idea to pick up an extra set for replacement use.

4. The most popular battery sizes are "AA" (penlight), "C", "D" and 9-volt rectangular, so keep a good supply of these on hand.
5. Store your extra batteries in the refrigerator and they'll stay fresh over a longer period of time.

FUDGE NUTS

One 8-oz. can (2-1/2 cups) pecan halves
1-1/2 cups hot water
3 measuring tablespoons sugar
1/4 measuring teaspoon salt
3 measuring tablespoons Nestlé Quik Chocolate Flavor

Preheat oven to 350°F. Place pecan halves in pie plate; add hot water to cover. Drain well; transfer to small bowl. Add sugar and salt; mix well. Add Nestlé Quik Chocolate Flavor; stir until nuts are well coated. Spread nuts in single layer in 15" x 10" x 1" baking pan. Stir once during baking. BAKE at: 350°F. TIME: 10-15 minutes. Remove from pan immediately and cool completely. MAKES: 2-1/2 cups nuts. NOTE: Can be prepared ahead and stored at room temperature in an air-tight container.

CHOCO-RAISIN NUT WREATH

One 12-oz. pkg. (2 cups) Nestlé Semi-Sweet Real Chocolate Morsels
2 measuring tablespoons vegetable shortening
3 cups oven-toasted rice cereal
2 cups raisins
1 cup chopped nuts
Candy peppermint leaves, gum drops, maraschino cherries, sliced in half (optional)

Melt over hot (not boiling) water, Nestlé Semi-Sweet Real Chocolate Morsels and shortening; remove from heat. In large bowl, combine oven-toasted rice cereal, raisins and nuts. Stir in Nestlé Semi-Sweet Real Chocolate Morsels until well

A COWBOY'S CHRISTMAS PRAYER

I ain't much at prayin', and you may not know me, Lord
I ain't much seen in churches where they preach Thy Holy Word,
But you may have observed me out here on the lonely plains,
A lookin' after cattle, feelin' thankful when it rains,
Admirin' Thy great handiwork, the miracles of grass,
Aware of Thy kind spirit in the way it comes to pass:
That hired men on horseback and the livestock that we tend,
Can look up at the stars at night and know we've got a friend.

So here's ol' Christmas comin' on, remindin' us again,
Of Him whose comin', brought good will into the hearts of men.
A Cowboy ain't no preacher, but if You'll hear my prayer,
It's as good as we have got for all men everywhere,
Don't let no heart's be bitter, Lord, Don't let no child be cold,
Make easy beds for them that's sick and them that's weak and old.

Let Kindness Bless the trail we ride, no matter what we're after,
And sorta keep us on Your side, in tears as well as laughter.
I've seen old cows a starvin', and it ain't no happy sight;
Please don't leave no one hungry Lord, on Thy good Christmas night —
no man, no child, no woman, and no critter on four feet,
I'll do my doggone best to help you find them chuck to eat.

I'm just a sinful cowpoke, Lord, got no business prayin'
But still I hope You'll ketch a word or two of what I'm sayin';
We speak of merry Christmas, Lord, I reckon you'll agree,
There ain't no merry Christmas for nobody that ain't free,
So one thing more I'll ask you, Lord; Just help us what you can
to save some seeds of freedom for the future Sons of Man.

S. Omar Barker



Peace on Earth



We wish you the merriest of Holidays.

DAIRY QUEEN

at Christmas

May all the precious little things that mean Christmas bring joy to you and those you love and cherish.



Runnels Co. Tax Assessor-Collector
VaRue McWilliams
and Staff



We never tire of your year-long support! Best wishes to you and your families for a joyous Noel!

MERRY CHRISTMAS
Bissett's Tire Store

8th & Strong Ave. Ballinger

Joyous Holidays

May you have...

The Spirit of Christmas which is PEACE
The Gladness of Christmas which is HOPE
The Heart of Christmas which is LOVE

Winters Oilfield Supply, Inc.
Jim Black, Jack Pierce, & Scott Hall



We're sure your holidays will be filled with the bright harmony that only Christmas brings. A resounding note of thanks for your patronage.

HEIDENHEIMER'S

Greetings

May the peace and love of Christmas reign in your house forever more.

Beauty Center
Merle Norman Cosmetics
Will be closed Dec. 24, opens again Dec. 29
Leona Mathis
Marilynn Presley

GREETINGS

Here's to a sleighful of happiness this Christmas. May you enjoy its many pleasures and treasures.

Bob Loyd LP Gas Co.
Bob Loyd — Gene Wheat

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Poinsettia pointers...

There are some medical and plant experts who think old Ebenezer Scrooge must have started the story sometime before that memorable Christmas Dickens wrote about. It's the fable that still pops up once-in-awhile this time of year about some mysterious danger that lurks in the most popular of all Christmas flowering plants, the poinsettia.

An office of the U.S. Government, leading research scientists, and the people of the American Association of Nurserymen might very well summarize their findings on the matter with Scrooge's traditional words: "Bah, humbug!"

Here is what spokesmen for the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare have written: "Although there are a number of reports including the ingestion of parts of the leaves and berries of the poinsettia, we have yet to find mention that a child became ill, except for a few cases where vomiting was reported." Translated by the nursery people, that means that a little person might possibly get an upset tummy from eating poinsettias — or all sorts of things a little person ought not eat.

But poisonous? Bah, humbug! This holiday season, as for many Christmases past, more than 25 million poinsettia plants will decorate American homes. Be sure yours has the right amount of light and water. An easy rule of thumb is to place the plant in a room with enough natural light to permit a person with reasonable eyesight to read fine print. Avoid direct sunlight. As for water, poinsettias appreciate quite a bit. When the soil feels dry to the touch, give the plant a drink, but remove excess water afterwards.

Relax and enjoy your poinsettias — one of nature's friendlies, loveliest gifts for Yuletide.



Wallpaper in rolls was not permitted in England until 1830 because it could be taxed at a higher rate if sold in small sheets.



We wish to extend to you our best wishes for a healthy, happy Christmas Season and a Joyous New Year.

Motel Winters
R. Q. and Doxie Lou

Christmas ornaments can be dangerous to pets

Tis the season to be jolly, but the very things that make the Christmas season bright and gay, may be the things that can turn Christmas into a tragedy for your family pet.

"The Christmas tree, with colored lights and balls, tinsel and artificial snow is a tempting curiosity for your cats and puppies. Extra caution should be used to keep your pets out of the tree branches," said Dr. Ben Johnston, president of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA).

Inquisitive, frisky pets may decide to munch, crunch, attack or swallow decorative tree items such as glass balls, electric light wires, tinsel and string.

"Dogs and cats find ornaments and tinsel attractive, and they chew them and swallow them as if they were a bone. Glass ornaments splinter on contact and can cause perforation of the animal's gastric or intestinal walls," said Johnston, a Houston veterinarian.

Aluminum tinsel may contain a lead base and can be toxic to the animal. Tinsel and string are also harmful because they can

ball up in the intestine and cause blockage.

Chewing on the wires of colored lights can cause electric shock and has proved fatal to many pets. Those that survive usually have severe mouth burns that require immediate veterinary treatment.

The best way to keep your family pet safe from such tragedies is prevention, said the TVMA president. Decorations should be kept high on the tree, or the tree should be placed on a table out of reach of pets. Pets should not be left alone with the tree.

If an emergency does arise, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Don't forget that holly, poinsettias and mistletoe are especially dangerous toxins at this time of year. Make sure these poisonous substances are kept well out of the family pet's reach.

Christmas memories are made of this...

Perhaps it is the recollection of a robin amid the snow-brushed branches to a lucky few... or the snowman built together with brothers and sisters... while others may remember the warmth of the family fireplace.

Was there a Christmas when a kitten was found under the tree? Or, one when you were alone in another town, and neighbors invited you in? Perhaps the Christmas that stands out in your memory is the Christmas you became engaged... or, the time you received your favorite doll.

Christmas may bring back the joy of a special reunion, long ago... or the still-fresh memory of a walk in the woods after a snowstorm. The sights and sounds of Christmas may recall an heirloom that decorated the family tree for so many years... the memory of carolers who sang outside your door last year... or, the first time you ever read Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

You may remember a Christmas spent in the city, all aglow with lights... or a holiday in the country, with stars brilliant in the wintry night. Is it the memory of your youngster's first visit to Santa? Or, the time you helped Dad find firewood for the stove?

Every Christmas renews our memories of times gone by... and just as important, creates new memories to be savored in days to come.

For Christmas is yesterday, today and tomorrow... it is a spirit that transcends time itself, it is a spirit that lives forever in our hearts.

The legends of Christmas

There are many beautiful legends associated with Christmas. Perhaps one of the loveliest is that of the Christmas rose, also known as the Helleborus.

According to tradition, the rose first bloomed on Christmas night. It seems that a little girl was outside the stable on that very first Christmas, weeping because she had no gift for the Holy Infant.

An angel noticed the child and took pity upon her. Brushing the earth with a wing, the angel called the little girl's attention to where her tears had fallen.

Much to the child's wonder, a plant at her feet began to bud and then unfold into lovely, white flowers. The little girl quickly plucked the flowers — here was a gift worthy of the Babe!

She placed them at the feet of Jesus. As His tiny feet touched the blossoms, suddenly the petals turned pink!

Thus was born the Christmas rose, so the legend says.

Yet another legend centers around plants: a delicate bedstraw plant, strewn with tiny white flowers, is said to have been mixed with the hay in the manger where the Infant Jesus lay. The white flowers were miraculously turned to gold that night, and ever since then the plant has been known as Our Lady's Bedstraw.

Another legend explains how the lamb got its woolly coat. The story says that a little lamb was among the animals in the stable on Christmas Eve. Thinking that the Christ Child must be cold, wrapped only in swaddling clothes and laying upon straw, the little lamb nestled by the Infant, to shelter Him from the cold.

The Infant touched the little lamb, and its coat was transformed into soft, curly wool. Since then, the legend says, all sheep proudly wear a warm and woolly coat.



Enterprise will not publish next week

So that the staff may take a well-deserved vacation, *The Winters Enterprise* will shut down next week, and there will be no paper published for Dec. 31.

The next issue will be Thursday, Jan. 7. All news and advertising scheduled for the last week in December will be run the first week in January.

The staff of *The Enterprise* appreciates your cooperation, and extends a hearty Merry Christmas and Happy New Year greeting to all our friends.



"The greatest mistake is the trying to be more agreeable than you can be." Walter Bagehot



A Christmas greeting to all our good friends!

Bahlman Cleaners

Inoyce, Martha, Agnes and the Nelan Bahlman Family



Pete Sudduth

season's best



May the glad tidings bring joy into every heart at this holy season. And may every home be blessed with all the warmth and cheer of Christmas! Greetings from everyone at

Dry Manufacturing
WALLACE-MURRAY CORP.



SPDK RENOR

The Night Before Christmas

Hiding in this puzzle are twenty-one words and phrases from the poem *The Night Before Christmas*. They read across, up and down, on a diagonal — even backwards! How many can you find?

1. CHRISTMAS
2. STOCKINGS
3. CHIMNEY
4. ST. NICHOLAS
5. SUGARPLUMS
6. REINDEER
7. DASHER
8. DANCER
9. PRANCER
10. VIXEN
11. COMET
12. CUPID
13. DONNER
14. BLITZEN
15. TOYS
16. BEARD
17. GOOD NIGHT
18. SNOW
19. SLEIGH
20. ELF
21. ROOF

P O C H R I S T M A S D H B F
R N M H A L D Z C D G A H E L
A S E V I X E N P L N G A S
N I Y Z G M K J I R I C I R S
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E L F I A I P E Z C C R L O D
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B S U G A R P L U M S A E P I
K Q P S W F W A S N O W R P N
B C Y R U B P Y D R E H S A D
C O M E T R O L D C R A K R E
O L A P K T L O D F O O R P E
G O O D N I G H T U R Y C E R

**West Texas
Rehabilitation Center**

Yes, Virginia, There Is A Santa Claus!

A little girl's curiosity has led to a bit of Christmas philosophy that has since become a Christmas classic. One day—in December—in 1897, Virginia O'Hanlon wrote a letter to the New York Sun.

"I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. My papa says, 'If you see it in the SUN, it's so. Please tell me the truth—is there a Santa Claus?'"

Because we believe the reply with its message of keen, spiritual insight deserves reading again and again—we show it here. It was written by Francis E. Church, a writer for the old Sun.

Here it is:
"Yes, indeed!"

"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age—they do not believe except what they see—they think 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 of truth and knowledge.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

"He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginia. There would be no child-like 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 not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus—the most real things in the world are those neither children or men can see.

"Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no 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 a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, or even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy poetry, love, romance, can push aside the curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond.

"Is it all real? . . . Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

"No Santa Claus! Thank God—he lives, and he lives forever—a thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

—Francis E. Church.

Star of Bethlehem has made wise men wonder for all these years

"Star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright..."

Ever since the first Christmas, the star that lead the Wise Men to where the Infant Jesus lay has been the object of conjecture and wonder.

Unfortunately, the only reference to the star in Matthew's Gospel offers no explanation for the phenomenon: "And behold, the star that they had seen in the East went before them, until it came and stood over the place where the child was."

Thus it is that scientists and biblical scholars alike have been free to speculate about various theories, ranging from the supernatural to logical explanations.

One theory is that the star was actually a comet; yet another asserts that the star was probably a supernova, a star that suddenly takes on spectacular brilliance.

There is still another theory that the star was actually a conjunction of planets. According to astronomical studies, there were three conjunctions of Jupiter and Saturn in the year 7 B.C. There were also major conjunctions of planets between 3 and 2 B.C., claim other studies. The 17th-century astronomer Kepler calculated that Mars, Saturn and Jupiter had been in conjunction around the time of Christ's birth.

One supernatural theory holds that the star was not physically manifested, but rather visible to only those who were privileged to the events of the Nativity. Others believe that God placed the star in the heavens expressly as a sign for a brief period of time. Interestingly enough, this ties in with one scientific possibility: a new star, or a temporary star. Such stars have been observed from time to time; in fact, Hipparchus is believed to have discovered a brilliant star where none had been seen before in the year 134 B.C. Could this have been the Star of Bethlehem?

Aside from being a beacon to the Magi, the star also fulfills an important prophecy regarding the Messiah. The Book of Numbers foretold, "There shall come a Star out of Jacob."

Whatever explanation seems most plausible, Christians have always attached great significance to the star's appearance.

There have been many songs written about the Star of Bethlehem and certainly no Christmas tree would be complete without its star shining atop.

The Star of Bethlehem is a wondrous part of the still more wondrous Nativity story; its brilliance has come to symbolize for us the miracle that is Christmas: the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World.

K. Bredemeyer selected to Who's Who

Kathryn Bredemeyer, Tarleton State University senior from Winters, has been selected to appear in the 1981-82 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Kathryn is a home economics major at Tarleton and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bredemeyer of Winters.

She is a distinguished student at TSU and is president of the Women's House Council, member of the student senate, and secretary of Rho Iota Delta, professional home economics club. She served as president of the freshman class and is active in the Collegiate FFA and 4-H.

Selection to Who's Who is based on academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities, and future potential.

Garland Gregg and John Willis, Social Security representatives for the San Angelo Social Security office, has scheduled their December visit to Winters. They will be at the Housing Project office on Monday, December 28 from 9:30 to 10:30.

Anyone who wants to file a claim for benefits, get information, or transact other business with the Social Security Administration may contact them at this time.

For many, the holiday season would not be complete without enjoying a performance of the *Nutcracker Suite*.

This popular ballet has come to be synonymous with Christmas, due to its holiday setting and beautiful music. Based on a story by E.T.A. Hoffmann, the ballet is probably Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's most beloved work. Each holiday season finds ballet groups, both amateur and professional, presenting it anew for the delight of youngsters and adults alike.

The story is a simple, yet fanciful one; a little girl is presented with a nutcracker at Christmas time. She dreams that the nutcracker comes to life in the person of a handsome prince who leads the toys to battle against an army of mice.

Hen then takes the girl off to Arabia, where she is entertained with dances by the Sugarplum Fairy and a delightful assortment of characters.

There are exotic Arabian dancers, quaint Chinese performs, exciting Russian dancers among others, all in colorful attire.

Finally, there is a spectacular dance by lovely

flowers, known as the "Waltz of the Flowers." As the flowers dance to the familiar, liltin music for the entranced young heroine and her handsome prince, it is easy to see that this ballet has truly captured the wonder and fancy of childhood for all to enjoy, regardless of age.

The *Nutcracker Suite* was first performed in 1892, and it has been delighting generations of ballet-lovers, young and old, ever since.

Tchaikovsky wrote many symphonies, concertos and overtures, but probably no single work of his is as popular as this Christmas classic.

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Nutcracker ballet now a tradition

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Mrs. Matthews died in hospital after illness

Mrs. Raymond Lee Matthews, 78, died at 3:25 a.m. Friday morning at the North Runnels Hospital following an extended illness.

Services were held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at the Winters Memorial Chapel with Rev. Cecil Tackett, former pastor of the Hopewell Baptist Church, officiating. Burial was in the Cedar Gap Cemetery near Abilene under the direction of Winters Funeral Home.

Born Cora Mae Swinson on April 14, 1903 in Baird, she married Raymond Lee Matthews at Abilene on May 31, 1938.

She lived in Abilene and Clyde for a number of years, and had recently come to Winters. She was a member of the Clyde First Baptist Church.

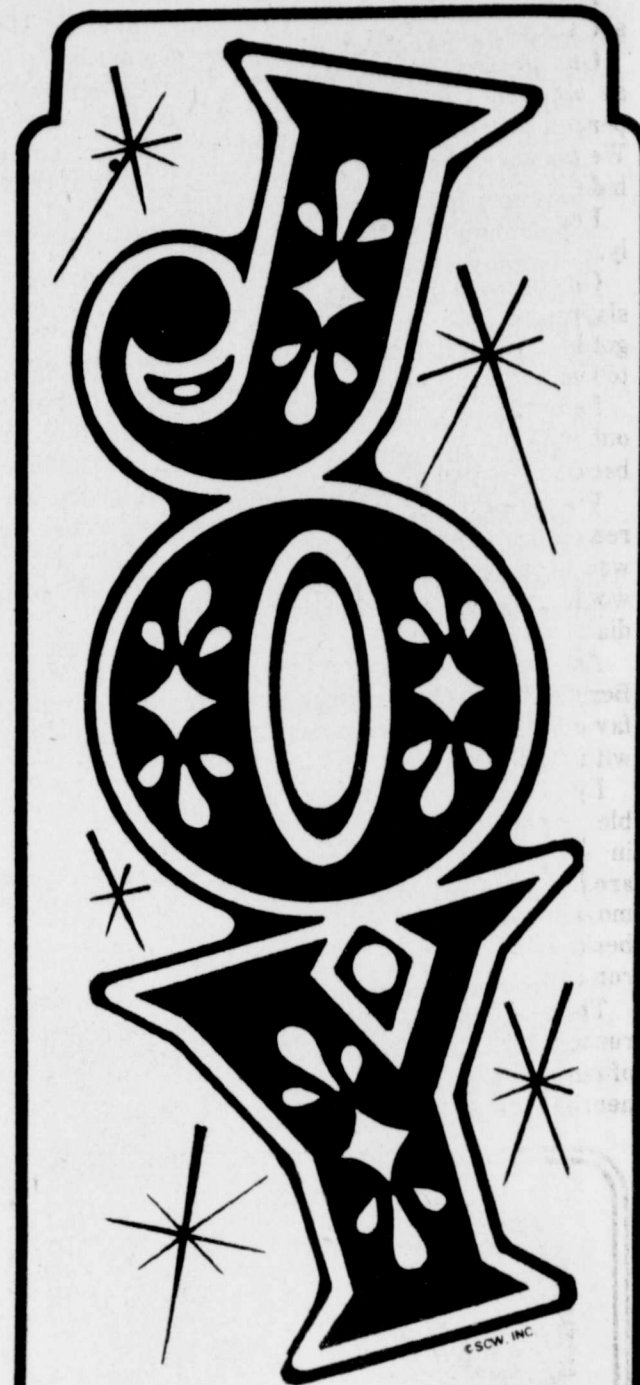
Her husband preceded her in death in 1977.

She is survived by a son, Richard Matthews of Winters; a brother, E. G. Swinson of Clyde; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were Granville Long, Mark Wilcox, Milton Gerhart, Carson Easterly, David Wilcox, and Wilbur Phelps.

The very best to you . . . good luck, good health, good times to all!

Happy 50th Birthday, Johnny Key!



Alderman-Cave Milling & Grain Co.

BLESSINGS TO ALL



At this holy time, we extend the blessings of the season to you and yours. May the peace of Christ abide within every heart.

PRESLEY OIL CO.

Ronald Presley - Joe Pritchard

Warm Wishes
Here's an old-fashioned greeting from all of us to all our friends!

BAHLMAN JEWELERS

NOEL NOEL

Caroling an old fashioned tune for a holiday full of cheer.

MELBA'S Arts, Crafts, Gifts EMMERT GARAGE Melba and Joe Emmert

Happy Holidays

Greetings to all our friends . . . we thank you for your patronage!

Pool Well Servicing

NOEL NOEL!

Thanks for hanging around and making this a great year!

Higginbotham Lumber & Hardware

"For unto us a Child is born..."

Let us remember that it is the celebration of His birth.

Christmas With Love is Caring



Jerry Lackey's Country Folk

The Christmas Turkey In 1953

Some of the turkey hens would lay their eggs between bales in the hay barn. Those we didn't worry about, as much as the ones that slipped off to the creek, to wilderness a family.

Hunting a turkey hen's nest sometimes took days. It had to be done in a sneaky manner. After she finished her meal, she would quietly leave alone. As we followed at a distance, she would stop and peck around at the ground and look to see if she was being followed.

If she was, she would lead us around in circles until she thought she lost us.

One particular day, my little brother and I followed an old hen a whole morning. When she finally disappeared into a brush pile, we peeped in to find her next. We counted 12 eggs as we put more brush around it to hide it from varmints.

For weeks we kept an eye on the nest, visiting it daily.

One afternoon as we approached, a big coon was lapping at the hen just outside the nest. He quickly got lost in some weeds when he saw us. We checked in to the next and found all but one egg had been broken.

Several days later, the egg hatched. Grandma went out with us as we brought the hen and little turkey back to the coop.

We named the little turkey "Red Chief". I don't remember exactly how we came by that name unless it was because his head was a bright red, and when he would spread his feathers he seemed to portray an Indian chief.

As Red Chief grew, he began to rule the roost. Besides being the "only child in his pen", he got special favors from the management. We even shared candy with Red.

By Christmas, Red was the biggest and fattest gobbler in the territory. He could take on two of the others in a fight and come out winner. When he strutted around the pen and gobbled, the other turkey toms moved aside and gave him plenty of room. If people besides Grandma, and us boys, came to him, Red would run at them.

The day Red ran and gobbled at one of my aunts, she pushed for the gate. Her big hat, covered with all kinds of fancy artificial flowers, blew off her head and into a nearby water trough. Forgetting about the hat, she

Antique cards illustrate Santa Claus's merry mythical trips

Santa's mode of transportation wasn't always as lightfooted as his eight happy reindeer. Matter of fact, Santa didn't meet up with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Comet, Blitzen, Donder, Cupid and Vixen until 1822, when Clement Clark Moore penned his popular poem "The Night Before Christmas."

Before the Reformation, Dutch children pictured St. Nick riding about on his pony "Swarte Piet" (Black Pete). The Pennsylvania Dutch turned the animal into a white mule and called the rider Kriss Kringle!

Antique cards in the Hallmark Cards Historical Collection, show Santa riding everything from a rocket ship to a "Pennyfarthing"—essentially a unicycle with a small back wheel. The father of the American Christmas card, Louis Prang, showed Santa pedaling through the snow with a holly branch in hand and reindeer in pursuit.

Santa himself has been portrayed in many shapes and sizes. He is alternately pictured in Christmas archives as a white bearded, priestly looking man, a black bearded buccaneer, a roly-poly elf and a gaunt old man!

Whatever his means of transportation, Santa is Santa, beaming and jolly, and Christmas would surely not be the same without him!

shrugged her shoulders bravely, after closing the gate. She pranced into the house and demanded Grandma get rid of Red.

On Christmas day, all the new toys sorta took our minds off Red. It was warm outside, which made for pleasant fun on new tricycles.

Kinfolks came from everywhere on Christmas. So what time we weren't peddling the cycles or pushing a new rubber truck across the living room floor, we were answering a domineering aunt, who wanted to know who our teacher was that year and if we like school.

At dinner, the grownups huddled around the table, which meant we kids were to serve ourselves and carry our food elsewhere to eat. All was silent as an uncle offered thanks. He was giving a nice prayer, and I know the Lord was listening. But when he said, "We thank Thee for this plentiful food," my brother let out a coyote yelp that brought every bowed head up.

Crying and screaming at the top of his lungs, he ran out of the room saying: "I'm not going to eat Red Chief." I sniffed a couple of times, then ran out behind him. It wasn't long before all our little cousins joined us. Many of them didn't know why they were crying, but they were good sports. Papa and my uncle came out to the back porch to give us a talk. Everything they said was taken wrong and the sniffing and snorting went on.

Then Grandma, with cane in hand, slowly walked out on the porch and took a rocker in the Indian summer sun.

A tear glittered in the sunlight as it slowly rolled down her cheek and dropped to her apron. The wrinkles in her face disappeared, gray-yellowish hair, which formed a bun at the back of her head, glistened in the sunlight. She smiled as she took both of us on her knees and dried away her tears with her apron. All the little eyes on the porch were on her now.

"Do you think I would let you eat Old Red?" she asked in a soft voice.

"That's not Red Chief on the table?" we asked, almost together.

"No," grandma continued, "I sold him to that nice man from the big city yesterday."

We begin to smile. "You mean that man who thought Red Chief was the prettiest turkey in the pen?" my voice went high. "Gosh, he will put him in the movies, won't he!"

"Yes, he probably will," grandma laughed as she followed us back to the table.

Trimming the tree's a tradition

Of all the preparations for Christmas, probably one of the most delightful is the trimming of the tree.

How did this charming custom begin? Some suggest that the tradition dates back to pre-Christian beliefs in the magical powers of evergreens. The ancient Romans, for instance, decorated their homes with greenery for the festival of Saturn, or Saturnalia. This important feast was celebrated during December.

The association of trees with Christmas became defined during the Middle Ages, when miracle plays were performed, often in church, to teach stories from the Bible.

In the miracle plays, an evergreen tree was used to depict the Garden of Eden, with apples hung from the boughs to symbolize the forbidden fruit eaten by Adam and Eve.

Although the miracle plays gradually fell into disuse, the evergreen tree remained as part of the holiday tradition in Europe. Cookies were added to the apples, and yet another form of decoration was borrowed from "pyramid trees" that were also popular during the sixteenth century: candles.

In the 18th century, sugartrees, trees trimmed with sweetmeats, were popular. These gilded nuts and fruits gradually evolved into Victorian glass shapes, precursors of today's ornaments.

It was Prince Albert, consort of Queen Victoria, who popularized the custom of the Christmas tree in England. However, America was introduced to the "Tannenbaum" by Hessian soldiers during the Revolution and by German

Martha SS Class held meeting, class party

The Martha Sunday School Class held their regular business meeting and a class party on Tuesday, Dec. 15 in the home of Mrs. Flora McWilliams.

A short business meeting was held with Mrs. Eula Cooke presiding. Roll call was answered with favorite Bible verses.

Mrs. Cooke gave the devotional on the birth of Christ.

Gifts were exchanged from a beautifully lit tree.

Refreshments of holiday goodies were served to Mmes. Perry Carwile, Eula Cooke, Alice Compton, Margaret Gideon, Allie Jones, Thelma Mayo, Flora McWilliams, Charlsie Poe, Pearl Jackson, Miss Eunice Polk, and Elsie Sanders.

The class presented their teacher, Mrs. Pearl Jackson, with a special gift.

The next meeting will be the first Monday in January, with Miss Eunice Polk.

Merry Christmas!

This holiday, we prescribe double doses of happiness and joy-filled times. We thank you all!

Smith Drug Co.

Holiday Greetings

May you and your family enjoy a happy and joyous holiday.

HOPPE TEXACO
Glenn, Gladys, and Employees

O holy NIGHT

Let the glad tidings ring out and let us rejoice!

Hershal Hall
Runnels Co. Sheriff's Office



Hope the magic and mirth of Christmas shower you with happy surprises! We thank you especially dear friends and patrons for your support.

Merry Christmas

The Families Of
CALCOTE & SONS

Hi, there! A special gift for our customers...

LOTS OF LUCK AND BEST WISHES!

North Runnels Water Supply Corp.

Rejoice

May the joy and delight of the Yuletide Season be yours.

Runnels County Farm Bureau

JOYOUS CHRISTMAS CHEER

SEASONAL EXCITEMENT FILLS OUR LINES ON THIS MERRIEST OF YULETIDES! WISHING YOU THE BRIGHTEST OF HOLIDAYS AND THE BEST OF BLESSINGS!

Bishop & Sons
Dirt Contractors, Inc.

Blackwell

The Senior Citizens of Blackwell met Tuesday for their covered dish luncheon in the fellowship hall of the Blackwell United Methodist Church, with 32 attending.

Grady Patterson, vice-president, presided in the absence of Herman Seale, president.

Lewis Conrad voiced the blessing before the noon meal. Austin Jordan was unable to attend, so a plate was carried to him. The next meeting will be Jan. 12, again in the fellowship hall.

The Blood Pressure Clinic was also held last Tuesday, but it was held in the Fireman's Hall and

will also be held there on the second Tuesday, which will be Jan. 12, from 9 a. m. until 10:30 a. m.

John Habeck of Blanchard, Idaho, has been visiting his son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Habeck, Shandra and Jason.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Saunders are the parents of a son born Monday, Nov. 30 in the Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital in Sweetwater. He has been named Thomas Leman and he weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces.

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. James Saunders of Blackwell.

Maternal grandmother is Mrs. Frank (Nancy) Cauty of Abbuy, N.M., and maternal grandfather is Paul Lemley of Dallas. Paternal great-grandmother is Mrs. H. F. Saunders Sr. and maternal great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Thorn, all of Blackwell.

The Women's Missionary Union of the Blackwell First Baptist Church met Thursday afternoon at 2:00 with seven ladies attending.

The meeting was called to order with a prayer, voiced by Mrs. Charlie Strickland.

The Scripture and Calendar of Prayer were read by Mrs. Olin Corley. The prayer for the missionaries was given by Mrs. E. K. Finley.

The Bible study was given by Mrs. Eula Nabors, with the dismissal prayer being voiced by Mrs. Thelma Smith.

Attending were Mmes. Finley, Strickland, Corley, Nabors, Thelma Smith, Cecil Lewis Smith, Pat Douglas, and Ninnie Kinard.

Jack Waggoner was taken to the Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital in Sweetwater in the Blackwell ambulance.

Mrs. A. O. (Lena) White is also a patient in the Sweetwater hospital.

Mrs. Willie Burwick reported that her son, Junior, a patient in the Hendricks Hospital in Abilene is much improved, as he is able to be in the wheel chair and calls her, but tells her he will be in the Abilene hospital several days yet.

Mrs. Burwick also reported that her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Bill (Billie Ruth) Burwick is still in the Temple Hospital, and is much improved but also will be in the hospital for several days yet.

Blackwell has had a few real pretty days, after the fog lifted, but the weekend has been dark, cool and cloudy with very little sunshine.

The Women's Missionary Union of the Blackwell First Baptist Church met Thursday afternoon at 2:00 at the church with eight ladies attending and Mrs. E. K. Finley presiding.

The meeting opened with prayer given by Mrs. Willie Burwick.

The scripture and calendar of prayer was read by Mrs. Olin Corley. A prayer for the mis-

ionaries was voiced by Mrs. Pat Douglas.

The program, "Mary, Mother of Jesus" was given by Mrs. Verla Smith.

The closing prayer was given by Mrs. Lucile Noble.

Attending were Mmes. Finley, Burwick, Corley, Douglas, Noble, Lanelle Montgomery, Verla Smith and Thelma Smith.

This was the last meeting for the ladies this year, with their next meeting Jan. 7.

After the meeting the ladies celebrated Mrs. Corley's birthday by singing "Happy Birthday" to her and served cake, coffee and punch.

The home of Mrs. Jane Wheat was the setting for a Christmas luncheon and social of the Blackwell Omega Coterie with Mrs. Wheat as hostess and Mrs. Laura Seale as co-hostess. They met on Wednesday, December 8 at 10:30 a. m.

Mrs. Seale presided for a business meeting and Shirley Walston read the minutes of the last meeting.

In other business, the members voted to send a donation to the Abilene State School.

Thank You cards were read from the Senior Citizens Club of Blackwell and the Bronte Nursing Home.

Savannah Thompson presented a talk on her stay in the Snyder Nursing Home and in closing gave each member a gift. Members made gifts to be sent to the residents in the Bronte Nursing Home for Christmas.

Following the luncheon the members and one guest gathered around a Yuletide tree to exchange Secret Pal gifts.

Following the exchange, "Happy Birthday" was sung to four members and they each received a birthday gift.

Having birthdays in December were Mmes. Esther Smith, Margaret Stout, Ollie Crain, and Miss Bertha Smith.

Attending were Mmes. Jane Wheat, Laura Seale, Shirley Walston, Margaret Stout, Ollie Crain, Emma Lee Lanier, Esther Smith, Ruby Patterson, Marie Wheat, Noba Ware, Opal Jeffcoat, Lillie Mae Walters, Joyce Jones, Miss Bertha Smith and one visitor, Savannah Thompson.

The United Methodist Women of the Blackwell Church met Monday at 3 p. m. in the home of Mrs. Cecil SMith for their last regular meeting of the year and also their Christmas party, with nine members and one guest attending. Mrs. Smith was hostess.

Mrs. T. J. Oden presided and called the meeting to order with prayer, given by Mrs. John English.

A business meeting was held. Mrs. R. Q. Spence then gave the program, "A Humble Manger" which was very good and interesting.

Mrs. Spence handed out the new program books for the next year.

The meeting was adjourned and the dismissal prayer was given by Mrs. Terry Barrett.

A refreshment plate was served by the hostess to Mmes. T. J. Oden, Ida Oden, McRorey, Spence, English, Barrett, Savannah Thompson, and Mary Louise Alderman and her granddaughter, Carrie Parsons.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Moore of Sweetwater visited Saturday afternoon with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Lee and then visitors in the Lee home were their grandson and his family, Mr. and Mrs. Junior Taylor and children of Roscoe, on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Lee went to Winters Wednesday afternoon and went shopping, and then

visited with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bishop and reported Mrs. Bishop to be much improved and was so glad to be home after her long stay in the hospitals.

Jack Waggoner is still a patient in the Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital in Sweetwater, but at last report he was slowly improving.

The First Baptist Church of Blackwell had their Christmas program last Sunday night, with 75 people attending.

Mrs. Terry White, Sunday School teacher for the young people, worked up the musical cantata and was assisted by the juniors, primary and the beginners departments of the church.

Adult help was given by Taylor Douglas, Dorothy Bishop, Janet Chapman, Janice Lisso and Shirley Holland. Janet Chapman was the pianist.

Bro. Cecil Tackett, the new pastor of the Blackwell Baptist Church, entertained with his guitar and was accompanied by his wife, Charlene in song.

After the program, all went to the fellowship hall where refreshments of cake, cookies, coffee and punch were served by the ladies of the church.

After refreshments, everyone was presented with a bag of fruit, candy and nuts, and bags were given to several that took them to a shut-in friend.

The Challengers Class of the Blackwell First Baptist Church met Dec. 14 at 3 p. m. in the home of their teacher, Mrs. Jynelle McFarland for their annual Christmas party with sixteen ladies attending.

Each lady told of their Christmas traditions over the years. A poem, "Why We Celebrate Christmas" was read by their teacher.

After exchanging Christmas gifts, coffee, punch and Christmas goodies were enjoyed by all.

Present were Mmes. Lillian Ragland, Bea Murry, Margrette Corley, Barbara Smith, Mildred McRorey, Edna Myrtle McRorey, Dessie Johnson, Dorris Hagler, Thelma Smith, Ninnie Kinard, Noba Ware, Iona Strickland, Etta Ramsey, Ruby Patterson, Eula Nabors and the hostess, Jynelle McFarland.

The boys and girls and their sponsors of the Blackwell 4-H Club delivered plates of cake, cookies, and candy and sang Christmas carols to the elderly in Blackwell Tuesday afternoon.

Bro. Cecil Tackett and his family plan to move to Blackwell during the holidays. Their daughter April, 10 does not get out of school at Winters till December 22 and then she will start to the Blackwell School when they resume classes on Monday, Jan. 4.

Mrs. Willie Burwick reported Wednesday night that her son, Junior, who has been a patient in The Hendricks Memorial Hospital in Abilene for several weeks went to his home in San Angelo last Monday and her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Bill Burwick was also released from the Temple Hospital last Monday and she is at her home in Sweetwater, so will both be home for Christmas, so, we are glad to hear they are both improving and we wish all of them a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs. A. O. (Lena) White came home from the Sweetwater Hospital last Wednesday and is reported to be improving nicely.

Sorry to report again this week that Jack Waggoner is still in the Sweetwater Hospital, but at last report he was still improving.

The Blackwell High School was dismissed Friday, the 18th, at 2:30 p. m. for the Christmas

The Advent wreath is harbinger of Christmas

In many churches and homes, during the four weeks before Christmas, wreaths with candles are displayed to remind the faithful of the approaching holiday.

These decorations are known as Advent wreaths, symbolizing the eager awaiting of mankind for its redeemer.

Originally, the Advent wreath may have been part of pagan observances. Tribes in northern Europe would display cartwheels decorated with greens and lights in their homes during the winter season.

The custom became Christianized in time, with the wreath's circular shape symbolizing God's unending nature, and the evergreens symbolizing His unchanging nature.

There are four candles on the wreath, one for each week of Advent. Three of the candles are violet in color, as a reminder of our repentance and our longing for

the Savior. One candle is rose colored, symbolizing our joy and hope in the coming of the Messiah. All the candles are tied with purple ribbon, again as a symbol of longing and repentance.

In some homes, the family will gather around the wreath on the Saturday evening before the first Sunday in Advent,

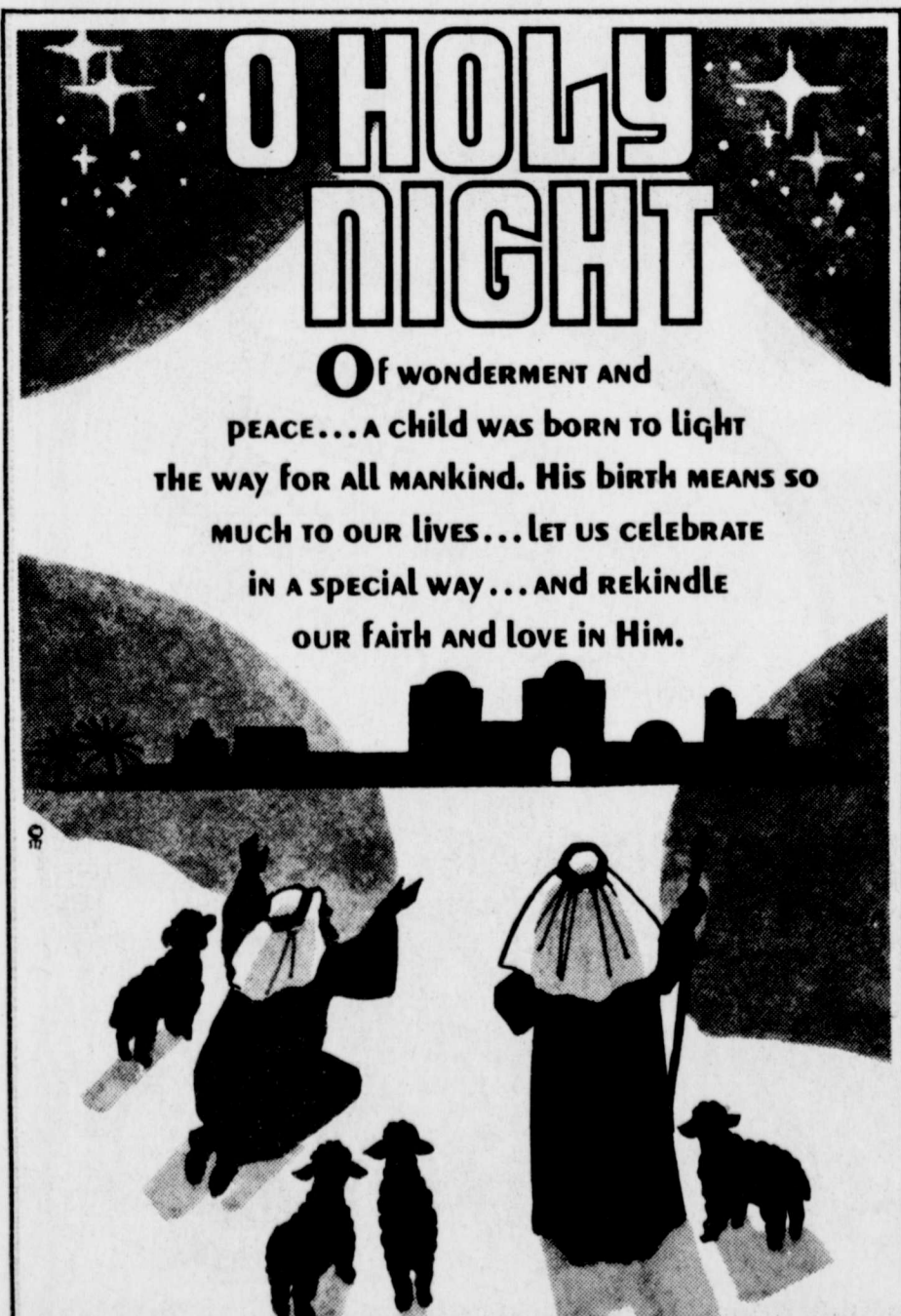
four weeks before Christmas. Prayers are said and one violet candle is lit. An Advent hymn, such as "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" may be sung at this time. The ceremony is repeated with two violet candles on the second Saturday; on the third Saturday, two violet candles and one rose candle, a joyful sign of the nearness of the holiday, are lit; on the last Saturday, all four candles are lit.

Bright and merry
wishes this festive
season, for a
happy holiday
celebration.
It is the best
of times for
sharing love
and
laughter
...and
saying
"thank you"
to all
those you
hold
dear.



MAC
Oil Field Co., Inc.

O HOLY NIGHT
Of WONDERMENT AND
PEACE... A child was born to light
THE WAY FOR ALL MANKIND. HIS BIRTH MEANS SO
MUCH TO OUR LIVES... LET US CELEBRATE
in a SPECIAL way... AND REKINDLE
OUR FAITH AND LOVE IN HIM.



McDORMAN
FURNITURE & APPLIANCE
Mr. and Mrs. Royce McDorman and Staff

Joy to all




To our Loyal Friends and Patrons. We wish you a Heavenly Christmas Season.

Security State Bank
Wingate, Texas



Joyous Holidays



Let us strive for lasting friendship with our fellow men, now and after Christmas.

Winters Farm Equipment
E. E. Thormeyer

Shepherdess first to see the light

She was the first to notice a strange light in the sky. The other shepherds around the campfire paid scant attention to the girl and her flock or to the night-black dog at her feet.

Rachel adjusted the shawl which had slipped backward on her head, then drew it more tightly around her shoulders. Nights could be chilly in these Judean hills. She turned so that her back rested against the furred warmth of the dog. The light brightened and fused with the thousands of stars in the clear night until it shone on the shadowy figures of the sheep with a brilliance like moonlight. But there was no moon.

There was a cry from one of the other shepherds who had moved away from the brightness of the campfire and saw for the first time the unearthly light in the heavens.

"It is the judgment," shouted one.

"The judgment!"

"The judgment. Fall on your face. Your sheep will be scattered."

Rachel was sorry they seemed so afraid. She got up from her knees and walked toward the men, surrounded by light.

"Don't be afraid," she said. "There is nothing to be afraid of. Remember the psalm: 'Praise ye the Lord; praise ye Him, all His angels; praise ye Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all ye stars of light.'"

One shepherd got to his feet and pointed toward the sky. "Did you ever see anything like that before? I don't like it. It's an omen. Something will happen. Something terrible."

Why is it men understand so little? Rachel thought. A woman knows instinctively, perceiving more than she sees, hearing beyond the sounds of the night. Was that a voice echoing her thought? The murmurings in the air intensified and one shepherd shrieked again. "The judgment is coming closer. The wrath of God is upon me."

"Fear not," a voice as triumphant as Rachel's own spirit spoke from the midst of the light. "I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very night in David's town, your Savior was born—Christ the Lord."

The shepherds looked at each other and at Rachel. They could not understand. But Rachel repeated, "Christ the Lord? How did it happen? How shall we know Him?"

The angel's voice spoke with compassion for their finite minds that found it so hard to accept the simple truth. "This is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Rachel heard the words. They flowed over and around her as if she had been hearing them for a long time, as if she had always known that this is the way the Messiah would come. Her heart sang the words as the sounds of the night rose to a crescendo of praise until it seemed that the very heavens were rejoicing in a new psalm, "Glory to God in the highest heaven!" And they faded again to a quiet murmur: "And peace on earth to men—with whom he is pleased."

Rachel felt the dog's cold nose touch her hand and she stroked his neck. The light was gradually absorbed by the darkness again, and the stars pricked through, sparkling with a newly polished brilliance.

"Did you hear that?" one of the shepherds called to her. "The Savior. The Savior's come at last. And right here in Bethlehem. We must go into town immediately and find him."

"But the sheep," Rachel cried. "How can we just go off and leave the sheep?"

"We?" laughed the shepherd. "This is for men to whom the angel spoke, not for a simple shepherdess."

Rachel looked again at the stars where the light had been. "Peace on earth to men," the angel had said. But surely it meant 'mankind,' not merely 'men.' And joy to 'all the people.'

"I shall go," said Rachel firmly.

"And what about the sheep? You said yourself you couldn't leave your sheep. You can look after ours, too," he finished with a sweep of his arm to encompass the flocks barely distinguishable in the starlight.

"My dog will care for the sheep. He will watch over them all until we return. It is not far; westward less than an hour's journey."

Rachel heard them muttering and in the reflection of the firelight, they shook their heads. They were rough men who tolerated her because her dog was useful to them and they had none of their own. But they did not see her as a woman, not indeed as a human being with thoughts and feelings, but only as a shepherdess, a tender of sheep like themselves, but of a lower order, not one of them in any sense. They would never let her go with them.

But they were not unkind. "We'll bring you back some straw from the manger," they joked, hardly knowing what they said in their excitement. "The angel spoke to us. We're expected to go. Come on, let's hurry."

Rachel stood watching them until they disappeared in the darkness. In spirit she walked with them, running a little to match their long strides. If only she were a man. If only she could see the child in the manger. The angel had spoken to them all. And she was the first one to see the light appear and to hear the heavenly voices. Wasn't that a sign that the Lord expected her to see the child, the good news for the world?

Why should she obey the shepherds? True, they were men; they were older. She was a girl. She had been taught carefully that men make the decisions; that women do as they're told. She sank down by the fire and poked at the embers. She threw a branch onto the coals and soon a twig blazed with a quick, vigorous flame. Smoke curled around the branch, and with a puff, a lick of fire enveloped the branch. Rachel watched without seeing, her thoughts in Bethlehem. The longing to be in Bethlehem swelled within her until it burst into defiance.

She called to the dog. "Take care of the sheep for me. I won't be gone long."

She started walking as fast as she could in the darkness, stumbling occasionally on the uneven slope. After a few minutes her steps seemed to be echoed by sounds behind her. She could just see blurred shapes and then the unmistakable bleating of a lamb.

"No!" she cried. "Take them back. Take them back."

But the black dog herded the flock, following Rachel at a leisurely distance. How could she make him understand that this time the sheep must not follow the shepherdess?

"Stay there," she ordered. But the sheep paid no attention and the dog crossed behind them, keeping them together in his expert fashion, following his mistress. Each time she tried moving forward he would stir the flock from their grazing and follow her.

Now she could see the town silhouetted on its plateau against the western sky. Stars disappeared into the gray light, all but the brightest one. Somewhere beneath that sky, below that star, was the child in a manger. She was near enough to see the city, to hear a cock repeatedly announce the coming day. But she could not take the sheep into the town. And they would not stay here without her.

To be so near and not to see the Savior... Rachel's eyes burned with unshed tears and she leaned against her staff. Why were privileges given to some and denied to others?

The dawn wind brought her no answer. Just a few people would see this child tonight. But if he really was the Savior, his life would make a difference to the world. Many others, in the years ahead, stretching to infinity, would come to know about his birth. But she had been one of the first to know and one of the first to praise.

The sheep depended upon her, especially the least ones. The only gift she could offer the Savior was the simple one of continued devotion, of service in His name.

The star, still bright above Bethlehem, shone its benediction upon her as she turned back to her sheep.

Virginia Veeder Westervelt, Redlands, Calif.



To loyal patrons we extend our thanks and best wishes for a wonderful, white Merry Christmas

AMERICAN SUPPLY

Order Your Christmas Flowers Early
— Flowers wired anywhere —
Don't wait for the rush!

Poinsettias \$3.00 and up
Christmas Budvases & Corsages \$1.75 and up
Christmas Arrangements \$7.50 and up
Carnations each 75¢

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Open: 8-11 a.m. & 12-5 p.m.
Blossom Shop
117 N. Main 754-5311

IT'S CHRISTMAS

...and we take pleasure in this opportunity to say thank you for your continuing confidence and trust. Best wishes to you and your family for a happy holiday.

Bedford-Norman Insurance
George Mostad, Marvin Bedford, Margaret Baldwin, Fran Walker, Gloria Abernathie

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

We're sending old-fashioned greetings to all our good friends... may you have the merriest holidays!

Winters Area Chamber of Commerce

SPIDER CORNER a Joyous Christmas

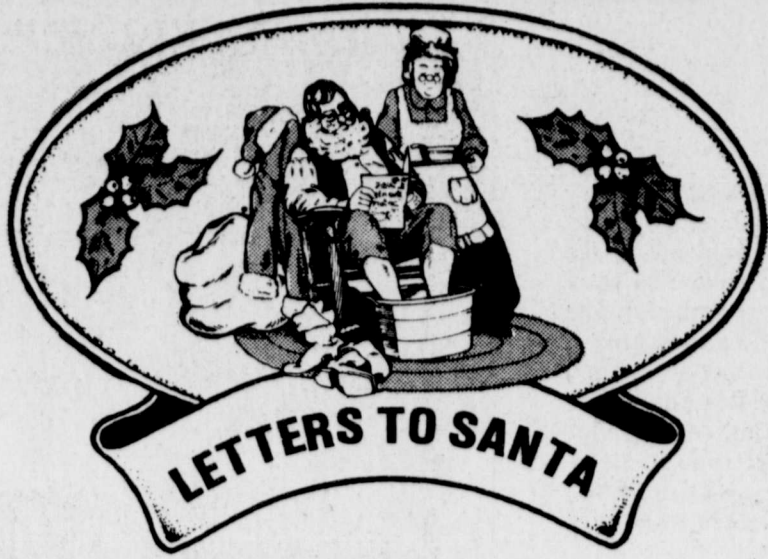
Across

1. People pray for this.
2. People put these on their Christmas tree.
3. What the weather might do on this day.
4. A plant used for decoration.
5. What people do under the mistletoe.
6. One of the animals that pulls Santa's sleigh.
7. What all children hope to have on this day.

Down

1. Something you might find in your Christmas stocking.
2. Something children send to Santa.
3. You buy this for someone you love.
4. A child hangs this up to be filled with gifts.
5. Something people cut down and put in the house to decorate.
6. One of Santa's helpers.

Answers Across: 1 - Peace, 3 - Lights, 6 - Snow, 7 - Holly, 8 - Kiss, 10 - Reindeer, 12 - Fun.
Answers Down: 2 - Candy, 3 - List, 4 - Gift, 5 - Stocking, 9 - Tree, 11 - Elf.



Dear Santa,
I want a Tippy-toe doll like Brooke and Jamie, and a baby buggy.

Love,
Kelly Shifflett
Age 2

Dear Santa,
I would like a tricycle, some play make-up, a baby doll and some play dishes. I've been a very sweet girl.

Love,
Julie Lancaster
Age 3

Dear Santa,
I want a Tippy-toe doll and a motorcycle, a Mickey Mouse telephone. I want some more things, too. Brandon wants a motorcycle and that's all.

Love,
Brooke Killough
Age 4

Dear Santa,
Hi! I would like a ten speed bike, a new coat, and a Sew So Nice. I've been as good as I can.

Love,
Angela McDaniel
Age 8

Dear Santa,
I've been a nice girl this year. Would you please bring me a doll?

Love,
Chrissy Taylor
Age 9

Santa Claus,
Please bring me a tuba (if you can find one that will fit on your sleigh) and two bunk beds, so I can sleep on the top bunk! Thank you, Mr. Claus!

Love,
Chadd Springer

Dear Santa,
I want a tricycle and a record player for Christmas. I'm a very sweet little girl.

Love,
Shannon Lancaster
Age 5

Dear Santa,
I want a Duke's boys car, and the top opens and the Duke boys are in it, and you push the button. Please send Julie a dog toy.

Love,
Kevin Jarose,
Age 3

Dear Santa,
I want a Tippy-toe doll, a secret doll show, and a Lollipop dress show. I'll leave you a glass of milk.

Love,
Jamie Sims
Age 4

Dear Santa,
I would like a racing car set for Christmas. I've been a pretty good boy this year and I love you.

Love,
Little Archie
Age 5

Dear Santa,
I want a choo choo and truck track set and a race car set with a yellow and red race car and airplane set. I also want a new dog for my little brother. His old one has holes in it. I have not been a very good boy, but I will try to be better.

Love,
Brian Craig
Age 5

Dear Santa,
I've been good. I would like a doll.

Love,
April Ann Seals
Age 1

Dear Santa,
I would like a bike. I've been good... O, yes, I would like a radio, to if you can.

Love,
Jeanie Seals
Age 11

Dear Santa,
I have been a pretty good boy this year. Please bring me a truck for Christmas. I will be at my Grandma's house. Don't forget my brother and sister, too.

Love,
Derek Tubbs
Age 3

Dear Santa,
I've been a good boy this year. Would you please bring me a tricycle, some toy cars, and a truck.

Love,
Little Johnny
Age 2

Dear Santa,
Please bring me some boots, a belt with my name on it, and a belt buckle. I've been good all year long...I think! Thank you, Santa.

Love,
Kaci Springer

Santa Claus,
I would love for you to bring me a trampoline and a baby doll. I'll be waiting for you with my sister, Misty. Thank you, Santa.

Love,
Mandy Hicks

Dear Santa,
I know you have lots of things to carry, but I would like some Strawberry Shortcake dolls. I don't think they will take too much room. I have been real, well, pretty good. I will try not to talk back, or fight with my brother, but Santa, did you ever have one? I plan to leave something for you to eat, but you better come to my house early, cause my dad gets up at night and eats, and he might get yours by accident.

Love,
Wendy Merrifield

Dear Mr. Santa,
I have been a very good little boy. I would like a 4x4 truck, Dukes wrist racer, a car with doors that open and would you bring my brother a choo-choo train. He has promised to be good, so you will bring a train.

Love,
Brandon Craig
Age 3

Dear Santa,
I would like a trampoline, a hot wheel bike, tippy-toes, and some makeup. I'll be waiting for you with some cookies and milk. See you Christmas morning! Thank you.

Love,
Misty Hicks

Dear Santa,
Would you please bring me a Strawberry Shortcake doll and a blue and white cheerleading suit so I can yell for the "Mighty Blizzards"! I'll have my Daddy clean out the chimney just for you.

Love,
Staci Springer

Dear Santa,
I would like a 10" speed bike. I've been pretty good this year, and some boots.

Love,
Jimmy Seals
Age 10

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a cowboy hat and boots for Christmas. I have been a good boy this year, I think. Also, I would like a Dukes of Hazard race car set. Don't forget my sister, Wendy. She's pretty good sometimes, too.

Love,
Oddus Merrifield

Dear Santa,
I would like a 10" speed bike. And some western boots and a western hat. I've been good so far.

Love,
Jessie Seals
Age 7

Dear Santa,
I would like a 10" speed bike. I've been good.

Love,
Bobby Taylor
Age 10

Dear Santa,
Shannon Thomas is too little to talk so I want to tell you what to bring her. Bring her a horn and a baby toy and some baby shoes.

Love,
Brooke Killough

Dear Santa,
I would like a Cassette Recorder and a bike. I've been good.

Love,
Bobby Gideon
Age 11

Dear Santa,
I want a new saw, 'cause mine is broken. And that will be all.

Love,
T. J. Meyer

Dear Santa,
I would like a Cassette Recorder. And a bike and doll. I've been good.

Love,
Dibbie Gideon

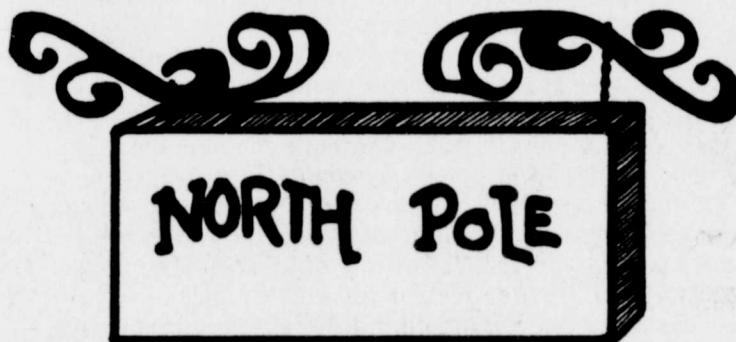
Santa,
Please bring me a trampoline for to turn flips on and a hot wheel set. I'll be waiting!! Thanks, Santa!

Love,
Michael Hicks

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will be at
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(Buck Watson residence)
December 24
From 6 to 10 p.m.
Children will receive candy

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a note of cheer
at Christmas
to you and
those you love.
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Seasoned Greetings
Dash of Cheer

Entree
Large Cup of Joy
Generous Portions of Kindness
Casserole of Happiness

Desserts
Cherished Friendship — Assorted Delights

Beverage
Old Fashioned Merriment

★
Best Wishes For the Happiest Holidays Ever!
Gary, Michael and Susie Price,
and All the Employees of

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We will close at 2 p. m. Dec. 24, for the Holidays, and Reopen at 5:30 a. m., Jan. 2, 1981.