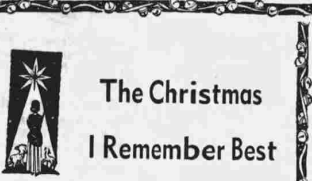




Established Dec. 8, 1888.



The Christmas I Remember Best

(Ninth of a series by prominent Charlotteans)

God's Unfailing Love

By DR. LAWRENCE I. STELL

In my memory, Christmas has not been associated with earthshaking events. To me, that day has always been the finding of a glory in ordinary things and relationships. Too, my adult Christmases have meant more to me than my childhood memories.

Two years stand out in my memory. Both are associated with my own children. The first was when my son was 18 months old. It was the first time Louise and I had ever experienced the happiness of preparing Christmas for a child and seeing his complete joy and surprise.

I remember especially his playing with a toy train which ran around a small circular track and trying to catch the cars as they came around. I remember his smile when he finally learned to start his movement to grab before the train came around—and actually caught it!

The second one to stand out in my memory over three years later. It was right after Pearl Harbor. My wife had been quite ill while we were expecting our second child. Friends had been most kind in helping us meet all the crises within our family. And the world's anguish pressed in on every one of us.

Against that background, the preparation for Christmas demanded by our love for our son—and by my tasks as a minister—forced us to see again the hope of the world still lies in the wonder of the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem who came the Christ of Calvary.

As a result, the kindness of our friends—and the warmth of the love of the family—and the familiarity of the Christmas story and songs had an added meaning that helped give many of us courage to face a world that held the possibility of horrors to shake us to the rediscovery of the things "that cannot be shaken."

These are the things I remember best about any Christmas: family, friends, hope—and God's unfailing love.

(Dr. Stell, minister of Trinity Presbyterian Church, is the retiring president of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Christian Ministers Association.)

4-Tonner Dwarfs All Sputniks

WASHINGTON (AP)—U. S. rocketmen hurled a four-ton satellite into orbit around the earth Thursday night in a giant stride toward outer space and man's mastery there.

The feat, dramatically announced by President Eisenhower at a White House diplomatic dinner, gave the country the biggest known manmade object now swinging around the planet. The new Pullman car-size satellite dwarfs the 2,819 pounds of Russia's Sputnik III launched last May 15. It comes close to, or surpasses the bulk of the Soviet carrier rocket which went separately into orbit but plunged to its death Dec. 7.

But even more significant from the nation's viewpoint are two other features:

The space traveler, dubbed "Operation SCORE," carries two-way communications which promise untold practical benefits for the future.

OWN RUDDER

It was pointed into its path by an internal guidance system, rather than being sent on a preset course like a bullet—a long step toward true space navigation.

Triumphant over the success of their project, American scientists quickly raised their space sights. They began talking about putting a man aboard another such vehicle and sending it to Venus or Mars.

President Eisenhower called it "a distinct step forward" (which) opens new opportunities to the United States and all mankind.

Pentagon echoed his words, accenting the peaceful aspects of launching a satellite the size of a Pullman car.

But a comment from members of Congress indicated a preference to dwell on what it means in military terms.

And even in Moscow, celebrating the 3,000th orbiting of Sputnik III, man-in-the-street reaction was dramatic.

Eisenhower broke the news dramatically at a White House state dinner for diplomats. "This House press secretary James C. Hagerty and Pentagon officials spread the word to reporters and the world.

The Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile was launched at 6:42 p. m. Thursday from Cape Canaveral, Fla. The whole thing is 85 feet long and 10 feet wide, weighing into orbit.

It is the biggest known man-made object swinging around the globe. Its weight, between 3,700 and 4,000 pounds.

See SATELLITE on page 2-A.

Local Watchers Look For Atlas

Charlotte's satellite tracking team will be on the job tonight behind the Mint Museum, watching for the United States' new giant "moon," according to Forest J. Selby, veteran leader of the local "Moonwatch" team.

According to the Associated Press, the satellite will be visible in this country, particularly in the South and at dusk.

—'THERE'S A CAT IN THE ORGAN'—

Just Take It Easy, Lady

all right," the reply came from the Mint Museum. "When's your husband coming home?"

"Look," Mrs. Gerlach said, "I'm a Methodist."

"Why not lie down a little while?" suggested the man.

OLD SOBER

"I'm cold sober. There is a big black cat in there. He has on a red leather collar with two bells on it. Besides, my husband's always home."

—22-YEAR-OLD IS 'MOM' FOR BIG BROOD—

How Do You Play Santa For 18 Children?

CHICAGO (AP)—They're going to have Christmas at the Herman Smith house, but it won't be easy.

"It happened too near Christmas to do anything much," Mrs. Smith said, "but we're going to have a tree and things."

What happened was that Mrs. Smith's mother, Mrs. Alberta Williams, died Nov. 8. While the mother was on her deathbed, Mrs. Smith vowed to keep the 14 young Williams children together.

MRS. SMITH TOOK CHARGE of her brothers and sisters, ranging in age from two months to 13 years. She has four youngsters of her own, aged two months to four years.

So now Mrs. Smith is mothering 18 little ones. And she herself is only 22.

Mrs. Smith—her given name is Marie—is a tall, shapely girl with widest brown eyes and hair drawn back in a pony tail. To a reporter who visited her yesterday she looked like a high school senior.

How does she manage? "I get up at 4:30," she said. "Have to get a brother off on his paper route. Then I get breakfast ready. One mornin' it's oatmeal, one mornin' pancakes, one mornin' grits and eggs."

Mrs. Smith, who used to live in Atlanta, whips up biscuits for breakfast and corn bread for the evening meal.

"AT SUPPER I FEED 'EM in shifts," she said. "First the babies, then the school kids, then the grownups. We can eat in peace that way."

How about living space? The Smiths have been living in a six-room basement flat in an old frame house at 1238 N. Cleaver St. in a semle North Side neighborhood. They have just rented the eight rooms on the first floor to give them a total of 14.

"The rent for the two flats is \$120 a month,"



Mrs. Smith (center) And Her Brood

she makes \$60 a week as a gasoline station attendant. "It takes \$50 to \$75 a week for groceries."

The bulk of the double family's income is \$414 a month for aid to dependent children. It goes to the widower, Alton Williams, who lives with the Smiths. He isn't working because of a chronic stomach ailment.

MRS. SMITH, WHO SHOWS a fondness for such newfangled styles as tuxedo pants while displaying the dauntless spirit of a pioneer womanfolk,

is determined to keep all the kids together. "I got love for my brothers and sisters and I can't see 'em livin' anywhere else," she said.

There are special problems, of course, at this time of the year. One involves Emily, 10, and one of the three sets of Williams twins, Annette and Anise, 11.

"Momma promised 'em a watch," young Mrs. Smith said. "Now they come to me and say 'We want to get our watches for Christmas.'"

"I told 'em they'd probably get a little something but don't build up no hopes."

The Lighter Side

Jurors Really Enjoyed Duties

(From AP Reports) There was a cake in the courtroom after Mrs. Josephine Foley and Mrs. Margaret Cull served as jurors in Louisville, Ky.

They liked the work so well each baked a cake for Judge Thomas Knight and court officers.

They said they started their first jury duty with "fear and trepidation" but soon changed their minds.

Easy To See

It didn't take Wyoming Gov. Milward L. Simpson long to spot something wrong with the highway department's new office building.

On the metal dedicatory plaque, the governor's name was incorrectly spelled "Mildard."

Mysterious, Eh?

A call came to police headquarters in Worcester, Mass., concerning two men who were "acting mysteriously" in a parked car for four hours.

Police checked, found the two engaged in a cribbage game.

He'll Buy Next

Richard Goodman of Lara-

my, will buy his Christmas tree next year.

He spent 26 hours on a trip to the mountains to cut a tree, and cut another on the snowy roads cost him \$286.30.

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