

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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On Earth Peace, Good Will Toward Men

AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyprius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David.)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glorify to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

—ST. LUKE 2: 1-20

First, There Must Be A Will For Peace

THE brightest lights of the season are not those that shine through the evening on Trade and Tryon streets but those that glow and sparkle in the hearts of all who draw inspiration from the second chapter of Luke.

Tomorrow we come again to the anniversary of the event recorded by the Gospel writer: to the birth of Jesus in a Nazarene stable—an event that was lowly in its surrounding but stupendous in its effect on human destiny and the course of history.

Each year we come to Christmas with a fresh hope in our hearts, a fresh hope that the promise of the heavenly host of "peace, good will toward men," may become true.

We have not yet realized the bright promise of that hope. Fear looms large upon the horizon of us all. Men and women are going sleepless through the dark hours of the night because of the specter of fear that hovers about them.

We fear war. On a day dedicated to the Prince of Peace we fear war although we know that the tired hearts of mankind long for a lasting peace among the nations—a peace in which there shall be no more fear of war—a peace in which no man shall call another enemy—a peace in which the hearts of all men will be joined in a spirit of good will.

Although Jesus brought his message of brotherhood to earth 20 centuries ago, we have not yet beaten our swords into plowshares nor our spears into pruning hooks.

Instead each country is straining at its every fiber to make even more terrible engines of destruction. And tre-

mendous forces of men are standing watch on the ramparts of nations, fearful of the evil that may be in the hearts of their neighbors. On this Christmas Eve we walk in a world of fear and darkness because greed and pride and hate have deep roots in the hearts of men. Force and diplomacy may keep the guns silent for a time, but until the will for peace burns fiercely in the souls of men everywhere we will be haunted by fear.

We may feel that as individuals, we can do little about these problems that beset us. But if we will only stop and think we will realize that we can do much. Communities, states, nations are but collections of individuals. Each community, each state, each nation represents the sum total of the attitudes of the individuals who live in it.

So, each of us can play a vital part in shaping the course of our community, and have a hand in charting the destiny of our nation. Each of us can work and pray for peace in his own heart—when each of us attains that goal there will be peace in the hearts of all and a spirit of good will shall be reflected in our own countenance; a spirit that knows no bitterness and no hate.

When we have attained these attitudes we will have attained the true, meaningful, spirit of Christmas, with its everlasting message of hope and faith and love.

When we have attained these things the brightest of lights will be those that shine in our hearts and we will keep the spirit of Christmas every day.

—THOMAS L. ROBINSON
 Publisher

To You Who Gave...

THERE is the boy whose mother is dead and whose father is injured who came, reluctantly, to ask for help, impelled by the need of his father and small brother.

There are the three small lites who live with their 80-year-old great-grandmother, their only surviving relative, who is ill but struggles along so the youngsters won't have to go to an institution.

There is the couple—he has been bedridden for 14 years—when she got along until two months ago, when she became ill too.

There is the family in which both parents work to support a large family and spastic relative. They were squeezing by, then the only daughter required expensive surgery and hospitalization in an effort to save her sight, and now the savings are gone and the debts are staggering.

These are a few of the Charlotteans whose Christmas will be joyful tomorrow because of you who gave to the Empty Stocking Fund.

So far, more than \$11,300 has been donated this year. The News, which functions as the medium through which

the gifts are collected, passed the money on to the Christmas Bureau, a part of the United Community Services. The bureau distributed the funds among needy who are not cared for by other charities.

Church groups, bridge clubs, labor unions, garden clubs, Boy Scout troops, business firms, book clubs, fraternities and other organizations gave. There were familiar names of year-after-year contributors to the fund on the checks, new names, and those of persons who asked that the money be donated in memory of a departed loved one, anonymously, as simply from "a friend" or, as one man expressed it, from "a father who wants no child to feel fatherless on Christmas." There were donations of pennies, and others of hundreds of dollars, like the regular one—this time for \$1,500—from the Charlotte Wrestling & Boxing Commission, headed by Grady Cole, which chose years ago to make this contribution instead of using the money for less worthwhile purposes.

Because of your gifts there will be hope instead of despair, joy instead of sadness, in hundreds of Charlotte homes on Christmas Day. On behalf of the grateful recipients, our heartfelt thanks.

From The Gastonia Gazette

HE DID IT!

JACKIE FELTS, a ten-year-old lad who lives in Galax, Virginia, did something the other day that we feel sure millions of boys and girls have wanted to do.

He has the distinction, so far as we know, of being the first one to get it done.

We must admit that we wanted to do it about forty years ago, but couldn't get up the nerve.

They took Jackie to a hospital in Galax the other day to have his tonsils taken out.

They got him all fixed up, put him on the operating table, and rolled him into

the little white room.

But just as the nurse got ready to pop the ether to him, Jackie jumped off the operating table, bolted out the door, on out of the hospital, and ran barefooted through the snow, his nightshirttail flying, to the safety of his home.

Jackie caught a bad cold, so they had to postpone the operation.

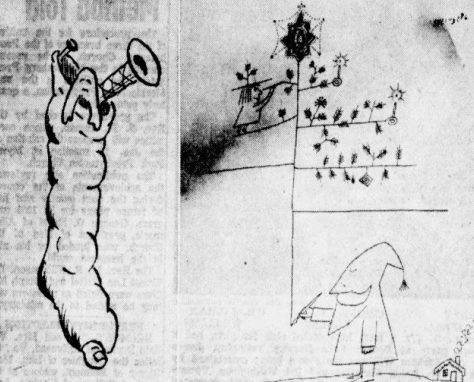
Anyway, Jackie's still got his tonsils, and he says he's going to keep them.

Nice work, Jackie.

Youth is the wonderful time of life which only the young are strong enough to endure.—BOSTON GLOBE.

New Look For Old Sentiments In 1954 Yule Cards

BRING ON CHRISTMAS...



MOST holiday customs are so formalized that they never emerge from the cast iron ruts of tradition. Not so with Christmas cards. This year's crop proved that you can be as footloose as you like with the season's greetings. Exhibits A through D: The Yuletide eye-openers pictured above—all received by Charlotteans in 1954. The practice of sending greetings by mail is of comparatively recent origin. Early cards may have been rigidly formalized but



man's creative nature soon took charge. Designs were no longer confined to religious scenes. They included a whole bundle of symbols somewhere linked to the season—not only Santa Claus and all his official trappings but sleighs, snow, holly, poinsettias, candles, lighted trees, fireplaces and old English stagecoaches. Then came the year that the black scottie got into the Yuletide act—followed closely by the wire-haired fox terrier, the doe and assorted cats. That

broke the dam. Now anything goes—from a hula dancer to a birdseye view of the Petit Palais des Champs-Élysées. The tie-ins with Christmas were often obscure in 1954 cards but eagle-eyed individuals could find them if they knew where to look. Take, for instance, the tall, angular female on the front of a card from fashion expert Marjorie McDuff ("Christian Dior and I wish you a Merry Christmas"). The subject may or may not be holding a bowling ball in

her right hand but that's a sprig of holly in her left. The top card is from the trio of soldiers at Ft. Jackson, S. C., which edits the Jackson Journal ("The Journal Covers Jackson Like A Joke"). The rather disturbing Christmas stocking, bottom left, is the work of Jim Henderson, an ex-Charlottean now living in Greensboro. Just to the right is an oblique allusion to Christmas by the irrepressible Saul Steinberg. Where do we go from here? Who knows?

People's Platform

Love Shown By Helping Others

Charlotte Editors: The News: I who have written me and sent me the sweet Christmas cards a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I won't get to send cards but God bless every one of you.

As Christmas comes and goes don't let its meaning ever leave you. A paper like The News has so many good things for the bread of life—if we read them—like the precious pieces. Rev. Dr. Spauld writes: I think it is a good Christian deed The News is doing by carrying on the Empty Stocking Fund. All who have helped will be blessed. For when you give to help others you are showing you have the love of the Saviour in your heart.

—MRS. MAYME BARGER

Don't Deprive People Of Religious Holiday

Charlotte Editors: The News: WHEN a representative group of the young people of Charlotte takes a strong stand on a community project, it might be wise to examine that project further.

The Charlotte Carrousel parade is taking from us one of our oldest and most thoroughly American religious days. Thanksgiving has always heretofore been exactly what its name implies—a family holiday when we take time from worldly matters to give thanks for all the blessings of this life.

Surely it cannot be necessary

to take thousands of people out of their homes on this one day of the year merely to provide a spectacle for business interests. All of us appreciate if fine business firms and are interested in their promotion, but seriously speaking, would not another day serve their purposes even more?

If the Carrousel could be held on a shopping day, would not many more people patronize the local business houses? As it is, often those who come to see the show do not return to shop. If the stores were open it would be a different story.

All of us love a parade, but not on a religious family day of Thanksgiving. And so the Current Topics Book Club, with its 18 members, wants to take a stand beside the young people of Christ Church. In this community known for its homes and churches, who stands with us?

—W. G. S. HORNE
 Current Topics Book Club

Charlotte Is A Den Of Beggars

Charlotte Editors: The News: IT LOOKS like Charlotte has become the begging center of America, with almost a million dollars a year begged from the people. They talk a lot about the health, recreation and welfare of the people. Don't we pay taxes for those purposes?

The United Appeal was so determined to raise the rest of its gold that it had young children begging on the streets Sunday after church. I believe the majority of the people of Charlotte are becoming disgusted with this situation.

—PARKS A. YANDLE

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

THERE was a day when the life of a newspaperman was relatively easy at Christmas time. So was life for most of the world. The world wasn't worried too much about wars and international trouble spots; and newspapermen weren't worried too much about work.

The favorite device by which I managed to take Christmas off in the old days was to write about the status of Christmas Island. That forlorn piece of coral in the mid-Pacific American or was it British? Nobody in those days cared a whoop, but it gave me something to write about one day ahead of Christmas and then relax for the holiday.

How times have changed! Times have even changed regarding

Christmas Island. For with World War II Christmas Island assumed great international importance, with U. S. planes flying to the South Pacific using it for refueling. Now, symbolic of more changes, Christmas Island is important no more.

Modern long-range planes fly right over it, and the interest of the United States has moved on to islands much farther away—the tiny islands of Quemoy and Tachen bugging the coast of China—that hardly anyone ever heard of until recently.

All of which illustrates the expanding, far-flung interest of the United States, and it illustrates the change that has come over the world, though it doesn't particularly illustrate the spirit of Christmas.

There was a time just a little over a decade ago when Franklin D. Roosevelt's statement that America's "frontier was now on the Rhine" brought howls of anguish from a group of senators who went to see him.

Today these senators, some even from the same isolationist school, want to invade the Chinese mainland, even provoke a preventive war with China.

So times have changed. But there is one thing that has not changed—the basic teaching which the man whose birthday we now celebrate laid down for us nearly 2,000 years ago. If things were simple for us 20 years ago, they were even simpler when Joseph and Mary, riding into Bethlehem on a donkey, prepared for the birth of the

babe who was to set a new standard of peace on earth and good will to men.

Men's moral standards at that time were a lot higher than they are today. The prophets of Israel had repeatedly warned their people that if they did not live up to those standards they would be destroyed; on top of which Jesus brought forth the highest expression of moral and ethical behavior ever known to man—the Sermon on the Mount.

Now it may seem strange for a newspaperman who gets called a lot of names and is supposed to write backstage stories to talk about these things. But there is no story, either backstage or in front of the stage, as important as a man's weary, uncertain struggle toward the ideals set forth in that sermon.

World Struggles Toward Christ's Ideals