THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★★ FINAL

Largest Evening Newspaper In The Two Carolinas

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WORLD NEWS

Youth Fire Victim

TIGERTON, Wis. (AP)—A 7-year-old boy apparently overlooked in the confusion died today in a fire from which his parents and seven brothers and sisters escaped.

Big Yule Party

TOKYO (AP) — Some three million Japanese roamed Tokyo's streets today in a wild Christmas party expected to go on till dawn. Police headquarters called out 1,100 men to handle the strangled traffic as merrymakers frolicked in and out of bars and cabarets for the annual "yearend forgetting party."

Reds Rap Reports

MOSCOW (AP) — The newspaper Soviet Estonia says rumors of a devaluation of the ruble are being circulated by "hostile elements in an effort to sow panic and sidetrack attention from the accomplishments of the Soviet Union."

Confess Arson

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Two young brothers, both mentally retarded, today admitted starting a fire that mushroomed over a 4-block area in suburban Rankin causing an estimated million dollars damage.

Ambassador Named

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower named Charles W. Yost, a career diplomat, to be ambassador to Syria.

Admits Robbery

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Police said a San Quentin prison guard admitted today he took part in a $15,000 kidnap-robbery.

Two Killed

CUSHING, Okla. (AP)—Two would-be burglars walked into a police trap here early this morning and were shot to death after resisting arrest.

Car Hits Train

BRADFORD, Ohio (AP) — Four middle-aged persons were killed early today when their sedan collided with a Pennsylvania railroad switch engine at a crossing here.

30 Killed

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — All 30 persons aboard a chartered yacht carrying students home for the Christmas holidays were reported killed today when the ship exploded and sank in the Atlantic.

Today's Weather

Mostly cloudy and mild with occasional rain today, tonight and tomorrow.

Low this morning	46
Low tomorrow morning	47
High today	58
High yesterday	66
High tomorrow	60

Sunrise today 7:30 a.m.; Sunset today 5:17 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A

Evening Prayer

Father, forgive me. Teach me to love and not to count the cost. Give me love enough to forgive, even as Thou hast forgiven me. Help me. Thou who knowest all my desires. Purify my love. Let me behold the vision Thou hast for me. In the Saviour's blessed name. Amen.

A Reporter's Search For Christmas

(NOTE: This unusual Christmas sermon, "In Search of Christmas," by the pastor of Myers Park Presbyterian Church was first delivered last year and has received wide acclaim. The News has received permission of the publishers to reproduce it here.)

* * *

By THE REV. JAMES E. FOGARTIE

Cliff Craig propped an elbow on his ancient typewriter, dropped his chin into the cup of his hand, and stared out across the deserted City Room.

REV. MR. FOGARTIE

For nineteen years he had coaxed news stories out of his machine. Some had fairly jumped from flying fingers, almost as fast as he could cover the long sheets of rough newsprint. Others had come harder, after mounds of paper had whipped out of the roller. Many had won him prizes and awards. But this was the toughest of all.

How simple it had seemed when his Managing Editor handed him the assignment, with an open expense account and all the time he needed. "Write a new Christmas story," Maxwell had said. That was all.

Now the deadline was just one day away — and there was nothing easy about it any more. His mind went back over his straining and searching for the elusive "angle" to make this a really new Christmas story.

* * *

HE HAD SET OUT to write a story that would leave out the old stuff — the Star, the Manger, the Inn, the Shepherds, and the Wise Men. All of these were good, understand, but worn thin by much writing and repeated telling. This was going to be completely new, something no one had yet uncovered.

He had gone through his files on Christmas and had reread many of his own stories, but none gave him a fresh cue. He had taken down an anthology of Christmas stories from his bookshelf and read the work of many an author; but still he could find nothing. He knew well the familiar accounts from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, but after all, everybody knew them. This must be new, thoroughly new.

He found stories about the decree of Caesar Augustus, making comparisons between the Emperor and the Child.

Many efforts seemed to have exhausted the difficult journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem — and the bright star that shone over the City of David.

* * *

HE LOST COUNT OF THE STORIES about the Inn with no room, of the Stable, bleak and bare, and of the simple, rough-hewn Manger. Some had portrayed the Innkeeper as a good and godly man, who, with no room in his inn, had done the best he could for Mary and Joseph. At least he had furnished them shelter, a place away from the night air. Others had pictured the Innkeeper as a hardhearted businessman, concerned only with material gain, caring nothing for those for whom he had no room. The stable had merely been his way of ridding himself of the nuisance of a poor couple for whom he had no concern. These stories were all right; but he must have a new story, a fresh approach.

How many openings the Shepherds had provided! Tales had been told of the littlest shepherd, the oldest shepherd, the skeptical shepherd. Some had built their stories around the young son or daughter of one of the men who spent that night on the Judean hillside. Shepherds were fine, but there was a limit to that angle, too.

Why, stories had even been written around the friendly beasts of the stable, but only so much could be written about animals.

He had given serious consideration to this business of the wise men. Certainly there was an air of mystery about them, and that should spur creative writing. He murmured aloud, "Strange old boys, those Wise Men from the East." Looking through his material he discovered Halford Luccock's column clipped from **The Christian Century.** It pictured these men of mystery as Wise Men from the West.

* * *

THEY COULD BE DRESSED UP A BIT with Western garb. That would mean, of course, changing their gifts from gold, frankincense, and myrrh to more modern presents. After all, nobody knew anything about those ancient treasures, and cared less. Wise Men from the West. Everything would be changed.

As tradition had it, there were three Wise Men. The first was known as Kaspar. In our day he would be an industrialist, president of the Kaspar Manufacturing Co., Inc. His journey would take him out after bigger and better sales. He followed the Star, of course, but his primary concern was for new export outlets. He would get a lot of orders, but such a man would undoubtedly get so wrapped up in his own affairs that he would lose trace of the Star, and, in the end, never reach Bethlehem at all.

The second Wise Man is said to have been Balthazar. He was a Nubian prince, with skin of dark hue. Craig thought of him as an expert in military defense. He would recruit a great army before getting started to Bethlehem, for he might need protection on his journey. So he would spend most of his time in gathering recruits and in solving the problems of logistics. Rome, skeptical of such a force, would of course refuse to allow this army to pass through any of her provinces; thus, Balthazar would never get to Bethlehem either.

* * *

AS FOR THE THIRD WISE MAN, he was usually called Melchior. He, too, sought to find the King, but there were other important things on his mind. As president of Melchior, Melchior and Melchior, Advertising and Public Relations Consultants, he saw the possibility of a big promotion campaign, handled properly. He became busy giving out press releases in every hamlet and town through which he passed. That,

See REPORTER on page 2-B

57 Killed As U. S. Marks Yule Holiday

(AP Photofax)

Shopper's Fatigue Beaten

This last minute Christmas rush can sure wear a fellow down, and Kenny Hancock, 19-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. James Hancock of Louisville, Ky., found the best solution to be a quick nap. Behind him sits 19-month-old Teresa Ann James, whose mother, Mrs. Ben James, is pushing the pair around town.

Mild Weather Lures Thousands To Roads

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Traffic deaths in the early hours of the Christmas holiday appeared running about normal for a non-holiday period.

Unseasonably mild and dry weather lured millions to the highways and streets in the traditional home for Christmas trips, increasing the possibility of a heavy traffic death toll.

Early tabulation of violent deaths across the country showed 49 persons lost their lives in motor vehicle accidents; seven died in fires and one was killed in a miscellaneous type mishap, for an over-all total of 57.

The National Safety Council, in a pre-holiday estimate, said 180 persons would be killed in traffic accidents in the 30-hour period from 6 p.m. Tuesday to midnight tonight. However, it added if motorists would be careful and considerate the death toll could be held to a non-holiday total of 89 for the same number of hours at this time of year.

NATIONAL SURVEY

The Associated Press, for comparative purposes, conducted a national survey of the 30 hours between 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, and midnight Wednesday, Dec. 11. It showed 84 traffic deaths, 15 in fires and 27 in miscellaneous accidents such as falls, shootings and airplane mishaps, for an over-all total of 126.

The record traffic toll for a one-day Christmas holiday was 253 in 1946. The lowest for a one-day Christmas period since World War II was 179 in 1947. The low mark in traffic deaths any one-day holiday since World War II was 81 on Memorial Day in 1951.

The four-day Christmas holiday period last year was the deadliest on record for any holiday period. Traffic deaths totaled 706. The over-all total, including fires and miscellaneous deaths, was 884, also a record for any four-day holiday period.

BOB SEES NO HOPE FOR REST WITH SPELLMAN

ON THE WESTERN KOREAN FRONT (AP)—Two annual Christmas visitors to American soldiers abroad—Francis Cardinal Spellman and Bob Hope—met today for the first time.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York and the comedian, both visiting U. S. troops in Korea, were guests of honor at a brunch given by Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Sands, commanding general of the 7th Infantry Division.

During the meal the Cardinal outlined his heavy schedule for Hope. "Whew! They forgot to put breathing in there," the comedian cracked.

Man Killed By City Bus

A man reportedly on his way home from work was killed yesterday when he fell beneath a City Coach Lines bus.

The man, identified as Thomas Jefferson Koonce, 30, of 2530 Duncan Ave., was killed instantly when he tumbled beneath the bus after picking up Christmas packages he had placed on the sidewalk at Trade and College Sts. while awaiting a bus.

STATE OF SHOCK

One reported witness to the accident, a Patsy Allison of 2803 Dogwood Ave., was taken to a local hospital in a state of shock. Four other witnesses were identified by police as Easterlene Fisher, 404 N. Summit Ave.; A. C. Gregory, Rt. 9, city; Janie Sturgies, 405 French St.; and Miss Craig Gaddy, 3321 Monroe Rd.

They told investigating officers W. F. Kerr and J. D. Sanders that Koonce walked to the bus stop and set his packages down on the curb. About that time a bus pulled into the bus stop, then started off again.

As the bus started, they said, Koonce reached down to pick up his packages, but suddenly plunged head first under the bus, with the right rear wheels rolling over the victim's head.

DRIVER TELLS

Bus driver John Edward Self, 724 Glenwood Dr., told officers "I pulled up to the bus stop and started off. Just as my bus got moving, I felt a bump at the rear of my bus and heard people screaming. I immediately stopped and got out. It was then I learned I had run over a man."

No charges have been made against the bus driver by police.

Woman Trapped In Drugstore

ATLANTA (AP)—An Atlanta house wife spent four hours of Christmas Eve trapped inside a drugstore when the owner closed down for the night.

Mrs. Lavonia Jones, 45, had gone to the drugstore to call a sister and wish her a merry Christmas. From the phone booth, she heard a door slam, then a click. The proprietor had gone home.

The housewife phoned the Atlanta Journal and Constitution. The newspaper notified police and finally reached the drugstore owner, Louis Klein, who had gone out for the evening.

Klein hurried to the shop and released Mrs. Jones.

'Surgical Santa' Gives New Faces For Christmas

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Twelve years ago, Stanley Slotkin asked his secretary:

"Betty, what do you want for Christmas this year?"

Her hands were clenched as she held back the tears and blurted: "Mr. Slotkin, I'd like to have a new face!"

He took the girl of 23 to a plastic surgeon who straightened her nose and altered her mouth and chin. He and his wife cared for her in their home during her convalescence. Later they sent her to a hairdresser and bought her a new dress at the town's best store.

She was beautiful.

The experience started Slotkin in philanthropy as a sort of year-around surgical Santa Claus who gives away new faces.

He has now been benefactor to more than 1,200 persons—women whose faces barred them from marriage and happiness, children with cleft palates or webbed hands men so disfigured they couldn't get jobs.

Welfare agencies usually classify such cases as "cosmetic defects," inadmissible to hospital charity wards.

A graying, dynamic, wealthy man of 49, Slotkin is founder and president of Abbey Rents, Inc., renter of sickroom supplies.

"For those who can't afford a new face or have no insurance," he told a reporter, "I take care of everything."

Psychological as well as physical changes are wrought.

"Like Betty," he recalled, "she learned to smile. She gained a new personality, but I lost a perfectly good secretary.

"She fell in love six months after the operation. Now she's married and has three children."

MANY LIVES

His philanthropy, operating through a team of surgical specialists, has touched many lives: a county jail prisoner "who was a thief because he looked like a thief" . . . a girl who had no chin but is now touring as a successful singer . . . a small boy whose schoolmates tormented him because of his sugar-bowl ears.

"We fixed his ears," Slotkin said, "and when he went back to school I asked him what happened on his first day. He said, nothing much. I played with the boys, and the girls came over and talked to me.'"

Slotkin's newest Christmas face belongs to Ernestine O'Ward, who celebrates her 16th birthday tonight.

"Ever since she was small, Ernestine has wanted to be a model," recalled her mother Mrs. Evelyn O'Ward. "She used to stand at the windows of the stores on Wilshire Boulevard and watch the girls showing the pretty clothes and wish she could be like them."

Surgery improved Ernestine's nose. Yesterday, as an additional Christmas present, she received a three-month course in photographic and fashion modeling.

Happy Holiday! Weather Fails To Dampen Yule

By EMERY WISTER
News Staff Writer

Gay holiday spirits shone through the gloom of a cloudy day today as Charlotte opened its Christmas stocking.

It was a day of joy and gladness for most of the city's 200,000 residents, the climax of a busy Christmas shopping season.

It was a day of joy and gladness for most of the city's 200,000 residents, the climax of a busy Christmas shopping season.

It was a day of surprises and excitement with the cries of delighted youngsters mingling with the yawns of awakened but good-humored grown-ups.

Charlotte homes lit up like the Christmas trees inside them at an early hour as impatient children rushed to see what Santa had left them.

DAY OF SADNESS

But it was a day of sadness for some. Thomas J. Koonce, a clerk at Liggett's drug store, was killed about 6 p.m. yesterday when struck by a City Coach Lines bus at the intersection of Trade and College Sts.

Most Charlotte residents planned to have Christmas dinners with families, relatives and friends. Many went to church last night and thousands more expected to attend services today.

It was a day of rest for most, some of whom will have a long holiday. City and County offices will not open until Monday and banks will be closed until Friday. Many business concerns gave their employes a half or full holiday yesterday.

City police and firemen and state highway patrolmen were on the job as usual today, however, and police warned motorists to drive with caution.

GIANT CROSS

Gay Christmas lights and decorations added a festive touch to the city and office lights in the Liberty Life Bldg. were still burning in the shape of the cross of the tubercular seal campaign.

The Christmas spirit was everywhere—even on the wires of news services. Associated Press teletypewriters were actually playing Jingle Bells this morning, the operators using the bells that signal the end of a line to produce the music.

The weather, far milder than the usual Christmas variety, should remain mild at least through tomorrow. A high of 58 degrees is forecast for today, a warmer 60 tomorrow. Occasional rain is forecast throughout the period.

Low temperature here this morning was 48 degrees and a 47-degree low is predicted for tomorrow.

THANK YOU FOR MONEY FOR NEEDY

Christmas is merrier today for hundreds of families in Mecklenburg County because you—thousands of you—gave to the Empty Stocking Fund.

A record $14,287.16 was contributed in the 26 days between Thanksgiving Day, the traditional beginning time of The News' Empty Stocking Fund, and today.

Checks were issued by the Christmas Bureau, the administrative arm of the Empty Stocking Fund and a United Appeal service, to hundreds of families, including literally thousands of individuals, who would, without it, have had nothing for Christmas.

1957 was the 26th year of the Christmastime appeal by The News. And it was the first time that more than $14,000 had been contributed to the fund.

500 Tenants Flee After Wall Falls

NEW YORK (AP)—About 500 tenants of three Manhattan apartment houses fled their homes today when a 75-foot section of a high retaining wall between two of the houses and a third collapsed with a roar.

Boulders and debris were hurled into the two lower buildings on the upper West Side. There were no reports of injuries.

The 50-foot-high retaining wall is about 10 feet from two five-story apartment buildings, which house 80 families. The largest building, a six-story structure, houses 42 families.

MADE COMPLAINTS

Harry Gorham, superintendent of one of the houses, said he had made complaints to the Department of Buildings during the last three months. Gorham said a building inspector had visited the scene but that there were no results.

Police set up an emergency servic and srvd coff to tn-eeih service and served coffee to tenants making plans to find lodgings for the night.

Gorham said he called the department after getting no result from the inspector's visit and was told the department had no inspectors to send out and that it had received "3,000 complaints a year."

"ALL EMERGENCIES"

The superintendent said that when he termed the situation an emergency he was told "they are all emergencies." He said the person he spoke to did not identify himself.

John J. Moran, a department inspector, said Chief Inspector Nicholas Lanese would survey the situation later today.

CROSSED FOR NICKEL

ISTANBUL, Turkey — The world's cheapest intercontinental cruise can be found at Istanbul — a 5-cent ferry ride across the Bosporus from Europe to Asia.

What's Inside

Business	6A
Classified	14-15B
Comics	14A
Crossword Puzzle	15A
Earl Wilson	11A
Editorials	12A
Everyday Counselor	20A
Obituaries	14B
Radio-TV	7B
Serial	15A
Sports	9-13B
Theaters	8B
To Your Good Health	10A
Women	2-8B
Worry Clinic	19A