Christmas is joy in child's eye

By ART CARTER

What is Christmas?

To different people, it is different things.

But most of all it is the sparkle of joy in a child's eyes on Christmas morn when he views the gifts under his Yuletide tree.

Christmas began with the worship of an infant, and today it is the one holiday of the year that adults can never take away from the children.

FROM THE break of dawn until twilight fades away to the music of a tired, sleepy hand beating on an already broken drum, Christmas without a doubt is the property of childhood.

As grownups we have tried to get into the act for years, but our real role is, and should be, that of an appreciative audience. There is no fun on Christmas greater than watching the candles of joy burn as the kids have fun.

For those who have not seen it this way, they have missed something big. For only in such a manner can we ever truly bathe in the fountain of youth and relive the early morning delights of Christmas we seemingly lose along the path of maturity.

* * *

THERE ARE some adults who feel hurt if they don't receive more Christmas cards than they send out, regarding Christmas as a popularity contest.

Others worry if they get back more cards than they sent out, looking upon Christmas as a matching contest in which all must come out even.

And there are other adults who regard Christmas as a competition between pocketbooks and get secretly sore if they get a cheaper gift than they gave.

IT IS THESE grownups who most often complain that Christmas has become a commercial racket; and as far as they are concerned they are correct. To them it is a racket because they have approached it in that spirit.

Religion can be a racket, too, if you approach it in that manner.

Those who approach Christmas in this way should have their hearts, if not their heads, examined and be treated a giant dose of the world's greatest wonder drug—the pill of loving kindness.

There are some who say that there is too much emphasis on giving gifts to children at Christmas and too little emphasis on religion. Too much of Santa Claus and too little of Christ.

YET THE history of Christmas reminds us that the Three Wise Men brought gifts to the infant Jesus in the manger, and nobody ever described him as a spoiled child.

Wonder and surprise are the things which make a child love Christmas. The unforgettable ecstasy of opening a package and finding something new inside. The value of the present means nothing to the child; it is the spirit of Christmas that enraptures him.

Too, what difference does it make if the child breaks his gift ten minutes after he opens the package?

* * *

IN THAT brief period he has given you a lasting reward that will linger as long as memory: the bright look of happiness when he first saw his gift, his face as sweet as the April sun and his voice like a nightingale's song.

No earthly possession you could be given could command more appreciation.

Yes, Christmas truly is the joy in a child's eyes.

DIFFERENT BUT ALIKE—The faiths of pupils at the Windsor Hills Elementary School No. 87 in Baltimore are different but the spirit of Christmas is in the hearts of them all. Here are Vicki Lewin, Meltonia Turner, Sarah A. Stokes and Dana Howard as they prepare a bulletin board devoted to Hanunch (or Hanukkah). This is the Hebrew celebration which is very similar in spirit and tone to Christmas. It started in 165 B.C., after the Hebrews drove the Syrians from their temple. They found a lamp in the building which apparently had oil enough for only one night but it burned for eight.

'Tiny Tim' expects to get 1,500 letters

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — AFRO readers again this pre-Christmas season will have the chance to help the face of our "Tiny Tim," Jackie Neal, light up for joy at the messages of cheer he will receive.

Jackie is a boy who is unable to walk and his desire each year at this time is to receive greeting cards from all over the country and abroad.

ACCORDING TO his sister, Jessie, who does Jackie's letter-writing for him the lad hopes to receive at least 1,500 Christmas greetings this year.

The crippled boy, uncomplaining although he cannot enjoy toys, wants only the expressions of hope and cheer from his many friends.

If you have an extra card, or if you have to go out and buy one, please mail it to Jackie Neal, 111 Twelfth St., NE.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Why don't you drop a card or letter to this column? Write to the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore 1, Md.

If you wish to say HAPPY BIRTHDAY to someone, list the correct names, dates and cities and mail two weeks before publication date to avoid belated listings.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following:

DEC. 19

James A. Dallas, Tampa, Fla.
James Wilson, Normal, Ala.
Helen Stewart, Baltimore.
Alma Jean Robinson, Winston-Salem, N.C.
S. M. Strickland, Winston-Salem, N.C.
Adolpha Russell, Winston-Salem, N.C.

DEC. 20

Bernice Wade, Baltimore.
Mrs. Mary L. Edges, Baltimore.
Louis Perrel, Winston - Salem, N.C.
Willia H. Wallace, Winston - Salem, N.C.

DEC. 21

George F. Jackson, Washington.
Estella Jones, Havre de Grace, Md.
Willie S. Brown, Charlotte, N.C.

DEC. 22

Ida B. Hawkins, Nashville, Tenn.
Mrs. Wright Miller, Philadelphia.
Mrs. Inez Lucas, Baltimore.
Mrs. Isabella Eubanks, Aiken, S.C.
Mrs. Vasciel E. Coleman, Washington.
Janet R. Porter, Pulaski, Va.
William H. Jackson, Covington, Va.
Grenade Burks, Washington.
Dorothy E. Harper, Laurens, S.C.
Ella Mae Brown, Baltimore.
Louise Johnson, Winston-Salem, N.C.
C. Wendall Falls, Winston - Salem, N.C.
Ruth Louise Bee, Winston - Salem, N.C.

DEC. 23

Augustine Smith, Hague, Va.
Mrs. Lizzie Easou, Elizabeth City, N.C.
Cherryl Massenburg, Raleigh, N.C.
Mrs. Mocile E. Spellman, Elizabeth City, N.C.
Hester Fredrick, Baltimore.
W. P. Holmes, Pulaski, Va.
Mrs. Edith M. Gibson, Baltimore.
Clifton Micken, West Point, Va.
Ernest B. Allen, Charlottesville, Va.
Shirley Partlow, Baltimore.
I. D. Henry, Winston-Salem, N.C.
Eva Lockwood, Winston - Salem, N.C.
Viola Carter, Winston - Salem, N.C.
Edde Russell, Wnston - Salem, N.C.

DEC. 24

H. G. Anderson, Philadelphia.
Barbara H. James, Richmond.
Nellie Burden, Elizabethtown, N.C.
W. A. Young, St. Paul, Minn.
Daniel Thomas, New Rochelle, N.Y.
Annette Beckwith, Baltimore.
Mrs. W. L. Ransome, Richmond.
Mrs. Carrie M. Beauchamp, Westbury, L.I., N.Y.
Mrs. Marie Stroude, NYC.
Daniel Mason, Washington.
Brenda Jean Brown, Baltimore.
Lynette Johnson, Winston - Salem, N.C.
Leroy Barr, Winston - Salem, N.C.
K. O. P. Goodwin, Winston-Salem, N.C.
Jessie Walker, Winston-Salem, N.C.
Mrs. Martha L. Goins, Baltimore.
Mrs. Rosa L. Davidson, Charlotte, N.C.

DEC. 25

Johnette Marie Penn, Roanoke, Va.
Ernest Adams, Elloree, S.C.
Charles L. Waller, Baltimore.
Jeanneane Welling, Baltimore.
Wilhemenia Harnell, Woodland, N.C.
Mrs. T. J. Brown, Baltimore.
Mrs. Mattie L. Pajmer, Baltimore.
Mayme L. Parland, Wayeross, Ga.
Mrs. C. C. Canada, Pulaski, Va.
Esther Horton, N. Wilkesboro, N.C.
Charles Brown, Amityville, N.Y.
Willa White, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Ruby Jackson, Winston-Salem, N.C.
Christine Wilson, Winston-Salem N.C.
Daniel Smith, Hague, Va.
Lucille Gaither, Greensboro, N.C.
Enoch Foote, Yadkinsville, N.C.
Mrs. Carrie Guy, Baltimore.
Hanna Comer, Winston - Salem, N.C.
Paxon Head, Winston - Salem, N.C.
Cother Nesbitt, Winston - Salem, N.C.
Laura J. Alspaugh, Winston - Salem, N.C.
Hattie B. Williams, Winston-Salem, N.C.
Frances Walker, Winston-Salem, N.C.
Minnie McFadden, Winston - Salem, N.C.
A. J. Moore Jr., Charlotte, N.C.

Awaits her 103rd Yule birthday

CHICAGO (ANP)—In order to be as old as Mrs. Susie Smith, who was parted from her family when she was 10 years old, you would have been born eight years before Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as President.

On Christmas Day, Mrs. Smith will celebrate her 103rd birthday and, as she puts it "God willing, I look forward to it as a child looks to a toy."

Mrs. Smith was born into a large family, four sisters and five brothers, on a cotton plantation at Edgecombe, N.C.

* * *

SHE SAYS her father tried to keep the family together, but she was sold to a Vicksburg, Miss., family and the day she was carried away was the last time "I saw my relatives even to this day."

Twelve years ago, Mrs. Smith moved to Chicago from Newport, Ark., and most of her years have been spent as a domestic and farm hand. She has been alone practically all her life although married twice. Both marriages, however were brief because of her husbands' deaths.

Mrs. Smith will be honored with a Christmas party by two groups of the woman's division of the First Methodist Church in Park Ridge.

MADONNA OF PRAYER, one of the eight tableaux in the traditional "Living Madonnas" production at Bennett College is portrayed by Miss Demetric Carstarphen of Oak Hill, Ala., at the college last Sunday night.

Bennett College stages traditional Yule program

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Out of the darkness of Bennett College's Pfeiffer Chapel, eight tableaux came alive as the traditional "Living Madonnas" program was presented Sunday night.

Student models, under the direction of Miss Constance Johnson, instructor in dramatics and speech, re-created "Madonnas by Women Painters."

Selections by the freshman choir, directed by Edward Lowe, and musical interludes by Clarence E. Whiteman, organist, set the mood of each tableau.

Among the more striking portrayals were "Madonna of Suffering" portrayed by Yvonne Brown; "Madonna of Prayer" by Demetric Carstarphen and "Madonna in Bone Lace" by Kay Rita Turner.

Sonia Louden was the narrator.

RALEIGH PASTOR CITED

RALEIGH, N.C. — Dr. Oscar Bullock, pastor of First Baptist Church for 35 years, was cited last Sunday afternoon at a testimonial honoring him for "long and distinguished service" to the church and community.

BIBLE READINGS

DEC.:	
18	Luke 12:22-34
19	Luke 13:1-10
20	Luke 13:18-21
21	Luke 14:1-23
22	Luke 15-16
23 Sunday	Luke 1:39-56
24 Christmas Eve	Luke 1:57-80
25 Christmas	Luke 2:1-20

THE AFRO-AMERICAN

BALTIMORE, MD., DECEMBER 22, 1956

Christmas brings joy supreme; but now as then there is 'no room in the inn'

By JACK L. HODGE

"'Twas the night before Christmas
And all through the house
Not a creature was stirring
Not even a mouse . . ."

"The Night Before Christmas," written by Clement C. Moore, has been one of America's all-time favorite Christmas stories for children, and adults too, for a long long time.

And now it is being sung to the tune of Schumann's immortal "Chop Sticks."

How better can one describe the feelings of a child impatiently waiting for Old St. Nick?

* * *

WHILE TOSSING and turning and fighting sleep, they hear "Now Dancer and Prancer and Vixen . . ." until they are awakened on Christmas morning.

Think of the joy expressed by their little faces when they hastily make their way to the brightly colored Christmas tree?

But can you imagine the joy in the hearts of the parents of the following persons when the stork, as well as Santa, made a hurried visit.

* * *

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to a few of the AFRO readers who were born on Christmas Eve:

H. G. Anderson, Philadelphia; Barbara H. James, Richmond, Va.; Nellie Burden, Elizabethtown, N.C.; W. A. Young, St. Paul, Minn.; Daniel Thomas New Rochelle, N.Y.

Also Annette Beckwith, Baltimore; Mrs. W. L. Ransome, Richmond, Va.; Mrs. Carrie M. Beauchamp, Westbury, L.I., N.Y.; Mrs. Marie Stroude, NYC; Daniel Mason, Washington; and Brenda Jean Brown of Baltimore.

AND CONGRATULATIONS to our readers born on Christmas Day. A few of them are:

Johnette Marie Penn, Roanoke, Va.; Ernest Adams, Elloree, S.C.; Charles L. Waller, Baltimore; Wilhemenia Harnell, Baltimore; Mrs. Carrie Guy, Baltimore; Lucille Gaither, Greensboro, N.C.;

Also Enoch Foote, Yadkinsville, N.C.; Mrs. Mattie L. Pelmer, Baltimore; Mayme L. Parland, Wayeross, Ga.; Mrs. C. C. Canada, Pulaski, Va.; Esther Horton, N. Wilkesboro, N.C.;

Also Willa White, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Ruby Jackson, Winston-Salem, N.C.; Christine Wilson, Winston - Salem, N.C.; Daniel Smith, Hague, Va.; and Charles Brown, Amityville, N.Y.

* * *

BUT DURING our many planned celebrations for the Christmas holidays, let's not forget that Christmas Day in the Christian world is the festival of the nativity of Jesus Christ.

An editorial written in the Dec. 21, 1929, issue of the AFRO AMERICAN tells the story of Christmas as printed in an old French chronicle:

ST. JOSEPH

Another Street we'll try,
courtyard there may be,
Here before mine eyes in this grand hostelrie.

THE VIRGIN

Prithee, of your grace, no further can I go.
Alone seek you a place, my strength fails me so.

ST. JOSEPH

Hostess dear and kind, pray, of your great pitie:
Some little corner find, to lodge my faint ladie.

HOSTESS

Common folks and poor, in here we never keep.
Try that other door, 'tis there such people sleep.

* * *

AND THE editorial goes on to say that:

"Joseph and Mary had no choice but a stable. Maybe they had reservations in a small hotel, but the proprietor probably cancelled them when offered a higher price.

"In the big tavern there was no room for common folks and poor. No matter that they were tired, no matter that Mary suffered already the pains preceding childbirth.

"There was no room in the inn."

And yet in 1956, there is still no room in some inns for colored Americans.

* * *

THE SAME issue also carried another small item, among others, on page one under a two column heading of "Holiday Cheer" which I fear is still one of the greatest misuses of Christmas today.

Small, but catchy, the item was listed under a subheading of "Other Spirits than Christmas":

Squirrel whiskey is well known in Chicago where it has created a desire to climb trees, poles and the like.

"Police discovered 'rabbit' whiskey during the Christmas season which they say makes drinkers hop, run hither and thither, and in general imbue the imbiber with an overpowering urge to leap and run."

As long as there are people on this earth, you can expect the bitter with the sweet.

* * *

AND ONE OF the nicer things of Christmas is Santa Claus, a contraction for St. Nicholas, who was born in the Third Century.

St. Nicholas became a bishop and gained distinction in the council of churches. He was famous for his unexpected gifts, especially during the holiday seasons.

It is believed that he was first adopted by the children of the Netherlands as their patron saint.

* * *

ST. NICHOLAS Day is celebrated in the Netherlands on Dec. 6 and it is the custom of the children to leave their wooden shoes on the roof filled with hay.

The hay is for his horses which come from roof to roof as St. Nick goes his way leaving sweets and toys for the little girls and boys.

But the American boy and girl love Santa Claus—a rolly-poly, red-faced joyful man with long white whiskers, dressed in a red snow suit and a big black boots—just as well.

And they impatiently wait for his coming from North Pole each year, driving his sleigh to the tune of bells and shouting "Now Dancer and Prancer and Vixen . . ."

A Worthy project

Received in the mail last week a tear-sheet from a calendar put out by a Mt. Zion Baptist Church (Winston-Salem, N.C.) missionary group — one of its yearly projects.

Listed under the dates of the month are the birthdays of members of the community. A worthwhile project, don't you think? Incidently, Dr. L. O. P. Goodwin is pastor of the church.

WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS

A Christmas story that is based on life

GLEN COVE, N.Y.—A story that came last year from the quiet little Long Island village is being told in many churches this year as "rather typical of the good will of Christmas everywhere in America":

A retired Episcopal rector's Christmas tree, a 15-foot spruce on the lawn of his new home, was stolen.

Learning of the loss, a neighbor, a man of the Jewish faith, quickly offered a 15-foot fir from his own lawn to replace the stolen tree.

A NURSERY OWNER, a Catholic, and three of his men took care of the tree moving and replanting.

As the retired clergyman says, "This is a wonderful example of religious understanding." . . . Comments the local newspaper: "And indeed it is. It is the type of incident that points up the spirit of the season, for Christmas marking the Christmas holiday; for Jews observing Chanukah, or Feast of the Lights."

It means more than getting presents,
Or trimming a Christmas tree,
Much more than a turkey dinner
Or hours of gaiety.

Much more than singing carols,
Or stopping a while to pray,
Or being a decent human,
Just for a single day.

Above all it's a time most holy;
The day of the Savior's birth,
When we should dedicate ourselves
To spreading His glory on earth.

If we did, what happy New Years
All future years would be;
For "Peace on earth, good will t'ward men" Would become a reality!

—ANDY and DOROTHY RAZAF

PEOPLE

Sgt. Hutcheson Cpl. Dunkins

HOME FOR HOLIDAYS

WASHINGTON — **Sgt. Harold G. Hutcheson**, now stationed at Andrews Air Force Base, Washington, is in the fourth year with the United States Air Force. He will spend the Christmas holidays with his parents **Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Hutcheson Sr.** of Union Level, Va.

SERVES IN OKINAWA

OKINAWA — Marine **Cpl. Reginald A. Dunkins**, son of **Mr.** and **Charles A. Dunkins** of 1360 Perry Pl., N.W. Washington, is serving with the headquarters of the 3rd Marine Division at Camp Courtney on Okinawa.

Dunkins was promoted to the rank of corporal Nov. 1. Before entering the service, he graduated from Dunbar High School.

BANQUET ORATOR

CHICAGO — **Dr. T. R. M. Howard**, who won the praise of civil rights supporters but incurred the wrath of southern segregationists for his campaign against oppression in Mississippi last week was principal speaker at the annual Brotherhood Banquet of the Chicago Conference of Brotherhood at the Parkway Ballroom here.

RECEIVES LABOR AWARD

WASHINGTON — **Sen. Herbert H. Lehman** (Dem., N.Y.) on Dec. 11 received the Murray-Green Award of the AFL-CIO at a banquet at the Hotel Commodore, New York City.

SETS MD. U. PRECEDENT

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — **Louis L. Randall**, a 1953 Morgan State College graduate, has been elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, the first of his race so honored.

WINS $572 CHECK

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Mrs. Mary Fields, a mount assembler in RCA's tube plant here since 1951, won a $572 check for proposing an improved method to assemble one of the miniature tube types.

JACKSON ALUMNI SCORE

JACKSON, Miss. — Two graduates of Jackson State College have come up for academic laurels recently. **Archie L. Buffins**, a 1956 honor graduate of the college, was cited at Fort Knox, Ky., for scoring 266 points out of a possible 270 points to give him the highest rating ever earned by an enlisted man in standard music examinations (Army).

* * *

RAYMOND B. STEWART, highest honor student in the Class of 1956, was the second ranking student in a class in "Electronic Fundamentals" at Keesler Field, going into the final four weeks of the 13-week course.

BTW HELD PHILOSOPHER

HOUSTON, Texas — W. L. Brown, instructor in history at Texas Southern University, expressed the theory that Booker T. Washington was philosopher in a paper appearing in the November (1956) "Negro History Bulletin."

REPORTS ON CONFERENCE

GREENSBORO, N.C. — **Mrs. Bernice Norwood**, Guilford County Welfare Department social worker, reported on Wednesday to Bennett College students in chapel on her attendance at the Eighth International Conference of Social Workers held in Munich, Germany.

TO SPEAK AT TSU

HOUSTON, Texas — **Dr. William J. Faulkner**, pastor, The Congregational Church of Park Manor, Chicago and former dean of the chapel, Fisk University will be the Religious Emphasis Week leader at Texas Southern University, Feb. 10-14.

DR. HARRIS CONFERE

RALEIGH, N.C. — **Dr. Nelson H. Harris**, director of the department of education at Shaw University was selected as one of the 12 persons to attend a one-day conference of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, to be held in New York, Jan. 7.

IN VIOLIN RECITAL

NEW YORK — **Miss Penelope Johnson**, concert violinist, will appear in recital with The Orlave Choir at Town Hall, Feb. 3. She has just returned from a successful tour through the South.

Her recent concert in Sisters Chapel at Spelman College marked her fifth appearance in Atlanta.

AT PERSONNEL PARLEY

GREENSBORO, N.C. — **Mrs. Minnie B. Smith** of Bennett College attended the annual fall conference of the Southern College Personnel Association at the University of Kentucky, at Lexington, recently.

A teacher of history and social sciences, Mrs. Smith is also director of co-curricular activities at Bennett.

AT DISTRICT MEETING

AMHERST, Va. — **Misses Catherine Stephens, Julia Rucker, Marie Thompson,** and **James Jordan**, Central High School students, attended the district meeting of the Virginia Student Council. Miss Thompson was elected district recorder.

Mrs. M. Sherrill and **Mrs. J. L. Mitchell**, faculty members, also attended.

WE BEAUTICIANS JOIN IN WISHING

MERRY CHRISTMAS

TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS

From all of us to all of you . . . our very best wishes for the happiest holidays ever! And along with our greetings, we'd like to send our sincerest thanks for your patronage and good will. You've helped make this past year a fine one for us, and it has been a real pleasure to serve you. Here's hoping you have a wonderful time during the Yuletide season and in the year to come.

As the wise men followed a guiding star to the place where He was born, may our hearts turn to Him this Christmas, with love and adoration. As we hear again the blessed story of His birth, may we experience anew all the joys of the First Christmas, long ago. May the Star of Bethlehem light the way to "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men." These Christmas wishes we share with you, in the spirit of this Holy season.

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