

# Chatterbox

## Be humble before the child

Over the cave in which Jesus Christ was born, a great basilica was erected. Centuries ago, the main doors of this Church were completely walled up to prevent it from being desecrated by the Turks who used to ride their horses into the Church and use it as a stable to show their mockery of the stable underneath, the place of Christ's birth. In order to enter the Church today, one must first stoop in order to gain entrance to this sacred shrine.

In order to enter into the real spirit of Christmas today, my dear people, we too must stoop, we must be humble before the Child in the cave and the people whom the Child has gathered around Himself.

Christ was born in a cave, one of many which dotted the countryside around Bethlehem and which were used as emergency shelters by both man and beast. The dictionary

defines cave as a hollowed-out chamber in the earth. Do we not in our human pride dress us this cave of Bethlehem so that we hardly realize how far God came down on the first Christmas Day? We glorify the stable, romanticize the shepherds, sprinkle it all with beautiful lights and whatever can hide or camouflage the ugliness of the first cave. And the shepherds were not a group of well-washed men whom you would invite to a Christening party. They were only earthly peasants, a despised class of people who were completely segregated by the Jews who would not as much be seen on the same side of the street with them. They came into the cave, running down from the hills with muddy footwear, matted beards, good honest dirt on their hands, and rough voices. The whole point is that God knew and selected in advance the cave and

this His first audience on earth and that is the way God wanted it. You have to stoop to get into a cave, especially into the cave at Bethlehem, and the proud can never become humble.

Abraham Lincoln who was born in a log cabin, used to say God must love the common people—he made such a multitude of them. And on Christmas we can gaze at God in the cave and answer: Yes, God must love the common people. Because he became one of us Himself!

That is why Christmas will always be the feast of the common man; it is the day when Christ bypassed the proud Herods, the sophisticated and the worldly, the overbearing Pharisees, those steeped in sin, and is the day when Christ is born again among the modern shepherds—plain, ordinary people, the humble of heart, the good-living and the sincerely devout

people who are trying to prove only one thing in life, their love for God.

Wouldn't the shepherds have been amazed if someone suggested that they turn away from the stable and give one another gifts, one a pair of sandals, another a shepherd's staff, and so on. Wouldn't they rather have said: What about Jesus? Is this not His day? It still is His day. Let each of us on this glorious birthday of Christ give Him something that will be very dear to Him. One can give Him the sincere resolve to get rid of some habit of sin, another can promise Him more charity, or honesty, or patience, or obedience; or another to make a better mother or father or child.

May the Light of His Face Your Every Shadow Lift. And the Christ Child Himself be your Christmas Gift!

Rev. Joseph F. Sammons  
St. Therese's Church



## Regardless of weather—God's love comes through

Buck season! Just the thought stirs excitement in many human beings. Yet when I recently talked with a friend about his success or lack of it during this past buck season, he noted that he really wasn't in the mood to go hunting this year because of the unseasonably mild weather we have had.

Some people are saying much the same to me as Christmas approaches. Basically, the end of 1982 has been warm with little snow up to now, and people keep saying that it doesn't feel like Christmas. Oh yes, we're happy about lower fuel bills, but many are saddened by the lack of cold and snow for Christmas.

Naturally, the love of God comes to us through Christmas regardless of the weather. For God's great miracle has taken place—God himself took on the form of a human being and was born in a stable. And

so once again we take time to celebrate His birth. And once again we sense the peace and joy which this great event brought with it and still brings with it each year.

When this baby grew into a man, it wasn't peace and joy which surrounded Him but rather conflict and anger and hatred. So much so that people decided to kill him. Through His suffering and death we gain the promise of life—our salvation is won.

So look closely at the Babe—look clearly at the manger. Don't allow all the tinsel to crowd Him out of your view. Jesus is born! The Savior comes! Regardless of our health or prosperity, our individual or community world problems; yes, even regardless of the weather, our Christ was born to save! Alleluia!

By Rev. Lynn H. Rothrock  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

## 'Good news' - a transforming power

Nearly two thousand years ago, an angel of the Lord came to the shepherds and said:

"Do not be afraid! I am here with good news for you which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord!"

Down through the centuries, millions of Christians have discovered the transforming power of that "Good News." All of this happened and is happening because they accepted God's gift, Jesus Christ.

In our society, the true meaning of this season, often becomes lost in

the commercialization of Christmas. In the midst of this commercialization, it seems that the opportunity to truly celebrate the birth of Jesus is pushed into the background.

As I talked with people about this problem, there are many expressions of concern about the commercialism that dominates the Christmas scene, and we wish it could all be swept away and replaced by a simple opportunity to worship and celebrate the true meaning of this great day. But after these discussions, we go right on with "Christmas as usual."

Do you think it is possible that this year might be different? Oh how I wish that this year, we could make a trip with the Shepherds and the Wise men from where we are and go to Bethlehem. It would be a trip from preoccupation with commercialism to a new found wonder and joy in the birth of the Christ Child.

It is also my hope that you will use this time and holiday season to come closer to our Savior. I invite and encourage you, your family and your friends, to take an active part in the various Church services and Christmas programs of your church.

And then, on Christmas Eve, will you gather in your church to worship the Christ Child who is our salvation and the only hope we have that "the Kingdom of this world shall become the Kingdom of our Lord." There is a deep joy that pervades this night every year as we celebrate Christmas.

I wish you a joyous Christmas. I also pray that the "Good News" brought by the angel will remain centered in your life throughout the coming year.

Rev. Andrew Pillarella, Pastor  
Trinity United Presbyterian Church

## Only Yesterday

### Postmaster retires

**50 Years Ago - Dec. 23, 1932**  
Dallas was ready to celebrate Christmas Day. Central Dallas took on a real holiday atmosphere when in addition to the building decorations of evergreen and colored paper, a large cluster of evergreen trees was erected on Main Street. Many public-spirited women's organizations prepared baskets of food for the needy.

Married Almeda Calkins to Harvey Seafoss.

You could get—Tomato soup 4 cans 25c; cranberries 2 lb. 25c; pumpkin 2 cans 15c; applesauce 2 cans 15c; currants 10c pkg.; plum pudding 3 cans 25c.

**40 Years Ago - Dec. 25, 1942**  
A resolution demanding that all alcoholic beverages be abolished until after the war was written into the records of the Pennsylvania State Grange following its 70th annual convention in Harrisburg.

Deaths—Porter Michael, Carverton.

You could get—Cranberries 19c lb.; grapefruit 3-17c; turkeys 45c lb.; oysters 45c pt.; halibut 35c lb. 30 Years Ago - Dec. 26, 1952

The Dr. Sherman Schooley Memorial Fund drew toward its close with total receipts of \$2,534.20. The funds were used in the obstetrical department at the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital and to establish a perpetual endowment for the Dr. Sherman R. Schooley Memorial niche of books at the Back Mountain Library.

Rev. Danny White  
Dallas Baptist Church S B C

Anniversaries—Mr. and Mrs. Herman Garinger, Harveys Lake, 48 years.

Deaths—Clarence Jacoby, Carverton.

You could get—Sharp cheese 69c; eggs 55c doz.; turkeys 57c lb.; potatoes 15 lb. bag 89c; haddock 49c lb.

**20 Years Ago - Dec. 27, 1962**  
Howard Risley, owner and editor of the Dallas Post for 32 years died suddenly when stricken by a heart attack during family Christmas festivities.

Engaged—Josephine Balas to Edward John Geist.

Anniversaries—Mr. and Mrs. Peter Wilson, New Milford, Dallas, natives 50 years; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hontz, Perrin Ave., Shavertown, 43 years.

You could get—Pork loins 27c lb.; bananas 10c lb.; granulated sugar 5 lb. 54c; coffee 2-lb. can \$1.33; sauerkraut 2 lb. bag 25c.

**10 Years Ago - Dec. 28, 1972**  
Postmaster Edward Buckley retired from his position at the Dallas Post Office after 31 years of service.

Ralph Goss, Berwick replaced Buckley as postmaster.

Engaged—Cathy L. Hefner and Jerome M. Juris.

Anniversaries—Mr. and Mrs. Ira Tripp, Johnson City, N.Y., 50 years.

You could get—Pork loins 85c lb.; bananas 10c lb.; lemons 3-29c; pineapple 4-20 oz. cans \$1; cranberry cocktail 49c qt.

## Mrs. Clark's special gift

One of my favorite people is Mrs. Roxie Clark. She personifies the spirit of Christmas.

For years, she resided in the old homeplace in Beaumont. She taught school and raised a family in the little village. Many people have fond memories of her gentle, giving spirit.

That sweet, loving way still abides in her today. The only thing that has changed her is age.

She now resides in the Carpenter's Nursing Home at Harveys Lake. I met her there and have grown to love her.

When I walk in her room, her eyes sparkle with a glow that anyone would envy. They are the eyes of happiness. She invites me to take a chair and visit "for a spell."

I have come to minister to her, but I am the one who receives the blessing. Instead of joy, her circumstances should make her sad.

Her gentle face contains the mark of a horrible battle with cancer. Suddenly though, the scar seems to fade to nothingness as the smile grows greater. I am indeed in the midst of a blessing.

Her hearing is lost in one ear. For

a long time, we had to scribble notes to communicate. Now, she can hear. She says that the Lord has been good.

Her eyes are sharp. She reads extensively. She prays abundantly, too. I consider myself fortunate to be the object of some of her prayers.

If anyone had a reason not to pray and not to smile, it would seem that Mrs. Clark would. In her situation, I ask myself, "Would I be like a bitter weed or could I be a blessing like her?" I sometimes come to her room loaded with my own set of pressures and problems. However, I always leave her room with a song in my heart.

During one of those visits, she had a beautiful new red sweater wrapped around her shoulders.

This was no ordinary sweater. You could tell by her face that this was an extraordinary garment. It was the grandest gift of all.

The sweater was a gift from her husband who had died many years ago. The gift was discovered in a brightly decorated Christmas box. Her husband had hid it in the attic to surprise her on Christmas morn. As the attic in the old homeplace was being cleared out, a family member discovered Mr. Clark's gift for his wife. He died before he could give it to her.

Christmas would not be the same

that year. A grandfather-father-husband would be missing. The laughter, happiness, and gift swapping of Christmas had a lonely note in them.

Now, is it no wonder that Mrs. Clark wears her sweater so proudly?

Time and death have a way of robbing us of the loved ones who gather around the tree on Christmas day. But, time and death cannot steal away the gifts that our loved ones leave. Their advice, encouragement, love, and tangible gifts are with us always.

Further, the sweater that graces

the little frail body of Mrs. Clark says that giving is in harmony with eternity. For you see, without the heavenly Father's gift of Jesus, there would be no red sweaters. That little red sweater symbolizes to all that we are able to give to one another and to God because He first gave to us. Is that not why we sing with the angels? "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour which is Christ, the Lord."

Rev. Danny White  
Dallas Baptist Church S B C

## A Savior is born

"Fear not." This is the assurance we need today. God did not send a message. He sent a person, and He is still with us, for Jesus said, "I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you."

The promise of Emmanuel is always and ever fulfilled, and at Christmas we celebrate again that great event which assures us that God is always with us. May this be the gift you receive again this Christmas.

Rev. John S. Prater  
Prince of Peace  
Episcopal Church

## Christmas wish list

In the spirit of the season, the Dallas Post would like to extend some holiday wishes to a few of our favorite people. Remember, it is the season of good cheer and all of our wishes are meant to be taken in that manner.

**For all drivers in and around Dallas:** To discover they have direction indicators on their cars, and use them.

**John Ross,** Dallas Township mechanic: A new driver's license.

**Frank Wagner,** Dallas Township supervisor: A new Corvette.

**Russ Stone,** real estate baron: A quick return to 10 percent home mortgages to spur a few sales.

**Dan Blaine,** Harveys Lake councilman: A new calculator for his budget.

**Marilyn Benz,** Chase: Chocolate chip cookies.

**Ken Booth,** Lake Township: To be named supervisor of Lake Township.

**Stan Magalski,** Lehman: Lots of warm, sunny weather in Florida.

**Sheryl, Frank, Matthew and David Lenz,** Harveys Lake: Lots of warm, sunny weather in Florida.

**Betty and Jack Stanley,** Harveys Lake: Lots of warm, sunny weather in Florida.

**All of us left behind in Northeastern Pennsylvania to brave the cold winter:** Lots of warm, sunny, Florida-like weather, too.

**Ray Bowersox,** Lake-Lehman School District Business Manager: More favorable audit reports from state and local auditors in 1983.

**Arnie Garinger,** Harveys Lake: A new warmup suit.

**Joseph 'Red' Jones,** Lehman: Lots of wins from his Highlanders at College Misericordia.

**Jim Nicholas,** principal at Lake-Lehman High School: The quick demise of a local suburban publication's telephone gripe line.

**Dr. William Camp,** Dallas School board president: a harmonious year at the helm of the board, with no teachers' strike.

**Ben Jones,** Dallas School board solicitor: A personalized copy of *Roberts Rules*.

### THE DALLAS POST

(USPS 147-720)  
Advertising, Editorial,  
Circulation and Production  
Office  
61 Gerald Ave.,  
Dallas, Pa. 18612  
(in the Jean Shop building)

J. Stephen Buckley, Publisher  
Rick Shannon,  
Associate Publisher & Editor  
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An independent newspaper  
published each Wednesday by Pen-  
nappint, Inc., from 61 Gerald Ave.,  
P.O. Box 366, Dallas, Pa. 18612. En-  
tered as second class matter at the  
postoffice in Dallas, Pa. under the act  
of March 3, 1879.

POSTMASTER: If undeliverable, send  
form 3579 to P.O. Box 366, Dallas, Pa.  
18612.



## A Little Fact; A Little Fancy

from Mak

As I mentioned previously, holiday decorations across the Back Mountain are really exceptional. While homes and sections of town are gaily bedecked with lights and ornamentation, proclaiming our enjoyment of the season, area business establishments are a treat to enter as well. You might note the giant poinsettia plant in Coscia's Restaurant the next time you're in the neighborhood—or should I say poinsettia tree? It's mammoth—to say the least. Quite a treat!

The folks around the Dallas Township municipal building appear to have got more than they bargained for in Frank Wagner. To say the least, that esteemed township father is full of surprises these days. Most recently, he delighted municipal employees by repairing their Norelco coffee-maker. Frank modestly admits to being a competent handyman, under duress. For example, when his wife threatens to leave home if he doesn't get the vacuum cleaner running, Frank hops right to it. I wonder how the municipal crew coerced him into action. Perhaps he missed the fresh, hot brew every morning like everyone else.

Much has been made of the recently passed legislation appropriating more than \$1.4 billion for construction and repair of more than 900 bridges across the commonwealth. The governor estimates the projects will eliminate costly detours on the state's highway and local road networks, generate 20,000 construction-related jobs and increase the demand for Pennsylvania steel and concrete products over the next six years.

Benefits appear to be guaranteed by the wording of the legislation which specifies all materials must be made in America, preferably in Pennsylvania. Monies for the ambitious project are expected to come from federal subsidies and new fees on out-of-state trucks.

Again, from Sen. O'Connell comes the information that the completion of the Cross Valley Expressway in its originally planned form is included in the bridge building project. Of course, this is a promise of further inevitable growth in our own Back Mountain.