



How Legends, Carols Began

Many Christmas Carols have animals and things as themes. An example is the well-loved "Carol of the Birds," of French origin, wherein birds bring the sweetest music to earth. Such carols live forever.

Carols simply are songs with a religious impulse and thus come from the world over. Each century has given to the treasury of carols, but none is more revered and sung as the much loved 19th century carol, "Silent Night, Holy Night."

Another lovely carol is, "Carol of the Flowers," where flowers speak of love in all mankind; and from Germany a ship carol, called "Song of the Ship," in which Mary is likened to a ship, bearing the Son of Heaven; the "Cherry Tree Carol" where the Virgin Mary is afforded sustenance along the way to the manger.

... to you and your loved ones, from the staff of

Clinton Cafe
We Will Be Closed Christmas Day

When Was the First Christmas?

Three men ride their camels over a sea of sand; a dazzling star hangs above a town huddled in sleep. On the hillsides, sheep stir and fires of shepherds twinkle. A single light burns in the town.

Everyone will recognize this word-picture of the first Christmas. But when was it, exactly?

St. Matthew tells us that Jesus was born when Herod was king of Judea and relates the story of Herod's plan to kill the Infant King. He writes that Herod called for the death of "all boys" "from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the Wise Men." They had told Herod of seeing the Star of Bethlehem two years before the tyrant had ordered the "slaughter of the innocents."

Scholars have established that Herod reigned from 37 B.C. until his death in 4 B.C. Since we know that Herod died in 4 B.C., Jesus must have been born at least two years earlier.

The great German astronomer, John Kepler, suggested that Christ had been born in 7 B.C., during a conjunction of the planets Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. However, it has been learned that Mars, Jupiter and Saturn could not have been bright enough to be visible in 7 B.C.

And yet, 7 B.C. is regarded by many to have been the year of Christ's birth. According to the Bible, Christ was born during one of the great census takings of the Roman Empire. In addition, Rome's history records that an empire-wide taxation was begun in 8 B.C. It is not unlikely that the census and taxing were held at the same time since one could serve as a check on the other.

Since Judea was on the frontier of the Roman Empire, it must have taken the tax and census takers about two years to work their way there. We know that Jesus was at least two years old at the time of Herod's death in 4 B.C. Allowing a year and a half or two years for the Roman officials to reach Bethlehem, and subtracting at least two years from 4 B.C., we can narrow the Nativity to 7 or 6 B.C.



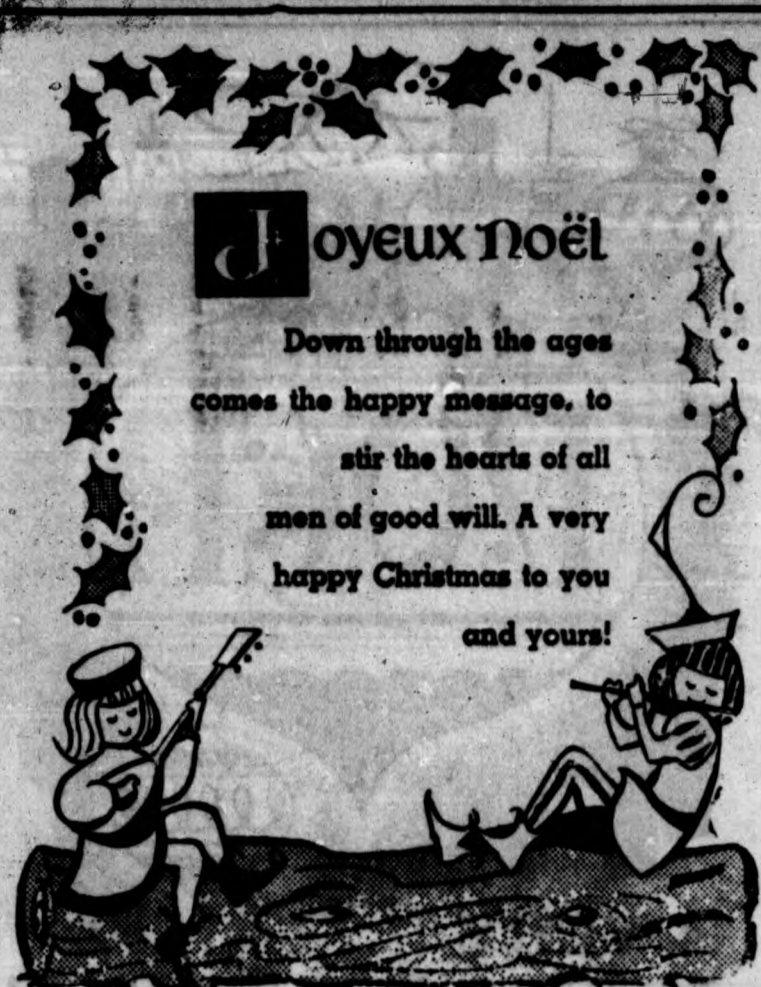
Prayers of ST. FRANCIS of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is darkness, light, and Where there is sadness, joy.

divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; To be understood as to understand; To be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

St. Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226, "Father of Yule Carols," 13th Century



Joyeux Noël

Down through the ages comes the happy message, to stir the hearts of all men of good will. A very happy Christmas to you and yours!

HOWARD'S PHARMACY
"Your Friendly Rexall Store"



'Expressing' our best wishes to all!



WE WISH YOU THE SEASON'S JOYS!

PITTS MEN'S SHOP



YOUNG'S PHARMACY



NOEL, NOEL!

Season's greetings to our many fine patrons from the staff and management.

WPCC Radio Station



a parade of good wishes for health and happiness. May the brightest of holidays be yours!

Gasque Buick Company

646 North Harper Street, Laurens, S. C.

Belk's

THANK YOU AND A Merry Christmas TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

We're happy from the top of our bright red stocking cap right down to our shining boots, to have had a share in your Christmas Smiles and kisses and squeals of joy around your family circle are our best reward for our many long and busy hours spent these past few weeks.

We know... Santa does sometimes make mistakes on sizes, colors. So please, bring it back for exchange. You'll be happier... and so will we!

P.S. We want to make good Santa's mistakes and we will appreciate your cooperation, so... PLEASE MAKE EXCHANGES BEFORE JANUARY 1st.