



To greet you at Christmas and with  
Sincere Thanks  
for your Patronage, Friendship and  
Good Will.  
**SPOTTS GROCERY**  
1251 Hunt Street Phone 428

*Star of Bethlehem  
Continues to Puzzle  
Modern Scholars*

Once again Christendom sees the Star of Bethlehem and, like the Wise Men of old, rejoices with exceeding great joy.

Astronomers have discounted possibilities that the star may have been a natural phenomenon since such phenomena occur too far from the earth to serve as any sort of local guide. Modern opinion is, however, inclined to hold that there was a Star — although the story probably has been touched by Oriental imagery.

St. Matthew suggests that even the Wise Men may have lost sight of the star while they were in Jerusalem, hence, they rejoiced when it reappeared to their vision as they approached the Manger of Bethlehem.

Come to think of it, astronomers have sought an astronomically authentic star — and found it not; historians have sought an historically human Jesus of Nazareth — and are still arguing whether or not they have found Him: even zealous theologians, striving to harmonize messianic and eschatological theories with the illusive historical and human Jesus, have sometimes lost sight of the Babe in the Manger Who from His lowly stable draws unto Himself all who are weary and heavy-laden.

Pressing close to that sacred Manger, Christendom glimpses the Star of Bethlehem once more and rejoices in the light of righteousness and peace which has conquered every tyranny that evil men could think of, the light that shineth in the darkness and shall not fall.

**Finns See Evergreen  
As Mourning Symbol**

Evergreens are never used as decorations in the homes and churches of Finland because the Finns regard them as symbols of mourning.

At Christmas most homes where there are children suspend a "heaven" from the living room or dining room ceiling. Such "heavens" consist of a cord framework covered with straw and different colors of paper ribbon, etc., and decorated with paper stars and silhouettes cut in various designs. The effect, when reflecting the fire-light and the candles' glow, is mysterious and fascinating.

Candles are used profusely in the churches; the alters are banked and the windows are filled with them, so that in the pre-dawn darkness (Christmas morning services begin at 6 A. M.) the churches beckon approaching worshippers like brilliant lanterns.

After the early church services, the gayly decorated sleds race for home, bright robes flying and sleigh bells a-jingling. Breakfast is festive, and then everyone takes a long nap. Christmas Day is not devoted to play or gift-giving; it is religiously observed, with intervals of carol singing and Bible readings.

The day after Christmas is St. Stephen's day, and from then until New Year's parties and general festivity are in order. Although gift-giving is not an integral part of the observances, in some parts of Finland trinkets and useful gifts of wearing apparel are presented to children by Wainamoinen, the Kalevala hero of Finnish legend.

Legend relates that the crown of thorns which was placed on the head of Jesus was made of holly and that before the crucifixion the berries were white, but turned crimson like drops of blood.

The practice of placing burning candles in the windows on Christmas eve is tied up with an Irish custom which holds the thought of the Christ child alone in the dark, needing light for his way.

When buying toys for children remember that those of the constructive types are best—they develop the youngsters' ingenuity.

The wild boar has been revered from ancient times, and was especially honored at Christmastime, for having taught mankind the art of plowing by rooting into the ground with his tusks.



**BACKED UP . . .** What would Christmas be without bright new dollies for little girls to cherish? Giving promise of a goodly crop of dolls for this Christmas are these finished heads on racks in a toy factory, ready to be given bodies and limbs.

*Legend  
of the  
YULE LOG*

In Virginia, the old Dominion, storied land of early American history, there is an old tradition of the origin of the Yule log that is retold every Christmas.

As the family sits around the Yule log and sips their Christmas eggnog on Christmas eve, the ancient legend is recounted again.

One very cold Christmas eve, when the frosty wind howled across a world of snow, an old man was sitting in his little cabin wishing that he had a fire to warm him.

*Suddenly he heard the cry of a little child away out in the cold. The old man hobbled to the door and gazed out across the snow. The wind and the snow came rustling in and the old man shivered until his "onliest two tee" chattered with cold.*

The plaintive cry of the child came again above the whistle of the wind. It went straight to the old man's heart and he wished with all his power of longing that he might have the strength to go out and find the unfortunate babe.

*The cry came a third time — and then a wondrous thing happened. A miraculous power filled the old man's veins. His muscles became strong and tense, his crutch fell back into the cabin and he stepped from his threshold out into the snow.*

Hurrying over the snow with a speed he had not owned since boyhood, by and by he came to a little child lying in a snow bank.

He bent down and touched the child and a great new strength flowed over him, a strength which seemed to give him wings as he sped back to his cabin.

Arriving there, he placed the child upon the bed, tenderly drew the ragged coverlet about it and then looked to see if there were a bit of furniture he could use to make a fire with which to warm the little one.

At that precise moment a great log rolled across the threshold and into the fireplace. The little child looked at the log with eyes like stars—stars which sent gleams of light that kindled the log with the most brilliant fire the old man ever had seen.

*The dingy little room immediately was filled with radiance and warmth, and as the light enraptured the child he laughed and laughed with a melody like a song from the bear. The old man turned his eyes to where the fire burned and watched the flames leap in beautiful rainbow tints over the log, and as his old eyes watched, the colors seemed to form the shape of the Cross in the fire.*

The flames of the Cross leaped higher and higher, blue, red, yellow and white; and as the old man watched this display, suddenly and magically there appeared a table in the center of the room, covered with a Christmas feast such as never before had been spread before his eyes. And never again was the old man hungry or cold, and never after that was there a Christmas in old Virginia without the Yule log and the Christmas Child to give light and warmth.

And that is the story of the Yule log as it is told in Virginia every Christmas eve.

**Toys  
FOR THE CHILDREN**

How did you choose the toys for your youngsters this Christmas?

A New York toy manufacturer declares that only a few parents will select the proper playthings for their children each Christmas.

Most, he said, buy toys that please themselves, rather than the children.

The man, who owns a company that makes creative playthings, warns that "gadgets" toys may be harmful and frustrating. And, he adds, children quickly tire of them.

"The best toy a parent can buy," he said, "is a set of plain unpainted, wooden unit blocks. Children will use and enjoy them from age 18 months to nine years."

He said that girls between age 3 and 7 should have a "doll corner." He said the corner should be supplied first with a large wooden stove, bed and cupboard.

"The doll corner will become the most treasured play place in the little girl's life," he said.

He contends boys from ages 2 to 7 mostly enjoy "transportation" play—trucks, cars and boats.

There was no statement about what parents should choose at Christmas for the young teen-age boy or girl—in the 13-16 year-old group, whose interests already are deeply grained in social activities, and who prefer parties and dances to play-at-home activities.

Perhaps by next year, this manufacturer, or some child psychologist will have solved this problem.

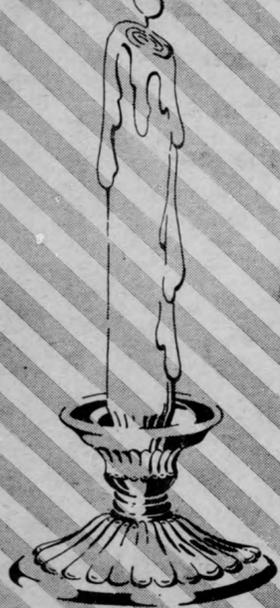
**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**



WE WILL BE CLOSED SATURDAY, DEC. 24 THROUGH  
MONDAY, DEC. 26.

**Newberry Lumber Co.**

**Merry  
Christmas**



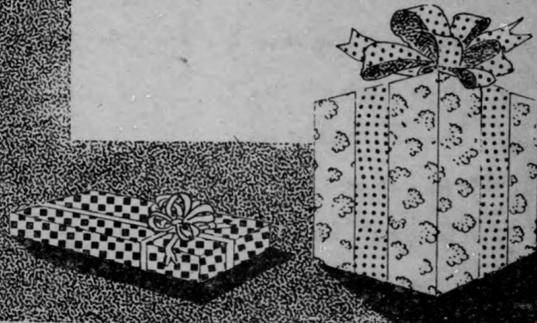
*To Each  
of You, Our  
Friends*

**O. C. PHILLIPS, Memorials**

**Merry  
Christmas**

As you and your loved ones gather 'round your cheerful Christmas tree, with its sparkling lights and shiny tinsel and gay ornaments, we want you to know our thoughts are with you this Christmas morn. It is our way of expressing our appreciation for your generosity during the past year.

May the warm cheerfulness and well-being that manifests itself on Christmas morn remain with you forever. That's our Yuletide wish.



**GILDER & WEEKS**

NEWBERRY, S. C.

J. N. BURGESS  
W. S. ARRAITS  
MARGARET FOLK  
DOT WOOD  
BENNIE BURTON

JOANNA, S. C.

MABEL CALDWELL  
LOUISE BERRY  
BETTY DERRICK  
ERNEST McDOWELL  
CYRIL ABRAMS

R. C. NOBLE  
FAYE MONTJOY  
MILDRED FARMER  
WALLACE DAVIS  
EDDIE ROBINSON