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ON OUR COVER:

Manger Scene from "THE NATIVITY" FEATURING MARY DOWD AS THE MADONNA
“The Nativity”

By Xenophon Morris

“The Nativity,” the Annual Christmas Pageant presented each Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. at the Carillon in Byrd Park by the Richmond Department of Recreation and Parks has become an annual pilgrimage for entire families who feel that it brings them the true spirit of Christmas.

Each Christmas Eve these families put away the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping, gift wrapping, tree decorating, and other activities one usually does as Christmas approaches, and unite as one in spirit and drive to the Carillon to either watch

“The Nativity” or to take part in this Greatest of Stories.

This year’s 39th Annual Christmas Pageant presentation is expected to attract more than 5,000 persons to fill the mall area around the Carillon and relive “The Nativity” which has been adapted from the St. Matthew and St. Luke versions of the birth of Christ.

The traditional 40-minute production, given under the direction of the Richmond Department of Recreation and Parks, has attracted national attention to its beauty of production.

Presented in six scenes, like a succession of religious paintings, the pageant tells in song, narration and drama, the angel Gabriel’s revelation to Mary of her role in the miraculous birth, the journey to Bethlehem, the turning away at the inn, the seeking of shelter in a stable, the Wise Men seeing the Star in the East, the wonder of the shepherds, the deceit of King Herod and the presentation to the Christ Child in the stable of the gifts of the Wise Men.

Through the years, the audience has grown from a handful
of carol singers, who gathered around a Christmas tree in 1925 on a lot on which now stands the State Library to more than 5,000 who annually visit the present Byrd Park site.

In 1926, the celebration was moved by the Community Recreation Association to the steps of the Capitol, where the Christmas story was told in tableau form with narration.

Since the audience had difficulty in viewing at the Capitol steps, the program was presented inside the windows of the Capitol building the following year.

As spectators walked from window to window, the narrator's voice rang through background choir-singing, telling of the happenings on the first Christmas Eve.

In 1928, a Christmas celebration committee, with the late John Stewart Bryan as chairman, was established. A script was adapted for outdoor production to be given on a platform built over the water fountain at the foot of capitol Hill. And, the pageant got a new narrator, Dr. Douglas Southall Freeman.

For 14 years the pageant was presented here, with Dr. Freeman as narrator, until manpower and material shortages during World War II forced it to close after 1942. There was no production during the war years of 1943-45; but in 1946, the pageant was presented again at the present Carillon site.

A year later City Council appropriated funds to the Richmond Department of Recreation and Parks for the pageant and the acquisition of permanent equipment followed.

During the first 15 years at
the Carillon, the roles of Mary and Joseph were played by Miss Mary Dowd and Raymond Hodges. Since 1962, these two roles have been changed each year.

The role of narrator was handed from Dr. Freeman to his nephew, Mallory Freeman, when the pageant was moved to Byrd Park.

Today, the pageant can be seen and heard from anywhere in the area of the Carillon. Architecturally suited to the program, the Carillon is utilized from its base, where the choir stands, to the top of the tower where the star of Bethlehem shines.

Except for 1966, Richmond’s Christmas pageant has never been canceled because of bad weather. The pageant was canceled that year because the Safety Department cautioned all motorists and pedestrians to stay off of the street except for emergency purposes because snow and sleet on the day the pageant was to be presented made traveling hazardous.

“Ice has had to be chipped from electric cables, angels have had to come down from ‘on high’ before they were blown down by winds and cherubs have had to be wrapped in plastic to protect them from the rain, but the pageant has gone on,” states Mrs. Leslie D. Banks the pageant director and Superintendent of the Central Activities Division of the Department of Recreation and Parks.

“One year a rain that threatened to stop the presentation suddenly changed to mist, and the pageant was never more beautiful. Wrapped in plastic, the cherubs glistened,” she said.

Mrs. Banks also explained, “If the pageant were discontinued, Christmas would not be Christmas for thousands of Richmonders who attend each year—the cast of 300 actors and singers, the Maymont Park shop maintenance crew and many others who take a personal interest in helping with the production year after year.”

“Many in the cast and in the choir are now in the third generation of their families, and children who were cherubs have graduated up the line to adults who now bring their children to take part,” she added.

“Don’t fill my part, I’ll be
The Magi in the 1953 Pageant bend to adore the Babe. They were (l-r) Jimmy Woo, Carrington Cross and Lawson Cheatham.

there," cast members often say when moves from the city threaten their chances of being in the next year's pageant. One young man in the armed forces came back from Guam to fill his role, another came from Germany.

Mrs. Banks' first connection with the pageant dates back almost 40 years to her job of carrying the script and the flashlight for Miss Marie Leahy, the first pageant director. "The Nativity" plays a very important role in her life and that of her family because her husband Leslie Banks is in charge of the overall pageant design—scenery and lighting and the two Banks children and the three Banks grandchildren have all been in the pageant.

Christmas 1937—a small portion of the crowd waiting at Capitol Square in early days of the production.
FOR THE EIGHTH consecutive year, the Richmond Department of Recreation and Parks will present the now classic "Amahl and the Night Visitors" by Gian-Carlo Menotti at the Mosque, Tuesday, December 17, at 8 p.m.

Mrs. Leslie D. Banks, Superintendent of Central Activities Division for the department, who supervises the production, states, "Our 1963 performance of Menotti’s Christmas Opera was to have been the last, but the tremendous response to that performance, even though it was storming, was so great, and requests that we present it again so numerous, that we consented to do it again in 1964. The same type of response encouraged us to present it again in 1965, 1966, 1967 and now again in 1968."

The production is under the musical direction of L. Wayne Batty, head of the music school of Virginia Commonwealth University. He will direct his 13 year old son, Coby as "Amahl" for the fifth consecutive year.

Other principal roles will be sung by Carolyn Munson as the Mother, Harper Darden as King Kaspar, R. Caroll Stegall as King Melchior, George Macklin as King Balthazar and Carl Lester as the Page.

Admission to "Amahl and the Night Visitors" is free to the public and is a Christmas gift from the City of Richmond to its citizens. No seats are reserved.

When asked why he selected the theme of his one-act Christ-
mas opera, “Amahl and the Night Visitors,” that the National Broadcasting Company commissioned him to compose in 1951, Gian Carlo Menotti answered, “I selected it because it tries to recapture my childhood.”

Menotti further explained that he had no idea where to start composing the opera which he was told would be presented on a Christmas television program.

“One November afternoon,” Menotti writes, “I was walking rather gloomily through the rooms of the Metropolitan Museum. I chanced to stop in front of ‘The Adoration of the Kings’ by Hieronymus Bosch. As I was looking, I suddenly heard again the weird song of the Three Kings who take the place of Santa Claus in my native Italy. I realized that they had come back to me and had brought me the rare gift of a subject for my little opera.”

“Amahl and the Night Visitors,” the one-act Christmas opera classic is best explained in Menotti’s words:

“Somewhere in the world lives a crippled little shepherd called Amahl, with his mother, an impoverished widow. Nothing is left to them of the little they ever had, and they are now faced with hunger and cold in their empty house.

“Three Wise Men, on their way to Bethlehem, stop at the hut and ask to be taken in for the night. Amahl and his mother welcome them as best they can, and are much astonished at the splendor of their robes and the wealth of gifts they are carrying.

“Under the cover of darkness, while the Three Kings are asleep, she steals some of the gold from them... and is caught. When she explains to the Three Kings that she needs this gold to feed her starving child, she is readily forgiven. With great tenderness they try to explain to her who this newborn child is and how much He needs the love of every human being.

“Touched by their words, the poor widow not only gives back the stolen gold, but wishes she could add a gift of her own. Little Amahl comes to her rescue. He impulsively hands to the Three Kings his wooden crutch, his most precious possession and in doing so he is miraculously cured of his lameness.

“As dawn appears in the sky, the Three Kings make ready to resume their journey. Amahl begs his mother to let him join them, and he is finally allowed to follow the Kings to Bethlehem to adore and give thanks to the Christ Child.”

In this scene from the 1966 production, are: Jane Batty, Walter Waldbauer—shepherds and George Macklin—King Balthazar, Douglas Morris—King Melchior and Harper Harden—King Kaspar. (Photo by “Al” Cothran Studio)
West Sand and Gravel has now enlarged its services through the opening of the new Dolphin Stone quarry at Dolphin, Virginia, near Lawrenceville. In addition to serving the Lawrenceville area, the Norfolk and Western railroad siding will also permit servicing of the entire Tidewater area. This plant is now open and orders are being filled. Call West today.

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JAMES F. DUCKHARDT
IS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FOR THE
VIRGINIA BRANCH A.G.C.

James F. Duckhardt of Richmond has been named Executive Director of the Virginia Branch, Associated General Contractors of America, Inc., to succeed Robert B. Woodward, resigned. Mr. Duckhardt took over his new duties on November 1st. He formerly held a similar position with Virginia Building Material Association.

Mr. Duckhardt attended local public schools and is a graduate of the University of Richmond where he received a B.S. Degree in Business Management. He served with the United States Army from 1951 to 1953 in the Adjutant Generals Corp, Seventh Infantry, Korea.

Mr. Duckhardt's responsibilities as Executive Director of the Virginia Branch AGC will consist of managing and administering its business affairs, conducting Board of Directors Meetings, providing legislative and industry representation at the State level and on the Federal level through the National AGC, keeping members of the Virginia Branch AGC posted on legislation and industry affairs on both the State and National levels, publishing weekly bulletins, holding annual three day conventions, and also district meetings, educational schools and clinics.
"A circular-style structure with sail-type dome," best describes the building design of the striking new $9 million Coliseum now being built for the City of Hampton.

Designed by A. G. Odell, Jr. and Associates of Charlotte, N. C., the circular structure, approximately 320 feet in diameter, rises over a newly created 14 acre lake and is situated in a 75 acre park. Located 3.8 miles north of the Hampton Roads Tunnel and adjacent to Interstate Route 64, off Pine Chapel Road, it has been officially named The Hampton Roads Coliseum.

The large, column-free facility will be roofed by a steel cable structure supported by a series of precast concrete panels which form the exterior facade of the building. The elements of the faceted exterior are reminiscent of white boat sails on water, thus reflecting the character of the Tidewater area.

Accommodations will be available in the 78,000 square feet of exhibition space for trade shows, conventions, exhibitions, athletic events, musical productions, public and private meetings and other community programs. One feature is a convertible arena which can be changed from a basketball court into an ice skating rink, for which seven miles of piping has been provided. While seating varies according to events scheduled, the Coliseum has a seating capacity for 10,000 spectators, utilizing a combination of 7,239 fixed seats and additional movable seats (on risers).

(Continued on page 20)
The deciding factors in planning any successful office building are the needs and desires of future tenants. With this in mind, much research went into the planning for the new Seventh and Franklin Building in Richmond.

With managing general partner, James C. Brincefield leading the way, the developers—the 7th & Franklin Ltd. Partnership—and the architects—Tectonic Associates, Inc., Earle A. Stillwell, President—began research in an attempt to control all the environmental factors conducive to full productivity in a single office building.

The facility's location in the Richmond downtown business and financial district is a plus factor. Although plans call for service facilities for tenants and employees on the 7th Street commercial side of the building, any that are not located there are readily available nearby. Parking is provided for tenants within the building and additional space has been leased next to the Lee House, located in the same block.

The building’s exterior is of brick and window wall above store-front commercial levels. The entrance design has been enhanced by the incorporation of a feature unique in area high-rise office buildings—a ramp which may be used by the handicapped in gaining access to the interior.

Comfort, in the form of building heating, air conditioning and ventilating systems was found to be the second most important consideration affecting productivity. It was found that in many newer buildings utilizing large amounts of glass area, there are many days when inside temperatures are too hot on the sunny side of the building and too cool on the shady side. The Seventh & Franklin Building will incorporate a number of innovations to circumvent this problem. The climate control system will provide both heating and cooling around the clock 12 months a year, thus providing for the use of either heating or cooling—or both—as conditions require. Temperature will be controlled within ¼ degree in each individual office. In addition, the system will humidify or dehumidify as needed and wash and filter the air.

The studies revealed that availability of complete postal facilities in or near the office building was highly desirable and it has been recently announced that a new innovation in fast mail service will make its debut in the Seventh and Franklin Building in the near future. It is called VIM (Vertical Improved Mail). According to J. G. Mizell, Richmond Postmaster, a mail delivery facility will be set up on the ground floor of the building to receive incoming mail from airplanes and trains and sort it for pickup by building tenants. Tenants not desiring to pick up their mail during the facility’s 8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. open hours will have it delivered in the usual manner.

According to Mizell, this is to be the first VIM installation in the State of Virginia. "In high rise office buildings," he said, "normal delivery often results in late arrival of mail on the last floors to be served. VIM will eliminate this." He noted that this new service will offer real advantages to the tenants of the Seventh and Franklin Building.

Carefully programmed background music can at times substantially in-

(Continued on page 21)
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The newest building for St. Christopher's School was erected to provide facilities for their Primary I-IX classes, that is, their equivalents of Kindergarten and Grades One and Two. There is an average of fifteen boys per section although, since grouping follows several criteria (e.g., age, intelligence, emotional maturity, etc.), classes may contain as few as twelve boys or as many as eighteen. An attempt is made to place every boy in the class most suitable for him. Boys may move from one class to another during the course of the school year, and they may be grouped without regard for class lines for some subjects and activities. For these reasons, easy access from one room to another was desirable. However, because the boys seem to achieve most satisfactorily in a carefully structured system, the school did not want the large, open (free-flow, if you will) areas which are popular now in many schools.

Being very conscious of the fact that many learning difficulties are likely to be found within a group of above average boys, they wanted, also, facilities for a reading consultant and a clinical psychologist. These have been provided in the building.

The Primary School boys use both classroom libraries and a central library. Placing the central library immediately adjacent to the large multi-purpose room allows the school to use almost unlimited space for library purposes as the need for such space makes itself felt. A book cart is used as well (Continued on page 22).
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PAGE SIXTEEN VIRGINIA RECORD
NEW TAKE-OUT FACILITY IN RICHMOND

The building presented here by general contractor, Earl M. Childrey, Inc., is considered to be a typical image building for the fast-food take-out industry. The pre-engineered facility consists mainly of Panelfab Panels, which were used for interior walls, exterior walls and roof. It is a one story rectangular structure 23' 7" x 53' 4"", built on the modular plan, with aluminum windows and floors of quarry tile.

The Richmond franchise for Col. Sanders' Kentucky Fried Chicken of Nashville, Tenn., is held by Lendy's Family Restaurants, Leonard Goldstein, president. This building is located at 3906 Jefferson Davis Highway and another is currently being erected in Richmond's Lakeside area.

This type of modular structure is considered particularly desirable from the viewpoint of a franchisee. It is easily assembled and, should site conditions require, easily disassembled and relocated, needing only a new base slab. This is considered important particularly where the site is leased or possibility of interference with new highway construction exists. The building is also easily adaptable for other purposes by merely moving certain panels, should the franchisee wish to sell it.

Panelfab, which is the primary material used here, evolved from a system originally developed for jet aircraft construction. The basis of the Panelfab system is the lightweight honeycomb panel made of steel or aluminum skin facings, permanently laminated to a phenolic-resin-impregnated Kraft honeycomb core. The honeycomb feature provides self insulation and laboratory tests have shown that the panels have a flame spread rating of zero and will not support combustion. The panels are completely structural in themselves, requiring no framing.

Interior walls of the building utilized panels with an embossed finish, which are easily cleaned and not easily marred thus assuring desirable low maintenance. Ceilings are smooth to provide maximum light.

SUBCONTRACTORS & SUPPLIERS

(Richmond firms unless otherwise noted)


Also: Fairfield Tile & Marble Co., quarry tile; Harris Electric Co. of Va., Inc., lighting fixtures & electrical work; H. C. Gundlach Co., plumbing fixtures, plumbing, air conditioning, heating & ventilating and J. P. Dillard, asphalt paving.

to tell the Virginia Story

DECEMBER 1968

PAGE SEVENTEEN
Warren M. Pace (right), President of The Life Insurance Company of Virginia, and Harvey H. Conklin, Vice-President and Actuary, review plans for the company's test marketing in Virginia of a radically new concept in life insurance protection. The new policy relates premium charges to the current yield on taxable U. S. Government bonds, thus providing permanent life insurance with adjustable premiums.

Life of Virginia Introduces New Concept in Life Insurance

The Life Insurance Company of Virginia has introduced a radically new concept in life insurance which should have an immediate impact upon the entire insurance industry. This new policy relates premium charges, the cost of life insurance, to the current rate of yield on taxable U. S. Government bonds, thus providing permanent life insurance with adjustable premiums.

Every three years such premiums will be reviewed in the light of prevailing interest rates on these bonds. An increase in interest rates to a higher prevailing range would assure a lower premium for at least three succeeding years. Should interest rates decline, a limited upward adjustment in premium rates would occur for the next three years.

According to company president, Warren M. Pace, "It is a sound concept, for with premiums related to this gauge of the nation's economy, it will benefit policyowners in two ways. First, it maximizes protection for each premium dollar while current high interest rates prevail or rise above the present level; and secondly, it maximizes the protection of guaranteed policy non-forfeiture values should interest rates ever decline."

Development of the concept is attributed to Life of Virginia's actuarial staff and new product group. More than a year in development, it will be marketed under the name of "Econo-Flex." The minimum amount of protection under the plan is $25,000. Pace said, "Simply stated, unlike typical plans of companies which attempt to forecast economic conditions 20, 30 or 40 years hence and charge today's buyer an inflexible level premium, these premiums change to reflect current economic conditions, while at the same time giving the policy-owner a dollar advantage now rather than a non-guaranteed estimate of possible dividends at some time in the future."

Insurance commissioners in a number of states have indicated keen interest in following the developments and public acceptance of this plan, which represents a departure from the traditional methods of determining life insurance cost.
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3. Philip Todisco, Region 1 Director—Boston, Mass.
4. During Registration on October 25
5. Thomas Lewis, Northeastern Section Director—Washington, D.C.

SECOND ROW

THIRD ROW
11. Paul Buchanan, Charles Hackett, Joseph Jenkins all of Colonial Williamsburg, Inc.
12. Mrs. Henry Taylor, Jr. and Mrs. Beverly Tucker distributing flowers to a delegate's wife
13. The Morning Program—Contrast I

FOURTH ROW
14. Delegate Luncheon on October 26
15. Donald Golden—Pittsburgh, Pa., Ronald Nattress, Allentown, Pa., Foster Tilson, Central Pa., Raymond Frank—Richmond, Va.—Workshop Moderators
16. Business Meeting

FIFTH ROW
18. Central Pennsylvania Delegation
19. Mrs. Fred Tilt, Mrs. and Mr. Mortimer Marshall, Mr. Fred Tilt, all of Washington, D.C.

To tell the Virginia Story

DECEMBER 1968
The entire Arena was designed for minimum lighting intensity of 100 F.C. with levels up to 300 F.C. in the center area for basketball, boxing, etc. These lighting levels are accomplished through the use of 128-1000 Watt metallic vapor fixtures and 128-1000 Watt quartz fixtures. This combination of metallic vapor and quartz will achieve excellent color rendition for color TV. The switching arrangement is flexible enough to provide for any type of athletic event or stage production desired. House lighting consists of incandescent units which can be dimmed as required in the air conditioned building.

Special attention has been given to the surrounding park and lake and it will be maintained year-around as a recreational area, with small boating facilities also provided. The landscaped parking area will accommodate over 3,000 automobiles.

Construction was begun in May 1968 by McDevitt & Street Construction Company, an affiliate of C. P. Street and Company, and completion is scheduled for September 1970.

Subcontractors & Suppliers

crease efficiency, but it was determined that there are certain types of work on which it has a negative effect. With this in mind, the developers have allowed for it in the building, have obtained a contract with a firm which furnishes this type of music, and are making it available to those tenants who wish to utilize it. Other unusual features include the availability of two-way communications antennae and electrical, communications and plumbing connections on a modular basis under all floors.

Southern Bank and Trust Company, the building's first tenant, moved in in early October and the developers expect total occupancy by 1970. General Contractor for the facility was Daniel Construction Company of Virginia, Inc.

Subcontractors & Suppliers
(All Richmond firms unless otherwise noted)
Daniel Construction Co. of Va., general contractor, concrete & carpentry; J. A. Wadler, Inc., excavating; McKinney Drilling Co., concrete caissons; Hammond Masonry Corp.; Sandston, masonry; Montague-Bettis Co., Inc., Lynchburg reinforcing steel; N. W. Martin & Bros., Inc., roofing, waterproofing; Economy Cast Stone Co., stone work and Roanoke Engineering Sales Co., Inc. (Lupton) windows and window walls.
in order to circulate particular library books from room to room when, for instance, a teacher wants to initiate a project requiring library services in her own room.

Art and music are taught either in classrooms or in the multi-purpose room as the teachers of these specialized subjects feel the need for work with small, intimate groups or with larger groups, perhaps involving more physical activity as part of a given project.

The multi-purpose room is used for lunch and for daily Chapel Services. Incidentally, the facilities for lighting the multi-purpose room make it possible to produce varying intensities and shades of light so that, for instance, the illumination used during Chapel Services is more subdued and "warmer" than that used for, say, art classes.

Playground facilities, tree-shaded areas, and large playing fields are all located adjacent to the Primary School building.

St. Christopher's is interested in seeing that boys learn as much as possible as easily and quickly as possible. This means that they must maintain small groups, specialized services, and the best educational materials while working in an orderly structured system in which they can provide as many new and valuable experiences as possible. The new building is proving to be both spacious enough and flexible enough to allow them to implement their program to a degree not possible in their former Primary School quarters.

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DECEMBER 1968
PAGE TWENTY-THREE
"Santa" (Continued from page 3) of being given a trial. In the disgrace of the post office, two commissions devoted months of study which resulted in the recommendation that the only hope for either efficiency or economy of operation lay in turning the postal system over to private enterprise. Here the "Powerful Interests" seem to be political, because the recommendations of the commissions apparently were quietly filed away.

Now, nothing has been seen about what "Interests" might be served by the noise of motorcycles, but I cannot believe such "Interests" could present a very strong case for this wanton and outrageous disturbance of urban life. To those who suffer the racket that shatters the normally not too quiet streets, it does seem that the noise possible to make with this type of machine is part of the charm for the motorcyclist. We can hear them start up a block away, with the crackle like an amplified machine-gun reaching a crescendo as it approaches, and then comes an insane burst, partly roar and partly shriek, which blasts through every part of every house on both sides of the street. From this ear-shattering peak, it cracks away with whines and sputtering blasts,

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leaving behind a pall of silence such as settles over a disaster area after a quake.

It might seem selfish to protest at this innocent pleasure in making noise if its only effect was a temporary deafening, the breaking off of conversations and perhaps sometimes a start that quickens the heartbeat. But the effects are not limited to such irritations and minor hardships. Children who have been put to sleep with difficulty are startled into a frightened wakefulness; the ill, to whom physicians have brought sedations to provide pain-relieving sleep, are aroused out of the induced relief from the victims, and substantiated by physicians, to prove that the motorcyclists who indulge in an orgy of violent sound produce definitely harmful effects on the health of persons in any and all of the above categories.

In addition to the harmful effects that can be observed on those persons in need of their rest, no sane reason can be advanced to justify allowing a single individual to bring disturbance to an entire neighborhood. I've lain awake late at nights and listened to one circling noise-carrier vibrating up and down and around our street and adjoining streets, and wondered by what legalistic reason suchshattering of the night's quiet was permitted. This reaction is, I know, not limited to me. When a roomful of people must cease talking to await the passing of one individual blasting out sounds to shake the stoutest nerves, I've seen friends groan, look upward in protesting despair or grow dangerously angry. One young friend, a former student, took on a faraway look of strange savagery, and, when questioned, confessed that he endured the ordeal by conjuring up fantasies of how he would destroy them. Another friend of mine, older, had to remove shotguns from his house for fear that in his reactive rage he would rush and bang away at the monster.

Surely, with all the talk of urban blight and the crisis of the cities, this is one area where a Santa could spread cheer without giving away a dime. I understand that Federal
Santa isn't much interested in any benevolence except squandering cash, but perhaps if the citizenry began sending in lists of their wants and preferences, which were based only upon "the thought" and not cash, some impression might be made. There seems nothing to lose by trying.

In the wish for the cessation of the motorcyclists' bedlam, it must be stressed that there is no wish to do away with the motorcycle. Even though the capacity to inflict noise upon the community, as a means of self-assertion, does seem to be inherent in the enjoyment of this form of transportation, I cannot think of any "Powerful Interest" which would be significantly affected by encouraging the bedlam-makers to find some less anti-social means of asserting themselves.

Needless to say, I've not the slightest notion that stray appeals such as this one would have the slightest effect upon those who have the power to prohibit public nuisances which are actually health hazards. But, if enough city-dwellers began sending in such simple wishes for Christmas, it is not impossible that somebody might take notice, and a real movement be started to relate our Washington Santa to the simple personal wants of those taxpayers who, in all truth, are almost losing the capacity to "wish."

In all the electioneering I read about from last August to November, and all the millions of words written by pundits on the candidates, I do not recall anyone saying one word about the innocent wants of our citizens. All programs and analyses of programs were devoted to warding off some sort of disaster or grappling with some problem created by the use of government ukase. Wouldn't Christmas be a propitious time to think again of those things that can be done to promote the common good by the Federal Claus giving ear to simple wants that carry the "thought" for the person who is to receive? In any event, it seems a good time at least to dream of "wishes" that do not seem at all unreasonable.

Clifford Dowdley

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