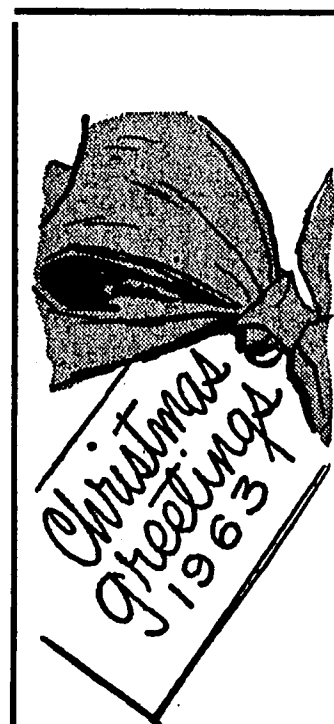


## Postage For Christmas Cards Same Today As In 1847

"People sending Christmas cards today at the 5¢ first class rate pay the same to mail Christmas greetings as Americans did well over a century ago," Postmaster Ben S. Houston noted today.

"Research shows that in 1847 the Post Office Department issued its first stamps, including a nickel stamp for the basic prepaid letter rate," Postmaster Houston said.

"And, of course, in those days a nickel could buy a meal where it



And thanks for your patronage.

CITY NEWS  
173 N. Main

## 'Christians Have A Common Message'

### Clergyman Sees Great Advances In Interfaith Relations

Christmas—Christendom's happiest holiday—is a time to celebrate a birth that gave purpose to a floundering world. We herald an event that fulfilled and brought promise of more fulfillment.

As we observe Christmas 1963, we also can celebrate solid progress toward that elusive goal Christ set for us—the brotherhood of man. This year saw unprecedented developments in interfaith and interreligious relations. There is no doubt that Christianity today is in a healthy ferment. The product of this fermentation can be, and there is reason to believe will be, closer unity and greater understanding among all faiths. Evidence is all about us that there is, indeed, a "religious revolution" in the world today.

What accounts for what Dr. Billy Graham calls "a spirit of ecumenicalism" in the Christian world?

Father Joseph Waters, minister of St. Theresa Catholic Church here, answers that question this way: "Among Christians today, there is less emphasis on the negative and, it naturally follows, more emphasis on the positive. Instead of concentrating on our differences, we are searching for common ground—basic principles on which we can build a foundation of understanding and mutual respect."

The priest, who has lived in North Carolina 17 years and in Mooreville two years, says he has seen "tremendous strides" in social relations of Catholics and Protestants in this state.

"In the last 17 years in predominantly Protestant North Carolina," he feels, "there have been great relaxations of social barriers by both faiths. And this has come about without sacrifice of principle by either faith."

Father Waters believes "the Christian community, right now, is as close as it has been in centuries." By this, the clergyman did not mean closer to merger, or even closer to seriously thinking about molding one Christian outlook. He meant closer man-to-man, less separated by a chasm of differing beliefs. He meant the Christian world today thinks of itself as such, and not so much in terms of who is right and who is wrong in the eyes of God. He meant that men have come to realize there is room for differences in the Christian family.

The Vatican Council bears out the validity of his words. The late Pope John felt the need for modernization within the structure of the Roman Catholic Church. Although the second session under Pope Paul as been called a "parliament of stalemate, compromise and delay," there is reason to believe a religious movement of great historical significance began under the guidance of John, "the Pope of peace."

Father Waters points to discussion between Catholic and Protestant as the best possible indication of increased understanding.

Frank debate on such positions as the place of Mary in worship and marriage between Catholic and Protestant has established that common ground Mr. Waters mentioned. Both faiths agree

that, all too often, both lose in interfaith marriages. Faced with seemingly incompatible religious differences, many couples drift away from the church altogether.

Today, religion is front page news around the world. This is due partly, no doubt, to news events concerning religion—the election of our first Catholic President, the calling of the Vatican Council, the death of one Pope, the election of another—but church news is front page because people want it there. Religion is playing an increasingly greater role in affairs of the world.

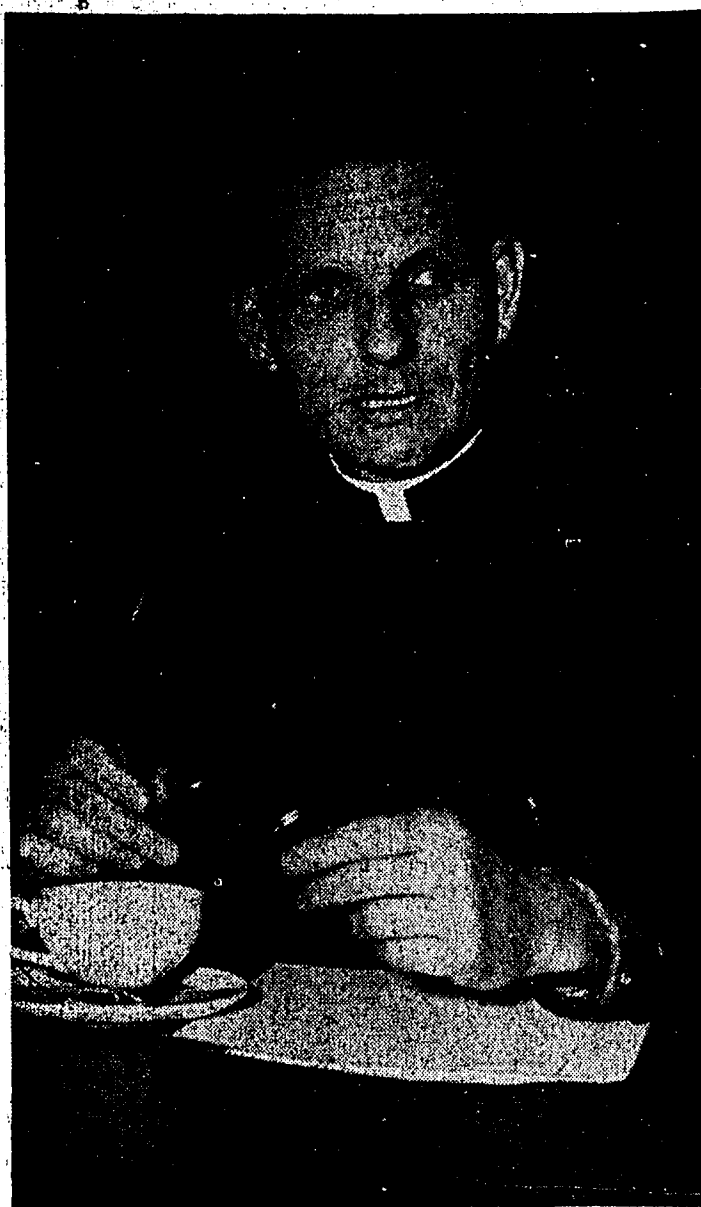
Non-Catholic observers at the council in Rome came away with glowing reports of the courteous treatment they received, and of the access to church things they were given. Likewise, non-Protestant observers at recent sessions of the World Council of Churches were lavish in their appreciation for having been accepted into the high-level meetings.

The recent announcement that Pope Paul will visit the Holy Land early in January is being viewed in divided Jerusalem as a pilgrimage to improve Roman Catholic relations with Jews and Moslems.

The Vatican Council, the first in nearly a century, is expected to continue another five years. The bishops know they have a lot to do, because there is so much they want to do. That Paul will be the first Pope to go to the Holy Land is still another sign that "modernization" within the Catholic Church also means dramatic changes in the attitude and approach of Catholics toward non-Catholics.

Protestants, too, have a great deal of work to do, within their own ranks as well as in their relations with the rest of the world. The world has grown small; it is no longer enough, Catholics and Protestants know, to live and let live.

At this Christmastime, more than ever before, Catholic and Protestant are joined in the realization they have a common message for the world—and they know they can spread this joyful word better together.



FATHER JOSEPH WATERS  
'There Is Less Emphasis On The Negative'

## Story Of The Christmas Card Recounted By Local Postmaster

The Mooreville post office will year than ever before, Postmaster Ben S. Houston predicted today.



"Home Of Quality Furniture For Less Money"  
**BLACKWELDER'S**  
Phone 663-5661 S. Main St. Mooreville, N. C.

while reflecting on the history of the Yule greeting card.

The local post office can not maintain a count on Christmas cards because there is no way of telling which letter envelopes contain cards, but the greeting card industry estimates several billion will be mailed this year during the holiday season.

Based on research by the National Greeting Card Association, the Postmaster gave this account of the background and development of the cards:

"Today, the greeting card industry estimates six billion greeting cards for all occasions are mailed annually in the United States. Statistically, this is estimated at about 110 Christmas cards per family on the average each year."

"We often think of the custom of sending cards as modern, but the origins of the greeting card can be traced back thousands of years."

"The earliest known holiday greeting was printed from a crude woodcut about 1450 in Germany. It shows the Christ Child standing in the bow of an ancient galley manned by angels, with the Holy Mother seated by the mast."

"History reveals people have always had a desire to communicate on a sentimental and emotional basis. For example, the ancient Egyptians conveyed greetings with papyrus scrolls."

"In the Dark Ages, the exchange of symbols — gloves, garters and bows — was regarded as a form of sentimental communication."

"The modern custom of sending greeting cards can be traced back through the centuries to the Chinese who celebrated the advent of the New Year with messages of good will."

"The first-known published Christmas card made its appearance in London, England in 1843. It was designed by John Calcott Horsley, British painter and illustrator of the period."

"In 1860, one thousand copies were lithographed, hand-colored and sold by an art shop."

"It is surprising how similar this first card more than a century ago was to many today. Small panels to the left and right show the charitable acts of 'clothing the poor' and 'feeding the hungry,' always connected with the Christmas season."

"The date of the first American Christmas card is not known, but an American authority on greeting cards, Ernest Dudley Chase of Boston, found what he believed to be the first."

"Authorities say there can be no question but that his discovery — a card which outside is 'A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year' from 'Pease's Great Variety Store' — is a very early card. Mr. Chase believes it to be the earliest known American card."

"Noting that he occasionally hears complaints that Christmas cards are just a 'troublesome new-fangled custom,' the Postmaster added, 'We can see that sending cards is a very old and honored tradition.'"

"Actually, I believe most of the complaining comes largely from those who wait until the last minute to get the cards and then try to remember the names and addresses of those to whom they should send them. Sending cards can be a pleasure after a little preparation — having a good mailing list and mailing promptly with the code on every card."

## IN IREDELL COUNTY 2 Cars At Every Third House

Traffic's getting heavier every day, you muse as you drive around in Iredell.

Everybody and his brother must have a car . . . or two, maybe, you think as you try to make your way from one place to another on the crowded highways.

Well, you aren't too far wrong. Figures show that there are two cars at every third house in Iredell county.

Thus, the automobile-buying spree the public has been on during the last two years is becoming visible.

It is to be seen in the rise in the local automobile population and in the number of shiny late-model cars on the roads.

Latest published figures show that there are now more cars in operation in the county, per 100 families, than there are in most sections of the United States.

As of the beginning of this year, with 22,490 passenger cars registered in Iredell county, there were

130 of them for every 100 families. This compares favorably with the ratio in the rest of the United States, where the number of cars per 100 families is 113. In the State of North Carolina it is 119 per 100.

The figures are based on a consumer markets study, taking in every part of the country, made by the Standard Rate and Data Service.

The upsurge in Iredell county has resulted in a two-year rise of 7 per cent in the number of passenger cars in use. The total has climbed from 21,940 in 1951 to approximately 22,490 at the start of this year, according to the SHDS figures.

The difference represents the

net increase in the number of cars, after allowing for the number that were scrapped. The scrapage has been high lately. The industry reports nearly five million cars have been junked in the United States in the past year alone.

This has been an important factor in the present auto boom. Another has been the trend, in more and more families, to two-car ownership.

The figures indicate that there are now 12 million families in the country with more than one car. That is eight times as many multiple-car owners as in 1949.

What has caused this rise? A number of things have contributed to it. Among them have been the growth of the suburbs, bringing the need for more transportation, the sharp rise in the number of car-hungry teenagers, easier financing and larger incomes.

Too much of the milk of human kindness is kept in a frozen state.



## The Christmas Story

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger." May the glorious Christmas story lift up your hearts and may its message bring to you enduring comfort and joy.

Chemspun Yarns, Ltd.

AND

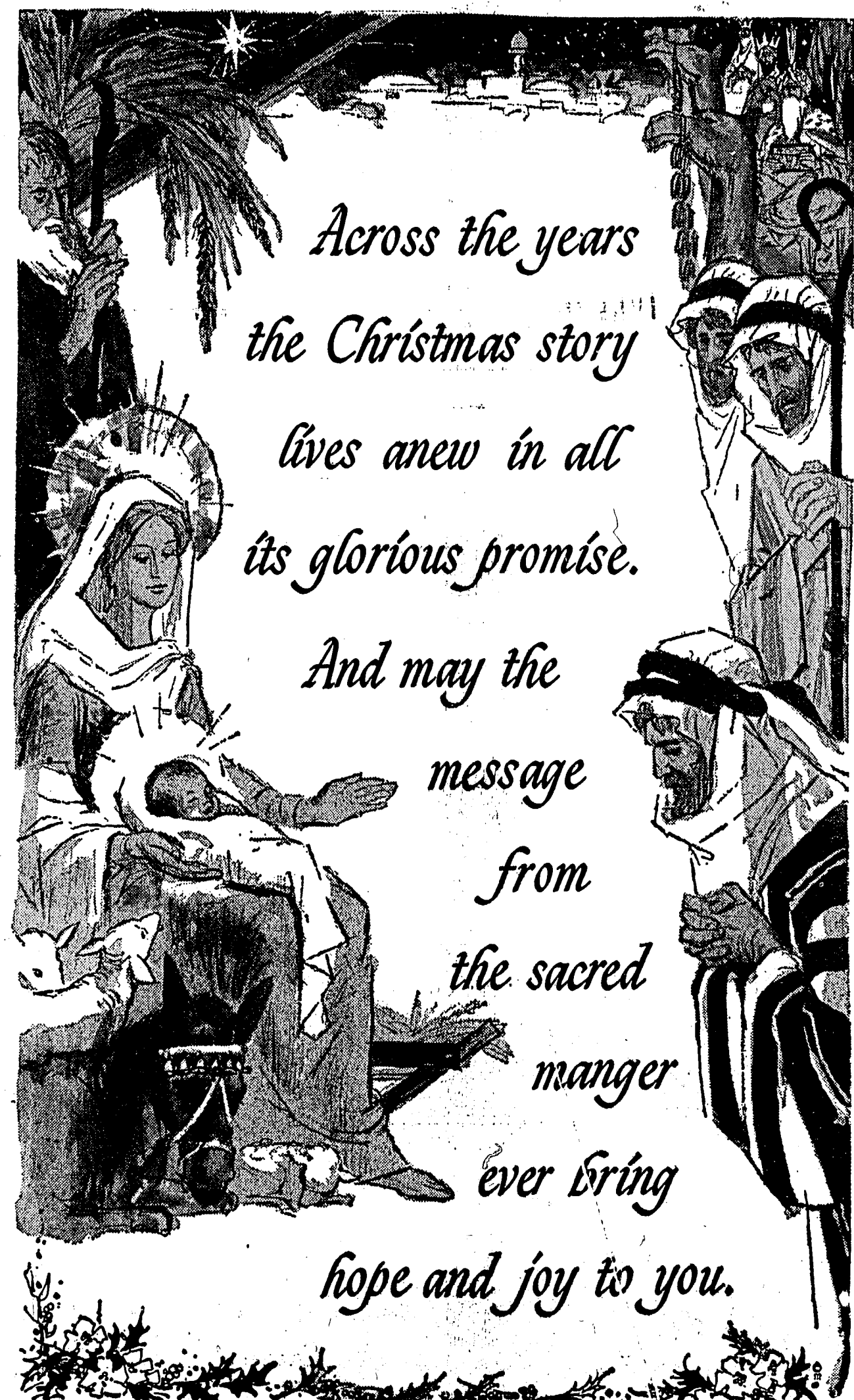
Templon Spinning Mills, Inc.



## A Christmas Message

Reverently, we remember a night of awe and wonder, when angels sang, shepherds watched and a shining Star guided Wise Men to the manger where a Child was born. We celebrate this holy holiday with thoughts for all our good friends everywhere, and with the hope that for you, the meaning of Christmas may be ever deeper, its joys ever greater.

★ The **Builders' Super Market**  
Statesville Highway Phone 663-7111



Across the years the Christmas story lives anew in all its glorious promise. And may the message from the sacred manger ever bring hope and joy to you.

Mooreville Motor Co., Inc.

266-274 North Broad St. D. L. No. 987 Mooreville, N. C.