

## In and Around Mt. Vernon

By Vallie Burton

Mattie Newton and mother, Vallie Burton visited Polly Finney and daughter, Robin in Frankfort recently.

Mrs. Harris Burton was in Richmond Monday.

Bobby Anglin and mother, Lillian Anglin were in Richmond Monday for Ms. Anglin to have surgery on her eye.

Sympathy is extended to all who have lost loved ones recently. May the Lord comfort each one.

Mr. and Mrs. Harris Burton were at Somerset Saturday.

Mattie Newton and mother, Vallie Burton were in Rutledge, Tennessee on Monday to attend the funeral of Ms. Burton's brother-in-law, Troy Roberts. They spent Monday night with Mrs. Roberts.

Mrs. Linda Eaton and mother, Patricia Holland were in Lexington recently.

Mrs. Mark Eaton celebrated her birthday recently. We wish her many

returns of the day.

Mr. Oliver Abney is improving after undergoing surgery recently. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Barbara Anglin and Lillian Anglin were in Berea Thursday for a check up on Lillian's eye.

Angie Eaton of Midway visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Eaton, 12 recently.

Mrs. Linda Eaton and Patricia Holland visited Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Couillard of Mooresville Friday evening.

Mattie Newton of Somerset and Dale Pery of Science Hill visited Vallie Burton Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Linda Eaton celebrated her birthday Saturday. We wish her many returns of the day.

Bernice Allen had surgery at Berea Hospital last week. We wish her a speedy recovery.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

on so long and everyone was so tired and disgusted. But, thank God it is over. We all need to keep all our leaders in our prayers.

Attending the Christmas Program at the Light House Baptist Church, Madison County one night last week were Mr. and Mrs. Gillis Gregory, Mrs. Hallie Alexander and Mrs. Irene Alexander. They really enjoyed it.

Among our recent guest were Mr. Cleus Peters on Sunday night.

Due to road conditions my husband and I have missed two weekend services at Sunday School and Church. We really miss not being able to attend.

Well, Christmas time is here again. Another year is nearly gone. God has blessed us in many ways.

I don't understand how some people can celebrate Christmas when they don't even want to mention the name of Jesus or even attend church. After all God gives them every breath they breathe. So to every person that reads this column, I wish for you the best Christmas that you've ever had. Let your heart be filled with love and pray for one another. May God bless you all.

### "A Christmas Prayer"

In this most blessed season, May our thoughts unite to share, The glowing inspiration of this special Christmas prayer. May God grant us wise and loving hearts that each day we may see,

new joys to give, new ways to live, in Peace and Harmony.

### "Sweet n' Sour"

(Cont. from A2)

soon we were all quietly sneaking down stairs to get mom and dad up so we could raid our stocking and finally see what the Jolly old Saint had left. From the top of each stocking a striped candy cane was visible in all but one, Herb's. Mom and Dad, whose bed was close by, was sitting on the side of it watching as Herb reached for his and began searching for the stick of candy and when he didn't find it, emptied the contents on the floor, then, when he saw what was in it, ashes, cold clinkers from the fireplace, dried up orange and apple peels, with tears in his eyes said, I didn't mean it, I just repeated what the boys told me. I really do believe in Santa. Claus for he brought Zi a doll and Ish,

a knife and the baby a rattle. Then Dad silently arose and handed Herbert another stocking filled just like ours. Candy canes, an orange, apple, handful of nuts plus a toy. Each child always got a toy and some kind of game we all played with. And I did get a doll, a kewpie doll that was sitting on the mantel. Soon our cousins began arriving to see what we got and compare them with their loot before we tried out the games of checkers, dominos, etc. Big and little alike had something to play.

Dad was never out of work, usually a twelve hours a day, seven days a week one, and Mom was a good cook so we never had to worry about Christmas dinner. I certainly do remember having turkey, but I cannot do remember the wonderful chicken and candied sweet potatoes, fresh cranberry sauce and all that goes with it, topped off with a stack cake, and apple pies with the tender flaky pie crust only she could make. And nine hungry kids made short work of getting rid of it. We certainly didn't have to worry about leftovers.

Too soon we were teenagers and young married adults beginning their own families but never breaking the ties of family unity when Christmas came. The older ones brought their little ones home where they could share in the fun we had all shared as children. It was then a problem of being sure every one had a gift to open on Christmas morning.

Jobs were still scarce and wages low, but we had learned years before how to make do when the going was rough so we put our small change in our pockets and headed for the five and dime store to do our shopping. Back then the five and dime meant just that, one could do a lot of buying little things like handkerchiefs, socks, knives, toys, kitchen gadgets and small tools with a dime, and there were no taxes to be added. It wasn't big gifts that counted in my family, it was the love given with it.

The habits of childhood carried over into my life on the farm and my first Christmas was also my first disagreement with Mat's way of celebrating it. He didn't understand me when I said I wanted a tree to decorate and sprigs of holly tied with red

ribbon put in all the windows. He had planned on cutting pine-knobs for lighting and firewood for the coming cold weather. I didn't want to open the gifts from my folks and let Judy, my year old baby, play with her toys beneath the tree I had finally talked him into cutting and setting up in the living room which I had decorated with a few left over him Ohio, I won, and I think when he saw the smile on that happy little face as Judy tore open a box with a pretty doll in it, and stared with enchantment at the tree with bright bulbs, andinsel strung over it from top to bottom, he understood why I had wanted to celebrate Christmas the way I had been reared. Then I opened my gifts and talked Mat into opening his before he took off for the kindling pile and we had enough kindling to last till spring.

A few years later, Mat joined the fun of enjoying the Christmas Holidays with his family. Now we had a son, Rodney to add joy to the family gathering at Yalvide. We shopped, as I had when I was young, to simple toys, a ball, toy car or truck for Rod, a doll, tiny dishes for Judy plus books and clothes for both. I remember Judy saying once, Mom we always get in September, how true that was, we had to wait for the tobacco to sell, just before Christmas, before we had the money to buy what was needed in September, such as shoes, pants, socks and school clothes. Yet I never forgot the joy of a toy or game so each child always had one tucked into his/her stocking on Christmas morning along with an orange, apple, banana, colorful Christmas candy and a handful of mixed nuts. And it became a tradition when they were small to always find a little toy with wheels they could race across the floor peeping out the top of their stocking. Even during their college years when they came home for the holidays, often accompanied by friends, they would all find a tiny car or airplane peeping out at them. And laughter was mixed with challenges as each owner of a tiny vehicle with wheels tried to be the winner of the race across the kitchen floor.

We all loved to get Christmas shopping for it was then we had the chance to go to Somerset, our closest town

and also the biggest town in the area. This was before the days of shopping malls so every store had its own identity and the merchandise was not a copy of the merchandise next door.

It was truly a joy to shop from the store of one's choice and know he/she would be taken care of by a competent clerk that would offer assistance to the customer. Then go to another and receive the same attention. Judy and I would take our time to make our choices and while we were doing so Rod would be finished with his, he knew what he wanted and what section of the five and dime it was located in so he would find it quickly, so he and his dad could wander through the rest of the fascinating things one finds in a dime store and would be waiting for us patiently beside the door so we could be home in time to milk and get in the wood before dark.

Then came the big night of wrapping what we had bought. This was usually Christmas Eve after the tree had been decorated and ready for the final touch of, gifts under it. Each person would take his purchases and head for the privacy of his corner in the house. Scissors and tape would be passed from one to the other without thought of peeping at what was being wrapped. Even though we may have been curious, no one wanted to know what it was until it was revealed the next morning. This was our big fun and laughter night we all shared and when Polly joined the family nine years later it was her turn to bring new laughter and fun under the tree Christmas morning, which she did willingly and acted as if she had been a part of it all the time.

Now the reason for this celebration was not forgotten, Jesus was the reason for the season. He was the Son of God and had been born in a manger in Bethlehem to the Virgin Mary with the message of Love. For GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOSEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM WOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

This will be my last article till after Christmas so I WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HOPE YOU REMEMBER JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.

## Fairview News

By Mrs. Hubert Chastren

Greetings to all. We are having winter time. This is the second snow fall in December this year. Due to road conditions several churches are canceling services and schools are closing. But after all this winter time and we can't expect anything else.

Services were conducted at Fairview as usual. We are thankful to have Bro. Albert Gene Griffin as our Interim Pastor as we are still without a pastor at this time. Attendance was good Sunday morning and also for

the Christmas Program Sunday night. Sunday School attendance was 92. Let us never forget how good the Lord is to all of us.

Our community was deeply saddened in the death of one of our members recently, Edgar Anderkin whom we all loved and respected. The family and loved ones have our sympathy and prayers. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Well, after 36 days of counting and recounting votes and other items of business we finally have a president-elect and aren't we glad? It drug

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December 20th - 25th and will  
reopen December 26th  
Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year

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During this special season, celebrating the birth of Christ, please know that my family's sincerest wish is that you receive many blessings in the New Year.

So, from my family and my law office staff,  
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Jeff, Twila & Thomas  
Burdette