



Fifty ~ Seventh Edition

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# Gazette celebrates It's One Year Anniversary!

by John Tiley

The first "official" edition of the Waxhaw Gazette published One Year Ago this week! On December 21st of 2007 the Gazette had at last landed in its current "proper" address. There were considerable efforts expended to accomplish that feat a year ago... underhanded people trying to hijack the site address, troubles with hosting companies and the stress of publishing a new paper that I was then hoping would capture the attention and respect of you, the people of Waxhaw.

It is hard to believe that an entire year has passed. I can now count many of you as new friends and acquaintances. And I have written many articles about Waxhaw, covered numerous events and spoke of more "worldly" stories that have, and continue, to affect us and our way of life.

Yet, more than anything else, I am continually amazed at the openness and giving nature of Waxhaws' Residents. Whether it is neighbors in need or soldiers in far away places defending our way of life. Nobody is forgotten here, if there was ever any doubt that I was doing the right thing, in the right place... that doubt has long ago been erased. My goal is that, as time moves onward, the Gazette will move along with it, becoming a more intricate part of life here in Waxhaw.

As the New Year approaches, I would like to say Thank You All for your continued patronage and support.



**Around Town:**

~ ~ ~ ~  
**Just in case you  
haven't had  
time to read  
about  
Christmas  
Safety...**



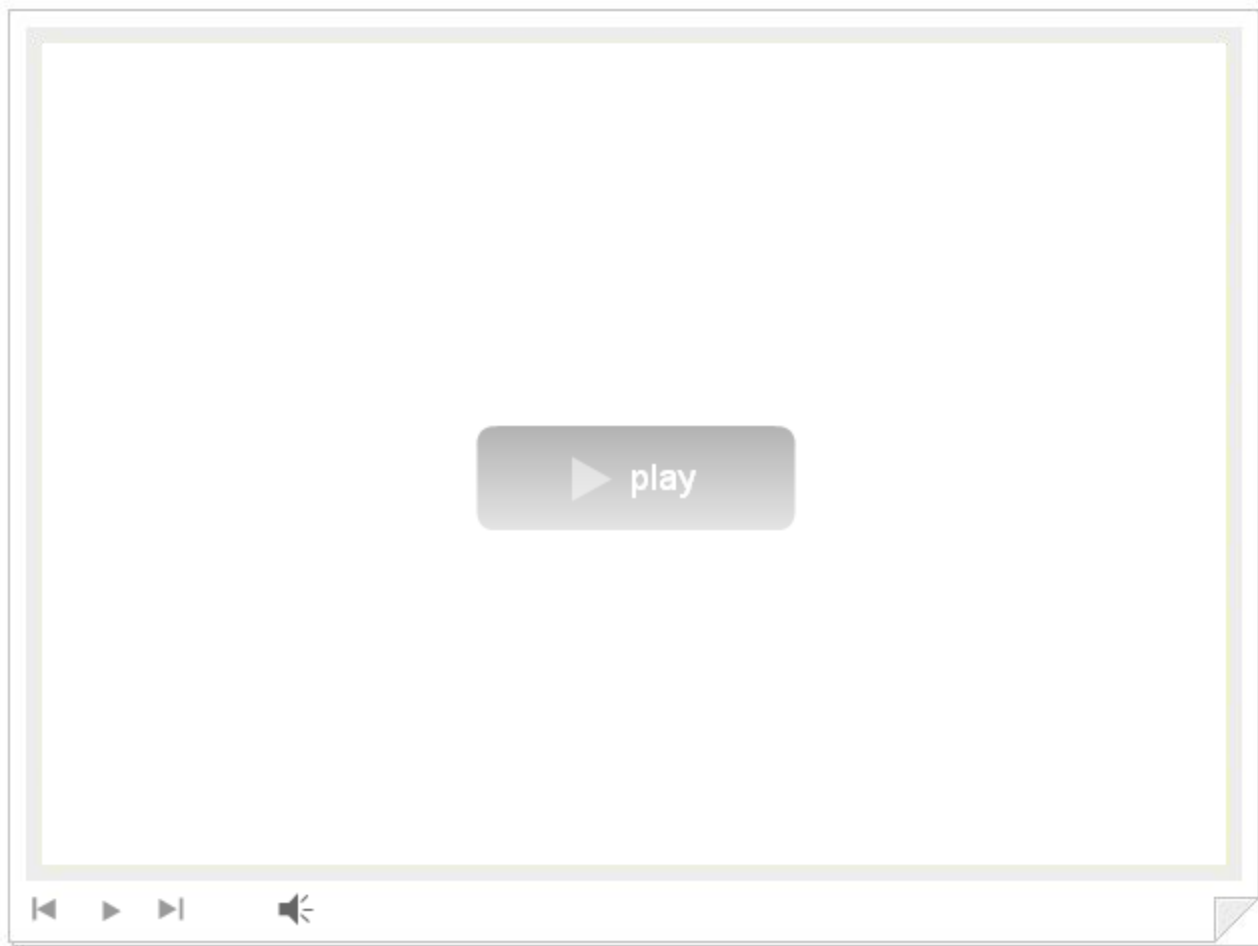
As the Season is upon us we are all busy with preparing our homes for the Holidays with lights, trees and decorations of all types.

While we are preoccupied with this time of year it is very important to take a few minutes to review safety tips to insure we have a incident free time. The Waxhaw Volunteer Fire Department offers tips to make sure your holiday is a safe one!

*See the Living Well Page for more information >*

## Held Over by Popular Demand The Christmas Parade Show remains posted here!

*This may take a few moments to download, so please be patient, it is worth the wait.*



*I personally want to thank Lorayn Deluca from Image Security and Chuck DeMund of the Rotary for supplying me with a great selection of photos of which I was able to produce this slide show. So without further ado, sit back, turn up the volume on your speakers and enjoy a show full of memorable moments.....*

Welcome to this weeks edition of The Waxhaw Gazette! If you own a business and have any news worthy happenings planned or know of someone new coming in, send me a press release and I will be happy to include it. Contact me directly with comments or suggestions at: [jtiley@thewaxhawgazette.com](mailto:jtiley@thewaxhawgazette.com)

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# “Are you ready for Christmas”?

*Pery Canan, contributing writer*

*(reprinted from last years edition)*

**T**his is dedicated to my friends and family...

Last Monday morning as I was preparing to mount the Stair master at the gym, I was greeted by a wonderful friend already well into her 60 minute daily infliction of pain and suffering. She makes it look so darn easy!

As I procrastinated setting the controls and readying myself for torture she smiled and asked me “Are you ready for Christmas”? I thought for just a moment and came back with my witty answer, “Good question, let me check with the wife and get back to you”. She almost fell off her machine in laughter. No doubt she’s married!!!! We exchanged comments like...”Still have lots to shop for” and “kids and families are arriving this coming week”. I even joked about how easy it is for us men to shop online. Heck... Best Buy gives you up until 11am December 20 to place an order and have it delivered by Christmas. Man...that’s my kind of place! But once the conversation slowed I started to think much more about her very simple question. For the next several minutes I struggled about my answer to her. Was that the right thing to say? Could I have better used this moment to talk about how fortunate we both were to have been blessed with healthy families, a roof over our head, an abundance of food on the table just to name a few? Or even better yet, I could have mentioned how my church was having 7 services on Christmas Eve. Maybe I should have invited her to one?

Well I decided to take this simple question on the road and perform a mini research study by asking others with whom I came into contact. After all, advertising and market research is my occupation. I wanted to know what people were thinking! So, over the course of the week, I asked friends, business associates and more importantly I even asked complete strangers. My research office was gas stations, business meetings, convenient stores, Rotary meetings, phone solicitations and Publix. Not surprisingly every one of them answered all pretty much the same. “Are you ready for Christmas”? Their responses centered on gift buying, food, reuniting with family (that’s a good one) and just the overall craziness of this time of year! “Once I hear about this big case I have....” or “just one more gift to buy and I am done” or here’s a good one “I am waiting to hear back from a potential buyer for my condo in South Beach”.... Right!!!!

Then came last night (Thursday night)! I have come to look forward to Thursday night. Churches and volunteers join together to serve a hot meal (yummy mash potatoes and meat loaf) cooked to perfection for as many as 200 men, women and sometimes children. Yes... even children! They start to arrive hours before probably because they figure this might be the only meal they’ll receive for days. Fortunately, we never run out!

They are our homeless. They live on the streets, in cars, under overpasses and in parks. They show up hungry, dirty, and with all their personal belongings in a backpack or small suitcase.

**I** But on this night it really doesn’t matter where they come from, what they wear, how they smell or look or how little they have. What only matters is that they are here and we have the privilege to serve them, love them and give them a sense of healing and HOPE!

This Thursday night would be special. It was the last dinner we would serve before Christmas. All I could think about was where these men and women will be while my family and I would be opening gifts after Christmas Eve Service.

The question that I had been asking all week long seemed inappropriate for this gathering. But God was nudging me, as He often does, to ask anyway!

After dinner we invited all of our guests out to the parking lot to receive a gift from a generous young lady. Almost single handedly she had prepared a backpack with toiletry items and a Christmas Card. As each person approached her SUV they were greeted by a welcoming committee of handshakes and/or hugs. It was a very moving experience.

I used this opportunity to ask my question. Needless to say the answers were much different than earlier in the week.

One person told me that he had mailed a card to his wife and daughter. How they were the only people in his life that mattered and how much he missed them. Another said that he was hoping to have a good night sleep BEFORE the police wake him Christmas morning. But one answer totally caught me off my guard. I believe her name was Jennifer. She told me that she was praying to God that He would provide her with clean clothes and a shower so that she could attend Christmas Eve service at a local church and celebrate a very special birthday. She went on to tell me that her gift was waiting there. She told me how blessed she was that our God would love and care so much about her that He would give her the gift of His son, Jesus. Then, without any hesitation, she invited me to attend the service with her. I felt this numbness take over my entire body. This year had been challenging to most if not all of us. We have lost loved ones and we or someone we know has probably battled health issues. Others have been stretched out financially.

But through it all something has remained constant and unwavering, God’s profound and unconditional love for all of us which he proved when He gave us that very special gift some 2000 years ago.

That gift was, is and will always be available to me, to you and to everyone.

So...are YOU ready for Christmas? I know that Jennifer is!

May God continue to bless you and yours.



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Small?**



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**Prices  
for gas in the  
Waxhaw area...**

	3/20/08	12/25/08
Texaco:	<b>\$3.19.9</b>	<b>\$1.58.9</b>
Pure:	<b>\$3.24.9</b>	<b>\$1.59.9</b>
Little General:	<b>\$3.24.9</b>	<b>\$1.61.9</b>
Shell:	<b>\$3.24.9</b>	<b>\$1.58.9</b>
Wax. In n Out:	<b>\$3.26.9</b>	<b>\$1.61.9</b>
Mineral Springs:		
M. S. Grocery	<b>\$3.20.9</b>	<b>\$1.61.9</b>
Texaco:	<b>\$3.21.9</b>	<b>\$1.58.9</b>
BP on New Town	<b>\$3.21.9</b>	<b>\$1.58.9</b>

*Editors Note: Usually I personally check the prices posted for the above companies. However, occasionally when time is short I call the stations on the phone to check for current prices. If no pricing is offered the above reflects the last visually confirmed pricing.*

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**"Always do right -  
This will gratify  
some people and  
astonish the rest."  
--Mark Twain**

## And now, Our Weekly Dose of Humor directly from the Internet.....

bits and pieces that your Editor will not testify to for correctness, accuracy nor even believability but they are certainly humorous? So Enjoy!

### REMEMBER THIS AT CHRISTMAS TIME



According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December. Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring.

Therefore, according to EVERY historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, EVERY single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a girl.

We should've known... ONLY women would be able to drag a fat-man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost.

### Comparing Christmas with Hanukkah Date: Thu, 25 Dec 2008 15:38:09 +0000

This is hilarious!

If anyone asks you what the difference is between Christmas and Chanukah, you will know what and how to answer!

1. Christmas is one day, same day every year, December 25.

Jews also love December 25th. It's another paid day off work. We go to movies and out for Chinese food and Israeli dancing. Chanukah is 8 days. It starts the evening of the 24th of Kislev, whenever that falls. No one is ever sure. Jews never know until a non-Jewish friend asks when Chanukah starts, forcing us to consult a calendar so we don't look like idiots. We all have the same calendar, provided free with a donation from the World Jewish Congress, the kosher butcher, or the local Sinai Memorial Chapel (especially in Florida ) or other Jewish funeral home.

2. Christmas is a major holiday.

Chanukah is a minor holiday with the same theme as most Jewish holidays. They tried to kill us, we survived, let's eat.

3. Christians get wonderful presents such as jewelry, perfume, stereos...

Jews get practical presents such as underwear, socks, or the collected works of the Rambam, which looks impressive on the bookshelf.

4. There is only one way to spell Christmas.

No one can decide how to spell Chanukah, Chanukkah, Chanukka, Channukah, Hanukah, Hannukah, etc.

5. Christmas is a time of great pressure for husbands and boyfriends. Their partners expect special gifts.

Jewish men are relieved of that burden. No one expects a diamond ring on Chanukah.

6. Christmas brings enormous electric bills.

Candles are used for Chanukah. Not only are we spared enormous electric bills, but we get to feel good about not contributing to the energy crisis.



**THIS IS INDIA.  
IT IS WHERE  
YOU CALL  
WHEN YOU  
HAVE A  
TECHNICAL  
PROBLEM WITH  
YOUR  
COMPUTER.**



7. Christmas carols are beautiful...Silent Night, Come All Ye Faithful....

Chanukah songs are about dreidels made from clay or having a party and dancing the hora. Of course, we are secretly pleased that many of the beautiful carols were composed and written by our tribal brethren. And don't Barbra Streisand and Neil Diamond sing them beautifully?

8. A home preparing for Christmas smells wonderful. The sweet smell of cookies and cakes baking. Happy people are gathered around in festive moods.

A home preparing for Chanukah smells of oil, potatoes, and onions. The home, as always, is full of loud people all talking at once.

9. Women have fun baking Christmas cookies.

Women burn their eyes and cut their hands grating potatoes and onions for latkes on Chanukah. Another reminder of our suffering through the ages.

10. Parents deliver to their children during Christmas.

Jewish parents have no qualms about withholding a gift on any of the eight nights.

11. The players in the Christmas story have easy to pronounce names such as Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.

The players in the Chanukah story are Antiochus , Jud ah Maccabee, and Matta whatever. No one can spell it or pronounce it. On the plus side, we can tell our friends anything and they believe we are wonderfully versed in our history.

12. Many Christians believe in the virgin birth.

Jews think, "Joseph, you idiot, snap out of it. Your woman is pregnant, you didn't sleep with her? Here's the number of my shrink".

13. In recent years, Christmas has become more and more commercialized.

The same holds true for Chanukah, even though it is a minor holiday. It makes sense. How could we market a major holiday such as Yom Kippur? Forget about celebrating. Think observing. Come to synagogue, starve yourself for 27 hours, become one with your dehydrated soul, beat your chest, confess your sins, a guaranteed good time for you and your family. Tickets a mere \$200 per person.

Better stick with Chanukah!

yes... a very happy Chanukah! ! !

shalom... Ya'll

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