

Our Savior, Jesus Christ

By FICKLEN GUIN
Pastor and Columnist
(Matt 1:1-25 and Matt 2: 1-13)

In the beginning of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, we are given the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ, whom God sent into our world to be our Saviour from our sins committed during our life on Earth. This is the greatest miracle God ever performed for mankind, who lost their way through sinning against God our Creator.

In Matthew 1:1-17, we are given 42 generations of mankind leading up to the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1:16 says, "And Jacob begat Joseph, the husband of Mary of whom were born Jesus, who is called Christ."

Matthew 1:18 goes on to say, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph (engaged, as we know it today) before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost."

"Then Joseph, her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he (Joseph) thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save His people from their sins.'" (verses 19-21)

"Now all of this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord to the prophet saying, 'Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and thy shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is God with us.'" (verses 22-23)

"Then Joseph, being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife, and knew her not till she brought forth her firstborn son; and he called his name Jesus." (verse 25)

"When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, behold, there came wisemen from the east to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east and we come to worship him.'" (Matthew 2: 1-2)

In the beginning, God lets the world know that His Son Jesus, born of a Jewish woman, is the Saviour of the whole world.

"When Herod the King had heard these things, he was troubled, and all

Jerusalem with him." (verse 3) Our world is still troubled when it comes to our faith in God. It seems like mankind has a hard time coming to be unified in their faith in God, who created all of us.

Herod gathered all the chief priests and scribes, and demanded of them where Christ should be born. (verse 4) They told him that it was written by the prophet that Bethlehem of Judaea was to be the place from which a Governor would come to rule my people Israel. Then Herod began to inquire of the wise men diligently what time did the star appear in the sky.

Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the young child, and when ye have found him, bring me word again that I may come and worship him also." (Matthew 2:8)

The wise men departed and lo the star, which they saw in the east, went before them til it came and stood over the place where the young child was. And the wise men rejoiced with exceeding great joy. When they came into the house, they saw the young child, and they fell down and worshipped him, and gave him treasures made of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way." (verses 9-12)

When this happened, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream that he should take the young child and his mother and flee into Egypt, for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." (verse 13)

VINTAGE WILKES

The Simowitzes, "Always Busy"

By SKEET WILLINGHAM
Local Historian

While back Robin Lahr asked me about the "Izzie Always Busy" sign on the Pop-Lahr Possibilities building. Well, today I'll begin to share the story. It's a tale of two fascinating families... so it will be presented in two parts!

Both families were of central European Jewish ancestry and both made a significant impact not just on our Washington but elsewhere. Today, the conversation features a family recorded in their native Hungary/Slovakia as Samunovics (in America as Simowitz).

Chaim Ha Kohen (Hebrew meaning "of the priesthood")

The Mayor's Corner

Expansion encourages growth—

By WILLIAM DEGOLIAN
Mayor

Is Washington on the cusp of a housing boom? I would not go that far, but there is good reason to expect that people would move here as more housing becomes available. Augusta/Evans and Athens are seeing significant economic growth, along with the increases in population that go along with that. In Augusta, the opening of the Georgia Cyber Center combined with the U. S. Army's new Cyber command at Fort Gordon has created many new jobs and significant need for additional housing.

The huge Amazon Fulfillment Center at Exit 183 on Interstate 20 (just two exits beyond Wash-

ington Exit 172), already employs hundreds and will ultimately create 3,000 additional jobs. The resulting growth is expected to benefit Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond and Columbia Counties. We are going to get our share of the growth in Washington/Wilkes as well. As these workers and their families learn of the charm and ease of Washington and the new 4-lane U.S. Highway 78/State Route 17 from the Amazon Center, some or perhaps many of them will choose Washington.

Similarly, Athens long ago outgrew its reputation as a sleepy university town. Atlanta's vibrant growth has spread towards Athens, and it has evolved into a growing commercial center. Some of that population growth will

make it our way.

It is because of this that we are looking now in Washington to start building new housing. Recently, the city was deeded a tract of nearly 30 acres on Andrew Drive that is prime for new residential construction. The City Council expects soon to put out a Request for Proposal to home builders interested in developing residential housing on that site.

Stay tuned. Washington is waking up!

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your mayor!

Corrections

As painting a masterpiece is a tedious task to the master, before he becomes a master, so is editing to an editor who has done little editing before. This week's correction is to last week's story regarding the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

• At the meeting, a new chairman and vice-charman were elected to the commission. This newspaper reported that the vote was unanimous. It was not. Former chairman Larry Hill did indeed vote for himself to remain in his position as Parks and Rec Chairman. Thus, the vote was less than unanimous.

We apologize for any confusion this error may have caused.

The News-Reporter team

Back in the day

...Continued from page 4

Council and reviewed activities and accomplishments of the fire department.

Charles "Chip" Fievet has been named Wilkes County STAR Student for 1997, according to an announcement made by the Washington-Wilkes Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of the STAR Student/Teacher program

in Wilkes County.

Krista Cochran, a member of the Wilkes County 4-H Club, showed the grand champion steer at the 43rd Washington Area Steer and Heifer Show held Saturday, March 8, at the McGill-Woodruff Agriculture Center on the North By-Pass in Washington.



Yechiel Samunovics (1856-1919) was born in Velke Kopusany, the son of a Rabbi, Eleazer, hence the Ha Kohen. Chaim's first wife Anna Mihaly died in 1892. There were three young children: Regina, Rose, and Israel. Before leaving Homonna, Hungary for the United States Chaim married Chana Friedman (1868-1945). The Samunovics would have a daughter Esther born in 1893. By 1895 they had arrived in Boston. Chaim was now Henry Simowitz, Chana was Hannah (or Honi), another son Louis had been born and they were all off to Cincinnati. Three more sons were born there--Harry, Joseph, and Samuel. Before 1905 they had resettled to Georgia, first in Augusta where Louise and Bernard were born and then Waynesboro by 1913 and the birth of Mary Margaret, their last child. All eleven children would live long productive lives.

Henry was a merchant and store owner in Augusta, Waynesboro, and Washington, helping set up

his son Israel and son-in-law Leo Krumbein (who married Esther Simowitz) in the dry goods business. The "Krumbein connection" will be the next installment of this story.

Joe and Sam joined their brother Israel (yes, this the Izzy/ Izzie of "Always Busy" fame! Joe and Sam had attended Richmond Academy and excelled athletically. Sam was still high school age in 1919, entering Washington High. Thanks to Sam and Joe Simowitz the Washington High football team was established, Sam becoming the quarterback and Joe assisting as a coach. The Terrors, later Bearcats, finally Tigers were born! Joe continued to coach into 1921 when game times on Fridays or Saturdays created a problem for his Jewish faith. Baptist preacher Homer Grice, who had no such conflict, took over as coach, a fine example of ecumenical behavior!

The brothers also helped out Izzie and the Krumbeins before moving on to other pursuits. A

tireless promoter filled with a wonderful sense of humor, Izzie Simowitz was one of Washington's most popular businessmen. He had bravery as well, serving under Gen. Pershing in 1915 chasing Pancho Villa and then in World War I. He married Bertha Rabinowitz in Philadelphia in 1919 and their son Henry was born here in 1922. In the early 1930s his family moved to Augusta where, as Izzie Simon, he again established himself as a pillar of the community. Its successor business here was another local legend, Blackmon's, as Jimmy Blackmon bought out Izzie's.

Sam also spent many years in Augusta marrying Bess Lubow. Their son, Norman Simowitz, was a familiar political figure in Augusta for many years.

For much of the Twentieth Century, Washington's Jewish community was vibrant and influential, the Simowitz family... and the "Izzie Always Busy" sign...being emblematic of their presence.

ACROSS THE SAVANNAH

Cotton pickin' memories

By TOM POLAND
A Southern Writer

My jaunts around the South take me past old haunts, a cotton gin now and then. I've seen gins in Salters, Bishopville, and other rural places. They sit idle. A spell back I ventured inside an old gin. Gear wheels, belts and pulleys, ropes, and large vacuum pipes told me it had been a place of din, this cotton gin. Powdery white dust and tufts of cotton told me it was a dusty dry place. Sure enough half a dozen old timey fire extinguishers huddled amid spider webs floured with cotton dust.

My excursions take me past a good many cotton fields too. When I see a cotton field, memories blaze up. First among my memories are the stories Mom told of picking cotton. Away down South on our autumn Sunday drives we couldn't avoid farm country. It surrounded us and sometimes we passed a field of cotton. Mom paid attention to those fields. Her dad held her and her brothers and sisters out of school to pick cotton. She talked about how picking made her hands

hurt. A tinge of resentment colored her words, and I picked something myself. I picked up that mom felt cotton hurt her education. She never got over it best I could tell, though I know too that she and her sister, Evelyn, and others played in big piles of cotton as kids.

Second among my memories is a bale of cotton sitting on a flatbed truck. That truck sat beneath a large oak at Granddad Poland's farm in the 1950s. I knew he grew cotton but I can't recall ever seeing one of his fields. Today I see big round bales of cotton but in Granddad's day burlap and cords held the bales together. If I freed my imagination a tad, the bale looked like a big loaf of light bread, as Granddad put it. "Thelma, get me some light bread."

Third among my memories ... I was traveling a back road late one night. A full moon had turned the land silver and the highway's center stripe glowed as if lit by a black light. Rounding a sharp curve, moonlight bathed a cotton field with silver light and thousands of cotton puffs glowed with unworldly brilliance. That led to another memory of Mom's, a more joyous recall. They'd pick cotton on full moon nights and make a party of it with cookies, "pulled candy" (taffy), popcorn, and peanuts.

Fourth among my white, fluffy recollections is a large field of cotton away down South Georgia

way, Climax, Georgia, to be specific. A big field blazed up white to my left but dead ahead in the road lay the real attraction: a diamond-back rattler, the biggest I'd seen. It stretched across half the road and such was its girth it looked like an oak limb.

Mom picked cotton. Who ginned it? I don't know. Back home in Lincoln County, Georgia, the Historical Park holds the 1840 Rees Cotton gin. I don't think Mom's cotton ended up there. Most likely it went to a gin in Wilkes County, which she lived closer to than the gin down in Lincoln County.

When I see cotton fields and gins my trip reroutes to a distant place called Memory Lane. I think of a young girl in a cotton field wondering what she's missing at school. I see a Georgia cracker taking his bales to the gin, and dread fills me when I think of rattlers and cotton stalks, though our reptilian fears are without basis for the most part.

And down near Texarkana way, I hear folks sing that when those cotton bolls get rotten they can't pick very much cotton. I suspect Mom would have been okay with that, though I know, too, that she loved those moonlight nights in those lunar-lit silver fields with cookies and other treats. It was a night of work but a night extravagant in what were some hard, hard times.

Eighth week of session with the Georgia General Assembly

...Continued from page 4

legislation would greatly benefit these individuals, especially as the cost of living and inflation has increased recently.

Additionally, my colleagues and I passed two bills that would encourage hands-on agricultural experiences for Georgia students. First, House Bill 1303 would authorize the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) to implement agricultural education programs in all public elementary schools. This bill would also require schools to hire an agricultural education teacher for these programs, and the GaDOE would evaluate the success of the program at the end of this year. We also passed House Bill 1292 to ensure that students would not be counted as absent from school when they participate in our state's invaluable 4-H activities and programs. These bills seek to educate and expose more Georgia students to our state's agriculture industry and hopefully, encourage more students to explore one of the many careers in agriculture someday.

In other news, we were joined by Kirby Smart, head football coach for the University of Georgia Bulldogs, in the House Chamber on Tuesday. It was an

exciting moment as Coach Smart was the first special guest invited to join us on the House floor since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020. The House was proud to recognize Coach Smart for leading the Dawgs to their 2021 College Football Playoff National Championship victory, and we wish his team the best of luck as they defend their national championship title next season.

It is hard to believe that we are now in the final month of the 2022 legislative session. While I am legislating on behalf of our community over this next month, I hope you reach out to me with any questions or concerns you have about the legislative process or bills that may be pending.

NOTICE TO READERS

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