

EASTLAND TELEGRAM

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What the Next Year Brings To Us Will Be Pretty Much What We Deserve To Get

BY BRUCE CATTON

Probably there is no better proof of the fact that man is an incurable optimist than the ancient custom of saying "Happy New Year."

That phrase represents a little more than just a pious hope that things will go well in the next 12 months. It springs from an uneasy realization that we somehow didn't manage to do quite as well with the last 12 as we had hoped to do, and that once a year is by no means too often to take stock of past mistakes and get a new grip on the future.

From the lowly mortal who hopefully swears off cigars to the world statesman who resolves to give his people a slightly better break henceforward, we all come up to the start of a new year with a feeling that it is up to us to take a brace. If a glance at our pasts makes us pessimistic, we can at least become hopeful again by looking forward.

So we make our New Year's resolutions and set out to run one more lap against the old gentleman with the scythe and the whiskers; and if our performance never quite comes up to what we expect of it, we at least do edge ourselves forward a little bit—which, in an imperfect and sinful world, is something.

And if we took the time to sit down and think about it, we might discover that that, after all, is the way the world as a whole makes most of its progress—by slow, painful inches, with many a back-sliding and many a skinned knee and bruised foot, and not by sudden, spectacular leaps.

The landscape is fairly well cluttered up these days with all kinds of gentlemen who want to lead us up to the millennium by day after tomorrow. Some of them talk grandly of the revolution in which every hill shall be made low and every valley shall be exalted; some of them would settle all our troubles by turning the currency inside out, or by deporting all labor organizers, or by instituting a universal system of eugenics offhand, or by having all stock speculators hanged, or by putting the affairs of state into the hands of black, brown or stuffed shirts.

We shall bear a good deal of and from all of these people in 1936, for the world is in a mortal bad way and it may well get worse before it starts to get better. And it might help us to remember that in the long run the world makes its progress much as we ordinary individuals make ours—by slow stages, adding a bit of horse sense here and an extra inch of common decency and kindness there, and not by cure-all panaceas or wild whirligigs.

FRECKLES and HIS FRIENDS—By Blosser

Comic strip panels for 'Freckles and His Friends' by Blosser, featuring a character named Nutty and a scene in Montana.

PROPHECY

Cartoon titled 'PROPHECY' by Herblock, showing a man pointing to a sign that says 'FOR 1936 - THE KNOW-IT-ALL PROPHETS WILL BE WRONG - AS USUAL'.

"OUT OUR WAY" - By Williams

Cartoon titled '"OUT OUR WAY"' by Williams, showing a man standing in a doorway looking at a dog.

The Newfangles (Mom 'n' Pop) - By Cowen

Comic strip panels for 'The Newfangles (Mom 'n' Pop)' by Cowen, featuring a man and a woman in a room.

Snow Falls Over Panhandle Area. AMARILLO, Jan. 1.—Snow covered the Texas Panhandle and Northeastern Oklahoma today. The snowfall ranged from one to three inches in depth between Amarillo and Tucuman, N. M., and northward to Dalhart it was three inches deep.

With All My Love

By Mary Raymond Copyright NEA 1935

Against the wishes of her grandmother, aristocratic Mrs. WILLIAM CAMERON, DANA WESTBROOK marries DR. SCOTT STANLEY, struggling young physician before her marriage. RONALD MOORE had been in love with her. DANA's half-sister loves Ronald but hides her feelings behind a disdainful attitude. Both Mrs. Cameron and PAULA LOVE, who has loved Scott for years, hope the marriage will not last. Dana becomes aware of Paula's infatuation for her husband. One stormy night Paula sends for Scott. Dana waits alone all night, not knowing Paula had attempted suicide. Then she goes to her grandmother Mrs. Cameron and decides to tell her the whole story. Ronald is a comforting friend, but Dana remains dissatisfied, believing Scott loves Paula. Scott reasons for leaving him is unhappiness caused by their economic struggles. Dana did not answer for a moment. So Nancy believed that that was why she had left Scott and that now she would beg him to take her back. "When has all this happened?" Dana asked. "Just today. It's just been announced. They say Dr. Osborne has had his eyes on Scott for a long while and Scott cinched matters when he performed an operation. Dr. Osborne said few surgeons could have done so well. "Tell me about it," Dana asked. "There's not much to tell. Dr. Osborne sprained his arm and couldn't operate, so he turned the job over to Scott. Dr. Osborne watched him and—well, it seems Scott's a sort of wizard in the operating room. That's all there is to the story, I guess." Nancy stopped. She was suddenly sorry for Dana who looked frightfully cut up, as though she might faint. It must be pretty bad, at that, to realize you had given up an attractive husband because he didn't have any money, and then have him dip into the professional pie and draw out a plum as big as this. Nancy was sorry for Dana, but she was glad for Scott. He deserved something extra nice after the way he had been treated. "Are you glad, Dana?" Nancy asked curiously. "Why, of course." Dana's wide gaze met her half sister's. How could Nancy doubt that she was glad for Scott? Dana sat down and stared, unseeing, at the magazine she held in her hand. She was glad—oh, so glad! It was strange how you could be glad and yet completely hopeless because of the same piece of news. "I heard, too," Nancy went on. "That Scott has given up the apartment and moved back into his house. He told somebody that the people who had been living there had almost wrecked the place and he's having it done over. Everybody thinks it's queer that he'd bother unless some woman was coming there to live. There's talk that it means you and he are planning to go back together." "No," Dana said. "It doesn't mean that." Mrs. Cameron had come from the dining room, and stood, unobserved by the sisters, in the doorway. "Let's hear no more of such silly chatter about Scott," Mrs. Cameron commanded. "You needn't waste any pity on him either. Your sister is the one who should have your sympathy. I suspect Dana will make out pretty well in the long run." Nancy's voice had a rough, ugly note. Nancy hoped Dana would stay married. Furthermore, she hoped that now, when Scott had made a soft berth for himself, Dana would find a way to bring about a reconciliation as fast as she could. Perhaps it was fear of that very thing that prompted Mrs. Cameron to talk to Dana that afternoon. Mrs. Cameron's dislike for Scott was based on something more than his lack of money. A partnership with Dr. Osborne would mean a comfortable living for the young doctor from now on. But Scott belonged to a family that had caused Mrs. Cameron much unhappiness. His grandfather had brought her anxiety and, though she had kept Ellen from throwing herself away on him, Mrs. Cameron had always suspected that deep down in her sister's heart there was a feeling that her life had been ruined by this decision. Then Scott had appeared, proposing to Dana one night and marrying her the next day. Making the girl unhappy, in the bargain. No matter how wealthy he became, Scott would certainly never have the fortune Ronnie had. Ronnie was in love with Dana, and if Dana were free he'd want her to marry him. Dana must be free. She must get a divorce soon. "BUT I couldn't," Dana whispered passionately. "I couldn't divorce Scott. Let him do the divorcing if that's what he wants." "He's pretty sure to be wanting one soon, if he hasn't thought of it yet. You girls are a queer lot, I must say. You want your cake and want to eat it, too. You treat Scott like an old coat you wouldn't wear, but think too much of to give away." Dana blazed out: "I would never, never have left Scott if he hadn't driven me to it! I could never think of him as an old coat—" her voice broke. Mrs. Cameron watched the tears stream down Dana's cheeks thinking, "It's good for her to cry, getting rid of some of that emotion that she's been holding back. It's a high time she began thinking of a divorce. Four months, and she hasn't had a word from Scott." Mrs. Cameron thought that possibly the letter she had written Scott might have had something to do with it, though she doubted it. Scott was the sort who did his own thinking. Evidently, he had made a decision and was sticking to it. The letter, begging him to leave Dana in peace, might have helped. Dana resented her grandmother's words. If Scott wanted to be free, he could tell her so. Nevertheless, Mrs. Cameron's suggestions that Dana was acting unfairly stayed in her mind. Scott might be waiting, in the chivalrous fashion of southern men, for her to make the first move. That thought, during the next two months, was like the steady drip of water on stone. It made no impression at first, gradually began to have an effect. Mrs. Cameron dropped further suggestions in the subtlest fashion. "I saw Scott driving this afternoon, Dana. I couldn't help wondering how he feels about the situation. Scott's in a difficult position, you know. Embarrassing. When people ask me 'What is Dana going to do?' all I can say is 'I don't know.' What are you going to do?" "I don't know," Dana faltered. She had been staying at home constantly, the short drives with Ronnie the only breaks in her loneliness. And only the day before she had seen Scott. Dana had been with Ronnie and Scott, doubtless, had seen them, for he had glanced the other way as he passed. She had felt that if only she might look into his eyes, she would know better what to do. She would know then if his love for her was really dead. Scott had been driving a new roadster, gray like the old one only darker. It was a nice-looking car. And Scott had been alone. Perhaps he didn't mind being alone since Paula was still out of town. Nancy who always knew everything that was happening brought the news that Paula was visiting friends in the east, and later was to go on a cruise. Paula, no doubt, was waiting for something definite to happen. Something as definite as a divorce. Then she'd come to Dana. Dana decided dully, "I'll him the divorce. There's no more waiting, any longer to be shown in every way that when she stayed away all that night he was forcing me to leave him." She would tell her grandmother tonight. The divorce would make four people nappy—Scott, Paula, Grandmother—and Ronnie. (To Be Continued)

Advertisement for 'BANISH WINTER ILLS' featuring an 'ELECTRIC HEATING PAD' by Texas Electric Service Company. Price: \$2.95 and up. Includes an illustration of a woman sitting on a chair.

TEXAS SOLON PLANS HUGE SECURITY BILL. Maverick gathered material, opinions and facts for the gigantic purpose he will sponsor in a series of bills, in a tour through 20 states in which he conferred with the "man in the streets, tourists, and others." "We must put aside political differences and stop spending the public money through mismanagement and waste. I am not criticizing the work of the alphabetical agencies, but we must get together on a permanent program," Maverick said. WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—The federal government today formally began a vast social security program to remove the hazards of old age, unemployment and disability. The nation-wide welfare conceived by President Roosevelt went into effect with the start of the year. Effective date almost coincided with the start of the new congressional session from which must come millions of dollars to pay pensions and annuities to the unemployed and aged and financial assistance to the dependent mothers and children, the blind and ill. TOLEDO, O.—What is to be the world's first all-structure is nearing completion. It is a two-story glass skyscraper built by a glass factory, blocking out the sun for weeks. The nation-wide welfare

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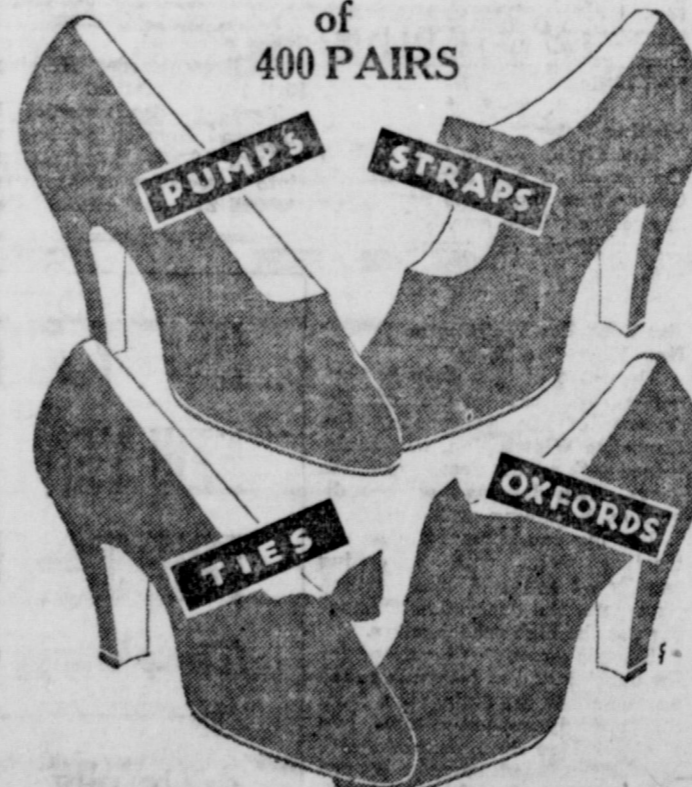
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