

THE ROBERT LEE OBSERVER

Est. 1889--Printed Weekly in the Interest of Robert Lee and Coke County.--In its 49th year.

VOLUME 48

ROBERT LEE, COKE COUNTY, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DEC. 17, 1937.

NUMBER 24

Sensible Giving

Few things offer more interest at this time of year than a comparison of Christmas merchandise carried in the stores of Robert Lee today with that which the holiday buyers had set before them a dozen or more years ago. By that is not meant the size of the stocks carried, for naturally they are larger since holiday buying has increased with the years. But make the comparison on the variety and service of gift goods offered now with gift goods of earlier holidays, and you will be letting yourself in for a genuine surprise.

In former years it was not considered "good taste" to give articles of wearing apparel to anyone outside the immediate family circle. No man thought of giving a feminine friend something she could wear in comfort and enjoyment, something sensible and serviceable. Such things were all right to give one's sister, but for a sweetheart it had to be a manicure set, a bottle of perfume, a set of fancy hair combs, or something along that line.

Today, happily for all concerned, everybody gives genuine gifts and everybody makes what kind of a sentimental present had come to rescue that clutch of Dorado array.

It appears that once passed on. Today gifts of clothing, furniture, electrical devices for the home and the auto-gifts that are useful and that add actual comfort to life--form the bulk of all holiday buying. Today's Christmas gift is a sensible gift and its purchase is in practically every instance money sensibly invested. There has been a radical change in the type of Christmas merchandise in the few years, as a visit to the local stores will reveal. And the change has been not only for the better but for a happier Christmas as well.

Celebrate Christmas

in the true Christmas spirit by attending Sunday school and church Sunday. We invite you to the Baptist church Sunday morning. Sermon topic, "The Spirit of Jesus."

We have the privilege of cooperating with the Methodist church in the evening Christmas service in their church auditorium.

The stock of drugs recently purchased by Fred Roe is being moved to the Puett building this week. H. D. Fish grocery store and Farley's Meat Market are moving into the building vacated by the drug store.

Robert Lee's two cafes are always striving to better serve their customers. The Club Cafe has just recently installed a hot water system, and the City Cafe is doing a lot of interior improvement.

See the lovely silk robes and gowns at Cumbies

Honor Roll

The second six-weeks term of school shows some let-down in those making the honor roll--an average of 90 or more in each subject. As the year's work gets into swing and work gets harder it is a real test of the mettle in a pupil and some who made the high mark last term fell off when the new work came. The list of those making the high average was given by Supt. Taylor as follows: High school; Maxine Craddock, Josephine Taylor, Bryce Stewart and Katherine Scoggins; In the grades; Georgia Bell Martin, Wallace Clift, Agnes Walker, Barbara Ross, Mable Jay, Jamie Bilbo, D. J. Walker, Jr., Joe Long Snead, Jr., J. C. Wallace, Maine Scoggins, Billie Allen, Yvonne McCutchen, Jack Snead, Stroud Roberts, Geraldine Blaylock, Winnie Ruth Poone, Charline McCutchen, Francis Johnson, Juanell Jay, Ida Bell Eaton, Tommie Joy Denman, Jo Ann Bilbo, Pattie Taylor, Doris Pettit.

Baptist W. M. U.

The Baptist W. M. U. met Monday afternoon at the G. C. Allen home for the monthly mission study and social. Mrs. Roy Brey told of mission work in Cuba and Mrs. Delbert Harmon discussed home missions.

Members brought canned goods to be given at Christmas time to a needy family that will be selected by the benevolence committee.

The society is planning to serve not lunch down town Saturday afternoon and the proceeds will be applied to the church building fund.

Churches to Cooperate

Members of the Methodist and Baptist churches are cooperating in the preparation for a Christmas service to be held Sunday night in the Methodist church. G. L. Taylor will assume the role of "Scrooge" in a dramatization of Dickens' Christmas Carol. A choir of voices from both churches will sing anthems from a Christmas cantata and there will also be some special instrumental music. The audience will join in the singing of Christmas carols.

The boys basket ball team will go to Divide in Nolan County to take part in an invitation tournament Friday night and Saturday. The team won one of three games in a tournament at Blackwell at the beginning of the season and lost one game and were eliminated in a tournament at Water Valley.

Paul Good says when you see a man standing with his wife before a window full of hats you know who's boss at his house.

Miss Myrtle Hurley In Race for County Treasurer

The Observer this week carries the name of Miss Myrtle Hurley as a candidate for county treasurer.

Miss Hurley has been before the public for several years, nine years as teacher in Coke county schools, and later as postmistress for eight years and assistant for two years and is at present serving in that capacity.

She is plenty efficient and should she be elected will make the county a good official, and through the solicitation of her friends prompts her to announce for the office.

She will be appreciative of your interest in her behalf.

Play to Be Staged at Wild Cat

The play, "The Gay Pretenders," is to be presented at the Wild Cat school on Friday night, Dec. 17. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. There will be music and other entertainment between acts.

The cast includes H. E. Murtshaw as Richard Tully; Christine Roberts as Irene, his wife; Willie Price as Hiram Swallow, their uncle; Miss Jessie Lightfoot as Mirandy Snook as their aunt; Oral Roberts as Charlie Jones, their good friend; Allene Smith as Susap, his wife; Lester Lofton as Rufus Sylvester Belshazar Jones, butler, and Mary Jo Cason as Deliah Crimolene Johnson, the maid.

Last Call

The last call! This is your last chance to get your name on the P. T. A. Christmas tree Tuesday night. There'll be entertainment, there'll be pecks of fun, there'll be thrills and surprises.

Come and bring all the family and let's have another old-time get-together.

Do your Christmas shopping at Lander's Variety Store. Shop early.

J. T. Hamilton, a Coke county pioneer, and well known to many Robert Lee people, died at his home in Blackwell Wednesday morning. Interment was made at Hayrick. Mr. Hamilton served as postmaster here at one time.

Ruby Jo Sparks is rapidly recovering from her recent operation and will likely be able to re-enter school after Christmas.

Rev. Earl Hoggard, with other pastors in the San Angelo district, attended the Aldersgate Retreat at the Trinity Methodist church in San Angelo Monday. Mrs. Hoggard spent the day with Mrs. Spellman.

The Good Earth

Pearl Buck's novel translated with a power and eloquence that rank it as one of the screen's finest achievements. There is magic in its telling. In compelling succession are scenes in the fields where they work desperately to harvest their crops before the rains; the ghastly terror of the famine; the pitiful migration to the South; the revolution that brings Wing wealth; the unhappiness when Wang takes the singing girl, Lotus, as his second wife; the locusts attack the land; the uprising of the coolies and the looting and destruction that follow. "The Good Earth" is in every respect a magnificent production. You have a chance to see it. Don't miss it. Its worth four times the price. The Alamo takes great pleasure in bringing you "The Good Earth" Sunday and Monday.

Resigns Position in School

Miss Virginia Griffith has tendered a resignation of her position in the school here, the resignation to become effective at the close on Tuesday, Dec. 21.

Miss Griffith is a daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. K. Griffith of Robert Lee. She is a graduate of the Robert Lee high school and also of C. I. A. and she has taught in the school here for several years. Her work this year is English, reading and penmanship in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades.

Quarterly Conference

The Rev. L. U. Spellman, Presiding Elder of San Angelo district, will hold quarterly conference at the Methodist church Sunday morning and will preach at the morning service. He will likely speak on topics of great interest to Methodists in connection with the Aldersgate Commemoration, an observance of the 200th anniversary of John Wesley's Moravian Mission experience on the beginning of Methodism.

Relatives who visited in the M. H. Havins home last week included Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Brightman of San Angelo and Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Kelley of Borger, Mr. and Mrs. Kelley were on a vacation tour through New Mexico, Arizona, California and Old Mexico.

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

Supt. Taylor advises that school will dismiss for the Christmas vacation on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 21 and work will be resumed on Wednesday after Christmas.

Cumbies is the place to do your Christmas shopping.

Pays Visit to School

A. S. Murdock, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, made an official visit to the school here Tuesday and stated that he found conditions in the school quite satisfactory considering the unavoidable irregularities caused by building while school is in session. He expressed his enjoyment and appreciation of the new building and of the general progress that is apparent.

Mr. Murdock recommended an allowance for salary aid of \$5,554.00. The need of the school for visual education was pointed out by Mr. Murdock and he advised the allowance of funds for one projection machine for use in the school. Slides can be had for the asking and are furnished by the state on a sort of circulation plan. The use of projection machines in schools is now a requirement for state aid.

Mr. Murdock will visit the school here again next spring.

Methodist W. M. S.

Mrs. Marvin Simpson led a devotional and other members of the W. M. S. gave a news bulletin when the society met at the church Monday afternoon.

Plans were made for a Christmas tree and program which will be the chief features when Mrs. Chism Brown entertains the group next Monday.

Members present were Mesdames J. S. Craddock, W. K. Simpson, F. C. Clark, Chism Brown, Frank Kaeding, J. A. Clift, W. B. Clift, G. L. Taylor, Joe Long Snead and Marvin Simpson.

New and Renewals

The Observer received three new subscribers with two renewals this week.

The new ones are W. B. Burns who recently came from Mertzon and now living on T. J. Holden's place, John Hagelstein, San Angelo, and Delbert Harmon.

Sam Gaston and G. S. Arnold renewed their subscriptions.

December, so far, has been a cold, disagreeable month, but has made amends by sending a good rain, which is very much appreciated by grain growers.

Saws sharpened. Bring them to me. Delbert Harmon.



News Review of Current Events

CONGRESS CONFUSED

President Returns to Find His "Must" Measures Are Facing Failure of Passage in the Present Session



Pictured above from left to right are Senator William Borah of Idaho, Senator Edward R. Burke of Nebraska and Professor Henry W. Edgerton of Cornell university and formerly of the antitrust division of the Department of Justice, as the professor was about to appear before a subcommittee of the senate judiciary committee. The committee examined the professor to determine whether they believed him a fit appointee to the United States Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia. He was suspected of not believing in the right of courts to declare legislative enactments unconstitutional. But he declared he now regarded such judicial review as a legitimate part of our constitutional system.

Edward W. Pickard
SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK
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Stormy Days in Capital

RETURNING from his fishing trip in Florida waters with an infected gum, President Roosevelt was confronted with a situation that was decidedly disconcerting. What has been called the Roosevelt depression was becoming still more depressed and congress seemingly couldn't make up its mind what to do about it. The demand for tax revisions that would assist business out of the slump was insistent, and so was the necessity of balancing the budget. Passage of the four administration "must" measures appeared to be impossible during the extraordinary session. All of them were opposed by various blocs of the majority party as well as by the Republican minority.

The senate's farm bill seemed to have the best chance to get through, but it differed so radically from the house measure that it was certain a conference committee would have to try to find a common ground.

Secretary Wallace was reported dissatisfied with both senate and house bills. One official close to him said Wallace might urge President Roosevelt to veto any bill finally enacted which approximated either the senate or house measure.

Democrats were so badly split over the wage-hour bill that hope of passing it before the regular session of congress was about abandoned. Labor, too, was divided concerning this measure. The A. F. of L. opposing it and the C. I. O. advocating its passage. The federation offered its own version, calling for a flat 40 cents an hour minimum wage and a 40 hour maximum work week. The house bill was finally rescued from the rules committee by petition. House Majority Leader Sam Rayburn, Democrat, Texas, went ahead with plans to whip administration support behind the house measure. He said that fewer than 100 votes would be cast against the bill in its present form but warned that amendments which would make its wage-hour provisions more rigid might shunt the measure back to the labor committee and delay a vote indefinitely.

Tax Setup Needs Revision

DANIEL C. ROPER, secretary of commerce, says the entire tax structure of the United States should be revised. He was speaking at a banquet of the Business Advisory Council in Chicago, and his statements appeared to meet with general approval.



Sec. Roper

"A general revision is necessary to simplify determination of tax liability, to distribute the burden of taxation more equitably, and to broaden the base of taxation to include a larger percentage of our earning population," Secretary Roper said.

He asserted that the undistributed profits tax had not entirely fulfilled its proponents' expectations that it would "bring about a higher velocity of money through larger and more widespread distribution of corporate earnings."

Mr. Roper expressed confidence that a "constructive approach will be found to the solution of the utilities dilemma and that significant results will be forthcoming."

Lindbergs Come Back

AFTER two years of self-imposed exile in England, Col. and Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh returned to the United States. Presumably they came over to spend the holidays at the home of Mrs. Lindbergh's mother, Mrs. Dwight Morrow, in Englewood, N. J.

The landing of the Lindberghs at New York was accomplished with such secrecy that they almost escaped the notice of reporters and news photographers. One of the officers of the liner on which they came said they planned to return to England immediately after Christmas.

Infantry Comes First

IN WAR operations on land the infantry is still the most important branch of the service, says Gen. Makn Craig, chief of staff of the army, in his annual report. Lessons learned by skilled observers of the civil war in Spain and the Chino-Japanese war have modified the American defense program, but, says the general, it is still the infantry that renders the decision in the final analysis. Airplanes and tanks are valuable auxiliaries to the infantry, but they cannot bring about a decision in land operations.



General Makn Craig

Inventories of armament, motorization, mechanization and equipment, in the light of the lessons abroad, show several vital needs of the first line forces, General Craig declared. These include better weapons to combat aircraft and tanks, as well as more efficient guns for the planes and tanks.

Edgerton Backs Water

CONFIRMATION of the appointment of Henry W. Edgerton of Cornell university as associate justice of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals was endangered because it was thought from his writings that he did not believe in judicial review. However, he appeared before the senate sub-committee, consisting of Senators Borah, Burke and Van Nuys and repudiated his previous utterances. Of the power of courts to declare legislative enactments unconstitutional he said:

"I regard it as not only thoroughly established as a legitimate part of our constitutional system, but which was intended by the great majority of the men who framed our Constitution. I think it was properly established by John Marshall and I haven't the least criticism of any court for any declaration of the validity of that part of our constitutional system."

Leviathan to Be Junked

JAPAN made a bid for the Leviathan, huge liner seized from Germany in the World war, but the United States Lines rejected it and sold the vessel to Metal Industries, Ltd., of London for \$800,000. It will go to England under its own power and will be junked.

The Leviathan cost ten millions to build and the American government spent more than eight millions to recondition it; and also paid Germany \$16,688,000 for its seizure.

Treasury Financing

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY MORGENTHAU made public his plans for December 15 financing operations, aggregating \$726,679,600 at lower interest rates than the governmental fiscal experts found it advisable to place on comparable securities in September.

The offering includes \$250,000,000 or thereabouts, of eight-year 2 1/2 per cent treasury bonds maturing in 1945, and \$200,000,000, or thereabouts, of five-year 1 3/4 per cent treasury notes of series C-1942, to be sold through the federal reserve banks for cash. In addition, holders of 2 1/2 per cent treasury notes of series A-1938, maturing next February 1, are offered the privilege of exchanging those securities for the new bonds or notes at par with an adjustment of accrued interest as of December 15. The amount of the February 1 maturity notes outstanding is \$276,679,600.

For Corporation Control

SENATORS O'Mahoney of Wyoming and Borah of Idaho introduced a new federal licensing bill for all corporations engaged in interstate commerce.

It is designed by its authors and other senate "liberals" as an answer to the administration's demand for revision of the anti-trust laws to curb monopolies.

The Borah-O'Mahoney scheme is designed not only to eliminate monopolistic practices but to abolish child labor, prohibit discrimination against women employees, guarantee collective bargaining, serve as a basis for further legislation dictating the wages and hours of labor, and regulate the financial policies of corporations.

The measure would require the immediate licensing of all corporations doing business in interstate commerce and would direct the federal trade commission to submit recommendations for a federal incorporation law. Under existing statutes corporations are created only by the states.

Poland Checks Delbos

YVON DELBOS, French foreign minister, in the course of his visits to the allies of France in central Europe, went to Poland in the hope of aligning Polish foreign policy with that of France against fascism and nazism. He was given the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest decoration, but that was about all he got in Warsaw. He was informed that under the Franco-Polish alliance Poland will help France if it is attacked by Germany, but until that moment arrives Poland will continue to follow an independent foreign policy, even though it runs counter to French interests in other sections of Europe.

Many Would Buy Farms

THE farm credit administration announced that nearly 10,000 requests had been received by the federal land banks in the last ten months for loans to be applied in the purchase of farms.

A. S. Goss, land bank commissioner, said the amount applied for totaled \$38,000,000 and the requests came from every state, although most numerous from Texas and in the Omaha, Wichita and Louisville farm credit administration districts, where in each instance the number of requests exceeded 1,000.

Panchen Lama Dies

FROM India comes the news that the Panchen Lama, spiritual ruler of Tibet, died in a town in western China at the age of fifty-four years. His millions of followers believed he was a reincarnation of Buddha. In 1924 he became involved in disputes with the dalai lama, temporal ruler, and went into exile. Since then he had been planning to return to Tibet and modernize that country.

Snaring Uncle Sam

THAT Great Britain is seeking political as well as economical advantages from the proposed trade pact with the United States was indicated in an address by the earl of Derby before the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, of which he is president. He told the chamber that America cannot keep out of European entanglements and predicted that the trade pact would tighten the links between the United States and Great Britain.

Derby's speech followed one given by Herschel V. Johnson, American charge d'affaires in London, during which Johnson warned indirectly that the Americans would not permit the pact to have political strings.

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted By WILLIAM BRUCKART NATIONAL PRESS BLDG. WASHINGTON, D. C.



Washington. — Much has been written and much more has been said concerning the complexities of modern civilization and modern business. Many times have we heard how closely agriculture is related to other industry; how general commerce and industry is interwoven with every phase of our life. There can be no doubt of this condition. No proof is required. Nor is it necessary to argue that when one section or segment of business is on its sickbed, there is a resulting bad reaction upon every other phase of commerce and industry to a greater or less extent.

Railroads Face Crisis

With these fundamentals in mind, it becomes obvious that probably the most important development of a national character in the last few weeks is the appeal of the country's railroads for the right to increase their rates by 15 per cent. The details of their condition, as presented in hearings before the interstate commerce commission, show they are confronted with a crisis. Since they are under the rigid supervision of the federal government, the federal government is the doctor in the case. They will live or die by the command of the interstate commerce commission.

The case they have presented shows, for example, that they have had to cut thousands upon thousands of workers off of the payroll; that they have been unable to buy more than one third of the customary annual purchases from other businesses, and that more than one fourth of all the railroad mileage in the nation is now being operated as bankrupt property—that is, the property is in the hands of court receivers.

So, advertent to the observations of the first paragraph of this discussion: a gigantic industry can not run at a loss without resulting in a bad heart or partial paralysis in other industry. Higher rates are always opposed for the very human reason that none of us enjoys taking any more money out of our pocket than we must. Many lines of business oppose rate increases on the railroads because of the fear that it will reduce their volume of sales. But it occurs to me that in consideration of a question of freight rates and charges which the railroads make, we ought to think of their situation as we do of other lines of business. Our retail grocer is not going to sell at a loss; the druggist can not subsist unless he makes a profit however small it may be, nor is the farmer going to continue to produce unless he gets a reasonable return from his work. The only difference between these and the railroads is that the railroads can not raise their rates unless the interstate commerce commission, a government agency, says they can do so.

Further, there is a tendency on the part of a goodly number of persons throughout the land to question the accuracy of statements made by business. No doubt you have heard, as I have, the remark that "you can't tell whether so-and-so's business is bad off or not. Big corporations can cover up and make black look like white." Indeed, while I was listening to one of the I. C. C. hearings in this case, a man in a neighboring seat made something of the same observation as I have quoted. My answer to him was in substance that none of the railroad officials would dare lie to the commission, even if they were so inclined, because the commission has access to every item of expense and income, even all actions of the management, of the carriers.

It might be added in this connection that officials of the interstate commerce commission understand there is to be a request by the interstate truck operators for an increase in rates.

I believe there is no better way to set forth the plight of the railroads, as presented to the commission, than to include here some excerpts of the statement made officially in the case by Dr. J. H. Parmelee. He is director of the bureau of economics of the Association of American Railroads and, as such, knows the details.

Plight of Carriers

"Today," Dr. Parmelee said, "the carriers are reducing forces and are curtailing their purchases of equipment, materials and supplies. They

are forced to do this because of the financial condition in which they find themselves. This retrenchment has a serious economic effect on employment, on the manufacturers of railway supplies and their employees and on all business activity. Such a policy with its unwholesome economic consequences only partially offsets the rising tide of costs.

"The railroads in 1927 to 1930 installed more than twelve times as many locomotives each year, nearly five times as many freight cars, laid nearly three times as many tons of rails and laid nearly twice as many cross ties as they averaged in the depression years from 1931 to 1936.

"Capital expenditures for 1929 and 1930 averaged \$863,164,000 a year. During the depression years from 1931 to 1936, the average of capital expenditures was only \$206,813,000.

"Similarly, the trend of railway purchases (of things they must use in operation), of fuel, material and supplies declined sharply during the depression years and never has returned to anything like normal. Railway purchases in 1929 and 1930 amounted to \$1,184,017,000 in each of the two years. In the five years from 1931 to 1935, the average per year was about \$559,000,000. In 1936, the expenditures in this direction were up to \$803,421,000. (Figures for 1937 are incomplete but there has been another decline because of necessary curtailment of buying.)"

Dr. Parmelee turned to the question of railroad receipts for their services. He told the commission that the depression years left the railroads with a surplus of 25 per cent. For seven years, however, the railroads have had a deficit of 100 per cent. More than 100 per cent of their income is being used to pay their debts. In other words, the railroads have not earned enough to pay the people who work for them and buy the necessary fuel and operating supplies.

The argument to the commission is predicated, therefore, upon rising costs, general expenses, and the dozen or so railway presidents

who testified before the commission stressed the fact that these expenses are out of control by the railroad authorities. Dr. Parmelee figured that these higher costs of fuel, supplies, wages and taxes had laid a burden on the railroads that is greater this year by \$664,789,000 than it was in 1933. The companies hope to get \$567,287,000 of this sum from the 15 per cent increase in freight rates, and the railroads of the East are asking that passenger fares be increased from 2 cents to 2 1/2 cents a mile, which they think will bring in an additional \$47,500,000. From this it is seen that the carriers still will fall short of the full amount needed, but their argument, as I understand it, proceeds on the theory that they should not seek more of an increase than is sufficient to keep them from going broke. If the new depression conditions subside, there will be a larger volume of freight next year. That will enable them to make a profit. That is, a greater volume of business with the new rates will provide a profit unless there are new government taxes and other burdens laid upon them. In this connection, I looked up the effect of the social security and carriers' taxing act. Commission records show the rail lines are paying \$111,000,000 in taxes annually under these two levies alone, a burden the companies did not have two or three years ago.

So it is evident that the rail lines are in a bad fix. They are confronted on the one hand with mounting costs of operation and on the other by declining receipts from the smaller volume of business. At the same time, it seems to me, the country has more than a passing interest in their plight. This is so because during the last two months, for example, close to 60,000 railroad employees have been laid off—out of work, in the rail industry alone. With the decline of purchasing of supplies by the rail lines, other industry has suffered, has laid off

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Under Pressure

By George Agnew Chamberlain

© George Agnew Chamberlain
WNU Service

CHAPTER VIII—Continued

Joyce heard him but her attention was riveted on something else. The bear-like apparition she had mistaken for Blackadder had undergone a strange transformation. Duffle bag and furs discarded, the slender figure of a young man in riding togs had emerged and was making a dash for the bridge. Joyce gasped, shaken by an insane desire to laugh, but the puffs of dust thrown up by bullets to the right and left of his flying feet quickly sobered her. She scrambled down the spiral stairway, rushed to the outer zaguan and ordered its heavy bar lifted.

None too soon, for as it slammed shut behind the fugitive several spent bullets buried themselves in its solid timbers. He was a young man, at the moment too breathless to speak, but his gray eyes were dancing and even his mussed dark hair gave an illusion of merriment.

"So it's you," said Joyce slowly, trying to measure the meaning and consequences of his presence.

"Yes," gasped Dirk, "and it's you too. Are—are you all right?"

"Yes, thank you," said Joyce.

"You're sure?" he persisted, "I mean quite, quite all right?" He flushed at her frown. "Nothing's happened?"

"Several things have happened," said Joyce dryly. "I hardly know what to do with you, Mr. Van Suttart."

"Why?" he asked flippantly. "Is the house crowded?"

"Fairly," she answered, her cheeks coloring. "Unfortunately," she added gravely, "we already have more than a full complement of children."

He was confused, conscious he was being shamed, yet wondering why. He had felt genuine ardor at setting out to make what Arnaldo had called a sentimental gesture. He had come to rescue her from the clutches of Dorado; she had rescued him.

"It appears I'm not welcome. Are you suggesting I get out?"

"That's the trouble," she said, frowning. "I can't ask you to go because you couldn't leave if you tried."

"Oh, yes I can," said Dirk; "I'll show you."

He turned quickly, dropped one end of the bar on the great gate, dragged it open only a foot and slipped through. His cheeks burned with anger. He knew she was right, knew it better than she. There was more than the combination of Dorado and the wrecked roadster to keep him from leaving. His job—the job so carelessly tossed him and so blithely taken on! He hadn't even nicked it; all he had done was to stand around while it swelled from a toy balloon into a blimp. But he was here and so was the job; consequently here was where he would have to stay. Joyce dashed after him.

"Don't be a fool," she protested angrily. "This isn't the time or the place to show off."

Dirk stopped and turned on her. "Go back," he ordered. "I'm not trying to show off and I'm not a child. I admit you're right on the rest of it. You can't throw me out and since my car is junk, thanks to your sharpshooters, I can't possibly get away."

"Then what are you doing?" asked Joyce, bewildered. "Why are we out here?"

"I'm going to fetch my things," said Dirk sullenly, "but your being out here is just a piece of nonsense."

Abruptly Joyce became aware of silence. She looked up and around. Far to the east she caught sight of the pillar of dust, this time moving away. She led the way toward the bridge.

"I've been in lots of countries," Dirk grumbled as they walked along, "but this is the first where everybody shoots before they ask who you are. By the way, did you know mine isn't the only car parked the other side of the glorified ditch?"

To her amazement she heard herself say: "No. Where?"

Why? Why had that lie sprung ready-made to her lips? Her brain had had nothing to do with it; it hadn't had time. Now she paused in her stride, almost brought to a halt by memory of Pancho's flivver. She had forgotten about it. So there had been a way, after all, to send Van Suttart packing.

They retrieved Dirk's baggage and presently returned laden with

duffle bag, rifle, coonskin coat, cap and gloves. Joyce watched Van Suttart with a curious expression as he replaced the bar on the great gate and then that of the zaguan. Reluctantly she led the way across the court and into the patio. He paused on its threshold and drew a long whistling breath.

Luz came hurrying toward them, her dark eyes hard and questioning. Joyce gave her a rapid order. "You'll have to talk faster than that for me to miss it," said Dirk. "You told her to give me a room as far away from yours as possible."

"Yes, and you'll find it's about a quarter of a mile," said Joyce sharply. She was angry—no longer at him but at herself. Why had she done this thing—admitted an enemy when she could have let him go. She saw Maxie approaching. Hadn't he warned her? "Since we ourselves are our only friends who ever comes from without must be a foe."

"Who's the poor devil of a blind man?" asked Dirk, cutting in on her thoughts.

"It's Senor Maximiliano, the superintendent," explained Joyce. "Maxie, let me introduce Mr. Dirk Van Suttart, second secretary of the American embassy."

Don Jorge threw up his head as he held out his hand gropingly. "Ah, my apologies."

"What for?" asked Dirk.

"It was by my order you happened to be greeted with bullets."

Dirk was led around two sides of the balcony and then through a maze of corridors to a room whose single window looked down upon the walled enclosure of an abandoned threshing floor. It was comfortable rather than luxurious.

He shaved and washed but did not change, then he found his way back to the balcony.

It was no place for a loafer. Hugging the rail he slipped down the stairs, intending to embark on a tour of discovery. As he passed the half-open door of what had once been Joyce's playroom he heard a low whinny. He entered and a moment later was passing knowing fingers over the heads, across the withers and down the legs of as fine a pair of hunters as he had ever handled. Where there were such horses there must be gear. He went out and walked along slowly, trusting his nose more than his eyes. No sooner did he emerge from the inner patio than the smell of leather led him to the tack room, and what a tack room! Harness, bridles, spare bits and stirrups; saddles of every description, hand-made, home-made and imported. Two English ones promptly caught his eye. He lifted their flaps, flexed the stirrup leathers and groaned.

A methodical search unearthed a half gallon of neat's-foot oil and an unopened tin of saddle soap. With a sigh of satisfaction he threw off his jacket, rolled up his sleeves and went to work. Oblivious of the passing hours he remained unaware of Joyce's approach. She stood watching him with unbelieving eyes. Here was no coxcomb but an expert who knew exactly what he was about.

"I'm sorry I called you names."

"Eh? Oh, it's you. When?"

"You know; that first day at the chancellery."

"That was a long time ago," he said with a shake of his head as if to wake himself up. "You've certainly been stepping since then."

"It does seem long," admitted Joyce, "but it's only a week. I'm curious. How did you get here and why did you come?"

"Official business," said Dirk. "Instructions."

"What instructions?"

He dragged a flimsy from his hip pocket, unfolded it and studied the penciled interlinings with a frown. "I can't read it all because it's marked confidential, but it says I'm instructed to locate you with all possible dispatch, show every attention including provision of funds and guard without annoying you."

While he spoke Joyce had drawn near. With a sure movement, a pull rather than a snatch, she possessed herself of the paper and stepped back into the sunlight where she could read it at her ease. "So," she exclaimed, "I thought so! Prospective stepfather! What business is it of his? Why should he be giving you instructions?"

"Oh, not Mr. Blackadder. The Department of State."

"That's worse," said Joyce, her eyes flaring. "On what grounds?"

Dirk thought desperately but fast. What was the club Arnaldo had used on Margarida? He remembered. "On the grounds you're a minor." Joyce's eyes traveled over him thoughtfully. "I came to tell you lunch is ready," she said at last. "While we're eating I'll decide whether to give you the run of the place on parole or have you locked up."

Neither of them smiled. Her sincerity was so evident that what she said fell naturally on his ears and was accepted at face value.

Lunch was not served in the formal dining room but in a much smaller apartment. Dirk sat on Joyce's right, Don Jorge Maximiliano on her left and they were served by a bare-footed procession of servants equal in number to the variety of dishes. One forgot Don Jorge was blind, so neatly did he handle himself. He



Above Their Heads Arched the Low Heavens.

talked in uncertain but precise English with an Oxford accent, inquiring what posts Dirk had occupied and apparently trying to project himself backward into happy and distant scenes.

Silence fell. Dirk, reminded of the hunters, asked about them.

"The last of a noble strain," said Don Jorge. "Dorado kept them close at hand, but as things turned out not quite close enough. He alone rode them, a daily profanation."

Dirk turned to Joyce. "Do you mind if I tend to them?"

"I'd love to have them looked after," said Joyce, "but what about your parole?"

"You have it. I give you my word I won't try to escape until you say I can go—and perhaps not then."

"Will you teach me to ride?" she bargained.

"Certainly." He spoke with confidence. "I'll be ready to give you your first lesson in an hour."

She rose from the table. "I'm not sure I can make it, but I'll try. We dine in this room at half past seven."

On his own responsibility he moved the hunters into two box stalls adjoining the tack room. One after the other he curried and groomed them until their hides shone. They nudged him violently more than once, expressing gratitude and hope. Dirk examined their feet; they had been freshly shod. As a finishing touch he oiled their hoofs and then had to make up his mind which he would saddle first. Among the campesinos about the stalls was Tobalito, a retainer. Dirk addressed him.

"What are their names?" he asked.

"The bay is Tronido and the sorrel they call Rayo."

"Thunder and Thunderbolt," translated Dirk.

Every bridle in the tack room was murderously equipped and it took some time to discover a couple of discarded snaffle bits, polish and substitute them. Dirk undertook to ride the bay first. He was prepared for trouble but somewhat to his disappointment, certainly to that of the crowd, there were no pyrotechnics. The animal recognized a master and his only show of insubordination was a quivering sidling toward the outer gate and freedom. Dirk walked, trotted and finally cantered him on a reach where the cobbles were bedded in chaff. He put his

mate through the same meager exercise and found him equally amenable and spirited; nevertheless when Joyce appeared upon the scene there were no hunters in sight. In their place, ready saddled with the same gear, stood two rat-tail country ponies.

"What's the idea?" she asked, flushing angrily.

"Now don't be cross, please," begged Dirk. "You wouldn't expect to play a concerto at your first music lesson, would you?" He looked her up and down admiringly. "If you don't ride, how do you happen to have the johdpurs?"

"I bought them as soon as I knew I was coming to Mexico," said Joyce. "You notice they haven't been worn."

"We'll soon fix that," said Dirk and proceeded to hand out the ABCs of equitation.

His patience matched her impatience and finally conquered it through sheer endurance. He made her mount and dismount a dozen times—reins, stirrup, pommel, then spring. When she was all but exhausted they rode at a walk and finally at a trot. She looked longingly toward the zaguan.

"I wonder if it would be safe," she murmured, "just for a little way?" She spoke rapidly to Tobalito in Spanish. "Go ask Leonardo if there's any trouble in sight. We want to ride only as far as the bridge."

Tobalito departed at a run, presently emerged from the northeast bastion, waved his hand and proceeded to drop the bar on the zaguan. A moment later she and Dirk passed through the outer gate and immediately she put her pony into a canter. True to her word they rode only as far as the bridge and turned. The next instant she wondered what had happened. The scrawny pony between her knees had made for the open gate as though shot from a catapult. She did not go with him. She landed, all sitting, with a jar that shook every tooth in her head. While she was still seeing stars Dirk was on his knees at her side.

"Hurt?" he asked.

"Don't be silly," she exclaimed angrily. "Of course I'm hurt."

"Where?"

"None of your business," she answered, scrambling to her feet.

She stalked before him. In silence they reached the gate, passed through the courts and the patio. She disappeared and he was not to see her again until dinner time. Having bathed and dressed in his one lounge suit he entered the dining room with some trepidation, but his fears were groundless since no woman can change everything she has on without changing her mood.

He stared at her as if once more he were discovering the unknown, so different did she look in a fresh summer frock like a splash of flowers. The meal finished, the three of them sat for an hour of lazy talk, since on any hacienda time ceases with the setting of the sun. When at last she rose Don Jorge lifted his face toward her.

"Shall I make the rounds, chica, or will you?"

"I'll do it," said Joyce.

"Perhaps you might show Mr. Van Suttart," said the blind man. "Since he is now our friend he could relieve us of the duty."

Joyce hesitated, her eyes downcast. "Very well. Mr. Van Suttart, will you come?"

Dirk followed her through tortuous passages, up a spiral stairway and out on the esplanade of the rectangular roof. At the four corners towered the bastions. Beneath their feet were flat tiles so thick and so deeply embedded they could have withstood a cannonade. As far as the eye could reach shimmered the pale gold of the prairie, broken only by the distant snowy pyre of the Nevado de Toluca. Above their heads arched the low heavens, dangling the lantern of the moon and pierced by the myriad dots of silvery stars. Beauty stopped them—stopped their breath.

They faced each other with a gasp. A moment hung between them—a moment they must not lose. It was something visible, that had shape, round, translucent like a bubble—and like a bubble it broke and was gone. Mind had triumphed over dreaming.

"Come along; we've got to visit the four towers and it's quite a walk."

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Lacy Cartwheels Make This Cloth

There's magic in this two colored crocheted square—when it's joined into a cloth or spread, it looks like two medallions! Begin right away on the first 8 inch square. Its "repeats" will follow in quick succession for it is sim-



Pattern 1570

ple to do in economical string and makes delightful pick-up work. You may use the same color throughout, if you prefer. Pattern 1570 contains chart and directions for making the square; material requirements; illustrations of the square and of all stitches used; a photograph of the square; color suggestions.

Send 15 cents in stamps or coins (coins preferred) for this pattern to The Sewing Circle, Needlecraft Dept., 82 Eighth Ave., New York.

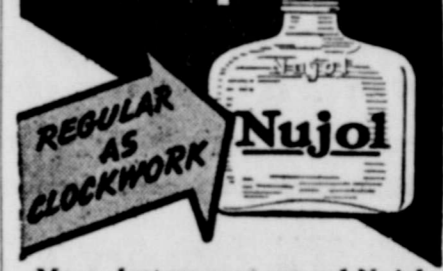
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WNU—L 50—37

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Nature designed the kidneys to do a marvelous job. Their task is to keep the flowing blood stream free of an excess of toxic impurities. The act of living—life itself—is constantly producing waste matter the kidneys must remove from the blood if good health is to endure. When the kidneys fail to function as Nature intended, there is retention of waste that may cause body-wide distress. One may suffer nagging backache, persistent headache, attacks of dizziness, getting up nights, swelling, puffiness under the eyes—feel tired, nervous, all worn out.

Frequent, scanty or burning passages may be further evidence of kidney or bladder disturbance.

The recognized and proper treatment is a diuretic medicine to help the kidneys get rid of excess poisonous body waste. Use Doan's Pills. They have had more than forty years of public approval. Are endorsed the country over. Lasted on Doan's. Sold at all drug stores.

DOAN'S PILLS

EDITORIALS

Be Cautious

It takes more skill to handle your car in reverse than in any of the speeds ahead. Scores of motorists who are perfect drivers when going forward are little better than amateurs when it comes to "backing up." That is true of motorists everywhere, and accounts for thousands of accidents --and many deaths--every year. Failure to make sure the way is clear in all directions before going in reverse is dangerous. Back in and out of parking place is ticklish business, for besides the safety of pedestrians passing traffic must also be reckoned with. As a precaution, sound your horn and especially look to the rear on both sides before backing--a child or some other pedestrian may have stepped into the path you are about to take while you were getting behind the wheel. Be cautious, always back carefully, and follow that safest of all rules --"Take it easy."

Local Editor

Newsdom, a newspaper for newspaper folk, says: "The small-town editor has little to fear from either the metropolitan newspaper or the radio. The demand for his peculiar service is greater now than it has ever been, and it is a demand which neither metropolitan newspapers or radio find it possible to satisfy." That is quite the case. Well-managed, well-equipped, small-town newspapers are in better

POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are authorized to announce the following Candidates for the office next above their names, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary, July 23, 1938.

All Announcements Strictly Cash

COKE COUNTY, TEXAS

For County & District Clerk,
WILLIS SMITH
(re-election)

For County Treasurer,
Mrs. B. M. GRAMLING
MYRTLE H. HURLEY

position today than before perfecting presses, linotypes and radio were invented. Yet it was a common assertion thirty years ago, at least among unwise men of the east, that the small-town newspaper was done for. It couldn't compete, they said. But they overlooked the other side of the other side of the competition --that the big-city paper couldn't compete with the small-town paper in gathering the small-town local news. A town that has no interest in its own locality isn't a town in fact. It is an excrescence root in the skin of its own insignificance.---Dallas News.

A child taught good manners at home needs no book of etiquette when it grows up.

Silver News

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Dixon and family of San Marcos, California, and Mrs. Charlie Arnold and daughter of Dumas, New Mexico, are visiting relatives here.

Miss Ernestine Mathers, who is attending college in Abilene, has come home for the holidays.

Miss Ruth Johnson, who is attending school in Big Spring, was at home for the weekend.

Mrs. Allen Jameson is still in San Angelo and will probably not be moved home until Christmas.

Mrs. R. W. Odom was taken back to San Angelo Friday. She will remain there until the cast has been removed from her shoulder and collar bone.

Mrs. O. E. Allen visited her sister, Mrs. Curtis Walker of Robert Lee, Sunday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Walker, Jr., have begun the building of their new home. It is being built where Mr. Walker's old home stood and which burned several years ago.

The "Trip Around the World" was attended by a big crowd. We had visitors from Robert Lee, Sanco, and Landers, with us.

Miss Ruby has been staying with her grandmother, Mrs. M. E. Walker of Robert Lee, since last Thursday.

Mrs. O. E. Allen, Mrs. J. B. Walker, Jr., Misses Ernestine Mathers, Delia Frank Jameson, Mildred DeMoss, Irene Lloyd, Cora Belle and Cleone Allen, C. E. Allen, Upton Mathers, and Arthur Humble attended singing at Robert Lee Sunday afternoon.

Misses Alberta Allen and Chrystelle Mathers spent the week-end with Mrs. Batton and daughter, Mary Ala, of Robert Lee.

Silver Peak School News

The Choral Class has the date to put on "The First Christmas" over KGKL. It is Saturday, Dec. 18 from 10:05 to 10:35 a. m. So turn your radio dials to San Angelo at this time and we believe that you will hear a program worth listening to.

Would you believe it if I told you! Irene is the smartest, prettiest, tallest, heaviest the teachers pet, also the dumbest, ugliest, shortest, smallest, and the most picked on of any of the Juniors.

All the girls in the sophomore class "Pet" Upton, Daisy just loves her geometry, Cora Belle never breaks a rule, and Cleone is the dumbest of any of the sophomores.

The Freshmen wouldn't be Freshmen if Alberta could remember what history Mr. Underwood is speaking of during class. Dalton and Jack are getting famous with their duets, Billie can't ride a bicycle, and Mildred never thinks of anything but her classes.

Glenn R. Lewis

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The Robert Lee Observer

Entered the postoffice at Robert Lee, Coke County, Texas,
as second class mail matter, under an act of Congress
of March 3, 1879.

FELIX W. PUETT and ROBERT L. HALL
Editors and Publishers
MRS. A. W. PUETT, Owner

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$1.00 a year in Coke County only. \$1.50 a year elsewhere.

Til January 1, 1938, Only HOLIDAY RATES San Angelo Morning TIMES

One full year, six days per
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without Sunday, by mail in
West Texas--

\$4⁹⁵

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the big Sunday paper, too--
7 issues a week--by mail.

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ranch, farm, livestock, sports, oil and general
news than any other newspaper.

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The San Angelo Morning Times goes to press at
2 a. m. in time for all night sport events as well
as other late news.

San Angelo Weekly Standard

Sixteen or more pages every
week with all the leading fea-
tures from the daily for the
preceding week (except sport
and oil news) one full year--

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John Bilbo, owner

We have the place to eat, drink and be merry. You eat and drink and we'll be merry - the nicest noise we hear is the ring of the cash register. That makes it possible for us to give you real service. So's your old man.

Robert Lee, Texas

LONG DISTANCE LENDS ENCHANTMENT

TO YOUR Holiday Greetings.

This is the time of year to renew your friendships . . . and to bring the family together again. Make your holiday plans by telephone.

But if you cannot all be together, telephone your greetings to the absent ones - the sound of your voice will bring joy to them.

Night Rates will be in effect from 7 A. M. Christmas Eve, 'til 4:30 Monday morning.

SAN ANGELO TELEPHONE COMPANY

\$500 REWARD

For the arrest and conviction of any one caught stealing cattle on my ranches.

R. H. Harris

Believe it or not, automobiles will do a lot to bring on prohibition again. They are helping to build sentiment against the liquor traffic all the time. By the way, liquor is the same by the drink, bottle or barrel; when bought from the bootlegger, the package store or the pharmacy. It is all just Hell's broth turned loose to bring want, misery and death.--Mathis News.

The success of The Observer is founded on the faithfulness and loyalty of its old subscribers and advertisers, and it never forgets them in its search for new business.

It Always Works

Everybody knows the story of Robinson Crusoe, how he was stranded on an island with only a goat, a parrot and black man as his companions, and how badly he wanted to get off of that island. But most people do not know that it was advertising that got him off. He had only a ragged shirt with which to do his advertising, but he stuck it on a pole, planted the pole in the ground, and waited. He didn't get discouraged when no one came the first day--no good advertiser does. But he kept advertising his predicament by means of that old shirt waving in the air--and finally he got results. If Robinson Crusoe with one old shirt could reach the people he sought, how much more easy is it for merchants in this territory to reach the people they want to sell goods to through the columns of a modern, home-town newspaper? Now that the winter buying season is in full swing, this is a pretty timely subject to devote a little study to.

1938 Ford V-8 Standard Tudor Sedan



MOST popular of all the Ford V-8 body types is the standard Tudor sedan, shown above. A longer hood, more sweeping lines and newly-designed front end, grille, fenders, fenders and hubcaps are featured. The car is available either with 85 horsepower or 60 horsepower V-8 engine. Interiors are attractively appointed. The front seat is full width. The seat back is divid-

ed. The sections are hinged diagonally and swing inward as they are tipped forward so as to leave a wide passageway on either side for entrance to the rear seat. Like all Ford body types the Tudor sedan has a large built-in luggage compartment. The standard cars are engineered for owners who demand the maximum of economy in first cost and operating cost.

Robert Lee High School

STEERLINE

News of the week

Editor, Sports & Joke Writer Bobby Lee Davis

Pep writer, Katherine Scoggins

Senior Reporter, Bob L. Davis,

Junior Rep., Gail McCutchen

Soph. Rep., Prudie Creech

Freshmen Rep., Geraldine Davis

The "Steerline Staff" wishes everyone a Merry Christmas, and the best of enjoyment for the Holidays. The Steerline will be discontinued next week for celebration of the Holidays, but will be resumed the following week. We hope to have our new gym and building completed.

Senior News

Santa Claus will soon be here and several of the seniors have dropped a hint to the gay, whiskered, old gentleman, and here's hoping they receive what they ask for, of course they have all been good children, and they should get what they ask for.

Patsy Lee wants Santa to bring Joyce some mechanical fingers to increase her speed in typing so she might get a job from the

Wendland Heating Co.

James wants Santa to bring Fay a 'wart' (on the end of her nose).

Ed wants a key to Commercial Law and wants Santa to bring a watch to Miss Downy that will time 10 minutes an hour, and the seniors a simplified version of English IV, (not being greedy either).

Betty Fay wants Santa to bring the civics class a key to their notebooks, and Beatrice a machine that will save time in writing letters.

Lorene wants a key to Commercial Law, and a spelling book.

Doris wants Santa to bring Gene a book on how to say "darling" correctly. (we wonder which Gene?)

Melrose wants a big doll with red, curly hair, and can say mama, papa, and "goodnight sweetheart".

Joyce wants Pat to receive a law book so she might fight in self defense against a menace for cowboy boots.

Dick wants Santa to bring Gene Roberts a shot gun that will accidentally go off, so he can get his girl.

We don't know what Gene

wants but we can guess.

Beatrice wants a book containing common rules of punctuation for English IV, and a simplified version of Macbeth.

Grace wants a boy friend with a car that will go to Bronte and back.

The reporter wants a bunch of kisses. (The kind you eat in coach Bowman's study hall.)

Mr. Landers wants five good basketball players.

Finnell wants a hive of "spell-bees."

We wonder what Miss Downey wants? Probably "more sleep" on Sunday nights.

Bryce wants someone to "domino." Competition is getting to strong and they keep her in "suspenders."

Edna wants "to be alone" on her dates from here out.

We don't know what David wants, but nevertheless, he wants to keep the name of "Junior."

Katherine hasn't told us what she wanted, but its probably "a date that would suit her best."

Lawrence would be pleased with a few hundreds to replace some X's.

Goodbye until Holidays are over.

Junior News

Dear Santa;

We have all been very good and hope you'll bring us a few of the gifts we want.

Orval wants you to bring him a Geometry credit.

Josephine wants fifty cents worth of million dollars.

Bring Miss Downey a little sleep for Monday mornings.

Gail wants a little black mustache etc.

Zelma wants a color book from Waco.

Bert wants a new bill fold.

Bring Alen a little advice on English Grammar.

M. L. as a bookkeeper, wants a raise.

Nina wants a cute little boy doll five feet eight inches tall.

Edwina, what the negro boy shot at--nothing--

Alta Bell wants a combination addition and subtraction machine for bookkeeping or an answer book. She's really not particular.

Send some more magazine agents around; Gennell likes to make them move.

Shelby is in need. Bring him a blonde.

J. C. wants a set of A. B. C. blocks to pass the time away.

Sophomore News

We all certainly enjoyed the party which was given by Mr. Brey last Tuesday night a week ago. All of the class were present except the following; Daniel Daffern, Geneva Martin, Jessie Summers, Irene Brantley, and Marjorie Bruton. Mr. Bowman and Rev. Dellashaw were present.

We are all planning on a swell time Christmas. I hope Santa finds Fay's chimney, but she has been such a bad girl in our typing class I hardly think he will. Maybe he will give her a book on etiquette though. If he does I certainly hope she will study it.

Announcing--

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Fort Worth STAR-TELEGRAM

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From \$8.00 Daily Without Sunday to \$6.45.

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HEADLINES FROM THE LIVES OF PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELF!

"Undress Parade in the Navy"

By FLOYD GIBBONS
Famous Headline Hunter

HELLO, EVERYBODY:

All aboard! boys and girls. Clamber right up that gang-plank there and make it speedy. We're bound for the Panama Canal on the United States destroyer Satterlee. See those big numbers on the side? You can read 'em a mile away. That's our number, 190. But for the love of Mike be careful of those depth bomb racks on the stern. The World war is just over and those things are loaded with T. N. T.!

All of which brings us to Frank Edward Hanke, who is taking a bath in the destroyer's washroom as our story opens. Frank resides in New York now. But don't forget that bath. You see Frank was taking that bath when he had the most exciting adventure of his entire career! Here goes the story gang-plank.

Frank has been through many narrow squeaks. But his closest shave took place during the joint maneuvers of the Atlantic and the Pacific fleets in 1920. Destroyers then still carried full war loads of explosives in the depth charge "submarine killers," that hung in racks on the stern of the ship.

The fleets were passing through the Panama canal. At the Gatun locks, Frank's destroyer—the Satterlee—had already entered the locks and was waiting for the U. S. S. Mason to follow her in. The docks were lined with beautiful damsels come from far and near to get a glimpse of Uncle Sam's natty sailors and Frank was primping up in the washroom with three or four other gobs, getting ready to give the girls a treat.

What If They Should Collide?

Frank glanced through the washroom window at the Mason, which was flying through the water at a fast clip. He stopped soaping himself for a second and pondered absently as to what would happen if the Mason accidentally collided with the depth bombs in the stern. As he pondered and watched, the commander of the Mason shot his ship into



The Soapy Nudists Rushed for the Stern.

reverse. But Frank, to his horror, saw that the reverse lever or something had gone wrong and the ship was still coming on. A COLLISION WAS CERTAIN!

In those depth bombs, Frank knew, was enough T. N. T. to blow up the locks and everything in them. He let out a yell and pointed. His shipmates in the washroom saw the danger, too, and with one common accord they shot out on deck.

Well, sir, Frank says he doesn't think the explosion itself would have caused half the commotion his little sailor nudist colony did when they appeared on deck. The locks are very narrow at that place and it was just as though they had strolled naked on a ballroom floor in the middle of a dance.

He and his pals, though, weren't thinking of that. They had no idea the sensation they were causing the ladies of the Canal zone. Their idea and the idea of any self respecting sailor was to avert by any means possible a catastrophe.

The soapy nudists rushed for the stern of the ship, ready if necessary to place their gleaming bodies in between the oncoming ship and the T. N. T.

Scolded the Girls for Laughing.

On came the Mason while the crews of two ships groaned and the spectators ashore laughed at the unexpected parade on the Satterlee. Frank thinks they thought it all part of the show. He never gave it a thought in the moment before the collision but as the prow of the Mason swerved at the last moment and instead of hitting the depth charges smashed into the heavy four gun mount on one side, he turned and gave them a piece of his mind for laughing at a tense moment like that!

Then he and his pals went to work at a barked command from an officer. And they worked hard. On the docks the laughing went on. Frank looked around for the cause of it. He couldn't see anything to laugh at in a collision that might have taken the lives of hundreds of people and he went right on working and growling at the strange sense of humor of these Panama Janes.

The collision had been a serious one. It took the combined crews hours to clear up the wreckage. I've got a photograph of it and it must of been pretty bad. Frank isn't in the picture or perhaps he might get a laugh now himself.

Then He Saw the Joke.

Finally when things had quieted down a bit and Frank felt he had done his duty he reached for a cigarette. Holy Moses! Where was his nocket? He glanced down at his legs. Where were his pants? He looked now with seeing eyes at his pals of the washroom. They didn't have a stitch on them! They looked at him!

And were their faces red!

Frank says his nudist detail made one jump for a companion way. They hit the entrance all at once and jammed. Hysterical feminine laughter rang in their ears once more and then they tumbled head over heels below.

Well, sir, Frank and his pals came in for a lot of kidding after that, but he says he didn't notice any gobs kidding him at the time of the accident. Officers and men were all so excited at what they knew might happen that they didn't even notice any sailors working without benefit of clothes.

And, come to think of it, if gobs read of us would forget all about clothes if we saw tons of steel speeding toward enough T. N. T. to undress the whole navy in one blast.

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Dumb Waiters English Idea
Dumb waiters were an English invention of the Eighteenth century which consisted of tiers of trays affixed to a central support on a tripod base. They were usually placed diagonally at the corners of the dining table so that diners might help themselves after the servants had departed.

Connecticut's First Prison
Between 1793 and 1827 in Connecticut's first prison in Wethersfield, inmates slept in an abandoned copper mine, worked in heavy iron collars hung by chains from the ceiling of the smeltery and boiled their meat in the same water they had used to cool the iron at the forges, says Collier's Weekly.

STAR DUST

Movie • Radio
By VIRGINIA VALE

THE great experiment of a Fred Astaire picture without Ginger Rogers is now up for public approval, and first reports promise that it will triumph at the box office. "Damsel in Distress" hasn't the effervescent Ginger, but it has that most blithe of dinwits, Gracie Allen, and her solemn George Burns.

The setting of this giddy, tuneful story is England, where Astaire as a shy matinee idol becomes romantically entangled with a peer's daughter played by the ingratiating Joan Fontaine. The story doesn't get in the way of the dancing, and Astaire has never danced with such breathtaking skill before.



Fred Astaire When you see him and Gracie romping through a carnival engaging in dizzy antics on treadmills, revolving barrels, and in front of those crazy mirrors that distort reflections, you will wonder why Gracie's amazing talent as a dancer has been overlooked so long.

The long delay in making another feature picture with the Dionne quintuplets has at last been explained by Twentieth Century-Fox officials. They have been waiting for the little girls to learn English, figuring that audiences can't be counted on to study French just in order to understand the little cherubs.

Waves of dissatisfaction spread through Hollywood like an epidemic every once in a while, and lately producers have been having their troubles pacifying pouting stars. Loretta Young has decided that she doesn't want to make any more pictures with Tyrone Power for a while. Not that she doesn't like him. She does, but she thinks that the public tires of seeing the same couple on the screen in picture after picture. Ginger Rogers has served notice on R. K. O. that in addition to her salary she wants a share of the profits of pictures she appears in. Fred Astaire and Katherine Hepburn both share in the profits of theirs. Dorothy Lamour has rebelled against wearing native dress in pictures.

Wallace Ford is one of the screen players over whom the first-night audience at "Of Mice and Men" cheered in New York recently. Even if the play runs all year, however, Wally figures that his fans out through the country won't forget him, for before going into the play he completed the as yet unreleased "Swing It, Sailor" for Grand National, and three pictures in England.

Jack Holt is rounding out his twentieth year as an actor and his eighteenth as a motion-picture star. No other performer has enjoyed outstanding popularity more than half as long as he has, and Hollywood producers will tell you that he is just as popular with them as with the public. Whether he is assigned to horses or top hats, Jack is always amiable, and if a story seems thin he figures it is up to him to give a performance that will build it up. Some of the young players supporting him in Columbia's "Under Suspicion" asked him recently how he got his start, and then shuddered a bit as he told them that he rode a horse over a thirty-five foot cliff into swirling rapids.



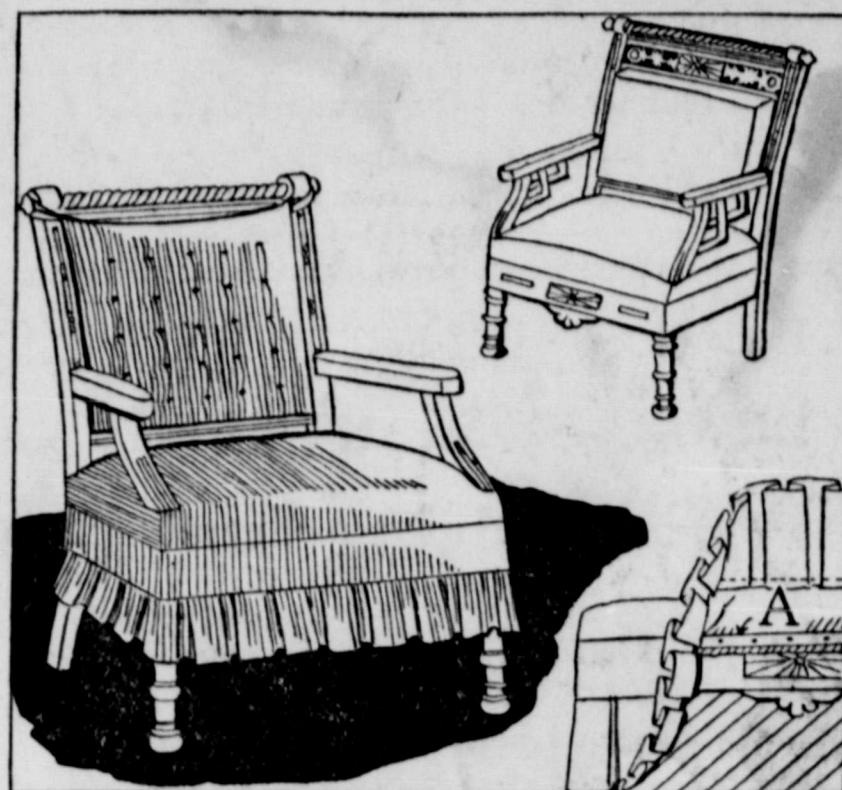
Jack Holt

ODDS ANDS ENDS—Marlene Dietrich shed her wan and bored manner in a New York night club and joined the crowd truckin' . . . She could be as sensational in comedy as Irene Dunne is if she only would, but she won't . . . Ballroom dancing bores Fred Astaire until Benny Goodman starts playing and then he just can't sit still . . . Betty Jaynes, youthful sensation of the Chicago stage, will play Norma Shearer's bit role in "Student Prince" when M.G.M. films it again as a musical . . . When Dick Powell stopped over in Chicago between trains a group of fans surprised him by presenting him with their autographed photos.

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HOW TO SEW

by Ruth Wyeth Spears



Making Over a Chair of the Ginger-Bread Era.

TO modernize the old walnut chair at the right the pieces under the arms were removed and most of the carving covered up. The padding at the back was removed entirely and replaced by a fiber board which was covered by a loose cotton filled cushion tufted like an old fashioned bed comfort except that the tied thread ends of the tufting were left on the wrong side.

This back cushion was fastened in place with tapes that slipped over the knobs at the ends of the upper carving. If the knobs to hold the cushion had been lacking it could have been tacked in place along the top on the under side by using a strip of heavy card-

board to keep the tacks from pulling through the fabric as shown here for tacking the box pleated ruffle around the seat as at A. A plain rust colored heavy cotton upholstery material was used for the covering.

Every Homemaker should have a copy of Mrs. Spears' new book, SEWING. Forty-eight pages of step-by-step directions for making slipcovers and dressing tables; restoring and upholstering chairs, couches; making curtains for every type of room and purpose. Making lampshades, rugs, ottomans and other useful articles for the home. Readers wishing a copy should send name and address, enclosing 25 cents to Mrs. Spears, 210 South Dearborn St., Chicago, Illinois.

Rising Tide

A new magazine has made its appearance on the newsstands of the country. It is pictorial in character under the name of the "Rising Tide," originally issued in England and now being prepared for distribution in eleven countries under nine different languages. The magazine is reported to be a non-profit publication carrying no advertising but such matter that is of interest to the people of the world who are seeking answers to their own problems. It is said that these problems are covered without regard to race, class or creed.

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