

CHRISTMAS ISSUE

The Post Dispatch

"OUT WHERE THE WEST IS THE WEST!"

POST, TEXAS, DECEMBER, 1944.

"THE GATEWAY TO THE PLAINS!"

"Merry Christmas, Son"



FORGIVE me, Lord, if my prayer this eve
Is a selfish one. Forgive me, son,
If I seem to falter, appear to grieve,
For I feel no grief, nor bitterness
That you are gone, beyond the seas;
It's more of an empty loneliness
I cannot help. No anguished pleas
Shall I utter, son; just this I pray:
Godspeed your task, may it be done
Before another holy Christmas day,
And everlasting be the victory won.

—Edward Lawson

CHRISTMAS, a Time of Spiritual Uplift

By KATHLEEN NORRIS
(Retained by Bill Bradstreet)

Now that Christmas is so close some of us who are getting on in years are remembering other Christmases. It rather sobers me, for one, to realize that my Christmas recollections go back more than half a century—say to Christmas in 1893.

We lived in the country then, and there were nine in our family—father, mother, unmarried aunt and six children. My father was a bank manager on a salary of \$6,000 a year, which was considered wealth. We had a horse and a surrey, two cows, chickens and a cook. The cook did all the washing in a day when ladies and little girls reveled in white starched petticoats and embroidered muslin nighties; she did all the cooking and put up 400 jars of fruit every year. Her salary was \$22 per month.

Beef was 10c to 15c a pound; best breakfast bacon 10c to 12c a pound; vegetables came for almost nothing—we had a garden; bread was 5 cents a loaf; children's "pebblegoat" shoes cost less than \$2 a pair.

We children had plenty of jobs; we had no sense of sitting back and being waited upon; my older brother had full responsibility for the cows, horse and chickens; my sister and I had to dust rooms, and fill 17 kerosene lamps every day, to set and clear the dining table, to sweep porches, to run errands for the grown-ups. When the semi-annual sewing orgy was on, and Miss Wilde came, we had to clear the sewing room every night, a job I think of even now with loathing. Scraps of threads and paper patterns littered the floor.

A Great Time

Christmas was a great time. Preparations had to go on about four fronts. Church was one important item. There must be special music, which meant

night rehearsing with all its thrills of walks in the swinging lantern light; there must be special decorations. There was a Sunday school tree for poor children, always a wonderful spiritual uplift for the luckier children who wrapped and distributed the packages.

Then there were presents to make and—more rarely—to buy. There was the tree to find, and fell, and trim. There was the kitchen excitement of seeding raisins and chopping citron, with all the grown-ups buzzing about. And finally, there were family arrivals, cousins, grandma, coming in cold and beaming, and being welcomed by roaring fires and dancing children; dinner all ready, red berries on the table and fragrant wreaths at the windows. And the solemn ceremony of stocking-hanging for the last thing Christmas Eve.

There was no war then, no talk of war. There had been a Civil War not too many years earlier, but as the family had been sharply divided between Boston and Richmond, it was never mentioned. What was going on in the Balkans or Manchuria concerned us not at all. That the machines that men were even then inventing would one day grow into such hideous power that whole cities would fall in ashes beneath them; that war would reach out across the wide oceans and engulf us, never occurred for one instant to the ladies who sat rocking before the great wood fire. Telephones were now new and considered a marvelous invention. No automobiles, radio, movies as yet. No wireless, no planes.

Without all these the world was a safer-feeling place, whatever great good they may bring to mankind in the wiser years to come.

Empty Chair This Year

There will be no Christmas like that old Christmas this year; not anywhere in the whole world. Not anywhere—father, mother, children, kinsfolk sitting down together to turkey and oy-



There was a Sunday School tree for poor children, always a wonderful spiritual uplift for the luckier children who wrapped and distributed packages.

ster soup and mince pie. There is an empty chair this year beside mother, and Aunt Emily is very quiet in her new black. The smallest baby gets his

rattle and his new blankets, but he doesn't get a kiss from his daddy. Daddy has been a prisoner of war for long and weary months.

Everyone is resolutely cheerful, but the old gaiety is laid aside for awhile. The women's voices aren't murmuring about sage in the dressing or the ridiculous cost of doll buggies. No, this year it's "Still missing, grandma. But Jim was a wonderful swimmer and football player, and we hope—" "They heard last week; he may get leave in February." "They got the Christmas boxes off way back in October, but of course we don't know that they got there." "He's a lieutenant now, Uncle George—in Italy, we think." And so on and on until the roll call of every beloved name—and the Johnson boy, and the Smith boy, and Mary Jones' husband, and Helen's father, is complete.

Oh, I hope the boys know it, know how our hearts are with them, how we pray for them and think of them and thank them, on all the battle fronts! In the long dull days of marking time in our camps, in the dreadful lonely white Aleutians, on the blazing, roaring red lines of war, their mothers and wives and sisters are with them, every hour of the day.

Spirit of Day Must Not Suffer

And at home we must do what we can to keep Christmas still Christmas. If the turkey has turned into a lamb stew or a fish chowder; if the ice cream is only a rather weak frozen custard; if the presents are only what was left after the boys' boxes were shipped away, the spirit of Christmas need not suffer. There may still be wreaths in the windows and candlelight on the tree; the children may still arrange their tableaux and charades;

the cousins and aunts may still come trooping in out of the cold to the welcoming fire. And if we older folk spend a little more time in the churches, re-

peating the Lord's Prayer, the old law, begging God to bring men back to a sense of it, to a respect for it, that will not spoil Christmas, either.

"I hoped you were in church, praying for me at that exact moment, Mother," wrote a boy from Rome last July. "I thought of you all, Ellen and the kid, and Dad and Betsy, and where you might be. I placed them all at home—well, say getting ready for Sunday supper on the porch. But I placed you in church, thinking of me and praying for me. Somebody must be, for seem to lead a charmed life. Don't stop."

That was well said: "Don't stop." We're to have the right world after ward we must hold tight to the peaceful, happy ways this Christmas. We must put our heart into making the family feel happy and confident. We must think of the words we sing in the Christmas hymns: "For that darkness shineth an everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight."

REJOICE ALWAYS

We need not hesitate over happiness this year. For a child was born in Bethlehem at a time when Herod was a king and hatred and death were abroad in the world, even as they are today. The babe of a manger, the boy of the temple, grew up to teach good will and love as a saving way of life for all mankind. He who said "Rejoice always" said it confidently to men and women who lived with unhappiness and strife, among wars and rumors of wars. We can say the same words confidently now. It is surely not too much to believe that the children of this Christmas time will grow up to know a world where all nations can truly rejoice and where, as a living heritage from those who are dying today for their fellows, good will and peace will be found which a child of Judea once taught the children of men.

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which, being interpreted, is, God with us. Matt. 1:23.

A STAR that GLEAMS

By WALTER RUSSELL BOWIE
(Continued from New York Times Magazine)

CHRISTMAS, and a world in confusion: those two realities do not seem to fit together. "Peace on earth, good-will toward men" is the thought that instinctively we associate with Christmas; but now there is no peace upon the earth, and in many places good-will is eclipsed in bitterness and hate. Festivity seems unnatural in a year like this. We may approach it awkwardly, with our hearts not in it. There are too many grim tasks ahead, and we remember too many boys who kept last Christmas at home, or near it, and who this year are in the snows of Germany or in the rank jungles of the South Pacific, or in the rain and mud of Italy.

Nevertheless, the thought of Christmas was and the mood of Christmas do belong to this year, as to every year. Indeed, they belong to it more because they are needed more. It was exactly 100 years ago that Charles Dickens wrote "A Christmas Carol," that bright and glowing fantasy which it is safe to say will be read and rejoiced in long after another hundred years have come and gone.

It is true there was no great war to shadow Dickens' world in the year when he wrote it, but that world of his was very dark in other ways. His England was blighted with the worst cruelties of the new industrial age, its skies blackened with unaccustomed smoke, its children exploited the slums of its cities filled with huddled human misery.

Out of a Dingy Cloud

But out of this dingy cloud emerge the figures of Dickens' immortal story, with their invincible chorus of "Merry Christmas" and with the final words of Tiny Tim, "God bless us, every one!"

What sort of bright message then does Christmas have for us in the winter weather of this year of war?

First, there is the remembrance that it is not the seeming big things but the little intimate things that matter most. The story of Christmas centers in a family—the Holy Family of Joseph and Mary and the little Child who was born in Bethlehem. But every family has in it something that can make it holy, something—what to be sure—which will grow up and make those father

than they would have been alone.

Let us, therefore, turn back and consider that contrast out of which the whole commemoration of Christmas grew. The civilization which the first century knew was in many respects hard and cruel. To great populations their lot must have seemed as bitter as the lot of those nations in Europe that are bowed beneath the Nazi yoke. Rome had subjugated the whole of the western world, and the figure of Messala in "Ben Hur" is perhaps not overdrawn as a representative of the arrogance of Roman mastery.

Caesar Augustus

Over the Roman Empire Caesar Augustus ruled, the nephew of Julius Caesar, who had destroyed the power of Brutus and Cassius and later of Marc

one more child happened to come into existence in this Palestine which was only one of the less significant provinces over which Rome ruled? Apparently no difference at all.

Eclipsed by a Child

That is the way in which men always are inclined to reckon. The actions of governments, the practical matters of taxes and tariffs, the big decisions by the seemingly big people—these are the things that are supposed to be of overwhelming consequence. The new impulse that may be stirring in some soul that the world has not yet heard of is unnoticed. Who in the first century would have admitted that anybody in his senses could suggest that Caesar Augustus would be eclipsed in history by a child born of one of his subject peoples?

But as a matter of fact, that reversal has long since taken place. Nobody cares much today about Augustus. His name stirs interest in the mind of a student of history; but it stirs no emotion in any man's heart. So far as anything we live for or live by is concerned, nobody would feel any distress if the name of Augustus should suddenly vanish from the records of the earth, but millions of people, including multitudes who are not Christians, know that something infinitely enriching would be lost if we should ever lose the influence of Him whose birthday has become our Christmas.

So Christmas centers around a great event. It has to do with the coming of a Child; and ever since the Child of Bethlehem was born there has been a more sensitive reverence for life's new beginnings. In the Christmas story a star stands over Bethlehem, shining with a light that never wholly was on land or sea. To many a father and mother their own child has seemed to reflect some of this same light.

And now once more we stand at a decisive moment. In these recent days there have been meetings of statesmen, proclamations of purpose, plans for constructive action, including peace plans, which gleam like a star in a shadowed sky. But that star, if it is to be really the signal of a larger hope, must be seen and followed by the younger generation coming on.

So it might result that not for a few people and not for a few nations only but for all mankind, the words with which Dickens concluded the "Christmas Carol" would come true: "God bless us, everyone!"

Hollywood's Yuletide Will Be Quiet

By HAROLD HEFFERNAN
(Motion Picture Editor, The Detroit News)

AS IN all other parts of the civilized world, the simple, time-honored greeting, "Merry Christmas," will be exchanged throughout movieland, but Hollywood's fourth wartime Yule observation will be even more quiet and reverent than ever before.

This year many movie workers who had sons, brothers and husbands at home last Christmas will be touched by loneliness, thereby turning sobering thoughts toward their men in the service. In 1943 Hollywood was practically squeezed dry of its available males.

It became apparent in an early checkup that many of big name personalities have not yet completed plans for the holiday. One thing, however, is certain: It will be very much of a stay-at-home Christmas. Only in a few isolated cases have stars dared the transportation tangle by embarking on cross-continental trips.

Hollywood Canteen to Be Merry

While Christmas, 1944, will be extremely quiet for most residents, there is one spot in town where it will be plenty noisy. All the stops will be pulled out at the famous Hollywood Canteen, where some 100 stars and featured players will join for a couple of hours or so to entertain service men.

Bette Davis, who heads the canteen and has been the moving spirit in the organization since its birth 30 months ago, says the gaiety and cheer at that spot Christmas Day will top that of 1942, when Eddie Cantor played Santa Claus and distributed more than \$5,000 worth of gifts to visiting members of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps. Cantor, it is hoped, will repeat his feat.

The Hollywood Victory Committee reported that in 1943 some 90 stars and well-known actors agreed to forfeit their holiday at home to participate in a Christmas Caravan, which carried good cheer to Army and Navy hospitals throughout the United States.

Greeting Cards

Incidentally, if you get a greeting card from a star this year you can consider yourself lucky. Even before the war, Hollywood was cutting down on its policy of sending out elaborate and costly cards—dropping from an average price of 25 cents to 10 cents. After Pearl Harbor, practically the

entire colony subscribed itself to the moderately priced, simple little greetings printed in job lots by the Motion Picture Relief Fund. Last year this worthy organization, which silently cares for indigent old-timers of the movie industry, realized \$6,000 from the sale of Christmas cards. This year it has gone out of the card business because of the paper shortage. With greeting telegrams long since banned, plenty of stars will use the telephone to call up their friends.

Seems like a century ago that the late Tom Mix startled the town, and all his acquaintances, by sending out 5,000 greeting cards, two feet long, in five colors and costing \$2.90 each. But it was only 15 years back, when Tom and Tony were riding the high range of fame and fortune.

No Gaudy Decorations On the Lanscape

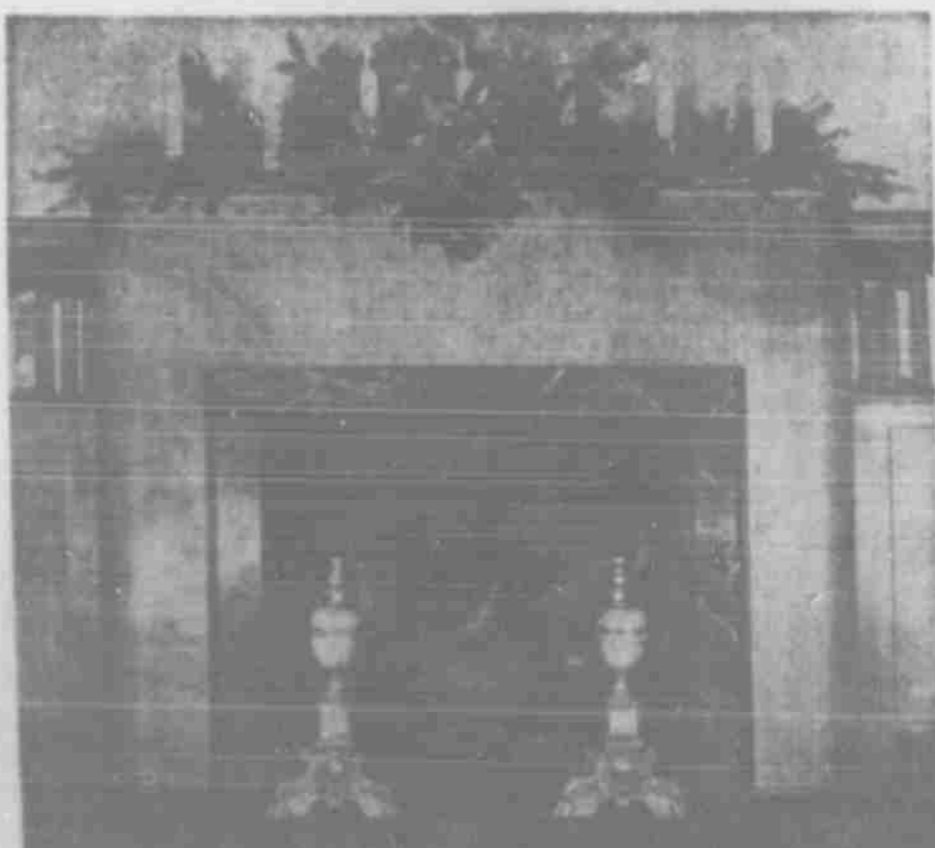
Likewise, it seems ages back that Beverly Hills and Bel Air residents were waging their annual Yuletide battle of outside Christmas decorations. Fancy homes and vast front yards of the stars were aglow with fantastic Santa Clauses, reindeer, artificial snow and other decorations two weeks before the big day.

At night, Beverly Hills thoroughfares were thronged with sightseers, on foot and in automobile, gawking at the illuminated ornaments. And each year a committee of city fathers, sitting in solemn session, awarded prizes to property owners putting forth the most amazing display. While the dimout has been lifted, there'll be no such gaudy shows in the Hollywood area this Christmas.

Even the traditional symbol of the Holy Day—the Christmas tree—will be absent from many a living room. Transportation difficulties have reduced the allotment to a comparatively few limbs of the scrawny cedar variety. And these have been marked up with prohibitive price tags. The \$1 tree of last year is now \$15, so many an actor has decided to decorate the mantel and buy a War Bond instead.

But the true spirit of Christmas—that it stands for—will not be absent in Hollywood. The little remembrances, the good will, the kindly greetings will be just as cordial and sincere as ever.

With 11,800,000 men in the armed forces, the Selective Service Administration reports inductions now averaging 70,000 a month and "highers" about 25,000 a month.



CURRENT COMMENT

By A STAFF EDITOR

(Copyright, 1944, by the Southwest Magazine Co.)

Faith

On weekdays through the year the door of many a city church stands open, and on those days—notably now, as Christmas nears—people come from the noisy street, the busy avenue, to sit in meditation, to feel a moment in prayer.

Burdened, anxious, saddened, devout, they are a cloud of witnesses, silently waiting for the Lord to appear. "Though all be ill with the world, God is in His Heaven: In Him our trust." The shocks and strains and changes of a troubled time cannot shake that faith.

What is faith? It is that by which the just have lived; that which made the leper whole; that which makes any one sorrow possible to bear. It is the light by which men may walk when the way is too dark for sight. It is the mind at its bravest. It is the chain that binds us to the Infinite, lifting us above fear. It is a bridge across the gulf of death.

Faith differs among men. One man's conception of God may scarcely resemble another's. But who would quarrel over that, so long as the faith of both means that goodness is the eternal law of God's universe and will forever overcome evil? And with such faith shining on life comes faith in our fellow-men and ourselves.

There must surely be a blessing for those who have faith. Look for its sign in the clear eyes and the calm faces of people as they come out from the sanctuary into the throbbing world again, strengthened for whatever responsibilities, whatever trials may await them.

moved away from farms or who now are living on places no longer regarded as farms, and a net gain of 1,652,000 through the excess of births over deaths.

Will Ever Exist

Christmas holidays always will be holidays whether or not there is a war. For the spirit of Christmas will ever exist in a country such as ours where ideals are based on the tenets of fair play. Tinsel trees, gay gifts, wrappings, holly and mistletoe and candles flickering in windows are outward manifestations of Yuletide, and these traditions will be carried out even with an empty chair at the dinner table. These are the very things for which our boys are fighting, and these are the things they would have us do while they are gone. And because we do them, our morale rises despite sadness, uncertainties and reminiscences of other happier years. The very fact that the season has arrived and the effort is made, brings charity, hope, love, faith, and even gaiety into our lives. So it should be a happy Christmas for all who make it so.



Manufacture of the steel penny, introduced as an emergency measure when copper was scarce at the beginning of the war, seems to be a thing of the past. But with \$7,000,000 worth already in circulation, mint officials estimate that Americans will still be handling them in their daily business for many years to come.

Largest and Most Powerful Fleet

Dramatic naval developments in the Pacific, culminating with the crushing defeat of the Japanese fleet in the battle of the Philippines, has brought the focus of war to bear on American sea power.

The curtain of censorship has been lifted sufficiently, in celebration of this the largest and most powerful force of historic victory, to give us a glimpse of fighting ships ever to sail the Seven Seas. That it is such is no longer unknown to the enemy. He has felt its sting and has fled, bleeding and mortally hurt, to the temporary security of his home waters.

The growth of the United States Navy is one of the awe-inspiring stories of the Second World War. From 369 in 1940 the number of U. S. combat craft has been increased to more than 1,500, despite the loss of approximately 170 vessels.

Of the 26 battleships, 16 are reported by the Navy to be operating in the present area of Pacific hostilities.

Included in the battle line are at least three super-dreadnoughts—the

Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin. These are 45,000-ton giants each carrying nine 16-inch guns that can blast a target nearly 19 miles away over the horizon.

Even more impressive is the growth of the Navy in the category of aircraft carriers. There are perhaps 100 of these of all types.

In addition the Navy has in commission and fit for action approximately 75 cruisers, heavy and light; 345 destroyers, and more than 200 submarines. Behind this mighty fleet of fighting ships is a supporting armada of more than 50,000 vessels, including landing craft.

Mints Set Record Output for Coin

Production of coins in the Denver, San Francisco and Philadelphia mints has reached a new all-time high this year, with 3,000,000,000 made during the last year. This tops previously yearly records by 1,000,000,000 coins.

"Cartwheels"—silver dollars—are also enjoying a production boom this year. By June 30 at least 3,000,000 of them had been made at the Denver mint in one year. Nickels and dimes are not being ignored in this new coin boom, and a considerable part of the monthly production at all mints is devoted to the nickel and silver coins.

Manufacture of the steel penny, introduced as an emergency measure when copper was scarce at the beginning of the war, seems to be a thing of the past. But with \$7,000,000 worth already in circulation, mint officials estimate that Americans will still be handling them in their daily business for many years to come.

The Aerial Bazooka

The bazooka is probably the strangest instrument of destruction to come out of our armament factories. Looking like a castaway iron pipe, it unleashes gunfire sufficient to destroy a tank or penetrate the thickest wall. At Lowell, Mass., some of the barrels of this amazing weapon are being made of paper plastic.

Offspring of the famous bazooka used by the infantry, they are part of the armament of fighter planes. Paper plastic was chosen because of its light weight. Tests proved the paper barrels to be fire-resistant, successfully withstanding the fiery blast of the missile as it is discharged.

Firing of the flying bazooka is controlled by the pilot in the same manner that he fires his wing machine guns, by pressing a trigger in his control stick. The bazooka—or rocket launchers as they are called officially—are mounted under each wing, three of them in a cluster.

New Sugar-Cane By-Product

A by-product of sugar cane which has heretofore been considered practically worthless could form the basis of a thriving new industry in the South, says Dr. E. E. Litkenhous, professor of chemical engineering at Vanderbilt University of Nashville, Tennessee.

The material is bagasse—the pulp residue left when the juices are squeezed out of sugar cane. It now is burned as waste, or used as fuel in sugar mills.

In a report prepared for the War Production Board, the Vanderbilt scientist said bagasse can be manufactured into paper and that production of paper from the material "could be gotten under way within a very short time," helping to solve the current paper shortage.

"It has been estimated that more than two million tons of bagasse pulp could be consumed now in the paper industry for various types of specialty papers and corrugated board, thus freeing a similar quantity of wood pulp for other uses," he reported.

And the by-product has a dozen or more other uses forming the basis for products ranging from shellac to stockings, Dr. Litkenhous declared.

War Bond Purchases of Servicemen

Servicemen are salting away a lot of their hard-earned money in war bonds.

They're doing it by allotments—having so much deducted from each month's pay—or buying with cash.

The monthly investments now: Soldiers, about 46 million dollars; navy men, about 13 million dollars.

So far the most popular allotment has been \$6.25. Taken monthly from a man's pay, in three months full payment of \$18.75 has been made for a \$25 bond.

Now, there is a new \$10 "GI" bond for servicemen, issued August 1. They can buy it for \$7.50. It has to be in one payment.

The bond purchases do double duty: They help servicemen save money for after the war; and they help siphon off an overseas serviceman's loose cash.

With less loose cash, servicemen have less chance to bid up prices in freed or occupied territory. This helps prevent inflation there.

Bond purchases are only part of the money coming out of a serviceman's pay. Allotments also are made for dependents at home, for life insurance, and for a special soldiers' deposit fund.

That deposit fund is a saving account in which servicemen put their money either through allotments or by direct cash payments.

Shell Rationing Shows Need for Paper

The waste paper you are discarding or burning now and after the holidays may be enough to make the casing for that last shell required to bring victory to the Allies.

Shipments of ammunition, food, and supplies of all kinds to the Pacific front also depend on paper. Waste paper is still the most critically needed war material.

Spurred by Undersecretary of War Patterson's warning that artillery ammunition is now being rationed on the western European front, many organizations are increasing their efforts to set a new record in the collection of waste paper.

Boy and Girl Scouts, civic clubs, women's clubs, and others are doing all they can, but a still greater effort is necessary to meet the greater need and eclipse past records. The wholehearted co-operation of every family is urgently needed.

Flight Nurses

Flight nurses in air evacuation transport squadrons of the Army air forces are performing some of the most heroic jobs of the war.

Some of the girls have more than 1,000 flying hours to their credit in nursing wounded soldiers being evacuated from the front lines to base hospitals in more peaceful territory—from France to England and from England and France to America and Africa.

Crews of the transports in which the nurses fly often are given a furlough after they have spent a certain number of hours aloft or traveled on a certain number of missions, but the nurses stay on the job all the while—and most of the girls wouldn't trade their work for anything else in the world, they declared.

The day before a wounded soldier begins a journey to a hospital he is visited by an Army surgeon in company with the flight nurse who will have charge of the injured man. The doctor explains the nature of the wound and the care the man will require. Then the nurse tells the patient what the trip will be like and attempts to overcome any nervous tendencies she may discover.

Boys on stretchers, as a result, are in good spirit when their ambulances arrive at evacuation airports.

50,000,000 Packages for GI's Christmas

About 50 million Christmas packages were sent to American troops overseas, the Army said. The shipment represents the greatest mass movement of package mail ever to leave this country. Delivery of the packages to the GI Joes will be by every type of Army transportation, ranging from dog teams in the Arctic to camels in Africa and from special parachutes to jeeps and trucks.

Bad Eating Habits Continue

Vast numbers of the American people are carrying over to the present days of high wages the bad eating habits they acquired of necessity on reduced incomes during the depression, Miss Mazina Moore, president-elect of the American Dietetic Association, said at its annual meeting in Chicago.

She added that the net result of this practice had been to perpetuate a malnourished group whose final salvation would be brought about only after the war.

Miss Moore, who also is director of dietetics at Vanderbilt University Hospital, Nashville, Tenn., asserted that the apostles of correct eating, who would save the country's undernourished ones from themselves, would be America's returning soldiers and sailors.

The latter had been introduced to correct eating and a balanced diet and know the fallacy of filling up only on starches which make fat persons fatter, even though the fat ones be starving on their feet for the seven protective foods.

Such foods, known as the "basic 7" she enumerated as fruits, green vegetables; fish, cheese and meats; eggs, whole wheat cereals, butter and milk.

London Round Trip 22 Hours

The Boeing Aircraft Company, which builds Flying Fortresses and Super Fortresses for war, lifted the curtain recently on the first of the new giant transoceanic aircraft it intends to build for peace. It is a revolutionized B-29 Super Fortress, the plane now making periodic bombing trips from China to the Japanese homeland.

Most interesting to American air transport operators is the fact that it is designed to carry up to 100 passengers 3,500 miles nonstop at a cruising speed of 340 miles an hour at a possible operating cost of a penny a passenger mile. Top speed is 400 miles an hour, the company said.

C. L. Egtvedt, chairman of the Boeing Company, said that a prototype of the new plane, built for military transport, is now undergoing tests at the company's Seattle, Wash., airport.

The official title of the new aircraft is the strato cruiser, but it has been known to engineers who designed it as model 377. It is a B-29 Super Fortress only in wings, tail surface, and landing gear, which are identical with those in the bomber. Four engines with a take-off rating of 3,500 horse power each drive it. The rated horse power of these motors is 2,800 and they are larger than the 2,200 horse power plants installed in the B-29.

De Gaulle Granted Approval of Allies

Under the leadership of Gen. Charles de Gaulle, the republic of France has emerged from four dark years of defeat, occupation, and the ravages of war to take control once more of its own destinies as a sovereign nation already promised a position in the council of peace.

Two actions by the United Nations market restoration of the republic: The United States, Great Britain, and Russia recognized the regime of De Gaulle as the provisional government of France, and Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower turned over to the De Gaulle government the administration of virtually all of France except the western combat zone.

The United States named Jefferson Caffery as its first ambassador to liberated France. Early "unfreezing" of more than a billion dollars of French assets in this country was predicted, along with reopening of business communications between this country and France.

The United Nations at the recent Dumbarton Oaks conference in Washington, in planning for a permanent world peace organization of the Allies, announced that France would be given a seat in the council, the governing body of the organization, along with the United States, England, Russia and China.

Rheumatic fever, that dreaded cause of heart disease in children and young adults, may be susceptible to treatment with a chemical found in red pepper and lemon peel. Dr. James F. Rinehart, of the University of California, has reported excellent results in the 19 cases he has already treated, but more extensive tests are necessary.

Grass Root Reveries

By JOE GANDY
Winnboro, Texas.

(Copyright, 1944, by the Southwest Magazine Co.)

All of us should pause this Christmas to offer a prayer for our soldier boys on the battlefronts. There will be a lonesome Christmas despite the millions of gifts sent to them. Be it ever so humble, there is no place like home, and home and the homefolks will be uppermost in the minds of the soldiers at Christmastime. So let's ask the Giver of all Gifts—our Lord and Saviour—to watch over and protect them in these perilous times.

Give war bonds and stamps for Christmas presents. As the years go by they will increase in value and the recipient will thank you for your foresight. Those who have their war stamps and bonds will be far wiser than those who spend them. Until the government called in all Liberty Bonds of World I, I owned about \$600 worth and they paid me \$360 in interest over a 20-year period. Many the time this interest money was food and clothing to me and my family.

No more fitting time than now to read the Bible. A most interesting book, it is inexplicable that some folks never read the Scriptures. There are stories in the Bible as thrilling as in the best seller. For a real love story you can't beat Ruth and Boaz. For adventure, there is the story of the Prodigal Son and the wanderings in the wilderness of the Israelites. Take time off during Christmas and read Christ's Sermon on the Mount. It is a message of good will to all the world, a plea for a better social order and for kindness and tolerance among all nations. One sentence in the Sermon on the Mount, if put in practice, would end all wars, crime and poverty. It is, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them."



The cigarette shortage shows the helplessness of this generation. Back in the good old days everybody "rolled their own," I learned to do it expertly. I have seen cowboys roll a cigarette with one hand and light it with the other while running their horses at full speed. Girls didn't smoke in those days and a boy who couldn't roll his own was a sissy.

The mince pie that we make so much of at Christmas is a third poor seller at hotels and restaurants. The best seller is apple pie, second pumpkin pie, and third mince pie. A waitress in Fort Worth's leading hotel told me that men eat more pie than women. Men also like peach and cherry cobbler and some of them eat it like kids, that is, greedily and noisily.

There's more bad news for Tokyo on Consolidated-Vultree's assembly lines at Fort Worth and Tulsa. Off these lines are now coming the new B-32s. Consolidated's new—and some say better—counterpart of the Boeing B-29 Superfortresses, which have been blasting Tokyo's war plants. Better, they think, because in the B-32s have been incorporated changes in design and equipment dictated by battle experience of the Superforts. The new B-32s will be known as "Dominators."

Uncle Sam's mints are making silver dollars. That's good news to those of us who don't have gobs of money, for with a few silver dollars jingling in our pockets we feel like financial giants. I never can get any kick out of paper currency dollars. Most of them need a good scrubbing with soap and water. But silver dollars are clean and sound like sweet music in a poor man's pocket.

The farm population of the United States has declined almost 5,000,000, from 30,000,000 in 1940. Nevertheless, more food has been produced on the farms each year the past three years than ever before. By working harder and longer hours, the farmers of the United States have contributed nobly to the war effort. General Eisenhower recently reported a shortage of ammunition but no shortage of food. We thank the farmers for staying on the job—and especially for not pulling off strikes.

It is reported that 9 million cigars are being shipped to Uncle Sam's bluejackets in the Pacific. I hope they are better than the 12c cigars now sold over the counter which taste like cabbage leaves and smell like vulcanized rubber.

Although this year may not have brought you all the blessings you felt you were entitled to, you can surely be thankful for thousands of small things. It's the small, not the big, things that make us happy. "What profiteth a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?" The rich man is not he with a million dollars, but he who has good health, a clear conscience and faith in himself and his fellow-man. Fortunate is the man who has the ability to appreciate little things.

The War Shipping Administration has allotted 17 cargo vessels to the War Department for use in transporting mules to the battlefronts. In spite of their well known stubborn streak, the Army can't get along without mules. Since a small boy I have worked with mules and from my experience I don't believe they are as stubborn as some people. Treat a mule kindly, feed him well, and he will work faithfully. But if you are mean to him, better stay away from his business end or he will kick the innards out of you.

Hitler has a hideout, reports say, and will stay there until the war is over. His co-butcher, Goebbels, is also in hiding, leaving Himmler to run the show. Rats dive for a hole when a killer is after them.

TEXAS BRIEF NEWS --- from Over the State

BURNS MONEY, THEN SUICIDES

Charl's Louis Sherry, age 72, of Houston, burned his savings of \$800 in currency before committing suicide.

BURGLAR SLITS PILLOW CASE

While J. C. O'Connell, of Corpus Christi, slept, a burglar slit the pillow case under his head and removed a bill-fold containing \$150. The cut was within two inches of O'Connell's head.

CLOTHES FROM SACKS

Clothes made from flour and feed sacks were modeled at a style show presented by the Big Four Booster Auxiliary at Palestine, (Anderson county).

BORN WITH TWO TEETH

The infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Odla Bodin, of Willis Point, (Van Zandt county), was born with two perfect teeth.

EDUCATED HEN

A hen belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gee, of Troupe, (Smith-Cherokee county), is reported to have laid an egg with the words "bride" and "age" clearly printed on the yolk.

RARE COIN

A rare gold half-dollar has come to light in Stamford, (Jones county), where it is in the possession of E. G. Keene, cashier of the First National Bank. The coin was minted in 1860.

GIRL WINS MULE

Mrs. Kathleen McKinney, deputy county tax assessor and collector of Palestine, (Anderson county), won a mule at a drawing conducted by the Lions Club. She auctioned the mule to highest bidder.

FAMED CONFEDERATE DIES

Dr. Hugh Monroe Longino, of Mineral Wells, (Palo Pinto county), believed to be the last of Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest's famous Confederate cavalry brigade, died at the age of 100 years.

CAPITOL'S FIRST MURAL

The first mural to decorate the walls of the State capital is one by Edna Collins, of Austin, depicting all the industries within the Railroad Commission's jurisdiction.

TEXAS HEADS SOUTHERN STATES

Texas was at the top of the list of construction in Southern States during September, according to The Manufacturers Record. Construction in Texas totaled \$11,948,000.

CENTURY OF HISTORY

Data on a century of Texas history has become available to Texans with the addition of the George Travis Wright papers to the University of Texas Archives. The papers cover the period from 1825 to 1917.

LUCKY FISHERMAN

Boy Brown, operator of a Lake Nasworthy bait stand, (Tom Green county), caught a 37½-pound catfish on a set line. The line was baited with large minnows and perch.

WARNED OF FOREST FIRES

Hunters in the East Texas piney woods are being warned of the danger of fires by W. K. White of the Texas Forest Service, A. & M. College. The woods are in an extremely inflammable condition, he said.

WANT A PLANE?

Several thousand airplanes stored in five Texas depots are to be sold to civilians, according to the Dallas Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The planes were bought by the government for training and transportation purposes.

NEW TEXAS INDUSTRY

Siliceous limestone, used in rock wool manufacture, has been found in the Llano region of Central Texas. Sample testing indicates that Texas industrial expansion will have another outlet in insulating material.

MESSAGE GOES TO IRELAND

Three hundred miles off the Virginia coast, J. E. Martin, of Fort Worth, threw overboard a bottle containing his wife's name and address. Mrs. Martin received a letter from a woman in Ireland that she had found the bottle on a beach there.

PREDATORY ANIMALS TRAPPED

Seventy-nine coyotes and 10 bobcats were trapped in 30 counties during September, according to Henry Plushneke, junior district agent. Martin county led with a catch of 21 coyotes. The catch in August was 37 in that county.

ADVERTISED FOR LOST DOG

Buddy Davis, of Hillsboro, (Hill county), found his pocketbook dinged so many times he lost track of who had it. He Davis finally advertised. "If the person who borrowed my post hole digger last fall will let me have it for two hours, I'll appreciate it."

DANEVANG CELEBRATES

The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Danevang community, (Wharton county), was celebrated at the town's annual fall festival.

ALFALFA VITAMIN PLANT

A trial test was made at the Valley vitamin plant near McAllen, (Hidalgo county), on extraction of vitamin A from alfalfa. The plant is expected to be in production soon.

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS NAMED

Ira B. Heard, sheriff of Refugio county, has been elected president of the South Texas Breeder Feeder Association. Sidney Smith, of Beeville, is vice-president and Paul Russell remains as secretary-treasurer.

IMITATION PEPPER

Imitation black pepper recently on the market is made from cottonseed flour, plus other ingredients including oil. It looks and tastes like black pepper but not so hot.

ROBBED WHILE GARAGE BURNS

The home of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Thigpen, of Houston, was burglarized while the family and neighbors helped extinguish a fire in the garage. Police believe the burglar set fire to the garage for the purpose of robbing the house.

100 BLOOD DONORS RESPOND

More than 100 persons volunteered to give blood to save the life of 13-year-old Quintella Shirley, of Galveston. The girl is dangerously ill with an organic disease. Many servicemen were among the volunteers.

BANANAS IN DIMMIT COUNTY

Charles Harr, of Dimmit county, is displaying two well developed bananas grown on his farm. He has about fifty trees which he raises for the novelty. Several fruited this year.

FAMOUS TOWN NAMES

There is a Roosevelt, Texas, in Kimble county and a Deweyville in Newton county. Roosevelt was named for "Teddy."

LEAVES HOSPITAL TO VOTE

Charley Thompson, 80-year-old Houston resident, left his bed in Methodist Hospital and went to the polls in an ambulance to vote. Clerks took the ballots out to the ambulance for him to mark.

UNUSUAL FLOWER

Mrs. C. E. Canafax, of Weatherford, (Parker county), grew a prize-winning Prince O'Feather in her backyard. The plant, topped with enormous flowers, grew on a single stem 12 inches wide.

FIRES SPREAD

J. O. Burnside, chief of the Forest Service, A. & M. College, said that 62 fires had burned more than 3,500 acres of forest land during one week-end in East Texas.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH STOLEN

Glenn Powell, Houston bus driver, reported to police that a little black bag containing his artificial teeth was taken from his parked car. He was wearing a spare set at the time.

RARE COINS GIVEN UNIVERSITY

A collection of rare coins and currency has been bequeathed to the University of Texas by the late Mrs. Patricia Howell Campbell, of Houston. The collection contains 497 coins, 47 medals and 3,556 items of currency.

STRANGE ASSAULT

A stranger who approached Ed Hart, of Dallas, saying he didn't like Hart's tie, proceeded to cut off the necktie with a pocketknife, then slashed Hart's coat several times. He was arrested for aggravated assault.

SHOOT SKUNK

Harry Hoy, of El Paso, shot a skunk in the backyard of his home on Baltimore street. Skunks have been bothering Lower Valley residents recently. They live along the irrigation ditches and sometimes prey on poultry.

PROGRAM ON SNAKES

A program on snakes was presented to high school students of Lamesa, (Dawson county), by Jack Raymon, famed traveler. Raymon exhibited 15 live specimens of rattles, the poisonous and the non-poisonous.

DOG HERO OF FIRE

Barking of their little Spitz dog aroused the three members of the E. D. Foster family of Houston in time to escape from their burning home.

EIGHTEEN RATTLESNAKE

T. J. Wilroy bagged a rattlesnake with eighteen rattlers while he was squirrel hunting near his home in Lufkin, (Angelina county).

GOLD WATCH EXCAVATED

A gold watch that had been lost nearly 60 years ago, when the Parker county courthouse was being built, has been excavated by workmen who are remodeling the building.

FIRST PLANE RIDE

On his first plane ride, 70-year-old Walter E. Chaney, of Terrell, (Kaufman county), took over the controls and flew the plane for 30 minutes. He said he could also land the ship but he'd rather have one lesson at a time.

PENNIES SAVED FOR MARRIAGE LICENSE

An Edinburg, (Hidalgo county), couple saved and paid 100 pennies for a marriage license. They probably assumed that pennies thus saved would bring good luck.



Upon the Midnight Clear

(A CHRISTMAS CAROL)

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the Earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
Peace on Earth, good will to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King;
The World in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hast'ning on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years,
Shall come the time foretold,
When a new Heaven and Earth shall own
The Prince of Peace their King,
And the whole World send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

GIFT OF PELICAN

Mrs. J. W. Tallant, of Ennis, (Ellis county), is interested in making someone a gift of a 20-pound pelican which she caught on Waxahachie creek. Its wingspread is six feet. She will guarantee the bird not to be a stork.

TYLER MASONIC CLASS LARGEST

Tyler, (Smith county), with 61 candidates, had the largest number from any town as a class of 768 Masons took the 32nd degree at the 87th reunion of the Dallas Scottish Rite bodies. Beauford Jester, of Corsicana, (Navarro county), was elected president of the class.

LUCKY OR UNLUCKY 13th

Sarah Ann Garth, of Fort Worth, was born February 13, 1942; was one month old on Friday the 13th; six months old on Friday the 13th; nine months old on Friday the 13th; 18 months old on Friday the 13th, and 32 months old on Friday the 13th. She has 13 letters in her name and when her family moved from Russellville, Ark., to Fort Smith on July 13, they located on 13th street.

BREAK NATIONAL BLOOD RECORDS

A total of 529 pints of blood given by men and women of Camp Hood, (Bell county), in 6 hours and 40 minutes broke two national records for blood donations.

SENDS PET TO WAR

Nixon Overby, 10-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Overby, of Bartlett, (Bell-Williamson county), has sent his 16-month old German Shepherd Collie, Bum, to the Dog Corps of the U. S. armed forces.

CELEBRATES 2,000th MISSION

Corporal Jesse J. Williams, of Marshall, (Harrison county), is a ground crew member of a P-47 Thunderbolt group which recently celebrated its 2,000th mission since entering combat services in the European Theater of Operations.

LIST OF CONFEDERATE GRAVES COMPILED

Judge R. E. Sparkman, of Italy, (Ellis county), has presented the Texas Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy, a list of 1,600 Confederate graves in Texas. He has secured government markers of marble and granite for the graves.

FIVE-STAR MOTHER

Hettie Hanna Austin, negro, of Bryan, is believed to be the only mother in Brazos county with five sons serving with the armed forces overseas.

JUBILANT ON 104th BIRTHDAY

D. Newton Yeary, of Dallas, realized his fondest hope when he reached his 104th birthday. Two friends who have helped him celebrate each birthday for the past 24 years were present. Yeary was a captain in the Civil War.

DAHLIAS A SUCCESS

Mrs. C. W. Shaffer, of Dawson county, has proved that the soil and other environments of Dawson county is good for growing of dahlias. From five bunches of dahlia bulbs which she planted last spring she has gathered as many as 75 to 100 of the blooms at one time.

OVERCOMES HANDICAP

Although bedfast for the past six years with arthritis, Hollis Whitt, 29-year-old Hopkins county resident, has earned money by raising chickens, a hog and a cow. He also buys clothes through mail order houses and sells them to residents of his community.

POT OF GOLD FOUND

A pot containing \$380 worth of gold pieces in various denominations was unearthed by workmen at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Selby Davis, of Devine, (Medina county). Mrs. Davis' father had hidden the gold before his death more than 30 years ago.

BOY SCOUTS LAKES STOCKED

The Texas Game, Fish and Oyster Commission is placing 55,000 baby fish in the lakes of Camp Strake, Boy Scout camp near Conroe, (Montgomery county). The stocking is a long range program which the commission hopes will be an example for all Southeast Texas.

TEXAS LEADS IN RUBBER

With Texas leading in production, the nation now has the capacity to turn out more synthetic rubber than is needed, according to R. L. Savage, a Rubber Reserve Company official. However, automotive tires, enough for all demands, cannot yet be produced. The bottleneck is lack of man-power.

GRAPEFRUIT GROWN IN PANHANDLE

R. M. Chastain, of Pampa, (Grady county), grew a grapefruit indoors. It is the first record of the citrus fruit having been grown in the Panhandle.

ALARM CLOCK BURGLARY

W. J. Weiser, a Houston watch repairer, reported the theft of nine alarm clocks. Weiser had taken the clocks home to work on them. Since Pasadena few dealers have been able to get alarm clocks.

TRAIL DRIVERS CONVENTION

Approximately 2,000 members of Texas' Old Trail Drivers' Association met for the 29th reunion at San Antonio. President is 82-year-old A. W. Billingsley, of San Antonio.

HEIRLOOM LEFT TO COUSIN

A historical necklace, heirloom of the family for more than 200 years, was willed by the late Miss Virginia Williams, of Waco, (McLennan county), to her cousin, Miss Virginia Fairfax, of Covington, La.

NEW UNIVERSITY PLANNED

A new Trinity University plant at San Antonio is planned by the Texas Synod of Presbyterians. The construction program includes 12 buildings and the purchase of 70 acres near Brackenridge Park.

TEETH CREDITED TO WATER

Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's perfect set of teeth is attracting attention to the water he drank at Denison, (Grayson county), where he was born. Eisenhower said dentists had gone to Denison to study the water.

ELECTRICITY FOR FARMS

Rural electrification now services 130,000 Texas farms and within the next 18 years more than 230,000 farms will be receiving electricity, according to P. T. Montfort, project director of a committee on relation of electricity to agriculture.

\$100,000 RURAL CHURCH

The community of Ericksdahl, (Jones county), boasts a \$100,000 church with a copper-sheathed spire rising 106 feet. The Bethel Lutheran congregation, which worships in the fine structure, was formed in 1905.

EDITORS BUT NO REPORTER

The Corsicana Sun, (Navarro county), is operating without a reporter. The staff boasts an editor, telegraph, sports and society editors and a proof-reader—but no reporter.

WACO REPRESENTED IN AIR ON SEA

A Liberator bomber, paid for with war bonds bought by Wacoans, carries the name "The City of Waco." The Texas town's name is also on a new constructed freighter-transport, "Waco Victory."

PROVIDES FOR CHARITIES

According to Mrs. H. B. Moore, of Texas City, (Galveston county), her late husband, Col. Moore had asked that a part of his estate be used for a Salvation Army home and library to be erected in Texas City. Mrs. Moore said both buildings would be erected.

HISTORIC CHINAWARE

On display in the University of Texas library are 12 old and beautiful pieces of China labeled, "Texan Campaign," 1850. Genuine Staffordshire ware, the China depicts San Jacinto battle scenes.

POSTCARD COLLECTION

Mrs. Wallace W. Snider, of Tyler, (Smith county), has been collecting postcards for 15 years. Her collection includes 1918 cards from all parts of the world that commemorate many historical events. Some are dated as early as 1909.

DIAMOND WEDDING CELEBRATED

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Short, of Wichita Falls, are possibly the oldest married couple in the United States. They have celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary. The Shorts have 23 living descendants. They moved to Texas in 1879.

THE FLOP FAMILY



LITTLE FUN Jokes to Make You Laugh

Pay Day "Fit"

With his first salary check and a deduction with the note "FIT." Returning to the paymaster sought an explanation. "I'll tell you," said the man with a somewhat effort at humor, "having fits, said the paymaster earned everybody has fits every pay day is for Federal Income Tax!"

Surprised Yankee Leader

During the Civil War, the famous guerrilla leader, Captain John S. Mosby, raided Fairfax Court House in Virginia, where he surprised General E. H. Stoughton, the Yankee leader in possession of the town, sound asleep in bed. Mosby woke him with a slap, and the general sat up groggily. "Have you ever heard of Mosby?" asked the stranger. "Yes," said the general excitedly. "Have you got him?" "No," replied the captain grimly, "he's got you!"

Newspaper Lingo

The newspaper publisher's little daughter returned from Sunday School carrying an illustrated card.

Mother: "What have you there?"

Little Girl: "Oh, just an advertisement about heaven."

Bounced Out

Leaping jauntily over the Australian plains with his wife leaping beside him, the kangaroo came to a sudden stop.

"Judith," he cried excitedly, "where's the baby?"

"Gosh," exclaimed Judith in dismay, "he must have bounced out of my pocket."

'Em Out

A cab driver was hailing the doorman of a building at two a. m. one morning. The doorman escorted four intoxicated men to the taxi, and then instructed them carefully. "The man in the left goes to 277 West End Avenue. The man next to him gets off at 79th Street and Riverside Drive. The one on the left front seat at 35 West 90th Street, and the other at 86th Street and Central Park West." The chauffeur nodded understandingly and drove off. A few minutes later he was back, knocking on the doorman's door. "Say, buddy," he said, "would you mind putting these guys out again? I had a collision on Sixth Avenue."

Talk-ee Too Long

The late Will Rogers and Edwin S. Cobb once attended the same dinner. Humorous Cobb, one of the speakers present, showed his fellow guests no mercy by speaking an hour. When Cobb finally completed his talk and seated himself, master of ceremonies Rogers commented: "Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that you have just heard an address by that venerable Chinese sage, Talk-ee Too Long."

Reversed Order

Toasts were in order. The toastmaster arose to introduce a prominent elderly speaker and said: "Gentlemen, you have just been giving your attention to a turkey stuffed with sage. Now will you give your attention to a sage stuffed with turkey?"

Legends of Lethargy

Instead of short length wood, Uncle Alf Reeves, pioneer New Mexico ranchman, always burned whole mesquite poles in his fireplace. He'd shove one end of the pole into the fireplace and build a fire around it, leaving the other end 10 or 15 feet extending across the living room floor. As the fire end burned off, the pole was shoved up again.

"It saves a heap of wood-chopping," Uncle Alf explained.

Seven Kings

The class compositions was about "Kings." One boy wrote this:

The most powerful king on earth is Wor-king; the laziest, Shlr-king; the wit-tiest Jo-king; the quietest, Thin-king; the thirstiest, Drin-king; the shyest, Wink-king, and the noisiest, Talk-king."

Yuletide Trimmings

By MARY MADISON

(Continued from New York Times)

In spite of the "tinsel shortage," the "ribbon shortage" and a horde of their new shortages that the season has revealed, Christmas trimmings can be just as bright and festive as ever before. And a lot more interesting.

For example, the tree shortage may be neatly supplemented by means of the ruffle tree. This rather unusual bit of horticulture is formed entirely of layers of ruffling, made from strips of theatrical gauze or tulle.

The material is cut in strips about six inches wide and then shirred on the side (a sewing machine will accomplish this part in a trice) and

grounded in a spiral about a cardboard base. The size of the "tree" depends entirely on how big a piece of cardboard one can find. The gauze may be any color at all—two or three different shades of green provide a lovely effect, and a tree entirely in pale yellow looks especially charming when trimmed with emerald green balls.

These, incidentally, may still be had in most dime stores. This wartime tree may be topped with a cellophane star or one of the enchanting Christmas angels that school children concoct out of clear cellophane straws and a few bits of shiny paper. Child-power, incidentally, is an important feature of this Christmas. Children adore stringing popcorn and cranberries, cutting out gingerbread men and stringing nut stars—and their efforts contribute ma-

terially to the generally gaiety.

Used in Many Ways

The balls and available glittering bells, of course, may be used in many ways. A cluster of all silver balls, tied to a green sprig, may be used to decorate wall-bracket lighting fixtures—where their shininess is amplified by the lights. The same sort of thing makes an attractive substitute for the formal door-wreath and may also serve as a table decoration.

The ribbon, shortage, which is especially noticeable in the case of gold, silver and red ribbon, may be combated by the use of wide strips of organdie or ribbon in untraditional colors. Pale blue, used to tie wreaths, is rather lovely if reflected by a few

ice-blue tree balls. Canary yellow, looks quite beautiful with green—and a whole room might be decorated in this scheme—with yellow bows on the greenery, a yellow bowl full of green balls and tall yellow tapers in silver candlesticks. Candles, of course, provide gaiety and glamour all about the house—and there are still a few to be had in department and dime stores.

An unusual and simple mantel decoration may be made by driving a row of long nails at six-inch intervals through a narrow board just a little shorter than the mantelpiece. The board is then covered with greenery. Fat white "night candles" are impaled on the spikes, and the lighted row replaces electricity for Christmas Eve.

STRONG DECISIONS AND FAITH

A program for meeting life's problems is a large order; but Jesus in His teaching and example has met it in a large way.

The story of the temptations of Jesus directly implies that the first and major problem that has to be faced is that of basic decision. What sort of life is ours going to be? Do we most want to be true and right, or are we more concerned about worldly success.

Compare the lives of the many church members who go to church when they feel like it, with the life of a real Christian who has made the service of God and his fellowmen the supreme thing in his life, and not a matter of whim, mood, or convenience. The kingdom of God and its choice is the first thing in life, according to Jesus.

No life can be strong that is marked by doubt, distrust, or worry. Yet faith is not always easy, and we would be less than human if we did not worry when things go wrong. We must learn in the school of the Master if we would at-

tain the fullness of faith, and learn to live above worry, putting all our strength into making bad situations better, instead of allowing them to depress and conquer us. Jesus said the spirit of the Lord was upon Him because, in the language of the prophet Isaiah, He was anointed to preach the gospel to the poor.

The words may change, but the substance remains. Every age and situation needs those who will love and serve. It is often the way of sacrifice, and sometimes of hardship. But those who have taken that way have found that, in helping to solve the problems of others, they have gone far toward solving their own.

INDIANS OUTLAW LOAFING

It now is unlawful for a Navajo Indian to loaf.

The tribal council has approved a resolution condemning vagrancy and loitering and providing fines or imprisonment for young men not engaged in useful work. While taking this action the council pointed out that 2,500 members of the tribe are in the armed forces and 10,000 others engaged in war jobs off the reservation, which is located near Gallup, N. M.

HUSBAND SHORTAGE FACING NATION

The United States is facing a husband shortage!

According to the census bureau, there are about 1,700,000 unmarried men between the ages of 20 and 34 years in civilian life today and some 4,000,000 unmarried women of the same age.

For the first time in history, this republic has a feminine majority. Married and single, civilian and soldier, the bureau estimates there are 600,000 more women older than 21 than there are men. The bureau figures the war boom in marriages is about over until the boys return home. Then, if the trend of the First World War repeats, the bureau expects a sharp spurt in the orange blossom and bridal veil trade.

Latest figures show the median age of bridegrooms

was 24.8, and brides was 21.8. For girls who want to do something constructive about getting a husband, the charts point toward the West rather than the East and to small towns rather than the cities.

In New York City the ratio is 100.4 men for every 100 women. Chicago has a rate of 102.7 to 100; Detroit 110.1; Oklahoma City, 102.3, and Sacramento, 113.3 men to 100 women. New England averages 97 men for each 100 women, compared with 111.4 in Idaho; 148.8 in Montana; 116.7 in Wyoming.

Americans will be asked to lend the government \$14,000,000,000 more to help finance the war in the Sixth War Loan to continue until about a week before Christmas. Final treasury figures reveal that the \$16,000,000,000 goal of the last loan was oversubscribed by almost \$5,000,000,000.

• Tune in "Norton McGiffin In The News" Daily 12:30 Noon—Monday thru Friday—Texas Quality Network.



BURRUS FEED MILLS • Dallas • Fort Worth • McKinney • San Benito



REFRESHING as an old friend



AND JUST AS DEPENDABLE

In these days of corner-cutting, adulteration of blends, and the sudden, overnight change in taste of some established coffee brands—dependability in Admiration is really something! You don't have to hope; you know that every pound will taste exactly like the one before and the one next week. Unlike certain coffee blends which have been cheapened during the war, Admiration is the same today as 25 years ago. It's blended to give a rich, mellow, flavorful cup. Only choice, expensive coffees can be so blended. If your regular brand has lately tasted bitter or perhaps woefully flat and uninviting, try a pound of Admiration this week in its place. You'll thank us for suggesting it.



Admiration Coffee

DUNCAN COFFEE COMPANY • HOUSTON, TEXAS • ROASTERS ALSO OF MARYLAND CLUB AND BRISBY AND EARLY COFFEES

Texas Farm News Reports

From a 60-cent investment in tomato seed, M. L. Cannon, of Hopkins county, realized a \$1,000 profit from his 1944 tomato crop.

Texas probably will lead the nation in the production of pecans, according to a forecast which estimates the 1944 crop at 45 million pounds.

An increase of 50,000 bales in the indicated production of Texas cotton has been forecast by the United States Department of Agriculture. The outlook is for Texas to produce 2,500,000 bales in 1944.

Members of the Agricultural Workers Club at a meeting in Marshall, (Harrison county), agreed successful postwar farming in East Texas will depend on smaller farm units and adaptation of each type of land to crops suitable for it.

A few sheep are good property on almost any farm at any time, according to an article in *Farm and Ranch* publication. The article says about 35 ewes and a high quality purebred ram is a good number for most beginners.

During the past five years, Robert Lee Rummel, Jr., member of the boys' Five-In-One 4-H club of Wilbarger county, has produced 8,285 pounds of beef for which he received \$1,823. In recognition of his achievement, Robert Lee has been awarded an all-expense trip to the National 4-H Club Congress at Chicago, December 3 to 6, says County Agricultural Agent Frank Wendt. He has three calves in his current club demonstration.

A 500-mile barb-wire fence extending from the Gulf of Mexico near the border to the Devil's river in Val Verde county is being planned after the war by the Livestock Sanitary Commission. The fence will be designed to prevent drifting of cattle from Mexico into Texas. The commission considers it will be effective against tick-infested cattle getting into tick-free herds in Texas.

According to records submitted to County Agricultural Agent D. L. Dudley, Aubrey Parsons, Brazos county 4-H club boy produced in 1944 food equivalent to the rations of 38 1/2 fighting men for one year. Most of it came from his dairy demonstration. He has been awarded an all-expense trip to the National 4-H Club Congress at Chicago, December 3 to 6, and although a student at Texas A. & M. College is continuing his club work.

Burning has no place in conservation farming, according to G. G. Goss, chairman of the Brown-Mills Soil Conservation District. It increases soil erosion and water losses, destroys organic matter needed for soil improvement, causes loss of nitrogen, and increases losses of other plant nutrients by leaching or by rainfall run-off. Returning crop residues to the soil in cultivated fields is essential to maintaining fertility, Goss added.

Twenty-year-old Elton Ellison, of Falls, (Crosby county), who was proclaimed the star American farmer of the Future Farmers of America, cleared \$3,500 last year on farm products. It was the first time the \$300 award of the FFA had ever been presented a Texan. Ellison, now in the armed service, was unable to attend the Kansas City convention to hear himself proclaimed "best all-around young farmer."

RADIATORS
 We have plenty of radiators for your car...
 207 NORTH RAGLTON
 MANUFACTURING CO.

L. M. Stephens, of Lometa, (Lampasas county), contracted 100,000 pounds of choice Bend pecans at 15 cents a pound for shipment in November and December. It was the largest single deal in the area in recent years.

B. H. (Hood) Morris, of Hopkins county, is realizing his first crop of walnuts off a blackwalnut tree that was budded with an English walnut five years ago. The tree has two or three hundred large walnuts.



Marie Gunter, 14-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Gunter, of Deaf Smith county, can pinch hit at all farm tasks from canning vegetables to driving a tractor. She is a member of the Simms 4-H club.

H. L. Youngblood, San Angelo theater executive, raises big turkeys on a 40-acre tract in the North Concho river range. The turkeys fatten up to 35 or 40 pounds. Too big for ordinary families, the birds are sold to restaurants, hotels and military establishments.

At the first auction of registered Guernseys under the sponsorship of the Texas Guernsey Breeders' Association since the war began, 46 registered Guernseys from near-by States were sold. Sales averaged about \$271 each. The sale was held in Dallas.

A stalk of corn 8 to 9 feet high and bearing five well-developed ears was placed on display in the lobby of the First National Bank in Troup, (Smith-Cherokee county). The corn, Texas Prolific variety, which was originated at the Nacogdoches State Experiment Substation, was grown by J. Wilmer of Troup.

L. R. Vaughan, of Hale county, says pasture land under irrigation on his farm has proved profitable. Proper plantings and sufficient water have produced enough grass for Vaughn to run a large herd of cattle on a few acres, and by concentrating his herd he has helped relieve the manpower shortage.

Reports have come from Wilbarger county farmers of considerable damage to new wheat and alfalfa fields by grasshoppers, according to Frank Wendt, county agent. Wendt advises control of the pests by spreading a poison bran bait over the infested areas. Controlling the pests that are active now will help control the grasshopper crop likely to be hatched out next spring.

The richest year in the history of the Rio Grande Valley is in prospect. \$92,418,000 in agricultural revenue was recorded during the first eight months this year with the total expected to reach \$125,000,000 at the end of December. The revenue to date is far ahead of the same period in 1934 which then was the richest period in Valley farming history.

Information on agriculture obtained by reading and observation guided Carson J. Greene, of Grayson county, on his first farming venture. He came through with profitable crops of Texas hybrid corn, cotton and hay. He planted 40 acres in corn, 20 acres in cotton and 12 acres in wheat, including a hay crop. With only ten days of hired help, Greene planted and cultivated his crop. Greene is a former oil field worker.

Written Fairbanks, 18-year-old Orange county youth, qualifies as one of the country's youngest rice farmers. He realized the high average of 18 bags of rice to the acre.

Trade reports indicate that at least half of the 1944 Texas rice crops was contracted for by the middle of October. Although handicapped by lack of labor, mills are working full time milling and shipping rice for domestic trade and to Cuba and the government.

G. W. Biggerstaff, of Sherman, (Grayson county), has a cluster of six pecans, weighing nearly half a pound, which is typical of the crop he is getting from a tree in his yard. In 1940 he budded the tree with five varieties of paper-shelled pecans. This year all five varieties are bearing well. The clusters are so heavy that many of the limbs broke under the weight.

With the co-operation of a furniture store at Crosbyton, about 35 members of seven Crosby county 4-H clubs recently gave an exhibition of their work. Tables occupying the central floor space of the store displayed canned food, aprons, dresses, blouses, embroidery, shoe shine kits, sewing and first aid kits, wall plaques, recipe files, quilts, tied and dyed scarves, and many other articles, says County Home Demonstration Agent Ruth W. Marshall.

EASY NOW

to protect your livestock against deadly disease—with CUTTER VACCINES & SERUMS

Just as Cutter Vaccines & Serums control diseases which once were most common and deadly to humans — so you may now use Cutter Veterinary Products to protect the health of your livestock. Because we produce vaccines and serums for animals the same way we produce them for human use. Never cut-rate — always top quality. It's your privilege to insist on Cutter — and get Cutter. Cutter Laboratories, Berkeley, Calif.

Milk from Texas' 1,425,000 milk cows is one of the country's great wartime assets, according to the Milk Industry Foundation. Last year Texas produced 2,041,000,000 quarts of milk and the cash income was \$90,481,000.

The crop reporting board of the Agriculture Department foresees an all-time record harvest for 1944. Production of practically all kinds of farm products is up and the yield per acre is higher than any year with the exception of 1942. More acreage is in cultivation than any year since 1932.

The U. S. Cotton Field Station at Greenville, and the Texas Blackland Experiment Station at Temple, have been working on the cotton root rot problem, which is one of the causes of the declining cotton yields in South Texas. The experiments have shown that by growing Hubam clover or other legumes and applying phosphorus where needed, the percentage of cotton dying on the fields has been reduced from as high as 75 per cent to as low as 3 per cent.

Twelve-year-old Claud Edd Brice is believed to be the champion cotton picker of Hopkins county. The 69-pound boy picked 355 pounds of cotton in one day. He has earned enough money to pay for his clothing and has over \$100 in the local bank.

F. L. Muse, negro county agent of Polk county, has organized groups of negro farmers in ten different communities to meet and discuss problems. Crop production and livestock have been the main topics. Main purpose of the organization is the improvement of farm practices to produce more food and to increase the yield on fewer acres of land.

Jeanette Metzger, member of the Converse girls' 4-H club of Bexar county, is an inspiring leader, says Irene Cromatsky, assistant county home demonstration agent. She has been selected as the 1944 Gold Star nominee from her club and county 4-H club council chairman. At a recent 4-H club exhibit her products ranked first and she received blue ribbons in clothing, canned products and baked products.

Contributing to wartime food crops, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Koenig, of Montgomery county, produced a large farm garden, raised and sold 40,000 broilers, grew feed for livestock, kept a flock of poultry producing, and took a leading part in civic betterment. They have a son in the armed forces overseas and a son and daughter in defense work.

During 1944 County Agricultural Agent W. B. Hooser enrolled 614 boys and 329 girls in 16 4-H clubs and reports "one of the most successful years in the history of Hall county club work." A total of 245 boys are demonstrating with swine; 168 had gardens; 79 beef calves; 174 chickens; 29 cotton; 13 milo and two in goats. Among the girls, 323 had gardens; 67 poultry; 105 swine; 39 beef calves; four cotton, and 10 milo. All demonstrations started were completed successfully, Hooser says.

All of the food served at luncheon given by Camey Garden Club (county), was raised locally.

Texas bees will produce 148,000 pounds of honey this year, according to a report of the Department of Agriculture. A four per cent increase in the number of bee colonies was offset by the lower yield per colony.

Beryl Elliston, realtor, and Fred H. Elliston, successful potato grower, both of Deaf Smith county, will tour Idaho, Washington and California to sell the possibilities of their county to those States. Moving and literature about the advantages of the county are being distributed. Beryl and Fred moved to Idaho prior to moving to Texas in 1940.

For the BEST SALES and SERVICE
 Send Your CATTLE, HOGS and SHEEP to
DAGGETT - KEEN COM. CO. FORT WORTH, TEXAS
 ESTABLISHED 1909
 CHAS. DAGGETT Cattle Salesman FRANK LISLE Hog Salesman BOB BISHOP Sheep Salesman

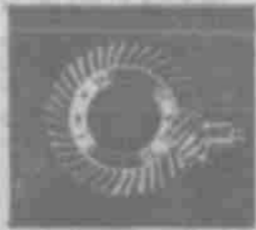
NEXT TIME I'LL TAKE CARE OF MY CAR!

You probably don't expect to depend on a horse and surrey for future transportation. But consider this fact, which is brought out by government surveys—approximately 800,000 cars will wear out this winter.

To help keep your car from becoming one of these 800,000, ask your nearby Sinclair H-C Gasoline Dealer to Sinclair-ize your car for Winter now. This fall change-over service protects vital parts against wear and breakdowns as your car manufacturer recommends.

Sinclair Refining Company BUY WAR BONDS

HOW SINCLAIR-IZE FOR WINTER SERVICE SAVES YOUR CAR



SAVES WEAR ON transmission and differential gears in cold weather. Summer-grade lubricants are drained and replaced with tough Sinclair lubricants of right grade for winter.



SAVES MOTOR WEAR in cold weather—helps prevent the formation of dangerous sludge by draining and flushing the crankcase—refilling with Sinclair Pennsylvania or Opelina Motor Oil—winter-grade.



SAVES CHASSIS wear in cold weather—by lubricating bearings, springs, shackles and other vital parts as your car manufacturer recommends. Front wheels protected by special lubrication.



SAVES COOLING SYSTEM by cleaning out the rust and sludge, tightening loose connections and putting in the right amount of anti-freeze.



SAVES BATTERY and helps assure fast starts. Service includes checking and refilling battery with water, checking battery connections and testing strength of battery. Spark plugs tested, too.



SAVES TIRES by carefully inspecting for cuts and bruises and valve troubles. The Sinclair Dealer will also gladly cross-switch your tires to equalize wear.

Sinclair's Post-War Program: Better Products, Better Service

SINCLAIR-IZE FOR WINTER NOW!

EAR-ROUND Treat

It Saves YOUR MEAT!

1 lb. Package
EASILY SEASONS
OF MEAT
Directions
on Package

Make Plenty of Chili con Carne ... and CAN IT

It's easy to make delicious Chili con Carne when you use Gebhardt's Chili-Quick. It contains all the seasoning for perfect chili. Just add it to your meat according to simple directions on the package and you have the finest Chili con Carne... ready to use, or can.

Gebhardt's Chili-Quick

YOUR GROCER HAS IT OR CAN GET IT FOR YOU.

IS FOR SALE

Handy and North Texas
Central Texas Ranches,
SON & CO., 115 Constitution
St., Dallas, Texas.

125—Non-resident owner
of 125 acres in the famous
Valley, near Bastrop and
will give bargain for cash
CROP, care of C. E. West,
New, Texas.

125—Bar C Ranch, 1,200
acres well improved, White
WATER, Hitchcock, Okla.

125—Acres of ranch and farm,
good fence, good ranch
home of Ada, Okla. Priced
at \$30,000. A. O. K. A. O. K.

125—Estate
of stock farm near
Dallas only 10 minutes
from H.A.S. 1117 First
St., Dallas, Texas.

125—Miscellaneous
125—2, 4 and 5 feet; 1
125—1 new 2-horse tractor
HOWLAND, Oklahoma.

125—PRINCE, BY LOOSE
WELLS, ERNEST W.
Waller, Texas.

125—ROCK
125—125, 1 year old,
and one stallion,
H. H. H. H. H.

125—Opportunities
125—Good going safe,
address C. P. POT.

125—MACHINERY
125—FORT WORTH SPUDDERS
125—Drilling Machines—Tools—Cable—
Engines.

125—WELL MACHINERY &
SUPPLY COMPANY
FORT WORTH, TEXAS.

125—THE PRAETORIANS
125—Home Office, Praetorian Bldg., Dallas, Tex.

125—FRATERNAL LIFE INSURANCE
125—ADULT ON THE MONTHLY
PAYMENT PLAN.

125—Straight Life, Twenty Pay,
Retirement Income. Term.
"Attached Draft" Policies.

125—The National Safety Council
125—reports that 14,430 persons
have been killed in traffic
accidents in this country
since January 1, 1944, an in-
crease of six per cent over the
1943 period.

125—Holding 11 awards and
decorations for sinking or
damaging 66 Japanese ships,
Commander Norman M. Miller,
of Winston-Salem, N. C.,
31-year-old Navy flier, has
become the most decorated
hero of this war.

125—HEDGECOCK
AT TEXAS
INSTITUTION

125—With the leasing of 12,000-
000 cubic feet of cavern
space in a 75-year-old lime-
stone mine in Atchison, Kan-
sas, the War Food Adminis-
tration has found a partial
solution to the nation's short-
age of cold storage space.

125—The cost of reducing the
mine's natural temperature
of 80 degrees F. to 30 degrees
F. is \$1,000,000 but to build
and refrigerate the same
amount of storage room
above the ground would be
15 times as much.

125—Loti Bourdeau, of Cleve-
land, Ohio, and Dixie Walker,
of Brooklyn, N. Y., won
the batting championships in
the major league, Bourdeau
leading the American with a
mark of 327 and Walker top-
ping in Nationals with 337.

125—HEDGECOCK
AT TEXAS
INSTITUTION

125—HEDGECOCK
AT TEXAS
INSTITUTION

125—HEDGECOCK
AT TEXAS
INSTITUTION

125—HEDGECOCK
AT TEXAS
INSTITUTION

125—HEDGECOCK
AT TEXAS
INSTITUTION

125—HEDGECOCK
AT TEXAS
INSTITUTION

125—HEDGECOCK
AT TEXAS
INSTITUTION

Our Boys and Girls

SANTA CLAUS' REPLY TO BOBBY'S LETTER

By ANTHONY WETZEL
(Special Free Press)

Just before each Christmas little boys and girls write many letters to Santa Claus. One letter Santa received last Christmas from a little boy, named Bobby Brown, was so unusual that he answered it. Here is Bobby's letter and Santa's reply:

"DEAR SANTA: I am a little boy and the only thing I want for Christmas is to have brother home for Christmas. My mother and I are sick. My brother joined the marines and he was there a long time and they never give him a furlough yet. I am asking you to bring him home for Christmas and I will pay you back everything as soon as I go to work. A merry Christmas and happy New Year. Thank you.

"BOBBY BROWN."

DEAR BOBBY: I guess your big brother must be quite a guy, because you have to be quite a fellow to get into the marines. You have to be strong and tough and brave enough to do your job in spite of the most terrible risk in all this world.

I think I know what your brother would be doing if he'd had the chance to get home for Christmas. He'd be trudging through the stores, looking impatiently for presents good enough for your mom and you. And when Christmas morning came and you rushed downstairs to see what Santa has brought in the night, he'd just stand there sort of awkward and shy, but grinning as wide as could be, and with a light shining out of his eyes.

Brother won't be home for Christmas, but just between you and me, Bobby, he's not neglecting you a bit. The military address you scrawled on the back of your note indicates that brother is in a mighty important outfit. He's in the marine amphibian command. And even as I write this he may be setting out with his buddies across the Pacific to get something for you a lot more precious than Christmas toys.

Just the other day there was a big story in the paper about a lot of brave lads just like your brother. They marched away to camp, just as he did, and they went through hard weeks and months of training. And when they were ready, they sailed across the Pacific and they went to work on their big job.

It was the toughest job you ever heard of in your life, Bobby. There was this little island of Tarrawa, circled by reefs of rocky coral. And back of the reefs, and back of the beaches, were thousands of little yellow Japs with rifles and machine guns and mortars.

When the marines moved toward the beaches in their landing boats the bullets fell thick as rain and every bullet was a screaming messenger of death. Halfway to the beaches, the coral stopped the landing boats, and the marines pumpled into the sea and fought their way on, up to their necks in the sea. Those who kept on living made the beach, and they took it away from the Japs, and after a hard fight they took the whole island.

They paid for the island, and it makes you sick inside to think of the price they paid, but it was something they had to do. There are many more islands, and your brother, and thousands of other brothers and sons and fathers won't be able to come back until that job is done.

These aren't pleasant things to tell a little boy, but your brother, and all the other brothers, are going through those things for you. They're fighting to bring you back a shining thing called a birthright. That's a clumsy, awkward word for a little boy, but it means all the precious things that make your own little boy's world the way it is. It means your chance to grow up strong and fearless and free... to be useful and happy and secure in all your life as an American.

I guess that birthright of yours has a lot to do with the spirit of the Blessed Babe who was born on this Christmas Day we're soon to celebrate. He came into a world tortured by oppression and hatred and violence, and He preached a new sort of living, ruled by faith and glorified by the warmth of God's own charity.

Somehow the men who founded our nation... who gave you your birthright... managed to build much of His blessed teaching into their design for democracy... for government by the Golden Rule.

The Child who was born on Christmas in Bethlehem grew to manhood, and He died a horrible death as the price of that birthright He gave us. But He lives on in glory. You can find Him in the heart of your brother, and of every man who offers himself unselfishly for that birthright.

And I think you can find the reflection of His shining glory in the lives, and in the memory of all the patriots down the years who fought for the rights of humanity. As I grow older I suspect that men who have lost or never won, that selfish love of God's freedom are worse than animals without any souls at all.

So don't fret, Bobby, because your big brother won't be home for Christmas. He's doing a man's job... a patriot's job... and on Christmas Day your pride in him should shine as bright as the lights on the Christmas tree.

by they want to come back. But they're sticking with the job till it's done.

We've got a job to do here at home, and maybe in this lonely Christmaside, we ought to kneel before the God of freedom... and rededicate ourselves to that job... for now and always!

Yours affectionately,
SANTA CLAUS.

CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

American boys and girls sometimes go through a lifetime of Christmases without giving much thought to the origin of some of the joyful customs and symbols of the holiday season.

Tree

One version of the first Christmas tree is that it originated with Martin Luther, early in the sixteenth century, in Germany. Walking the hills on Christmas Eve, Luther was so deeply impressed with the beauty of the holy night that he resolved to typify its beauty for his children. He cut down a small evergreen, took it home and hung candles from it to represent the stars. Another tradition carries it back to St. Boniface in Germany's pagan era.

Santa Claus

As we know him, Santa Claus is derived from the Dutch "San Nicolaas," who in turn was patterned after the legend surrounding St. Nicholas, an early bishop of Myra. St. Nicholas says the legend established the custom of surprise Christmas gifts by making a secret bestowal of marriage dowries upon the three daughters of an impoverished nobleman.

Mistletoe

Hanging mistletoe is of Celtic and Teutonic origin. These peoples in ancient days thought mistletoe, hung in the house, would prevent sickness and misfortune. In England it was regarded as an offering to love and fertility. Later it simply became a Christmas time festive symbol which gave a young man the privilege of kissing any girl he caught standing under the sprig. Mistletoe is a parasite shrub found on many trees.

Cards

Good wishes at Christmas time were sent in letter form until almost midway in the nineteenth century. About 100 years ago an English painter was too busy to write to all his friends. Instead he painted a greeting, had it lithographed and sent out copies. Wealthy Londoners heard about it and soon were doing the same. Christmas cards of today are the result of the first greeting card sent out by this Englishman.

Carols

Christmas music traditionally goes back to 1233, when St. Francis, at Greccio, Italy, tried to portray the first Christmas to his flock. He presented a playlet which contained songs full of the human pathos of the Nativity, written by Franciscan monks. Later, members of the Franciscan order took their songs to England, where wandering minstrels picked them up. It soon became the practice for children to sing carols for candy and cookies.

HOW IT STARTED

With the newsprint shortage what it is and space at a premium, it is imperative to resist the temptation to write an extended explanation for the use of Xmas for Christmas and go all out to make it short.

Compressing the facts, therefore, "x" here marks the spot of Christ. It is that is to say, a symbol of the cross or Christos, an abbreviation which suggested itself readily in the religious minded sixteenth century because it resembled the Greek letter chi, the first letter of the Greek word for Christ.

The earliest use of the abbreviated form Xmas dates from 1551, in the work "Illustrated British History" by E. Lodge.

CHRISTMAS TRICKS FOR TEENS

ON THE BALL—We're referring to those glistening Christmas tree balls which are just as gay around your neck, strung on ribbon, as they are on the tree. And try the very tiny ones as earrings at the big Christmas party.

STAR DUST

Sprinkle some of that Christmas tree snow on your hair, just before the big party. Not enough to make you look like a walking White Christmas, but just a touch to put iridescent lights on your topknot. Think how you'll glisten when they dance with the lights out!

SPREAD GOOD CHEER

Buy some red and green sequins at the dress store or (Continued on next column).

THE
KIND OF
COFFEE
EXPERTS
LIKE
BEST!

Enjoy Vigorous
Flavored
Mountain Grown
Folger's
SO RICH
we urge you
USE 1/4 LESS
coffee
per cup



FOLGER'S COFFEE
Mountain Grown

VACUUM PACKED

trimming counter and embroider "Merry Christmas" in them across the front of a sweater. You can always rip them out when Christmas is over, but when the fun you'll have wearing your greetings during Christmas week!

SANTA CLAUS GROUP

To make sure Christmas comes to the orphans of the State, including children whose families have been broken by war, a benevolent legislature created the Oklahoma Santa Claus Commission. With only \$1,500 to spend annually from State legislative appropriations, the group finds that private donations usually boost the sum to more than \$5,000.

The commission has a special place in its heart for youngsters from war-torn families.

"It's only natural," said Mrs. Warren Fountain in the group's toy-stacked headquarters, "that we'll make every effort to see that such children get what they order in their letters."

Mrs. Fountain, secretary of the agency, organized in 1937, said hundreds of letters are received by a three-man commission which plays Santa Claus. Last year the group's money went for gifts of clothing, toys, and candy to 3,354 children living in orphanages in Oklahoma.

Most popular gift for girls? Perfume, says Mrs. Fountain.

BOTTLE NOTE DELIVERED AFTER 29 YEARS AFLOAT

In one of the most amazing circumstances of its kind, a bottle tossed overboard in the Pacific Ocean by a sailor was washed ashore near Norfolk, Va., 29 years later, and the note which it contained delivered to the person who wrote it—a resident of Norfolk.

Charles B. Bernard drop-

ped the bottle over the side of the U. S. S. Maryland, October 6, 1915, when the ship was enroute from Hawaii to San Francisco. He had written on a slip of paper, "If this note is ever found please send it to C. B. Barnard, 221 W. 17th St., Norfolk, Va." Recently Bernard received a telephone call telling him that J. H. Walden had picked up the bottle on the beach near his cottage.

The bottle contained a cork stopper with a metal screw top outside, which was taped and sealed. The paper within was slightly discolored.

BLOOD PLASMA BY AIRPLANE

Every day transport planes cross the Atlantic flying whole blood directly to Paris for transfusions to wounded soldiers, sometimes within 24 hours after it is given by donors. Distribution could be compared with local milk deliveries as to bottling and speed of delivery. Shipments currently amount to 750 pints, weighing about one and three-quarters tons.

Before the inauguration of this policy, whole blood was obtained from military personnel abroad. The emphasis on whole blood does not affect the urgency of need for blood plasma, but the red blood cells removed in plasma preparation are the oxygen carriers without which a severely bleeding man cannot live no matter how much fluid is given to him.

Brig.-Gen. Fred W. Rankin, chief consultant in surgery to the Army's surgeon general, says that in cases of severe shock and bleeding with advanced anemia, and where emergency operation is necessary, whole blood is essential in the preservation of life.



...have such delicate flavor
and they're so flaky

(just like tender pie-crust)

they make everything taste better



all through the meal!



LOOSE-WILES BISCUIT COMPANY—Brown Cracker and Candy Company Division

HOUSEHOLD HELPS

MRS. MARGARET STUTE, Editor, 1809 Ashland, Fort Worth, Texas.

SOUND THE MERRY BELLS OF YULE

Again, through our troubled and tragical era, sound the merry bells of yule. There is a miracle of wonder in the recurrence of Christmas. The dark shadow of war, the humming drive of war industries and the stores full of eager shoppers bring neither failure nor fear to this happiest of holidays. For hundreds of years Christmas has been celebrated in war and peace, in hut and palace. It has serenely weathered the rigors of Puritan attack and the cynicism of modern paganism. Business as usual may exploit it, but Christmas in turn subdues business. Christmas belongs to the ages, and Time has laid no withering hand upon its spirit. Men pass, dynasties disappear, nations decay; but the rule of Christmas still holds away in the human heart.



This is the big year for the "little" gift, the small remembrance that is chosen with thoughtfulness and wrapped with care, that actually pays the recipient the subtle compliment of implying that her yardstick of gift appreciation is not marked off in dollars and cents. You may have reasons this year for spending less for your gifts—spending less in money, that is. You'll probably end up by expending more in spirit, and in turn warming the heart of the person at whose feet you lay the small gift that is loving. You'll find the small, sweet remembrance in abundance this year. The single lipstick, the soap figurine, the single dram of perfume, the jar of cream, the pretty shaker of fine talc can testify in a big and tenderful way.

SHARE CHRISTMAS WITH CHILDREN AND FRIENDS

By now you have, probably, completed your Christmas shopping and have the gifts wrapped. Now you can devote your attention to culinary duties and to trimming the tree. Perhaps, having whipped yourself up to an artificial excitement about Christmas for the children, you now sit down with slumped shoulders and look at the day with reality. No daddy to help trim the tree. No one to enjoy the delicacies you may prepare. Children are indifferent alike to sacrifices and efficiency. They take both for granted. This is the moment to think about for persons in a like situation. If there are no daddies, no relatives or grandparents to make the day a happy one, then there must be friends or acquaintances who face a like bleak one. Pool your Christmas trees, your dinners and your fun and have a day that will wipe out loneliness and sorrow from another's heart—and incidentally your own.

As this is a day for the children, let them enjoy some of the responsibilities. Everyone knows, but does not practice the knowledge, that it's more fun to do than to watch someone else doing. In parents' unselfish desire to give the children happiness and a surprise, they grab all the fun of tree trimming, and leave the children on the outside as restless spectators. If time hangs heavily for the children, they could do some of the trimmings for the tree. Let them rub paste over the angel dolls of stars and sprinkle them with silver dust. Let them string cranberries or string their own bright beads to be hung on branches that need some weight and a touch of color. We're all having homey Christmases, simple days with gatherings relatives, pot luck meals in many cases and as much happiness as we can cram into the day. My wish for all of you, the happy and the heavy-hearted is "A Merry Christmas."

GAMES FOR THE CHILDREN

Games you remember from childhood are still as popular as ever. Musical chairs can be played, using either a phonograph or piano. The Farmer in the Dell has as much appeal as ever. And pinning the whiskers on Santa Claus will delight everyone. Each child is blindfolded when his turn comes. He is turned around by the shoulders three times at a distance of five feet from the picture. Then he is free to pin the whiskers where he guesses they belong. Singing Christmas songs can be lots of fun if the adult leading the songs is gay and lets the children suggest the ones they would like. And, as always, children like to make lists of the things they want for Christmas. When each has been given a paper and pencil, let them have three minutes to make out their lists. The one with the longest list without repeats should be the winner.



And, of course, a grab bag would delight them. An old pillow case would be good to hold the favors. These can be crayons, hair combs, small tin of paints, paper cut-outs, tiny dolls or autos. These need not be wrapped separately. The children won't care, and the wrappings will clutter up the floor and favors may be lost. Allow time for free-play—that is, when there isn't any planned game. This will come best after the grab bag. Then they'll want time to see what each got, and try out their own favor. But don't feel that there must be a grab bag with favors. The children will have a grand time just given refreshments and time to play with their little friends. Pie made with unpeeled apples, sliced thin, need 25 per cent less sugar, since much of apples' high sugar content lies near the skin.

HOLIDAY RECIPES

Crown Roast of Pork, Glazed Apples
Have butcher prepare a rib section of two pork loins to make a crown roast. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Place ribs down in a roasting pan or if ribs must be placed upward, wrap them in paper to prevent burning. Roast in a moderate oven, 350 degrees F., allowing 30 minutes per pound. When meat is thoroughly cooked, stand on platter, garnish rib ends with paper frills, and fill center with candied sweet potatoes and apples.

Inexpensive Fruit Cake
This recipe never fails. One pound dark brown sugar, 1 package seedless raisins, 2 tablespoons shortening, 1 teaspoon salt, 2 teaspoons nutmeg, 2 teaspoons cinnamon, 1 teaspoon cloves, 2 1/2 cups boiling water. Boil together for eight minutes, then let cool. When cool add 4 cups flour, 3 tablespoons baking powder, 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda. Cook in a slow oven in a well-greased pan. For extra special occasions add a few walnuts and cherries and a can of cut-up citrons and lemon peels that only cost 10 cents a can.

Mince-meat Pudding
1 1/4 cups sifted flour 1 cup unsweetened fruit juice
1/2 teaspoon salt 1 tablespoon lemon juice
1/2 cup sugar 1 cup light brown sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder 1 tablespoon butter or substitute
1 cup mince-meat
1/2 cup milk
Mix and sift together flour, granulated sugar, baking powder and salt. Add milk and mince-meat. Mix until flour disappears and pour into greased nine-inch square pan. Combine remaining ingredients, bring to the boiling point and pour over pudding. Bake uncovered in a moderate oven (350 degrees F.) for one hour. Serve hot or cold with cream or hard sauce. Serves eight.

Cranberry Chiffon Pie
The holiday season just wouldn't seem quite right without cranberries, writes Mrs. Margaret Hienrich from Buffalo, New York. "This pie has always been my family's special Christmas treat. We call it Cranberry Chiffon."
2 cups of cranberries
1/2 cup water
3 eggs
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup cold water
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1/2 cup whipping cream
Pinch of salt
1 tablespoon gelatin
Cook cranberries in water until skins pop open. Pass through sieve and add egg whites which have been beaten with half the sugar. Cook until thickened. Add gelatin

which has been softened in cold water, and the salt and lemon juice. Allow this to cool and fold in the egg whites, whipped stiff with the remaining sugar. Put in a baked pie shell and chill until firm. Spread the top with whipped cream just before serving.

Christmas Cookies
"Here is the recipe for a Christmas cookie that my mother taught me to make," writes Mrs. Weldon Elwell, of Danbury, Connecticut. "It yields about 70 small cookies."
1/2 pound cream cheese
1/2 pound margarine or shortening
1/2 pound flour
Pinch of salt

"Cut in shortening as in pie pastry, until able to handle. Roll out on floured board and cut in desired shapes and fill, sealing the edges, with this mixture:
1/2 pound nut meats (peanuts, pecans, walnuts or hickory nuts)
1 tablespoon melted butter
1/4 pound of honey
1/2 cup sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
"Bake until honey-colored brown in a 325 or 350-degree oven. The longer they stand the better they taste."

Cranberry Salad (Serves 8)
1 envelope plain un-flavored gelatin 1/2 teaspoon salt
1 1/4 cups water 1/4 cup tangerine, or orange sections, halved
2 cups cranberries halved
1 cup sugar (or less, to taste) 1/4 cup chopped celery
1 tablespoon lemon juice 1/4 cup chopped nuts
Soften gelatin in 1/4 cup of the cold water. Cook cranberries in remaining water until tender. Stir in sugar and cook five minutes. Add softened gelatin, salt, and lemon juice and stir until gelatin is dissolved. Strain and cool. When mixture begins to thicken, fold in tangerine, or oranges, celery and nuts. Turn into individual molds that have been rinsed out in cold water first. Chill. Unfold on lettuce and serve with mayonnaise.

NOTE: May be molded in ring mold and chicken or crab salad piled in the center.
Tip for breakfast on Christmas morning: Griddle cakes fried in bacon fat to a golden brown and served with apple slices sauteed in the same fat.

A holiday sweet that's good for children consists of prunes, steamed just enough to soften, piled, stuffed with nuts and rolled in a bit of sugar.

Deviled Eggs in Aspic
1/2 pound cream cheese
1/2 pound margarine or shortening
1/2 pound flour
Pinch of salt
Cut in shortening as in pie pastry, until able to handle. Roll out on floured board and cut in desired shapes and fill, sealing the edges, with this mixture:
1/2 pound nut meats (peanuts, pecans, walnuts or hickory nuts)
1 tablespoon melted butter
1/4 pound of honey
1/2 cup sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
Bake until honey-colored brown in a 325 or 350-degree oven. The longer they stand the better they taste.

Gebhardt's Chili Powder
NOT RATIONED

DOES YOUR HOME INVITE ACCIDENTS

Home should be the safest, happiest place in the world, but is it? Surprising as it seems, the yearly toll of accidents in the home is second only to that caused by automobiles. Many of these accidents could be prevented by a little forethought. Are your stairways well-lighted, kept free from litter, and equipped with sturdy hand-rails? Are the steps in good repair with no sagging or broken boards? Provide a place for the children's toys and see that all toys are put away before the youngsters are put to bed. Shoes and all other clothing should be picked up off the floor. Arrange the furniture so as to give clear passage through the room. Label all bottles of poison plainly and stick a pin in the cork of each so they may easily be identified if someone is rummaging around in the dark. Piles of papers, oily rags and junk should be cleaned out of attic and cellar. These might easily start a fire. Defective plugs and wiring are also fire hazards. Better have the wiring checked to make sure there are no faulty connections. Throw rugs create their share of accidents, too. See they are anchored with non-slip material or rubber rings so none will slip on them. If you have been careless

"3 WAYS BETTER"
OVENIZED
NATIONAL 3-MINUTE OATS
FOR FINER FLAVOR
National 3-Minute Oats is Ovenized 15 Hours — At The Mill — For Finer Flavor. Like baking a potato, this exclusive and costly slow-curing of the choice, sun-ripened oats while still in their jackets brings out the full, natural flavor — adds in the precious vitamins, minerals and proteins. National 3-Minute Oats is 3 ways better — you can see, taste and feel the difference!
NATIONAL 3-MINUTE OATS
THE BREAKFAST THAT STANDS UP TO YOU

about these things in the past and nothing has happened, that's fine. But you never know just when your luck may run out.
AIRLINE BUSES
The bus industry proposes to establish scheduled helicopter-bus air service operating between bus stations in downtown sections of approximately 1,000 cities and towns, and between nearby towns, Agnew E. Larsen, president of RotaWings Inc., reported recently to the transportation and maintenance meeting of the Society of Automotive Engineers. Numerous applications have already been made to the Civil War Board for certificates of operation for helicopter-bus service by the nation's leading motor companies.
The engineering of helicopter buses, Mr. Larsen stated, is moving at a pace which should assure the operation and the public of a reasonably wide choice of air-bus. He cited the work of Sikorsky, Platt LePage, Bell Aircraft.

THINGS THAT MEAN A LOT THESE DAYS

Hop in sailor... have a Chesterfield

The things that SATISFY

IT MEANS A LOT when a cigarette gives you the genuine satisfaction you get from Chesterfield.

It MEANS that Chesterfield, more than any other cigarette, gives you the things that count... real Mildness, Better Taste and a Cooler Smoke.

The reason is Chesterfield's 5 Key-words
RIGHT COMBINATION
WORLD'S BEST TOBACCOS

ASK FOR **Chesterfield** They Satisfy

BUY ANOTHER BOND