

MERRY CHRISTMAS

THE ROPES PLAINSMAN

VOLUME XXXIII — NO. 30

ROPESVILLE, HOCKLEY COUNTY, TEXAS

5c A COPY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1969

If there is an X in this box
it is notice your subscription
has expired and an invita-
tion to renew.



The Christmas Story

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger."

May the glorious Christmas story lift up your hearts and may its message bring to you enduring comfort and joy

SERVICES:
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 A.M.
MORNING WORSHIP 10:45 A.M.
EVENING NYPS 6:00 P.M.
EVENING SERVICE 6:45 P.M.
PRAYER GROUPS
MEN - TUESDAY 6:00 A.M.
WOMEN - TUESDAY 9:00 A.M.
FAMILY PRAYER - WEDNESDAY 7:30 P.M.

ROPES CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

WELCOME TO ALL

Dave K. Powers, Minister Elwood & Timmons

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE DECADE GAINS NOTED

The relatively young Church of the Nazarene scored impressive gains during the decade of 1959-69, reports from denominational offices in Kansas City, Missouri, showed this week. The statistical report came from the office of the general secretary, Dr. B. Edgar Johnson. During the 10-year period, Nazarene church membership and Sunday school enrollment increased 30 per cent while giving for all purposes nearly doubled. Per Capita giving was up 57 per cent. Highlights are as follows:
 —World membership reached 471,846 persons — an increase of 110,202 or 30 per cent ahead of the 361,664 total in 1959.
 —Sunday school enrollment climbed 228,601 or 29 per cent, to a total of 1,013,724.
 —Per capita giving had a record

\$213.26 in 1969 — or \$77.75 (57 per cent) more than the \$135.51 in 1959. —Giving for all purposes was \$82,309,225.00 in '69 — an increase of \$40,125,671 or 95 per cent ahead of the \$42,183,554 given in 1959. The three new colleges started in 1967 and 1968 helped to raise enrollment at Nazarene colleges to more than 9,000 students in 1969. The denomination also had more than 9,000 young men serving in the Armed Forces and 73 gold stars on its Vietnam war memorial roll. The Church of the Nazarene was organized in 1908. It holds to all the historic doctrines of the New Testament and has become the largest denomination in the United States that stands for scriptural holiness in the Wesleyan tradition. It is affiliated with the National Holiness Association. —000—

DELAYED ITEMS

RICHARD BROWN TO APPEAR IN WHO'S WHO

Richard Brown, a senior at West Texas State University in Canyon, is among 36 students of that university selected to appear in the 1969-'70 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges." He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Brown of Hereford and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Rosser of Ropesville.

This is a publication honoring outstanding students throughout the nation. Selections for the honor are made on the basis of academic achievements, campus activities, service to the community, leadership and future potential.

Richard is studying to be a doctor, and is a biology major. He is vice president of Sigma U National Society Fraternity, a member of Alpha Chi and the American Chemical Society and also a delegate to the House of DELEGATES.

He has had two interviews with the medical center at San Antonio, and is slated for another on Friday. —000—

VISITS DOCTOR

Terry Mayfield was taken to the doctor Monday. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Mayfield. —000—

ON SICK LIST

Mrs. Jean Parker took her son, Lowell, to the doctor Tuesday for medical care. —000—

VISIT HERE

Clyde Fewell and children from Odessa visited last weekend in the home of his mother, Mrs. Minnie Fewell. —000—

TO VISIT HERE

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Cordell and children, Ava Ana, 8½, Dina Theresa 7, and Ronald Robert 4 months of Huntsville, Alabama, will visit during the Christmas holidays with her father, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Riojas and family. Mas. Cordell is the former Rosa Elia Riojas. —000—

TO VISIT HERE

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hougou of California will spend the Christmas holidays with her daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kahlich and family. —000—

BOWLING STANDINGS

Week of December 11:
 C & C Gin
 Bowers Butane
 Mansfields Service Station
 Ropes Farmers Co-Op Gin
 T & M Trucking
 Arnett Co-Op Gin
 Jackson Insurance
 Cyanamid Farm Supply
BOWLERS OF THE WEEK
 Gladys Henson
 Hazel Bevers
ALTERNATES
 Glenda Sparks
 Don Thomas
HIGH GAME SERIES
 Mansfields Service Station - 2501
 C & C Gin - 2351
 Bowers Butane - 2328
HIGH TEAM GAME
 Mansfields Service Station - 875
 C & C Gin - 844
 Bowers Butane - 816
HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES
CLASS A
 Glenda Sparks — 536
 Betty Watts — 533
 Hazel Bevers — 523
CLASS B
 Joyce Shannon — 472
 Bobbie Mitchell — 443
 Charlene Sims — 441
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME
CLASS A
 Hazel Bevers — 217
 Lola Marcy — 214
 Betty Watts — 214
 Nelle Dalton — 210
CLASS B
 Charlene Sims — 193
 Joyce Shannon — 187
 Bobbie Mitchell — 174
 —000—

LAST RITES MONDAY FOR DANNY LATHAM

Services were held at 10 a.m. Monday for S95 Danny Richard Latham, 25, at Cactus Drive Church of Christ, Levelland, with Bob Reynolds, minister and Joe Barnett, minister of Broadway Church of Christ, Lubbock, officiating. Assisting them was the Rev. Bob Robins of Levelland.

Interment was in City of Levelland Cemetery with Military graveside rites, U.S. Army, with George Price Funeral Home in charge.

Latham died in Vietnam on December 7 where he was serving with Co. C 52nd Signal Battalion.

Danny was born on November 8, 1944, and moved with his family to Levelland from Houston in 1947. He attended school in Levelland, receiving his high school diploma after he entered the service.

Survivors include his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James H. Latham, Sr., of Levelland; three brothers, James Latham Jr. of Levelland, Tommy of Dallas and Ted of Levelland; two sisters, Mrs. Jo Ann Ward of Levelland and Mrs. Bobbie Murry of Snyder.

Pallbearers were Eddie Flatt, Eddie Crawford, Eddie Langford, Dewey Ellison, Butch Mack and Kent McInroe. —000—

VISIT DAUGHTER

Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Rosser were in Hereford Sunday visiting in the home of their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Brown and family. —000—



ATTEND GRADUATION

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Cain were in San Antonio December 8 where they attended graduation services of their son, 2nd Lt. David Cain.

David is now here visiting with his parents before going to Del Rio where he will be stationed. —000—

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE - HIDE-A-BED SOFA, \$30.00. CALL BARBARA HURT PHONE 562-3761 AFTER 6 P.M. —000—

NOTICE - If you have a male puppy of any breed to give away, please contact Monica Ream, see or call John Ream, 2576, Smyer. —000—

FOR SALE - 2 BDRM. HOUSE TO BE MOVED, \$2400; ONE LOT IN PIEDMONT ADDITION. ONE LOT IN WEST SIDE ADDITION, LUBBOCK, \$950 EACH. G. H. DALTON, RT. 2 BOX 178, WHITNEY, TEXAS 76692. —000—

VISITS DOCTOR

Emra Walling was in Lubbock Monday for a medical checkup. —000—

THE ROPES PLAINSMAN

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Celeste Thomas, Publisher Editor

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COCKROACHES - Rats, mice, termites, gophers and other household pests exterminated. GUARANTEED. Davidson Pest Control, 111 First St. or phone 894-3824. Levelland.

SEVENTEEN ACCIDENTS ARE INVESTIGATED

The Texas Highway Patrol investigated 17 accidents on rural highways in Hockley County during the month of November, according to Sergeant H. E. Portle, Highway Patrol Supervisor of this area.

These crashes resulted in six persons injured and an estimated property damage of \$9,229.00.

The rural accident summary for this county during the first eleven months of 1969 shows a total of 133 accidents resulting in nine persons killed, 84 persons injured, and an estimated property damage of \$144,239.00.

Once again in Texas we are approaching the most joyful season of the whole year, Christmas. However, traffic wise the month of December has proven to be the most destructive month to the life of mankind — Death By a Motor Vehicle.

In 1968, two traffic records were set in Texas; the month of December had the highest traffic fatality number of 369 as compared to 341 during December of 1967. The second record was 3481 traffic deaths for the year as compared to 3367 traffic deaths for the year 1967.

What is the outlook for the year 1969? The Sergeant stated "the Texas death count for the beginning of December, 1969 is 125 more traffic deaths as compared to the same time last year." —000—

DRIVE WITH CARE

Austin —The director of the Texas Department of Public Safety today estimated that traffic crashes in Texas over the Christmas and New Year holiday periods may claim as many as 87 lives.

Colonel Wilson E. Speir said 54 deaths are expected in the Christmas period beginning at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve to midnight Sunday, December 28. It also is estimated 33 traffic deaths will occur during the New Year holidays from 6 p.m. New Year's Eve to midnight Sunday, January 4.

"We urge each individual driver to accept the challenge of proving our estimates are too high," Speir said. "Many holiday accidents can be prevented if Texans will drive safely and realize that no one is immune to a traffic crash."

Speir also announced that the Department of Public Safety will place all available patrolmen on the highways during the holidays to enforce the law and aid motorists. He said a special "Operation Motorcade" would be in effect over both holiday periods, during which periodic tabulations of traffic fatalities will be made and given the widest possible dissemination in order to focus public attention to the added dangers involved in holiday travel. —000—

Christmas comes but once a year, and when it comes it brings good cheer, so enjoy yourself. It'll be here again before you know it!

METHODIST NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 P. O. Box 147 Phone 562-3881
 Ropesville, Texas 79358
 "Located on the Lubbock Road"
 Sunday School 10:00
 Morning Worship 11:00
 Evening Worship 6:00
 Don McWhorter, Pastor

Closed Christmas WALT'S CAFE

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK 6:00 A.M. 'TIL 6:00 P.M.
 GOOD COFFEE COURTEOUS SERVICE DELICIOUS FOOD
 WE NOW HAVE SHRIMP ON OUR MENU
 VISIT US TODAY!

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GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
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RIOJAS DEPT. STORE



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Emmett Schoenrock

COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT I



"We accept burial policies of all companies"

FRANKLIN-BARTLEY FUNERAL HOME
 6242 34th Street Lubbock, Texas

Phone SWit 9-3666 collect

The Observer and the Observed

By Dave K. Powers

Trees, carols, tinsel, holly and the ivy.....

Packages, last minute purchases and planning....

Lights, angel hair, mistletoe, gay decorations..... Turkey? Check. Cranberry sauce? Check. Olives? Check. Candles? Check. Everything is in order. What a day December 25, 1969 is going to be..... "the good Lord willing!"

Then the big moment comes — "Let us pray....."

"Our Father, we thank you that we are able to be seated around the table this Christmas. Help us to have more room in our heart for you. As we feast, help us to feed the poor, clothe the naked, visit the sick and lift up the less fortunate. May you enter fully into our culture that we may set great value upon all things honorable, all things pure, all lovely things and those of good report. Bring us into the eternal things of this blessed season, the things that abide, the love that shows itself in unfeeling goodwill and the joy that only You can give. Thank you. In the name of Christ Jesus. Amen."

After the carols have faded, and the gifts admired, the decorations put up for next year, May the Christ of Christmas still brighten the afterglow. Best Wishes and may you know the Prince of Peace.

VISIT HERE

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Lott of San Antonio are here visiting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Brice Kinnison.

IN ROPES

Jay Nabours and family of El Paso are in Ropes visiting Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hall. Jay was a pleasant caller at the Plainsman office and made arrangements to receive the Plainsman for the next year.

IN EAST TEXAS

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Ray Martin and family are spending Christmas in East Texas with relatives.

IN ROPES

Mrs. Bob Abbott of Lubbock is spending a few days recuperating in the home of her sister, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Walling.

VISITING AROUND

Lynn McMahan of Newark, Ohio was in Ropes Tuesday visiting with old friends and school mates. Lynn attended good old RHS at the same time as this writer, and Tuesday was the first time we had seen him since our school days.

He also made arrangements for the Plainsman to be sent his way. How time does fly. The future may look far ahead, but it doesn't take but a jiffy to scan the years that are gone. We enjoyed our short visit, and hope Lynn finds some familiar names in the Plainsman.

1969-70 SCHEDULE FOR ROPES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

December 19-29 — Christmas holidays. Dismiss 19th; resume the 29th.)

January 1 — New Year's Day

March 6 — District Teachers Meeting.

March 27-April 6 — Easter holidays.

May 21 — Final exams.

May 21 — Junior High Graduation at 8:09 p.m.

May 22 — School dismissed.

May 22 — High School graduation at 8:00 p.m.

FOOTBALL SEASON AT ASTRODOME

Houston's Astrodome will be the site of 21 football games during the 1969 football season — the most football activity ever slated for the Astrodome.

The Houston Oilers will play 11 times, including four pre-season games, the University of Houston will play five games, negro college games will total three, and then the two post season games will be the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl game on New Year's Eve and the AFL All-Star game on January 17. The complete Astrodome schedule is as follows:

Dec. 31; 8:00 p.m. - Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl game.

PRACTICE SAFETY DURING HOLIDAY SEASONS

Accidents are always seeking a place to happen, so practice safety during the Christmas and New Year season. advises the Texas State Department of Health.

Today, accidents loom as the nation's number one threat to babies and children. Each year about 16,000 boys and girls under 15 are killed and about 17,000,000 are seriously injured in accidents.

Surprisingly, about four million people receive disabling injuries and some 30,000 are killed in accidents in the home alone.

The Christmas season is a prime time for one of the four million yearly home accidents to happen. A festive mood often dispels caution.

One of the booby traps facing you may be the toys you purchase for your child. The Food and Drug Administration recently asked a distributor to call in a baby pacifier labeled as "one-piece nipple and shield for extra safety." It actually came apart into three pieces — one small enough to choke a baby. In another case a baby rattle when broken produced a dagger-like spike.

Other toys shoot potentially deadly missiles, provide electrical shock hazards, burning hazards and other maiming hazards.

Small children are particularly susceptible to burns and poisons since so many things handled automatically go to their mouths. Holly and mistletoe berries, widely used as Yule decorations, are poisonous, causing vomiting, diarrhea and disorders of the central nervous system.

A few other Christmas-related products are considered poisonous.

Bubbling Christmas tree lights contain methylene chloride, which if swallowed could cause slight poisoning. It has happened. Use only three decorations approved and bearing the Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) label.

Fire salts produce beautiful colored flames, but they contain certain chemicals — including arsenic and various toxic salts — that can cause vomiting if eaten.

Tree balls are made of glass and plastic, and in addition to causing cuts, could clog the windpipe of a child.

The gas propellant in artificial snow is toxic if inhaled but leaves no residue when dried.

Smoke pellets for toy trains could make Junior sick if eaten. And, cleaning fluid used with toy trains needs proper ventilation.

THE BROKEN HEART

It all started on a Saturday, in the evening, late I was to pick her up, and then we'd have out date.

When I arrived she greeted me with her tender smile She made my heart feel like she was just my style.

Our night was filled with laughter and fun Her face was lit up like the morning sun

Her eyes twinkled as the stars above My heart then pleaded for her love.

I saw her the next day, so bright and fair, But it wasn't the same, that love wasn't there

The day turned out to be such a flop I wanted to make time stand still and the world to stop.

But time didn't stand still, and the world kept turning And with each turn, my heart kept yearning

For just a chance to make it all up to her. Still now when I see her my heart begins to stir.

I've never found time to make things right I've worried, and lain awake night after night.

I wish we could forget that unhappy day And I could make it up to her in some way.

After you've found a girl like her, It's hard to forget, and my heart's in a stir.

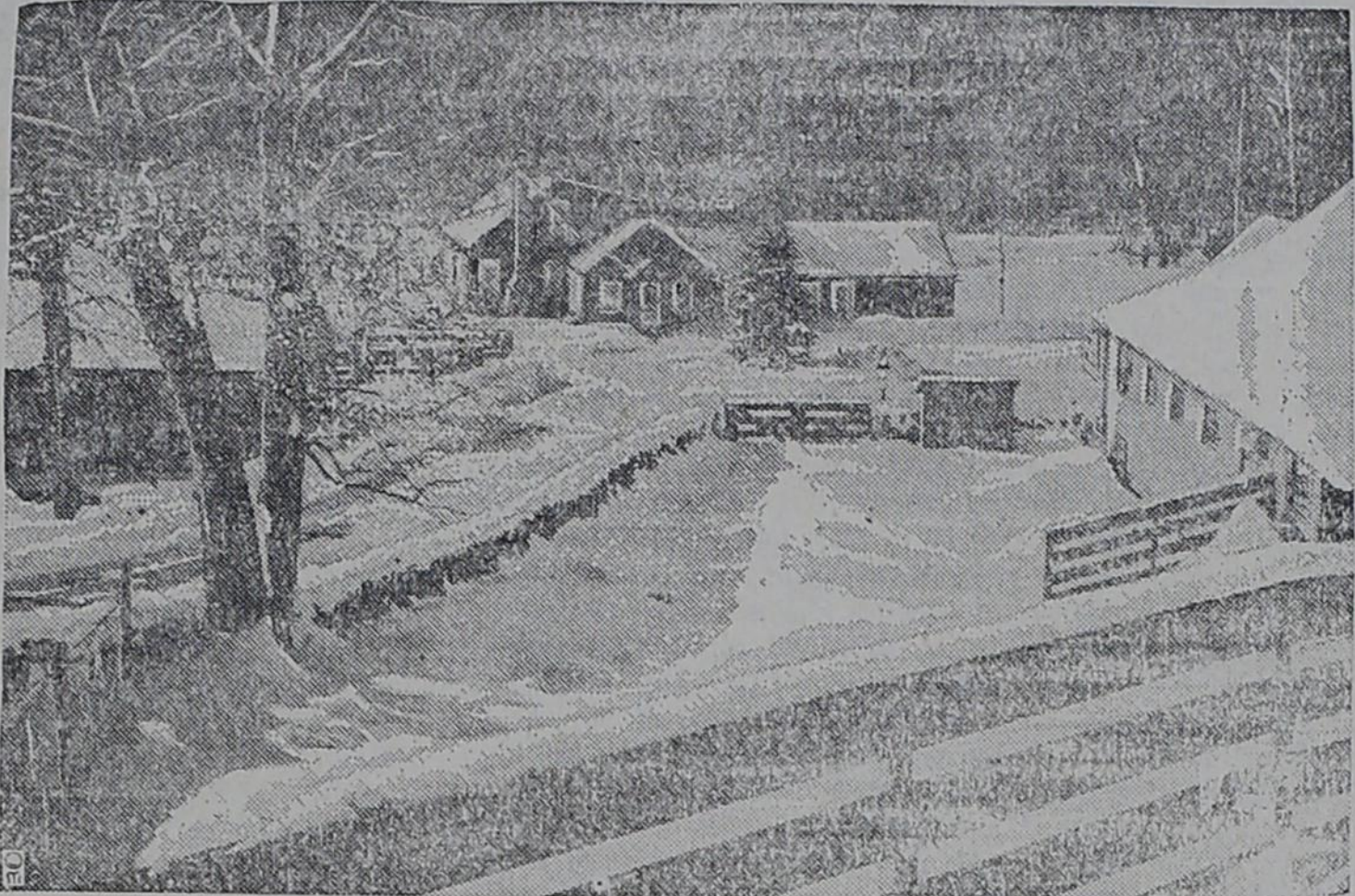
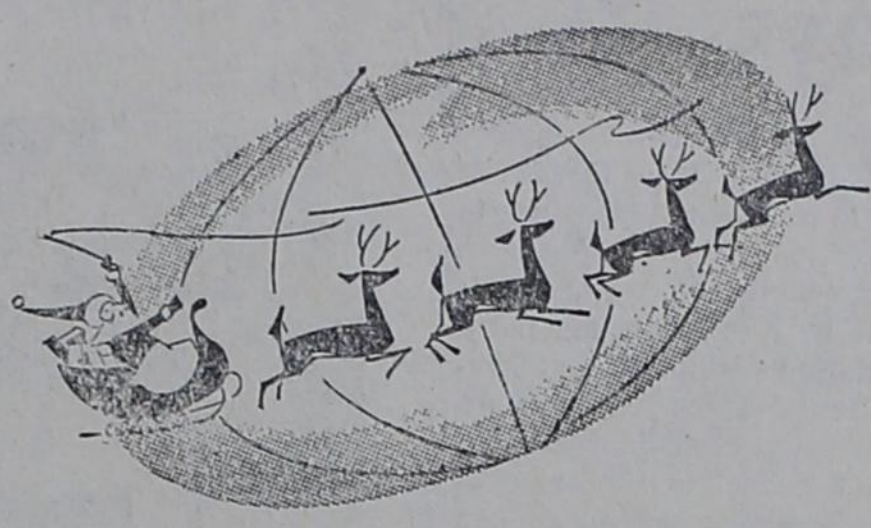
Worry and grief have broken my heart And only she, can mend the broken parts.

NOTICE —

The Plainsman is but an excuse this week so that we might have some time at home with our family.

IN ROPES LAST WEEK

County Judge Hulon Moreland was in Ropes last Wednesday, and was a pleasant visitor at the Plainsman office.



Holly Holds Sway
The holly tree and its brightly berried branches hold an important place not only in holiday decorations but in the legends and lore of Christmas.
An old belief in England and Germany was that there are "he" and "she" hollies — the "he" hollies with spined leaves, the "she" hollies smooth-leaved. The varieties brought into the house at Christmas supposedly showed who would head the household for the coming year — "he" or "she."

Of Wreaths
Using wreaths as decorations at Christmas may be traced to the customs of Advent season, the four Sundays before Christmas — a time of preparation for the coming of the Christ Child. Traditionally, the Advent wreath is made of evergreen branches interlaced with red ribbons. It holds four candles. One candle is lit at dusk on the first Sunday of Advent, two the next Sunday, three the next and four on the last Sunday before Christmas. The wreath may be placed on a door, set on a table or hung from the ceiling.

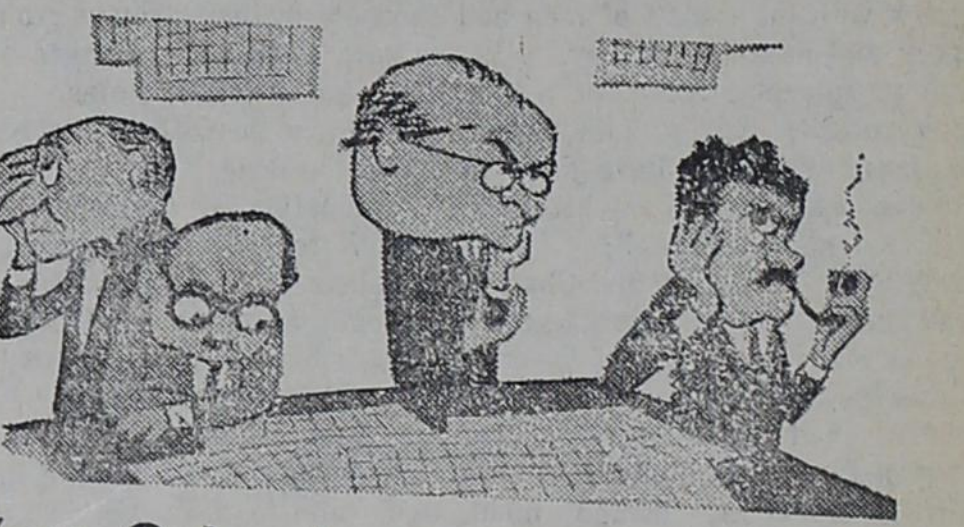


For Kissing
Secular and religious Christmas customs met in the old English "kissing bunch." This evergreen ball had mistletoe, for kissing, hung from the center.
But it also contained small dolls to represent Jesus, Mary and Joseph, as well as an array of fruits and colorful ornaments.

Naming Santa
Santa, the giver of many gifts, is a man of many names, too. While he is becoming almost universally known as Santa Claus, Santa or St. Nick, many European children still wait for the arrival of St. Nicholas.
St. Nicholas was the first of Santa's names and came from a real bishop in the fourth century, A.D. He is said to travel not by reindeer but on horseback, and wears bishop's robes.
Over the years, Santa has gained still other names. In France he's Pere Noel, in Finland Father Christmas, in Germany Kris Kringle, in Russia Father or Grandfather Frost.



Bells, Bells, Bells
Through the ages, bells have served many purposes — announcing the approach of vehicles, for instance, or signaling the beginning of curfew. Early associated with churches, by medieval times the pealing of the bells had come to signify the rejoicing of the Christmas season.
An early custom was the tolling of church bells on Christmas Eve, during the hour before midnight. The tolling announced the death of Satan, and at midnight joyous peals told of the birth of Christ.
In England, where bell-ringing is an honored, family-taught art, the tuneful bells ring out at seven-thirty on Christmas morning.
It takes years of training and practice to learn the ringing of complex "changes," as the different chants and tonal combinations are called.



Your Calendar Problem Solved
For over 6,000 years, man has been trying to create the "perfect" calendar, and has yet to come up with a solution to the problem — how to divide the solar year into exact and equal units.
But let the experts ponder that situation; your problem is finding a calendar for 1970... and the St. Joseph Family Almanac Calendar is your answer — available now at many pharmacies in your area.
This 1970 calendar, the 48th edition of the St. Joseph Cal-

OPERATION MOTORCIDE CHRISTMAS 1969
54 6 P.M. DEC. 24
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TEXAS COURTESY - SERVICE - PROTECTION
MIDNIGHT DEC. 28

The Texas Department of Public Safety estimates that 54 persons will be killed in traffic accidents during the Christmas holiday period from 6 p.m. Wednesday, December 24 to midnight Sunday, December 28. DPS officials are joining with the Governor's highway safety program in urging Texans to "Drive Friendly" during the holidays and stay alive for the seventies.

The Holiday of Holidays

(Feeling we needed something a little special for this paper to be published on Christmas Day, we searched through the files for an article written by our father, the late Troy Morris. The one we decided upon was written and published in the Plainsman December 21, 1945. We feel his writings have an eternal meaning, and are not limited to the one publication. The following article is just as appropriate today as it was some 24 years ago.)

God rest you merry, Gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ, our Savior
Was born on this day.

On winged feet Time moves, and again we approach Christmas.

It is the most unusual of holidays. Most holidays are given over to commemorate some great man, or deed that has set up a milestone in history, deeds of valor, outstanding victory. But Christmas is not that. No! It commemorates the birth of a God, a Savior who so loved the world, and the beings who slave and struggle in it, as to be willing to be born of woman and cast His lot among us — to live as we live and to die as we die.

It is, however, a momentous event in history. At the time of the birth of Christ people had lost faith. They worshiped brazen idols, images of cold stone, figments of the imagination, they talked of the land of the shades — there was the Golden Calf, the Sacred Bull and the revered cat among the gentiles, while the Jews held to the teaching of the Old Testament. However, even in this latter all had become graft and greed, and the hope of the messiah had dwindled with the passing of time.

Death was looked on as final, with no hope after death.

Christ brought the Torch of Hope and it blazed in a chaotic, hopeless world, and that hope continues to live today — its radiance is as bright as it was 1945 years ago; It brought a revolutionary teaching, before it had been said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," but Christ said, "Turn the other cheek," "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

Such a thing in this world had never been heard of — the people were shocked by it; shocked so badly that it brought disbelief and they shook their heads murmuring, "If a man kills my brother, can I forgive him, Nay, he who takes up the sword must perish by the sword."

He brought with Him a new teaching, "Love". Not of self, but of the human race. He brought with Him the teaching of "Charity". "Though I speak with the tongue of men and angels, and have not charity, I become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal"; Verily, I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of my brethren, ye have done it unto me"; And now abideth faith, hope and Charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

Until the event of Christ no such teachings had ever been heard of... what He taught at that time was unacceptable to the human mind. It meant a complete change in thought; a complete change in values — it shook the foundations from under the teaching people had known for eons — it asked that the sword be sheathed and the spear be made into a pruning hook; it took into consideration the poor, and who had ever heard of the poor being considered — He healed the blind beggar — it took into consideration the unfortunate and condemned the rich.

And, so they said, "What manner of man is this?"

But His teaching took hold. The priests, who were no less than grafters and robbers, saw a lucrative business being taken from them and they feared Him. They took steps to get rid of Him. And without one iota of evidence they crucified Him — but in that they destroyed themselves, for they fulfilled prophecy, and by nailing Him to the cross changed the whole current of the stream of history.

What we know of the life of Jesus is told us in the Four Gospels: From His birth in the little town of Bethlehem, when the angels sang together and the Star lighted the way to the manger that "Cradled a King", through the twelve years that may be called His childhood, the eighteen years of His youth and early manhood, the three short, full years of His public ministry — the story takes us to the time of His accusation, His illegal trial, and His shameful death, when the sun's light did fall and the earth did quake and the veil of the temple was rent in twain

from the top to the bottom, His resurrection and His ten different appearances during the 40 days time.

But in those three short years, Christ altered all history; He closed all history of the past and inaugurated all history of the future, and all the most brilliant and civilized nations of the world bow before Him as their Savior.

It was the sinless life of Jesus that gave Him His power, His personality and authority to His utterances. No other of the world's great teachers has reached, nor claimed to have reached, the beauty of a blameless life. Although He was surrounded by all the temptations common to humanity, friends and critics alike admit with Pilate, they "Find no fault in Him," and in all these two thousand years no philosopher has discovered fallacy of any sort in His pure and simple preachings, which centers as they do in "the two great truths of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man," lie as the foundation of all that is best in the progress of the world."

Napoleon said of Him, "Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I myself, have founded great empires but upon what do these creations of our genius depend? Upon force. Jesus alone founded His empire upon love, and to this very day mil-

LET US SUPPORT OUR FIGHTING MEN

by Al Buchholz

I came uneasy to my country. My birth was shrouded by the clouds of war.

I was far too young to have had a hand in it — but I was, after all, born in one of the Axis nations. After living a year under Russian occupation, I had a chance of meeting the fighting men of America. And I knew that instead of bringing revenge they brought gum.

And they talked about home. They talked eternally about home.

They were strange men on a strange ground and while we, as children, looked up to them, they still scared us a little. But as the years passed, and the talk became deeds, the fear was replaced by respect. America put away bitterness, not to be forgotten, but so it wouldn't interfere with the main job of helping people.

Because of my experiences, the opportunity of living in the United States gives the words, "Peace on Earth Toward All Men of Good Will", a deeper meaning for me.

Now, as another Christmas approaches, it's my strange fighting men on another strange ground.

Now, as then, it's hard to be away from home at Christmas.

Now, as then, there's a reason it has to be done. Occupation by Chairman Mao is no different from occupation by the Russians. Czechoslovakia wants freedom as much as America but doesn't have the means to pursue and retain it. Whereas freedom is the right, at birth, of all men, we find it our duty to answer the call and come to the assistance of freedom seeking men.

We struggle for this principle in the session halls of the United Nations.

We struggle for this principal in the emerging nations.

We struggle for this principle in our own country.

And we struggle hardest for this principle in the unhappy swamps of Viet Nam.

So it can't be the happy Christmas it should be. Our young men are standing in another part of the world. Their seats at the dinner table are empty. Their graduation suits hang empty in our closets. Their cars sit empty in the sheds. But there's no emptiness in our hearts.

We haven't asked that he stand for liberty, only to take away our support in his struggle. We haven't joined with his enemy to defeat his aim. And we won't let him down by misinforming him about our feelings.

This Christmas it's time for a moratorium. A moratorium against doubt. A moratorium against failure to speak up. A moratorium to reassure our brothers and sons that we know why they can't be with us and that we're sharing the pain of their absence.

It didn't make headlines because it was done thoughtfully and quietly, but just a few weeks ago, in thousands of smaller communities across the nation, Americans stood in chill winds in parks and on court house lawns. They heard amateur speakers give voice on Veteran's

Day to the real feelings in the land. Feelings which tend to be smothered by shouting antics in Chicago court rooms. The deeper feelings which must be conveyed to the Americans who stand for us in the defense of freedom.

He is as real as you or I are real; He is not an abstract being, but a force that walks with us in our daily life; He is here as you and I are here — our very life is mingled with Him and it cannot be separated — the very foundation of our nation rests on His teachings; our very lives depend on Him for happiness; in the darkest of hours He holds my hand; in the greatest of joys He rejoices with me; without Him, indeed, life would be an aimless, sordid affair — take Christ from us and you knock the foundations from under the social economy of the world. All true and lasting happiness is found in the hope with which He endows us — i tis through Him that life is full and complete.

I ever feel His presence, and in no time of need has He ever forsaken me — I tell you He is here because I can feel His presence; I can see His works.

And, so, as we come to this holiday of holidays, let us come to it prayerfully, reverently, meekly, believably — let us give thanks to God that His Son did bring hope, and that His influence ever remains with us — who would want to live in a world where His presence was not felt?

Day to the real feelings in the land. Feelings which tend to be smothered by shouting antics in Chicago court rooms. The deeper feelings which must be conveyed to the Americans who stand for us in the defense of freedom.

May I call on you in asking our Commander in Chief, U.S. Forces, Republic of Vietnam to pass on your feelings of support to our fighting men. Send a card to: General Creighton W. Abrams, Headquarters, U.S. Forces, Republic of Vietnam, APO 96601.

Al Buchholz

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HOLIDAY RECIPES

(From Jewel Robinson, Hockley County Home Demonstration Agent)

TOMATO SPARKLE COCKTAIL

1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
1/4 cup fresh lime juice
1 quart tomato juice
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
3 cups (24 ozs.) chilled ginger ale or similar type beverage
Combine first four ingredients. Slowly add ginger ale. Serve over ice cubes and garnish with lime slices. Makes 10 (6-oz.) servings.

WASSAIL

(Willa Molder)

6 cups of apple cider or apple juice
1 cinnamon stick
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
1/4 cup honey
3 Tablespoons lemon juice
1 Tablespoon lemon rind
1 can (1 lb. 4 oz.) unsweetened pineapple juice (2 1/2 cups)
Heat cider and cinnamon stick in large pan. Add remaining ingredients and simmer uncovered five minutes longer. Keep hot. Serves 20.

Heat oven to 325 degrees. Stud three whole oranges with whole cloves (about 1/2 inch apart). Place in baking pan with little water (just enough to cover bottom of the pan). Bake 30 minutes. Float the baked oranges on top the wassail in punch bowl. Use cinnamon sticks for individual stirrers.

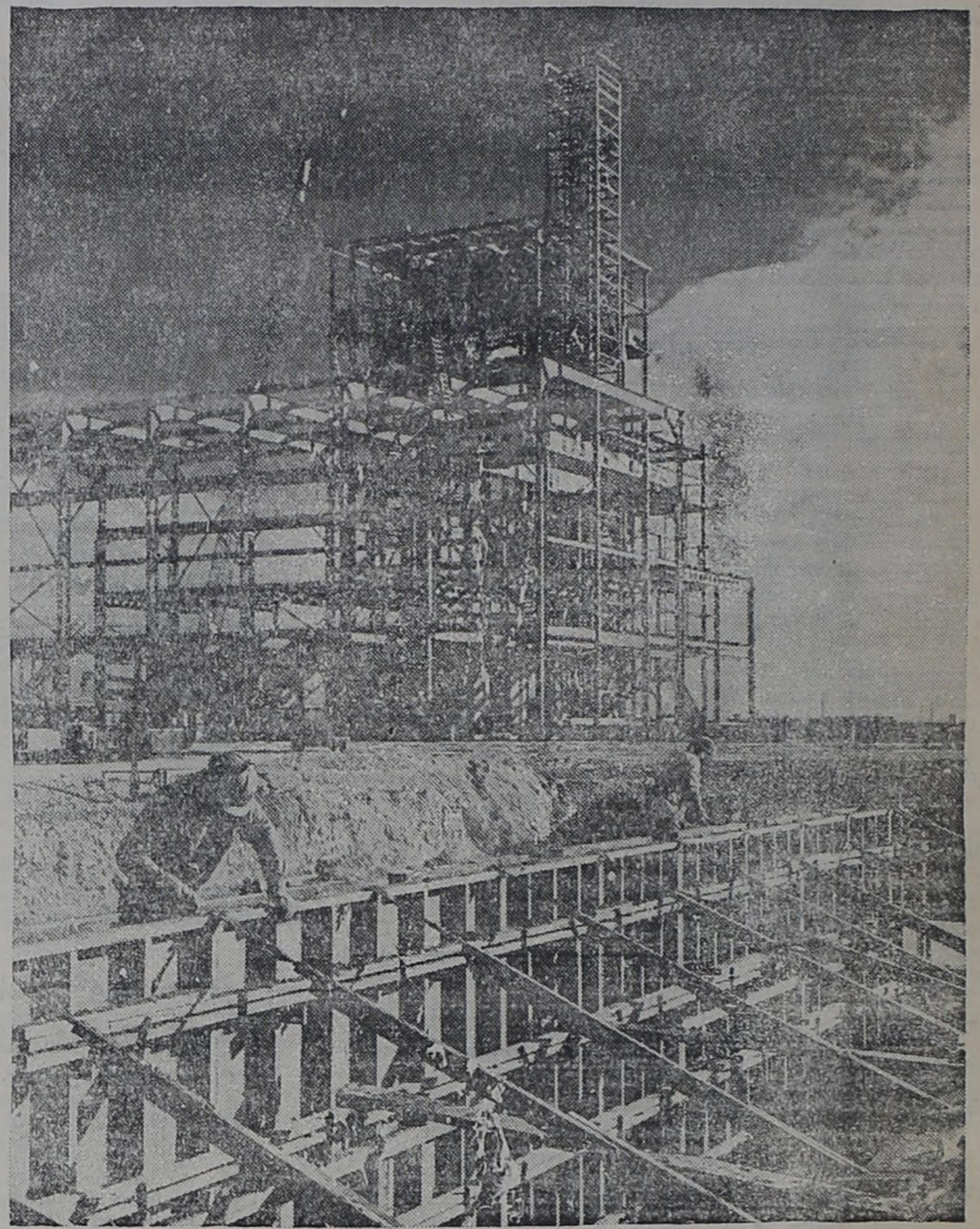
PEANUT CLUSTERS

1 pkg. (6 ozs.) chocolate bits
1/2 cup sweetened condensed milk
1 cup salted peanuts
Melt chocolate bits over hot water on very low heat. Remove from heat and add the sweetened condensed milk and peanuts. Drop by teaspoonful onto wax paper. Chill thoroughly.

"STAINED GLASS" Hard Candy

Combine 2 cups sugar, 1-3 cup light corn syrup, 1-3 cup water and 2 tablespoons vinegar in saucepan. Boil to hard crack stage (300 degrees). Remove from heat, stir in a few drops of oil of peppermint and food color; cool slightly.

Pour colored candy into mold, about 1-3 inch deep; spoon to cover bottom. When candy begins to set (before it hardens) use skewer to make holes for hanging. Allow the candy to harden thoroughly, remove foil. Thread with ribbon or cord to hang. (Or you may pour the candy onto greased baking sheet to make free form shapes.) If candy becomes too firm to pour and shape, remelt over low heat (do



A major investment in Southwestern Public Service Company's 1970 construction program is the Clifford B. Jones Generating Station being constructed on the South Plains near Lubbock. The electric company plans to invest more than \$25,000,000 in plant and equipment in 1970.

More than \$25,000,000 will be invested in new plant and equipment in 1970 to meet the needs for electric power in its 45,000 square mile service area, it was announced today by Roy Tolk, president of the Southwestern Public Service Company.

The major project in the 1970 construction program will be continued construction on Jones Station, a new generating station located on the Texas South Plains, near Lubbock. Ground was broken earlier in 1969 on the new plant, which will have an original generating capability of 210,000 kilowatts, and is scheduled to go into operation in mid-1971.

The new generating station is located in the company's Southern Division and, because of this fact,

about \$18,000,000 of the 1970 improvement budget will be invested for facilities in this 9-county area which includes Ropesville.

"When it comes to electric service people are mainly concerned about two things these days, reliability and cost. We share these concerns with our customers. That's why it has been necessary for us to invest an average of 20-million dollars a year in new equipment every year for the last ten years. New equipment improves reliability, adds to efficiency, and, thus, gives us a chance, at least, to fight galloping inflation," Tolk said in announcing the construction program.

"Reliability of electric service is not a national problem, although it

has been made to sound like one in recent years. This fear atmosphere which has been building since 1965, has been largely the product of advocates of government control of business, even though the failure which set off the 1965 blackout originated on a government-owned electric system.

"There are a few areas of the country, none of them close to this region, in which some power shortages may develop in the future. If these shortages do come about, one of the reasons will be that some companies have been prohibited from building necessary plants and transmission lines by special interest groups — a handful of people. It sometimes appears to me that we have quite a few people living in this 20th Century who want all the comfort and convenience of the space age, including low cost electric power, but want the landscape to look the way it did at the time of the landing at Plymouth Rock, with no cities, no railroads or airports, no highways and no power lines," Tolk added.

Tolk asked the press to help draw the distinction between a "blackout" and an "outage". He described a "blackout" as a shortage of power and an "outage" as a service interruption caused by some other reason than a power shortage.

"Let me say, too, that we won't have any blackouts in our service area in 1970, but we will have some service interruptions. We aren't perfect yet, our reliability record is 99.997, and there will be some times when we'll have all the power anybody needs, but there'll be a lightning storm or a squirrel in a substation or an equipment failure or a human failure, and we'll have a service interruption for some of our customers. So, interruptions, yes; insufficient power supply and blackouts, no," Tolk concluded.

Southwestern Public Service Company's 45,000 square mile service area covers parts of four states, beginning in the southwest corner of Kansas, crossing the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles, moving down on to the South Plains of Texas and then west to include the Clovis-Portales and Pecos Valley regions of New Mexico.

The company meets the electric service needs of its 220,000 customers with an interconnected generating and transmission system that has a generating capability of 1,820,200 kilowatts, more than twice what it was 10 years ago, and is tied together by a 4400 mile transmission line network.

LETTER FROM JOHN ROBERSON

Hello Mrs. Thomas,
How are you doing today. I was wondering if you would be able to put a piece in the paper to say thanks for all the people who have sent me packages, letters and Christmas cards.

I would just like to thank every body for thinking of us over here. So Thanks from the bottom of my heart.

Love,
John Roberson

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ROPES SCHOOL CAFETERIA MENU

Following is the menu for the Ropes School Cafeteria December 29 through January 2:

Monday — Corn dog with mustard, buttered green peas, potato salad, peaches, hot rolls, butter and milk.

Tuesday — Fried chicken, buttered corn, asparagus with cheese, chocolate cake, hot rolls and butter, milk.

Wednesday — Frito pie, pinto beans, buttered spinach, fruit cobbler, cornbread and milk.

Thursday — No School.

Friday — Hamburgers, baked beans, potato chips, lettuce and tomato salad, lime Jello, milk.

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AN INVITATION

Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Forbes of Levelland extend a cordial invitation to attend the wedding of their daughter, Frances Jean to Mr. William Charles McCormick at 7:00 p. m. December 27th in the First Baptist Church of Ropesville, and afterwards to the reception in Fellowship Hall of the church.

Marla Moore

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