

CHRISTMAS ISSUE

SANTA ANNA NEWS

"He Profits Most Who Serves Best"

VOLUME 52.

SANTA ANNA, COLEMAN COUNTY, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1938.

NUMBER 51.



CHRISTMAS NIGHT LIFE!

Still Over Bethlehem the Silent Stars Go By

By MADELEINE S. MILLER
Bethlehem.

BETHLEHEM of Judea, located near Jerusalem, in Palestine, the Holy Land, will be named in song and story everywhere in Christendom at this Christmastide; the sound of the bells of the Church of the Nativity will be borne on the air all around the world, and the thoughts of millions will turn to the little town in whose fields the shepherds watched their flocks by night and heard the voices of angels.

Most people, perhaps, will think of Bethlehem as merely the town of the legend of that Holy Night of long ago. Yet it is a town of today, a living town of living people. Men ply bread-winning trades here and housewives are busy at their home tasks or bargaining in the noisy market, where still the shepherds come to sell sheep and sleek black goats.

In the narrow winding streets the camel bells tinkle as they did for the Wise Men who followed the Star out of the East. The Church of the Nativity is an active parish church, and the bells that ring round the world at Christmas do daily service, calling to prayer the townsfolk whose homes cluster about it.

Bethlehem 3,000 Years Old

Two thousand homes there are in Bethlehem today. Of an ivory-gold color, with round-arched balconies on the upper story, and flat roofs, they rise in terraces and overlook sweeping vistas of the Dead Sea. The town has been spared, so far, the indignity of those standardized concrete blocks of apartments that you see in Jerusalem, Haifa and Beirut, looking just like others in Russia, Italy, Greece and Rumania, and all apparently poured from the same mold. And that is well; for Bethlehem is too venerable to be thus cheapened.

It was a thousand years old when Joseph and Mary came hither and found shelter in the stable, the festival being having overflowed the inn—the town was then, as now, on a caravan route.

Perched on a limestone mountain, 2,500 feet above the Mediterranean

Sea level, Bethlehem has been for thirty centuries what it is today, a place of trade and agriculture. Such were its ways when Benjamin was born in sight of its hill; when Ruth came from the land of Moab; when David, who became King and Psalmist, was a Bethlehem lad.

War has not passed Bethlehem by. The Philistines had a garrison here. Rehoboam and Justinian threw walls about the hill top. Saladin took the place, though he spared the Church and the Grotto, dedicated to the religion of his enemies. The Crusaders came to save it from the Infidel. Godfrey of Bouillon sent Tancred and his knights to guard the sacred spot, and Baldwin, first Christian King of Jerusalem, was crowned here, on Christmas Day, 1101.

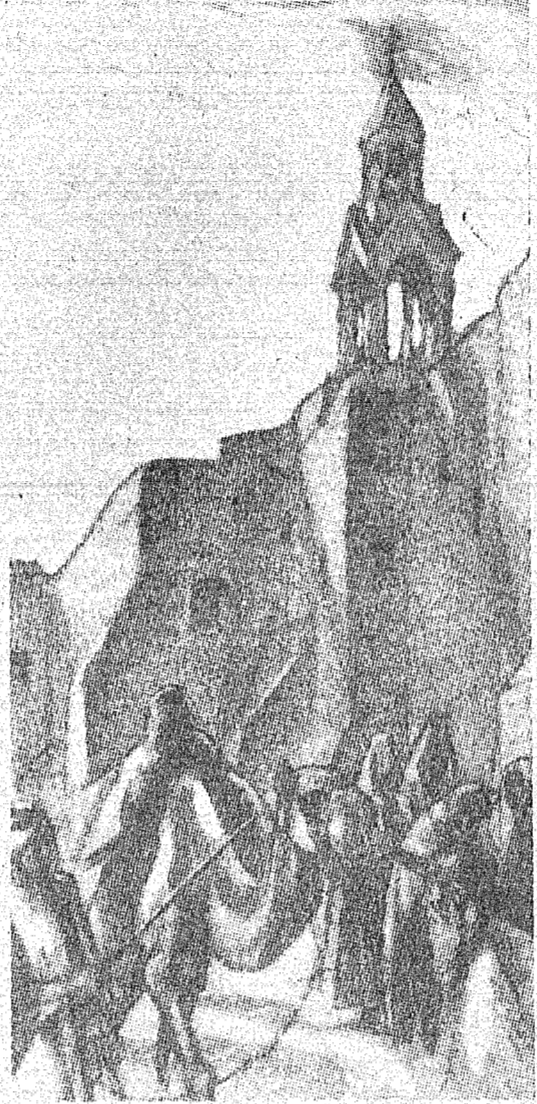
Crusaders Passed Away

The Crusaders passed away. The Mohammedans came back and did not spare the Bethlehemites, though still the pilgrims came and went little molested, for travelers have always had their economic value. Now, after nearly two decades of the British mandate over Palestine, racial and religious conflicts still occur in the birthplace of the Prince of Peace, and the company of smart native police and British Tommies stationed within sight of the Church of the Nativity is not there merely for show. Most of Bethlehem's 8,000 inhabitants are Christian Arabs; the Moslem population counts only 200 or so.

Bethlehem means "House of Bread," but agriculture is not now the people's main pursuit. The town is rather the market for the agriculture villages around it, and a place where modest occupations are followed. Tinsmiths, carpenters, stonemasons, shoemakers work at their jobs. The food vendor does a profitable business, either in a modern chain grocery or in the old world sort of store that lurks in caves and smells like the stalls in Jerusalem's Street of David.

Whole families are engaged in carv-

ing mother-of-pearl stars and rosaries out of rough shells brought from the Red Sea or even from the places which supply America's stock of pearl buttons. The women embroider and weave in bright colors and find customers for their handiwork. And there is a sup-



Church of Nativity, Bethlehem.

plementary income—as so long there was in Italy and Ireland—from kinsfolk who have emigrated to the United States.

As in Days of Abraham

The camel trains with their tinkling bells do not bear frankincense and myrrh today; they carry heavy loads of stone for building more homes in Bethlehem. The town supplies the goods they take back to the black tents in the pastoral village in the desert, where the campfires burn at night and life goes on very much as it did in the days of Abraham. Even then were towns of a sort where country folk went marketing.

The Bethlehem municipal market with its shady-covered pavilion is one of England's gifts to the people. Here come the stately housewives of Bethlehem, wearing long white cotton veils, draped from a high cap or "shatweh," the front of which is trimmed with coins. Their ample garments of hand-woven striped material in red and blue,

gets a list of poor families from a church every year and outfits them with new clothes. Lucille Ball supplies food and clothing to three families. Claudette Colbert's pet charity is a home for the aged. George Brent gives a dinner for 10 orphans, boys and girls, from 6 to 10 years old.

But the screen stars carry on their major charities quietly or even anonymously. They give to organizations and to needy persons they have known in the industry. Particularly do the old-timers, character players, take care of other old-timers who are down on their luck. But they won't talk about it.

Christmas Starts Early

Christmas makes its first appearance in Hollywood about October 1st, when shapely stock girls are photographed in bathing suits while hanging baubles on a prop Christmas tree.

In the town itself the season hits full swing the week after Thanksgiving, when Leo Carrillo rides down Hollywood Boulevard on a white horse, leading the American Legion, the police band, the Boy Scouts and Santa Claus' float. From then on until Christmas there is a parade every night.

The stars try to get their Christmas shopping done early, but like everybody else they usually do not. So they put on their biggest dark glasses, venture forth into the shopping mob and pray that they can get a few purchases made before somebody recognizes them and they are overwhelmed by autograph hounds.

Last year Dick Powell and Joan Blondell got a department store to open on a Sunday for them and they got their shopping done quickly and in peace. There is more of that procedure this year.

Christmas really starts at noon the day before Christmas when the entire picture industry goes into an expansive mood of holiday cheer, with a party in every office and dressing room building

with hand-embroidered bibs and wide-pointed sleeves worn under a tight red jacket, are one of the loveliest types of Palestine peasant dress. Bethlehem wives cling to the old design more generally than other villagers.

Formerly assigned to Crusading times, this costume has now been identified with an early biblical period. Some of the portly women who wear it bring fezzed Arab servant boys to carry home the load of purple eggplants, emerald peppers, yellow squash and, in season, great bunches of the luscious green grapes like those the spies brought back to Joshua.

Though the town itself is predominantly Christian, many merchants in Bethlehem Market are Moslem Arabs from the villages. Those who are too poor to afford stalls sit on the ground, dangling their wares before the housewives.

Pageant of Bethlehem Life

Take your stand in some house door under a whitewashed cross—painted square if the family is Greek, unequal-limbed if Latin—and watch the pageant of Bethlehem life move by.

A sweet-faced young Arab mother, her healthy little boy sound asleep on her shoulder, steps along with a green melon balanced on her head and a basket of vegetables swinging from her hand. A village woman is goading a stubborn donkey that refuses to carry its can of goat's milk up the steps to market. There comes a patient camel from Beersheba. Yonder, a prosperous Arab farmer and his wife pile new-bought household wares on their donkey, the man dressed in long garments of cool tan silk and a floating white head-veil, his wife in a hand-woven dress of black, embroidered with red. A black-robed nun stops to inquire for a woman's health; a high-hatted Greek priest pauses at an open door to bid time of morning to a parishioner.

Here moves a dignified grandmother, leading a small boy who sucks Arab candy and grips a huge bunch of grapes. There walks an industrious Bethlehem housewife, carrying on her shoulder a pile of snowy wool just bought at the animal market. Already she is twisting shreds of it between the fingers of her right hand, winding on a homemade spindle a soft yarn from which a new rug will emerge.

Municipal Building

The building dignified by tall black cypresses in the foreground is Bethlehem's municipal building, housing the police, the mayor, the town council, and the prisoners. It stands just where the high road from Jerusalem mounts into the town. Across Manger Square from it is Bethlehem's one mosque. Eastward, over the huge cross, lies the Field of the Shepherds. On tiny paths beyond, men and women with donkeys wind their way to outlying villages where stone watch towers guard the precious fields.

A walk through the narrow streets of Bethlehem reveals homes whose architecture has many a Crusader touch. Some of them must have been built not so long after the pompous crowning of King Baldwin. One notes the stone vaulting of the streets on which these houses face, the arched doors, some with Arabic writing and a

square Christian cross at the threshold. Groups of children are at play.

If you try to make your way into Bethlehem home, the fiery housewife may slam the door in your Western face. But another will open with gentle hospitality, inviting you into her immaculate kitchen with its stone floor, her plump baby boy swinging in a wooden cradle hung from the low ceiling, and in the air appetizing odors of vegetable marrow frying in olive oil for her husband's lunch. Such a thrifty home, no doubt, had that kind neighbor of Bethlehem who, when Joseph and Mary left the stable of the manger, offered them her tidy guest room. Many holy pictures to the contrary, it may have been that home which received the royal Wise Men who "came into the house and saw the young child with Mary, His mother. . . . And offered unto Him gifts."

News-Minded Town

As you come back from this tour of Bethlehem's streets the town newsman is crying the morning edition of the Bethlehem paper. In the printing office the presses are still whirring. For Bethlehem is a very news-minded town. It buys out entire editions. The arrival of the early morning edition in Manger Square causes a flurry. Every one reads the town paper, from the Arab soldier guarding the Grotto of the Nativity, to the mayor whose political organ it is.

That mayor is Issa Bandek, an Arab Christian, son of a Greek priest at the Church of the Nativity. His name, "Issa," is Greek for Jesus. Therefore, he is among those whose birthdays at Bethlehem are especially celebrated with cakes and wine for kinsfolk. Mayor Bandek arrives at his office on the second floor of the municipal building, fronting Manger Square, at 9 o'clock each morning. By the outer stair, ascending to the terrace, he finds waiting a crowd of men and women, in old-time garments, who have come to lay before him (as once before the Cadi) their troubles—petty quarrels over boundaries of melon patches or complaints of small thefts.

Business-Like Mayor

Western visitors, by appointment, are welcomed to Bethlehem in a little private office where, perhaps, the mayor has been conferring with the town council and is just bowing it out. His desk is very businesslike—telephone, letter basket, and all the rest-of-the-up-to-date executive's office furniture. He himself has been to the United States as a member of a committee of his people, and he speaks excellent English. He is a kindly, dark-eyed man and is smartly dressed. He rings for the ceremonial Turkish coffee and cigarettes and, when we leave, escorts us to the terrace.

Up in the belfry of the Church of the Nativity, among the iron-throated bells whose joyous clangor is broadcast to world where rumors of wars are much too rife for comfort, is a sparrow's nest. The mother sparrow is one of the least of God's creatures, of whom it is written that not one shall fall but the Creator shall take note of it. Let her be a reminder that the ancient promise of the peace to come which Christmas foreshadows includes all those creatures—great and small.

Christmas in Hollywood

By A HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

CHIRSTMAS in Hollywood is divided into a lot of giving and receiving. There is much lavish giving; there is the publicity angle, with hundreds of cards, telegrams and small gifts going out to people who, the senders hope, will remember it; there is a great deal of quiet charity.

In past years Marion Davies has given a Christmas party at the children's clinic which she sponsors. One year she got a hundred dozen or so dolls to give away, but sent them back to be replaced because they wouldn't say "Mama."

When Clara Bow was in her flamboyant heyday at Paramount, she gave a Christmas present to every person in the studio, between three and four thousand. And the presents didn't come from the dime store, either. Mabel Norman was another who figured it was her job to bring joy to the world by scattering around a few hundred gifts.

Year before last George Raft gave a present to every member of the "Souls at Sea" company, which was quite a company, and to wardrobe men, make-up men, studio police, publicity men and others who are regularly on his list. He spent \$32,000, not counting gifts in the family. Bing Crosby spent \$15,000 for extra-mural largess.

And yet folks around Hollywood talk about "the good old days" when the stars really spent dough for Christmas.

Have Business Managers

Actually less money is spent than in the lush era of Hollywood's prodigality, for the same reason that picture stars no longer build houses with gold doorknobs. They have business managers who keep a pretty tight grasp on the purse strings and see to it that the stars have enough in trust funds to keep them out of extra ranks when they aren't stars any longer. But cost of Christmas in the movie colony still runs into big figures.

For example, the diamond salesmen do all right, in spite of business managers, controlled national economy and stock market fluctuations. Some time ago there was an item in a Los Angeles newspaper about a gentleman named Mr. McCreary who had a \$20,000 ring in the

streets, one of a number of "trinkets" he was carrying in his pockets to show to picture stars.

In the weeks before Christmas the jewel salesmen practically live in the studios. Last year the average sale to screen celebrities was between \$5,000 and \$10,000, with \$25,000 about tops.

Gifts of Diamonds

The producers, business men of pictures, do the biggest diamond buying. One Christmas time J. L. Warner plunked out \$75,000 for a single stone. And one Christmas Charlie Chaplin bought a \$28,000 necklace.

This sort of thing, however, is usually all in the family and does not concern the splurges of generosity in the studios. More typical is the case of

Kay Francis, who gave a wardrobe girl an automobile and paid an instructor to teach the girl to drive it; of Claudette Colbert, who gives 500 presents and sends 1,000 cards which her press agent says she addresses herself, and that gives you an idea of what press agents can think of; of Carole Lombard, who, with her secretary Fieldie, goes mildly nuts wrapping packages and whose dressing room the day before Christmas looks like the shipping room of a department store.

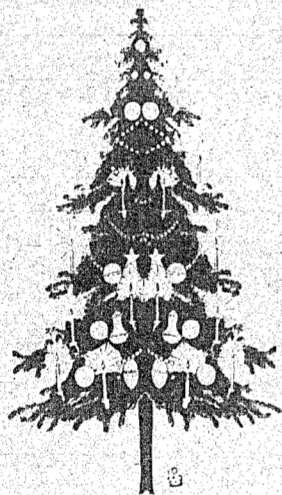
Most of the stars send out several hundred Christmas cards, because they know a lot of people, because some of them send cards to fans who write them frequently and because most of them get lists of newspaper and magazine writers from the publicity departments.

Some Send Plain Christmas Cards

Some players figure up how much cards would cost them at, say 25 cents each, give the money to the Motion Picture Relief Fund and send out plain printed cards, provided by the Fund, which explains what has been done.

A few do not send cards. Dick Purcell says he wishes the world Merry Christmas in advertisements in the trade papers. This procedure accomplishes the same purpose as cards, and nobody is kidded, he opines.

It is impossible to estimate the Christmas charities of the picture people. Actors as a class are notably soft-hearted and on this one score they avoid publicity. Ginger Rogers, I happen to know,



Origin of Christmas Carols

By JAY WALZ
Cincinnati, Ohio

WHEN the choir of angels hovered over the Bethlehem manger and sang, "Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth Peace, Good Will Toward Men," they not only heralded the arrival of a King but established a custom for celebrating His birth.

These heavenly choristers were the first carolers, their song the first of a great repertoire of hymns with which a world for 1,938 years has set aside its wars and worries to make way for the spirit of Christmas.

Once more the Christmas minstrels are tuning their instruments and conditioning their voices. You'll hear them in church, over the radio, and, maybe, from the front doorstep where a band of joyous singers may very likely pause to serenade you with a stanza of "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear."

This song, along with "Silent Night, Holy Night," "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," will be sung many times this Christmas. And on every hand we will hear expressions of joy and "Aren't the carols beautiful?" Probably the lovers of these Christmas songs don't care for technicalities as to a time and when it was first

to be truthful, it must point out that carols, strictly speaking, are scarce articles these days.

"Silent Night, Holy Night" Not a Carol

Will you believe that "Silent Night," and "O Little Town" are not carols? Or that carols, the real ones, are so little known in this country that only a few persons can name one for every finger on a single hand? I didn't either, until I took a look at a list of the better known ones—better known, I should add, in the eyes of authoritative hymnologists. Here are a few: "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen," "A Virgin Unspotted," "The First Noel," "Seven Joys of Mary," "A Child This Day Is Born," "The Angel Gabriel," "I Saw Three Ships," "The Black Decree," "Holy in the Log," "Cherry Tree Carol," "The Wassail Song" and "Dives and Lazarus."

These are just a few of the titles one comes across when he looks into the history of carols and unusual their sound, indeed, until more of the story is told. You see, the name "carol" wasn't born in church. It was created by Latin lyrics who used it to designate the act of "dancing in a circle." And carols came to be sung in church because laymen heard it and liked it. (Page 2)



CURRENT COMMENT

By R. L. PASCHAL

409 E. Weatherford St., Fort Worth, Tex.

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Good Will Among Men

It is impossible to hate anyone you know," said Charles Lamb, the essayist. One of the blessings of Christmas is that it enables us to know and understand each other. We meet at Christmas trees, sponsored by schools, churches or communities; the young people have their parties; we join neighbors in a hunt, or in singing carols; we have time for greetings, for visits, and by reason of these visits learn to know and esteem our neighbors. Many life-long friendships have had their beginnings at Christmas time.

The same principle holds true for nations. Unfortunately the nations of the world, by their political and economic policies, have been doing their utmost during the past twenty years to hinder, if not abolish, communication with other countries of different political ideologies. It seems the ambition of every country to be self-sufficient; all of them have tariffs to keep out the products of other countries; their trained scientists are trying to find satisfactory substitutes for textiles, foods, minerals (including coal, oil and gasoline) not produced at home in amounts sufficient for their people. It is noted that these scientists have been, in a measure, successful. Synthetic rubber is a partially realized hope of those countries bent on war.

The tragedy of these efforts to make every nation self-sufficient results in isolation, and isolation breeds ignorance, suspicion, doubt and even hatred of other races.

Secretary of State Hull spoke for all Americans when he made a plea for peace among nations and suggested ways to bring it about. In a war-mad world this plea may be as a voice crying in the wilderness, but it should do some good. Among the things he suggested are freer trade relations, settling of differences around the council table, exchange of students and professors. By these means he hopes that nations may learn to know and understand each other better.

When we read of purges in the totalitarian States, persecution of the Jews, dismemberment of Czechoslovakia, slaughter of innocents in Spain and China, we become sceptical of peace on earth and good will among men. Yet in course of time right has always

triumphed over might, good over bad and love over hate.

The World Helps Us to Celebrate

We are indebted to many other countries for things that help in a Christmas celebration. The Chinese first made fireworks and taught the world to use them; in times of peace they still supply much of our pyrotechnic demand. From Japan, Germany and France come many of the toys that delight the hearts of little children. However, a recent report has said that American manufacturers now supply 80 per cent of our Christmas toys.

To fill the stockings of the poorest child Santa Claus brings nuts from America, France, Italy and Brazil; sugar in the cakes and candy from North America, Cuba, Hawaii and South America; chocolate from Mexico, the West Indies or South America; oranges from Texas, Florida, California or Italy; apples from the Western and Northern States of America. Santa has ransacked mines, fields, forests and chemical laboratories of the old and the new world for coloring matter that goes into the beautiful paper in which Christmas gifts are wrapped.

You may think we would not go beyond our own borders for the Christmas dinner. Texas and Oklahoma can furnish the turkey, chicken, beef, lamb, pork, fish, white bread, corn bread, rice, sweet potatoes, pumpkins and most of the fruits and vegetables, yet there are many things in our dinners that come from other States or distant countries. Cranberries would come from the bogs of Michigan, Maine, Wisconsin, New Jersey or Virginia; celery and olives from California, Colorado or Spain; spices, teas and coffees from Arabia, Java, China, Indies or South America.

Multitudes of men and women in fields and factories have had a part in making Christmas dinners possible; while others, from the burden-bearing coolie and donkey-driver, to those who go down to the sea in ships, or pilot trains over long stretches of rails, have helped to bring edibles to our Christmas table. As we sit down to the table on Christmas Day we should banish from our minds all selfish thoughts and gratefully acknowledge our debt to thousands of fellow men

and women in every clime who have wrought to make the Yuletide dinner joyful and satisfying.

Music at Christmas

Music evermore has had its place in the celebration of Christmas. It had its place that first Christmas morn, when the angels sang to the shepherds the carol, "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

Hymns and chorals are sung at all church services, and sometimes at special song service, as Christmas approaches. The pupils in our schools prepare entertainments of which music, both vocal and instrumental, is the chief feature. Groups go around from house to house, singing Christmas carols, a custom that reaches far back into the past. There is nothing else so good as music for culture and for our spiritual uplift and enjoyment.

Great singers at Christmas-time will broadcast "Joy to the World," "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing," "O Come, All Ye Faithful," and many other songs as beautiful. In the remotest hamlet or country home we may hear over the radio the "Messiah," sung by 500 or more voices in metropolitan opera houses.

Our young boys and girls are now well trained, both in appreciation of and in ability to sing good music. Christmas is the time of all times when we have songs in our hearts that well up to our lips. At this happy season many of us retrieve some old record like that of "Silent Night," and play it over and over again on the phonograph, so that its beauty and sweetness may sink deeply into our souls.

The American Red Cross

The American Red Cross, since its organization in 1881 by Clara Barton, has constantly grown in the confidence and esteem of our people and in the number who contribute toward making its varied activities possible.

It now operates under a charter granted by the United States Congress, January 5, 1905, to furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded in time of war "and to continue and carry on a system of national and international relief in time of peace and to apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods and other great national calamities." Its president, by custom, is the President of the United States. He is a member of the International Red Cross.

Wherever there is suffering or want, the Red Cross is there to aid. Its min-

istrations reach from the humblest home to the far-flung battlefields of Spain and China, where its hospitals are open to the sick and wounded. Norman H. Davis, chairman of the American Red Cross, in commenting on the widening sphere of the organization, said:

"We grow as we serve. It must continue to be our aim to bring the Red Cross into touch with the lives of greater numbers of our citizens. This we can do through extending to them the benefits we are organized to give, as well as through inviting them to become members in the giving service."

In no other branch of its activities has it made greater progress than in health service. A late report shows that it has 42,059 graduate nurses enrolled for emergency disaster, of whom 14,895 are subject to call for war service.

The nation, as a whole, appreciates the work of the American Red Cross. Its membership of 5,523,585 is the largest ever enrolled except during the World War. The Junior Red Cross, operating in the schools, has a membership of approximately 10,000,000.

Ancient Civilization in Oklahoma

Whether Oklahoma, in the long ago, was inhabited by a race that had made great progress in the arts of civilization or whether a regular trade route passed through it from Central America to the shores of Lake Superior is a question that now baffles scientists.

In Oklahoma there have been unearthed many artifacts of an ancient people. Among them are arrow-heads so artistic and delicate that it is certain they were made for ornament only. At the same place implements of copper were found.

The discovery of a pottery plate ornamented with designs used, so far as known, only by the Mayans of Central America and Yucatan, leads scientists to believe that the site where these things were found was either an outpost of Mayan civilization or situated on a kind of caravan route to the north.

As their monuments and temples prove—those that have been reclaimed from the jungles—the Mayans had a highly developed civilization. Further proof of their culture is found in the fact that they discovered a system of notation, making calculation easy. This system was much like the Arabic, now in common use, which was developed by the Hindus of India. That the Mayans had well established trade routes is certain. They may have got copper from the west, or far north, as seems to be indicated by the excavations in Oklahoma. Even the savage Indians brought some things from afar. They went from the Carolinas to Ohio for the blue flint for their arrows, tomahawks and knives, for Ohio was their nearest source of blue flint supply.

What became of these ancient civilized people in Oklahoma we do not know. All vestiges of them had disappeared completely until the recent explorations.

Accidents

For the first time since the automobile came into general use, fewer accidents have been reported. So far 1.33 accidents are under 1937. We are still far from the goal of having a minimum number of automotive accidents, but many persons will have a merry Christmas who would be under the sod had the fatalities been as high as in 1937.

Pedestrians in ever increasing numbers now stop and look before crossing streets; they have learned to walk on the left side of the highway so as to face the moving automobile or truck rather than have it creep up behind them if they walk on the right side. Drivers in our cities have cut down their speed, observe traffic signals, and are more careful in making left turns, say traffic officers. On the highways they reduce their speed around sharp curves and obey the warnings to a greater extent than ever before. Truck drivers are becoming more considerate of those who would pass them. Creepers who hog the middle of the highway and hold up traffic are still with us and

Westbrook Pegler suggests that there should be an open day every year when road hogs could be lawfully shot by exasperated motorists.

Those who police streets and highways are getting credit for enforcing the laws more rigidly than ever before. Another reason for the decrease in accidents is attributed to better and stronger cars, more easily controlled than formerly.

But all fatalities from accidents are not on streets and highways. The home is a dangerous place. Some well-intentioned persons have been counting the deaths due to accidents in the home, and the figures are appalling. The bath-tub and bath floor seem to be the chief offenders, but we kill and maim ourselves by falling down stairways, off chairs and tables, scalding ourselves, getting too near the flame of stoves and fire-places, and in many other ways. Accidents in the home are usually due to carelessness or willfulness. Except in cases of children and the aged, they are almost inexcusable. There should be a concerted effort against accidents in the home same as against automotive accidents on streets and highways.

Texas Wildlife and Its Conservation

A leaflet published by the Texas Game, Fish and Oyster Commission gives the following information about Texas wildlife:

Texas' wildlife resources are valued at \$93,000,000, or \$15 for every man, woman and child in the State.

Texas sportsmen each year spend \$25,000,000 for guns, ammunition, fishing equipment, hotel accommodations, and the various things needed for hunting and fishing trips.

Last year more than 30,000 deer and several thousand wild turkeys were killed, "with no damage to seed stock," a statement that we are gratified to see in the report.

Texas has more landowners in the business of producing game than any other State. We hope the number may be greatly increased, for there are millions of acres of favorable wildlife habitats in Texas that are producing virtually none of the species for which they are suited.

On account of our greater variety of climate and environment we have more species of birds and animals than any other State. The song and insectivorous birds of Texas are estimated to be worth \$40,000,000 annually to agriculture.

Texas has nine fish hatcheries, producing and distributing last year approximately 4,000,000 fingerling fish.

It is about 400 miles as the crow flies from the mouth of the Sabine to the mouth of the Rio Grande, but counting islands, bays and inlets, Texas has 2,000 miles of shoreline—a wonderful feeding ground for fish and waterfowl.

Shrimp, not oysters, is the major marine crop of Texas. Over 12,000,000 pounds are taken annually.

We all regret that many of our game animals and birds have been well nigh exterminated, but the following, copied from the report, is encouraging:

"If proper interest is secured and maintained, Texas could develop many wildlife resources to the economic and aesthetic benefit of the State. Much could be done to restore and protect the collared peccary; antelope herds in Western Texas could be further increased, probably to the point where they would have shoo-table populations; many fur bearers could be restored to their former abundance; the gray and fox squirrels of Eastern Texas could be greatly benefited by proper hunting regulations; prairie chickens, which once afforded good hunting over most of Texas, could be restored over much of their former range and other game birds, such as the black-billed tree duck, the white-winged dove, the chachalaca, the red-billed pigeon, and the white-fronted dove, could by proper management be increased in numbers."

The Great American Home

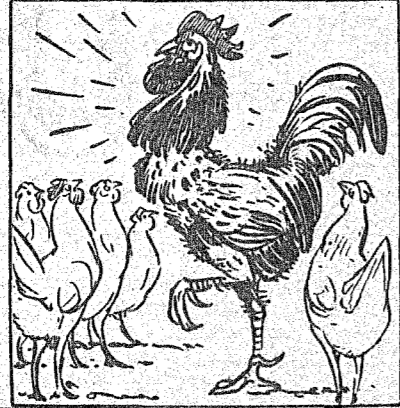


Grass Root Reveries

By JOE GANDY
Winnboro, Texas.

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We have only one more month of this year to balance our budget. We have too many budgets to balance. When one budget is balanced two more get out of balance. The

year just passing has been about the same length as other years, yet it seems a long one according to all that has happened. However, every year is a long year when you don't make money. Let prosperity return and any old year will seem like a week-end. Here's wishing 1939 will be short and sweet—all our fondest hopes realized and all our happiest dreams come true.



"Homely as a shanghai rooster struttin' around among pretty plymouth rock hens."

Christmas is a delightful event but it has a tantalizing way of coming around when I'm broke with no money to buy presents for kinsfolk and friends. It found me in the same fix last year and I got by by buying at the 5 and 10 store a lot of cute Christmas cards and sending them to dear ones. But that's gettin' old now and I gotta think up something new and different. Maybe, dear reader, you can help me. If you are broke—same as I am—and if you have worked out some brilliant scheme that will take the place of Christmas gifts please pass it on to the Grass Root editor—and do it quick—for Santa's bells will soon be jingling.

Uncle Sam already is making preparations to take the 1940 census. So many things have happened since the last census that it will require acres of floor space in Washington to store the data. Several acres will be needed to store what happened to the New Dealers in the recent State elections. They say more questions than ever will be asked by the 1940 census-takers. They will want to know, among other things, about your family tree; if you

were baptized and came straight up out of the water or were just sprinkled; how many children have had whooping cough, how many have had adenoids removed. But census-takers, as a rule, are mighty polite, even if they do ask a lot of questions. The last census taker who came to the Gandy home apologized when he asked wife whether she had fallen in love with me at first sight or whether I wooed her a long time and eventually made her believe she was marrying a peach instead of a lemon.

I read in the paper where a man in New York had made millions out of a gadget that makes women more beautiful; his factory can't keep up with the orders. We didn't need anything to make women more beautiful—they are beautiful enough—but we do need something to beautify man. The average man is as homely as a shanghai rooster struttin' around among a flock of pretty plymouth rock hens.

Astronomers tell us that the planet Mars is 210,000,000 miles from the earth but in July this year the planet will be only 36,000,000 miles away and will come no nearer. That's comforting in view of the recent panic following a broadcast over the radio which said that the Martians were attacking and destroying the earth's inhabitants with deadly rays and gases. This incident shows it's easy to start a panic among well-meaning people. Assuming the Martians have super airships that travel the stratosphere at 2,000 miles an hour, it would require over 13 years for a fleet of their ships to fly the distance between their planet and the earth. We should worry—not about Mars but about some other countries that need fly just 3,000 miles to attack

This is an age of license. You have to get a license to hunt, to fish, to trap, to drive a car, to get married, etc. Wife wanted me to shoot an owl that preyed on her chickens, but I happened to remember I had no license to shoot owls. A neighbor shot and killed a polecat that was prowling around his poultry house. I asked him if he had a license to shoot polecats? He looked surprised, then said: "No, I got no license to shoot polecats and I'll be darned if I get one. Ain't I got a right to kill any varmint that stinks up my place?"

The U. S. will soon be in a flutter over the visit of the King and Queen of England. In Washington they are already wondering where the royal pair will sleep, as they don't seem to have any mattress fit for a king. If they will let one of our Texas factories make a mattress of Texas cotton it will be fit for any king or queen. Very few of us Americans have ever seen a king and the problem is how to conduct ourselves in the presence of his majesty. We are told there are two things we mustn't do while talking to the king—we mustn't put our hands in our pockets or wipe our noses on our sleeves.

Money affects some people in a funny way. I have a friend who, in passing, always saluted me with his whole hand. Recently he was paid \$5,000 insurance money and now, in passing, he salutes me with only one finger. Had said friend been paid \$10,000 instead of \$5,000 I am afraid he would have passed me with just a flicker of the eyelash.

Tax collectors have become psychologists. They now employ pretty girls to write out tax receipts. If collectors had started hiring pretty girls years ago there would now be no tax delinquencies. A man who paid five years' back taxes the other day told me he expected a heart attack when he paid out the money, but, instead, he came away from the tax office feeling like a gay young blade.

Medical men claim that some diseases can now be treated successfully with music. For a high fever they play "Greenlands Icy Mountains." For rheumatism, "It's a Hot Time in the Old Town To-night."

BRIEF TEXAS NEWS---from Over the State

MARRIED 72 YEARS

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Calvert, of Joshua, (Johnson county), married 72 years, have 108 living descendants.

560 STUDENT FLIERS

Randolph Field, near San Antonio, largest student flying field in America, now has 560 students under training at the field.

WILL SHIP 15,000,000 ROSE PLANTS

Rose plant growers in the Tyler and Arlington areas estimate that Texas will ship out during this season about 15,000,000 rose plants—a total of 700 carloads.

SERVED ONE OFFICE 40 YEARS

Dush Shaw was elected county clerk of Gregg county in 1898 and has been re-elected each term since then, having held the office continuously for 40 years.

OWNS 150-YEAR-OLD BIBLE

Mrs. John R. Wilson, 4335 McKinney Avenue, Dallas, owns a family Bible containing birth record dates of 1788. The book, printed in Edinburgh, Scotland, was given Mrs. Wilson by her mother.

DRESS MADE OF CORN

Mrs. Virginia Winn, of Mercedes, (Hidalgo county), was photographed wearing a stylish gown made of Texas corn. Each grain was sewed by hand to the material and the total number of grains used were 60,000, said the Harlingen Star.

MOTHER NANNY HAS QUADRUPLETS

Bessie, a nanny milk goat, owned by Elvis Rutherford, near Corpus Christi, recently gave birth to quadruplets, all living. Nanny is a registered Toggenberg and averages six quarts of milk a day.

LONDON SCHOOL MEMORIAL

A contract for erection of a granite memorial to the 294 students and teachers killed in the New London school explosion in March, 1937, was recently awarded to the Premier Granite Company, of Llano, for \$16,751. Texas pink granite will be used.

35-YEAR-OLD CAR LED PARADE

Charles Matula, of Schulenberg, led the big Centennial parade at Hallettsville, in October, with his 1903 model T Ford. Charley says he has refused \$1,000 for the old model 2-cylinder chain drive vehicle which sold for \$900 when new and had a top speed of 30 miles per hour.

524,700 PERSONS VISIT STATE PARKS

Texas State parks were visited by more than half-a-million persons during the four months ending October 1, 1938, the National Park Service announced. Mackenzie State Park at Lubbock drew highest attendance with 268,200 visitors. Tyler was second and Daingerfield was third.

DOG INHERITS INCOME

Upon the recent death of Mrs. F. P. Jennison, of Fort Worth, her will revealed that she had left an income from three rent houses to her pet dog, Toodles. The dog will be cared for by Joel Anderson, former employe of Mrs. Jennison. If Anderson outlives the dog he will inherit the three houses and lots, according to the will.

VALLEY SHIPMENTS 1938

Rio Grande Valley carload shipments of fruits and vegetables this season up to November 25th include the following: Grapefruit 2,907, oranges 226, mixed citrus 252, lemons 8, tomatoes 84, beets 36, peppers 38, carrots 3, beets and carrots 3, snap beans 3, squash 4, mixed fruit and vegetables 4, frozen vegetables 2, mixed vegetables 52. Total 3,622 carloads.

FFA FORESTRY PROJECT

Jacksonville Journal: "Cherokee county Future Farmers have just completed plans for a two-acre forestry project which is to be set in 2,000 trees of three varieties of pine, loblolly, slash and long leaf. The trees are to be furnished by the Texas Forestry Service. Purpose of the project is to show people of this community what may be planted on waste land. A cash crop may also be grown on the same land at the same time."

RECREATIONISTS SPENT MILLIONS

Recreational travelers spent \$185,350,000 in Texas during 1937, the National Park Service reported to Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes, equivalent to \$30.80 for each person living in the state.

2,600-POUND STEER

Claude Willis, a Forestburg, (Montague county), farmer, owns a steer 7 years old that weighs 2,600 pounds, says the St. Jo Tribune.

SMALL POX INCREASES

The State Health Department reports that small pox throughout the State this year is five times more prevalent than last year, and diphtheria had increased 100 cases over 1937.

"LIVE-AT-HOME" FARMER

Uncle Doc Henderson, of Cherokee county, 80 years old, can have a good Christmas dinner at home without buying anything much but sugar and coffee. This year he has raised and canned many vegetables and fruits; has two good milch cows; 75 chickens; half dozen meat hogs—all fed from products raised on his farm.

ATE 2,000 POUNDS OF THANKS-GIVING TURKEY

A. & M. College cadets ate approximately 2,000 pounds of turkey Thanksgiving day, not including "accessories" that usually go with a turkey dinner. It costs on an average of 69 cents a day each for food for the 2,900 cadets.

KILLS 25-POINT BUCK DEER

G. F. Schreiner, former member of State Game and Oyster Commission, killed a buck deer near Kerrville recently with 25-point horns. Schreiner, a veteran hunter in the hill country, said it was the largest buck he ever bagged.

RARE \$50 BILL

A rare \$50 bill issued by the Republic of Texas in 1840 and bearing the signature of Mirabeau B. Lamar, was presented to the Lamar senior high school of Houston, by H. E. Elrod, Houston engineer. The bill bears the picture of General Sam Houston.

QUIN SABER?

The San Angelo Standard, stickler for accuracy, wonders why we refer to a Stetson hat, 7 1/2 size as a 10-gallon hat when it holds approximately one gallon of water.

1,000 DEER BAGGED IN ONE COUNTY

More than 1,000 deer were killed in Gillespie county during the first four days of the current hunting season, according to records of local cold storage plants at Fredericksburg where the bucks had been placed in storage.

ONE TEXAN MADE A MILLION

A final tabulation of income tax returns for 1936 by the U. S. Treasury showed persons with over \$1,000,000 net income were distributed as follows: New York 25, Delaware 7, Pennsylvania 6, New Jersey 5, Illinois 5, Michigan 4, Florida 2, Maryland 2, Connecticut 1, District of Columbia 1, Nevada 1, Texas 1, and Virginia 1.

PIONEER KILLS PANTHER

Although 83 years old, C. E. Stapp, pioneer ranchman, residing near the Kerr-Kimble county line, is still able to aim a rifle accurately. He fired two bullets into the body of a panther that his dogs had bayed within 150 yards of his home. The dead panther weighed 128 pounds and measured 6 1/2 feet in length. One of the dogs was badly crippled by the slashing paws of the panther.

BABY BORN WITH TEETH

Eagle Pass Guide: "A fine nine-pound girl was born with two teeth, November 6th, to Mr. and Mrs. Fernando R. Galan at their home on Comal Street in this city."

SCHOOL ADDS SAFETY COURSE

Gonzales county's common school district was the first in Texas to add safety education studies to its curriculum. The course affects 3,000 students in 81 schools.

OFFERS HIMSELF FOR SALE

Narciso H. Guerra, 33 years of age, offered himself for sale in San Antonio recently for \$3,000—in one piece or in portions. Guerra complained that he could not find employment to support his wife and three children.

STATE INCOME 1937

According to a census Bureau report for fiscal year, ended with August, 1937, the total revenue paid the State was \$177,220,355. Education was the largest item on the State's list of expenditures, costing \$47,149,158. Charities cost \$22,638,811 while highways cost \$18,188,946.

ONE COUNTY WITHOUT PWA

Kenedy county, Texas, population 700, is the only county in the 699 counties comprising the PWA fifth region that does not have a PWA project, said George M. Bull, regional PWA director.

DISTILLS WHISKY—DOESN'T DRINK IT

George F. McCord, employed in a distillery at Juarez, Mexico, has been distilling whisky 50 years but says he has never tasted a drop of it. "Not me, I just make it," he declared. McCord learned the trade of distilling from his father in Kentucky.

TAXABLE VALUES JUMP

State Comptroller George H. Sheppard reported an increase of \$75,755,215 in taxable property values for State purposes in 233 counties, 20 not reporting, up to November 19, 1938. Sheppard said the assessments totaled \$3,582,183,408 for all purposes compared with \$3,506,428,193 for the same counties in 1937. Harris county led the State in taxable values with Dallas county second.

VETERAN, 100, DIES

Milton B. Cox, Limestone county's oldest Confederate veteran, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday anniversary, died November 10th at his home, 10 miles north of Groesbeck. Cox served during the entire war between the States under Generals Joseph E. Johnston, Bragg and Hood.

SKUNKS PARK IN TRUCK

When Henry Tetchman's truck stalled late one evening, near Galveston, he left it there parked on the side of the road. During the night two prowling skunks crawled in to the truck and bedded up. Next morning Henry drove the truck to a shop for repairs, not suspecting he had two strange passengers snuggled down under the seat. He wondered at the persistent, unmistakable odor, but not until mechanics had discovered and routed two skunks did he realize the origin of the odor and identity of his strange passengers.

100,636 WPA WORKERS

A total of 100,636 workers in Texas are on WPA rolls, it was reported by State Administrator H. P. Drought. Of this number 92,670 are employed on current regular WPA projects. In addition, 4,800 farmers are at work on WPA projects and 3,836 persons are employed on projects under supervision of other governmental agencies but financed by WPA.

STATE DEFICIT \$20,000,000

State Treasurer Charley Lockhart reports the general fund deficit, as of November 26, 1938, at a record high of \$20,000,000.

Cash on hand at the end of the fiscal year totaled \$475,076 compared with \$1,172,437 in the preceding year.

Income during the last year included \$9,349,183 Federal funds to match State payments; \$3,602,365 from the liquor tax fund; \$4,371,683 from the cigarette tax fund; \$968,617 from the liquor license fund; \$15,449 miscellaneous, and \$392,520 receipts net to the fund which are not collected by the Treasurer.

A Candle to Kindness

By RUTH ALLEN
Detroit, Mich.



As many candles will illumine American homes this Christmas, I want to light a Candle to Kindness. To the spirit of kindness we owe much of that courage and faith which carried us through the difficult years just past. It is the same good will which lightens many burdens when individuals are troubled with problems they know not how to solve.

Kindness is peace, gentleness, magnanimity, affection, brotherly love. I want the light of my candle to shine upon care-worn faces; to instill new hope and purpose into harried hearts.

I want it to glow steadily for men, women and children—old and young—the rich, the poor and those afflicted with prolonged illness. The record of history includes countless deeds of kindness; for the welfare of mankind it is needed today, as in the past, and will be needed as long as earth and races endure.

Kindness is the eternal grace which creates faith; hope and charity in the human heart. May my candle be a shining symbol of the kind acts of neighbor, friend or stranger; the generous word of brother or sister; patient guidance of parents; consideration of husband and wife. For, "Now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity."

Christ Himself, whose birth we celebrate, was the epitome of kindness during His days on earth. His willingness to comfort and heal the afflicted, to shed His blood for the redemption of the world was a supreme act of compassion and self-denial.

Wherefore, as we gather around our Christmas trees, our firesides, may the light of the Prince of Peace guide us, as I light my candle to that matchless Spirit of Christmas—TO KINDNESS!

LOW YIELD PER ACRE

The latest government estimation on the 1938 cotton crop shows how low Texas is in its yield per acre, compared to other Southern States. The Texas production of lint per acre is 154 pounds, while that of Arkansas is 269; Louisiana 265; Alabama 238; Mississippi 305; South Carolina 243; North Carolina 225, and Georgia 197.

RABBIT HUNTERS WARNED

Dr. George W. Cox, State health officer, said 75 cases of tularemia or rabbit fever had been reported this year, as against 40 at the same date last year. The disease usually is contracted when skinning rabbits. Dr. Cox advised the use of rubber gloves for the skinning process.

WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL FUND

A \$60,000 trust fund to provide scholarships for physically handicapped students will be turned over to the University of Texas board of regents by the Will Rogers Memorial commission, said Jesse Jones, chairman of RFC and treasurer of the commission. He added the fund was not a gift but a trust to be administered in perpetuity by regents and trustees.

MAC

Mac, Opportunist

By Boughner



Christmas Decorations

By ARNOLD M. DAVIS
Assistant Extension Horticulturist,
Massachusetts State College

DEVERGREEN trees are peculiarly a typical Christmas decoration. At no other season do we bring a tree indoors and deck it with all kinds of ornaments. In olden days fetching the tree from the woods was called "bringing home our Christmas" and how true this is, Christmas does not seem to have really arrived until the tree is indoors, decorated and spreading its aromatic odor through the house. Then the jovial and friendly spirit of the holiday season takes possession of everybody, from the smallest child whose starry eyes are beholding his first Christmas tree to the aged grandmother who has seen many Christmas trees.

There are varied simple and attractive indoor decorations which can be used. The influencing factor is the availability of material or the particular interests of the person who is doing the decorating.

Mantels

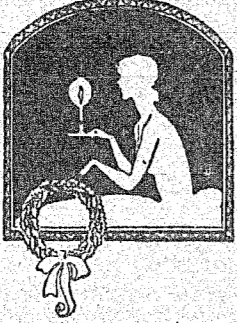
Mantels can well have some attention devoted to them. Boughs of evergreen may be laid on the mantel and perhaps one or two boughs can be tucked in behind a picture. This is a simple decoration and one which can readily be removed.

If a more lasting type of decoration is desired, a shallow bowl, preferably a long, narrow type of container, in which a flower holder has been placed will hold an arrangement of holly or some other similar material.

Bayberry candles, burning in candlestick holders, or at least standing in candlestick holders, also give a definite holiday atmosphere to any room.

The front hall, or reception room, should have something of color and holiday spirit, if one anticipates guests. Grouping of evergreen material can be done by securing the branches of any type of evergreen to a cord, by means of string or wire draped over the doors. This will give a desirable effect.

It is possible to procure from a florist what is known as a Christmas ball, which will hang from the light in the hall and into which one can place some mistletoe to add to the gayety of the occasion. Balls of this type are very decorative. They are usually made on a mat of moist sphagnum moss, which insures the keeping quality of the material for a relatively long period. The conventional wreath can also be used in the hall as a decorative motif, or simply placing a vase of evergreen material with colorful fruit in one of the corners or on the hall table will serve to create a holiday atmosphere.



Nothing is more enduringly beautiful than one or a group of angels or a delicately designed madonna. Made of porcelain or plaster, these little figures, lighted dramatically, introduce something of tender remembrance to the Christmas celebration.

Besides, they can be combined year after year with different decorations and arranged in innumerable ways with candles, glittering metallics, or greens.

Dining Room

The dining room can well stand decorating in two principle parts: Put decorations at the sideboard or china closet, depending on which is used, and the dining room table. I feel that decorations should be rather predominant on the sideboard and not too excessive on the dining room table. Perhaps one of the most distinctive type of decorations for the dining room table would be a small bowl of holly or mistletoe with candles standing around it.

By a bowl of holly or mistletoe, I mean a container for holding plants into which a holder has been placed and in which the decoration is arranged in a neat and attractive manner. The same effect can be produced by using pine branches on which the cones still remain and working colored berries in with them. If pine is not available, the bright colored leaves of oak or other native trees will serve well for this purpose. Artificial berries can also be used.

Since I have mentioned artificial berries, may I say that there are many very delightful types of decorations which are entirely artificial and which are quite colorful. For example, a shallow plate on which some evergreen boughs have been placed furnish a little foundation to prevent Christmas balls from rolling.

This will make an excellent decoration, if you will simply secure the round balls in various colors that are used to hang on Christmas trees and arrange these in a pile on the plate. This is a colorful light arrangement and simple even with a very minimum amount of evergreen material.

There are several sources of supply for sideboard decorations. The florist is always equipped with Christmas baskets and Christmas centerpieces that are colorful and decorative and a source of pleasure. Little winter scenes, particularly one in which Santa Claus predominates with the reindeers, are a source of interest to children. And carefully made scenes of the birth of our Lord hold interest and charm. A few other types of Christmas decorations are figures for scenes of this type. These are quite inexpensive and can be used year after year, hence are worth the investment.

world—even though there be pigmy figures who seek to wipe it out.

No one can seriously afford to laugh at peace. It is the hope of all mankind. Without its permanence, we crucify afresh that One whose birth we so gladly honor with all the love that we own, and to whose example and inspired service we owe all the beauty and peace of heart that we ever hope to own.

50,000 GIFTS BY ONE WOMAN

A mountain of Christmas presents, 50,000 packages, went out to needy children across the Eastern United States last Christmas—thanks to a woman's desire to "see that every child gets something."

The packages were from the Santa Claus Mail Association and the woman behind the idea is pleasant dark-haired Mrs. Birchall Hammer, of Elkins Park, a Philadelphia, Pa., community.

In 1913 Mrs. Hammer decided to "do something" about providing toys for children who otherwise would face a giftless Christmas. Since then, she said, approximately 600,000 presents have been distributed, including last year's 50,000.

To the Santa Claus Mail Association Mrs. Hammer organized now come cash contributions from hundreds of persons throughout the nation to buy the toys and pay mailing charges, a sizable item itself. "Reminders are sent at the beginning of each year to some who have been regular contributors for many years; other donations come unsolicited," said Mrs. Hammer.

Until four years ago Mrs. Hammer was pretty much the whole association. Now she has five women assistants.

The women receive the contributions, purchase toys, wrap and address the presents and get them in the mails in time. Most of the presents are addressed to an individual boy or girl.

"The names of deserving youngsters come from societies for children, missions, industrial schools and social service departments of hos-

CHECK OFF WHAT YOU WANT IN A "MAKIN'S" TOBACCO

- RICHER TASTING
(It has full body without harshness)
- MORE FRAGRANT
(It's better tobacco)
- Milder SMOKING
(It's "mild" treated)
- EASIER ROLLING
(It's the special "crimp cut")
- NO SPILLING
(It stays put in the paper)
- SLOWER BURNING
(It's cut to burn slow—cool)

WHEN IT COMES TO FAST ROLLING, GOOD TASTE, AND MELLOWNESS, PRINCE ALBERT WINS HANDS DOWN. 'MAKIN'S' SMOKES SURE HAVE IT WHEN THEY'RE ROLLED WITH P.A.



EDDIE NICHOLS speaking



Millions of roll-your-owners agree it all adds up to Prince Albert

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SO MILD—SO TASTY

70 fine roll-your-own cigarettes in every 2-oz. tin of Prince Albert

PRINCE ALBERT
THE NATIONAL JOY SMOKE

The One Hope of the World

By GEORGE MATTHEW ADAMS

CHRISTMAS DAY is the one day of the year when more joy and happiness should come to people than on any other day of the year. Especially should it be a day of glee and gladness for children, for it is a day that celebrates the birth of a child whose life and teachings, when a grown man, have influenced mankind more than that of any figure in human history.

The story of that birth, and of those who came to pay homage and tribute of love, is one of the most inspiring ever recorded.

The world, then as now, was full of selfishness, greed, and great scrambling for gain. When Mary and Joseph came to the town to get a quiet and peaceful room where their child might be born, there was such a crowd at the inn that they were turned away, and had to resort to a crude shelter for that event—and so the child was born in a manger!

Turn to Thinking of Others

People brought presents to that humble abode, because their hearts were so full of happiness over a human being born to inspire and uplift them out of all their sorrows and disappointments. And so, at Christmas time, the people of the entire world turn to thinking of others, forgetting their troubles and heartaches, that they may help to light up the world with splendor and beauty.

Christmas is a time, not of taking, but of giving. Selfishness is crowded out. Not only is it a time for the giving of simple gifts, but of pouring

out kindness, consideration, and good will.

This will be a happy Christmas for a good part of the world, but there will be those who will wonder whether the Prince of Peace still lives. Christmas Day will be a dark day to such.

It was a dark day in the world's history when they nailed to a cross the bleeding form of the One whose birthday Christmas honors. There He hung until the sun had gone down—upon Him and the world. But his spirit arose—and has covered the world ever since. His life was a triumph for faith, and He filled the world with hope.

Light and Hope of the World

"I am the light of the world," He said, and today He still remains as the light and hope of the world. His spirit in men's hearts alone can save civilization from the cruel and wanton ravages of war and selfish greed. His spirit alone can revive and give to the humblest, their just inheritance of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

It is well that Christmas should be dedicated and celebrated largely to bring joy to the lives and the hearts of the child, but to every mother should be brought assurance that her child might never be cheated of its rightful chance in life, by being offered upon the altar of a selfish and cruel war.

Not until the spirit of that life, born in that humble stable, enters, and becomes a part of the life-being of the world, can Christmas be celebrated with complete happiness. Neither that spirit nor its influence can ever be crushed from this

(Continued top next column)



A HALF-PINT KID SURE SURPRISED HIS POP

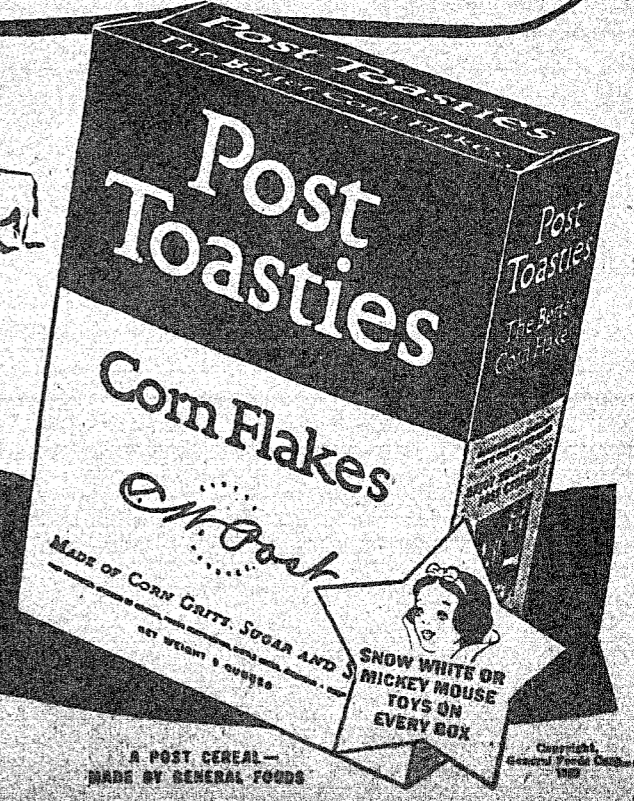
when he got the old man to taste some Post Toasties. "Where you been hiding these swell crispy flakes o' corn?" his pop asked. "Get wise, pop—they're the Southwest's favorite cereal," the youngster told 'im. And your friend Cactus agrees—they're plenty all-fired good eatin' morning, noontime, or night! Yes, sirc!

Yrs. fer better corn flakes,

Cactus Joe

TOASTED DOUBLE CRISP AND THEY STAY THAT WAY IN MILK OR CREAM

THE SOUTHWEST'S FAVORITE CEREAL



TUNE IN JOE E. BROWN
Times 8-10 p. m., G. E. N. every Satur-
day. Columbia stations, including KNOW,
KRLD, KTRK and KTRK.

A POST CEREAL—
MADE BY GENERAL FOODS

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General Foods Corp.,
1938

An Old-Fashioned Christmas

By W. G. VORPE

ALL around us the signs say Christmas is near and very soon there will be little thought given to anything else. Christmas wreaths and bright lights of varied colors adorn store fronts, street corners and other places. Throngs on sidewalks and in stores furnish a practical illustration of the Christmas spirit. Pretty lights will add to the decorations of the holiday season. This outdoor decorative lighting at Christmas time, which has been growing rapidly more popular, is beyond question the most attractive feature of the Yuletide. The festooning of colored lights over the living Christmas trees and shrubbery, the hanging of pretty wreaths over the doorways and the twinkling of silver stars from high points of the homes, churches and schools greatly typifies the birth of the Christ child.

Family Reunions

There will be reunions of families, a get-together in the annual home-coming. This is the high light of the holidays; this home gathering of loved ones. I fear that in this modern age, where speed seems more important than home life, we are too prone to forget the joys and benefits of the family life. Nearly all of us recall with pleasure the Christmas days in the old home when we were kids. It didn't make any difference whether the home was humble or of the more aristocratic kind. Christmas Day brought the same sort of gaiety and family observance. It was a day that came after weeks of advance notices and much preparation. For weeks there had been mysterious packages accumulating in the spare room. For days there had been bak-

ing going on—the odor of pumpkin and mince pies, plum pudding, cookies, fruit cake, etc.

The Christmas Tree

Finally on the last day before Christmas the tree was brought home. Then on Christmas Eve the youngsters were shunted off to bed, all too early it seemed. For a while they lay awake, listening to strange sounds. But to young folks sleep comes quickly and soon all were in slumberland. Six o'clock was usually the hour for all to gather around the tree that was to be lighted for the first time. Needless to say all the young people were

ready before the appointed hour. And then more waiting while we had breakfast. Mother always insisted that the opening of the gift packages could best be done on a full stomach. But that breakfast broke all records for its brevity. I always had a suspicion that dad and mother were just as anxious to get into the Christmas room as the kids were. Then came the time all had been looking for. All gathered around the tree, expressed delight at its beauty and grabbed for the packages that bore our names. Everybody had at least one present and the younger ones several. Maybe the gifts didn't mean so much in dollars and cents but they meant a huge sum in love and sacrifice.

Big Christmas Dinner

After a couple of hours of opening packages and examining each other's gifts the children had to gather up the paper wrappings, place their gifts back around the tree, all but the youngest child, who had special dispensation to play with his. And then we all turned in to get ready for the arrival of the



O Little Town of Bethlehem

By PHILLIPS BROOKS

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above the deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in the dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in Thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessing of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him
still,
The dear Christ enters in.

grandparents and perhaps a big brother or sister and maybe an aunt or two who would come laden down with more gifts. Something more to look forward to, and for the young person there was always much joy in anticipation. At last, as the grand finale, would come the big Christmas Day dinner when the table would have to use all its spare parts to increase its size. Even then there would have to be an extra small table to take care of some of the kids—the greatest meal of the year to the young people even if they were drafted to help wipe the dishes afterwards. Christmas was a great family gathering then. It still is in many places but there isn't nearly enough of it.

Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the Lord. Prov. 29:26.

There is Santa Claus, Indiana

By LAURA FENNER

BELIEVE it or not, if it hadn't been for Bob Ripley, Santa Claus, Indiana, in all probability would still remain to be discovered.

Since 1853 that tiny hamlet in the southern part of the Hoosier State has borne that unusual name, but not until quite recent years has it been getting its name in the papers, with increasing regularity each season as Christmas approaches. And all because Mr. Ripley a few short years ago brought it from obscurity by announcing to the world at large that there really is a Santa Claus.

It was not at Christmas time that the writer journeyed to the little town with the Kris Kringle name but on a warm day in fall. The Christmas season would be a very inopportune time to seek conversation with the postmaster, and no one wants to go to Santa Claus unless he may talk to that very important personage.

The Postmaster

Postmaster Oscar Phillips was found busily engaged, not postmarking letters, but painting the lobby of his well-known postoffice. The Christmas season, even then, was due to be under way almost any day, and he was getting ready for it. One gets the idea immediately that he takes great pride in the place, judging by appearances. Everything was as neat as the proverbial pin.

But the postmaster very obligingly put aside the paint can and brush, because he knew full well there would be questions to answer. Visitors are like that, he has discovered the past few years.

One of the most interesting facts gleaned was that mail comes to Santa

Claus, Indiana, to be forwarded not just at Christmas time but every day throughout the year, averaging from ten to 100 pieces. In one day last summer 8,000 pieces came in to be sent out again, and later in the fall an even greater quantity came in from England to be sent out again, thither and yon.

Santa Claus Has No Railroad

Santa Claus has one incoming and one outgoing mail each day, but it does not have a railroad. The mail is trucked in from Lincoln City, five miles distance. The Christmas mail begins getting pretty heavy around Thanksgiving and continues to increase steadily for the next 30 days.

Although there is more or less pressure being constantly brought from outside sources that wish to capitalize on the magic name of Santa Claus, the Postoffice Department will tolerate no interference in its affairs. It has been rumored that a wealthy manufacturing concern offered to pay \$100,000 for the exclusive use of the Santa Claus postmark. This bit of gossip, however, did not come from the postmaster.

The Postoffice Department is willing to take care of all mail to be forwarded from Santa Claus IF letters and packages come prepaid, and IF postage is purchased at the little postoffice for its remailing.

So, for 34 years now, there has been a postoffice at Santa Claus, Indiana. Many small villages in the course of time have disappeared from the face of the earth, but this little place somehow held out during all its years of obscurity, and now it has gained a place in the sun.

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:19.



Mistletoe and Holly

By ROY CHAPMAN ANDREWS

One Christmas I was camped in the mountains on the Tibetan frontier. In the back of my tent I set up a small spruce tree and decorated it with candles and bits of cotton and holly. From the ridgepole just over the door hung a bunch of mistletoe which I had found the day before while hunting.

That bunch of mistletoe seemed to make it really Christmas. And I wondered just why.

Mistletoe is a parasite and depends upon birds to spread its seeds. The berries, which are filled with a viscous, semi-transparent pulp, are enjoyed by many fruit-eating birds. Some of the seeds usually adhere to the bird's beak, held there by the sticky pulp—and when the bird wipes its bill against the bark of a tree the seeds are planted.

But why should this little plant be so closely associated with Christmas?

I suppose it is because mistletoe was consecrated to religious purposes by the ancient Celtic nations of Europe and was held in peculiar veneration by the Druids, especially when the parasite was found growing in an oak.

The custom of kissing under the mistletoe has come down to us from these ancient rites.

In olden days it was supposed to be a wonderful remedy for epilepsy and convulsions but its medicinal properties are very doubtful.

There are more than five hundred species in the mistletoe family that are found pretty much all over the world. It grows on many kinds of trees. In Europe it lives particularly on apple and hawthorn trees, and is rarely found on the oak. In eastern and southern America mistletoe prefers hardwood trees.

Holly, the other principal Christmas shrub, also is world-wide. The name is supposed to be derived from its use as a decoration for churches at Christmas, from which it was called the "holly tree."

Like mistletoe, the use of

holly at Christmas time goes back to the Romans and to the old Teutonic practice of decorating the interior of dwellings with evergreens as a refuge for sylvan spirits from the cold and storms of winter.

FOLIAGE PLANTS

While the foliage plants will lack in color appeal, their permanence is well in favor as a Christmas gift. They continue to grow throughout the year, requiring little care and attention.

A gift that is interesting as well as attractive is a colorful pottery bowl filled with foliage plants, varied as to size, shape and leaf texture. Branching ivy, a comparatively new variety of Hedera helix, is noted for its rapid growth, its need of a minimum amount of light and the denseness with which the vines branch, resulting in a plant far more attractive and graceful than the older, more familiar varieties of English ivy.

Philodendron has proved itself a worthy houseplant, easily withstanding the handicaps relevant to most indoor growing conditions. There are many varieties of philodendron noted in florist shops, some small-leaved, others cut-leaved, and now a new large leaved variety called philodendron erubescens.

A cheerful Christmas plant is the Jerusalem cherry, with rich green foliage and cherry-like balls of scarlet fruit. This plant is temperamental, though, and to keep it from dropping its fruit or leaves it must be kept in a cool, sunny window where no possible smoke or gas fumes will get near it.

A visit to the florist shops will reveal any number of new and worthwhile foliage plants, any one of which would be a welcome addition to the window garden.

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you. St. Matthew 5:44.

YOUR WILL-POWER...THE MODERN HAZARD TO YOUR NERVES



BEAGLE HOUND

English fox-hound in miniature. Solid and big for his inches, true beagle has the long-wearing look of the hound that can last in the chase. One of the oldest breeds in history—close to the original breed of hounds, U. S. standards specify 15 inches maximum height—any true hound color acceptable.

THE frazzling pace of these fast-moving times doesn't mean a thing in the life of the dog. Although his complex, high-keyed nervous system closely resembles our own, when the dog feels his nerves tire he settles down—relaxes—as the beagle hound above is doing. That is insensitive with the dog. We are not so likely to break nerve tension before it gets our nerves upset. Ambition and determination push us on and on...past the warning stage

of nerve strain. Will-power silences the instinct to pause and rest. And yet jittery, ragged nerves are a distinct handicap. Don't let your nerves get that way. Learn to ease the strain occasionally. Let up—light up a Camel! It's such a pleasant way to rest your nerves—a brief recess, mellow with the pleasure of Camel's mildness and ripe, rich taste. Yes, no wonder smokers say Camel's costlier tobaccos are so soothing to the nerves.

They've learned—millions have—to give nerves relief...They

"Let up—light up a Camel"



Smoke 6 packs of Camels and find out why they are the LARGEST-SELLING CIGARETTE IN AMERICA



COVERING TRIALS, accidents, sports puts a big strain on the nerves of crack Western Union telegrapher, George Erickson (at left). "I avoid getting my nerves tense, wound up," says operator Erickson. "I ease off from time to time, to give my nerves welcome rests. I let up and light up a Camel."

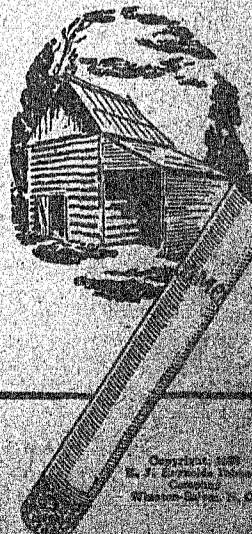
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AN ANALYTICAL CHEMIST'S job is intensely nerve straining. No wonder so many of these men break nerve tension often by letting up—lighting up a Camel.

DID YOU KNOW?

—that cigarette tobacco is dried for the market, or "cured" by several general methods, which include air-cured and flue-cured? Not all cigarettes can be made from the choicest tobacco, the fine top grades—there isn't enough of it available! Therefore it is important to know that Camel cigarettes are a matchless blend of finer, MORE EXPENSIVE TOBACCO—Turkish and Domestic.



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W.M.

Our Boys and Girls
 AUNT MARY, Editor, Route 5, Box 479-B, Fort Worth, Texas.

HOME BUTCHERING AND MEAT CURING

At a luncheon by the Morton Salt Co., in Chicago, for publishers, editors and representatives of the farm press, W. K. Yates, a well-known authority on butchering and curing of meat, delivered, in part, the following address:

Butchering, curing and the home preparation of meat on the farm is truly an important subject. A large part of what has been said and written about butchering and curing meat on the farm has revolved around what might be termed the surface points instead of digging down and clearly covering the basic or fundamental points. In making a close study of home meat curing on a national basis for a number of years, I am convinced that some of the basic points in connection with butchering and curing meat (which have a lot to do with the quality of the finished product) are not fully understood by many persons.

Quality meat cannot be produced by doing the butchering, bleeding and trimming in just any manner and then burying the meat in ordinary salt for some thirty to sixty days. A proper job of butchering and handling the meat, specialized curing products properly used, make possible a safer, faster cure, and meat with a mild, appetizing, uniform flavor.

A few days before hogs are butchered they should be confined in a small pen, and for the most practical working arrangement this pen should be a permanent one alongside the place of butchering and cleaning. For twenty-four hours before hogs are butchered they should not be fed but should have plenty of fresh water. With a minimum of food in the intestinal tract the job of cleaning is much easier and the chances of contamination much less.

To turn out quality finished meat the job begins with the live hog. In other words, the result of the cure starts before the hogs are butchered. If hogs are over-heated or excited just prior to butchering a feverish condition sets up in the meat, which makes it very difficult for that meat to ever take the cure properly, and also makes it much more subject to souring.

Sticking is the best method of butchering. With the hogs in a small pen loop a chain around one hind foot and draw the hog backward through a small sliding gate, then upward by having the chain fastened to a hoist or block and tackle arrangement. With the hog swinging from one hind foot the sticking is easily done, the purpose being to sever the large vein artery immediately in front of the heart. The heart itself should never be stuck or injured but should be left free to move efficiently pump all of the blood from the carcass.

This method of butchering is far better than first stunning with an ax or shooting. In too many instances where hogs are stunned there is considerable movement and excitement, which helps bring about a feverish or over-heated condition in the meat and increases the chances of souring. Also when hogs are stunned and then stuck on the ground, there is so much movement it is difficult to do the right kind of sticking or the sticking in shoulder sticks or chest cavity, which causes internal bleeding.

When hogs are quietly handled and a good stick and bleed obtained, the next important step is fast efficient work in scalding and scraping. The water temperature should be about 150 degrees in order to make the hair slip easily. A convenient scalding tank and scraping bench almost directly under the block and tackle arrangement makes it easier to lower the carcass into the scalding tank, then hoist it a short way and swing it on the scraping table. This eliminates lifting and handling a heavy carcass by hand.

A quick and thorough chill is another foundation step in turning out quality meat. As soon as the carcass is opened and cleaned the head should be removed and the carcass split down the backbone. This opens it up in a way that aids rapid chilling by allowing free circulation of air.

Expressed in its simplest terms meat curing is a race between the bacterial action of decomposition and the cure. There are a number of intermediate steps before the cure can be started, and if these are properly done they help reduce bacterial action. Chilling reduces the bacterial action to the minimum and holds it in check until the meat is trimmed and put in cure.

The cure itself is what permanently checks bacterial growth and converts the fresh meat into cured meat. That is why meat curing is referred to as a race between the natural bacterial action of decomposition and the curing salt.

Meat should be chilled to about 34 degrees before it is put in cure. If the weather turns warm when hogs are butchered a good chill can always be obtained by cutting the carcass into a few major pieces and packing in a barrel with large chunks of ice. The ideal curing temperature is between 38 and 40 degrees.

In curing hams, shoulders and large pieces the danger spot, however, is always around the bone, and if the cure is applied only on the outside of the meat it takes time for it to penetrate to the bone area. To do a more scientific job of meat curing, the cure is started

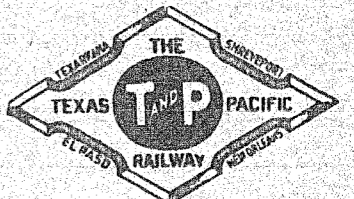
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around the bone to work outward at the same time it is started on the outside to work inward. This makes possible a milder, more uniform cure, and is one of the surest ways to prevent taint or souring.

The practical method of starting the cure from the inside is to mix a specialized cure made for the purpose with water, which has previously been boiled and allowed to cool. This makes what is termed a curing pickle, or more commonly termed a pumping pickle because the pickle is pumped into the pieces with a meat pump. A hand operated meat pump has a barrel for holding the curing pickle, together with a handle and plunger. The curing pickle is then forced into the meat through a hollow needle. The needle has holes at the point as well as along the sides, in order to more evenly distribute the pickle in the bone area. In making a pumping pickle only pure water and a specialized curing salt are used. Naturally, the water should be boiled in order to kill any bacteria or germs, and the water should be allowed to cool in order to get it as near the temperature of the meat as possible.

The amount of cure varies, depending on the kind of meat and the strength or degree of cure desired. Naturally, meat should be cured heavier if it is to be kept over a longer period of time than if it is to be used up soon. The fine natural flavor of home butchered meat can be preserved by any hammer through the use of a specialized cure, and also, instead of the cure, made possible by pumping the meat in under vacuum from the inside, care at the same time it is curing from the outside in.

RE-ENACTING CIVIL WAR RACE

Huffing and puffing up the Mississippi river next spring will be two river steamers from New Orleans, in a re-run of the storied race between the Robert E. Lee and the Natchez. To build up interest in this modern, \$10,000 contest, the sponsors are pointing out that one of the boats is 31 years old.

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CHRISTMAS WREATHS

For those ambitious enough to fashion their own wreaths, Julia S. Latimer, writing in "Better Homes and Gardens," offers these suggestions:

"Box wire frames commonly used by florists make the best foundation for wreaths and may be purchased at most flower shops.

"First, fill the frame with damp sphagnum moss, bound in securely with thin green cord. Almost a whole spool of cord may be needed for a medium-size wreath, because it not only holds the moss but also supports sprays of evergreen and other trimmings. Pass the spool around ring, winding cord quite closely and pulling tightly. Sharpen ends of evergreen sprigs and stick them under cord and into moss in position desired. Use hairpins to secure them. Ivy leaves, berries or anything that doesn't have a strong stem must be wired to toothpicks or special florist picks."

Mrs. Latimer also suggests some snow effects. "White branches and cones are made by applying casein (obtainable in paint stores), a white powder, mixed with water. It never loses its whiteness even outdoors. For indoor use you can dip branches in laundry starch. In either case, before the branches dry, sprinkle with artificial snow. It will glitter and adhere indefinitely."

And if in any of your decorative schemes cones are used, be sure to save them. I have one choice, big one taken from a wreath I had the florist make three years ago. This Christmas it comes forth from its careful wrappings as fresh as ever.

Cones are also grand to have in sufficient abundance to throw on the fire on Christmas Eve. All autumn I have gathered them on every walk. When they burn

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 ROSES—If interested ask for price list, color pages and fruit trees. W. C. Erwin, Waco, Texas.

BUSINESS COLLEGES
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 Cornish Washers—Pump Jacks—Pipe
 Drills—Traction Engines—Hoists—Saws
 and other machinery. Write for circular.
 W. C. Erwin, Waco, Texas.

I love that perfect moment when just before disintegration each section glows with separate flame. In their natural state they make a beautiful fire, but children love to see the colored lights that treated cones send forth. "House Beautiful" offers three suggestions for dyeing cones. "First open the cones, which is done by heating them on the top of a stove, radiator or register for half an hour. Buy from a manufacturing chemist the color material preferred from this list: Red, strontium nitrate; blue, barium nitrate; green, copper chloride; orange, calcium chloride; bluish, copper sulphate; purple, lithium chloride. These salts retail for 30 cents to 45 cents a pound, except the last which is around \$3."

Origin of Christmas Carols

(Continued from Page 2)

gan to associate their merry dancing songs with the most joyous day in the Christian calendar.

Collectors Spoil Their Beauty
 Such spontaneous outbursts are responsible for a whole line of carols that have come down to us as traditional. Little is known of their beginnings and only in recent times has it been possible to acquire a collection of them.

A fellow who had spent years of leisure time gathering up these folk songs lamented to me recently that none of the collections to the present time had done justice to the original carols. He said the collectors, usually musicians themselves, tampered extensively with the original scores, spoiling their beauty. That is the criticism that Vaughan Williams, noted living English composer and hymnologist, levels against the collection of 70 old carols compiled by the mid-Victorian Sir John Stainer. Stainer, according to Williams, adapted the carols he found to the musical modes of his own day—a day when sweet harmonies were in vogue.

Nevertheless, the printed collections tell us something about the ages of some of the carols. The earliest one, about which anything is known, was written by John Barkley, a friar of Norwich, in the reign of Richard II. Another carol, "Sautacioum," one of the finest songs in the literature, came out of medieval times. The "Coventry Carol" was written in 1591. The "Boar's Head Carol" (1521) is believed to be the first printed carol—it was included in a manuscript now in the Bodleian Library at Oxford University, England.

Puritans Forbade Christmas Carols

It's pleasant to think that the carols you will hear outside your home Christmas Eve are carrying out an ancient custom of friendliness and good cheer. It was through such singing, indeed, that carols were preserved for centuries. How few of us would think of silencing the joyous voices. Yet unnumbered Yuletide carols were lost forever because singing them was once frowned upon.

Puritan England believed carols, always associated with feasting and gaiety, altogether out of keeping with the spirit of Christmas, and public performance of carols was forbidden.

Imagine carols being chanted in secret! They actually were, and it fell upon underground channels to carry to us many of the tunes and verses that once were so much a part of the lives of singing folk. The Restoration ended Puritanism, but it did not bring back the carols—neither did the sophisticated eighteenth century. About 100 years ago interest in the old songs was revived. Experts began searches to find the old songs and singing them became, once more, the fashion.

Christmas Greetings

Joyful times and a stocking filled to overflowing by good old Santa is the sincere wish of your Aunt Mary for all her boys and girls.

There is more for you children to remember, however, at this particular time of the year than just playing and thoughts of an overflowing stocking. Remember the words of your Great Master, whose birthday we celebrate, and who said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." We should be mindful of these unselfish words.

Many readers of this page are thinking of ways to make some one else happy, rather than of themselves and what other people may do for them. In this connection there is one thing we might all resolve to do now—make a pledge not to confine our kind deeds to the Christmas season only. Let us try to be just as kind, loving and thoughtful to others throughout the year to come. It would surely make mother and dad happy—and your school teacher glad. Making others happy is one sure way to make yourself happy and, eventually, more lasting friends.

There comes to my mind a little poem, written by Faith Hollister in the Christian Science Monitor, that fits well into the Christmas season:

So then I woke
 At once I heard a robin—
 "Cheer-up," said he,
 "Cheer-up, cheer-up."
 The scene was bleak
 The day was gray,
 Not anything seemed cheering,
 But here was he,
 And come what may
 That bird would have his hearing.
 "Cheer-up," said he,
 "Cheer-up, cheer-up."

He thought the world
 Was good to see,
 And told it to
 The world and me.
 "Cheer-up," said he,
 "Cheer-up, cheer-up."

That is my Christmas wish for you. It matters not the weather; if the sunshine of good cheer and love for your fellow-being is in your heart the sun will ever shine for you. The Boar's Head Carol is your merriest! I thank you for your loyalty to the past year, to our Boys and Girls' Page, and sincerely hope the coming year will bring more happiness for ALL!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Beginning with January issue of Boys and Girls' Page, we will organize a NEW CLUB! I have been making plans and preparations for it. I hope you will tell all your friends to be sure and look forward to the January issue. The bigger the club the more wonderful things we can do—the bigger the prizes—and more fun for everyone. Remember, watch for the JANUARY ISSUE. Read about the NEW CLUB. A BIG SURPRISE!

THE STRANGE CHILD
 A Special Story

There once lived a laborer, who earned his daily bread by cutting wood. His wife and two children, a boy and a girl, helped him with his work. The boy's name was Valentine, the girl's Marie. They were obedient and pious, and had grown to be a joy and comfort to their poor parents.

One Christmas Eve the good family gathered about the table to eat their small loaf of bread, while the father read aloud from his Bible. Just as they sat down there came a knock on the window, and a sweet voice called:

"O let me in! I am a little child. I have nothing to eat and no place to sleep. I am so cold and hungry. Please, good people, let me in!"

Valentine and Marie sprang from the table and ran to open the door, saying: "Come in, poor child; we have but very little ourselves. Not much more than thou hast, but what we have we will share with thee."

The stranger child entered, sought the open fire and began to warm his cold hands.

The children gave him a portion of their bread and continued, "Thou must be very tired; come, lie down in our bed; we will sleep on the bench before the fire."

"May God in heaven reward you for your kindness," replied the stranger child.

They then led the little guest to their small room, tucked him into bed; and as they drew the covers closely about the tiny form thought to themselves, "Oh, how much we have to be thankful for! We have our nice warm room and comfortable bed, while this child has nothing but the sky for a roof and the earth for a couch."

After their parents had gone to bed, Valentine and Marie lay down on the bench before the fire and



Santa Claus checks the names of good little boys and girls

said to each other, "The stranger child is happy now because he is so warm, Good-night."

No sooner had they spoken than they were fast asleep. They had not slept many hours when little Marie awoke, and touching her brother lightly, whispered: "Valentine, Valentine, wake up! Wake up! Listen to the beautiful music at the window."

Valentine rubbed his eyes and listened. He heard the most wonderful singing and sweet notes of many harps. The words of the song floated in to them:

"Blessed Child,
 Thee we greet
 With sound of harp
 And singing sweet.
 "Sleep in peace,
 Child so bright,
 We have watched Thee
 All the night.
 "Blest the home
 That holdeth Thee,
 Peace and love,
 Its guardians be."

The children listened to the beautiful singing which seemed to fill them with unspeakable joy. Then creeping to the window they looked out and saw a rosy light in the East. Before the house in the snow stood a number of little children holding golden harps and flutes in their hands, all dressed in sparkling silver robes.

Full of wonder at the sight, Valentine and Marie continued to gaze out of the window. Suddenly they heard a sound behind them, and turning saw the stranger child standing near. He was clad in a golden garment, and wore a glistening crown upon his soft hair. Sweetly he spoke to the children, "I am the Christ Child, who wanders about the world seeking to bring joy and good things to loving children. Because you have lodged me this night I will leave you my blessing."

Having said this, he vanished from sight, together with the silver-clad singing children—the angels.

As Valentine and Marie looked on in wonder, the fir bough grew and grew into a lovely Christmas tree, laden with golden apples, silver nuts and bright toys. And every year afterwards, at Christmas time, the tree bore the same wonderful fruit.

SEWING

If Mother Nature patches
 The leaves of trees and vines,
 I'm sure she does her darning
 With the needles of the pines.
 They are so long and slender,
 And somewhere in full view,
 She has her threads of cobweb,
 A thimble full of dew.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S CHRISTMAS

Czechoslovakia has a "Bethlehem," or little manger beneath the Christmas tree to remind all of the lowly birth of Jesus. After the feasting and merrymaking is past, all that remains of the Christmas supper is taken out and shared with the farm animals. Even the bees are not forgotten, as sweets are provided for them.

Choir boys will sing the Christmas hymns in every church throughout the land, in St. Louis, Chicago, New York City, Washington, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Atlanta and on the West Coast, as they did and still do in the great cathedrals and tiny churches of Europe.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. John 15:7

You Cannot Buy Finer Coffee at ANY Price

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AMERICAN COFFEE COMPANY
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HOUSEHOLD HELPS

MRS. MARGARET STUTE, Editor, Route 5, Box 179-B, Fort Worth, Texas.

MY PRAYER FOR YOU

"MERRY CHRISTMAS!" are two words that hold a wealth of meaning. Some persons say it sincerely with a heart full of tenderness and well being. To you who have been my readers for the past fourteen years I wish to extend not only heartfelt greetings but a grateful "Thank You." Your loyalty, helpful suggestions and ready response has made editing of the Woman's Page a joy and a labor of love.

My prayer for you the coming year:
"May God bless and keep you in peace, in happiness and in health. May He keep you free from petty worries, giving you all that you need and withholding that which would burden you. Above all may He keep you firm in His faith and in the faith of yourself, your fellow man and fellow woman."

SEASONAL HINTS FOR THE HOUSEHOLD

The alert housewife may find these hints helpful in preparing for the holidays:
A cluster of pine cones—enameled red or blue, silver or gilded, make attractive decorations. Tinsel ones colored and strung on bright cord are pretty to drape on the Christmas tree.

A simple decoration is a long strip of tissue paper or transparent wrapping, 3/8-inch wide, crimped with the fingers like accordion pleats.
If you are sending gifts to Eastern friends include several sprigs of mistletoe, it doesn't grow very far North.

Bands one-inch wide cut from colored magazine pages, the ends glued together, are attractive to slip around packages.
A bright seal glued in the upper left-hand corner of your stationery gives a festive appearance.
Use red-mesh onion bags to fill with green sweet-scented pine cones and tie with green needles. Onion bags are useful for putting up pecans or other nuts and may be covered with red transparent wrappings for colorful packages.

Use a wreath made on an 8x10-inch base for the center of the Christmas table. Within the wreath place a tall fat red candle and then fill the center with silver Christmas tree balls. This arrangement may be varied by the use of white and red balls or balls to match the china.

For home-made Christmas toys, stills are easy to make and enjoyed by children old enough to use them. Paint two tin cans that have been cut with a smooth finish, placing two holes in the sides of the cans near the bottom and running a cord through them. They are turned upside down with the cord at the bottom. Wrap the cord with adhesive tape where it runs through the holes in the can to keep it from wearing out too easily.
After the last bit of painting is finished, do not put paint brushes away with paint on them. Cleanse brushes thoroughly with kerosene, gasoline or turpentine. After removing the last of the paint or varnish, wipe dry with a cloth and then wrap in newspaper. Where brushes are to be used often keep them in a container with the bristles submerged in liquid to remove paint or varnish.



Bringing in the boar's head, (an old English custom).

HOLIDAY GOODIES

At no time of the year does the housewife's art of cooking stand a greater test than during the holidays. Every cook, be she good, bad, or just fair, casts about for new dishes to serve her family or her guests.

I have assembled a variety of temptingly different dishes for the Christmas season.

Pineapple Cream Cheese Sandwiches
Take two cakes of Philadelphia cream cheese, 1/2 cup crushed pineapple, a little salt, mash all together with fork. Prepare bread same as for open sandwiches (toasted preferred) decorate with maraschino cherries in center.

Rolled Sardine Sandwiches
Drain sardines from oil, remove skin and bones. Add 2 tablespoons butter and mash to a paste. Season with 1/2 tablespoon onion juice, few grains cayenne and 1 tablespoon finely chopped parsley. Add the yolk of 1 hard boiled egg. Moisten with mayonnaise. Remove crust from very thin slices of white bread, spread lightly with mixture and roll at once like jelly roll. Each roll should be 3 inches long; fasten with toothpick to keep in shape. When ready to serve sprinkle with paprika.

Formal Dinner Dainties
The following recipes can be used with assurance that they will be correct at a formal gathering and taste well.

Frozen Cheese Salad
3 cream cheeses, 1 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups chopped dates, 1 cup whipping cream.
2 tablespoons lemon juice.
Cream the cheese, add lemon juice and salt. Whip the cream, fold in cheese and dates. Pack in mold and freeze until firm. Serve on lettuce leaves.

Ginger Ale Salad
2 tablespoons gelatin (soak in 2 tablespoons water 5 minutes). Cool this mixture then add:
Add to gelatin: 1/4 cup diced apples
1/2 cup hot water, 2 tablespoons crystallized ginger, 1 cup ginger ale, 4 tablespoons crushed pineapple, 1/2 cup lemon juice, 1 cup diced celery.
2 tablespoons sugar, 1/2 teaspoon salt.
Pour into mold and chill. Serve on crisp lettuce.

Home Dinner Tempters
The accessories with the holiday meals are just as important as the main dishes, the prudent cook knows full well. Here is an array of such dishes which we know she will find popular.

Persimmon Cocktail
Select very ripe fruit of a bright color and chill perfectly by embedding in cracked ice. When ready to serve cut a slice from the top of each, fit into the outer part of a double fruit cocktail glass.

and surround with finely-crushed ice. Garnish with a sprig of mint. These lend a very bright appearance to a formal or family luncheon table and are refreshing as well.

Baked Oranges
Cut desired number of oranges in half. Cut very little off the ends, enough to stand up. Put in cold water over night. Next day steam until soft. Place in pan, put small lump of butter in center—make a syrup of sugar and water, put over oranges, bake until done. Delicious with any kind of fowl.

English Plum Pudding
1 cup chopped suet
1 cup flour
1 cup sugar
1 cup currants
1 cup raisins
1 cup bread crumbs
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon allspice
1 cup chopped apples
2 eggs
Enough milk to mix it. Tie in a cloth and boil 4 hours. Serve with hard sauce.

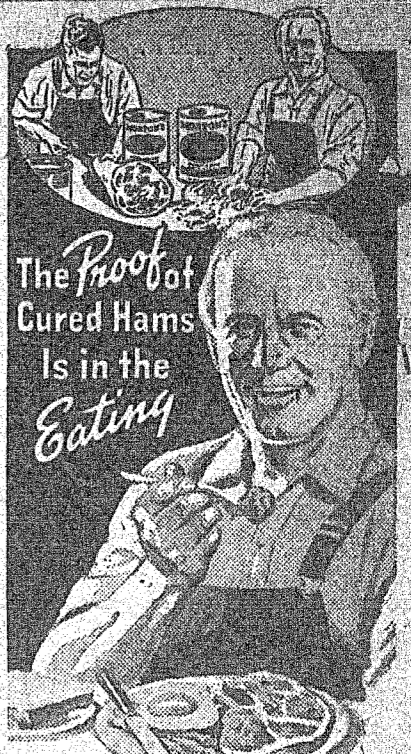
Red Currant and Raspberry Tapioca
1 1/2 cups prepared red currants, 1 cup sugar
1/2 cup quick-cooking tapioca, 2 cups water
1 1/4 cups red raspberries, 1/2 teaspoon salt.
Stem and wash fresh currants, add 1/2 cup sugar, cover and heat slowly until sugar is dissolved and currants burst open; add raspberries and cool. Place water in top of double boiler and bring to a boil over direct heat. Combine tapioca, remaining 1/2 cup sugar, and salt; add gradually to water and bring to a brisk boil, stirring constantly. Place immediately over rapidly boiling water and cook 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cool—mixture clings and thickens as it cools. When slightly cool, fold in fruit. Chill. Serve in sherbet glasses with plain or whipped cream. Serves 6.

Raised Bran Rolls
3 cups milk, scalded, 4 tablespoons sugar
1 cake compressed yeast, 1 egg, slightly beaten
1 tablespoon salt, 2 cups Whole Bran Shreds
5 cups sifted flour (about) Melted butter.
4 tablespoons melted shortening.
Cool milk to lukewarm; add crumbled yeast cake, salt, sugar, and 2 cups flour, and mix thoroughly with wooden spoon. Add shortening and egg, stirring well. Add bran and remaining flour and beat well; cover and let rise in warm place until doubled in bulk. Cut dough down. Fill greased muffin pans 2/3 full, dipping spoon each time in warm water before dipping in dough. Brush tops with butter, cover, and let rise in warm place until doubled in bulk. Bake in hot oven (400° F.) 25 to 30 minutes. Makes about 4 dozen muffins.

Raised Date Nut Muffins
Add 1/4 cup chopped walnuts and 1/4 cup cut dates to 1/3 of dough (above). Follow directions given, sprinkling sugar over buttered tops.

Raised Currant Muffins
Add 1 teaspoon grated orange rind and 1/2 cup currants to 1/3 of dough (above). Follow directions given, brushing melted butter over tops.

Raised Vanity Muffins
Add 1/4 cup chopped walnuts and 1/4 cup sliced citron to 1/3 of dough (above). Follow directions given, sprinkling sugar over buttered tops.
These muffins may be made in about 2 hours.



The Proof is in the Eating
Cured Hams

REMEMBER, it is the cure itself that determines the quality of the finished meat. It costs money to raise good hogs—and whether you get good meat depends on how you cure it.
Here's How to Cure the Finest Quality Meat
First pump hams and shoulders next to the bone with a curing pickle made with Morton's Tender-Quick mixed with water. Then cure from the outside with Morton's Sugar-Curing Smoke Salt. This improved method of curing is the surest way to eliminate off-flavor or under-cured meat around the bone. You cure from the inside out and from the outside in all at the same time, which results in a uniform cure—a mild cure—yet a thorough cure. This curing method strikes in quicker, starts the cure at the bone, helps prevent bone taint, gives you meat that is worth a premium.

The Cost Is Small
At a curing cost of only 1 1/4 cents a pound you can pump with Morton's Tender-Quick and cure with Morton's Smoke Salt. Don't take chances on running out of meat this year. Cure enough to have plenty. Ask your local dealer for Morton's Smoke Salt, Morton's Tender-Quick, Morton's Sausage Seasoning, and a Morton Meat Pump. Have them on hand when you butcher. Why not use the best and at the same time make the entire job of curing and sausage making easier, quicker, and safer?
For golden-brown sausage that all the family likes, use Morton's Sausage Seasoning this year. Complete recipe on page 10 of our FREE FOLDER.

MORTON SALT COMPANY
208 W. Washington St., Chicago, Ill.



WINDOW SHADE DESIGNS
Stars in blue cut out and rubber-cemented on window shades are pleasing from inside, and when the room lights are on, silhouette gayly their Christmas greeting to all who pass. A big candlestick with sprigs of holly around its base is another design that's appropriate for a window shade decoration. Or on dark shades use white snow-flakes.
Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name receiveth me; and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me. St. Mark 9:37.

RED CROSS WARNS AGAINST CHRISTMAS FIRES

Santa Claus was cautioned by the American Red Cross to keep candle flames, cigarettes and other inflammables away from his whiskers.

In a Christmas safety statement, the Red Cross warned householders that they "cannot light their plum pudding and have it, too, if the table is cluttered with inflammable favors and decorations."

Pointing out that more deaths and injuries occur from burns during December than in any other month, largely because of Christmas celebrations, the Red Cross warned parents to mix safety with sentiment during the holiday season.

The following precautions were advised:

"Christmas trees kept in homes more than a week dry out and will catch fire easily. Cotton and cellophane are both highly inflammable. When using as tree decorations, take care!

"Insulation which has worn off Christmas tree lighting sets should be replaced, since a short circuit may start a fire.

"Children receiving electric toys should be trained to pull out plugs before leaving the room.

"In the excitement of holiday time, take special care in the kitchen. Keep knives out of reach of children, make sure that hot liquids on the stove are well back from the front edge, and in reaching for things on top shelves use a step-ladder, not a chair or pile of boxes.

"If snow and ice are on the

ground, sprinkle steps and walk with salt or ashes to make walking more safe.

"Keep floors free of small objects that may be swallowed by babies.

"All public holiday gatherings should be held in buildings which have been patrolled for fire hazards. Exits should be kept clear and dangerous overcrowding should not be permitted.

"Welcome Santa," the Red Cross concludes, "but insure against fire at the time by having chimneys and flues cleaned now."

ORIGIN OF CHRISTMAS TREE

The origin of the Christmas tree custom is obscure. In a collection of charming legends Dr. Donald Bond, instructor in English at the University of Chicago, quotes authorities who claim its source for France, Scandinavia, Egypt, England and Germany.

Only one legend connects the Christ child with the Christmas tree. The story goes back to the manger at Bethlehem. Trees arrived from all over the world to do homage to the divine Child. These included small fir, which attracted little attention. But suddenly, says the legend, star after star fell upon the fir until it shone with the brilliancy of 1,000 heavenly lights.

Germany is commonly believed to have introduced the decorated Christmas tree, since German emigrants brought the custom to America in 1843.

But whether its origin be pagan or Christian, the Christmas tree custom has developed a business of large proportions. About 111,000,000 electric Christmas tree bulbs are sold in America every year.

WHY?

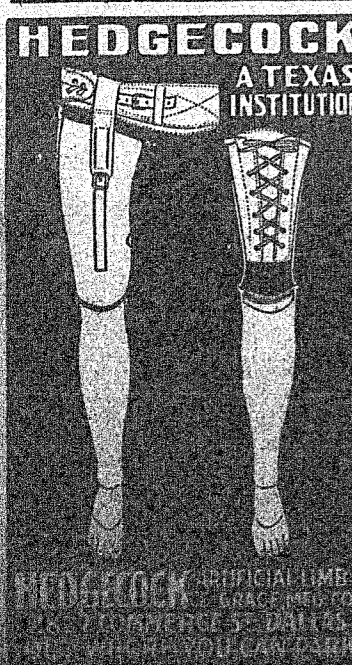
What means all this running up and down? Why are all the streets and highways thronged with people carrying boxes and bundles? Why do people crowd the stores and spend their money so freely?

And why do those who promote charitable institutions make their appeals for support at this season? Why are so many people thinking about their less fortunate neighbors and planning that all children shall have Christmas dinners and gifts? It is because Jesus has implanted in the hearts of men and women the spirit of the sermon on the mount—words spoken by Him 2,000 years ago—words that abide with and influence us even unto this day.

GILDING IS SUGGESTED

If the usual red and green Christmas colors look dangers at your interior decorations, don't be downcast—try gilding or silvering with radiator paint pine cones, greenery, gourds, and nuts, and make festoons. These can be a part of the design of the room, yet contribute their own bit of seasonal brilliance, too.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. St. Matthew 2:9-11.



JERRY ON THE JOB



Just an Old Cow Hand!



By Hobin

THE CAT SPILLED THE MILK AND MR. GINNEVILL BE WILD IF HE HAS TO SKIP HIS BOWL OF GRAPE-NUTS FLAKES TODAY



THERE'S A WHOLE CORN OF MILK—AND MAKE MY REWARD A BIG HEAPIN' DISH OF CRISP GRAPE-NUTS FLAKES



AND MORE GRAPE-NUTS FLAKES—THAT NEW DOUBLE FLAVOR SURE HITS THE SPOT

