



The Baird Star



Our Motto—"Tis Neither Birth, Nor Wealth, Nor State, But The Get-Up-And-Get That Makes Men Great."

FIFTY-FOURTH YEAR

BAIRD, CALLAHAN COUNTY, TEXAS, FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28, 1941

NUMBER FIFTY-ONE

Baird Garden Club Sponsors Book Review

"Big Family" will be reviewed by Mrs. R. L. Alexander, Dec. 2nd sponsored by The Old Fashioned Garden Club. A book of rare charm and nostalgic humor reveals the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Partridge, father, mother and eight children. Fascinating story of this amusing family's experiences. You will not only enjoy this unusual book review but will be helping the Garden Club with their cemetery beautification project.

Come and bring a friend. A very nice musical program is to be given in connection with book review.

Time and place: 3 p. m., December 2 (Tuesday), Basement of Methodist Church.

Admission—25 Cents.

CLYDE BOY WINS PROMOTION IN MARINE CORPSE

Severne E. Canada, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Canada of Clyde, has been promoted to Private First Class in the U. S. Marine Corps. Severne is now stationed on Midway Island.

EULA H. D. CLUB

The Eula Home Demonstration Club met Tuesday, Nov. 25 in the home of Gertie Harris and quilted and made operating gowns for the Red Cross.

A covered dish luncheon was served to the following: Mrs. L. E. Lewis, Mrs. J. L. Farmer, Mrs. Lee Smith, Mrs. N. H. Stephenson, Mrs. Cecil Harris, Mrs. A. L. Barnes, Mrs. A. E. McClure, Nancy McClure, Mrs. Grace Harris and Gertie Harris.

TECUMSEH NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Head of Abilene visited Mrs. Sarah Magill Sunday. Other guests were Mrs. Dolph, Hodges, Harold Snyder and Henry Robbins. They were served a chicken dinner.

Mrs. Morton Whitley of Denton who recently underwent surgery in the hospital at Baird has returned home and doing nicely.

Mr. Jop Cutbirth of Dudley is very ill in Hendrick Memorial hospital in Abilene.

PRESBYTERIAN LADIES

The Presbyterian Ladies met Monday afternoon in the home of Mrs. W. T. Hensley with Mrs. I. B. Mullican as co-hostess. The meeting opened with singing "My Faith Looks Up To Thee", prayer by Mrs. Jones.

During the business session a vote was sent to a box to the Orphans Home at Christmas.

Mrs. Alexander reviewed the 4th Chapter of the Mission Study book.

A social hour followed aft which a delicious plate of sandwiches, cake and coffee was served.

The next meeting will be held with Mrs. R. L. Elliott, December 15th for a Christmas program and exchange of gifts.

ONE MAN SELECTED TO GO TO ARMY DECEMBER

Callahan County will send only one man to enter the service of the U. S. Army on December 1st.

The lone selectee is John D. Campbell of Rt. 2, Clyde, who will report to Fort Sill, Oklahoma on that date.

BOOK REVIEW

The Old Fashioned Garden Club is sponsoring a Book Review, "Big Family" by Mrs. R. L. Alexander, in the basement of the Methodist Church, Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 2 at 3 o'clock.

Big Family is a book of rare charm and soteric humor. Reveals the lives of the Partridge family, father, mother and eight children. You will enjoy this unusual book review and also help the Garden Club put over their cemetery project.

A musical program in connection with the book review will be given.

Connally Again Seeks Way To Stop Strikes

Believing that the real spirit of the mass of American labor ought to be and is "Defense and not Defiance", and believing that the time has come when the Senate and House must decide who is running the country, John L. Lewis of the Congress and the President, Senator Tom Connally last week introduced legislation to assist the President in stopping strikes affecting the national defense.

The bill represents a continuation of Senator Connally's effort to bring a halt to strikes slowing down the country's production of defense material; in June the Senate adopted the Connally amendment authorizing the President to take over plants halted by strikes, but the amendment was knocked out by the House of Representatives. Connally requested that his bill go to the Judiciary Committee, of which he is a member, where hearings on the bill have already begun. The Texas Senator was named chairman of the subcommittee in charge of the legislation.

The bill provides that whenever plants, facilities, or mines are impeded or hindered by strikes or labor difficulties the President shall have authority to take them over. It further provides that when the Government exercises such power the labor conditions, excepting wages, shall be frozen; a labor board would be set up to see that the workers receive a fair wage for their work in plant operated by the government.

Provisions are already on the law books for the government to take over when employers refuse to operate their plants for our national defense.

In introducing the bill, Senator Connally stated to the Senate, "I do not believe that the great mass of the laboring men in the United States sympathize with the effort to use the strike as a weapon against the government in this critical hour of the nation's history, at a time when other men are being called to training camp at \$21 per month."

The following is the reply to telegram sent Senator Connally by E. L. Woodley, past president of the Baird Luncheon Club: Washington D. C. Nov. 24, 1941, E. L. Woodley, Baird, Texas. Thanks for your telegram approving my efforts to stop strikes in National Defense Industries am pressing matter.

Tom Connally.

JUNIOR LEAGUE

The League meets at 6:30 at the Methodist Church Sunday.

Leader, Midge Loper, assisted by T. A. White, Norman West, Willie Tom Womack and Ruby Lell Loper.

FELLOWSHIP PARTY

The members of the Methodist church will hold their annual Fellowship Party in the basement of the church Monday night, Nov. 30. All members of the church with their families are invited to attend. Bring a covered dish.

GARDEN CLUB MEETS DEC. 12

The Old Fashioned Garden Club will have the December meeting Friday the 12th at 3 p. m. in the home of Mrs. Everett Hughes with Mrs. Clyde White Mrs. Jarroll McGowan and Mrs. Emery Wheeler as co-hostess.

Each member to bring a gift (not to exceed 25 cents in value) for Christmas Tree Gifts will be numbered and numbers drawn by members present.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Tackett and daughters, Gloria and Shir-Tackett who have lived in Kilgore Barker of Abilene visited Mr. and Mrs. Ashby White and Mrs. J. H. Leach Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Tackett who have lived in Kilgore for several years where Mr. Tackett has held a position with the Shell Oil Company will move to Oklahoma soon where Mr. Tackett will continue his service with the Shell company.

—HELP THE RED CROSS—

Baird Bears Tame Albany Lions

By EDDIE BULLOCK

In a post season non-conference game at Baird Wednesday night the Baird Bears humbled Albany their Shackelford County neighbors and rivals of long standing for the first time in 15 years, sending them home like the proverbial March lamb on the short end of a 54 to 13 score.

According to the information this department acquired (don't sue us, if we're wrong)—We have only been around these parts since 1931 and besides we're been sick—but from sources of information usually considered reliable viz: Harold "Little Dad" Ray and N.L. "Nigger Shooter" Dickey) this is the first Bear win over the Lions since their 7 to 0 victory way back in 1926 ("Nigger Shooter" even modestly admits that he scored the winning touchdown.)

Baird scored a safety and two points on the fourth play after the opening kick-off when they blasted an attempted Albany punt out of the park. From that point on it was just a matter of how large the score would be. Buddy Brumbaugh stomped over for six touchdowns from all over the field behind blocking that wiped out the entire side of the Albany team at times. Buddy had one run wiped out by a penalty and Raymond Cook had a beautiful 70 yard jaunt wiped out on his own error by being illegally in motion. Bill Odom snared several passes tossed by Raymond Cook for nice gains.

In an effort to hold the score down Coach Bill White played every man on his squad (even threatened to send in your scribe) (Boy are those Lions lucky he changed his mind) but even the Rinkie Dinks were not to be denied their share of the glory. Don Parker and Junior Pool racked up one tally each on intercepted passes. Albany scored once on a pass that was good for 55 yards and again when they intercepted one of Raymond Cook's tosses about the 20 yard line.

In the last frame Buddy dumfounded the fans by breaking through the Albany line into the clear and racing to the one yard line where he voluntarily downed the ball—one the next play Frankie Crow took the snap back and presented the ball to Albany by the simple expedient of placing it on the 5 yard line and walking away. A generous gesture of sportsmanship toward a weaker foe.

Wednesday night's game officially wound-up the Bears' 1941 season and leaves us with only the annual banquet to look forward to. We expect all the fans that can crowd into the basement of the Methodist Church Wednesday night, December 3rd at 7 p. m. to pay their respects to the team. (Besides we may even make a speech—you wouldn't want to miss that.)

With the close of the football season we regretfully close this column. Our sincere appreciation to the editorial and publishing staff of The Baird Star for putting up with us. We do hope that we have been of some service in outlining the games this year for the fans, especially those who could not always be present. Who knows, maybe next season we will be back. (by unpopular demand). (Where's Otto?)

EDITOR'S NOTE—We sincerely appreciate Eddie Bullock's kindness in writing up the football games for us this season. He has given the games the best write-ups we have ever had—which is pleasing to The Star—Also to the football fans of Baird and Callahan County.

Thanks A Million EDDIE.

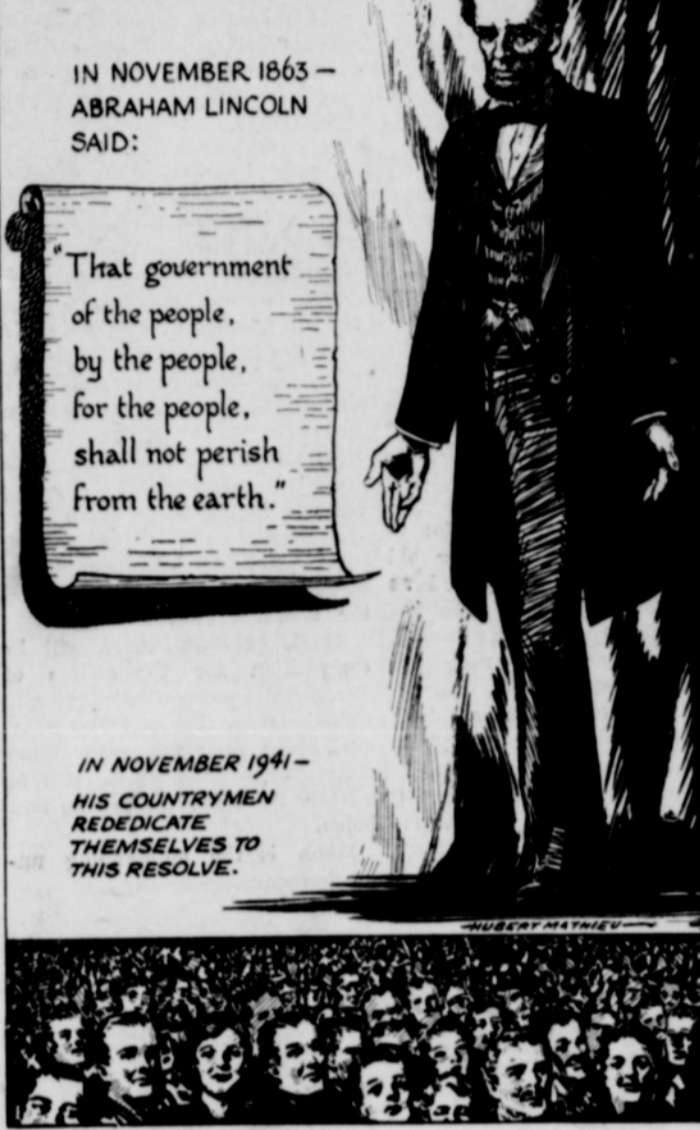
—THE STAR FORCE.

MRS. JIM BARKER ATTENDS BOARD MEETING

Mrs. Jim Barker of Clyde, prominent Home Demonstration worker in Callahan county, who is a member of the Board of Texas Home Demonstration Association attended a meeting of the board held at A and M College Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mrs. Barker is a member of the Enterprise Home Demonstration Club.

OUR DEMOCRACY ANNIVERSARY



IN NOVEMBER 1863 — ABRAHAM LINCOLN SAID:

IN NOVEMBER 1941 — HIS COUNTRYMEN REDEDICATE THEMSELVES TO THIS RESOLVE.

Baby Girl Died

Reita Sue, three-months old baby daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Northcutt died at 9:30 in the Callahan County Hospital yesterday morning, death resulting from whooping cough.

Funeral services were held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Kelly maternal grand parents, yesterday afternoon at 2:30.

Rev. A. A. Davis, pastor of the First Baptist church conducting the funeral rites. Burial was made in Ross cemetery. Wylie Funeral Home being in charge.

Survivors are the parents, a little sister and brother, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Kelly grand parents of Baird and Mrs. Mae Northcutt, and mother of Abilene.

DEER HUNTERS RETURNING

E. J. Barton, of Denton Valley, Dr. J. B. Bailey, John Bailey, Austin Bouchette, L. F. Patterson, of Clyde and George Kiker of Abilene, returned a few days ago from Mason county, bringing seven deer with them.

Billie Henry returned yesterday evening from a hunting trip to Balmorhea. Billie brought a 180 pound, 9-point buck back with him. The deer was killed on the Kingston Ranch high-up in the Davis Mountains.

Notice To The Public

We, the Band Mothers' Club of Baird Public School Band, are soliciting subscriptions, both new and renewals for

THE BAIRD STAR on a commission basis. These funds to be used in paying for the new uniforms recently purchased for the High School Band.

We are making every effort to see everyone and earnestly solicit your subscriptions to The Baird Star.

Members of the Club are making a canvass of the City and if we fail to see YOU call or see Mrs. B. O. Brame, Mrs. Clifford Jones, Mrs. Earl Johnson, Mrs. Bill Womack or any member of the Band Mothers Club.

Thanking You, we are, Sincerely, BAND MOTHERS CLUB.

—HELP THE RED CROSS—

HON. OMAR BURKETT GUEST OF DELPHIAN CLUB

Mrs. T. W. Briscoe, was hostess to the Delphians Club Tuesday when thirteen members answered roll call.

The hostess introduced Hon. Omar Burkett, of Eastland, member of the Legislature, representing Callahan and Eastland counties who addresses the club on conditions existing in our state hospitals.

Mr. Burkett was given a rising vote of thanks.

The club voted to donate \$5 to the Red Cross.

The next meeting of the club will be held in the home of Mrs. Hugh Ross when a Christmas program honoring the Junior Delphians' will be given.

MAKE HONOR ROLL AT ACC

Pauline Coats, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Coats of Baird and Clara Haynes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Claud Morse of Oplin, are among those listed on the honor roll, completed recently from mid-semester reports at Abilene Christian College, Abilene.

Recognition on this roll indicates outstanding scholastic work.

WEDNESDAY CLUB MEETING

The Wednesday Club met on Nov. 26 in the home of Mrs. W. C. White. The president, Mrs. L. L. Blackburn called the meeting to order. Seventeen members answered roll call. The following program was rendered.

"A College Built on Faith," Mrs. Short.

"Our National Defense," Mrs. Lewis.

Mrs. Brightwell gave a very fine report on the State Federation held in Dallas Oct. 10-13.

The Club voted to make a donation to the Red Cross.

After adjournment a delicious refreshment plate was served.

RENEW YOUR DRIVER'S BEFORE DEC. 31, 1941!

Renew your driver's license before they expire.

Driver's License Bearing No. 450000 and Less will expire December 31, 1941 and cannot be renewed after that date.

C. R. Nurdyke, Sheriff.

—HELP THE RED CROSS—

H. D. Clubs Area Meeting

The Area Meeting of Oplin, Tecumseh and Denton Home Demonstration Clubs met No. 20th in the home of Mrs. E. J. Barton, with the Denton Club as hostess. Miss Ellen Steffens, County Home Demonstration Agent gave a demonstration on Fruit Cake. Miss Steffens says fruit cakes are easy to make and can be made at a cost of thirty cents a pound.

Receipts for different fruit cakes were given to each member.

Miss Clare Haynes gave piano selections.

The clubs then viewed the frame garden. Mrs. Barton is sub-irrigating from the grease trap.

Those attending were, Mrs. W. B. Barton, Clyde; Mmds Dolph Hodges, Sarah McGill, Howton Ely Neal, Tecumseh; Mmds Claude Morse, Mamie Johnson, Andrew Johnson, John Roberson, Charlie Straley and Miss Clare Hanes, Oplin; Mmds E. J. Barton, F. L. Johnson, A. L. McIntosh and Miss Anna Mae McIntosh.

RUSSELL CHATHAM WINS HONORS IN A. & M.

Russell Chatham a Junior in A and M was one of the sixteen Engineers qualifying for membership in the Scholarship Honor Society this year. To be eligible one must have a 2.57 average.

Russell also won third-place in an English contest and has been on the distinguished list for the past two years.

Russell is working his way through college and is majoring in Chemical Engineering. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Chatham of Baird.

Aid To Texas Farmers Through Racing Comes to End

By Boyce House, Austin

One of the last benefits from the revenue of legalized horse racing in Texas will end if the next Legislature follows the recommendation of Agricultural Commissioner J. E. McDonald. He will ask the closing of the jacks and stallions division of the agricultural department, a division that was created out of revenue from the race tracks.

With \$118,210 in racing funds, the division was set up for the aid of the farmer and stockmen. The department purchased 290 stallions to improve the breed of stock through the state. This original investment has added \$3,000,000 worth of animals to Texas' livestock industry, according to official estimates.

McDonald's recommendation will be made because there are no longer any funds to purchase additional breeding animals. Those originally bought are now becoming old and can not be of use much longer it was pointed out.

Under the original plan the stallions were placed over the state with stockmen and farmers who were paid by the month for care of the animals. Fees of \$5 and \$7.50 were charged for breeding, and the money was turned over to the Department of Agriculture. It is estimated that 35,000 colts were bred from the 290 jacks, Percheons, Belgians, and thoroughbreds.

Although legalized horse racing was abolished four years ago, its benefits are just now ending.

GARDEN CLUB SPONSOR CHRISTMAS CONTEST

The Garden Club will again sponsor a Christmas Lighting Contest giving prizes for the best Christmas decoration.

List of prizes will be given later; also rules for the contest.

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving was very quietly observed in Baird. All business houses except cafes and drug stores were closed throughout the day.

Baird Public Schools closed Thanksgiving also for today.

BOY SCOUT COURT OF HONOR

The Callahan County Court of Honor will be held Monday night December 1 at the District Court room in Baird at 7:30 P. M.

We would like to have every Scout present whether he is to receive an advancement or not.

The Troops that are expected to be there are:

Troop 62 in Clyde. Troop 50 in Baird. Troop 53 in Baird. Troop 17 in Putnam. Troop 87 in Baird and at Bayou School. Troop 61 in Cottonwood.

Special Service At Methodist Church Sunday Night

Sunday evening, November 30, 1941, the Choir of the Methodist Church of Baird, under the direction of Mrs. W. O. Wylie, Jr., will present Musical worship service. This service will be given in the light of the Cross and centered around the theme of the Cross of Christ.

Dr. J. T. Griswold, who presented the lighted Cross to this Church is to participate in the service.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend this inspirational and helpful Musical Worship Service, beginning at seven o'clock Sunday evening.

Marriage Announced

Mrs. E. S. Benson announces the marriage of her daughter, Lillie May to Bill DuBoise of Poteau, of Oklahoma.

They were married at Poteau, Oklahoma on November 15th.

The bride is a graduate of Baird High School of 1940 and a graduate of Gail Business College, Abilene.

The bride wore a gown wool dress with brown accessories.

Mr. and Mrs. DuBoise will make their home at 500 Dewey Ave., Poteau, Oklahoma.

NYA GIRLS ASSIST IN OPERATION OF GONZALES SPRINGS FOUNDATION

Twenty girls employed at a part-time NYA Resident Center are assisting in the operation of the Gonzales Warm Springs Foundation which upon Saturday rounded out its first week of treatment for crippled children, J. C. Kellah, state NYA administrator, said today.

The girls assist in the preparation and serving of food for the little patients, the making up of beds, caring for the laundry and the other tasks accompanying the normal routine of the Foundation which leaves the two resident nurses free to develop their time to the patients.

With a dozen children already receiving treatment, the units capacity of 16 is expected to be attained within the very near future. Patients are being admitted to the Foundation through the Vocational Rehabilitation and Crippled Children's Division of the State Department of Education, of which J. J. Brown is director.

Ross Boothe and Harold Michel-dentson, both of Gonzales, are president and secretary-treasurer, respectively of the Foundation, located in Palmetto State Park, at Ottine, ten miles north of Gonzales on the Gonzales-Luling highway.

Kellam recalled NYA's first work in connection with the Foundation a NYA construction project to which unemployed youth from Gonzales and surrounding counties were assigned to build the brick structure, now modernly equipped throughout, which contains two eight-bed wards, one for boys and one for girls; a reception room; an office for the nurses and for visiting physicians; two indoor treatment pools for use by the physiotherapist in charge of that work; a kitchen and a dining room. The project also included the construction of the outdoor swimming pool, which like the indoor pools, is fed from the warm springs.

THE BAIRD STAR

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W. E. Gilliland, Editor and Publisher Haynie Gilliland, Asso. Editor

Bear Facts

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 Art Editor..... GENE SWINSON
 Sports Editor..... AUBRAY BUCHANAN
 Reporters..... NOLA VAN GIBSON, DOROTHY YOUNG,
 AND MILDRED COATS.

SCHOOL NEWS—

Pat Estes

The Senior Class salutes the Senior Boys that will graduate this year, they have all played very good and it is everyone's sincerest regret that they must leave the school. We will always remember "this team" for its fair play and good sportsmanship. The boys who graduate are: James Earp, Buddy Brumbaugh, Ben Glover, Bill Hatchett, Aaron Hatley, Jim Bob Denny, Shot Cutbirth, John E. Wheeler, Gene Swinson, Johnny White, Bill Odom, Frankie Crow, Little Bullett Cooke, J. C. Earp, Roy Wiley.

We were all glad to see the "exes" back, it looked very familiar all of them out at the game last Thursday night—a yelling for the Bears. We only hope they enjoyed coming back and visiting the school as much as we enjoyed having them.

We had a grand pep rally last Wednesday night, on Main Street in front of the Quality Cafe. Bettye Estes presided as Mistresses of Ceremonies. Mayor Schwartz was the chief speaker, and Mr. South made a talk also. The "ex-grads" and a few from the audience spoke too. It was one of the largest pep rallies ever held here before a game. The real school spirit was shown and every one had a very good time.

The Junior Class has a new pupil, Dorothy Lofton, from Clyde. The Junior's are glad to have her as one of its members.

HONOR BOY

Ben Glover

When someone says Ben, we hardly know who you are talking about, as Ben is "Wolf" to everyone. He has gone to school here since he first grade, and this year "Wolf" has really made a name for himself in football. He is the heaviest man on the team, he plays Tackle, we all know when Ben is on the field we are going to see some real football playing. The Seniors are proud of you "Wolf" and it is our sincere wish that you have the best of luck when you finish this year.

Favorite subject, Hunting
 Favorite show, The Lone Wolf
 Favorite drink, Cherry-Grape
 Favorite pastime,
 Picking flowers.

S. I. S. NEWS

Friday, November 21, 1941 the S. I. S. Club sponsored a "Sadie Hawkins" party. The girls dated the boys furnishing the cars, etc. After first eating sandwiches at the home of Ivadell Mitchell, the party went to the Paramount Theatre in Abilene.

The members of the S. I. S. are: Mildred Coats, Bettye Estes, Catherine Ford, Janice Ivey, Betty Lewis, Ivadell Mitchell, Elaine Russell, Renee Russell. The club will meet in the room of Betty Lewis next time.

FOOTBALL JACKETS

The following boys are going to be the proud owners of the new 1941-1942 Football Jackets: Raymond Cook, Capt. and 3 year letterman.
 Bill Odom, Capt. and 2 year letterman.
 Frank Crow, 2 year letterman
 J. C. Earp, 2 year letterman
 Ben Glover, 2 year letterman
 Elwood Goin, 2 year letterman
 Junior Cutbirth, 2 year letterman.
 Buddy Brumbaugh, 3 year industry and related activities in letterman.
 Bill Hatchett, 2 year letterman

Jim Bob Denny, 1 year letterman.

James Earp, 1 year letterman
 Aaron Hatley, 1 year letterman
 John Wheeler, 1 year letterman
 Don Parker, 1 year letterman.

The boys are going to get jackets that they will be proud to wear. The jackets will have a maroon body with gray fur in front. There will be a maroon letter "B" made into the fur in front. These jackets will not be reversible.

DRAMATIC CLUB

The Dramatic Club met last Tuesday night at six o'clock. The subject on the evening was panel discussion which was introduced by Betty Gay Lydia. Wallace Bennett was master of ceremonies. The club will meet next Wednesday at 7 o'clock. All are urged to attend.

DELPHIAN DEBS

The "Delphan Debs" had a picnic supper at Stanley's Cafe Monday Nov. 24 and six o'clock. The supper consisted of sandwiches, potato chips, cookies and cold drinks.

The "Debs" then took their guests to Eula to skate, or shall we say "scoot."

After an enjoyable time they called it a night.

BEAR BAND

The band has already started nomination for the Sweetheart of the year. The band will bring the race down into four, where the student body can then vote on their choice for Sweetheart.

The crowning of the Sweetheart will be kept a secret until the band concert around Christmas, when the lucky one will be crowned.

SCIENCE

The Freshman Science Class has organized a club called the "Krazy Kutups". The officers were elected as follows:

President, Nettie Gilliland
 Vice-President, Theda Kerby
 Secretary-Treasurer,
 Patsy Wagner.
 Reporter, T. A. White
 Sergeant-At-Arms,
 Robert Holder.
 Property Men, Sam Gorman
 and K. D. Poe.

The skull and cross bones were selected as the emblems. The colors are black and white. The club will meet each Monday at the freshman science period and a program will be given.

Down In Texas

(By Edmunds Travis)

It may be looking a long way ahead, but the next assembly of Texas lawmakers is likely to be more concerned with reducing taxes than with piling on new taxes.

Reasons will be the pinch of Federal taxes, increased yield of existing State tax and pleas of Federal officials for cutting down non-defense expenditures.

Mr. Average Citizen is due to become extremely tax conscious early next year, when he begins figuring out what he must pay Uncle Sam. By that time, he will have heard from practically all leaders in the national defense effort that non-defense spendings of all kinds must be cut down. Secretary Morgenthau's demand for a billion dollar cut in the Federal government's own non-defense spending is only a starter. Meantime, expansion of defense Texas; plus raising prices, will make all sorts of special taxes

imposed by the State yield more than was anticipated a year ago. For example, the Comptroller's records show production taxes on oil are now bringing more than two million dollars a month. The total for September was \$1,983,609.74, and that for October \$2,081,768.93. Since the outlook is for increased production, it is probable that the oil tax alone will produce \$27,000,000 or more next year, instead of the \$23,000,000 estimated, when the so-called omnibus tax bill was passed.

An important factor in decreasing State expenditures may be the taking over wholly by the Federal government of certain activities now carried on in cooperation with the States. Not only employment compensation, but old-age assistance, may be fully federalized in the near future. Old-age assistance is now one of the very big items of State expenditures.

Washington reports show that many recipients of the Federal benefits provided for aged industrial workers are going back into active careers to aid in the defense program. If there has been any re-employment of persons eligible for old age assistance—in which the State participates—the effect is not yet discernible on the Texas rolls. More than 153,000 persons are now drawing old-age assistance in Texas, the largest number on record.

No doubt the contrast is due to the fact that those drawing old age benefits were employed as skilled workers at the time the Social Security Act was passed, while old-age assistance recipients are mostly from outside the industrial classes, or have not done industrial work for many years.

Disappearance of demands for a special session of the Legislature is regarded by Governor

Coke Stevenson as a sign of a healthy condition in State governmental affairs. But it is also a sign of general recognition that public spending for purposes other than defense must be decreased. The average special session is due largely, to the desire of State departments and institutions for increased appropriations, or to the desire of groups of the citizenship for the creation of new governmental agencies. In the present state of international affairs bigger appropriations for the ordinary activities of State government would be decidedly unpopular. The governor noted in a press interview the other day, that proposed changes in Texas laws to meet defense emergencies have been rendered needless by solution of the problems involved with out legislative action. It is only changes related to defense that would command much support in a special session of the present Legislature.

Not only "legislative rest" but comparative "political peace", so far as the State is concerned, is predicted for the new year by many observers. It is believed that quite a number of candidates for higher State offices will be unopposed. Some observers include in the list of these likely to be continued in office without opposition: Governor Stevenson, Chief Justice Alexander, Attorney General Mann, State Comptroller Shepherd, Land Commissioner Giles and State Treasurer James. Others go so far as to add Senator O'Daniel to this list.

It is certain there will be competition for the offices of lieutenant-governor and railroad commissioner. If Attorney General Mann runs for some other office, or retires, there will be a lively fight for the job he now holds.

Mann is the outstanding un-

predictable in Texas politics at present. The mystery surrounding his intentions has moved Buck Taylor, picturesque free lance writer, to perpetrate a bit of verse, reading in part as follows:

"Jerry, Jerry
 Quite contrary,
 Won't you PLEASE
 Make up your mind?
 Time's a wastin'
 We're Nervous-watin'
 Coke and Wilbur,
 Me and Elmer,
 Jesse, Ralph and Lyddon B.)
 To wait so long
 Is plenty risky,
 All them boys is plenty frisky"
 It may be explained that "Elmer" is Buck's imaginary office boy, while "Wilbur" is Senator O'Daniel, Jesse is State Senator Martin, and Ralph is Judge Yarborough. The two last named are regarded as possible candidates for attorney general if Mann does not run.

Senator O'Daniel struck the keynote of his campaign for reelection in an address last week to the Texas Manufacturers' Convention at Houston. He demanded a constitutional amendment to protect workers in their right to work regardless of membership or non-membership in a labor union, and expressed disgust with "the spectacle of government officials down on their knees pleading with some of these labor union racketeers to permit the production of arms and munitions which are essential to protect America."

A campaign on this same issue in the Tenth Congressional District is almost certain. O. P. Lockhart, State Life Insurance Commission, is practically an avowed candidate for Congressman Lyndon Johnson's seat whether the Congressman seeks reelection or not. "Freedom to

will" will be the outstanding plank in his platform. There are rumors that the same issue will be raised in other districts, but thus far no naming of other candidates who will paramount it.

CLUBBING RATES—The Baird Star and Abilene Reporter News, both one year for \$5.45. The Baird Star.

A CHECKING ACCOUNT

in this Bank
 Serves You in these five ways:

1. It keeps your money safe.
2. It saves you time and effort in paying bills.
3. It gives you accurate control of your finances.
4. It provides receipts for all payments.
5. It furnishes complete records.

The First National Bank of Baird
 BAIRD, TEXAS

(Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation)

MONUMENTS



The fitting tribute to one whom you have loved is a monument of permanence and grace; a stone that will go down through the years marking the last resting place of one whose name you respect and honor.

We have a beautiful line of the very latest designs in grave markers from which to make selections. Our prices are reasonable and our work guaranteed. Come in and look over our line—we will take pleasure in showing you our stock and our workmanship.

At your need, we shall be pleased to serve you.

Sam L. Dryden

782 Walnut Street ABILENE Phone 4176

UP!

... goes the cost of living in the parade of rising prices!

BUT!

... natural GAS remains low in price as it has throughout the years!



Up.. Up.. Up.. go prices! Almost without exception food, clothing, shelter, necessities and luxuries of all kinds have zoomed to a new high. One by one even the most ordinary commodities have joined the ever increasing parade of rising prices to slash deeper and deeper into the family budget. However, there is one outstanding exception because the price you pay for natural gas service is still the same low rate you have paid for many years!

In contrast to your low gas rate, the operating expenses for maintaining gas service continue to mount to an all-time high. For example, taxes alone for 1941 of Lone Star Gas System will require 21c out of every dollar of total revenue received from all sources; shorter working hours for employes, as required by the 40-hour week, have made additional employees necessary; because of the higher cost of living many wages and salaries have had to be increased; such supplies that are available are sharply increased in price.

While other business concerns have been passing similar increased costs of operation on to the consumer, your gas company has continued to absorb the constantly mounting expenses of serving its customers. By guarding against all lost motion, by keeping our wits sharp, by operating with all the efficiency of our trained, experienced organization, we are making every effort to meet the requirements of the present emergency.

Dependable Service for

13¢ A DAY

The annual cost of gas service for Lone Star Gas System residential customers averages only 13 cents a day for all purposes including cooking, water heating, house heating and refrigeration.



LONE STAR GAS SYSTEM

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THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS
DAILY AND SUNDAY
(365 Days a Year)

The latest news is not all! The Dallas News is full of special features that every member of the family will read and enjoy after he is through with the headlines and news items. . . Comic strips—"Facts and Features," a popular column for boys and girls—the helpful foods and fashion pages—complete agricultural, sports, and financial pages make The News the ideal family newspaper.

—And in THE BIG SUNDAY NEWS is even more—"This Week" Colorgrature Magazine, a big comic section in full colors, also Dr. Gallup's weekly poll of public opinion.

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THE DALLAS NEWS,
Dallas, Texas.
Gentlemen:

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Name _____

Post Office _____

R. F. D. _____ State _____

Subscription rates: By mail, daily and Sunday, one year, \$10.00; Six Months, \$5.50; Three Months, \$2.75; One Month \$1.00. The prices effective only in Texas.

Christmas Gift Suggestions

I have a nice assortment of Rugs, Pillow Cases, Vanity Sets, Scarfs, etc., all hand-made. These make practical and appreciated Christmas Gifts.

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- Child's Roll Top Desk and Chair \$6.50
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 - Quarts, Dozen 40c
 - One-Half Gallons, Dozen 50c
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Take 666
LIQUID TABLETS, SALVE, NOSE DROPS

I Give You Texas

By BOYCE HOUSE

1. Don't attend any civic meeting and if you go, arrive late.
2. Never accept an office. It is easier to criticize than do things.
3. Do nothing more than absolutely necessary, but when others use their ability to help matters along, howl that the town is being run by a clique.
4. If you have a suggestion to offer, do not think of going to the authorities in charge—just yell to the world at large.
5. Get "sore" if you are not appointed on a committee, such as the park board, cemetery board or public relations committees; but if you are appointed do not attend committee meetings.
6. Get good and mad at some members of the organization.
7. Be pessimistic about every proposal to expand trade and promote the interests of the town.
8. Watch the proceedings of the local school board and town council, and point out the errors of their ways to everyone who will stop long enough to listen.
9. Encourage your wife and relatives to do their shopping out of town.

"Refuse to make a speech if you cannot make a good one," says The Menard News, claiming that it is better to be suspected of dumbness than to prove it.

"He has good common sense"—"He knows how to get along with the legislature"—

These are typical comments of citizens in a poll conducted by the Texas Surveys of Public Opinion about Governor Coke Stevenson. The poll shows that over 75 per cent of the people approve of him as Governor.

After getting Uncle Reuben seated at a football game between two colleges, his nephew told him "You'll now see more excitement than you ever saw for two dollars"



THE LONG TORSO

The long-waisted look is important this season, especially as emphasized in this New York creation with wide banding hugging the hips. Subtle shirring gives the desired molded and slimming effect. The gown is of filmy white chiffon jersey with full skirt hanging straight. The matching scarf can be draped in a variety of ways.

"I don't know," replied Uncle Reuben, "That's just what the license cost when I married Aunt Jennie."

Recently when your columnist asked the one and only J. Frank Dobie who his favorite Texas characters were, the famous South western writer made this characteristically forthright reply:

"I can think of several Texas characters I have been mighty fond of. None of them have been Ph. D. professors. One was a town scavenger but no mayor has been among them. Two or three have been goat-headers and another was always about to find the Lost Bowie Mine.

"Jim Bowie, with his Bowie knife, comes close to being my favorite character. Several favorites have been old trail drivers, like George W. Saunders, Walter Billingsley, Ab Blocker and Charles Goodnight. One of these range favorites was an old Mexican vaquero.

"Just to satisfy you, I'll name for the moment Bigfoot Wallace as my favorite. He was full of vitality and heartiness. He was as cheerful as a fat mule grazing with mares and colts. He was as honest as daylight and could stretch the blanket wide enough to make it cover half a county. His heart was as big as an ox and he was as simple as a child. He loved good company."

Those of you who heard Dobie on "I Give You Texas and the Great Southwest" at 12:45 p. m. on a recent Sunday over the Lone Star Chain found that he could talk as interestingly as he writes. Maybe your columnist can get him to visit us again soon over the radio.

A stranger applied at the police station for lodging, and when asked his name, replied that it was Smith.

"Give me your real name," he was ordered.

"Well," said the applicant, "put me down as William Shakespeare."

"That's better," said the officer. "You can't fool me with that Smith stuff."

Do Plate Sores Bother You?
Do your gums itch, burn or cause you discomfort, druggists will return your money if the first bottle of "LETO'S" fail to satisfy.

CITY PHARMACY
FOR LEASE—The J. D. Mitchell farm West of Cottonwood, See C. W. Coats, Baird, Texas.

PERSONAL

C. A. Kent of Cross Plains was in Baird Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Glasscock prominent ranch people of Crescent were in Baird Tuesday.

Miss Frances Bauleh left today for a few days visit in San Antonio.

Mrs. E. L. Woods returned Tuesday from a visit with her son, Floyd Woods and family at the Windham ranch at Oplins.

Mrs. W. M. Isenhower of Putnam was in Baird Tuesday and made The Star office a pleasant visit to renew her subscription.

Mrs. Clark Smith of Admiral, another long-time reader of The Star made us a pleasant visit last Saturday to renew her subscription.

Misses Doryce Farrar and Doris Barr of Eula, spent last week end with Doryce's mother, Mrs. Delia Farrar. They returned home Sunday evening.

Mrs. Earle Haley of Big Spring and daughter, Errolene student in Texas Tech, Lubbock, spent Thanks giving with Mrs. Haley's parents Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Bowlius.

Miss Edith Bowlus and little niece Sarah Ann West have returned from a visit with their sister and aunt, Mrs. Earle Haley of Big Spring.

Mrs. J. W. Hays and daughter John Faye, Dug Smartt of Baird and mother, Mrs. N. W. Smartt of Cisco spent Saturday night and Sunday with Mrs. Hays father Mr. Askew at Marble Falls.

Mrs. B. G. Johnson and children Bobby and Basil of Walters Oklahoma and Miss Agnes Eastham, Junior Field Supervisor F. S. A. spent the past week end with their parents Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Eastham.

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Southwest School of Printing
3800 Clarendos Drive, Dallas, Tex.

THANKFULNESS

While the cannons roar in Europe, While the boats sink in the sea, While the bombs fall on Moscow, We should be thankful we are free. We should be thankful for our mothers,

For our brothers and our dads, And hope that Uncle Sam won't fight,

With his free American lads. We should be thankful for our President,

Thankful we can speak as we please.

We don't have to salute any dictator,

As they do far over seas.

These are reasons we should be thankful,

There are many more too.

I think we should thank God

Much more than we do.

By Billy Evans,

Clovis, N. M.

(Age 12 years)

Billy is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Powell, of Baird.

THANKFUL THANKSGIVING—

Many things have I to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. First of all, I am thankful that all of our family are living. I am the oldest child of the B. H. Bennett family of Baird, consisting of father, mother and seven children—Why not be thankful? November 26th was my 40th wedding anniversary—Forty years of happy married life. I have six children in my family, which is also unbroken, which is something to be thankful for also.

But we know that there is a day coming when our family circle will be broken; but I am thankful for the many, happy years we have had together and trust that we will see many more thankful Thanksgivings.

Mrs. S. D. Hooper Baird, Texas.

GIRL WANTED—For Housework No Laundry. Apply at the City Pharmacy.

WHY WASTE TIME looking for a job? Be independent. Sell Rawleigh Products. Good nearby route open. Write today. Rawleigh's, Dept. TXK-38-D, Memphis, Tenn.

If interested in remancing a purchasing farm on long term per cent interest through Federal Land Bank and supplements and Bank—foreclosed farms another real estate for sale; small town payment and easy terms of balance with cheap rate of interest or write,
H. M. Perkins, Sec.-Treas.
Citizens NFLA, Clyde, Texas

WANTED—I want to buy your Pecans, Cream, Chickens, Turkeys, Eggs and Cow Hides.
F. L. WRISTEN.

POSTED—All lands owned and controlled by me are posted. No trespassing allowed.
Tom Windham, Oplins.

BEDROOM—large front Bedroom. all modern conveniences, bath adjoining. Mrs. A. R. Kelton, Baird

WANTED—White Housekeeper. Salary. 1741 Pine St. Abilene, Tex

POSTED NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that all properties owned or controlled by me are now posted for fishing, hunting, trapping and trespassing of every nature. FRED CUTBIRTH. 4-t

FOR SALE—Bundle Case, good heads, well matured. 2 cents per bundle in field. J. W. HARDY, 7 miles south of Clyde. 2t-p

FOR SALE—Dallas and Carpet Grass Seed. Best for permanent pasture. Write and state quantity David Nichols Co., Kingston, Ga.

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—HELP THE RED CROSS—

Let's Be THANKFUL



for the TAXPAYER, too

WE in West Texas have much to be thankful for... bountiful crops, great herds of cattle, sheep and goats, the world's greatest reserve of gas and oil, a plentiful supply of cheap electric light and power, good schools and good highways. Our homes are modern and we enjoy an exceptionally high standard of living.

Yes, no part of the nation has benefited more from the American way of living, or enjoyed more fully the FREEDOM and DEMOCRACY that we now are waging a war to retain.

But West Texas' future prosperity, growth and development depend on what we do today.

Let us look ahead, then, and encourage tax-producing industries with which to pay the tremendous burden of debt now accumulating in astronomical figures and as a means of providing jobs for the many thousands of men and women left jobless when defense projects are at an end. Let's not forget that somebody must "pay the piper" for the years of boondoggling when this country should have been preparing for a war that long ago appeared inevitable.

On this Thanksgiving Day let's be thankful for the taxpayer too!

This Company Is Paying 3/4 of a Million Dollars As Its 1941 Tax Bill

West Texas Utilities Company

IN THIS NEWSPAPER

THE STORY IN BRIEF

Ma Shannon knows her time is short. Her heart is failing. Aged and alone, she invites her children home for what will be her last Christmas. But they can't come. Each writes: "Maybe Next Christmas." Lydia, in New York, is companion to a wealthy invalid, whose husband she hopes to marry. Kenneth is a successful doctor in Chicago, whose wife had made other plans for this Christmas. Robert, in Baltimore, struggling writer, thinks he has a chance to meet a famous publisher at a holiday party. And Sally, in Hollywood, has just gotten a small part in a movie. But Ma is not left alone on Christmas eve after all. The Christmas storm also brings a Christmas baby to her. It was born in a barn where the mother took refuge while her husband went to get help. He got Ma Shannon. The young couple were on the way east looking for work. Their car had broken down. But they really didn't want to go back to the city. They longed to be on a farm. And so Ma Shannon, speaking to the portrait of her husband, "Big Doc," long dead but fondly remembered in the mountain towns as a fine man as well as a good doctor, makes a great resolution. Ma Shannon has a great Christmas.

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER

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Fred Estee, Manager.

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1941 has been a "big year" for news! But 1942 will be even bigger. With U. S. entry into World War II becoming a possibility and National Defense activity touching the lives of every man, woman and child in the United States, it is becoming more vital that every citizen have accurate, up-to-the-minute news.

In 1942 you will need a good newspaper more than ever before. And for folks in Texas there is no better newspaper than The Star-Telegram—the complete State daily. Every member of the family will find news, educational features, fun and information of vital interest.

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For a short time only the mail subscription price is reduced. SAVE BY BRINGING YOUR ORDER TO THIS OFFICE.

Maybe Next Christmas

BY ANNE MARY LAWLER

Installment 1

"Now let me get this straight," Ma Shannon's voice was brisk and businesslike. "This is my last Christmas?"

Young Dr. Monroe reddened with embarrassment. "I'm not doing this at all well," he hesitated, "but—"

"Save that bedside manner of yours for the younger women," Ma snapped. "I want the truth."

John Monroe tapped the shabby desk top with nervous fingers. "Well," he said, reluctantly, "you were a doctor's wife. You understand about these things."

"Yes or no?" Ma was relentless.

"Yes." Relief and concern sat heavily on the doctor's face. "That heart of yours—you've known for years—even before the Big Doc died you knew that—"

"That it wouldn't last forever. I'm 65. Got to die some time. The question is—how long have I got?"

"If you take care of yourself, six months at most."

"I see. And if I don't—sooner?"

John Monroe nodded unhappily. "If—only somebody else could have told you, Ma. I—it's as if—"

"But this is definitely my last Christmas?"

"Yes, Ma."

She sighed heavily, rose to her feet. "I—thought as much. Thank you, Johnny."



"I'm having the children home for Christmas," Ma confided to Dan.

Mountain Creek was meeting Christmas more than halfway. Narrow streets were heavily draped with loops of laurel.

Ma Shannon plodded through the crowds, a little dumpy figure in her ancient hat and unfashionable coat.

Two more weeks—so many things yet to be done, so little time left for the doing. Ma straightened her ridiculous hat with determined hands, smiled at the hurried young couple who had jostled her, and turned firmly into Davis' General Emporium and Postoffice.

Dan Davis was behind the counter. Ma was suddenly filled with a fierce delight.

His smile wrinkled a million large freckles. "Hello, young lady," he hailed. "Doing your Christmas shopping?"

"I've been walked on by every man, woman and child in Mountain Creek," Ma complained.

"Serves you right for not doing your shopping early."

"I'm a lazy old lady," she admitted shamelessly. She asked for some 3-cent stamps.

"Sounds—" the young voice faltered, "sounds as if you were going to write some letters. Give her my love."

"Sally?"

For a sharp second the boy's heart stood naked in his eyes. "Who else but Sally?"

Ma leaned across the battered counter.

"I'm having the young ones home for Christmas," she confided. "Now maybe if you was to come sashayin' up to the house, by accident—"

"It's a date," the boy grinned.

The letters to her children must be very carefully composed, Ma decided. Just the right amount of lightness—but not too light. They might suspect. Particularly Lydia, Lydia was sharp.

The letter to Lydia first, then. Ma gripped the pen in her work-battered fingers.

"Dear Lydia—," the pen spat.

Lydia was in New York. She was 35, sleek, sophisticated, ambitious. She had studied nursing, grasped stenography and typing and learned to speak two languages in an appallingly short period of time. Now she was secretary-nurse-companion, at a fabulous salary, to a wealthy invalid.

Ma relentlessly drove her pen to lofty flights of rhetoric. "How have you been? It's been pretty warm here for December, but all the local weather prophets are promising a blizzard soon."

Ma frowned. The letter was getting nowhere, so she briskly attacked it from a new angle.

"I am inviting all the children home for Christmas. Christmases get rather precious at my age." No. Ma scratched out the last sentence. Lydia would fathom its wistful transparency.

"I know it's asking a good deal to expect you to come all the way from New York just for a few days, but—"

—Ma chewed the penholder viciously, "but—Christmas is for family get-togethers, and we've all been separated too long. Take care of yourself and let me know when to expect you. Love, Mother."

Ma reread the letter approvingly. "Brief and to the point," she nodded and essayed her second letter.

"Dear Dr. Shannon"—that should please Kenneth, she thought to herself, a trifle maliciously. Kenneth was something of a stuffed shirt about titles. Odd that she and gentle Christopher Shannon should have produced two such austere and correct children as Lydia and Kenneth.

"I think you've been working too hard. Your letters sound cross and

grumpy. I prescribe a good, old-fashioned Christmas with all the trimmings. Mountain Creek still brags about you. Why not give us a treat? Besides, there'll be roast turkey with chestnut dressing."

"I am writing all the other children and it will be just like the old days again. Don't say you're too busy. Even doctors have to stop now and then. Love to Phyllis and kiss the baby for me. Mother."

Kenneth was the successful Shannon. He had inherited his father's deft fingers and observant eyes. It was as natural that he would turn to medicine as rivers turn toward the sea.

"I'm not throwing myself away on a dump like Mountain Creek the way Dad did," he had announced. "No horse and buggy for me. No, nor calls at midnight to deliver children to people who haven't paid for the last litter. If Dad had collected a quarter of his fees we could all retire and live on the income."

Kenneth had gone to Chicago. His assured manner and classic profile had neatly supplemented a natural talent for medicine. And his marriage to the socially prominent daughter of the head of Chicago's Central Clinic had not hampered his progress.

Kenneth at 39 was wealthy, successful, assured. Ma was a trifle in awe of her firstborn. She turned hastily to her third letter.

"Dear Robert: I am expecting you home for Christmas." No delicate prelude to her younger son's letter. Robert was a writer, the least aggressive of the Shannons. Ma suspected there were many days when Robert's meals were something short of lavish, when his socks were undarned and his suits unpressed. Robert had migrated to Baltimore and entombed himself in a boarding house to write the great American novel.

"I am sending you a little money. I know I have no right to ask you to make the trip at your own expense. Baltimore to Mountain Creek is a long way. I have written all the children to come home. It will be like old times."

—Ma, clutched the pen with unsteady fingers. Ah, the sharp stabbing pain in her breast! It beat a steady rhythm in her blood: "Last Christmas—last Christmas—last Christmas—"

"Bring your novel home with you. I want you to read it to me. I am so proud of you and know it will be a great success." Flattery, gross and heavy, but the weak must be flattered and petted and cajoled. "I read the poem in the little magazine you sent me. It was lovely. If only your father were alive to see it. Most of Mountain Creek asks for you. Nothing much new. I am knitting you a nice warm sweater—blue—you always liked blue. Love, Mother."

Ma's breath labored in short panting gasps. She was tired. The nagging pain gave her no rest. But there was still one more letter to be written. She dipped the pen into the chipped inkwell and carefully traced:

"Dear Sally:" Sally's letter must be gay and frivolous and inconsequential. Ma felt anything but gay and frivolous. "Come home. All is forgiven. What has Hollywood to offer that Mountain Creek can't beat? Besides, we're having a Christmas turkey with chestnut stuffing. And giblet gravy. And hot mince pie with hard sauce. From what I read in the magazines nobody in Hollywood eats anything but sawdust and skim milk. But I still make Christmas cookies the way I used to and the nail where you always hung your stocking is still over

the fireplace. I've written Lydia and Robert and Kenneth and it ought to be a regular family reunion. I saw the picture with you in. Dan Davis took me. We had to sit through it twice because we missed you the first time. It was sort of hard picking you out in that mob scene, but you looked beautiful. I will be looking forward to an old-fashioned family Christmas. Your father always said—"That Christmas was invented so people who loved each other could be together. Dan sends his love. So do I. Mummy."

Pretty, petted, spoiled Sally, with her candid blue eyes and her riotous blonde curls and her overweening ambition to be an actress.

"She can't act worth a penny," was Ma's inward comment, recalling a succession of high school plays. "But she's so easy to look at. Maybe that's all Hollywood needs."

She stamped her letters thoughtfully. For a short while the irritating pain ceased. Ma chuckled. "Doctors are sometimes wrong," she consoled herself. "Maybe I'll fool Johnny Sawbones yet. Maybe next Christmas—" but she knew it was only bravado. "Maybe next Christmas—"

Lydia Shannon carefully arranged the morning mail.

A few personal letters for Eve Wainwright Lydia would open them later, read them to the invalid in her quiet, sympathetic voice.

Carter Wainwright's mail she laid carefully next to his plate. The one on top—the heavy flecked polo cloth—scrawled in large and arrogant script, that would be from Margot Haines. Lydia's fine mouth thinned sharply. If Margot Haines cherished the delusion that Carter Wainwright might make an acceptable husband, she was mistaken. Margot's matrimonial ventures were numerous and publicized, and Margot was beautiful and fascinating—but—there was Lydia. And Lydia had long ago decided elderly and wealthy Carter Wainwright was her own private property.

The invalid upstairs had a limited lease on living, and Lydia was both patient and clever.

She rang for the quiet Jap, gave him orders in her low, businesslike voice.

Kato's eyes were beadily emotionless. He padded from the room without a sound, and Lydia at last turned to her own mail, three letters impatiently craving her attention. She fingered them lightly. A heavy crested envelope postmarked "Monte Carlo." That would be the charming and impetuous young Duke she had met last September.

The second letter wore a chilling lack of personality. It was postmarked "Baltimore." Lydia frowned, Robert again, and very likely begging for more money.

The third letter was shabby, untidy and unassuming. It bore the legend, "Mountain Creek."

Lydia carefully slit the communication from Monte Carlo, read it through with amusement. Nikki was a dear.

The second letter was short and blunt. Yes, Robert wanted money. With characteristic lack of finesse he stated his problem starkly in the first crowded paragraph. "I'm invited to the Christmas banquet of the Writers Club. I can't afford not to go. Perry Boyle will be there. He's the publisher, you know. It's formal and I've got to get a dinner jacket. If Boyle notices me, my novel has a chance."

Lydia tossed the letter aside. Robert's petulant problems always up set her.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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