

# SANTA ANNA NEWS

SANTA ANNA, COLEMAN COUNTY, TEXAS, DEC. 23, 1927.

NUMBER 52

VOL. NO. 42

"HE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST"



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# Christmas With Soldiers of the Southland

By J. H. LOWRY

NATURALLY, as we enter into the celebration and observation of the gladdest season of the year the desire comes upon us to know how other people, under other circumstances, have observed the day of days, and when the clouds hung low and were heavy, whether the great day made a rift and let the sun shine in. We know it does with us. Times of depression, times of disappointment, times of great anxiety are incident to the journey of life. The lamps of prosperity do not always burn; our plans, though well laid, "gang aft agley," and the road is lined with bitter disappointments and unfavorable conditions that make the heart sad. But, in spite of these disappointments, these unfavorable conditions and the many incidents that touch sorrow into the heart, Christmas time is always a good time with us. When the anniversary of the Christ Child's birth waves its magic wand over the world a wondrous spell is worked upon the people and they forget the things that worry and vex, hush the doleful tunes and sing songs of gladness. Having experienced the magic touch which is an open sesame to gladness and mirth, we wonder whether those who were passing through darker periods and under heavier clouds felt the same urge to gladness and joy with the approach of the Yuletide season. Our thoughts frequently turn, at Christmas time, to the soldier boys doing battle for their country, and we wonder what Christmas meant to them.

Just now I am thinking of the "Johnny Rebs," the glory and chivalry of the Southland in the early sixties, and whether Christmas lifted the war clouds that hung over them and touched its spirit of gladness into their aching hearts. They had gone forth from happy homes and from a land where, before the doors of Janus Temple were thrown wide open and grim-visaged war went stalking through, the lamps of prosperity glittered and gleamed. They had left fathers, mothers, wives, children, sweethearts to fight a foe that seemed invincible on account of superior numbers, wealth and munitions, but before which they never quailed. Poorly equipped for the titanic struggle, they soon found themselves reduced to sore need. When their clothing wore out, it had to be replaced from scanty stores, if replaced at all. Food soon grew scarce, and many wearers of the gray wrapped their blankets about them and laid down to dream of home and loved ones, and seek rest from their sorrows in sleep, while their bodies craved food. Communication with home was poor, and as they marched and fought many of them did not know whether the loved ones back at home were sick or well, hungry or well fed, alive or dead. Did Christmas work its magic spell upon them and fill them, as it does us, with gladness?

The gray line is a very thin line now

and few of the "old boys" are left to give information of the dark days of the great internecine strife which bathed the Southland in blood and tried the souls of the bravest and the strongest. I have talked with but few of the venerable heroes recently, because there are very few in the community in which I reside, but in days gone by I have talked with many, and asked them especially how they "carried on" during Christmas time—whether Christmas meant anything to them during the dark days that tried their souls. Every one of the old heroes replied in the affirmative. "I don't know why," said a veteran who left an arm at Chickamauga, "but Christmas time was a good time, even when we were nothing more than targets for Yankee marksmen, when we were expected to be called into the cannon's mouth at any time, and had but slight hopes of ever seeing those we loved again. We were usually ragged, we were poorly fed much of the time; our bodies were tired and our bones ached, but when Christmas came it seemed that we were new creatures, living in a new world. It seemed that my hatred of the enemy became less intense, the rough food tasted better, and the ground upon which we slept grew softer. I was never in a battle on Christmas Day, and never heard of one. I doubt exceedingly whether a battle could have been pulled off on Christmas. Loyal as the soldiers on the opposing sides were, there was no fight in them when the anniversary of the birth of the Prince of Peace came on. I always tried to serve my country by making my shots tell, but if I had been called into battle Christmas Day I am not sure that I would not have fired into the air. Of course we couldn't do much in the way of observing the day, but it always cast its spell over and made us more tolerant, more generous and more kind. We were more generous of heart and more free with the few things we had, and more hospitable. Those who had tobacco divided it with their mess-mates, those who had managed to possess a little fire-water, gave comrades a drink, and if one had received something appetizing from home, he was by no means selfish with his dainties and substan-

tials. Everything possible was done in those awful days when Christmas time came on. We played games, we had target practice, and we occasionally engaged in an old square dance, the figures of which were executed vigorously if not gracefully." Virtually all the Confederates with whom I have talked gave substantially the same account of Christmas in the Southern army—it was with the soldiers as it is with us—it took away their baser passions and revealed their better parts.

I was privileged not very long ago to read a letter written by a Southern soldier, on Christmas Eve, to his wife. I do not have the letter in possession now, and of course can not quote it verbatim, but it made such an impression on my mind I believe I can reproduce

things for our country's sake. I have had fears that I would never see you again, and would pass from earth without having seen my dear baby's face, which would be a fate too cruel for words to tell. But I do not have such fears today. Christmas is coming, and it has brought me the greatest gift I have ever known. It gives me the blessed assurance that I will pass through this fiery trial unharmed, and that I shall, after a season of waiting and hardship, be with you and our babe. I know that the spirit of Christmas is not a merciless cheat. I know that what has been whispered into my ear and to my soul this Christmas Eve is true, and that I shall see you again, and that as the years roll on our lives will be as peaceful and our hearts as happy as our war-time days are stormy and heart-rending. Of this happiness I have no doubt, and though far away, I will have sweet dreams of you tonight. Old Santa has been good to me."

Christmas did not prove a merciless cheat to this soldier of the Confederacy.

He did pass through the fiery trial unscathed; he did return to his home, his wife and child, when the war drum ceased to throb and the cannon's roar was hushed. He lived a long and useful life; he prospered; he reared several children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and only a short time since he went home to reap the joys of a life well spent. He told me that the message spoken to him on the anniversary of that eventful eve when the angelic choir chanted the message of "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men," he never doubted, and even though he was far from home and poorly protected against the cold of the winter night, no sweeter sleep ever came to him, neither did he ever wake with a heart more happy.

Since this story was begun an old ex-Confederate, one of the three left in the town in which I live, dropped in. He was ready to talk over his war-time days, and apparently glad to tell of his experiences during the awful struggle between the States. He had participated in many battles, and had seen many of the leaders whose names now

make golden and glorious the pages of Southern history. Finally I reached the subject of Christmas, and I ask whether he had any fun at Christmas time. "Lots of fun," he replied. "Of course it wasn't like being at home, but some of us were determined to have fun any way. We took ears of corn, grilled small holes in many of the grains and filled the holes with powder. Then we touched a hot iron to one of the grains, and such a popping, such a shooting, you never heard. We also had horse races and foot races, and got a kick out of Christmas in spite of the fact that we were soldier boys, far from home. One Christmas night there was a big dance at a home not very far from our camp. I heard of the entertainment and determined I would attend. It was against the rules, but I determined, go, even if I had to break a rule and suffer the consequences. My captain was one of the best fellows on earth, and I approached him and asked him what he would do if I should attend the dance. He winked his eye and said I won't report you if I don't see you, and I won't be looking around much tonight. I went to that dance and had the time of my life. I didn't get back to camp until morning, but the Captain was not 'looking around' when I left or when I returned."

One Christmas many years ago I attended a Christmas dinner at which many ex-Confederate veterans were guests. Naturally the conversation turned to Christmas time in the army, and each veteran told how he spent the great day when he was following the Stars and Bars in defense of the Southland back in the sixties. Each got a thrill out of the day in some way and had an interesting story to tell of something that transpired to make Christmas a pleasurable or joyful time. The story that touched me most was the one told by a Tennessee veteran, who served almost from the beginning of the strife at Fort Sumpter until the Stars and Bars were furled at Appomattox. The gray-bearded veteran said that a short time before Christmas he was paroled in order that he might visit his home, the first that he had made since enlisting for service. He had his parole all right, but he had a long journey to make in order to reach home for Christmas, which he was determined to do. Occasionally he rode behind some one on a horse a few miles, occasionally one would loan a horse, to be a few miles, then sent home by an acquaintance, and occasionally he was given a lift by some teamster, but most of the long journey was made on foot. He reached home Christmas Eve about 11 o'clock, and to his great surprise, found his parents, brothers and sisters sitting before a big fire. They had not heard a word from him for several weeks, but for some reason that can not be explained they believed he would be at home to spend Christmas, and so they were sitting up waiting for him.



"He reached home Christmas Eve about 11 o'clock"

it almost in the words of the writer. The soldier had been married about a year when the tocsin of war sounded and the glory and the chivalry of the South's young manhood rushed from the factory, field and shop to join the Southland's colors. A few months after he went away to face his country's foes, a son was born. This son the soldier had never seen. While the letter was pathetic in its anxiety for loved ones, and the soldier's desire to be with those who were dearer to him than life itself, it breathed the spirit of Christmas from beginning to end. I am attempting to quote the letter from memory here:

"This is Christmas Eve, and oh how great it would be to be with you. How fine to take you in my arms, again, and then to hold and love our baby, who has never seen his father's face. But fate has decreed our separation for a time, and we must be willing to endure all

## "Christmas 'Ain't' What It Used to Be"

By SAM E. MILLER

DLING away an hour in the office of my doctor friend the other afternoon, we sat where we could see the Christmas crowds hurrying and bustling up and down the street, busy on this or that purchase; friends stopped to chat, smile and laugh, in keeping with the spirit of the season. Finally the doctor knocked the ashes out of his pipe, yawned slightly and remarked:

Lacking the Cheerful Abandon.

"Christmas today is sorter like the famous old gray mare, 'she ain't what she used to be.' That is, Christmas today ain't observed in the same cheerful abandon as when I was a boy, growing up in a small town over in East Texas. One striking difference, in those days we'd never heard of Hallowe'en, and we didn't know much about the Fourth of July as a holiday, so, at Christmas time we combined the three celebrations into one. I recall that one summer I visited a schoolmate in the North and on the Fourth of July I remarked that the way they observed it reminded me of Christmas, and when he spent the next Christmas with me he remarked that it reminded him of the Fourth of July in the North and Hallowe'en rolled into one.

"See that woman over there?" continued the doctor. "She has more bundles of Christmas do-dads in her arms than we youngsters got in any three Christmases. I distinctly recall the happenings of one Christmas that is typical of most of them. I was blessed, and sometimes I thought cursed, with a foster brother. His name was Buck, and we were about the same age and boon companions in youthful pranks. This Christmas of which I am thinking, came on Friday, which meant that we had from Thursday until Sunday as holidays. Thursday morning mother began laying out chores for the day and they

were plenty, but when she said something about Aunt Sary Ann, the colored cook, not having time to kill the turkeys, Buck, who was just naturally built to butt in where he had no business, volunteered that we would kill them for her.

Buck's Complex.

"Buck was a pretty good fellow, but suffered with that superiority complex of wanting to appear in the limelight; he would never admit that there was anything in the world he could not do, and he usually got me in trouble trying to do it. We pulled the biggest gobbler out of the coop and Buck said for me to hold his feet and wings while he stretched its neck across a log and used the axe. That's what we started to do, but just when everything was set one of the Parker boys called to us from an alley. As I turned my head to look toward him I heard the axe hit the log, and then let go the turkey to give it room for its death struggle; but Buck had turned his end loose, too, after aiming the axe in the direction of the turkey's neck. The gobbler, untouched by the axe, scooted scot-free

across the lot. It took us nearly an hour to catch him and I tore my shirt and a hole in my pants while Buck fell in a lot of dead bull nettles, got all stuck up, and I was glad of it.

"As I recall, our afternoon was spent down on the creek gathering bamboo vines, holly, sprinkled profusely with rich red berries, for decorating things,

one present got a gift of some kind. I got a red and blue striped handkerchief and Buck got a black string necktie and spent any number of hours afterwards trying to tie the blamed thing so it would look good with a celluloid collar.

"After these ceremonies the boys ganged up for the main event of the occasion, which was to deal the most



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grievous to the leading citizens of the community. It was a very successful evening, judging from what we heard about it the next day. I came pretty near falling out of the top of a hickory tree when I was detailed to climb it and securely tie Major Bishop's well bucked, rope, pulley and all, in the very top of the tree.

Christmas Tree at Church.

"A Christmas tree at the church that night was another feature, and every

one present got a gift of some kind. I got a red and blue striped handkerchief and Buck got a black string necktie and spent any number of hours afterwards trying to tie the blamed thing so it would look good with a celluloid collar.

"After these ceremonies the boys ganged up for the main event of the occasion, which was to deal the most grievous to the leading citizens of the community. It was a very successful evening, judging from what we heard about it the next day. I came pretty near falling out of the top of a hickory tree when I was detailed to climb it and securely tie Major Bishop's well bucked, rope, pulley and all, in the very top of the tree.

"Practically every sign in town was changed. Buck and I had a terrible time convincing father that we had nothing whatsoever to do with placing the undertaker's sign over his office door, and while we did have a hand in putting the Mayor's famous driving horse in the hot tamala vendor's stable, and the Mexican's burro in the palatial stall of the mayor's, said burro announcing the change by braying long, loud and constant in the early morning,

still we didn't have a thing to do with putting Bill Simpson's cart wheels on Mrs. Sherman's new carriage, nor did we know anything about Mr. White's Jersey cow climbing the stairs into the chapel room of the high school building until next day. However, we were both charged with having had a hand in it all.

Law of Compensation.

"But listen! The old law of compensation was working then just about like it does now if you'll stop long enough to analyze the situation. Three of our girl cousins with two of their girl friends came to spend the holidays at our home and two of the Parker boys spent night with us. We four boys, our room upstairs, having a cot in it, while the girls had the spar just across the hall. When in everything was very quiet, expressed a good deal of sympathy, the girls not having any fun, things! We finally had to choke 'em off and make him go to sleep.

"The next morning it was terrific cold and we had no fire in our room, were awake early to get down stairs to see what Santa Claus had left in socks. Buck, as usual, was the first out of bed and when his bare feet struck the floor he gave a mighty howl and swore it was colder than blue blazes. Buck never did have any sense about smiles. He started to hustle into his clothes, but when he got to his pants he halted with one foot half through, said foot failing to go any farther. He wobbled and hopped around on one foot, finally stopping to see 'how come.' We heard him say: 'Well, I'll be everlastingly dingswizzled. Who the dingnation sewed up my breeches?' He still glared at us suspiciously. By this time we were all sitting up in bed watching him, with the cover gathered snugly about us. Buck was sure one of us was guilty and grabbed Tom Parker's

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# CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

By J. H. LOWRY

**Christ, the Universal Gift.**  
Two thousand years ago, in the land of Old Judea, the walls of the great celestial concave were filled with floods of golden light. And as the great magazines of the skies blazed forth in splendors that man had never seen before, and that have not met man's gaze since that eventful eve, the glad song of the singing seraphs brought to the world the message of "Peace, Good Will."  
The message was heard by the simple shepherds who patiently watched their flocks by night; but it was a message for all the world. Good Will found its expressions in a gift, a saving gift, for on that night a Saviour was given to the world, and He is the Prince of Peace.  
In a few days we are to observe again the anniversary of the birth of the Prince of Peace. The heavens may not glow with splendor, the evening star may not again cut loose from its moorings to hold its radiant torch over a hallowed scene, but the song of the angelic hosts will fall in sweetest cadence, and there will come to every heart that will receive it the message heard by the shepherds of old, on that eventful night, "Peace, Good Will."  
May it be given unto all of us to put away all strifes, all envyings and all jealousies, and be at peace with all mankind—to wish every heart happiness and every creature well. It was a song and a message for all. May it cover the earth, even as the waters cover the sea.



**What Is Christmas?**  
It is the twenty-fifth day of the twelfth month of the year, you say. Nay, it is not a day, it is not a time, it is not a season. It is a birth, a crucifixion, a death, a resurrection. It was a birth we did not know, or had forgotten was within us, a crucifixion of thoughts that defiled, a death of desires that destroyed our better selves—a resurrection of God in man.  
Christmas burgeons and blooms even in fields of nakedness and sorrow. It paints pictures of hope on dark clouds of despair. Its holy spirit is peace stilling angry waves, smiling away the frowns of want, and dispelling the sorrows of hate.  
May He Who gave it grant us the grace to forget our wants and enjoy our gifts, to minimize the little we have done or given, and count o'er and o'er what has been given to and done for us. Above all, may it be given unto us to forget the little wrongs we have endured

and sorrow over the many wrongs we have done.  
**Some Signs of Christmas.**  
Even if we did not have the calendar to guide us, we would know Christmas is near, so numerous are the signs pointing to the approach of the great day. A week or two ago little Johnnie was rather a bad boy, and quite frequently the switch had to be used as a persuader when mother or father decreed that he perform some service or look after his person; but little Johnnie is a very different boy now. He will wash his face, or his feet, and will even obey orders to take a bath without threats of punishment or undue urging. Furthermore, he is as polite as it is possible for a boy to be, and without being asked helps his mother with the housework and other duties about the home. He is even nice to his big sister, to whom he has long been a holy terror, runs errands for her without complaint of being hired and stays away from the parlor when her sweetheart calls. But little Johnnie isn't the only member of the family who apparently has been reincarnated and over whose ways and dreams a wonderful change has come. His mother is a new creature also. If husband is a little late for dinner, or brings company home for lunch without notifying her in advance, she utters not a word of rebuke, neither does she pout; on the contrary, she meets him at the door arrayed in a neat frock, and her hair is in perfect order. And when husband has been served a splendid repast and leaves home for the scene of his daily labors, she follows him to the door, urges him not to work too hard, and gives him a kiss, suggestive of engaged lovers. And a change has also come over little Johnnie's big sister. She seems much fonder of her beau, and does not fuss with him when she sees him talking with another girl. And what about big sister's beau? He grows very diplomatic, and uses all the arts of speech and suggestion to cause his lady love to divulge what she wants for Christmas, but of course she gives no evidence of understanding what he is trying to ascertain. Something is unthoughtfully said, however, that furnishes the gallant swain a clue, and when big sister gets the ring or the lavalliere Christmas morning she breaks forth in rapturous rapture and says so sweetly, "It was just what I wanted; how in the world did you find out?" Yes, Christmas is coming.  
Who can define the Christmas spirit?

No tongue, no pen. Who can feel the Christmas spirit? All who can master self—whosever will.  
The Christmas spirit is a flower of hope blooming in a desert of despair. It is the voice of the angel of peace bidding us forget our wants and enjoy what we have. It is the star of triumph glittering and gleaming on the shores of victory. It bids us lock all our ugly thoughts, spiteful wishes and unholy desires in the strong box of forgetfulness and nourish our kindly feelings and tender passions. It enables us to endure what fate or chance proclaimeth best and give a sincere wish for the peace and happiness of every creature. It is the spirit of Gethsemane, the spirit of the Cross, the spirit of the Empty Tomb, living in us.  
**Gives Needed Relaxation.**  
One of the great blessings given by Christmas is the rest and relaxation, the visiting of friends, and the reunions of families, the things we do not have time to do at other seasons. In this busy life, which to most of us is a kind of cruel concatenation that kills our better selves, our ideals and our dreams—an endless routine of serious work and serious planning—we forget that the elements of play and rest are needed. This is a materialistic age, and it is made up largely of hard living, carking care, grinding toil and burdened minds. In the faces of most of us are seen the money lines, the policy lines, the lines plowed by care and greed. These tell a story of worry and weariness and anxiety, but how rare the light of cheerfulness and contentment. The people need the relaxation, the rest, the unburdening of minds and hearts and hands, and all of the good cheer that Christmas gives.  
**Will It Be a Happy Christmas?**  
Undoubtedly. Every Christmas is a happy Christmas. Each recurring anniversary of the Saviour's birth brings the same message of Peace and Good Will, and peace and good will are the essential elements of happiness. The birth of the Christ Child brought joy to the world, and joy has been in the world since Bethlehem's Babe was laid in a manger and worshiped by the wise men of the East. Many of old would not accept the joy brought to the world on that day of days, and of course there were no gladness, no peace, no good will for them. A great king in his palace trembled with fear, but the simple shepherds in the field rejoiced and were glad. To old Scrooge Christmas time was foolishness and waste, because it meant a day of rest for the weary, the loss of a

dollar by his bank, a good dinner for the hungry, a merry twinkle in the eye and a song of rejoicing; but to Old Scrooge's nephew Christmastime was a good time. One saw nothing better or more glorious in all the world than a pile of gold, over which he stretched his bony fingers and gleefully exclaimed, "That's mine." The other saw a loving, tender Saviour coming to earth, living a perfect life, dying the ignominious death of the cross, coming forth from the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, bringing life and immortality to light and redeeming sinful men. One withheld from a shivering employe fuel to warm his chilled body and denied him a day of rest; the other went forth to gladden and bless the world by word and deed. It will be a happy Christmas, but some may turn from the happiness; just as many turned from the glad song of the angelic hosts. There will necessarily be sorrows for many, and pains of body for some when the great day comes, for these are incident to life's journey, and each day brings its share, but Christmas looks beyond these to the time when pains and disappointments shall cease and sorrow will be no more. Even though we should be called to look upon the marble clay of one dearer to us than life itself, Christmas will whisper to our aching hearts that we observe the anniversary of one Who conquered death, hell and the grave. Afflictions of the body and heart may tear us with pain or sorrow, but Christmas will tell us that Bethlehem's Babe has gone to prepare a place where there is no sorrow or crying, neither is there pain. Christmas is the day of hope; it turns the heart from the afflictions of earth to joys of the beyond, to which the afflictions of earth are not worthy to be compared.  
**A Christmas Wish.**  
And now to you, dear reader, I send greetings of the glad season. We are all trying with our little puny minds to grasp the full meaning of the Saviour's coming to earth—the full meaning of the sacrifice He made for us; but we can only see and understand in part.  
We cannot know the fullness of His love, or give Him the millionth part of the debt of gratitude we owe, because of the limitations of the heart and mind of man, neither can I convey to you the richness of the measure of gladness I would have the great day touch into your hearts and lives, because of the feebleness of word and thought.  
May peace and joy come into your lives and abide, and as you meet the days that are to come and go, may each in its turn bring you new joys and sing unto your hearts new songs of gladness.

**The Closing Year.**  
Before another installment of this department of the paper is exposed to the cruel light of day, the year that now is will have passed into history and the figures in the date line will show that the world is working under a new span of Time. We reckon our ages and date our little transactions by years, so when a sufficient number of journeys have been made by the earth around the sun, Time moves up a cog and the world is a year older. There remain but a few more days of nineteen twenty-seven. The sand in the glass is running out, and the embers in the grate are burning low and losing their radiant glow.  
The death of a year brings a tinge of sadness to those who pause and reflect. They see, of course, in the passing of the year the death of hopes that found no fond fruition, while on every side ghosts of neglected opportunities stare and mock. But the passing of a year comes as a friend to those who use its last hours for sober, earnest reflection. 'Tis true that many of the things we hoped to do in nineteen twenty-seven we have not done, and will not do ere the winter's winds sing a dirge over the year that is no more. 'Tis true that many of our schemes went adrift, that many of our plans failed, that many of the golden apples of promise turned to ashes on our lips and that many a rainbow of hope was obscured by clouds of darkest hues. It will do us no harm to recount our neglected opportunities and our disappointments, neither is it harmful to sorrow over them a little, if we keep our sorrow from the darkness of despair and refuse to permit melancholy to have dominion over us because of our sins and failures. There is a sorrow that nerves the arm and steels the soul for combat, and happy are we if we enter into it. Opportunities have been neglected, but Opportunity is not dead. Failures we have made, but the will to dare and the strength to do remain. A New Year comes and opens the gates anew, and the challenge comes to every one to try again. We are soon to gaze upon the embers of another dying year. May we see in these fading embers the passing of every disappointment, the destruction of every ignoble desire and the challenge to our heroic side as we hopefully look for the New Year's golden dawn.  
"They do me wrong who say I come no more  
When once I knock and fail to find you in,  
For every day I stand outside your door  
To bid you wake, and rise, and fight and win."  
"Wail not for precious chances passed away,  
Weep not for golden ages on the wane;  
Each night I burn the records of the day;  
At sunrise every soul is born again."

## Boyhood Thoughts of Christmas

**By AUSTIN CALLAN**  
CHRISTMAS always has a thrill for the normal man. When one gets to where his pulse doesn't beat a little faster and his heart thump a little merrier at the approach of this glad day, he is either a chronic groucher or dead from the neck up.  
Looking back down Memory's Lane I see many green and shady spots. The Yuletides were just wonderful! But there was some disappointment with the gladness. I reckon the most of us have had tears mingled in with our smiles. I reckon we have all sobbed at times as well as laughed.  
There was one thing I never could understand when I was a boy. I wondered why it was that Santa Claus leave a jeans suit and a pair of shoes for me and nice clothes and shoes for that red-headed Clark the other side of the rail fence separated our homes. When I was years old I wrote Santy a letter that I also told him that the Clark boy got an air rifle with a nickel barrel while I didn't get anything but a wooden pop-gun.  
That very Christmas I asked for a tricycle and all I received was two or three pieces of home-made candy which stuck to the bottom of my wool sock and messed it up so bad that I couldn't wear it. The sock was hanging too close to the fire.  
I never lost faith in old Santy, however. We had a Republican postmaster, and my people tried awful hard to keep him from getting the office. I just put it down that he never sent my letter.  
But even as children we had a wonderful conception of what Christmas meant. Though our gifts were few and inexpensive, we knew that it was a season for cheery hearts. That all the world benefited by a marvelous gift of Love which found its way into human lives on this day.  
We didn't have so much to detract from the real significance of the occa-



sion then. We saw less of the glitter and heard more of the manger in which a Babe had smiled some two thousand years ago. When we looked out through a little window with a shutter that moved up and down in a wooden slide, across the garden and smoke house and a wide prairie all covered with snow, it seemed a new world—everything was so still and holy-like.  
I recollect one Christmas when a brother and myself each got an apple and a tin bugle. He was the best trader of the two and he would let me blow his bugle for a bite of my apple. Finally all of my apple was gone and the bugle was worn out. It wouldn't make a sound. Then he talked me into swapping bugles with him.  
In my old home plum pudding was the Christmas delicacy. I never once saw the table without this steaming dish all pitted with fat and juicy berries. My mother took pride in making a pudding for her Jeems. The first time the two met was at a Christmas dinner prepared in honor of Lieutenant John B. Hood, then stationed at the frontier. That was before the war and wild turkeys constituted the meat which was served. They were killed along the Jim Ned creek in Coleman County, Texas, by soldiers under Fitzhugh Lee.  
I don't know what sort of a place Heaven is. But unless they celebrate Christmas and my mother cooks a plum pudding for my father, I know it will be lonesome for him.  
One of the great Christmas sports in the little town where I was raised was the Roman candle battle. The two sides of the main street would line up the

night before Christmas and shoot it out with fire-spitters. We didn't have any regulations then and the houses were mostly lumber. I don't know how we kept from burning them all down. Grown-ups would generally furnish the Roman candles for the boys. If there was somebody some of them didn't like they would get the "ammunition" and have us set that fellow afire. I remember that we chased a drummer named

boys predicted that in a few years Christmas would not be celebrated at all.  
The colored folks always had a big dance and a possum feast. I lived three blocks from Jim and Harriet Trammell, where the colored festivities were held. One Christmas Eve night the Trammell home burst into flames and there was a wild hurrying and scattering. Harriet was screaming at the top of her voice to save the baby. It was asleep in a little side room at the rear. "O, Jim, Jim, our Molly is gwine to perish," she shouted, but Jim disappeared. Finally some one rescued Molly and about five minutes later Jim showed up. He had gone to take his possum to a place of safety.  
The first mantle from which I ever hung my stocking spanned a fireplace about six feet wide. It would hold a log so big that it took all the men folks on the place to get it in. The night before Christmas a row of stockings would hang from that mantle which looked like a family washing.  
I recollect one time that I peeped through a crack in the logs which separated the fireplace from the bedroom and I saw Santa Claus putting nuts and candy in our stockings. He didn't have on anything but a nightcap and his underclothes, and I wondered what made him go around like that on such a cold night. It was so cold that the well bucket was frozen to the caprock the next morning and the well rope was as stiff as a poker.  
The sun came out that Christmas

morning as bright as if it were a June day. It snowed until almost daylight and then cleared up. I shall never forget how the golden beams of light poured through the "unchinked" cracks in the wall of our log cabin. I wondered if the Bethlehem Babe of whom I heard a great deal was not close around smiling at us through it all.  
We jumped out of bed and ran in to dress before a cracking fire in the old chimney. The stockings were full and we were impatient to get at them to see how well we had been remembered. But before a single anxious eye got a single peep there was family prayer. I wish I might remember the words of that prayer. It was one of thanksgiving for the good health of the family, for the loving kindness of an all-wise Creator, and for the influence of the Christ-child down through the ages, enlightening with light of Love and Faith and Hope the day in which we lived.  
All of us were glad, and I remember that there was a sort of reverent-like atmosphere mingled with the scent of cedar and sweet red apples and candy. Nothing was fine nor anything like that. But we clapped our hands in wild glee and "Santy, our Santy," who had been looking on, stole out to the kitchen to sip his morning cup of coffee. There were tears in his eyes, but they were tears of joy and gratitude.  
**ORIGIN OF "MERRY CHRISTMAS"**  
The glad tidings, "Merry Christmas," is borrowed from mediæval England, and found expression in both verbal and written messages sent to friends from one neighborhood to another.  
Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.—Matthew 6:7.  
A new motto for the coming year is: "Work well, love well, laugh well, and you have learned to live well."



# A Review of the Passing Year

By W. N. BEARD

IT IS impossible to review any passing year in Texas without seeing progress in almost every direction. Texas is essentially a progressive State. It has never stood still for any length of time. The total wealth of Texas in 1910 was about \$3,000,000,000; its wealth now exceeds \$10,000,000,000. The total population of Texas in 1910 was 3,896,542; the population is now about 5,700,000.

A State that continually increases in wealth and population is going forward. It may experience an off-year now and then, but the drama of progress is steadily forward. This progress is not especially confined to any one section. While it is true that some sections of the State are more prosperous than others, yet, as a whole, Texas is better off financially than at this time last year. Our country banks have greater cash deposits, and our farmers owe less money than in 1926. As a result, we will start the New Year of 1928 with brighter prospects than the New Year of 1927.

Business sentiment is not so cheerful now as it was in early fall, but this is due more to disappointment than to any basic cause. We probably anticipated too much prosperity, falling into a pessimistic mood because this prosperity was not realized. The reaction that followed was detrimental. When a majority of the people of a State stop buying, business stagnates. The arteries of commerce must flow smoothly. It is not always wise to tighten purse strings when necessities are needed and when there is no calamity affecting the public's welfare. Even the short cotton crop of this year is bringing more money to the farmers than the big cotton crop of last year. By the time the entire cotton and cotton seed crop of 1927 is sold it will have brought into the State of Texas the stupendous sum of nearly \$500,000,000.

With this amount of money in circulation it is therefore not too much to expect that business will be better after the first of the year. Seasonable weather should be here by that time. The

liquidation of long standing accounts and paying of old notes at banks will re-establish credit and have a tendency to create more business activity throughout the State.

## Agriculture.

The total value of all Texas farm crops this year will likely be \$100,000,000 more than the total value of farm crops of 1926. The total figure of the crop value of Texas last year was \$631,000,000.



The last government report of the Texas cotton crop for 1927 was an estimated yield of 4,300,000 bales. The corn crop of 1927 is given at 114,931,000 bushels, as against 106,863,000 bushels last year; the value this year will be fully \$90,000,000 (to the farmer) as against an estimated \$64,118,000 last year. The most recent government report placed the 1927 grain sorghum crop at 67,376,000 bushels, as against about 48,000,000 bushels last year. This year's farm value of grain sorghum will be \$10,000,000 or more above last year's estimate of \$26,000,000.

The Texas wheat crop this year was 17,829,000 bushels, against last year's bumper crop of 32,796,000 bushels. A better price was received this year, but the total value probably will not be placed at more than \$25,900,000 as against last year's \$39,000,000. There was a decrease also in production of oats, this year's crop being placed at 45,804,000 bushels, as against the 1926 crop of 83,666,000 bushels. The farm value of oats this year may be placed at about \$22,000,000, as against \$31,000,000 last year.

Some notable gains in production have been made, according to early estimates, especially in sweet potatoes and peanuts. This year's crop of sweet potatoes will yield around 12,436,000 bushels; peanuts about 85,018 pounds. Peach production was much lower than last year, and rice has about held its own. The broom corn crop is about one-half the crop of 1926, and barley production is given at 4,928,000 bushels as against 7,700,000 in 1926. A slight increase in the hay crop is indicated, and the movement of citrus fruits this

season probably will be the largest in the history of this industry in Texas. On the whole, the vegetable movement has been comparable to that of last year. The total value of all these small crops, according to early estimates, will probably be close to \$58,000,000, which will bring the total 1927 crop value for the State to about \$731,000,000.

## Dairying.

A striking feature of the passing year is the dairy business. Never before have our farmers, bankers and merchants taken such a personal interest in dairying. This interest, no doubt, was brought about by the uneconomic practice of raising one crop year in and year out. Whether cotton or any other farm product the one-crop method is fatal to the man who follows it. Even the one-crop wheat and one-crop corn farmers have found this out. A variety of feed crops, with a few good Jersey cows, has seldom failed to put a farmer on his feet, for the by-products of the cow, such as skim milk, etc., will fatten hogs and chickens. So it is generally safe to count on three money-makers where you have good cows—butterfat, hogs and chickens.

Dairy associations have been formed in East, West and Central Texas this fall and many banks are loaning money to farmers to buy dairy cows, hogs, sheep, chickens and turkeys. The First National Bank of Clifton bought a carload of Jersey calves and sold them to boys and girls at actual cost. Another bank in Bosque county advanced money on long time to assist farmers in buying milk cows and are being repaid by one-half of the cream checks as the milk and cream are sold. This enables the farmers to buy cows and pay for them as they sell cream and milk.

Cisco banks have followed this policy for years. Farmers of Eastland county now raise poultry, hogs, cows, sheep and goats in addition to their old stand-by, cotton. Swisher county banks even go so far as to refuse all loans for farm operations which do not include the raising of livestock and poultry. Wichita Falls has shown great faith in the dairy industry by establishing in that city a cheese factory. It is to be operated by the Kraft Cheese Company of Chicago. Before Kraft took over this plant, now being built, he had a guarantee from the Wichita Falls Chamber of Commerce that the

plant would be furnished with 50,000 pounds of whole milk per day.

Smith county farmers have given more attention than ever before to their cattle, hogs and poultry; with the result that one bank in Tyler alone has now more cash deposits from farmers than for the last ten years.

## Poultry and Livestock.

Perhaps no crop in Texas, aside from the cotton crop, is of greater value than the poultry crop. Thousands of cars of chickens, turkeys and eggs were shipped to Eastern markets during 1927. The price of eggs went down in the spring and summer, but now eggs are back to better prices.

Standardization of breeds has made much headway this year, and it will not be long until standard-bred hens and cockerels will take the place of all scrub fowls on practically every farm in Texas.

The interest in turkey raising is spreading. Three prize-winning turkeys, two bronze hens and a tom brought \$1,000 for their owner at the Dallas State Fair poultry show in October. They were bred by J. N. Martin of Denton. The estimate shipment of turkeys from Texas to Eastern markets this year is 800 cars, with an approximate value of \$10,000,000. Some farmers report more money made from turkeys than from cotton.

Cattle receipts during the passing year at all stock yards in Texas have been heavier and prices better than for years. Hog prices had a decline in early fall and are still low. Sheep and goats are doing fairly well as to prices and the spring and fall wool and mohair clips are greater this year than last year.

## Building Construction.

Texas' building program for 1927 is well up with that of last year. The total contract awards for the first nine months of 1927, as compiled by F. W. Dodge Corporation of Dallas, were \$169,357,000, compared with \$185,449,000 in 1926. The decrease under 1926 is small and shows that Texas has done a great amount of building this year. Residential buildings total \$71,241,200; commercial buildings \$32,471,300; and public works and utilities \$41,245,700.

Seventy-one million dollars spent this year and eighty-three millions spent

last year for home-building in Texas is the most striking feature of our building program. Home-building is the major factor in a State's progress and the foundation for all temporal and spiritual advancement.

## Oil.

While the price of crude oil has been unstable and production hardly profitable, yet much development went on in the Texas oil fields this year. Greater development, however, could have been made if crude prices and what is termed "over-production" had not combined to demoralize the business. In West Texas the new fields of Winkler and Pecos have surprised the world. Never before in the history of oil development have wells come in at such shallow depths as in Pecos county and with such enormous flush production. Conservative oil men estimate the potential production of the Yates pool, in Pecos county, at 450,000 barrels per day.

But all development during 1927 was not confined to the West and Northwest Texas oil fields. East Texas and South Texas made notable gains in oil discoveries.

Pipe line runs for the first nine months of 1927 were 157,385,268.74 barrels as against 109,093,862.52 for first nine months of 1926.

## Highways.

Comptroller Terrell's books show that for the fiscal year up to Sept. 1 count and districts voted \$17,885,750 for highway improvements, but not all of this amount has been matched by State and Federal aid. As a result, the State Highway Commission announces that for the next 12 months aid can be extended for only those roads providing the most service where most needed.

Counties that voted the nearly eighteen million dollars worth of bonds for highway construction are to be commended. But since some of our main highways are not in good order, it has been suggested that we concentrate construction, especially maintenance, on these roads, and put them in more passable condition. One good highway through a county, well maintained, is better than three or four bad ones.

Rapid progress is being made by the Highway Department in logging all State highways. This noteworthy work will be carried out as fast as distances to respective towns and directions for the signs are completed.

# Christmastime in the Oil Fields

By L. A. WILKE

NO CHRISTMAS DAY touches hearts any more deeply than the men who toil in the oil fields. Multi-colored lights and hundreds of gifts will bedeck a huge derrick. That is the community Christmas tree. And it is fitting—for the workers live, think and breathe in terms of oil production. Arrangements already are being made for the Christmas derrick "trees" in the Yates pool. The same thing applies to the Hendricks pool of Winkler County, the Seminole pool of Oklahoma and other fields of lesser importance.

For once, work is halted—it is CHRISTMAS EVE NIGHT—even in the oil fields!

A sudden spurt of live steam and brakes are set on the big bull wheels. Tall derricks quit squeaking and drills are hushed. Smiles light the faces of brawny men covered with grease and dirt, as they put away tools and prepare to welcome dear old Santy.

However, operators look for Santa Claus in the oil fields all the year round. The Santa they want to see is a hole filled with oil.

## Decorating the Derricks.

Drillers and tool dressers, though big and brawny, yet are children again at Christmastime. Some take childish delight in decorating their derricks with many colored lights and boughs of green. The spirit of this Glad Day enters their hearts and their homes.

Christmastime in the oil fields is little different from Christmastime in the city, the country, the church or the school. Christmastime in the oil fields is an occasion for gifts, for silent prayer, for a day of celebration and relaxation.

There are no more devout worshippers at the shrine of St. Nicholas than oil field workers. All the year they labor, day and night, with mud and grease from the bowels of the earth, with stubborn strata, with tools that get lost in holes, with salt water and dry holes. Therefore a holiday, like Christmas—when they can shut down the drill and celebrate in their little oil field shacks—is a rare holiday.

On wildcat wells the operations usually are different. Christmastime on a wildcat operation means for the most part that the drillers and tool dressers spend the time with their families, far from the haunts of men, that a real Christmas tree is erected, and old Santa visits the kiddies through chimneys, just like they do in any other home.

## Kiddies in the Oil Fields.

There are kiddies in the oil fields, many of them, and they love dear old Santy. Sometimes they are taken to grandpa's home for Christmas, but usually they are content to stay around the lease where they have lived for a long time.

The operator sees to it that his little home—usually a box house with box car type roof—is made comfortable in which to live, and the kiddies learn

to love this type of home and are as happy as kiddies in palatial homes. Their fathers and mothers provide well for them around Christmas and take an active interest in the Christmas festivities.

Operators are optimistic and look forward to big wells at Christmastime. They are happiest when there is a showing of oil to add to their Christmas cheer.

Mother and father anticipate the joyful season and fall in with the plans of the children for dolls, bicycles, toy trains or structural steel for building little oil well derricks of their own.

Christmas in the oil fields is not so bleak as you might imagine. There is room, plenty of room, for the boys and girls to romp and play. There, too, is always something for the parents to do.

Oil field workers are busy throughout the year. They work towers, or shifts,

of eight to twelve hours a day, and when night time comes are tired and sleepy. It is hard and grueling work. The drill is kept pounding twenty-four hours of the day unless there is a shut-down for repairs or the well is abandoned as a dry hole.

## Grateful for the Holiday.

When there is a holiday of rest, such as at Christmastime, the workers are grateful; they visit with one another. Many old friends of the oil fields seldom

time to see and shake the hands of an old comrade and wish him a Merry Christmas!

Christmas in the oil fields this year will be extremely prosperous, despite the decline of activity on account of low price of crude. Workers have been kept pretty busy, except some few lease scouts, and these men usually spend Christmas at their homes in the cities.

In the Texas and Oklahoma oil fields are men from all the forty-eight States,

and of many nationalities. They meet on common ground, with the same hopes and aspirations— to make "a strike" and to better their fortunes. Men are there far away from home and loved ones. To them Christmas would be lonely, indeed, were it not for kindly friends in the fields who welcome them in their humble homes.

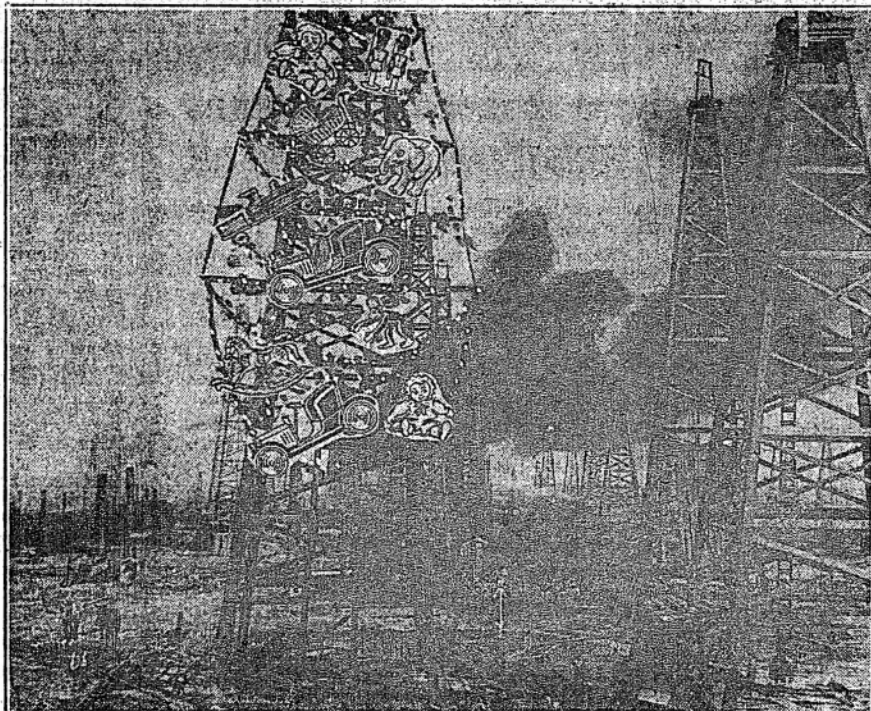
## "Christmas Ain't What It Used to Be"

(Continued from page 2.)  
There we were, four shivering examples of overgrown youth, with nothing in sight to wear except the well-sewed pants. Finally I found an old pocket knife in the dresser drawer and we took turn about, using it to "unsew" our pockets, get our knives, and then patiently pick the threads from our pants. Suppressed giggles could be plainly heard from the room across the hall and we needed no chart or diagram to explain that these girls had entered our room, purloined our pants, sewed them up, and were thoughtful enough to strip the clothes closet, so sense of thoroughness that under circumstances might have been commendable.

## Four Shivering, Overgrown Youths.

"Buck was solemn and s looking as he recalled the story he had expressed for girls not having any fun, but added that they seemed to have funny ideas of fun. The picture of four shivering boys patiently prying threads out of their breeches stays with me now and shows how women sometimes will get the best of men and boys in this game of life. "But how resilient is youth! Breakfast was announced and after stowing away large stacks of hot cakes, sausage and ribbon cane syrup, all our troubles were forgotten. It was just another Christmas Day. Egnog? Yes, for the older folks, but not a drop for us boys. A ramble around town to listen to the tales of various happenings of the night before, then to church where we listened to a sermon brimful of warning to indiscreet youth, and an earnest prayer that their sins be forgiven.

Piled High on the Table.  
"Following the church service we hastened home, hungry for that magnificent dinner. Everything appealing to (Continued on next page, column 1.)



"Multi-colored lights and hundreds of gifts will bedeck a huge derrick"

see each other more than once or twice a year, and that mostly at Christmastime.

Few oil field workers can tell you anything about the well drilling on the next lease, except from hearsay. Their time is earnestly devoted to work, and little visiting among the other lease workers is done, unless there is a holiday, or a new job to be sought. That is one reason for joy at Yuletide—there is

as, Christmas draws near. They try to bring joy into the hearts of lonely and less fortunate workers—they try to brighten the day for someone who has lost in the gamble of life.

The stillness of Christmas Day in the oil fields is strangely in contrast with other days. It is the only day of the year in which there is a complete shut-down. A peacefulness pervades the air, a reverence, so it seems, for the birth-



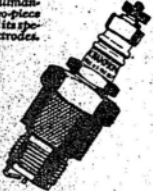
### The Doctor

In fair weather or foul, zero nights or rainy days, I have always found that my car starts instantly and performs perfectly with Champion Spark Plugs—they're dependable.

Champion is the better spark plug because of its special design and its special metal electrodes.

Champion for Ford 60¢

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**CHAMPION**  
Spark Plugs  
TOLEDO, OHIO

### "Christmas 'Ain't What It Used to Be"

(Continued from preceding page.)  
a youthful appetite was piled high on the table. As I remember, the menu ran something like this: Turkey and dressing, backbones and turnips, pork sausage and brindle gravy, three different kinds of salad, jellies, apple sauce and pies galore, including custard pie made in a way that can not be duplicated today. Buck said there were only two kinds of pie he liked: cross-hatched, covered and open-top.

"What did we get in our socks? Oh, the usual things. Firecrackers, apples, oranges, nuts, striped stick candy and a bag of motto candy. What kind of candy is that? Well, your early education must have been grievously neglected if you don't know what motto candy is. It is the kind with little questions and answers on square and heart-shaped candy and some plain statements of fact, such as 'I love you,' 'You're my sweetheart,' and 'Will you kiss me?' 'Yes,' etc. Most of the boys courting in those days was done with motto candy. I remember we went to a party that night and I gave my girl one with 'Will you kiss me?' and when she handed back one with the simple word 'Yes' on it, I nearly fell out of my chair. I was young, inexperienced, and terribly timid. Finally I suggested we get a drink of water, and we went out on the long porch to the water bucket on the north end; after drinking, I stood there like a stump, while the cold wind blew forty miles an hour. Shaking like a bowl of jelly from the combined effect of wind and stage-fright, I gathered my fast-fading courage and leaned over to kiss her, thinking she would raise her head a little bit, but she didn't, and I kissed her smack on the nose. I still shiver every time I think how cold her nose was.

"Yes, we had lots of fun at Christmas time and fewer worries in advance of it than we have today. Here it is, only a few days, and I don't know what in the Sam Hill I'm going to get my wife and daughter for Christmas."

36. And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them; and when he had taken him into his arms, he said unto them,

37. 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.—Mark 9:36-37.

### BIG MONEY

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Send for Standard free book of traps, shipping tags, market report—all free. Write today.

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## Celebrating With Song

By MARGARET STUTE

SINCE that wonderful day so many centuries ago when the angels announced their "glad tidings" to all men of the birth of Christ, people everywhere have sung praises of "Glory to God" and "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men."

In every civilized country of the world whether they recognize Christ as a Divine Being or not, the heart of the world beats a little faster when they hear the songs that "the new day is dawning and darkness put to flight." Each country has its carols, or Christmas songs, that hark back to that "first of all" sung by the angels to the shepherds on the hillsides of Bethlehem.

### Spirit of the Christmas Carol

In all the year there is no holiday that can lay claim to so great a heritage of ancient and beautiful customs as Christmas. And linked forever with the Christmas spirit is the spirit of the Christmas carol. We have many customs and traditions connected with the Yuletide season. We have many symbols, such as sprays of holly and mistletoe, burning candles, artificial wreaths of red and green, blooming plants and boughs of pine and spruce. But in all the lands of the world there is one common ground on which they meet and that is the singing of Christmas songs.

The word carol (or noel) is French and signifies a song of joy. The word had its origin in the French word "nouvelles" which means good tidings. The English word carol comes from two Latin words, "contare," which means to sing, and "rola," which means an interjection of joy.

After the first singing of carols by the angels we find that the village watchmen and shepherds of the hills were the next to sing of the happy day. These men patrolled the villages and watched by night the herds of sheep. This was to keep away thieves and wild beasts. They called the watches and sang no doubt to "keep themselves company." Gradually it became the custom for these self-appointed minstrels to sing the songs of Christ on the eve of the Nativity.

### Expressed Joy of Human Heart

Most of the songs, made up as they went along, expressed the joy of human hearts, and as time went on, this duty was taken up by the professional minstrels that made a meager living wandering from town to town singing their quaint songs with the aid of crude instruments. It was then that the real songs that have come ringing down the ages began to take shape and form. They were passed from generation to generation by word of mouth, and no doubt each age has added or taken away something to meet its special needs, until today our Christmas Carols, many of them, are based on the thoughts and sentiments of the first songsters.

It was not until 1521 that we have any record of these carols being gathered and published in book form. Then Wynken de Worde, said to be the second printer in England, issued the first printed Christmas songs. However, these songs are not as we sing them today, but rather songs that typified the English spirit of that early day. Burning of the Yule log was a great custom; therefore one of the songs suggests the spirit in which it was approached:

"Come bring with a noise, my merry, merry boys,  
The Christmas log to the firing;  
While my good dame, she bids ye all be free,  
And drink to your heart's desiring."

### The English Carols

The English carol of that time was more of a festival rather than a religious nature. Some of the best known are: "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," "Good Christian Men Rejoice," and the "Boar's Head Carol."

In Germany Christmas in the early days was observed with reverence as is evidenced by that most beloved of carols, "Silent Night, Holy Night." From Germany also comes that happy carol "Tannenbaum."

France has contributed the "March of the Kings."

Each country has its own native carols, each beautiful, and each expressing the heartfelt thanks of a people for a Saviour and Redeemer. In the center of

this article is printed a few of the better known songs and the countries where they originated.

In our own country we have glorified the Christmas time with beautiful carols. The best known among these are: "O, Little Town of Bethlehem," "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," and "We the Three Kings of the Orient Are."

With the landing of the Pilgrims in America they carried into the new land the customs of the old. Puritanism in England had put a ban on all kinds of fun and merriment, terming it a pagan custom, and not in keeping with the Christian spirit. So it was not surprising that in the new land old customs were observed. In 1659 it was made punishable by a certain number of shillings to observe Christmas Day in any manner. Therefore we find tottering almost into oblivion the customs and habits of a Merry Christmas. And it is with thanks to the settlers from other countries that we must turn for the renewal of merriment and singing at Christmas time.

### Custom in Foreign Countries

In many foreign countries it is the custom on Christmas Eve for groups of young people to go from house to house singing the native Christmas carols and the people in turn giving the singers food, drink and money. This is most often done by the men folk, as women, until the last few years, ventured out very little on the streets at night.

In our own country, especially in the more isolated country districts, such a practice is still followed; and in many of the Southern States bands of negroes with guitars and like instruments go about singing carols and negro folk songs. In the Northern States Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are celebrated more quietly than in the South, no doubt due to Puritan influence. North of the Mason and Dixon line Christmas Eve is usually celebrated in the churches with the singing of cantatas that depict the birth of Christ.

Our own American negro, the originator of many a beautiful chant, is not without his Christmas carol. "Rise Up, Shepherd and Follower" and "Behold That Star" are perhaps the prettiest and best known.

### The Carol So Well Beloved

The carol so well-known and so well loved, "Christ Was Born in Bethlehem," is from the hearts of the Kentucky mountaineers.

"Come, All Ye Faithful," is the one song that is sung around the world. It has been translated into almost every language spoken and is the universal cry to follow the Master. So, as we raise our voices in happy Christmas songs do not forget that this is the common language known round the world. Sing with a heart of thanksgiving, full of love and praise, not alone on the birthday of the Saviour but the "WHOLE YEAR AROUND." Song is the expression of a happy heart and balm for an aching one. It is so little to give and means so much to the recipient. I never think of song but I think of that beautiful poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow:

I shot an arrow into the air,  
It fell to the earth, I know not where;  
For, so swift it flew, the sight  
Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air,  
It fell to earth, I know not where;  
For who has sight so keen and strong,  
That it can follow the flight of a song?

Long, long afterwards, in an oak  
I found the arrow, still unbroken;  
And the song, from beginning to end,  
I found again in the heart of a friend.

### JESUS AND THE WIDOW'S MITE

41. And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.

42. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.

43. And he called unto his disciples, and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:

44. For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.—Mark 12:41-44.

"Hark the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the new-born king."



## Why Do Texas Grocery Jobbers BUY--

# Ratliff's Hot Tamales

IN CARLOAD LOTS?

Another carload Ratliff's products shipped Walker-Smith Co., Brownwood, Texas.

This makes 12 straight carloads shipped Walker-Smith Co. since Jan. 1, 1927. This does not include less than carload shipments to their branch houses and drop shipments to their trade from our plant.

We never blow our own horn about the quality of our goods; we let the folks who eat them do that.

A UNIVERSAL FOOD IN CANS ORDER BY THE CASE

### LEAVE OFF THE GUNS

Let us make this suggestion regarding Christmas presents. Those of us who have children like to please them, of course, in the matter of Christmas presents, but it is not always safe to do so, and it is possible to give them something that will mean destruction or life or sorrow to them. To humor one's fancy is not always to be kind. Happily the Heavenly Father does not give his pleading children all they plead for; if He did He would give many the things that would work their destruction. Many boys of tender years will desire a gun for Christmas. Of all things that could be mentioned, a boy needs least a gun. The desire to hurt something, or kill something, is one of the desires inherited from the cave man; it remains until education and Christianity do their perfect work. To see a robin or a mockingbird fall and bleed, and flutter in the agonies of death is fun to many boys, but civilization is mocked when we aid or encourage the young to engage in the slaughter of innocents or cause suffering to humanity, or the dumb that cannot protest against cruelty or plead for mercy. Furthermore, a young boy with a gun is a threat against the person and life of everyone who comes within range of his artillery. When you go out to select a Christmas present for your boy and you are tempt-

ed to choose a gun, stop and think. Think of the number who are killed every year through the handling of guns by children. Think of the number who are blind, or otherwise maimed for life, because children were permitted to handle guns. Think of the dangers your boy with a gun will subject himself and others to. Then flee from the tempter and select something else. Perhaps the saddest funeral the writer of this suggestion ever attended was in a Texas town some six or seven years ago. The funeral was that of a beautiful little girl, four or five years old. She was a lovely child, graceful as a fawn, and a general favorite in the town in which she lived. The funeral was on the day following Christmas. A neighbor boy with whom she played was given a gun for a Christmas present, and not knowing how to handle such a weapon, he shot and killed his little playmate on Christmas Day.

### REWARD OF FAITH

51. And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord that I might receive my sight.

52. And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.—Mark 10:51-52.

## Blackleg

Calves Are Too Valuable to Risk!

You'll never lose calves from Blackleg if you vaccinate your herd with the genuine

DR. O. M. FRANKLIN BLACKLEG VACCINE

The original one-dose, lifetime immunity vaccine that never fails. A million and a half doses now used each year because it is absolutely dependable.

Fresh stocks at Drug Store Agencies. Price 14c a dose. Free Call Book explains latest improved methods. Write for your copy today.

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MAKERS OF THE BEST BUILT LINE SINCE 1880

Let those who are tempted to celebrate Christmas with revelry keep in mind that revelry has never had a place in the observance of the day with believers. There was no revelry when the wise men worshipped the infant Christ Child. There was no revelry when the shepherds of Judea received the great message from the angelic hosts. Revelry at Christmas came to us from pagan lands and has never received the sanction of a Christian organization or a Christian nation.



**Corns**  
**Lift Off—No Pain!**

Drop "Freezone" on that old, bothersome corn. Instantly it stops aching; then shortly you lift that sore, ouchy corn right off with your fingers.

You'll laugh, really! It is so easy and doesn't hurt one bit! It works like a charm, every time.

A tiny bottle of "Freezone" costs only a few cents at any drug store, and is sufficient to remove every hard corn, soft corn, corn between the toes and calluses—Try it!

**HEDGECOCK ARTIFICIAL LIMB AND BRACE CO.**  
1306 COMMERCE ST. DALLAS, TEXAS  
WRITE FOR CATALOG

**DECEMBER.**

December, the last month of the year! How many among us can say, "Good-bye, old Year, all through your twelve months I've done my very best. Some of the pages are blotted, but most of them are fairly white. Good-bye, 1927, with your going I forget any unpleasant things which you brought, and to 1928 I promise to do my duty as I see it, directed by the Giver of all good things."

Nineteen twenty-seven brought pleasures and profits, troubles and losses, friends, enemies. No two human beings look at things from the same viewpoint, and it is well.

If 1927 brought you a friend worth loving, love him; if it gave you an acquaintance you cannot understand, a person that is critical, selfish, unthoughtful, overhearing, if you cannot make him see the error of his ways, pass him by. Silent ignoring is better than useless arguments.

Forget all but the delightful hours of 1927. Greet 1928 as the best that is to be.

41. For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.—Mark 9:41.

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Office 435-23-25 Bankers Mortgage Building  
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**15¢**

**Play Suits**

Children's suits and dresses fade, but brand new, gaily colored garments emerge from fifteen cents' worth of Diamond Dyes! Sew less for youngsters; buy less. An envelope or two of true dyes will almost make a whole child's wardrobe over.

Home dyeing is easy when you use real dye. Right over other colors, any kind of material, in an hour's time! Keep your own clothes in style, too, by making them the newest shades. Also, the drapes and hangings in your home.

FREE: for the asking, at any drug store: the Diamond Dye, Cyclopedic, full of suggestions, with easy directions. See actual piece-goods color samples. Or write for free illustrated book Color Craft to DIAMOND DYES, Dept. N10, Burlington, Vermont.

**Diamond Dyes**  
Just Dip to TINT, or Boil to DYE

**Metropolitan**  
BUSINESS COLLEGE  
DALLAS, TEXAS  
"The School With a Reputation"  
Has Made Good 40 Years  
Absolutely Thorough and Reliable  
A Position for Every Graduate  
Write for Full Information.

**BLUE AND SILVER FOXES**  
Registered. Take agency and our foxes; income at once. Booklet and references free. CLEARLY BROS. FOX FARMS, Empire Bldg., Seattle, Wash. "One of World's Largest."

**Katy MKT**

**THE TEXAS SPECIAL**  
**THE KATY FLYER**  
**THE KATY LIMITED**

TEXAS, OKLAHOMA, KANSAS CITY AND ST. LOUIS.  
COMPLETE PULLMAN AND DINING CAR SERVICE. Ask about our New "Eleven o'Clock" night trains between all important Texas Cities. "An innovation in travel."  
For further information, write  
**W. G. CRUSH**  
Passenger Traffic Manager, Dallas, Texas.

**WOMAN'S PAGE**  
MRS. MARGARET STUTE

**HOME PROBLEMS**  
BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

What is more pleasure than a gift which brings joy the year around? Books, well chosen, are one of the few gifts that have a universal appeal. From the tiny tot to Grandma, each one must have something that will please and last, at least, a little while after the tinsel is off the Christmas tree. So we may turn to books with confidence. Emily Newell Blair, one of our foremost authorities on good books, says: "Expose all children to the best books so that they will be immune to the effects of the bad ones. What better time to start than this very Christmas? Make your boys or girls a Christmas gift of a good book, or books, and thereby you give them a treasure house. Older folk should not be forgotten and with the great number of books just off the press (many of them having 'stood the test of time' to select from) you can make your book list long."

First of all, a few suggestions for the children's books. All of these books may be purchased from your local book store or ordered direct from the publisher.

First in the list is that beautiful book published by Scribners, "The Children's Bible," whose text is taken directly from the Old and New Testaments. Also "The Child's Bible," published by Thomas Nelson and Sons (\$2.00). They are both beautiful books and will find favor with the children.

Then there are the old favorites that are masterpieces such as "The Pied Piper of Hamelin," "Hansel and Gretel," "Jack and the Beanstalk," "Little Black Sambo," "The Ugly Duckling," "Wee Willie Winkie," etc., that are published by many different publishers, in various kinds of editions, ranging from ten cents to several dollars, according to the kind of binding. These stories have been the favorites of children for many generations and are moral educators as well as entertaining.

Now for the later books, published for children, we find such as "Peter Pocket" that was written by May Justus, a teacher in the Cumberland Mountains in Tennessee, and recently published by Doubleday, Page & Co., a book that holds a human and lovable character, which children adore.

For the high school boy and girl there are many fine books that they will love and appreciate, among these are "Travelers' Tales," so interestingly written by H. C. Adams and published by Boni & Liveright. The binding is attractive, making a fine Christmas gift. The most interesting parts are from the travels of such well known people as Sinbad, Gull-



iver, Ulysses, Marco Polo, Captain Kidd, Pliny and thousands of others. For me it excited a desire to read further of these wonderful adventures—excellent subjects, I believe, for a child, as it develops imagination and makes anxious for first hand knowledge of the sea and earth.

One more book for young people, and then we will suggest other Christmas books. The one I have in mind is "Black Beauty," the book that will never grow old. You may purchase it in dozens of different bindings, but the story is the sweetest I can think of for a child and I feel sorry for the boy or girl whose heart has not known the love Give it by all means.

For the man, woman or child who love "little treasure books" there is one I have recommended so many times, that is appropriate for Christmas gifts and lovely to read the year around. It is called "The Other Wise Man" and is published by Harper & Bros. This is the story of the fourth wise man who set out to find the Christ Child with three jewels. The text was taken from that beautiful Bible verse, "Verily I say unto thee, Inasmuch as thou hast done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, thou hast done it unto Me." Artaban, the other wise man, sought his King in the manner and found Him on the Cross. It is a wonderful and inspiring story, well told.

One of the sweetest and most beautiful stories of the day that has created a widespread interest, is one of the late books published by Doubleday, Page & Co., "My Religion," by Helen Keller. Regardless of creed or faith this wonderful book cannot fail to please the fortunate recipient. Miss Keller's book is not poetry, but there are passages in it that are as near to poetry as prose can ever be. Include it in your list for the friend that loves the beautiful things of life.

For the man or woman who loves mystery tales, Edgar Wallace's "The Traitor's Gate" is highly entertaining. It is all about crown jewels, beautiful press agents, maharajahs and Scotland Yard. (Doubleday, Page & Co.)

For that vast number of friends who love short stories, I would recommend "Samples" (Boni-Liveright) as one of the best collections under a single cover. All of the stories are clean and very entertaining.

For friends who like amusing literature do not fail to include "But Gentlemen Marry Brunettes," by Anita Loos, which is a sequel to "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," by the same author.

**SOMETHING DIFFERENT.**

As the young folk of our household were of high school age the same old way of opening presents before the Christmas tree, hanging of stockings, etc., had lost its appeal; so last Christmas we decided to make Christmas a little different. We had the time-honored tree, as usual, but in addition to the presents on the tree we made a spider web of colored twine all over the house—in this way: We had previously bought a different colored twine for each member of the family. Christmas Eve all the members of the family assembled around the tree, the gifts were sorted and dad's was wrapped in the twine around one present and hid it, then go-



**A MAGIC TRIP TO OTHER LANDS**

Betty, Jane and Jack stood pleading one day for a trip in the magic airplane. "Just a little ride, mummy dear, for land far away." I had promised them a little trip to other lands to see some of the lovely things cooked. Of course, we didn't have to change clothes because, in our magic plane, we could see but no one could see us. "Let's go to France first," said Betty. "I want to learn how to cook something that is cooked so deliciously there." She wouldn't tell us what it was until we got there and then she persuaded a wonderful French chef to show us. Here it is:

**French Pastry.**  
Thoroughly chill one pound of butter. Measure 1/4 pound of the butter into a bowl, add 1/4 pound of flour with the finger tips, add enough water to make a stiff paste. Place paste in a cold place for 15 or 20 minutes or until it thoroughly chills. Roll out a leaf lightly and lay the paste on it; roll out quite thin. Then take the remaining 3/4 pound of butter and roll it out as near the shape and size of the paste as possible and then place on the paste. Double the edges of the paste over the butter, then fold over three times and roll to the thickness of a suit, then refold three times and roll. Fold three times again and put in a cool place 15 or 20 minutes; then repeat the folding and rolling process as often as desired. The paste has been folded and rolled six times. Then cover with a slightly dampened cloth and let stand in a cool place for 30 minutes. Now it is ready to make into the many various wonderful dishes that are well worth all the effort it takes to make the paste.

**Peach and Nut Tarts.**  
Roll the paste until very thin, try to make as square as possible. Cut strips four inches wide and eight inches long. At the end nearest you place a layer of chopped canned peaches (that have been well drained) and to which has been added as many nuts as desired finely chopped. Make the layer about one inch wide and a single layer deep; do not bring to the very edge as enough room must be left to squeeze together. After the peach and nut filling is ready start rolling the tart over and over until you have used up that strip of dough; pinch the ends together tightly, brush the top with white of egg and sprinkle with sugar if desired. Fill the other strip the same way and bake on a butter baking sheet in a rather hot oven until a golden brown. Serve with a small mound of whipped cream or top, if you wish, with the strips of paste may be suffered light on the inside before rolling. This is truly a dish to set before the King.

**Jelly Delight.**  
Roll French paste to 1/4 inch thickness, cut six-inch squares; drop a large tablespoon of jelly into each; add; sprinkle with brown sugar if desired, use and press edges firmly together so they may be sealed with a little milk between the edges. Drop in hot fat and fry like you would doughnuts. Serve hot or cold with lemon sauce. Other delightful dishes may be made out of the French leaf paste. By using dried fruit that has been soaked, green apples, fresh strawberries, etc., any and

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE**

"Good to the last drop"

First blended in the old South years ago, it has pleased more people than any other high grade coffee ever offered for sale.

**McFarland & Garland RECORDS**

- No. Title
- 107 "HAND ME DOWN MY WALKING CANE."
  - 108 "MY CAROLINA HOME."
  - 109 "DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE."
  - 110 "YOU'RE AS WELCOME AS THE FLOWERS IN MAY."
  - 111 "ARE YOU TIRED OF ME, DARLING?"
  - 112 "YOU GIVE ME YOUR LOVE AND I'LL GIVE YOU MINE."
  - 113 "KNOXVILLE GAL."
  - 114 "I WAS BORN FOUR THOUSAND YEARS AGO."
  - 115 "WHEN THE ROSES BLOOM AGAIN."
  - 116 "THERE'S NO DISAPPOINTMENT IN HEAVEN."
  - 117 "BULLY OF THE TOWN."
  - 118 "PRETTY POLLY."
  - 119 "THE BRIGHT SHERMAN VALLEY."
  - 120 "THE EAST BOUND TRAIN."
  - 121 "HE CARVED HIS MOTHER'S NAME UPON THE TREE."
  - 122 "TIS HOME BECAUSE MOTHER'S THERE."
  - 123 "I'LL BE ALL SMILES TONIGHT."
  - 124 "I'M FREE AGAIN."

For Sale by All BRUNSWICK DEALERS  
The Brunswick-Balke Colender Company  
2025 1/2 Main St., Dallas, Texas.

**Acid Scalp**

How many carefully coiffured heads can stand the test of eyes only inches away, and reveal not a speck of dandruff? How many women can warm to the dance, and know their hair will have no taint for the partner who holds them close?

No one can be sure who has acid scalp. If you even suspect this acid condition of the scalp, it is time for Danderine. This scientific preparation will neutralize any acidity; and dissolve all dandruff if there is any. And it always gives the hair itself a lovely softness and sheen. It will wash better, hold a wave longer, and behave better all the time if you just occasionally apply a few drops of Danderine. Try it! Every drug store has this perfect conditioner of the scalp and hair, and a thirty-five-cent bottle lasts for weeks.

**Great Northern Hotel**  
CHICAGO  
Jackson Blvd., Dearborn and Quincy Sts.  
In the shopping and theater section

The uses of mistletoe, holly, and evergreens date back to time of the Druids, and later, according to an old Danish legend, came to be associated with the crowning of Christ with thorns—the red berries on the holly signifying the drops of blood which fell from his brow and lodged on the coronet of thorns.

For nearly two thousand years the world has celebrated Christmas!

"Live for those who love you,  
Whose hearts you know are true.  
For the heaven that smiles above you,  
And the good which you may do."



1 sheet of August 26 December  
**SANTA ANNA NE**

gonid

"He Profits Most Who Serves Best"

**YEAR'S EDITOR NEXT WEEK**

Santa Anna News will publish a special issue next week, featuring the New Year's greetings. This will also complete for the year the service of Santa Anna News, and our issue in January will be the forty-third year publication. Very little is made on the outside for greeting advertising. If you have something on your mind you wish to see in the public we appreciate you either bringing the office or calling us by and having us call for issue. It is pretty well with special greeting ads, of them suitable for our week's issue. If you care to them re-inserted, do us the to advise us as early as possible.

E. Duke, Editor known to be returned to Murray to be at his daughter, Mrs. S. after a three months visit to Knox county and other places.

**COTTON GINNED PRIOR TO DECEMBER 1**

There were 3,882,947 bales of cotton ginned in Texas prior to December 1st, this year, as compared to 4,648,448 bales to same date last year. In Coleman county the crop fell from 41,021 bales in 1926 to 28,385 this year.

Prof. J. L. P. Baker, superintendent of the schools at Buffalo, was in last week and ordered printed a school journal for the Buffalo community. The journal was a neat little four-page three-column paper, filled with interesting news about Buffalo and the good people living in that community. We might add in this connection that Mr. Baker has built up one of the best rural schools in the Buffalo community there is in this part of Texas, not that Mr. Baker has done it all himself, but that he has been able to lead and has enjoyed the cooperation and following of his patrons and students, which has brought about a fine school.

W. T. Vinson and granddaughters, little Misses Glenda Beth and Mary Kathryn Williamson visited relatives in San Angelo last week-end.

**BAPTIST CHURCH NOTES**

Special Christmas Services Sunday  
 Sunday school begins promptly at 9:45. We are more than anxious for all to come Sunday. Don't let anything keep you away. Bring your relatives and friends to Sunday school.

Morning worship at 11 o'clock—special Christmas message.

All the B. Y. P. U.'s will meet at 6 o'clock. We want all the young people to come. We will have with us several visitors.

Sp. Serv. Sunday Evening at 7:00 O'clock

The Young Men's Bible Class has invited Dr. Jewell Daugherty to be their guest Sunday evening. Dr. Daugherty is Teacher of the Young Men's Sunday school class of the First Baptist church of Brownwood. He is also one of the leading physicians of Brownwood, and is the head of the Central West Texas Hospital in that city. He will bring us a great message.

We will also have with us Joe Trussell, a man who needs no introduction to the people of Santa Anna. We all know that he is one of the best singers in the state. We also know that we will have good singing, when it is announced that Joe is coming.

We hope to have as our guest Sunday evening all the doctors of Santa Anna and all the nurses who can come. Then we extend an invitation to all of our friends to worship with us.

Greetings  
 The pastor of the Baptist church extends to you the season's greetings and trusts all will have a very pleasant Christmas. In the exchange of gifts it behooves us to recall God's greatest gift to the world, His Son, and all the spirit prompting that gift. We sincerely trust that the spirit of Him, whose advent into the world we celebrate, shall prevail in our hearts, and make our efforts for Him greater not only at this season but during the whole coming year. Plan great things for your church and be faithful in translating them into realities by giving to Him your best. Remembering God gave His Son for us. What can we give to Him? Can we give less than our best?

Sidney F. Martin, Pastor.

Senior B. Y. P. U. Program  
 Subject: Prayer for China and the Uttermost Parts.  
 Leader—Ora Lee Niell.  
 Mary Moffatt's prayer—Johnnie Pearce.  
 The prayer of pioneers in Brazil—James Harvey.  
 Prayer solves the problem—Elician Niell.  
 The well in Wuchow, China—Glenda Ford.  
 Miss Lottie Moon, Missionary pioneer—Grady Lowe.  
 Driving back the blackness—Ora Lee Niell.  
 Mrs. Grambell, Home Missionary—Jessie Lee Ashmore.  
 In Sunny Italy—Leader.

**AN EXCITING EXPERIENCE**

Mrs. W. E. Baxter had an exciting experience Tuesday morning, while cleaning some dresses with gasoline. She thought she had used all the necessary precautions but the fumes from the gasoline ignited, burned the dresses into ruin, burned one hand painfully and did light damage to the door in the room where she was working, and linoleum on the floor. The Fire Department was called out but the fire was extinguished before the firemen reached the scene.

**STOCKHOLDERS NOTICE**

The regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank of Santa Anna, Texas, for the purposes of electing directors and the transaction of any other business that might come before it, will be held at the offices of the bank on Tuesday, January 10, 1928, at 2 o'clock P. M. Burgess Weaver, Vice-President.

**Christian Endeavor Program (Presbyterian Church)**

Topic: What Does Christmas Mean to the World? John 3:16; Luke 2:3-11.  
 Leader—Myrtle Mae Brown.  
 Good Tidings of Great Joy, Luke 2:10-11—James Brown.  
 Peace on Earth, Luke 2:14—Faye Turner.  
 Christmas means Salvation, Matt. 1:21—Louise Boyd.  
 Realizing God's Gift, II Cor. 9:15—Oma Nixon.  
 Christmas means worship, Matt. 2:11-12—Lillie Wallace.  
 Bible Drill.  
 Song.  
 Mizpah.  
 C. E. 6:15.

We acknowledge with thanks the many greetings and words of appreciation, and occasionally, gifts of value, that have come our way this Yuletide season. Our heart is filled to overflowing and we find our facility of words inadequate to express our full appreciation, but God knows our heart and He only can fully appreciate the way in which we could express our appreciation. We hold not naught against anyone, notwithstanding our past relations have not altogether been pleasant. Would that all unpleasant recollections could be forgotten, and we assure you that in so far as the editor is concerned, the unkind things of the past, on our part are blotted out and nothing but the purest and most pleasant recollections have room in our heart. We sit at this desk daily trying to elevate mankind. Many times, if we gave vent to our personal feelings, we would find our words and poison our thoughts. However, it is in better things in life we seek to live up to and the little unprofitable things we try to forget. Time and space forbids personal mention of all remembrances, but we hold in our heart a pleasant thought and hope to be able in the future to speak kind words to each one remembering us, in a way and manner, that will partially show our appreciation. Merry Christmas to you all.

Mrs. H. V. Standley of Munday is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Watkins. Mr. Stanley is visiting his parents in Lovelady and will join her here in a few days.

Miss Nettie Newman who is attending Howard Payne, is at home to spend the holidays with her parents.

W. M. Ghortmley and Judge Ramsey of Rising Star, were Santa Anna visitors Tuesday, and the former paid the News a pleasant call.

Mrs. W. B. Brannum of May is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Andrew Schriber who is ill, this week.

E. N. Hickman and wife and Mrs. Will Bell visited the ladies parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Green in Coleman Sunday.

**MORTUARY**

The following sketch of the past life of Uncle Billie Newman was read at his funeral in the First Baptist church last Thursday afternoon, the services being conducted by the Pastor, Rev. Sidney F. Martin.

William M. Newman was born in Washington County, Texas, February 27, 1845. Had he lived until February 27th, 1928, he would have reached the age of 83. He answered the call of his Master Wednesday morning, at 10 o'clock, Dec. 14th, 1927.

Bro. Newman spent the first 45 years of his life in Washington county, the county in which he was born. In this county he met Miss Ada R. Smith and she later became his companion. They were married by William Carey Crane, of Independence, Texas, who was at that time President of Baylor University. This couple with their family moved to Coleman county in 1891 and near this city he has made his home, reared his family and lived for 37 years.

To this union there were born five children, as follows: Mrs. W. A. Weaver, Dallas, Texas; Mrs. Dean Cummins, Rockdale, Texas; W. C. Newman, Portales, New Mexico; Tucker and John Newman, Santa Anna.

Bro. Newman enlisted in the Confederate Army July 28, 1863; was in Company C, Regiment 20. He was discharged on May 24th, 1865. He trusted Jesus Christ as his Savior in early manhood. To his Lord he was always faithful, and to Him he clung until death came.

Uncle Billie possessed some wonderful traits of character and was possessed with splendid talent. We have heard it said of him that he could properly spell any word in the English language in quick duration. He has been a patient sufferer for seven years, and those about him state that he bore it all with patience and never complained. He was disposed to make his surroundings pleasant and those about him happy, which is a wonderful good quality in any person.

The Santa Anna News extends sympathy and condolence to the bereaved.

We have so many nice things to write about this week, and so little time to say it in, we just wonder how we are going to manage it all. Santa Anna is better dressed up than she has ever been for Christmas, most people seem to be in jolly good mood, the unfortunate are being looked after by those of more favorable circumstances, and there is great room for rejoicing.

F. P. Ford and J. C. Miller of Tulsa, Oklahoma were here last week in the interest of the Gladys well which was drilled in on the Pope farm. Mr. Miller visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Miller while here.

Bert Donaldson, L. W. Welch, L. C. Miller and O. L. Donaldson were hunting in the neighborhood of Rockwood Friday, and judging from the display of Jack rabbits, Cotton Tails, squirrels and coons hanging on the clothes line Saturday morning, their hunt was a success.

Miss Inez Marshall who is attending Texas Tech. at Lubbock, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Marshall in this city.

Mrs. Fred Whitfield of Coleman who underwent a serious operation at the Sealy hospital Thursday, is resting better at the present time.

Thomas Campbell who is attending school in McKenzie, Tennessee, arrived Sunday to be with his parents through the Christmas holidays.

Ed Bartlett and Charlie Harris returned Friday from a hunting trip near Pecos. They report the killing of four birds as the result of the hunt.

"13TH HOUR" at 12:01 Christmas nite, at Queen Theatre.

**LONE STAR GAS CREW TO LOCATE HERE**

A large crew of approximately 200 people, working for the Lone Star Gas Company, building a large line from the western part of the county to Brownwood, will be located here for the next several weeks, and all rooms, places to board and light housekeeping suits will be in demand. We have been requested to publish in this issue of the News a call to all who can furnish rooms, board or in any way accommodate members of the crew to let it be known. Jodie Mathews has rented them his substation across the street in front of his garage, and is helping to find places for the people to live. Several calls have been made at this office, but we have supplied all that we know of that are to let. If you have rooms or will take boarders let us know and we will send you customers.

Walter Curry, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Curry, surprised his friends last Saturday, by going to Pare Valley and getting married to Miss Lola Marshall of that city. The News is short on data but we find that the young couple will make their home in this city where Mr. Curry is a progressive young farmer. The News joins friends in extending best wishes.

Gus Roush of Valera spent Sunday with home folks in this city.

**First Presbyterian Church**

Sunday School 10 a. m.  
 A splendid offering was made last Sunday as a Christmas gift to Reynolds Presbyterian Orphanage, at Dallas.  
 Morning service 11 a. m.  
 Evening service 7 p. m.  
 Christian Endeavor 6:15 p. m.  
 It is worth your time to be in one of the largest young people's organizations in the world—that C. E.  
 Mid-week prayer meeting 7 p. m.  
 A welcome is extended to all who attend and everyone is invited.

**Christmas Program at Cumberland Presbyterian Church**  
 There will be a Christmas tree and program at the Cumberland Presbyterian church Saturday night.  
 Also preaching Sunday, both morning and evening.  
 Subject for morning: "The Birth of Christ."  
 Subject for evening: "The Guiding Star."  
 J. W. West, Pastor.

Mr. Blackenship, who is employed in the Garms-Barber Shop received a message Sunday relating the death of his brother, T. J. Blackenship and wife of Santa Barbara, California, who were killed in an auto wreck in that city Sunday.

**Down Into Your Pocket**

you go for another purchase just to add another quota of joy to the heart of another friend. Christmas is the time when we think of driving close bargains or study much about getting gain; it is the time when we do a great deal of our year's giving, and we are careful that no one is overlooked. The custom is one of the best ever instituted among men. Let us make as many people as we can happy. And may each of us in so doing find for himself that supreme happiness which passes all understanding.

**C. E. Welch**

**The Magic Of Christmas**

Now that Christmas is here again with its magic world of beautiful things designed especially to make happy, and since all the days and nights are filled with its spirit of good cheer, we are wishing for you the largest possible share in the very best enjoyments of the season.

**The State National Bank**



**May Super-Blessing Abide With You In 1928**

Nothing is too good for us to wish for those who have made this business what it is today. Therefore we pause in the rush of a busy season to plan this brief message in the hope that it will reach those who have been so good to us. Whether it was dimes or dollars you spent with us we appreciate your business. We hope to add many new friends to our list during the coming year.

**MRS. COMER BLUE**

**Sleighbells Amid Northern Snow Auto Honks Amid Southern Sunshrne**

**Shouts of Joyful Laughter Everywhere**

And above all and around all and in all is the Beautiful Spirit of Christmas. May your joys be as many and as genuine as your desires.

**THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK**

"13TH HOUR" at 12:01 Christmas nite, at Queen Theatre.

**TEXAS AND TEXANS**  
(By Will H. Mayes)

**Prosperity in Texas**

We are nearing the end of another year. It has been a year of prosperity in Texas. A prosperous people usually are a happy people, although the prosperous individual is not always a happy individual. Prosperity contributes to individual happiness largely according to what the individual contributes to the general good. This contribution need not necessarily be in money but oftener than otherwise is in personal service. The close of a year is a time for looking backward to see what the year has brought, to study its contribution to life. There may be exceptions to the rule, as there are to most rules, but in all probability 1927 has returned to you about what you have put into it. What have you done, what have you left undone? Have you lived largely for self or for others? Have you been of help to your community or have you stood in the way of its progress? Have you really tried to make for better living either for some of the less fortunate about you or for the people as a whole? What have you done to add to the prosperity of the year?

**Measuring Prosperity**

Prosperity is an indefinable term but it may be generally described as a gain or advance in anything good or desirable. Too often it is measured in terms of money as though money were the only desirable thing in life. Texas is rich in wealth; the banks statements show it. Its productivity this year has been little short of marvelous. Its cities are building as never before; its lands and other resources are being utilized; its oil wells are yielding liquid gold; its fruitage from fields and gardens have been immense. These signify financial prosperity, yet the community has not gained "in anything good or desirable" that has not improved in some way the living conditions of its people. Better schools, better homes, better roads, better facilities for living are the best evidences of a prosperous people. These are the real, the most valuable contributions that a prosperous year should bring. Each of us

should pause to see whether we have aided in these. If not, whatever have been our gains in mere money, we have failed to use properly God's gracious gifts to us.

**The Part of the Press**

No one, not even the preacher, has better opportunity for adding to the year's advance in prosperity than the newspaper worker. The press holds a favored position of leadership in all things good. Its influence properly exercised is immeasurable, or it can stand for naught. A selfish, self-seeking press is a blight to community advancement. Texas should give room only to papers willing and able to carry the banner of progress in their communities. The right kind of an editor is satisfied with nothing short of his very best effort for his people. Making a close self-study, can we feel at the end of the year what we have done for the people about us? Perhaps so, perhaps not; answer is for each of us to make.

**Speaking of Papers**

Whatever the Times of Crockett may have been doing the rest of the year it recently issued a special edition that must have made every citizen of Houston county feel a bit good and a bit more proud of his county. It contained 40 pages crowded with information as to what has been and is being done in the town and county—not "booster" copy, but plain, stimulating records of worthy achievements of the year, things done to make for the better life of its people. The Times seems to be measuring up to the high standard the press of Texas should set for itself.

**Up in the Air**

San Angelo, with its usual disposition to get an early start, announces that two 12 story buildings are to be erected there early in the new year, one to be a bank and office building, the other a hotel. San Angelo is a Texas town of mighty strides.

**San Marcos Gas**

The first forward step for 1928 toward better living at San Marcos is the contract just made for natural gas to be supplied to the town early in the year. Natural gas is a modern convenience that may be had in many Texas towns

at a less cost than wood or coal. It makes for luxurious comfort without the usual added cost of a luxury.

**Midland's New Hotel**

Midland will have its new six-story, 150 room hotel completed by February first, and will have need for every room of it to accommodate the rush of oil developers to that section of Texas. Clarence Scharbauer, the owner, who has grown from a news-boy into a millionaire, says he is building the hotel as his part in making Midland the city of the Southwest Texas oil fields. He is showing an appreciative spirit toward the place where he has made his wealth.

**World's Largest Oil Field**

The Yates oil pool in Pecos county is reported to be actually producing in excess of 25,000 barrels of oil an hour, over 600,000 barrels a day, which gives it rank as the highest of any in the history of the oil industry of the world, being more than 75,000 barrels in excess of the great Seminole field's

highest production. Oil men are no longer surprised at any discovery anywhere in Texas, but take the Yates pool merely as something to be expected and that may even be surpassed by later discoveries.

**Eagle Pass Water Project**

The Eagle Pass section will vote on a \$4,800,000 bond issue on December 19 for an irrigation project that has been under consideration at intervals for the last 40 years. Practically every merchant in the town is displaying posters reading, "We are 100 per cent for irrigation." Texans are coming to realize the extreme wastefulness of wasted waters.

**Conceit of the Damned**

Even old Satan can't please 'em all. Some will want a private fire with a gridiron fence around it.—Arkansas Thomas Cat.

**Limited in Flying**

Ruffed grouse and bob whites are short flyers and cannot make a sustained flight of more than three-fourths of a mile.

**MAY THE SANTA  
CLAUS OF CHEER**

Unload from his pack at  
your door enough happiness  
to last throughout the en-  
tire coming year.

**E. G. OVERBY**

# Purdy Mercantile Co.

Merry  
Christmas

**May the Spirit of  
Christmas Abide in  
Your Heart and Ours**

In other words, may the spirit of  
**UNSELFISH SERVICE** be prevalent  
everywhere.

We believe our city and community  
comes as near showing this spirit as  
any on earth.

A city, a firm, or an individual need  
have little fear of ultimate success if  
the guiding light of either could be  
said to be "the spirit of Christmas."

Happy  
New Year

**YOUR PATRONAGE**

We greatly appreciate it and shall  
continue to do our best to merit what-  
ever business you turn our way.



## GIVE ELECTRICAL GIFTS

*that make life easier*

Electrical Gifts bring joy throughout the year and years to come--you can find gifts for every one here.

**A FEW SUGGESTIONS**

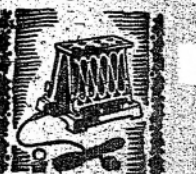
- |                   |                     |                 |                  |         |               |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------|---------------|
| Percolators       | Toasters            | Vibrators       | Warming Pads     | Irons   | Curling Irons |
| Waffle Irons      | Vacuum Cleaners     | Electric Ranges | Washing Machines |         |               |
| Fireless Cookers  | Electric Reflectors | Floor Lamps     | Bridge Lamps     | Ironers |               |
| Lighting Fixtures | Frigidaire          | Electric Churns | Table Stoves     |         |               |

and many other useful, labor saving necessities. We have a complete stock

# West Texas Utilities Company

TELEPHONE 97

SANTA ANNA



## Swing Open Now The Gates of Joy

and flood the whole world with the spirit of Christ and Christmas, the spirit of good will among men, the spirit of charity to the needy, sympathy to the unfortunate and encouragement and hope to all.

It is our earnest wish that this glad season may find you able to share fully in its pleasures and pass some along to others.

**Taylor Furniture  
Company**



More than anything else adds to Children's Joys on Merry Christmas Morning We have a wonderful selection just received from ELINE'S FAMOUS PURITY VILLAGE at popular prices NOW ON DISPLAY

5 lb. boxes hand dipped Chocolates, special \$1.50  
1 lb. boxes Loye Dream Chocolate Creams \$1.00  
1-2 lb. boxes Cherries 69c

Special Friday and Saturday—

1 lb. Dark Milk Chocolates 30c  
1 lb. Fudge FREE

**E. E. Chambers Variety Store**

## Santa Claus

Will Soon Do All  
His Visiting-By  
Aireoplane

But that merry means that he will get there all the sooner and more certainly, for the snow drifts can't ever block his way as he glides through the air highways. And we're hoping that not a single home or heart will be missed or overlooked as he goes about his ministration of joy.

**Williamson Garage**

Dear Santa Claus:—  
I am a little boy about 4 years old. I want you to bring me a dump truck, air gun, set of blocks, a story book of Peter Rabbit, a pencil and tablet so I can draw a fire truck, oranges, apples, candy, bananas, chewing gum, some crackers, sparklers, roman candles.  
From a good little boy,  
H. K. Harrison.  
Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 14, 1927.

Dear Santa Claus:—  
I am a little girl eight years old. I go to school and am in the second grade, so please bring me a baby doll, and a little fun, and some little dishes, some apples, nuts and dear old Santa please don't forget my little brothers—bring them a toy pistol, a foot ball and lots of things, and please remember all the little children.  
From  
Vera Jeanette Ewing.  
Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 14, 1927

Dear Santa Claus:—  
I thought I would write you and tell you what I want and just how to put it. Of course I've been good all the year. Well, I want a wrist watch, a baby doll, a bottle of perfume, a toy piano, and "The Girl of the Limber Lost," (a book). You can bring my presents to the Cross Roads Christmas tree, because I'm sure it would be lots of trouble for you to get down our stove pipe, as you know we don't have any chimney. Be sure and don't forget any one.  
Yours truly,  
Moya Haynes.  
Rockwood, Texas.

Dear Santa Claus:—  
I am a little girl 7 years old; I want you to bring me a ring, a doll, some water colors, and some candy, nuts and fruit, and please don't forget my little baby sister.  
Euodean Bledsoe.  
Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 16, 1927

Dear Santa Claus,  
North Pole,  
Mr. Santa Claus,  
Please send me the following things: A scooter, an Everysarp pencil, an electric iron. Don't forget the poor little boys in our town and I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Years.  
Emma John Blake.  
Santa Anna, Dec. 14, 1927.

Dear Santa Claus:—  
I am a little boy five years old and I have been real good all year. Please bring me a wagon, a train, some sparklers and some fruit and nuts. Also bring my mother and daddy something nice.  
I remain as ever,  
William Sheffield, Jr.  
Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 9, 1927

Dear Santa:—  
Please send me the following things: I want an air gun, a set of tools, a Fountain pen, candy, nuts and fruit. Be sure to give all of the poor boys and girls some toys.  
With lots of love,  
Vernon Rowe.

## Our Christmas Wishes

If all our Christmas wishes for you were loaded on Santa's big sled the load would be so heavy that Dunder and Blitzen scarce could move.

So when we think of Santa's great big job, of visiting millions of Christmas wishes to the joy-

Happy Days of Friends and  
Loved Ones

The  
Season's Best For You

You have been good to us—we hope you feel that we have been good to you.

**PHILLIPS DRUG CO.**

May your days throughout 1928 and each New Year thereafter be filled with usefulness, health, happiness and prosperity.

And a Happy New Year Too!

1927 ———— 1928  
Achievements ———— Opportunities  
WROUGHT ———— BROUGHT

## Every Gaudy Trinket

Upon the Christmas tree is but a feeble representation of a beautiful thought which some one did his best to turn into material substance. Every gift, expensive or humble, is the token of a good will that used this means of giving itself expression.

And it is just these showings forth of the beautiful sentiments of the heart which makes Christmas the happy, holy season that it is. May your Christmas be a very happy one.

**W. C. Ford & Company  
Garage**

WHY WE SELL  
FOR LESS

1. Big Buying Power
2. Low Overhead
3. Modern Methods
4. Close Personal Management

# HELPS-SELF

"A SANTA ANNA INSTITUTION"

OWNED AND OPERATED BY FORD BARNES

The  
Finest Foods  
For Christmas  
Feasts!  
Lowest Prices!

## Thanks

For the Record  
Breaking Business you gave us  
at our Wonderful Opening!

Santa Says "Helps-Selfy!"



Folks, the wonderful Helps-Selfy Store which Santa Claus brought Santa Anna thanks you from the depths of its heart for the wonderful way you have received this money-saving gift!

We hope Santa fills your "socks" with every good thing you want, and that you have the most joyous Christmas!

*Ford Barnes*  
Owner—Buyer—Manager

## RED HOT BARGAINS FOR CHRISTMAS DINNERS!!

- APPLES—Jonithan, good size, doz. 33c
- ORANGES—California, small, doz. 18c
- BANNAS—Large, ripe, doz. 33c
- Candy, Mytiffine Chocolate Creams, 1 lb. box 38c
- CANDY—Fancy Christmas mixed, lb. 19c
- BRAZIL NUTS—Large size, lb. 29c
- ALMONDS—No. 1 large, lb. 33c
- PECANS—Medium size, lb. 23c
- POPCORN—Jolly Time, per can 13c
- RAISINS, Sunmade Seedless, pkg. 12-1-2c
- RAISINS—Sunmade, 2-lb. carton 23c
- PEACHES—Blue-Ribbon, 5-lb. Carton 89c
- SUGAR—Confectioners or Old Fashion Brown 9c
- MARSHMALLOWS—Campfire, 12 oz. tins 32c
- SHELLED PECANS—9 oz. glass 29c
- COCONUTS—Fresh, medium size, ea. 11c
- CRANBERRIES—Qt. 23c
- SWANSDOWN CAKE FLOUR—Large size 37c
- COCONUT—Yellow can Southern style 16c
- JELLO—All flavors 8 1-2c
- APPLEBUTTER—2 1-2 Tins 24c
- PRESERVES—Ferndell Ass't, 1-lb jar 37c
- PRESERVES—Ferndell and Delmonte, 4-3-4 lb. jar 92c
- PEACHES—No. 2, All Gold, sliced or halves 19c
- PEACHES—Wapco No. 2 1-2 large halves 19c

HAMS Sweet and Juicy Whole or Halves, lb 22<sup>c</sup>

GRAPE FRUIT Texas Sweets, ea 4<sup>c</sup>

ORANGES Texas Sweets Good size, juicy, each 2<sup>c</sup>

WALNUTS No. 1 Soft Shells, lb 27<sup>c</sup>

LETTUCE Good Heads Fresh, Crisp, each 7<sup>c</sup>

CELERY Large White Bunches, each 13<sup>c</sup>

MATCHES A Hot One 6 Boxes for 17<sup>c</sup>

- EXTRACTS—All flavors 24c
- CERRIES—Royal Anne 32c
- CERRIES—Red Pitted 29c
- APRICOTS—Ferndell No. 2 24c
- FRUIT SALAD—All Gold 32c
- CERRIES—Maraschino, 3 oz. 14c
- BLUE-RIBBON RELISH—8 oz. 28c
- BLUE-RIBBON—Thousand Island Dressing, 8 oz. 28c
- BLUE-RIBBON Manonnaise—8 oz. 28c
- HENNARD'S SWEET AND HOT RELISH—8 oz. 25c
- PEANUT BUTTER—1 lb. 28c
- GRAPE JUICE—pts. 24c
- GRAPE JUICE—qts. 39c
- WESSON OIL—Pts. 29c
- DILL PICKLES—No. 2 1-2 tins 24c
- PICKLES—White Swan Sweet mixed 23c
- PICKLES—Wapco Sour, qts. 34c
- OLIVES STUFFED—Medium 34c
- OLIVES—Ripe, 4 oz. tins 13c
- COCOMALT—Large with shaker 41c
- MUSTARD—With radish 14c
- CATSUP—Ferndell large 24c
- PUMKIN—No. 2 Ferndell 10c
- SWEET POTATOES—Wapco No. 2 1-2 15c
- COFFEE—M J B 2 lbs. 95c
- COFFEE—Maxwell House, 3 lbs. \$1.44
- TEA—Orange Pekoe, 1-4 lb. 24c
- COCOA—Hersheys 1-2 lb. can 17c
- CAKES—CAKES—RAGSDALE'S HOSTESS AND COLONIAL
- TOBACCO—Prince Albert, 16 oz. Crystal Jar Christmas wrapped \$1.25

Apples and Oranges—Plenty of Them—  
All Sizes and All Kinds.  
BUY THEM BY THE BOX

Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 13, 1927  
Dear Santa Claus:—

Please bring me a toy motorcycle and a package of drawing paper and some paste, and a little toy train. I want some candy, fruits and nuts, too, and a little toy watch. Please bring me a ball and a cap and some caps.

Your little boy,  
John Gregg.

Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 11, 1927  
North Pole,  
Mr. Santa Claus,

Please bring to me the following things: A pair of house shoes and a set of oil paints and a Fountain pen and a lot of fire works and a kite. Bring the poor little boys and girls some toys and fruits and nuts.

Your friend,  
Ruby Willis.

Methodist Missionary Society

The Methodist Missionary society met last Wednesday in business session and to hold their annual election of officers. It was decided to have some improvements made on the parsonage. Also to help support the Overall Missionary in Brazil and to send a Christmas present to the little orphan that the society is supporting at Waco. Then the following officers were elected for next year: President, Mrs. J. Frank Turner; Vice-president, Mrs. W. T. Verner; Rec.-Sec., Mrs. B. R. Wagner; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Leman Brown; Treasurer, Mrs. Grady Adams; Local Treas., Mrs. W. A. Hall; Supt. Social Service, Mrs. Hardy Blue; Supt. Local Work, Mrs. D. J. Johnson; Study and Publicity, Mrs. T. R. Sealy; Voice Agent, Mrs. Thate.

The U. D. C. Chapter

Mrs. L. W. Hunter was hostess to the U. D. C. Chapter Friday afternoon. After a business session in which plans for the establishment of a public library were discussed and the study course for next year was taken up and it was decided to study "Our Southern Women." Then the regular program was given with the following ladies responding: Mesdames J. R. Banister, Paul VanDalsem, W. T. Verner, L. W. Hunter, S. H. Phillips and Miss Dora Kirkpatrick. Later delicious refreshments of hot tea, chicken salad and flakes were served. The chapter always enjoys meeting with Mrs. Hunter who is past master on entertaining.

Mrs. Marvin Folk is a patient in the Sealy hospital.

Notice of Stockholders Meeting

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the State National Bank of Santa Anna, Texas, will be held at its offices in Santa Anna, Texas, Tuesday, the 10th day of January, 1928, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 4 P. M. for the election of directors for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.  
P. P. BOND, Cashier.

A Recital

Mrs. Tillie Gilbert who teaches expression, gave a recital at the Armory building on Friday night. The little tots all acquitted themselves well, and an excellent program was given. Mrs. Gilbert was assisted on putting on the program by her sister, Mrs. P. P. Bond.

W. E. Smith of Waxahatchie is visiting home folks here during the holidays.

Mrs. Earnest Kennedy of Echo was brought to the Sealy hospital Sunday by Dr. Walker, in a critical condition.

J. C. Pinkston of Burkett underwent an operation Friday at the Sealy hospital.

L. M. Atkinson and daughters who have been suffering with Typhoid fever in the local hospital, for the past few weeks, are reported greatly improved.

Clem Johnson of Cross Plains visited his daughter who is a patient in the Sealy hospital Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Peyton Dick moved Monday to the house vacated by Geo. Johnson.

Mrs. G. F. Barlett is reported much better and will be able to be carried to her home the first of the week.

Mrs. E. M. Routh visited Brownwood Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Jo moved Saturday in their new home on East Mo

With Deep Appreciation of  
**THE RELATIONS OF 1927**

We are looking forward to a continuation of pleasant associations in the days that are to come in 1928.

**SPARKS DAIRY**

Telephone 91

**YOUR TRAINING!**

**YOUR POSITION!**

The position you accept in business depends upon your training. A diploma from us is your assurance of a high-class place. Employers everywhere call upon us for competent help because they know that the best business training can be had only in a school that has the best equipment, best teachers, best courses.

Send today for the large interesting book, "ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN BUSINESS." It is Free. Mail coupon NOW.

CUT OUT AND MAIL NOW

GENTLEMEN—Please send me your large FREE book, "ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN BUSINESS." I am interested in a training that will help me get a good position.

Name .....

Address .....

**DOGMATISH VS PATRIOTISM**

Some concern is felt because neither of the dominant political parties has taken a stand on the Prohibition question. But for several reasons we see no cause for alarm. Platforms have not been drawn or adopted. Until the national conventions are held there can be no official pronouncements from party organizations.

To suppose that any party can consistently take a stand other than enforcement of existing laws is unthinkable. It has been long taken for granted that government should and must enforce and administer its own enactments. Otherwise there would be no government. If it has come to a question merely of whether to enforce and administer existing law then the country is in a sad plight!

This does not mean that a party shall be denied the right to exercise its freedom with respect to endorsing modification of the Volstead Act or the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment. That right is fundamental. Any man, woman or political party can consistently and legally raise finances, carry on propaganda thru press, platform, radio or soap box to abolish thru the ballot every vestige or prohibitory statutes concerning the traffic in intoxicating liquors. While we would be far from predicting any such sweeping measures, yet the right to adopt them remains inviolate and absolute, just as the right of those who advocate Prohibition to campaign has remained sanctioned and unquestioned.

No political group should make hasty decisions. To be dogmatic—to make assertions of policies before final judgments are formed and the will of the majority ascertained—is as detrimental to success as silence in the face of established truth. In government, as in other systems and philosophies, nothing is absolute except principles. No political party is going to take snap judgment against an established institution like Prohibition without first consulting the masses. In the end the parties are the people.

Dogmatism is not patriotism. Each party has its extremists. The party that is wise will not only re-

frain from a platform of radical change, but will go only so far as the judgment of the people warrants. The best any party can say is that Prohibition is with us, and being with us, must be enforced unless and until repealed.

Two possible things can happen to Prohibition as it now exists. One is that by strict enforcement it will do away with intemperance and drunkenness. The other is that it will enforce itself into a sweeping repeal and hence out of existence. Thus a genuine wet and a genuine dry will both advocate the same issue—enforcement, while the rest of the world watches for the result.

**TOWN BOOSTERS**

In many hundreds of cities and towns, the town boosters are shouting for their respective communities, and trying to interest people to move into them and start business enterprises there. Some critical folks think this boosting is

exaggerated, and that the towns that are so extolled do not come up to the description.

But somehow, when a group of enthusiastic people get to boosting a city, they do a lot of things that help its substantial progress. When they boast that a city has advantages, they feel it necessary to make good on their claim. They spread abroad a feeling of hope and confidence, and when people have that sentiment, they do more business, they improve the community, and the whole place rises to a new level of development.

**About Ourselves**

There are persons so radiant, genial, so kind, so pleasure-bearing, that you instinctively feel in their presence that they do you good; whose coming into a room is like the bringing of a lamp there.

**The Acid Test**

It is always a true love match when they can pick out the wall paper together without a fight. (Chicago Herald and Examiner.)

**We Wish You**

**A New Year Bright All Through**

and if there is anything better we wish that for you too.

And we would not forget to add that we thank you, oh, ever so much for your favors during 1927.

W. A. STANDLY

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house

Not a creature was stirring—not even a mouse;

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,

In hopes that St. Nicholas would soon be there.

—Moore—A Visit from St. Nicholas.



Our Christmas Wishes are that St. Nicholas will leave you so many gifts that the year 1928 will find you more happy than ever before.



**D. R. HILL & BRO.**

See Our display of

**GIFTS For Her Christmas**

featuring **PANGBURN'S BETTER CANDIES**



**Turner Drug Store**

*While Christmas Fires Are Burning*

**We'll Be Thinking of You**

Thinking of the pleasant relations we have had with our patrons during the past year and of the loyalty of friends who have not only patronized this business but who have spoken kind words in our behalf. We thank you a thousand times and assure you that through the year ahead we will be found doing all within our power to please you and serve you even better.

May joy, like that you knew in happy childhood be yours during Christmas and may the New Year unfold before your vision paths you'll find pleasure and profit in traveling.

**Burton-Lingo Co.**

**As You Thumb The Calendar Leaves of 1928**



May you find each day brighter, happier and more fruitful of good. That is our wish for those who have been so loyal to us in the year just closing.

To us it has been a pleasure to be in business in a city where we could deal with such a citizenry as have come our way. We have been inspired by your generous support to strive to attain the maximum in value giving and service and in addition to do our utmost to scatter sunshine along the way as we come in contact with our patrons.

We ask that you accept the gratitude that we today feel in our hearts. You have enabled us to get a broader vision of our opportunity for usefulness. On each transaction during the coming year we pledge you the best that is in us.



**Mrs. G. A. Shockley**

## Notice To Red Stamp Savers

The Red Stamp plan will continue in Santa Anna as heretofore, and the Premium Department will still be located at THE TEXAS MERCANTILE COMPANY, as in the past. Anyone who saves Red Stamps will be able to get their premiums and in the event that it is ever decided to discontinue this plan you will be given ample time to redeem your books.

TEXAS MERCANTILE CO., announces that Red Stamps will be given on all purchases (sale or no sale) from now on. If we forget to give them ask for them.

Other Santa Anna Merchants who give Red Stamps are—

- Mrs. G. A. SHOCKLEY
- E. E. CHAMBERS, Variety Store
- W. C. FORD & CO.
- PHILLIPS DRUG CO.
- C. E. WELCH

THE STATE OF TEXAS,  
To the Sheriff or Any Constable of Coleman County; Greeting:

Whereas oath has been made before me by R. T. Rountree, that E. L. Henderson, a Transient, whose residence is not known so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon him.

You are hereby commanded that you by making publication of this writ in some newspaper printed in Coleman county for four successive weeks previous to return day hereof, summon the said E. L. Henderson to be and appear before me at a regular term of the Justice Court for Precinct No. 7, in said county to be held in my office in the town of Santa Anna, Texas, on the 16th day of Jan. 1928, to answer the case of R. T. Rountree, Plaintiff, against E. L. Henderson, Defendant, the Plaintiff's demand being for the sum of Forty Five and 00-100 Dollars, (\$45.55), due upon a promissory note executed by said Defendant to said Plaintiff, dated March 3, 1924, and payable the First day of Oct. 1924, with interest at the rate of 10 per cent from date of issue, and all cost of this suit.

Herein Fail Not and if this writ make due return at the regular term of the Justice Court, Precinct No. 7, in said county, to be held in Santa Anna, Texas, on the 16th day of Jan. 1928, next as the law directs.

Given under my hand this the 21st day of Dec., 1927.

J. S. JONES, Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 7, Coleman county. 51-4tc

Milton Moseley who is attending the State University at Austin is here to spend the Christmas holidays with home folks.

W. R. Baxter of San Saba was a Santa Anna visitor one day this week.

Miss Ana Lee Ashford returned to her home in Dallas Sunday after an extended visit with her sister in this city.

Carl Klutz who has been taking treatment at the Sealy hospital, was able to return to his home in Cross Plains Sunday.

"13TH HOUR" at 12:01 Christmas nite, at Queen Theatre.

## If Wishes Were Wings

and good will had the power to work magic, your home would be visited by this Yuletide season and filled to the rooftree with genuine joy.

Those loved ones you most long to see would be there, all worries and irritations would be whipped out the door, and you would all have the merriest time of your lives.

We hope that it will be so with you anyhow.

Santa Anna Telephone Co.

## Groaning Tables



are everywhere becoming aware that Christmas is here again and that they will have to stand up under the usual burden of delicious viands which give the Yuletide its festive spirit. Ceilings and rooftrees are resounding again to peals of merry laughter that let them know their best echoes will be needed for another week.

Everybody and everything seems to be taking on the spirit of the season, and we are not one whit behind in wishing for everybody the jolliest Christmas of their lives.



Corner Drug Company

## A Christmas Of Smiles

Smiles are now lighting the faces of young and old like the flowers that make beautiful the fields of springtime.

And any season that can bring so much happiness to the surface and scatter it about in the path of all must be an extraordinarily good season.

We hope that you will gather a great bouquet of smiles from the happy hours of the occasion and wear it on through the newly coming year.

Standard Battery Company

Phone . . . 249

## QUALITY, SERVICE, ECONOMY, COURTESY

are the factors that we offer you in making your daily shopping, the points that go to make buying your requisites a pleasure instead of a task. You're at home here.

### Our Christmas Merchandise

is especially inviting to gift seekers this year. Make your selections early and avoid last minute worries. You'll enjoy shopping here.

FOR WOMEN	FOR MEN
Handkerchiefs	Ties
Gloves	Scarfs
Purses	Belts
Hose	Handkerchiefs
Garters	Sox
Silk Bloomers	Hats and Caps
Toilet Sets	Suits and Overcoats

### Dry Goods Dept.

Extra Special Prices at LESS THAN COST

Men's \$25.00 to \$30.00 Suits	\$18.50
Men's \$20.00 to \$22.50 Suits	\$15.00
Men's \$18.00 to \$19.50 Suits	\$13.50
All Boy Suits at Cost and Less	
New Overcoats, \$12.50 to \$25.00, going at from	\$8.00 to \$18.00
All Ladies \$24.50 Coats at	\$16.75
All Ladies \$22.50 Coats at	\$16.00
All Ladies \$15.00 Coats at	\$10.50
All Ladies \$12.00 Coats at	\$8.00
Little Girl's \$4.75 Coats at	\$3.00
Little Girl's \$3.95 Coats at	\$2.85

All Silk Dresses and Sweaters at less than cost. We have some real bargains on all merchandise. Pay us a visit and get our prices and save the difference.

ALL GROGERIES AT RED HOT CASH PRICES—GIVE US A CALL AND SEE WHAT WE CAN DO

# R. J. MARSHALL & SONS

Les Hodler and Elmo and Otto Eubanks have returned from a hunt near Mason. They report killing one deer.  
Mrs. Allison Weaver left Tuesday for Dallas where she will visit through the Christmas holidays. "13TH HOUR" at 12:01. Christmas mite, at Queen Theatre.

**THANKS AND GREETINGS**  
I wish to take this opportunity to extend a word of thanks to my customers for the patronage given me in the past and wish for you and yours a full share of the Christmas joys you so much deserve. May the Yuletide season be filled with smiles and joys to overflowing.  
R. W. SHEFFIELD.

**POSTED**  
Notice is hereby given that all premises owned or controlled by the following parties are posted against all trespassing or frequenting of any kind.—Mrs. M. E. Chambers, T. J. Johnson, Carl Williams, C. C. Fletcher, on J. H. Green farm.

**NEED GLASSES**  
Dr. Jones, the Eye Man, will be at Mrs. Comer Blue's Jewelry Store every Tuesday. Eyes examined, glasses fitted, headache and eye strain relieved.  
FOR SALE—A cream separator.—Turney Smith. 46-tfc

**FARM & RANCH LOANS**  
Let the Bangs N. F. L. A. build that house that you have long waited for. 5 per cent, 5 to 35 years.  
F. E. Strange, Bangs, Texas  
Mrs. Roy Nanny of Fort Worth visited her sister, Mrs. E. M. Easley a few days this week.

**Colorado Water Troubles**  
While the recent meeting at Dallas to settle the differences between power interests and those desiring use of the waters of the Colorado river for municipal and irrigation purposes did not result in a settlement, hope is held that

this may soon be accomplished in a way to allow the use of all water that may be needed along the stream and at the same time leave the power company sufficient water to serve its plans. To store water that can't be used to any advantage is as wasteful as to hoard that idle money.

**Queen THEATER**  
Mon. & Tues. 26 & 27

**CHESTER CONKLIN**  
**GEORGE BANCROFT**

**ell It To Sweeney**  
with Jack Liden Doris Hill Gregory La Cava  
A Paramount Picture

Clear the track the laughs are coming and they're here to stop fun riders in the caboose with Paramount's new comedy team.  
COMEDY in connection.  
Wed. & Thurs. 28 & 29

**RULY**  
the greatest motion picture all

**EMIL NI**  
**The Way of All Flesh**  
(The first picture in America)

The picture of all pictures with Emil Jannings, Béla Bennett, Phyllis Haver and other leading stars.  
Silken hose, flashy clothes, eyes that flirt, blows that hurt. Here is Paramount's "The Way Of All Flesh." Don't miss Emil Jannings, first American made master.

**METRO NEWS** in connection.  
Friday 30  
**Spoilers of the West**  
With Tim McCoy, Majorie Daw, and William Fairbanks

Saturday 31  
**BUCK JONES**  
in  
**Hills of Peril**  
COMEDY and last Episode of RIDDLE RIDER.

NOTICE: Christmas night the "13TH HOUR" will be shown at 12:01.

**The 13th Hour**  
Starting at one minute after 12 o'clock the will be shown.  
Are you superstitious? Do you believe that 13 is unlucky number? That a black cat means bad luck?—then see what happened at "The 13th Hour" Christmas night. Come and have a good time.

**LOST**—Between Santa Anna and Brownwood, Wednesday morning, December 21, two suit cases, one containing clothing for men, the other clothing for baby. Return to Santa Anna News for reward.—J. W. Stewart, enroute from Cisco to McCamey, Texas.

"13TH HOUR" at 12:01 Christmas mite, at Queen Theatre.

**FOR RENT**—Bedroom close to bath with hot and cold water, also garage.—Miss Josie Baker, Phone 236.

**SNIPES** Cresote Cough Syrup is guaranteed to relieve the most stubborn cough, or money refunded.—CORNER DRUG CO.

**FOR SALE**—Instantaneous water heater; also lavatory. Phone 187 or 184.

**FOR SALE**—A few full blood Silver laced Wyandotte Cockerels, price \$2.50.—Mrs. D. P. Wheatley, Santa Anna, Texas, phone Shield.

**WANTED**—Man and wife to keep house and work on farm.—Dr. M. G. Walker, Coleman, Texas, Burnett Route. 51-tfc

**LOST**—Friday, December 9th, near Mrs. Comer Blue's Jewelry Store, pair of shell Rem glasses. Reward.—Mrs. Leman Brown. 51-tf

**FOR TRADE**—Fordson and plow for truck.—Jno. A. Williams, 2 1-2 miles north of Shield.

**FOR SALE**—Work stock, cows, chickens, farming implements and many other items. Due to sickness I have decided to sell my holdings and try another location.—Turney Smith. 51-tfc

I am now taking orders for Kasch cotton seed, direct from the originator, Ed Kasch, and will appreciate an order from you.—W. A. Alford, phone 3412, Santa Anna. 41

**SEED OATS FOR SALE**  
First Year Ferguson No. 922 Pettibone Seed Oats, made 104 bushels per acre, at 75 cents. These are the best oats that the Ferguson Seed Farm puts out. They are free from Johnson grass seed, and the seed that they were sown from were sown treated and will hold good for at least two years. See Elmo Wallace, or the Bookkeeper at Farmers Gin No. 1. 37-tfc

**1927**  
**The Curtain Falls**

Soon the curtain will fall on the year 1927. It has been a very successful year for us, as we look back over the year, and think of the many happy hours that have passed by. We have made many new friends and customers, and we only hope to continue to hold your friendship through the coming year 1928.

We hope for you a Christmas brimming full of happiness, and when the curtain rises on the year 1928, that it will rise on the most rosy period of your life.

**May The Year 1928 Be One Of The Happiest Of Your Life**

**Parker Bros.**  
Tailors, Gents Furnishings

**Did You Ever Read**

the fine array of lyrics in Eugene Fields "In-Wink-A-Way Land?"—Remember, at the end of the "Happy Household" describing the reaction from worldly cares when baby laughs?

**GRANDMA LAUGHS,  
GRANDPA LAUGHS,  
WIFE SHE LAUGHS,  
AND I, YOU BET, I LAUGH TOO.**

You know baby isn't with us many years, he soon grows up, and gets out from under our roof. Let's make him laugh this Christmas. Let's make him remember Santa Claus with a grin of satisfaction. True it costs a little, but it happens just once a year; for a few brief years. The few dollars it takes will soon be forgotten, but the satisfaction it brings the children, will probably never be forgotten.

You know in a stock of goods as large as ours, after a run of two weeks, heavy shopping, there is always some broken lots, and odds and ends of good merchandise, that needs moving. On such lots of merchandise we will have special prices, Friday and Saturday. Don't miss this

Just a word here for the men who haven't yet bought their gifts—don't forget that we are prepared for you with a line of good gifts for the wife, or the girl friend. We are expecting you in before Christmas eve. We have a good line of hosiery, gift sets, all kinds, beautiful chinaware, dainty lingerie, toilet sets, manicure sets, purses, powder and perfume sets, pictures, tapestry, in fact the very items that any woman needs and appreciates, and at prices you can afford to pay.

**E. E. Chambers Variety Store**  
"THE EASY PLACE TO SHOP"

**A TIME FOR SENTIMENT!**

We do not conduct our business for sentimental reasons nor solicit patronage on any other than the soundest business principles. We believe that in commercial transactions customers prefer honest values, courtesy and promptness, and like to trade where their business is appreciated. Therefore do we model our policy along these lines.

But these things rather add to our enjoyment of the beautiful sentiment which permeates the Christmas holidays, for this is a time for sentiment, the tenderest the human heart knows.

All joy to you and yours at Christmastide.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**Santa Anna Merc. Co.**

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
LESSON

By Rev. P. B. Fitzwater, D. D.  
Dean, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago  
© 1927, by Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for December 25  
CHRISTMAS LESSON.

**LESSON TEXT**—Luke 2:1-20  
**GOLDEN TEXT**—Thou shalt call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins.  
**PRINCIPAL TOPIC**—The Coming of the Christ Child  
**Junior Topic**—God Sends His Son  
**Intermediate and Senior Topic**—The Birth of Peace  
**Young People and Adult Topic**—The Promised Era of Peace

**I. The Birth of Jesus (vs. 1-7)**  
1. Jesus' birth foretold (Mic. 5:2)  
Only a little while before the fulfillment of this prophecy which was made some seven hundred years before there seen a little likelihood that Micah's words would come true. Jesus' mother was miles away from Bethlehem in Galilee. God moved the emperor to enforce the census of taxation which brought Mary to the village at the proper time.

2. Jesus' birth announced to Mary and Joseph (Luke 1:26-38)  
Gabriel, the archangel, sent by God to the little town of Nazareth to Mary, a Jewish maiden who was betrothed to a carpenter in the village by the name of Joseph, and he announced that she should give birth to the Messiah and that this son should not be Joseph's, but the child of the Holy Ghost (Matt. 1:18-21). Later the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph also, making him the same announcement and adding that the child should be named Jesus, which means that He shall save His people from their sins (Matt. 1:21).

3. The prediction fulfilled (vs. 7)  
This took place at a most opportune time. It occurred when all systems of religion and immoral worship were tottering upon their foundations, therefore most suitable for the introduction of the gospel. The whole world being under the power of the Romans who then ruled it, made it possible for Christ's ministers to go from city to city and country to country unopposed. We can be assured that the "Whisperer" came in the winter months and is never tardy in His ministrations.

**II. Jesus' Birth Announced to the Shepherds (vs. 8-14)**  
1. To whom (vs. 8)  
Jesus' birth was announced to the shepherds who were keeping watch over their flocks by night. The fact that the glorious message was first sounded forth to them shows that poverty is no barrier to its reception. Their humble station in life and their being busy with common duties did not prevent them from hearing this glorious message from God. Moses, Gideon, Samson and others were all called of God from the activities of life. He never calls lazy people.

2. By whom (vs. 9)  
The first gospel sermon was preached by an angel of the Lord. We then see them interested in men and women, part in the announcement of God's plan for their souls. No doubt the angelic beings earnestly sympathized with fallen sinners.

3. The nature of the message (vs. 10-11)  
It was good tidings of great joy. It was good tidings because the darkness of heathendom, which had so long covered the earth, was being dispelled. The coming out of Satan, the prince of this world, was about to take place. Angels were to be proclaimed to those who were in bondage. The way of salvation was to be open to all. The teacher was the knowledge of God to be shared to the Jews, but offered to the whole world. Truly glad was glorious news; so glorious that a multitude of the heavenly host accompanied the announcement with their song of praise.

**III. The Shepherds Investigating (vs. 15-17)**  
They did not stop to argue or make questions, though these things were, no doubt, passing strange to them. They went immediately to Bethlehem, where they found everything just as represented. They had the privilege of first gazing upon the world's Savior, the very Lord of Glory. They returned with glad hearts in their hearts, praising God for all these wonderful things which He had revealed unto them.

**IV. The Shepherds Witnessing (vs. 17-20)**  
They found things as announced by the angels. When they beheld the Lord of Glory they could not remain silent, therefore went back praising God. Those who really hear the gospel message cannot be silent. Those who really hear the gospel must tell it out to others.

**Notice of Stockholders Meeting**  
The annual meeting of the stockholders of the State National Bank of Santa Anna, Texas, will be held at its offices in Santa Anna, Texas, Tuesday, the 10th day of January, 1928, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 4 P. M. for the election of directors for the ensuing year and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.  
P. P. BOND, Cashier.

**Bridegroom's Friend**  
The term "best man" is a survival of the time when brides were carried by rail. The would-be bridegroom set out accompanied by friends, and the chief among them was his "best man."

The Christmas Homecomings

The Christmas present that counts most in many homes is to have the children come back for the holiday. The presents may be elaborate and expensive, and the dinner fixed up with the most scientific cookery and luscious variety of eatables, but if there are empty chairs while the boys and girls are far away in distant communities, the holiday misses something of its joy.

People should take a lot of trouble rather than miss the family reunions that are the happiest feature of this holiday. The crowds that throng the trains show how strong the magnet is that draws the people back to their old homes.

Laughter and merriment run very high in many of these homes where the families have been reunited. Reverend seniors feel as if they were boys and girls again, as they reproduce the pranks of former days, and the old-timers frolic with the grandchildren as if they were kids again. May there be many such homecomings in Santa Anna.

**Our Standards of Merchandising**  
The stores of Santa Anna are a splendid example of modern merchandising, particularly at this time of year. Business men often hesitate whether they shall buy this or that line of goods which involves a large outlay of capital. They may feel they take some risk of loss. But they say to themselves, the people of our city ought to have these lines, to give them a complete and varied supply. So they equip themselves with stocks using credit to metropolitan distributors.

In the spirit of reciprocity, it is good to show appreciation of this enterprise by buying at home and encouraging our stores to do business in the most progressive way.

**Old Order of Nobility**  
The Order of the Golden Fleecy was founded by Philip, the Good duke of Burgundy, at Bruges, January 10, 1380. The insignia are a sheepskin with head and feet attached, hanging from a gold and blue enameled flint stone emitting flames, and borne in its turn by steel for the letter B.

**Equally Great**  
He that can heroically endure adversity will bear prosperity with equal greatness of soul, for the wind that cannot be detected by the former is not likely to be transported by the latter.—Fledding.

**Way to Stop Them**  
In Denmark the government puts poets on its pay roll, probably so they won't have to keep on writing.—Nuyton Daily News.

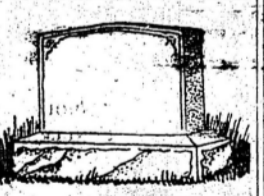
**The Future is Today**  
The man who has no future is the man who always thinks the future is tomorrow.

**Fred Watkins Dray Line**  
We  
**HAUL ANYTHING**  
Service is Our Motto  
DAY PHONE 38  
NIGHT 217

**Security Abstract Co.**  
Frank W. McCarty, Mgr.  
Coleman, Texas  
We give quick Service.  
Office with  
R. E. L. Zimmerman

**DR. W. G. WILLIAMS**  
Diseases of the Eye  
Glasses fitted  
At Dr. Powell's Office Every  
Tuesday and Friday

**Your Druggist**  
Is now serving delicious HOT DRINKS. He gives you better soda fountain service because of his Bishop and Babcock Red Cross Sanitary Soda Fountain. Installed by  
**San Antonio Drug Co.**  
P-21



Marking the grave of a loved one is a tribute of respect we love to pay. Before purchasing a monument give us a chance to figure with you.

**Santa Anna Monument Co.**  
T. S. SLAUGHTER.

WE WON'T TALK  
BUSINESS  
NOW

Our business talks pretty well for itself anyhow to those who come around in listening distance, but just now we want to tell you that we are hoping that you will gather in great portions of Christmas joy to divide with your family and friends and that you will have enough left over to last you all through the days of the new year.

VINSON'S  
GROCERY

Jack Frost  
with  
Icy Tracery

beautifies the world outside and puts the tang in the air that makes us want to move about and be doing something to keep our bodies warm. Old Santa Claus now comes along and puts the glow of love in our hearts to warm them up and make us want to be doing something to make someone else happier.

We shall try to do our share, and in the meantime we are wishing you all the happiness you can take care of.

Turner  
Drug Store

May Your Stocking  
Be Filled With Plenty  
On This  
Happy Christmas  
Day

1927	1928
Our store has made many new friends and customers during the year 1927, and we want to take this opportunity of thanking those who have filled our stocking with business.	May the coming year be one of the most successful of your life. We hope that throughout the coming year our service shall continue to be the kind you like, and we hope to receive your patronage in the future as we have in the past.
<b>Our New Year's Pledge</b>	
All the employees of our store pledge to you a service that will be even better in the future than it has been in the past, and that is promising a lot.	

E. E. Chambers Variety Store  
"The Easy Place to Shop"

The Pleasure  
Is Ours

To send you the season's heartiest greetings:  
To thank you most sincerely for your valued patronage during the past years;  
To wish for you and yours a glorious and successful New Year in every part of your life;  
And to SERVE you in the future with a definite, fixed policy of 'He Profit's Most Who Serves Best'

Leeper-Curd  
Lumber  
Co.

Merry  
Christmas

Happy  
New Year





LETTERS TO SANTA CLAUS

Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 8, 1927  
Mr. Santa Claus,

Dear Santa—  
Please send to me the following things: Please send me a doll and a doll buggy, a piano, Fountain pen, a set of china dishes and a scooter. I don't know of anything else, but be sure to bring the poor little girls and boys something. I wish you a Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Your friend,  
Cleo Alva Chambers.

Dear Santa Claus—

We have tried to be good little boys all this year and we hope you won't forget us. We want a gun a piece, a tractor, a wagon, and a car. If you'll bring these, I'll love you around the neck.

Walter Burton and  
Jimmy Frank Verner.

Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 16, 1917  
Mr. Santa Claus,

North Pole,

Dear Santa—

Please send to me the following things: I want an electric questionnaire and a bicycle and a game of polly pickle, and I want a Fountain pen. Be sure and give the poor children some pretty things, and I am sure you will. I will have a happy Christmas I know. I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Your friend,  
Mary Southern Garret.

Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 14, 1927  
Dear Santa Claus—

How are you? I am just fine. Santa Claus I am writing you what I want for Christmas. I want an electric train. Santa Claus I am going to hang up my stocking for you to fill, but if you don't want to, I sure want you to bring me a electric train. Santa Claus I guess that is all.

Bob Pearce.

Santa Anna, Texas

Dear Santa Claus—

How are you tonight? I saw you in town Saturday, but did not tell you what I want you to bring me Christmas. I am 7 years old and am a good little boy. Will you bring me a little car and a little wagon, and a stopper gun, and some nuts, fruits and candy; and don't forget Daddy and Mamma.

Your friend,  
Dawson Hines.

Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 8, 1927  
Mr. Santa Claus,

North Pole,

Dear Santa—

Please send to me the following things: Santa Claus please send me a Fountain pen for Christmas and a bottle of ink, and also a pocket knife and some apples and oranges. Don't forget the poor little girls and boys in our town. I wish you a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Your friend,  
Coleman Lane.

Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 17, 1927  
Mr. Santa Claus—

are you this Christmas? If you can come to see me Christmas you to bring me a wrist watch, candy, apples and oranges. I want you to bring me a book, a pretty box of old

Your friend,  
Vira May Hines.

Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 12, 1927  
Mr. Santa Claus—

for you to bring me a baby doll, a set of some fruit, nuts and candy,

Please remember the little orphans and poor and needy.

Your little friend,  
Mary John Wade.

Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 16, 1927  
Dear Santa Claus—

Will you bring me a Fountain pen, and a doll with black hair and eyes that will open and shut, bring me a rocking chair, a doll trunk, a big one. Be sure that it is for a big doll—bring me a big doll. Don't forget the poor little girls and boys. I wish you a merry Christmas. I am in the 3rd grade.

Your little girl,  
Rheba Pauline Campbell.

Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 16, 1927  
Dear Santa Claus—

North Pole.  
Will you bring me the following things: Santa I want some dishes, a doll, a doll bed, a bicycle, a scooter, an electric questionnaire, a piano and a Fountain pen. And Santa I wish the other little boys and girls a merry Christmas and you a merry Christmas.

Your friend,  
Margaret Scott.

Santa Anna, Texas.

Dear Santa Claus—  
I saw you in town Saturday, but didn't get to tell you what I want you to bring me Christmas. I am five years old and do like to play in the sand. Have been a good boy and will you please bring me a little car and a stopper gun, fruits and some nuts of all kinds. Please remember the little orphan children.

Your friend,  
Grady Hines.

Dear Santa Claus—

I am a little boy 7 years old, and I want you to bring me a coaster wagon and a pop gun, and caps, some fruit, nuts and candy.

As ever your little friend,  
Edward Keeling.

Dear Santa Claus—

Please bring me some Roman Candles, fire crackers, a steel wagon, a bunching bag and boxing gloves. If you don't have a steel wagon bring me a ball bearing scooter. I want a big fire truck, and bring me anything else you want to and I thank you.

From  
Bill Jack Garrett.

Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 18, 1927  
Dear Santa Claus—

Wishing you a Merry Christmas. Please bring me a toot ball and school bag supplies and Fountain pen. Bring my little sister a set of dishes, doll and blanket, the goat a collar, and don't forget the old folks of Santa Anna.

Your Little Friends,  
Raymond and Gladys Lightfoot.

Dear Santa Claus—

Please bring me a doll with a cloak on it, a set of dishes in a basket, a sewing machine, a sewing set and a tricycle, some apples, candy and nuts. I will be at my Grandmother's when you come.

Bettie Ruth Blo.

Rockwood, Texas, Dec. 22, 1927.  
Dear Santa Claus—

Please bring me a big baby doll and a big basket, and please dress it up pretty and bring me a pretty mesh bag, and some sparklers; and Ecro said that she wants you to bring her a little baby doll too, and to bring her a little red handle broom and a box of crayolas and some sparklers, too; and Frank said that he wants a little drum, truck and a basket ball, and an air gun and some air gun shells and some sparklers, and a box of

handkerchiefs for Mother, and a box of handkerchiefs for Daddy, and we all want some apples and oranges, and we all want some nuts and some candy.

From  
Clydene, Frank and Echo Box.

Santa Anna, Texas, 12-19-27  
Dear Santa Claus—

Please do not forget me Christmas. I would like to have a little kodak, a pair of house shoes, a Fountain pen and fruit, nuts and candy.

Lots of love,  
Cleta Belle Dodgen.

Dear Santa Claus—

Come to see me and bring me a stopper gun, tricycle and some little toys and candy, apples, nuts, oranges, pecans and anything that you want to bring to me. Bring some more pretty toys and good things to eat for each little boy and girl in town. Remember everybody in Santa Anna, especially the poor boys and girls. Come to see my Grandmother and my playmates. Come soon.

From  
Tom Robin.

Dear Santa Claus—

Please bring me a box of tinker toys, a little stove with some little pans, and a little car, and you will oblige,

Billie Pieratt.

Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 15, 1927  
Dear Santa Claus—

Please bring me a pretty little doll when you come Christmas, and I will be proud of anything that you bring to me. My baby sister wants some apples, candy and nuts and a baby ball.

Love to you and your wife,  
Henrielle Ashmore, Santa Anna.

Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 17, 1927  
Dear Santa Claus—

I want you to please bring me a doll and buggy, also a little cedar chest and lots of fruit, nuts and candy. And Santa please do not forget the little orphan children.

Thanks,  
Virginia Gale Latham.

Coleman, Texas, Dec. 17, 1927.  
Dear Santa Claus—

Please bring me a baby doll, a Sandy Andy, a pair of gloves and a hagle, apples, oranges, nuts and a big stick of candy. If you will bring me these things I will give you a big slice of cake.

Looking for Santa,  
Douthy McClure.

Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 15, 1927  
Dear Santa—

Well, Christmas time is drawing near, so I guess I must tell you what I want. Well, I want all the you have room for on your sleigh. I also want a wrist watch and a Fountain pen. Oh, yes, I mustn't forget, I want a negro doll. Be sure it's a negro. Now Santa you know I've been good; cause I got on the honor roll last month; and we never had the honor roll the first month or I would have been on it then. Oh, yes Santa, I forgot one thing that is an electrical Algebra worker. That is all I guess, except put my presents on the Christmas tree up here at Cross Roads, for there is liable to be a fire in our fireplace and our chimney is sort of small and you are so fat and will have your pack of toys you could not hardly get down it at all, so good bye, don't forget my presents.

Your sincere friend,  
Mary Ola Dockery.

P. S.—Some of my friends are writing also. Don't give me anything more than you do them. See I'm not selfish. Little good girl.

Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 17, 1927  
Dear Santa:

How are you this Christmas? Santa I want you to bring me a 410 shot gun, some oranges, apples, and pecans. Santa do not forget the orphan children.

Your true friend,  
Melville Hines.

Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 15, 1927  
Dear Santa Claus—

How are you? I'm as good as ever. For Christmas I want a little mama doll that says mama, and a wrist watch, and that is all.

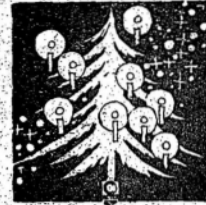
Your friend,  
Thelma Shaw

Santa Anna, Texas

Dear Santa Claus—

Please bring me a box of crayolas and bottle of paste and drawing paper and scissors. I want a cap and cap gun and caps and some tinker toys. I want some candy and fruits.

Burton Gregg.



Make the Most  
of Christmas Joy

# A Million Christmas Candles!

On multiplied tens of thousands of Christmas trees around the world tonight will twinkle a million Christmas candles whose light will shine less brightly perhaps than the millions of sparkling baby-eyes that reflect their mellow radiance.....

A million Christmas candles to warm again a million human hearts with the old, sweet glow of Christmas joy..

A million Christmas candles.....MILLIONS of Christmas candles.....

And in great power plants all over this broad land and other lands...quiet, steady-eyed men will carefully watch and tend the whirling wheels of great machines, keeping a Christmas vigil all their own that those sparkling Christmas lights may not flicker and die

For the Christmas taper, like the tallow dip, has gone the way of Grandmother's spinning wheel, and Electricity, the Faithful, the Efficient, the Safe and Sure, has entered in, to add new lustre to the Christmas fireside.

Christmas tapers were delicate, dainty and beautiful things, and sentiment clings round them with a fair, sweet fragrance of half-forgotten childhood days. But practical minds...if minds are ever practical at the Christmas season...turn back to more painful pictures that have left their lurid scars upon Time's canvas through years gone by...pictures of blasted, blackened homes ravaged by the Demon Fire, whose heart remains untouched by Christmas mercy—pictures of broken, cindered baby-bodies...infinitely precious baby-lives caught up and snuffed out in the red terror of a Christmas-tree holocaust.

What a Christmas benediction, those softly glowing little electric bulbs that cheerily wink on a million Christmas trees tonight.....

What a Christmas gift from the minds and hands and hearts of patient toilers in laboratory and power plant to the younger generation and to generations yet unborn.

It is something for the quiet men who keep their Christmas watch in the power plants tonight to think about.....

## West Texas Utilities Company

—TO ITS FIFTY THOUSAND FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS IN ONE HUNDRED TOWNS AND CITIES OF WEST TEXAS THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE WEST TEXAS UTILITIES COMPANY EXTEND THEIR SINCERE WISHES FOR A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS, HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 14, 1927  
 Dear Santa:—  
 I will write you a letter as Christmas is very near. I will tell you what I want. Just one thing—a wrist watch, I know you will give it to me, as I've been good. We do not have a chimney. You can come down the stove pipe. You may get very black because they have a lot of soot in them, but don't forget my watch.  
 I am as ever yours,  
 Vera Lowery,  
 Santa Anna, Texas.

Dear Santa Claus:—  
 Please bring me a sleepy-eyed baby doll and little table and chairs. I want some candy, fruits and nuts.  
 Mary Jo Gregg.

I know you will have lots of boys and girls to visit, but please don't forget to take my sister Helen something nice. She is in Chanute, Kansas. Bring Harold a book and I would like to have a lulla bye doll.  
 Yours truly,  
 Marvel Donaldson.

Whon, Texas, Dec. 18, 1927  
 Dear Santa Claus:—  
 How are you tonight? I am just fine. Dear Santa I am a little girl 7 years old, am in the 1st reader. Please bring me a doll and doll buggy, a set of little dishes and little embroidery set, with hoop, thread and thimble and don't forget apples, oranges, candy and nuts, and please don't forget my

brother.  
 Love to Santa,  
 Naden Elizabeth Gilmore,  
 Whon, Texas.

Dear Santa:—  
 We are writing you now because we don't want to be late. Santa Claus we have twins, a little boy and girl. I want a big red wagon, a tractor, and other toys, some candy and all kinds of fruits.  
 Santa Claus I want a big blue baby buggy for my twin dolls you brought me last Christmas, a little purse, some candy, all kinds of fruit, also a little truck. Santa we are seven years old.  
 Lee Ray and Leta Fay Huggins.

Dear Santa Claus:—  
 Will you please bring me a little six shooter and a little car that I can ride in, a hammer and a tool chest. I am a good little boy and go to Whon schools. Good by,  
 Dwight Shields.  
 P. S. Bring my big brother a shot gun.

Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 15, 1927  
 Dearest Santa Claus:—  
 Please bring me a doll trunk, a doll bed, a rocking chair, and some fruit, nuts, candy and chewing gum. Bring the poor children and orphan some things, too.  
 With love,  
 Ruth Vanderford.

Santa Anna, Dec. 15, 1927  
 Dear Santa Claus:—  
 I want you to bring me a red rocking chair and rocky horse, fruit and candy.  
 Your Friend,  
 John Jr. Keeling.

Santa Anna, Dec. 15, 1927  
 Dear Santa Claus:—  
 I am a little girl 5 years old, and I want you to bring me a baby doll with a bottle and a doll cart, fruit, nuts, candy and firecrackers.  
 As ever your friend,  
 Billy Ruth Keeling.

Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 17, 1927  
 Dear Santa Claus:—  
 I am going to write you so you won't pass by and forget I am here. I want a doll and some dishes, and little brother wants a kiddie car and a little red truck. Oh yes, a rubber ball too, please don't forget Daddy and Mother, and bring plen-

ty of oranges, apples and nuts. I am four years old, little brother is two years old.  
 Your little friend,  
 Victoria Louise Widham.

Santa Anna, Texas, Dec. 19, 1927  
 Mr. Santa Claus,  
 North Pole.  
 Dear Santa:  
 Will you please bring me a coaster, a toy gun and caps, a French harp, a pair of skates and lots of candy, fruit and nuts. And Santa please don't forget the unfortunate.  
 Your little friend,  
 James Jones.

**FOLKS WHO KNOW**  
**US BEST**

Know full well that there is no show and grand stand play about our policy, so we felt the best message we could think of write would be

**HAPPY**  
**PROSPEROUS**  
**NEW YEAR**

To all our friends and patrons. And since we really mean it we ask you to accept it as direct from our hearts to you.

**BLUE RACKET STORE**

**HAPPINESS**

A mind full and a heart full, we are wishing you at this glad Christmastide.

May the New Year fill your life with cheer and happiness.

**BAXTER'S VARIETY STORE**

**A Merry Christmas**

—Just the good old fashioned greeting:

**From Our House**  
 to  
**Your House**  
 and we say it because we mean it.

**WALKER'S PHARMACY**

**For colds, grip and flu take**

**Calotabs**  
 TRADE MARK REG.

Relieves the congestion, prevents complications, and hastens recovery.



**Make this Christmas last for thousands of miles**

Buick for 1928 combines exquisite beauty with unmatched get-away, power and handling ease.

Step into our showroom today and select the model which is best suited to your family's needs. Pay on the liberal G. M. A. C. time payment plan. We'll make delivery on Christmas day—or whenever you prefer.

**a Buick for Christmas**

**BLACKWELL MOTOR CO.**  
 Brownwood, Texas

Just Like We'd Meet You On the Street, Or Any Other Place, We Want to Say

**HOWDY FOLKS!**

Hope this will be a happy, prosperous New Year for you and all your folks.

You just don't know how we appreciate your business and your loyalty. But during 1928 we'll do our best to show you.

Come to see us!

**Service Cafe**

**IN HAPPY ACCORD**

with the Yuletide spirit we are hoping that your heart will be warmed by many cheerful greetings from friends, that your home will be lighted with the smiles of loved ones and made musical by happy laughter and merry shouts.

May 1928 be the year in which you will accomplish your most cherished dreams and ambitions.

Accept our thanks for 1927 patronage and grant us, if you please, the pleasure of serving you in 1928.

**Self Serve Grocery**

By W. B. Sparkman

**USED CARS**  
 at  
**Real Bargains!**

If you are in the market for a Second-Hand Car it will pay you to see us at once-----we have some real bargains to offer.

**Have Your Lights Tested**  
 before you can pay your taxes and get new license plates, you must get a new light certificate.

**WE ARE PREPARED TO TEST YOUR LIGHTS**

**Mathews Motor Co**

AS TO JOHN

(State Press in Dallas News)  
 A kind customer at Troup wants another session for the consideration of John the Baptist. This column has given one or two, maybe three, considerations to John, and several who claim to know more of it than has yet been told have written in. Our Troup patron calls our attention to the scripture that "God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham." Then we are led back to the Old Testament and the subject of "Elisha and the mocking children." Quite often society or the life of sinful parents has led them to destruction," the Troup brother submits. "But do you think that God, who is able to raise up children to Abraham, is able also to give to those who suffer physical destruction through the sins of others a reward in keeping with His own righteousness?" The answer is that it seems a long way around. To say that God allows

children to be tortured in this life in order that He may more abundantly reward them in the next life is to indulge in sheer hypothesis. No mother would deprive her infant of milk for the first year in order that she might give him a whole cow the second year, would she? Here we come to the key question of the Trouper's inquisition, after he had cited his own convictions in a passage too long for this space: "Are these deductions logical, or do you deduce that the Jews out of a reasonable interpretation of the Scripture rejected Christ?" State Press deduces that the Jews rejected Christ because he was one of themselves. They couldn't en masse believe a God had been born to one of their own peasant girls. In the same case, how many Americans would believe a God had been born to any American household? How many Jews or Gentiles believed Mohammed rode a winged horse through seven heavens? Christians have faith in Christ because they have

faith in the New Testament. There is no other record of Him. Jews have faith in Jehovah because they have faith in the Old Testament. There is no other record of Him, save in the Chronology of nature. It is all a question of faith, and a faith that must be widely comprehensive, not given to minute details. There are a thousand and debatable texts in the two Testaments. Theologians delight in them, but after all these centuries the theologians still disagree. This is both natural and desirable. If all were of one mind concerning the sovereignty of God, as all are of one mind concerning earth's debt to the sun, there would be so general an acceptance of His rulership there might be no more devotion to one than to the other. The ancient Persians, and some of the Modern Persians, worshipped the sun. But after going thru their mechanical genuflexions they ignore any supposed duty they owed to the orb of day. The sun gave the old Persians no spiritual

exercise. They sought to propitiate the giver of daylight by making obeisance, but they did not invest the solar idol with spiritual influences meet for the culture of the soul. Just as the New Testament exhibits a more tender attitude toward children than the old Testament does, so does modern man invest God with attributes more paternal and tolerant than those with which ancient man invested Him. If there were any fixed principles in the child's interpretation of his father, there might be such principles in man's interpretation of God. There are general principles in both cases, but all are subject to change in proportion as minds change. Growth itself must be God-ordained.

**Myth About Snakes**

According to the director of the Pasteur Institute at Colombo, Ceylon, the long-held belief that snake charmers can cause snakes to leave their jungle haunts at the sound of music is a myth.

# MANY THANKS

## To You . . .



that our Christmas is as merry as it is. We are grateful that you appreciate our efforts to make our business succeed on a strict basis of merit and courtesy. The liberality of your patronage naturally makes us feel better at this season.

And now in return we give you in all sincerity our hearty wishes for the merriest and best Christmas you ever had, followed by an equally prosperous and enjoyable New Year.



# R. F. CRUM

### We Extend CORDIAL GREETINGS

and the best of good wishes for the New Year to all our patrons everywhere.

And our dealings with you have been most pleasant.

J. G. WILLIAMSON

Fine Shoe Repairing

### WITH THE PASSING OF THE OLD YEAR

And the arrival of the New, with the accumulated experience of all past years, we realize now more than ever that there is nothing finer than friendship, fellowship and the joy of serving.

The old year could have been better—it could have been worse. For the good things we give credit to our friends and the bad things we'll try to overcome with service with a smile in 1928. We thank the last one of you.

Texas Mercantile Co.

# AS THE CURTAIN COMES DOWN

## Upon the Acts of the Closing Year

**D  
O  
W  
N**

we take much pleasure in thanking our friends for whatever share they have given us of their business and for anything else they may have done toward making our year the success it has been.

We make it our purpose to deal fairly, courteously and promptly with all who patronize us in any way, and solicit future business upon this meritorious basis.

And now we wish for everyone a merry, merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.

# SANTA ANNA MOTOR CO.

Let Us Serve  
You in  
1928

Phone 186

Santa Anna

Thanks for  
Favors of  
1927



## To The Young

May you garner treasures of happy experiences during these Christmas holidays that will gladden your memory through all the years to come.

### TO THE OLDER—

May you renew again in the perennial spirit of Christmas the vigor of your eternal youth, living over again the joyful hours of the cherished past and adding them to the pleasures of the present.

### TO ALL—

A MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS



**W. R. Kelley & Co.**  
Established 1889  
THE WINCHESTER STORE

## Packages Of Good Will

We endeavor to wrap up a little good will in every package of merchandise prepared in our store, using honesty, courtesy and promptness and a sincere appreciation of whatever amount of business you have favored us with.

And now that the Merry Christmas season is upon us we can't refrain from mailing out in the form of this advertisement a great number of Good Will Packages bearing our heartiest wishes that you and yours may enjoy a most peaceful and happy Christmas.

**J. L. Boggus & Company**

"13TH HOUR" at 12:01 Christmas nite, Queen Theatre.

Miss Opal Laxon spent the week end in Brownwood.

Miss Nina Eubanks visited her sister in F. y field last week.

Mrs. Tracy Baker underwent an operation at the Sealy hospital Monday.

Mrs. Taylor Wheeler was called to Temple Friday because of the serious illness of her sister.

Mrs. J. R. Banister returned last week from a visit with her children in Houston.

Mrs. Willie Beach of Haskell was brought to the Sealy hospital Sunday for an operation.

Fred Campbell and family left Tuesday for Dallas where they will spend Christmas with relatives.

Mesdames Joe Harvey and Josie Joiner visited in Brownwood Tuesday.

Miss Hamiter left Tuesday for Amity, Ark., to spend the holidays with home folks.

S. L. Weaver left Monday for Houston where he will spend the holidays with relatives.

Mrs. Mat Butrey of Rockwood underwent a serious operation at the hospital Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Miles and V. L. Grady are visiting relatives in Midland this week.

Aubrey Parker who is attending the Technological college at Lubbock, is at home for the holidays.

John Pearce and Miles Wofford are hunting on the Llano this week.

Mrs. R. Miller of Rockwood visited in the John Whetstone home this week.

Grady Adams and Harvey Melton left Tuesday for Dallas to attend to business and visit relatives.

Eulless Maness and Mrs. Boardenhammer of Rockwood were shopping in Santa Anna Monday.

D. J. Barnes and family spent the week-end in Cross Plains in the home of J. Q. Barnes.

R. D. Chin and wife of Brownwood visited in the Virgil Lafford home Sunday.

Mr. Oty Johnson of Brownwood was a business visitor in Santa Anna Monday.

J. H. Cherry was carried to the Sealy hospital Monday in a serious condition.

Gene Henaley and Miss Jeanette Johnson visited in Brownwood Monday.

Clarence Webb of San Angelo was a visitor in Santa Anna Sunday.

Misses Bell and Sattie Powers are visiting in San Angelo a few days this week.

Elmo Wallace attended the Abilene and Waco foot ball game in Waco Friday.

Mrs. C. E. Welch and daughter, Mrs. C. W. Tierney are visiting in San Antonio this week.

Mesdames Jodie Mathews and R. R. Lovelady visited in Coleman Saturday.

William H. Stublefield of Belton visited his sister, Mrs. R. F. Crum here Saturday night.

Rev. N. R. Wagner and Rev. J. W. Bryan are visiting relatives in Houston this week.

Mitchell Overby of Oklahoma City is visiting home folks and old friends in the Mountain city this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Ireland Hubert and Miss Elizabeth Hubert of Coleman visited in the E. R. Purdy home Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Ray Garrett and little daughter of Abernathy came in Saturday to visit home folks here during the holidays.

Bob Garrett and Rader Dick who are employed at Lubbock are here to spend the holidays with home folks.

Miss Florence Harper of Denver, Colorado, arrived Sunday to be with her parents and other relatives here during the holidays.

The many friends of Dr. L. O. Garrett will be glad to know that he is fast improving from his emergency operation one day last week.

Wilbur Sims of Cross Plains visited his parents here this week.

Mrs. David Thornton is in the hospital suffering with pneumonia.



### They're Homemade

### Christmas Cakes

The world over there is nothing to compare with Christmas cakes, cookies—homade for the holidays. That is why we have followed the good old-fashioned home recipes in baking these delicious dainties. M-m-m! Try them!

Fruit Cake, per lb. 75c

Layer cake, Ginger Cookies, Cinnamon cookies.

**Ragsdale's Bakery**

### A Letter to

# Santa Claus

Dear Santa Claus:

Right now we are not so much concerned about what we are going to get for Christmas; but we have a lot of friends, young and old, that we ask you to remember.

Please bring, if you will, to each of our friends and customers a large bundle of smiles, some happiness, pleasant associations with friends and loved ones, good health, opportunity to make others happy and a liberal portion of loving kindness. We know you always have a big stock of these things and we hope you will not disappoint our friends.

Sincerely,

**Hunter Brothers**

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## BIG SPECIALS AT PIGGLY WIGGLY FRIDAY and SATURDAY

**Hams** Another shipment Buy one for Christmas, per pound only **17c**

**Peanut Butter** 5-lb can Armour's or Canova the kind for school children **78c**

**Peaches** Baker's choice, solid pack gallon can for only **43c**

**Dates** Pitted Now is the time to buy, only **19c**

**Candy** Special Christmas Mixed per pound **25c**

**Candy** 5-lb box best cream chocolates try one, now **\$1.21**

**Candy** 2-lb box best chocolates for only **68c**

Please come in and get our prices on Apples and Oranges by the box before you buy. Take advantage of our buying power.

We wish to thank every customer of this store for the patronage given us in the past, and wish for you and yours a full share of Christmas Joys this Yuletide Season. May we have the pleasure of serving you in the future.

