

The Floyd County Plainsman

Floydada, Floyd County, Texas, Thursday, December 14, 1939

Number 3

VOLUME No. 11

P. T. C. To Present "The Old Crab" Christmas Night

"The Old Crab" a farce-comedy was selected for the annual P. T. C. Christmas night play at Sandhill this year.

Following are the cast of characters: Mr. and Mrs. Roy Tyler, Mrs. A. V. Womack, Misses Anna Cates, Dorothy Ann Dooley, Flora Jeter, Opal Knight, Mrs. W. M. Jeter, Mr. Wewet Burk, J. W. Womack and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Holmes.

Floyd Co. Singing Convention Hold Meeting

The semi-annual meeting of the Floyd County Singing Convention met at South Plains last Sunday in an all day gathering.

In a business session of the convention T. J. Heard was elected president; Mr. Wigginton, of South Plains was elected Vice President, and Mrs. Merritt of the Lone Star community was elected secretary for the ensuing convention year.

Mr. and Mrs. W. U. White and son, Bob, spent Sunday in Lubbock.

Change In Q. A. & P. Train Schedule Effective Dec. 10

Effective Monday the passenger, mail, baggage and express service between Quanah and Floydada was changed to arrive in Floydada at 9:15 and leave at 10:15.

Congressman Geo. Mahon Closes Lubbock Office

Congressman George Mahon closed his Lubbock office December 14th and stated that he would return to Washington immediately to attend the Session of Congress convening January 3rd.

Mahon made the following statement in connection with the forthcoming Congress:

"I am disturbed about the movement in some quarters to drastically cut appropriations for the farm program. I shall resist every effort that may be made to cut agricultural appropriations. The chief complaint which I find among both landlords and tenants and among people generally against the present farm program is that it is operating in such a way that it tends to encourage the displacement of tenants rather than the utilization of tenants. This must be worked out in a mutually satisfactory manner and the utilization of tenants encouraged or the whole farm program will be seriously threatened. I have repeatedly pointed out this fact to Secretary Wallace and his assistants. I shall support an enlargement of the farm tenant home purchase program.

"As to the war situation, I would not try to diminish the importance of domestic problems, but our greatest problem in 1940 will be keeping out of war. I am more convinced than ever that we will not be drawn into the European conflict. Both Congress and the people are determined on a course of non-involvement. But we must not neglect our national defense. I have advised the President that as a member of the Appropriations Committee I expect to support a strong national defense program. "The Dies Committee has done a fairly good job investigating un-American activities and I expect to support its continuation."

Rites Are Held for Wilson Ivey Norman

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock for Wilson Ivey Norman, age 70 years, who died at his home on West Virginia street early Monday evening.

Survivors are the widow; nine sons, Marvin, of Lubbock; Evans, of Shamrock; Emmett, of Wellington; Elbert, Lewis and Vernon, of Floydada; Olin, of Abilene; Frank, of Albany; and T. A., of San Antonio; one daughter, Mrs. Wayne Gound, of Big Spring; two sisters, one brother and 18 grand children.

GOOD GOVERNMENT MEETING ANNOUNCED FOR SATURDAY

The Good Government Club has announced a meeting of all members to be held in the county court room Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Chemurgy Produced by Professor of NTSTC on Display



Teachers College Laboratories Do Special Work

Denton, Texas, December 11.—On the shelves and display counters of Denton stores this week is a new product of chemurgy produced in the laboratories of the farm industrial chemical division of the chemistry department of the North Texas State Teachers College.

The new product is the whole sweet potato, dehydrated for fancy baking—a yellow meal or flour-like substance which promises the housewife sweet potato pies in half the time and trouble and which can be used in baking of such fancy delicacies as muffins, "patties," sweet potato "sticks," puddings, and desserts of all kinds.

Production and distribution of the dehydrated potato is being sponsored by the industrial committee of the Denton Chamber of Commerce, and,

according to Otis Fowler, secretary of the Denton Chamber, it is hoped by the committee that the project will become an important industrial development for Denton and the farmers of this area.

The undertaking also will serve as a testing place for an industry that could reach out into many southern communities and aid farmers of the entire South in finding markets throughout the country, especially in the North and East.

Dehydration of the whole sweet potato solves difficult storage and shipping difficulties met with by sweet potato growers. Because the sweet potato is about 70 per cent water, it is too delicate to send into cold areas and costs too much to send long distances. But the dehydrated product perfected by Gilbert Wilson, instructor in chemurgy at the Denton Teachers College is a chemically stable form which lasts almost indefinitely and can be kept under varied weather conditions in all parts of the world.

dehydration of the whole sweet potato before he came to the Denton Teachers College as instructor in chemurgy. This was done when the young chemurgist was still science instructor at White Oak High School.

Despite the success of this demonstration, however, industrial interests in the production of the product lagged until this winter, when its possibilities were seen by the industrial committee of the Denton Chamber of Commerce. This committee decided to take over the distribution of the dehydrated potato on a small industrial basis. Wilson, who is also at this time working on the industrial dehydration of the sweet potato for cattle feed and starches for the East Texas Sweet Potato Dehydration Association, is serving as technical director of the Denton project.

Wilson had already completed the

Marshall Kothmann (center), 18-year-old Texan from Mason County, whose Hereford steer, Lucky Boy II, won the blue ribbon awarded for grand champion beef animal at the International Livestock Exposition...

National Guard Holds Maneuvers

The First Battalion of the 131st Artillery, Texas National Guard entered a three-day period of maneuvers at its camping site on the night of December 12 miles northwest of...

day for the three-day training period. The First Battalion consists of Battery A, Plainview; Battery B, Amarillo; Battery C, Lubbock; and the headquarters battery from Abilene.

Dr. and Mrs. C. M. Thacker visited in Big Spring Sunday with Mrs. Thacker's mother, Mrs. A. C. Sullivan, and her brothers, Pat and John Sullivan.

People and Spots in the Late News



HAT MILLINERY... aimed to harmonize the battle-back influence of the quint bonnet of those and blue feather, narrow brim all and to match one's coat, worn by Marcy West-



ATTAGAL, ATMORE!... Luverne Wise, 115-pound, 17-year-old hazel-eyed blonde, does point-after-touchdown kicking for Atmore, Ala., high school, tagged in—naturally—shorts. Coach Andy Ellington says she's really best kicker on squad, and once tossed a forward pass for extra point. Good student, too.



CAN'T EAT 'EM... "Fight On," English bulldog owned by Andy Gardner of Eagle Rock, Cal., looks as though he'd rather have a plain tin plate with real bones than the symbolic silverware he collected as best-of-breed winner in 23rd annual winter show of Los Angeles Kennel club.

Santa Fe Makes Slash In Coach Fares for Holidays

A drastic slash in railway coach fares in Texas, announced today by Elmer B. Johnson, general passenger agent of the Santa Fe Lines, Amarillo, is seen as a boon to travel in this state and to points in Louisiana during the holiday season.

The holiday rates are based on one and one-third price of the regular one-way coach fares for the round trip. This results in a reduction to nearly one and one-third cents per mile, the lowest fare in years.

Officials of the Santa Fe have instructed agents to be prepared to handle an unprecedented rush of holiday travel. Other lines of the Santa Fe have issued similar instructions governing holiday travel in this state.

Miss Dorothy Scott Becomes Bride of John R. Mayo

Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Scott announce the marriage of their daughter, Miss Dorothy Scott, to John R. Mayo, of Dougherty December 7, at Albuquerque, New Mexico. The ceremony was performed by the minister of the Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque, who is a close friend of Mr. Mayo.

Miss Scott was reared in Floydada and graduated from the high school and later attended West Texas State Teachers College at Canyon. For the past two years she has been employed with the county agricultural office here.

Committeemen to Be Selected on January 2

The Commissioners Court has called an election to be held January 2, in precincts one and three, to elect two committee members to serve on the County Soil Conservation Board. The elections will be held at Sandhill and Cedar Hill. The Commissioner of each precinct will preside at the election.

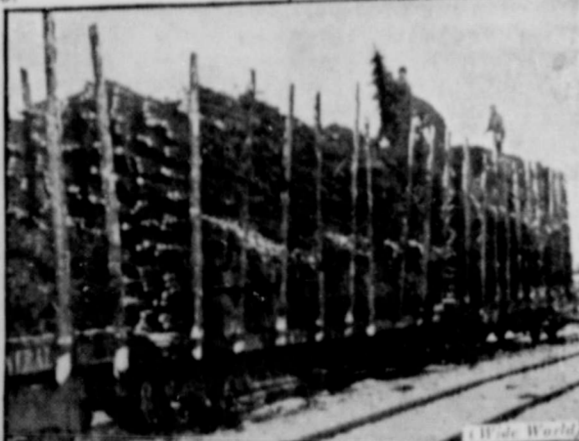
Mrs. Joe E. Pitts, of Amarillo, is visiting her mother, Mrs. Arthur E. Duncan and other relatives here this week.

Miss Louise Hyatt and Mrs. Jess Brown visited relatives in Lubbock Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Jones and daughter, Mary Frances, and Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer Jones, Jr., visited Sunday afternoon in Hale Center with Newt Watson.



PENGUIN PEEKABOO... Capt. Isak Lystad, commander of supply ship of Byrd Antarctic expedition, is shown at Philadelphia navy yard receiving shipment of triple-glazed thermopane, new insulating glass to be used as skylights in Little America buildings, from Jack Hanrahan Libbey-Owens-Ford glass company, as penguins take a peek and a peck.



TREE TRIMMING... Part of record crop of 10,000,000 Christmas trees is shown starting on way to market where, estimates National Consumers Tax Commission, they will cost families an average of little more than dollar each. Each tree, though, says NCTC, will be "trimmed" with eight cents in invisible taxes, adding to its cost.



BIRDS FOR BRITAIN... Scene on assembly line of Lockheed plant in Burbank, Cal., as last of \$27,000,000 order for 250 reconnaissance bombing planes for British Air Ministry got finishing touches. Order was completed in record time of 42 weeks.

# THE FLOYD COUNTY PLAINSMAN

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M. B. CAVANAUGH, PUBLISHER

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ADVERTISING RATES GIVEN ON APPLICATION

### NOTICE!

Any erroneous reflections upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Floyd County Plainsman will be gladly corrected upon its being brought to the attention of the publisher.

## Texas Safety Council

Special to the Plainsman:

There's something intensely inspiring, on a visit to any of the numerous small Texas towns and cities, to witness the faithful and unselfish work being performed by the Junior Safety Patrols.

These organizations are the pride of the Texas Safety Council. These little guardians of the lives of their fellow-students around the public school buildings, bravely face whatever the weather may be, to perform this sacred trust imposed in them—and not one has failed to perform his duty.

Have you noticed these little men, who will be our leading citizens of tomorrow, step boldly into the street or highway, with his red flag stop approaching cars, and gallantly wave the other little students across?

If you haven't observed this you have missed one of the finer things of life—the performance of a sacred trust, the assuming of a great responsibility, by little shoulders which never falter.

There, of course, ought to be a Junior Patrol at every school in our great State. Some day there will be.

In the meantime, having witnessed the work of these little fellows, we will guarantee that the next time you pass a school building, even though you see no little patrolman ahead of you, you will slow that speed and observe whether or not a tot is in danger.

"The work of the Patrol reaches far beyond the job they are doing in their own community. It reaches, by the education of motorists, into every village and hamlet and countryside of the State", stated Pierce Brooks, President of the Council.

All honor to the boys of the Junior Patrol. Let's pause a moment in sincere tribute to them for the lives of little men and women they have saved, and for the salutary lesson in safety they have implanted in the minds of so many of their elders.

## Federal or State Oil Control?

By PIERCE BROOKS

Secretary of the Interior, Harold I. Ickes is a pronounced advocate of Federal control of the oil industry.

On every occasion he has sought to capitalize upon every circumstance as an argument for Federal control.

His latest concerned a fine imposed by United States Judge James C. Willson, in Houston, in a so-called "hot oil" case. The Judge assessed a penalty of \$1,000 each against two defendants. Mr. Ickes asserted the Court refused to hear all the government's evidence and pre-emptorily assessed the fine.

With the controversy between Mr. Ickes and a United States Judge, we are not concerned. If the Judge was guilty of malfeasance or misfeasance in office, there is a remedy provided by law. If not, then Mr. Ickes has been guilty of talking out of turn.

The thing we are concerned about is the control of the natural resources of the state, which, of course, include oil. When Texas became a member of the American Confederation of States, it reserved all its lands. There fore, there are no Federal lands in Texas. The University lands have been the scene of a great oil field, and under State control, such development has made of the University the richest of its kind in the Nation. Our public schools have profited immeasurably from State control of this resource. Its development has materially assisted in the building of our great highway system. Capable men in Texas can control the great natural resource of oil. The government closest to the people is the best government, said Thomas Jefferson. It's too far to Washington.

Mr. Ickes must be halted in this latest attempted invasion of the sovereign rights of Texas. Texans when they go to the polls can and will select capable men on the Railroad Commission. These will, as they have, handle our oil situation.

## SHOES NEED REPAIRING

Don't neglect your shoes and injure your feet. Bring us your shoes for needed repairing. All of our work is guaranteed.

Complete Line of WEAR-U-WELL SHOES.

## Rainer's Shoe Shop

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SEC. TREAS.

**F. C. Harmon**  
PRESIDENT.

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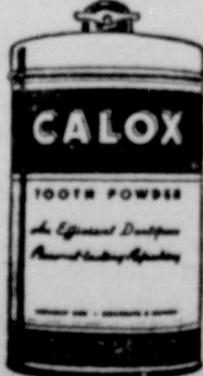


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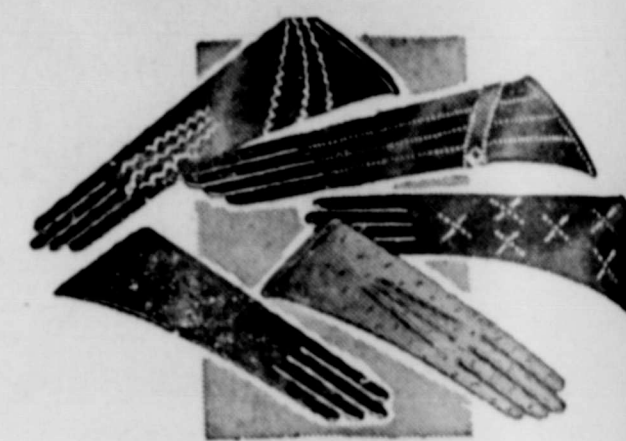


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79c and \$1.00

Delightful little Chiffon Handkerchiefs.

49c, 69c



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Bags that flatter your taste—and theirs! Soft suedes, calfs, alligators, grain leathers! Expensively stitched, corded, trimmed! Well fitted. Black, all colors. Newest shapes.

\$1.00, \$1.98 to \$2.50

## Sports Sets!

For Winter sports fans—cap, scarf! Soft brushed wool in white, bright solids, combinations. \$1.00

\$1.00

## Silk and Wool Scarfs 63c, 89c,

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ELEGANTE HOSE**  
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Morning  
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Your heart set  
finding delicate  
sheer hose  
wear! Then look  
further! Kayser's  
Lace Elegante' is  
elegant and lacy as  
madama's filet mitts  
yet, runproof and  
suitable for ages! Elegant  
for everything, morn-  
noon—and night.

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Suffer from Colds?  
666  
Tablets, Salvo, Nose Drops

**Believe It or Not**  
You can now buy for \$1.00 enough genuine 100% Mineral Wells, Palo Pinto County, Texas, BAKERWELL electrolyzed water crystals to fill 20 gallons No. 4 strong mineral water. Why suffer from aches, pains and nervousness caused by acidity? BEWARE SUBSTITUTES. Call your local Drug, Department Store or Mineral Wells Water.

**at Nagging Backache**

May Warn of Disordered Kidney Action

When life with its busy and worry, poor habits, improper eating and excessive labor, exposure and infection, makes heavy strain on the work of the kidneys, they are apt to become taxed and fail to filter excess acid matter from the life-giving blood.

Don't's Pills, Don't's help the body to pass off harmful excess body acids. They have had more than half a century of public approval. Are recommended by grateful users everywhere.

**COANS PILLS**

**Yuletide Shower**  
By Elizabeth Eastman

"I WISH we could do something exciting — something different at Christmas," Peggy looked out at the winter landscape as she spoke. "For instance?" Vivian Clark glanced up from the magazine. "Something like making someone terribly, tremendously happy." Peggy came closer to her sister as she answered, and Vivian saw that she was very much in earnest. "I've been thinking," Peggy went on, "how wonderful it would be to bring something thrilling — something unforgettable — into someone's life. I don't mean like helping with the baskets and the entertainments at the church; we've always done that; but a sort of special something, for one particular person." For a minute youthful voices surrendered to silence. The gay little clock on the dresser made audible sound. Suddenly Peggy jumped to her feet. "I've thought of something!" she cried breathlessly, "something really different! You know Sara Werby — she's been an invalid for 10 years — shut in from the world except for a few friends who run in every now and then."

"But what can we do for her? We do visit her occasionally, and have always taken her a little Christmas gift. You know she's much too proud to accept charity." "Who's talking of charity? What I have in mind is something that will just thrill her. I'm going to write to Mona Muir — you know, she runs that department on the Star — and I'm going to tell her how wonderful Sara has been, and ask a card shower for her."

Vivian whistled through her teeth. "Well, that is a grand idea, Peggy. I know she'll be thrilled." "She's bound to be! Think of the postman stopping with loads and loads of mail every day." Peggy's blue eyes were dancing. "But suppose people don't write? You know how busy everyone is at Christmas." Vivian's face reflected the doubt in her words. "But they will write," Peggy's voice was emphatic. "I'm going to hold the thought that Sara Werby will be just swamped with mail."

TOGETHER they penned the letter to Mona Muir on the big city paper. Later, between snatches of shopping, they discussed the possible number of cards and letters that would be delivered at the little cottage on Bank street. They both seemed to be more concerned with what Sara Werby was going to



"I've thought of something!" she cried breathlessly. receive than about what they themselves were going to get. "It's funny how doing something for others gets a hold of you," Vivian said one day; "I wasn't nearly as enthusiastic as you at first, Peggy; now I believe I'm even more eager." But their real happiness came on Christmas eve when they stood by Sara Werby's bed and saw the radiance upon her face. Stacks of letters, cards, and packages were piled everywhere, with postmarks from almost every state in the Union. "It's the most thrilling thing that ever happened in my life," Sara told them. "I never knew there were so many wonderful people in the world. It will take me weeks and weeks to answer them all, but it's going to be loads of fun." Her brown eyes sparkled like a girl's. "I imagine some of them will develop into lasting friends," Peggy ventured. "Vivian and I are so happy about it all — in fact, I think we're just about as excited as you are."

"You're pretty happy then," Sara Werby whispered softly. "For I don't believe there is anyone — anywhere — who is going to have a more thrilling Christmas than mine."

**Outdoor Christmas Trees**  
Outdoor Christmas trees are not new. When in Alsace the folk there will tell you of St. Florentine, who centuries ago went out into the woods at Christmas time and placed lights, probably candles, on the trees.

**A Straw for Remembrance**  
Reminding gay celebrants of the poverty of the Christ Child, Christmas feasts in Poland always have a piece of straw sticking out from under the dining table cloth.

**Christmas Dinner**  
By Katherine Edelman

AS SOON as Darrel Thorpe got a chance to use the phone, he dialed his home. He must tell Edna, how sorry, how terribly sorry he was for what had happened this morning. All the way down on the car he had reproached himself for the hasty words he had said. He couldn't understand how he had spoken to Edna like that, and on Christmas eve. He drummed impatiently on the desk as he waited. Edna was always punctual about answering the phone and doorbell. It was a way she had, going right through with things. Which really was the cause of his flash of temper this morning. In her quick, decisive way, she had swept aside his idea of having old Mrs. Darby for Christmas dinner. The little lady, now down on her luck, had befriended Darrel when he had come to the city. "I'm not going to have her!" Edna had declared emphatically. "We're



The big man did not seem to hear him. His eyes were glued on a closely-typed statement.

going to skip Christmas as much as possible — go out and eat somewhere — and miss all the rush and bother." "I think that's a darn selfish way of doing," Darrel shot back. "Christmas is a home day, with a turkey, and a tree, and gifts, and above all, someone to share them with you." Then, without waiting to see the effect of his words, Darrel rushed from the house, banging the door.

Now, he dialed the number three times, but there was no answer. Panic seized him. Had Edna believed that he meant what he had said? He had heard of young wives who had packed up and left for much less reason. What a brute he had been to flare up as he did! THE morning was unbearably long. Inwardly fuming, he hung up the receiver, to answer an imperative buzzer from the inner office. It was about the tenth this morning. If it hadn't been for Wheatley, keeping him running around in circles, he might have been able to reach Edna long ago. And if the old man hadn't been in the same ugly mood yesterday, Darrel knew that he himself wouldn't have been on edge this morning, that he wouldn't have spoken to Edna as he had done. He blamed Wheatley as much as himself.

"You sent for me," he said stiffly, as he waited beside the desk. The big man did not seem to hear him. His eyes were glued on a closely typed statement. Darrel spoke again. Then Daniel Wheatley looked up, and rubbed his hand across his forehead as if trying to remember something. "Oh, yes, yes," he began; "Mrs. Thorpe called before you got to the office this morning. I forgot to tell you. She left word that she was going marketing with a Mrs. — Mrs. Darby, or some such name. Also, she wanted me to be sure to tell you to bring home a Christmas tree and all the trimmings." There was a merry twinkle in Wheatley's usually hard eyes. "Looks as if you were going to celebrate Christmas at your house," he finished, with a laugh.

"We certainly are," Darrel grinned back; "we're going to have a real old-fashioned celebration of the day." "Think your wife would object if you took a cranky old man to Christmas dinner?" Darrel wondered if he were hearing things, then his quick wit jumped to the surface. "If you really mean that, Mr. Wheatley, I can assure you of a hearty welcome. My wife thoroughly believes in having people for Christmas dinner. At least, I am sure she does now." The last sentence Darrel whispered to himself.

**Carols on Fields of Bethlehem**  
On the hillsides of Bethlehem, "where shepherds watched their flocks by night" on Christmas eve and Christmas morning, tourists from many lands gather annually to sing carols and remember the life and words of Jesus of Nazareth.

**In Bethlehem for Christmas**  
Due to modern transportation one can leave America as late as the middle of December and be in Bethlehem in Palestine for Christmas, 6,000 miles away.

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Our FLOWERS are FRESH and BEAUTIFULLY ARRANGED. ILLUMS, FLOYDADA FLORISTS

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A few farm tracts to lease at reasonable prices for cash.  
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We invite you to visit the greenhouse. PARK FLORISTS—Mrs. W. S. Goen. Phone 78. 46-1tc

**BARLEY SEED FOR SALE**—I have a supply of good winter barley seed at reasonable price. Geo. M. Finkner at Finkner's Garage. 1-4tc

For best and cheapest monuments, either in marble or granite. See S. B. McCLESKEY. 24-1tc

Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Jones and daughter, Mary Frances, and Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer Jones, Jr., visited Sunday afternoon in Hale Center with Newt Watson.



**Holiday Fruit Cakes**

NOW READY FOR DELIVERY  
30c per pound



**FIREWORKS**  
COMPLETE LINE OF FIREWORKS FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS  
Westers' Quality Bakery

**Cotton Report**  
Show 9,086 Bales Ginned to Dec. 1

According to census reports, 9,086 bales of cotton were ginned in Floyd County, Texas from the crop of 1939 prior to December 1, 1939 as compared with 18,938 bales for the crop of 1938. This report was made by Fred Bell, Special Agent.

Let Cavanaugh do your Printing.

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Insurance of all kinds. Your inquiries and business respectfully solicited.  
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**RADIO ELECTRIC COMPANY**

**Sparkling GIFTS Low Priced!**

A collection of lovely Christmas gifts to reach a woman's heart! And at these UNHEARD of low prices, thrifty shoppers must hurry!



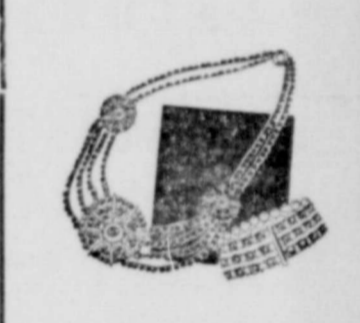
**Lustrous Pearls \$1.00**

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Gold and silver metal. These bracelets have all the newest, most amusing charms.



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Beautiful necklaces and bracelets in gold or silver metal, studded with vari-colored stones.



**Pins! Clips! 50c, \$1.00**

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Solid rhinestone bracelets. Also black or colored enameled metal with huge rhinestone inset.

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BISHOP'S PHARMACY

**Masonic Lodge Met Monday Night**

Members of the Masonic Lodge met Monday night in a special gathering and enjoyed a banquet with about 65 present. Several visitors from Amarillo, White Deer, Plainview, Abernathy, Matador, were present for the occasion.

**Christmas Play**  
By Katherine Edelman

THE town hall was wreathed with holly and mistletoe. Bright red bells hung from the old-fashioned chandeliers. Christmas candles sent their soft glow into the night. The whole place cried out welcome to the crowd who thronged through the doors.

By eight o'clock every seat was occupied. Small gossip and murmurs of expectancy ran through the crowd. The little town was proud of the boy who was taking the leading part in the play. They had known Ted Rawlings all their lives. Known him as an easy-going lad, interested in nothing more than fishing and hunting around the country, and later as an astonishingly changed ambitious fellow. No one seemed to understand how the quick transition occurred.

All eyes turned to the stage as the heavy curtain rolled upward. Three hundred pairs of eyes fastened themselves upon the moving, speaking figures. "Isn't Ted wonderful," young girls whispered breathlessly to each other. Between acts, thun-



"Ted, you were perfectly wonderful," Sally was saying.

derous bursts of applause filled the room. Hands clapped with vehemence. Small boys made their approval known by shrill whistling.

Ted carried the audience with him, every step of the way. He seemed to enter, to merge himself completely in the character he portrayed. His make-believe was so intense in the last act, that there was a deep silence for a moment when the final curtain fell.

FOR the time it was no make-believe to Ted. He was living again all the agony of parting, of seeing Sally Howard go away without a word. He had been sure until her train pulled out that she would come and say how sorry she was for the bitter, reproachful words she had hurled at him. Words that had left their mark upon his soul—that had stung him into a mad, ambitious desire to show her what he could do.

He found no real satisfaction in the tumultuous applause that followed. In this hour of his triumph, his heart cried out for Sally. If only she was here! If only she had cared! He scarcely knew what he was saying in answer to the lavish congratulations.

Suddenly small hands pressed tightly around his arm, and a remembered voice spoke in his ear. "Ted, you were perfectly wonderful," Sally was saying, "wonderful, wonderful. I'm so proud—so proud of you."

"But, Sally, I don't understand. I thought you were in New York."

"I was, until last night. I've been keeping track of you. I knew all about the play, and—and the way you have been working lately. I wouldn't have missed this for anything in the world."

"But the things you said, Sally? They hurt—they still do."

"I wanted them to hurt, Ted. I know—I know it was cruel, but there seemed no other way. Someone had to give you the right kind of push to get you going. You know you were really lazy? But now, well, you've really put on speed."

"Nothing like the speed I'm going to show in getting ready for a Christmas wedding. There's just two days left. We've got to make it a really big event. Let's give out the announcement now—while the crowd is still in the hall."

**The First Santa Claus**  
The first Santa Claus was St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, who started mysterious midnight gift-bearing journeys. In the Fourth century he was famous because he was a rich man who enjoyed giving secret gifts to the poor. One of his tricks was to throw purses of gold into cottage windows and run away.

**From Europe's Christmas Menu**  
Take your choice of Christmas eats: Plum pudding in England, Pfefferkuchen in Germany, Værknack in Denmark, Fatigman's Bakkels in Norway, Horse-shoe cake in Hungary, Speculaas in Holland, and Lutefisk in Sweden.

**Getting a Shoeful in Holland**  
Not on reindeer but on a white horse, St. Nicholas arrives in some parts of Holland, and instead of looking for stockings he searches for wooden shoes to fill them with gifts.

**Merry Christmas!**  
By Helen Morton

IT WAS enough to make one hate Christmas! Betsy was so tired that she could hardly stand. This counter in the middle of the aisle had become a nightmare to her. The crowds hurrying by, pulling the neckties off as their coats brushed against them, fingering them over and then tossing them back on the table carelessly.

Still, it was good to have a job, even a temporary one. For she had been without work for a long enough time so that she had "eaten" and all her possessions she could borrow money on.

No time to be standing here thinking, though. That fat woman looked as if she was going to buy several ties. "These are very nice, madam. And so reasonable; 35 cents a piece, or three for \$1.00. This is an exceptionally pretty one," and Betsy showed her a navy blue. But the fat woman dropped the ties and hastened away with her friend, leaving a pile of ties on the floor.

Wearily Betsy leaned over and began picking them up. "Let me help?" a friendly voice asked. Betsy looked up into a handsome face, curly brown hair, deep blue eyes, and a mouth that curved into a smile at the surprise in Betsy's eyes.

"I want to get some ties for my family. I've been up here the past few weeks, and so I don't know what the kids want, but I think it'll be safe to give 'em ties. Socks are so commonplace."

"Your brothers?" Betsy asked as she held up one or two she liked particularly.

"Yeah. Three brothers and a sister. She's about your age, I reckon. What does a girl like, anyway, when you've only a little to spend?" He looked imploringly.

"Let's get the brothers fixed up first, and then see about her. How's this for the 17-year-old?" Betsy inquired.

"Fine. You know, I'm tickled pink to be able to do anything for the family. I struck a bad spell, was down with flu for three weeks, and lost my job. I just got another last week. But I'd have hated to have the day go by with nothing from the big boy." His face was shining.

"I'll have them wrapped as gifts. Then you go over to the counter there and select something for your sister. Here, I'll take you over and get a girl from my home town to wait on you. She'll help," and Betsy went along with him.

"You're not a city girl, then? No wonder you were so helpful. I'm



"I want to get some ties for my family."

scared of these sophisticated girls in most of the shops. That's because I've been here only a few months, and in my home town everyone knew everyone and it was, well, it was different. Say, you don't think I'm getting fresh, do you? I'm just so homesick." His face was red with embarrassment.

It was Betsy's turn to look troubled. "Sure, I knew how it was. I don't chatter away with every customer this way, either. I'm like you new here, and lonesome for my own people. I was hating Christmas time, with so much confusion and no real Christmas spirit. So I'm glad you told me about your family."

She turned him over to Marie at the women's wear counter, and went on with her tie selling. They seemed prettier, fresher and more attractive, than they had before the curly-headed fellow had come along to buy some.

ONLY a half hour off for supper, then she'd have to work until the store closed at nine. Christmas eve meant lots of last minute gifts to be bought in this big city. As she turned away from her counter to go out to eat, a friendly voice sounded at her shoulder.

"If you're going to snatch a sandwich, do you mind if I go along and we learn something more about each other? Your friend told me you'd have just a little while for lunch, and I want to get acquainted, if you'll let me." It wasn't just a "pick-up." This was a homesick boy, wanting to talk with a small-town girl who knew his language.

There was just a moment's hesitation before Betsy said, with a grin: "Sure enough. Lead me to the counter. You're no more homesick than I've been. As it is, I really love it. I can say 'Merry Christmas' tomorrow comes."

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