

The Baird Star

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

FIFTY-FIFTH YEAR BAIRD, CALLAHAN COUNTY, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1941

NUMBER THREE

PERSONAL

Reeves Hickman, Fort Clark, is at home for the Christmas holidays.

Robert Green of Camp Walters spent the past week end with home folks.

Judge B. H. Freeland is quite sick again being a patient in the hospital at Baird.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodfin Ray and children of El Paso are here for the holidays.

The Christmas lights in many homes in Baird are beautiful. Drive around and see them.

Jimmie Pratt of Lubbock visited his grand mother Mrs. J. L. White the past week.

Rev. A.W. Yell will preach at the Presbyterian Church next Sunday morning and evening.

A number of articles are unavoidable left out this week which will be given in our next issue.

Sgt. and Mrs. Walter Littlejohn, Camp Bowie, visited Mrs. Littlejohn's mother Mrs. Josie Hamlett the past week.

W. D. Boydston says he broke the record this year on selling dressed turkeys for Christmas. He sold 50 of the birds.

LaVaughn Johnson is at home for the Christmas holidays. He has recently accepted a position as instructor of steel guitar at Lake Charles, La.

Miss Catherine James of Seymour, is here to spend the holidays with her grand mother, Mrs. Martha Gilliland and other relatives.

James Ross returned from Dallas accompanied by his sister Mrs. J. J. Bookhout who will spend Christmas with her brothers James and Hugh Ross and their families.

Mrs. Earl Haley and daughter Errolene of Big Spring, Alex Ogelvy and children of Odessa are here to spend the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Bowls and family.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Hamilton who have been with Mrs. Hamilton's mother, Mrs. J. L. White for several months left this week for Jacksonville, Texas where Mr. Hamilton will take charge of a drug store.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hensley and son Carlisle of Fort Worth were in Baird Monday. Carlisle has recently returned from Glendale California, where he was a student in the Curtis Wright Technical Aeronautical School, where he has been the past six months.

Mrs. Henry Lambert and daughter Miss Jeffe are spending Christmas with their daughter and sister Mrs. R. Q. Evans and family at their farm home near Denison. Mrs. Evans and son, Joe, came out Sunday after them.

Mayor and Mrs. H. Schwartz left Monday for Cincinnati, Ohio to spend Christmas with their daughter Mrs. Max Levi. Mr. Levi and their two sons Winfield and Dickie, the only grandchildren of Mayor and Mrs. Schwartz.

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Morse of Oplin were in Baird Monday accompanied by Mrs. Morse's mother Mrs. Mayme Munson of Los Angeles, Calif., who is visiting her daughters, Mrs. Morse and Mrs. Looney.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Evans were the guests of E. B. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. S. L. McElroy this week. They were enroute from Pensacola, Fla., to Carlsbad, N. M. Mr. Evans is a radio announcer and will take charge of KAV E at Carlsbad.

Memorial Services Held For Joe Ross At Clyde

Memorial services for Joe Ross Callahan County's first boy to lose his life in the world war No. 2, were held at the Methodist church in Clyde Sunday morning. Olaf G. South, Supt. of Baird public schools delivered the memorial address.

Mr. South formerly lived at Clyde and Joe was student under Mr. South in the Clyde school and there was a strong bond of friendship between the teacher and student.

The church was crowded for the service.

A military cross on white silk hung from the pulpit and there were flowers of tribute to the boy, and sympathy to his family—Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Ross and M. B. Clement, grandparents living at Clyde; an aunt with whom Joe resided at the time he enlisted in the navy, Mrs. Tad Goble, living east of Clyde; and two brothers, J. W. and Jonnie Ross, still living with the aunt.

Pat Smith, Of Cross Plains Added To War Dead

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Smith of Cross Plains have been notified that their son Ray Smith 19, is among the missing in the battle in the Pacific. Young Smith who was a seaman first class was a star athlete in Cross Plains high school enlisted in the U.S. Navy November 16, 1940.

He was a descendant of two pioneer families of this section. His grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lee Smith and Mrs. Mamie Swafford, live at Cross Plains. His immediate family includes his parents, one brother and four sisters.

Bargain Days Will Soon Be Over

Bargain Days on The Baird Star, Star-Telegram and Abilene Reporter-News will soon be over and we urge all to send in their subscription. The World War, election year and other unfolding news of the world make interesting reading and you will want your home paper and one or more daily papers.

Take advantage of our Club Bargain Rates with the Abilene Reporter News and The Fort Worth Star-Telegram this next week—Our Clubbing Rates with both of the good daily papers are good only at The Star office.

THE BAIRD STAR.

WANTED!

Please phone No. 6-3 Rings and give us the names of your holiday guests, college girls and boys and soldier boys home for the holidays, also family dinner and social events of all kinds.

We will appreciate this and say your cooperation in giving the news each week.


SCHOOL OUT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Baird Public Schools were dismissed Friday for Christmas holidays. Out of town teachers have gone home for Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Outbirth of Fresno; Mrs. J. B. Seay of Austin, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Mass of Pampa are holiday guests of Mrs. E. C. Hill and family.

Miss Ina Bond received a cable gram Monday from her brother James B. Bond with the Coast Artillery Corps at Fort Kamehameha, Hawaii, saying that he was not hurt in the raid on Pearl Harbor.

HORSES FOR SALE—Three large work horses, one smooth large work horse, one smooth gentle. Located 3 miles south of Admiral J. E. Little, 2t-p


The State of Texas
Austin

December 1941

People of Texas:

This hour is too solemn for ordinary Christmas greetings. Once again our nation is plunged into cruel war. Trials and tribulations stare us in the face. But we are a brave people. Christian endeavor fortifies us. We will win the victory by the forces within us.

Let us therefore lift our eyes to the Star of Bethlehem, eternal symbol of love and peace, and pray earnestly for strength and wisdom: for the triumph of right and justice and for the relief of distressed peoples in every land.

"On earth Peace, Good will toward men."

Sincerely yours
Coke Stevenson

NOTICE STAR-TELEGRAM SUBSCRIBERS

We have been notified by the Star Telegram that their Bargain Rate of \$7.45 will be withdrawn at midnight, December 31 and that no short term rate will be given. We are clubbing The Star and Star Telegram for \$8.25. Bring or send your subscription in and save the difference.

Christmas Greetings

We ask that our readers read the many greetings from Baird business firms; also the West Texas Utilities Company, the T and P Ry. Co., an dthe Texas Mid Continent Oil and Gas Association ads in this issue of The Star.

We sincerely appreciate this splendid patronage of these firms. May they live long and prosper is our wish.

We also thank all who have given us business throughout the closing year and to our subscribers who have faithfully stood by The Star throughout the 54 years of our service in Baird and Callahan County and to those who have come along with us through the years—we express our sincere appreciation and wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Important Notice

In the event of sickness or distress in the family of any man in either the Army, Navy or Marine Corps, in which the service man's presence is desired and needed at home the ONLY MEANS OF CONTACT IS THROUGH YOUR HOME SERVICE DEPARTMENT OF THE RED CROSS. In other words, if you must have your boy come home—do not wire or write yourself, but contact any of the following:

- Fred Heyser, Putnam, Texas.
- Judge B. H. Freeland, Baird, Texas.
- T. O. Dulancy, Clyde, Texas
- H. B. Straley, Oplin, Texas
- Bill Anderson, Cross Plains, Texas.

A Letter To Santa Claus

December 25, 1941.
Dear Santa Claus:

I don't know whether you have anything for me this Christmas or not, it's been so long since I wrote you maybe you've forgot, maybe you don't remember me, but that's alright Santa Claus, just let it be, for this Christmas Santa Claus I am thinking of those less fortunate than I, I'm thinking of young men who must suffer and bleed and die, thinking of refugees and orphans hungry and cold, of men and women tottering and old who have fought freedom's battles through out the years and paid for my liberty in sweat and blood and tears, thinking of millions of men beyond the sea who are suffering and dying for my country and me, thinking of those who sleep beneath the sod awaiting the judgment, the call of God, to be reunited with loved ones in the sky, they are only sleeping Santa Claus, they did not die I am thinking of the sick, the halt, the deaf and those who can not see, Santa Claus won't you give to them the things you may have intended for me, and Santa Claus if you have candy and fruit and games and toys, won't you give them to little refugee and orphan girls and boys? There's one other thing I would ask of you, please make all the hopes and cherished dreams of all my friends come true and bring peace and victory to the Red, White and Blue, in the coming year, NINETEEN FORTY TWO.

Sincerely,
C. B. HOLMES.

Driver's License

December 31, 1941, is the last date for renewing your Driver's License, if your number is from 1 to 450,000.

When renewing your license, ask for your Driving Handbook, a brief, concise, digest of Motor Vehicle, Traffic Laws, and Safe Driving Rules for every driver.
C. R. NORDYKE, Sheriff, Callahan County, Texas.

Funeral Services Held For Inez Franklin

Funeral services were held at the Methodist church at 2 p. m. Friday for Tulia Inez Franklin, former Baird girl who was fatally injured in a car wreck near Sunny meads, California Sunday morning December 14. Rev. Alsie Carleton pastor assisted by Rev. A. A. Davis, pastor of the Baptist church conducted the rites. Burial was made in Rose cemetery under direction of The Wylie Funeral Home.

Chesie Franklin younger sister of the deceased who was seriously injured in the accident that took her sisters life is in a hospital near Hemet their home her condition being very little improved.

Inez with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Franklin, sister Chesie and little brother Bonner, moved to California some few weeks ago.

Other surviving relatives are: Mrs. A. S. Watts, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Franklin, grand parents of Baird; Mrs. Alex Bruce, Mrs. Adis Becker, Mrs. Herman Parks, Mrs. Beatrice Franklin Edd Franklin, Howard Franklin aunts and uncles of Baird.

Mrs. Myrtis Motley, aunt of Abilene; Mrs. E. H. Alsop, aunt of Brownwood; Also an aunt Mrs. Albert Works of Long Beach, Calif. and an uncle Leonard Franklin, uncle of Hemet.

No Paper Next Week

We will not issue a paper next week Jan 2, 1942, taking the time out to do some much needed work in the office and giving the force a short rest.

We will issue our regular paper on January 9, 1942 and until then we will say so long with the wish that all will enjoy the Christmas and New Year Holidays.

Defense Rally Brings Out Big Crowd

The Defense Rally held at the court house Monday night was attended by a large crowd.

The meeting was called to order by Howard Farmer, who after stating the object of the meeting—buying Defense Bonds and Stamps and Contributing to the Red Cross War Fund, introduced Mr. L. J. Blackburn who presided.

Among speakers introduced were H. M. Perkins of Clyde, County Chairman of the Defense Program, E. L. Woodley, Judge B. L. Russell, F. E. Mitchell, Judge L. B. Lewis, B. F. Russell, Ace Hickman and others.

Clifford V. Jones, County Red Cross Chairman was then introduced and gave a report on Red Cross work stressing the need of immediate action to complete our county quota which is \$2,000.

Mr. and Mrs. Erle Hall, who have been teaching Red Cross First Aid in Baird for the past three years gave a demonstration of first aid treatment, explaining the importance of what to do and what not to do in case of accidents.

Callahan people are buying Defense Bonds and Stamps and contributing to the Red Cross War Relief Fund and we are confident the citizens will do their full duty as they have always done.

The young men are doing their part in the service, many volunteering before their call to serve Seventy five per cent of the boys in the service now having volunteered.

Observer System For Aircraft Warning Service

The organization of an Observer System for the Aircraft Warning Service has required many months of preparation and careful study. The main purpose for organizing now is to be ready it will be possible for all of the observers to be alert and to take their post on not less than forty eight hours notice. Their warning from the general headquarters will be given either by post card, press notices or radio broadcasts.

An emergency condition requiring the operation of the Aircraft Warning Service, in the absence of detailed instructions as to the types of airplanes to be reported, etc. can be met initially by instructions to report all airplanes especially will be emphasized in the instructions to our observers that the present instructions and information are as complete as can be made prior to a definite maneuver or emergency. All drills will be designed to assure complete knowledge of instructions and procedure.

The local post will be located within a two-mile radius lying South and West from the air beacon and West of the Albany highway bordering on the North edge of the Baird City Limits.

The following have been appointed to serve as observers and to stand a three-hour watch in shifts: Olaf Hollingshead, Fayne Hollingshead, Conley Pruitt, M. G. Farmer, James C. Asbury, Haynie Gilliland, B. F. Russell, Morgan Stokes, T. A. White, Lindley Ford, W. L. Bowls, Jack Ashlock, L. B. Lewis R. F. Jones, Roy D. Williams, Alex Shockley Jr., Hugh Curtis, Ben Russell, Bruce Bell, Jack Mitchell P. H. King, Post Organizer.

The above members will receive their pamphlet or leaflet on form No. 5 entitled "Instructions for Observers."

At the first meeting at least four of the above will be selected as Chief Observers and they will receive proper instructions.

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

—HELP THE RED CROSS—

Baird High School Again Elected To Southern Asso. Membership

Superintendent, Olaf G. South of the Baird Schools has been notified that the local school has again been elected to membership of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in a recent meeting of that organization held in Louisville, Kentucky.

The letter of notification said in part, "The selection of your school to membership in the Southern Association is particularly significant in that no adverse criticism was expressed against your excellent high school. This emphasizes the constructive leadership of the public schools of your city."

H. H. Monk Died At Cisco

H. H. Monk 37, district superintendent of the West Texas Utilities company and a resident of Cisco since August, 1937, died shortly before 10 o'clock Thursday night December 18th in Cisco at Graham Sanitarium. Mr. Monk had entered the sanitarium some 11 days ago suffering from influenza of the most dangerous type.

Mr. Monk was born at Clyde May 27, 1904, and had been an employee of the West Texas Utilities company for fifteen years. He was a member of the Masonic lodge, Presbyterian church and the Cisco Rotary club.

Well educated, a good business man, friendly and thoroughly so. Hiram H Monk had formed many close ties in Cisco and his sudden illness and death came as a distinct shock to all who knew him.

Survivors include the widow, Mrs. Frances Monk; his mother, Mrs. L. A. Monk; four sons, Robert, 15; Don, 11 (by a former marriage) of Abilene; and John Michael 7 and Jerry Allen 10 months old of Cisco; a brother Parks B. Monk Los Angeles Calif.; two half brothers James W. Perry, Tye Texas and Frank Perry of Clyde.

The funeral rites were conducted by Dr. Bary L. Smith pastor of the Presbyterian church with burial in Oakwood cemetery.

Active pallbearers: P. R. Warwick, Nick Miller, R. L. Ponsler, E. L. Jackson, N. C. Houston and Carl Lamb.

Friends And Patrons Of Baird School

Due to war conditions over which we have no control and which has curtailed our purchasing power of building materials and made uncertain our Federal Aid; the P. T. A. building committee after consulting with the City Council, School Board, Supt. and various members of the P. T. A. have decided to postpone immediate plans for the school lunch room, at Baird. All funds now available to the P. T. A. will be held in readiness until more settled condition arise, which will probably not be before the next school term begins. Feeling that the entire community was interested, we wanted everyone to know why the immediate program could not be carried out.

Signed:
Mrs. Hubert Ross, President, P. T. A.
Mrs. Ace Hickman
Mrs. Earl Johnson
Mrs. Cliff Jones
Building Committee.

Good Fellows Send Christmas Bags To 60 Homes

The Goodfellows of Baird filled and delivered sixty bags to families in Baird who other wise would have had little or no Christmas.

THE BAIRD STAR

Established by W. E. Gilliland, December 8, 1887

Issued every Friday, Baird, Texas

Entered as Second Class Matter, December 8, 1887, at the Post Office in Baird, Texas, under the Act of 1879.

W. E. Gilliland, Editor and Publisher Havin' Gilliland, Asso. Editor

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES

FOR A NEW YEAR OF HAPPINESS



Callahan Abstract Company

Roy G. Thomas, Mgr.
Baird, Texas



MAY THE JOYS OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON REMAIN WITH YOU THROUGHOUT THE COMING YEAR

Norvell and Boyd
GROCERY and MARKET

A Joyous Yuletide

WITH BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR



Bowlus Lumber Co.

WARM GREETINGS GLAD THOUGHTS AND HEARTY WISHES FOR A



QUALITY CAFE

HELLO, NEIGHBOR!

It's good to come again to that Season of the year when old acquaintances are renewed, when new friendships are born, when the serenity of Christmas joins the whole world with one predominating thought—the Fellowship of Man.



So we send to you, our friends and neighbors, a hearty Christmas wish that this may be the happiest Yuletide of them all, and that the New Year may bring with it, Peace, Joy and Prosperity.

May Santa Remember You Well at This Christmastime



CITY PHARMACY



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

We realize more than ever how much it means to have the friendship and good will of folks like you.

Please accept our sincere thanks and our good wishes for a Prosperous NEW YEAR

Mc ELROY COMPANY

Starring L.C.L. FREIGHT*

*LESS THAN CARLOAD SHIPMENTS

Yes, sir—the way we handle L. C. L. shipments is a "star service" in any transportation system. It's tops. A 7-star service that starts with free pick-up and delivery from door to door.

Coordinated TRAIN-TRUCK SERVICE with 7 Star Features

- ★ Free Pick-up and Delivery
- ★ Fast Overnight Service
- ★ Frequent, Dependable Schedules
- ★ Express Service at Freight Rates
- ★ Courteous, Unexcelled Service
- ★ Refrigeration Service . . . No Extra Cost
- ★ Extra Prompt C.O.D. Service

• And may we remind you that our carload Freight Service is also second to none. •

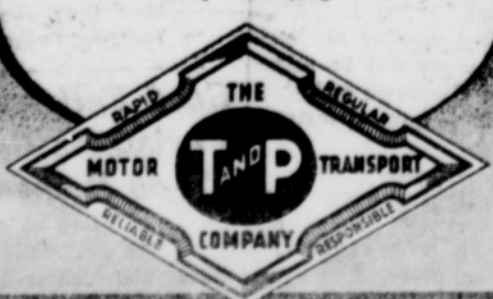


For High-Class Courteous Service, Please Call

J. A. STOVER, Agent
Phone 284

or any Town and Pacific Employees

Apply NOW for training as a U. S. Army Aviation Cadet. Keep 'em Flying



COORDINATED TRAIN-TRUCK SERVICE



THE SPARKLE IN CHRISTMAS




A WORLD AT WAR may yet find a sparkle in Christmas! To the youngsters of West Texas—and all America—this tradition of light, and happiness, and cheer, and good will toward men remains as a glowing reality. For that reason, believing there must always be a Christmas, we consider our job even more essential this year: Helping to keep alive the sparkle of the Christmas spirit through plenty of good light while also serving our nation's armed forces who are fighting to preserve not Christianity alone but our old time Freedom and Democracy as well.

West Texas Utilities Company



AND
Best Wishes
FOR THE
New Year
Bowls Furniture
and Hardware
Store


STOP 

A MINUTE
We Want To Extend
HEARTY GREETINGS
and
BEST WISHES FOR THE
HOLIDAY SEASON
Irvin's Radio and
Electric Shop



FOR YOU,
YOUR FAMILY,
YOUR FRIENDS,
OUR FRIENDS!

A Merry
Christmas
To All
T-P CAFE



*Hang up
the Old Sock*

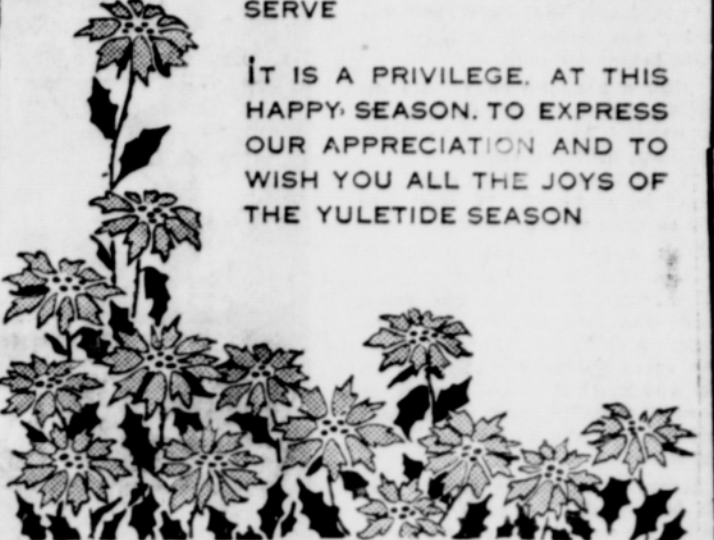
—And we'll take great delight in filling it full of good wishes for you and yours. As we do so, we pledge continued effort on our part to merit your good will in the years to come.

GILLILAND AND LEWIS
FURNITURE COMPANY

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

AMONG THE GOOD THINGS BESTOWED BY THE PASSING YEAR, OUR MOST VALUED ONE IS THE FRIENDSHIP AND GOOD WILL OF THOSE WE SERVE

IT IS A PRIVILEGE, AT THIS HAPPY SEASON, TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION AND TO WISH YOU ALL THE JOYS OF THE YULETIDE SEASON



THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK
(Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation)

Greetings!

The spirit of the season prompts us to express to you appreciation of our pleasant business relations during the past year and to most heartily wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happiness and Prosperity for the New Year



HOLMES DRUG CO.

Christmas Wishes

Every good wish for your happiness at this joyous Christmas Season.

We have enjoyed the past year with you and are appreciative of your consideration.



MODERN BEAUTY SHOP

The World's News Seen Through
THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
An International Daily Newspaper

is Truthful—Constructive—Unbiased—Free from Sensationalism—Editorials Are Timely and Instructive, and Its Daily Features, Together with the Weekly Magazine Section, Make the Monitor an Ideal Newspaper for the Home.

The Christian Science Publishing Society
One, Norway Street, Boston, Massachusetts
Price \$12.00 Yearly, or \$1.00 a Month.
Saturday Issue, including Magazine Section, \$2.60 a Year.
Introductory Offer, 6 Issues 25 Cents.

Name _____
Address _____

SAMPLE COPY ON REQUEST



America's Second Line of Defense

Today America's destiny rests in the hands of two defense lines—our armed forces and those of us working in essential industries.

One of our Nation's most important essentials is oil—not only for our defense requirements, but for all related civilian activities.

Texas supplies over one-third of America's oil and we Texans who work in this vital industry—250,000 of us—are proud of our part in providing it. We know how necessary it is to National Defense.

There can be no interruption in the flow of these materials so vital to our Nation's safety. The task calls for the all-out skill, experience and loyalty of every American.

The Texas oil industry to a man is on the job.



TEXAS MIDCONTINENT OIL AND GAS ASSOCIATION

TIMES CHANGE . . .
. . . AND WE WITH TIME
BUT NOT THE WAYS OF FRIENDSHIPS

SEASON'S GREETINGS

May the New Year bring you a full measure of prosperity



WILL D. BOYDSTUN

We have served you 50 Years and Hope to serve you Many More Years.

A Friendly Greeting
—TO YOU—
Our Friends and Customers.



It's the Season to be friendly, Happy, and contented . . . may this be your experience this Christmas and every Christmas.

ROBERT L. ESTES
WHOLESALE MEATS

PLAZA **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

OUR XMAS TREAT TO YOU—A Full Week of THE BIGGEST PICTURES YET—See For Yourself!

CHRISTMAS DAY—AGAIN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

ROBERT PRESTON—ELLEN DREW in
"THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 16th"

PLUS—
"LATEST MARCH OF TIMES" and Football Thrills 1940"
SATURDAY ONLY—DECEMBER 27th

THE THREE MESQUITEERS
—IN—
"SADDLE MATES"
PLUS—"LITTLE CAESAR" and "MIRACLE OF HYDRO"

PLAZA Sat Nite 11 P. M. Sun and Mon 6 BIG DAYS PAL, Clyde, Tues. Wed. Thurs. Dec 30. December 28-29. 31- Jan 1st.

The Public Begged For It! You Demanded It! NOW HERE IT IS . . . AND HOW!
GARY COOPER
—IN—
"SERGEANT YORK"

It's simplicity uplifting message and story of one man's heroism is inspiring.
ADVANCED ADMISSION—(These prices are National)
SUNDAY MATINEE and ALL NITES—9c-55c, Inc. Tax.
OTHER MATINEES 9c-40c, Inc. Tax.
—SEE IT FROM THE FIRST—
SUNDAY FEATURE STARTS 2:30, 7:30
MONDAY FEATURE STARTS 2:30, 7:00, 9:30.
EXTRA—FIRST SCENES OF OUR NATION AT WAR!

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30-31
WILLIAM GARGAN—EDMUND LOWE
—IN—
"FLYING CADETS"

GALA NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY—Wed. Nite, 11:00
Ring out the Old, Ring in the New with us! Make Your Date now to attend NOISE MAKERS. Confetti, Serpentine FOR ALL—On The Screen—
"BLACK CAT"

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, JANUARY 1-2
If you are looking for a Grand Grand Movie, You'll have TO SEE—
"ONE FOOT IN HEAVEN"
with FREDRIC MARCH—MARTHA TON

Maybe Next Christmas

by ANNE MARY LAWLER

SYNOPSIS

Ma Shannon's doctor has warned her that this is her last Christmas. She is planning a last family reunion with her four children. None comes. In New York, Lydia, secretary-companion, is afraid to leave the man she loves to the mercies of

her rival over Christmas-time. In Chicago Kenneth, successful doctor, permits his spoiled wife to dissuade him from making the trip. In Baltimore, Robert, penniless writer, has Christmas plans which may make the publication of his book possible. And

in Hollywood, Sally is desperately trying for a part in a new picture. And then Ma is called by a stranger to help his wife who is about to have a baby in a barn, where they took refuge from the snowstorm. They bring the woman to Ma's home.

Installment 5

"Care to see your son?" Ma proffered a swaddled armful to the stranger.

The girl was sleeping quietly the exhausted sleep of a warrior who has fought a long and victorious battle.

"Little—and red, isn't he?" The father was awkward of hand and word before his child.

"He's a beautiful baby," Ma defended angrily. "Look at those little hands. Why, they're beautiful. The idea, little and red!"

"I don't know much about babies," he confessed. "I never met any so close before."

Ma's anger changed to amusement. "You'll learn." She grinned. "Now suppose we put this young man down and let him get some sleep. He's had a hard night, too." She eased the baby gently into an old wicker wash basket swathed in worn blankets, turned down the light and led the way to the Big Doc's old study.

Across a heartening cup of tea, Ma demanded, "That story you were telling me down in the stable. We've got time for it now."

"It's an old story," he admitted. "Nothing new about it. Me and Mary—my wife—we always wanted a farm of our own. A little place, not too big, where you could wake up and see something green in the morning. Me and Mary both were city kids—Chicago—but my dad was a farm boy and he talked about the land a lot. Me and Mary were never satisfied in Chicago. Then her grandmother died. Left us a little money. Not much, but a little. And she said to me, 'Joe, let's get away from the city. Let's go some place where there's trees.' She hated the city."

Ma nodded in understanding. Who could know better than she how a heart can wither and die in the dark gray walls of a city?

"We bought a farm through a friend of Mary's Dad." The man went on. "Maybe we were stung. It was in California, and we took it right unseem. We had hard luck. It rained when it shouldn't, and some of our crop was beaten down. Then it didn't rain when it should've, and a lot of our stuff burned up."

"No water on your land?"

"Had been. But some big shot on the other side of the hill tied it up in court. Smoked us out. Wanted our little hunk of land to add to his. We were little people—and he wasn't. We didn't have money to fight him, and when he dammed up the headwaters of our creek we were through."

Ma growled sympathetically.

"We finally had to sell for almost nothing. Me and Mary went to Seattle and I got a job there. Just when we knew the Little Fella was coming, there was a strike. We lived on what we had and I worked when I could, but you know how things are. Easier to spend money than make it. When the time got close me and Mary decided we'd better get back to Chicago to her people. I hate charity, but it's better than starving. Mary thinks so, anyway."

Ma bit her lip.

"So we started out in our car. It was a good car—once. It broke down outside that last village."

"Mountain Creek!"

"We ought've had gone back then, I guess, but we thought we saw a light and we kept on. After a while, Mary couldn't make it and I left her in the stable and started for help. I saw your candles. My mother was Irish. We always had lights in our windows on Christmas Eve, too, in case—in case people had no place to go."

Ma smiled. "My husband—that's his picture over there—he used to say, 'Ma sends out engraved invitations to every tramp in the county on Christmas Eve.' But I noticed he was always ready to give them old clothes and a dollar now and then, even when he couldn't spare the dollar. He was—" Ma's voice was reverent—"a wonderful man and the finest doctor in the world."

She went on definitely. "I have four children. My oldest boy's a big-shot doctor in Chicago, the slang rolled from her lips expertly. He's a good doctor, I guess, but not like his father. Kit was a doctor because he couldn't help it, because he loved it more than anything else in the world. People have to do what they want in the world—like you living on a farm—or they're not happy, not a bit."

The stranger's face was sober. "I know. Something inside you just won't let you have any peace."

"My oldest daughter's a nurse and companion. That's what she wanted to be. And my youngest son's a writer, for the same reason, I suppose. My daughter, Sally—" Ma's voice softened, "she's so pretty there's no place in the world for her but Hollywood."

She stopped suddenly, noting the stranger's fixed and dark-



Ma looked up at the picture of Big Doc. "I, being of sound mind," she wrote, "do bequeath . . ."

ringed eyes, his politely stifled yawn. "It's late," she mourned, "and I sit here babbling. You sleep down here on the couch, and if she wakes, call me. I don't think she will. Good night," she said gently, "and Merry Christmas."

"No," he said, stubbornly. "It's thanks—and Merry Christmas!"

Christmas morning burst white and beautiful across the hills. Ma stood at the window and marveled at the gentle froth of snow clinging to the pine trees, the soft feathery snowbanks leaning gracefully against the porch.

Breakfast in the parlor was a merry meal, broken only by the occasional whimpering of the new baby. As the last crumb disappeared, the girl said diffidently, "Joe and I've been talking and we—"

Her husband came to her assistance. "We haven't a dime, Mary and me. And we're under a terrible obligation to you."

Mary's smile was wistful. "If you'll be so kind as to put us up till we can move along—"

"Move along where?" Ma demanded.

"To Chicago. I can get a factory job in Chicago." Joe's smile was bleak.

"You'll stay where you are," Ma chipped off the words without ceremony, "and work for your board and keep till Spring. How can you move a baby in winter, in a ramshackle car and with no money? I'm a lonely old woman and you can stay until Spring or—" Or until when, her invalid heart mocked.

Mary's eyes filled with tears. "You're kind," she murmured. At a loss for words, Ma merely snorted vehemently.

The girl went on, "We can't ever repay you."

"Nobody expects any pay for doing what they ought to do," Ma retorted.

"But we'll like to," Mary persisted. "So if you wouldn't mind too much, I mean, Joe and I—we thought—maybe you'd let us name the baby after your husband. He must have been a pretty wonderful person, or you'd never have married him."

"He was—a wonderful person," Ma said simply.

"So, if you don't mind, we think it'd be nice. We'd be proud if you'd let us. What did you say his name was?"

"Christopher." Ma was deeply touched. Christopher Shannon.

"Christopher would be a beautiful name," Mary said, gently, "for a baby born on Christmas."

Ma bent suddenly and kissed the girl's pinched white face. "Bless your heart," she choked on the words, "he'd be so pleased he'd—"

The baby wailed.

"Stop your nonsense, Christopher," Ma commanded, "you're a big boy now."

Mary laughed, young, happy laughter.

Ma looked at her wonderingly. "It's been a long time since a girl laughed like that in this house."

"It's an awful easy house to laugh in," Mary replied.

So there was company for Christmas after all. The turkey would not be wasted. The Christmas cookies were not to bluish unseen. And all the fulfillments of the Nativity were present for Ma, even though

(THE END)

CHRISTMAS

...brings to each of us an appreciation of those fine friendships and memories which make life worth living. And so at this glad Holiday Season, we extend to you our cordial greetings and wish for you both health and happiness throughout all the coming year.



ASHLOCK INSURANCE AGENCY



And Best Wishes for the Merriest Kind of a Holiday Season to All

DR. V. E. HILL



Greeting You at Christmas and Wishing You Every Happiness

A AND P FOOD STORE
Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Driskill, Managers

TO YOU

whose friendly support has contributed so greatly during the past year, may we extend a cordial and appreciative thanks. May your Christmas be happy and the New Year prosperous.

BRASHEAR FOOD STORE

BEST OF GOOD WISHES

FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR FROM EACH OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS FIRM TO EACH OF YOU.

MAYFIELD'S

It's Christmas

May yours be a merry one and the New Year be filled with joy and happiness to ransom for your thoughtfulness to this organization.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

JONES DRYGOODS COMPANY



It's Christmas, and with its coming we welcome the fine spirit of friendliness that goes with it, and are desirous of sending this Greeting to all those we serve and those whom we hope to serve.

LITTLE ONION SANDWICH SHOP

MERRY CHRISTMAS

And may the Happiness of the Holiday Season be yours through all the coming year.

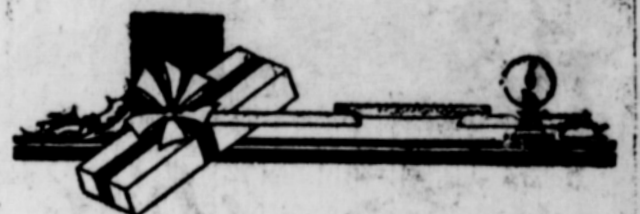
NEW YEAR



GRAY'S STYLE SHOP
(At McELROY'S)

THE SEASON'S CHEER TO EVERYBODY

To our many friends and customers—the Season's best wishes for joy and happiness. By your thoughtfulness you have helped to make our Christmas a merry one and we wish the same for . . .



TOT'S WRISTEN GROCERIES, MEATS AND FEED

"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given."



May the Light of Happiness Shine for You on Christmas Day And Throughout the New Year

ELITE CLEANERS