

The Devil's River News

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SONORA, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER, 1945.

Merry Christmas



SILENT NIGHT

Silent night! Holy night!
 All is calm, all is bright,
 Round yon virgin mother
 and Child!

Holy Infant, so tender and
 mild,
 Sleep in heavenly peace,
 Sleep in heavenly peace,

Silent night! Holy night!
 Shepherds quake at the
 sight!

Glories stream from Heaven
 afar,
 Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia,
 Christ, the Saviour, is born!
 Christ, the Saviour, is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
 Son of God, love's pure light
 Radiant beams from Thy

holy face,
 With the dawn of redeem-
 ing grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,

CHRISTMAS EVE on a Hospital Ship at Sea

(Capt. Frederick A. Jostes USNR, of St. Louis Mo., who wrote the accompanying story for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, entered the armed service as head of a medical specialists unit. Formerly he had been director and chief surgeon of the Missouri State Crippled Children's Service).

By CAPT. FREDERICK A. JOSTES

THIS is the story of the young marine who lost one hand and most of the fingers on the other when a Japanese soldier tossed a hand grenade back at him. The grenade exploded as it left the marine's hands for second time.

He was with us at sea last Christmas. For days he was not happy; his future as he saw it was almost black. He was facing the realization of home.

He seemed to be making a great effort to adjust himself, but got nowhere. On the evening of December 22 I found him sitting in his cabin in the semi-darkness of the red glow of blackout lights, weeping quietly to himself. "It is almost Christmas," he said; "I am used to doing things with my hands for Christmas. We were all taught how to trim a tree well and how to decorate the house. We made things for one another. What can I do now? There will be no Christmas on this ship us."



CAPT. FREDERICK A. JOSTES.

When I told him quietly of our plans for Christmas and told him that I needed his help; that we would keep it a secret so that the other wounded would have the beautiful surprise and uncertainty of the Christmases of their youth.

There was little he could do with one hand, with only thumb and third finger left, but he helped me make selections of things from my trunk in the way of toilet articles, bits of candy, cigarettes, etc., I was going to wrap in gay red and green and white paper and gold and silver ribbons which I had

hurriedly bought months before when I realized that Christmas might find us at sea and unprepared.

Hundreds of Packages

I did not tell him about the hundreds of small packages which Red Cross gave our chaplain on a last-minute call when we realized that we might have wounded as well as a crew aboard for Christmas. Each of these packages contained an exciting game, a bright handkerchief, some notepaper, a pencil, a miniature volume of a good book, a package of cigarettes, a bar of candy and a Christmas greeting card.

At the time I bought the colored paper and ribbons I also bought a small artificial tree and some no-n-b-r-e-a-k-a-b-l-e ornaments, a string of lights and some old-fashioned Bavarian paper creches similar to those which were the magic of my youth—the kind that, when adjusted, lend life and depth to the story of the Child in the manger. I remember I had given my "aunt," Mrs. Lille Bell Bassett, the time of her life helping me to buy these things during the last half hour I had before sailing from the port where she was living. I had offered as an excuse for the hurried purchases the fact that I had

the duty watch. I showed all of these purchases to our marine and warned him he must help me put them to the best possible use. It was such a joy to see how he went about trying to find the most advantageous use for what little I had to offer. I told him of the plans for the Christmas carols, of the plans for the Christmas party in the mess halls for everybody on the ship except those who were on watch, and that even those on watch would have relief for a short time at least.

Plan Is Outlined

I told him of how we planned to carry all the stretcher case patients to the mess hall and give them the choice seats by placing their stretchers on the mess tables. From there they could see the movie screen, the large Christmas tree, the speakers' stand. This would give them a good view of everything that went on.

Soon he took on a new life.

On December 24 I appointed him to go about and spread the news of the party to all the stretcher cases—and there were hundreds—asking him to urge all of them to come to the party. As a wounded man, he could do more to arouse interest than we could. All were in a receptive mood, for all said they would attend, even those who were requiring 24-hour-a-day bedside care... some who did not know it, but whom we could count lucky if they lived until we reached port.

A Different Party

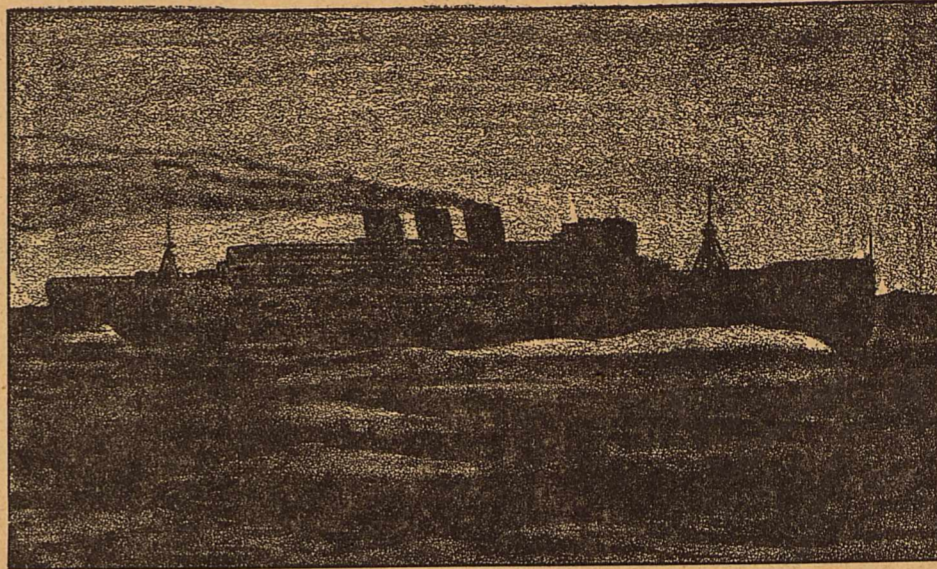
While I hoped that all would be present for a grand family party, deep down I knew that in spite of heroic effort some would never make the grade. The devastating afternoon temperature took its toll. At 4 o'clock 10 men could not be moved. For them we had prepared a different kind of party, a bit of a surprise.

Again in the darkness of the red glow of the blackout lights we crept around the ship carrying on a portable surgical dressing table my three-foot artificial Christmas tree. My electrician's mate would steal quietly into each cabin, having located the light socket in advance, and as soon as our carolers, made up of four officers and four enlisted men, began to sing, "Silent Night," the electrician's mate would stand, as if by magic, a blazing Christmas tree in all its fascinating colors and twinkling stars of light. As sick as they were, each man did his

best to smile, even though many times it was through uncontrollable tears. For those of us who stood by, singing was sometimes difficult, too.

Practiced Secretly

The carolers, who had practiced secretly in the library for days in advance, assembled on Christmas Eve on A deck forward and sang "Silent Night, Holy Night" to the ship's officers quartered on that deck. Then we wound our way up the ladders and through narrow deck passageways top-



"In the red glow of the blackout lights we crept around the ship carrying my artificial Christmas tree."

side to the boat deck and to the dark foyer before the skipper's cabin. The marine orderly stood rigidly at attention, as did the captain's negro steward.

10 Desperately Sick

We had completed the rounds of the

cabins of the 10 desperately sick men, which took us all over the ship from sick officers cabins on A deck aft to prom deck to B deck portside and to the ship's company sick bay on C deck starboard forward. We had sung "Silent Night" here; "Noel, Noel," there; "We Three Kings," to Bill, and "Adesde, Fidelis" to little Joe; "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" to Vitali, the lad whose mother and father still lived in Italy; "Away in a Manger" we sang to the Swedish boy whose legs were held fast in plaster casts and whose bones were badly infected.

Later my fine marine with two fingers came to me that evening and declared: "It would be nice if you would give little Joe one of those small paper cribs—I have been talking with him."

"It's a funny Christmas," remarked Joe. "Instead of looking at the Child in the crib, I can only look at the crucifix on my rosary."

Secretly I had planned to give Joe one of my precious creches, and I did, realizing only too well that that would be the last creche he would see and enjoy. He, too, was a young soldier, 20 years old, a member of the Hospital Corps who was shot down by Japanese snipers as he helped carry a stretcher case back and hopelessly paralyzed from the chest down.

(Continued on Page 4, column 5)

NATIVE Pecan Tree 24 Feet Circumference

By B. F. HINES

715 Jones St., Fort Worth, Texas.

AT Christmas time our thoughts turn to trees, especially evergreen trees, but all trees are interesting and none more so than pecan trees. Texas is noted for its prolific growth of native and cultivated pecan trees, and Texas leads all States in pecan production. Next to Texas in pecan output is Oklahoma.

The largest native pecan tree in the world is said to be in Texas. It is the Jumbo Hollis, near Bend, in San Saba county. This tree stands 120 feet high, as tall as a ten-story office building. It has a 24-foot circumference, measured four and one-half feet above the ground. This monarch of the forest has a 100-foot branch spread, and a clear length of 41 feet to the first limb.

When the first white explorers pushed up the Colorado river, they rested under the spreading boughs of this tree, ate its big fine nuts and marveled at its huge size. Generations before them, nomadic tribes of Indians camped under the tree and left arrowheads and other signs of their presence.

There are other big pecan trees in Texas, but they are merely runners-up compared with the Jumbo Hollis which is owned by Mrs. Hassie Morris, of Bend, San Saba county.

Buds Are Grafted On Other Pecan Trees

As early as 1910 buds from the Jumbo Hollis tree were sent all over the South and used for grafting onto other pecan trees. The nuts from this tree are round, large, well-filled and have a rich and tasty flavor. Thirty-three pecans from the tree usually weigh one pound.

In a history of San Saba county, written by Mrs. Lawrence Hamrick, the tree was described as follows: "Standing on the banks of the Colorado river at Bend is the world's largest pecan tree, the Jumbo Hollis. It is located on the property of Mrs. Hassie Morris. In 1919 it produced 1,015 pounds of nuts and for several years has reached close to this number of pounds. Mrs. Morris has been paid as much as \$1.00 per pound for these nuts."

The historian might have added that in 1910 a shipment of pecans from the Jumbo Hollis was sent to the Queen

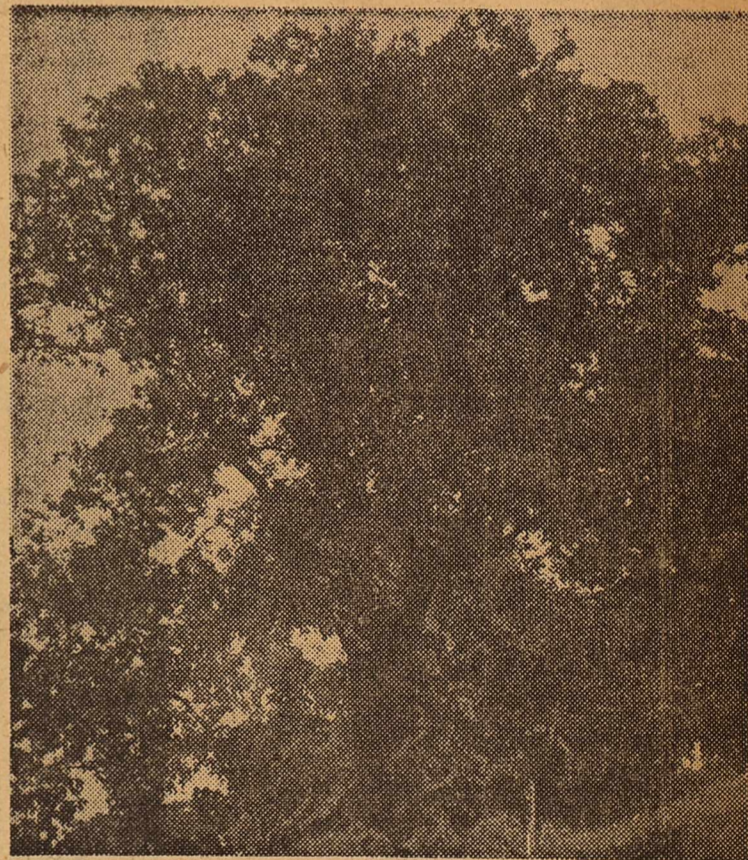
of England who wrote the owner a letter of appreciation in which she praised the splendid quality of the nuts.

The farm upon which this tree stands was bought long ago by the late Phil B. McCoury who willed it to his daughter, Mrs. Hassie Morris, the present owner, and she still lives there.

Tree Big Pecan P producer

The tree always has been a big producer. Eight hundred and sixty pounds of nuts were gathered from the tree in 1915, and they were sold for 30 cents a pound, bringing the owner \$258. This year the Hollis pecans sold for 35 cents a pound.

San Saba county, on the northeast border of the Edwards Plateau in Southwest Central Texas, from earliest days has been noted for its pecan production. The San Saba river bottom



—Photo by W. W. Mitchell, San Saba, Texas.

Jumbo Hollis, reported largest native pecan tree in the world. Circumference 24 feet, height 120 feet. This fine native tree, recently damaged by storm, lost several large limbs and part of its top.

is lined from head to mouth with native pecan trees, and is the heaviest native pecan producing area in the State.

J. H. Burkett, director of the pecan division of the State Department of Agriculture, says it was in San Saba county that the first effort to top-work (bud) a native pecan tree was successfully accomplished. The county has been the focal center of pecan improvement in Texas. The Jumbo Hollis pecans now are produced throughout the South from buddings of this one tree.

There is no certain way to find out the age of Jumbo Hollis without boring into the tree to ascertain its number of rings and this might kill the tree. San Saba citizens assert that the tree is "centuries old." When the first white man saw it the Jumbo was an old tree.

Thrived in Remote Geologic Times
Well drillers in the San Saba Valley,
(Continued on Page 4, column 5)

YULETIDE THOUGHTS of the Little Christ Child

By KATHLEEN NORRIS

BOSTON GLOBE
(The Bell Syndicate)

CHRISTMAS seems to me this year quite different from all the other Christmases I ever have known. We shall have gifts, holly and the tree, roaring open fires, and all the family gathered for the feast. It has always meant special music and special services at church, and—of later years especially, much serious wondering thought of the little Christ Child whose life was to be the most important ever lived by man.

I have marveled anew every year over the facts of the Saviour's life; the poverty and obscurity, the complete unimportance of all His associates, even of His persecutors, the strange teaching that was received by a few poor peasants, and the death of a common criminal that they made of Him.

Strange teaching indeed. It contradicted everything that men had ever believed. It discounted force and hate. It voiced the incredible doctrine that love was the only power, and that love fulfilled all the laws of Heaven and earth. They didn't believe Him, and they killed Him, and His forlorn obscure followers faced the great warring world of that day, and of the new worlds and the expanded days to come, with just a few quoted precepts as their heritage.

And that heritage grew and read and thundered down the ages and reached unknown countries and unborn peoples.

O, yes, polluted and twisted and misinterpreted and betrayed sometimes, it is true, but still the doctrine of forgiveness and brotherhood of man. Human weakness delayed it, but nothing could kill it, because it is the truth.

So much we all know, so much we all feel, at Christmas time.

Our Debt to Christianity

But—like a window opening to sudden new light, it has come to me in these terrible past years of war that we owe Christianity a tremendous debt over and above the spiritual value it gives us. That Christianity, and the passionate love it awakened in men's heart, is the actual ark of civilization, and that it ought to be fostered as a

sacred possession by everyone who hope for a new world, believer or non-believer.

The great Hebrew religion, from which the life of Christ was derived, did more than build temples. It built libraries, schools, hospitals, churches, colleges; it laid down a public and a domestic law. What other element ever did? These things do not exist in Oriental countries, where the great masses of the people even today live and die in squalor and superstition.

They do not build cities, railways, bridges, roads. The Orient is almost without these things, as it is without modern conveniences, sewers, tele-



IF THIS COULD BE BROUGHT HOME

This incalculable debt that they owe to Jesus Christ, whose birthday we celebrate this year, it might solve some of the great problems we mothers face.

phones, paving, electric lights, etc. I have seen swarming dark communities, hundreds of them, in India and China, into which no one of these things ever had been introduced; where the compounds are icy puddles for eight months a year, and even such simple luxuries as a gas stove or bureau, a change of shoes or a potato had actually never been seen.

Extraordinary as it would be to state

that the miraculous life of Jesus Christ had anything to do with Europe's scientific and material progress, and the unbelievable growth of our own world, yet the fact remains that the believing nations, the Europe of yesterday and the Western Hemisphere of today, are the nations that cling to Him, profess fidelity to Him, no matter how far they fall away from the humility and charity that He preached.

Faith Built Cathedrals

It began, of course, with the brotherhood of the early church, with the sharing of bread and wine. It went on to those early documents, to that wealth of priceless paintings, to the great cathedrals that simple men built for love of Him. Even today our painters do not rival those early expressions of love and devotion to the Madonna and her Baby; even today our architects marvel at the beauty of Chartres Cathedral and Canterbury and Rheims. Faith built all these; faith inspired the great musical compositions, and the chorals and requiems, and afterward the secular world took hold of these patterns and gave us all we know of modern art and music.

It may be now that, since the war is over, we shall have to begin all over again; in a stable with a Baby; begin with forgiveness and brotherhood, begin to realize that not only do His churches carry His name down the ages to us today, but that every other good and wise and beneficent thing we have all stem from that one life. If this could be brought home to our children, this incalculable debt that they owe to Jesus Christ, whose birthday we celebrate this Christmas, it might solve some of the great problems that we mothers face. It may even solve the atomic bomb problem. Civilization will increase only when we get back as close as we can to the law that tells us that by this shall we be known as Christ's followers, that we love one another. That love fulfills the law. That He is the way and the truth and the light. That ye shall have only to seek ye shall find Him.



CURRENT COMMENT

By STAFF EDITOR.

Memory of Gallant Men

THIS Christmas there will be the dark shadow of tragedy on many homes. Husbands and sons went forth to war never to return. They have made to their country the greatest and most costly gift man can make—their lives. All the gifts which we make or which we may receive are as nothing when weighed in the balance against their gift. Bells will ring and candles will gleam and little children will be glad; there will be festivity in our houses, for we must keep Christmas—it is a holy time. Our spirits are tenderer than at any other time in the year.

We must keep Christmas. The dead would not have it otherwise. But let us not forget them and in our prayers for our own households there should be a more ardent prayer that those who sorrow may find comfort. Let us, too, thank the Giver of all good and perfect gifts that He has enriched us by the memory of all these gallant men, who beyond our sight in the unknown land of everlasting light have found peace and rest.



symbol of undying faith and life, abounds in this land. The oldest of the species in the world—the Sequoia trees—grow in California, and one of the most famous of these is the General Grant Tree which stands in the national park of the same name. Sequoias are the oldest living things on earth. Experts declare the age of the General Grant Tree to be between 3,000 and 4,000 years. It was flourishing hundreds of years before Christ was born.

The General Grant is known as the Nation's Christmas Tree and each Christmas Day since 1926 services have been conducted at the base of the giant Sequoia.

Also we have the largest tree to be trimmed each year. It is a 70-foot oak in Wilmington, North Carolina, where the climate keeps the tree green over Yuletide. The community makes a festive of decorating it and singing carols.

Then each Christmas the bell in St. Miguel Church, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, is rung. The bell weighs 780 pounds and bears the

date of 1356. It was cast in Spain of copper, iron, silver and gold to the thickness of four inches, and brought to this country in 1712.

the church broadcasting to the world. They came, not for a riotous weekend, but to observe a ceremony at the place where peace on earth and good will toward men was heralded to the world.

Santa Claus Stresses Holiday Safety

"Stay alive in '45" is a holiday message that Santa Claus has delivered to the National Safety Council. Most of the message is devoted to a warning against fire hazards from holiday decorations.

Santa doesn't want any deaths or injuries, always more tragic at holiday time, in that big bag of gifts he'll be taking this year.

Said Santa:

"I am counting on all peoples to observe safety rules during the holidays. Please remind them to—

"Use only fireproof decorations.

"Check all electric lights and wires.

"Keep all lighted candles away from curtains.

"Be sure that the Christmas tree is in a firm stand and not placed in a doorway or near a stove or fireplace.

"Pick up all wrapping paper immediately and save for the paper salvage collection.

"I have tried to select safe gifts and toys for everybody, so please see that they are used safely.

"A Merry Christmas to all, and remember—Stay alive in '45."

American Soldiers at Bethlehem Manger

Last year on the Sixth Christmas of the greatest conflict the world has known more than 500 American warriors gathered to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace at the Bethlehem manger, where it occurred.

They started coming in by plane fresh from the mud and gore of the battlefields in France, Germany and Italy, from North Africa, from stations in the Middle East and from the bleak coast of the Persian Gulf.

There weren't many officers among these pilgrims. Most of them were just plain GIs—winging in from scenes of violent death to honor the One who promised eternal life.

They followed the winding road to Bethlehem soon after their arrival in Jerusalem, for they were eager to see "the place." In the Church of the Nativity they descended a short flight of stone steps and shown the exact spot where the manger stood.

A bright metal star inlaid in rock marks the place.

Many attended the midnight mass in the Church of St. Catherine, the Roman Catholic Church adjoining the Church of the Nativity, which is the common property of Roman, Greek and Armenian churches. They heard the Christmas hymns sung by a choir of 2,000 Polish Army men and the Bethlehem bells and an American choir inside

Army Report On Discharged Men

The Army reports that 3,114,000 of the 8,300,000 men in the Army when the European war ended have already been discharged. Navy, marine and coast guard discharges bring the grand total to 3,950,000. The Navy has released 670,132, the Marine Corps, 107,389 and the Coast Guard 52,623. Discharges now are running at the rate of more than a million men a month.

The Navy point score for discharge for enlisted men dropped from 41 to 38 December 1. It will go down to 37 December 15 and to 36 January 1, 1946.

Motorists Warned On Winter Hazards

Regardless of mild or severe weather this winter will bring the most perilous conditions in the history of motoring, Carroll E. Mealey, director for the Eastern region of the National Safety Council, said.

He warned that adverse factors in winter driving had reached a new peak and might increase before next spring. Only the utmost caution exercised by motorists can avert a ghastly toll of death and injury, he added.

"The over-all situation is abnormal even when compared with 1944," he said. "Due to lack of maintenance and replacement the average highway has deteriorated 10 per cent and the motor

vehicle at least 30 per cent, which means both are about 40 per cent off standard. Add to this summary the menace presented by thousands of cars now in service which should have been in the junk piles long since.

"The upswing in traffic due to the free flow of gasoline and the worn tires are major hazards which will contribute a percentage to each of the rest of the dangers that confront drivers. I am alarmed at the tendency to speed prevailing in many areas. If this condition is carried into the winter I shudder to speculate on results during the coming months."

Food Prices

OPA promises a new drive to keep food prices in line, now that sugar alone remains on the rationing list. There will be price chiseling, since all meats, butter, fats, and cooking oils are point free. The worst trouble will come in parts of the country which are remote from centers that produce these food-stuffs.

And for some time there will be local shortages in butter, fats and oils. OPA intends to "crack down" on merchants who boost the prices of these items above the legal ceilings.

Sugar, incidentally, may stay on the ration list for some time along with automobile tires. These two are the only items remaining in the ration point system set up early in the war.

The fats salvage program sponsored by the government since soon after Pearl Harbor is to continue.

Housewives and other consumers will be paid four cents a pound for salvaged fats. These are sold to soap

manufacturers and other industrial users.

Pearl Harbor Inquiry

It was not a lack of warning about the aggressive intentions of the Japanese that contributed to the success of their Pearl Harbor attack, but rather a refusal on the part of high military and civil authorities in this country to credit them with the audacity to strike at this American stronghold.

This was one of the most significant points developed by the appearance of venerable ailing former Secretary Cordell Hull before the joint Congressional Committee that investigated Pearl Harbor.

Hull told of his early conviction that the Japanese were bent on war and recalled a series of warnings about the danger which he conveyed to the Roosevelt cabinet.

He said it was November 25 that he abandoned all hope that the Japanese would accept peace. On that day he told the war council:

"That the Japanese were already poised for attack. They were likely to break out anywhere at any time at any place, and I emphasized the probable element of surprise in their plans. I felt that virtually the last stage had been reached and that the safeguarding of our national security was in the hands of the Army and Navy."

Nevertheless, Mr. Hull told the committee, as did former Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles, in later testimony, he heard at no times in the weeks preceding December 7, 1941, any suggestion from a military source that Pearl Harbor was a likely target.

Christmas Eve, 1945

At its best Christmas Eve is a night when the lights burn a little brighter along the crowded streets; when shop windows are everywhere vivid with red and green, and the last dark cedars stand ranked on the sidewalk awaiting a purchaser and bringing an aromatic breath of the forest to the town and city. The snow may sift down; the air be still, clear and cold—but the spirit of Christmas Eve is impervious to the weather. There is a heartier tone in the greetings of friends, and even strangers smile and exchange good wishes. The lights of home shine out through windows hung with wreaths, and within there is a great bustle of preparation—the wrapping of multi-colored packages, the setting forth of cakes and candies, the filling of stockings and, climax of the ritual, the trimming of the tree. There is noise and happy confusion, great pretense of secretiveness about gifts; music fills the air as the old carols come from singers, who sing with the spirit of Christmas in churches decked with evergreen and holly, the happy story of the first Christmas as told in familiar songs and cherished words.—New York Herald-Tribune.

The Nation's Christmas Tree

The United States takes pride in several factors linking us closely with the great Yuletide holiday. The evergreen, whose perpetually green leaves are the

The MOST Beloved CAROL

By TRUDI McCULLOUGH

(Baltimore Sun)

THE night before Christmas in 1818, "Silent Night"—most beloved of Christmas carols—had not yet been composed. But on Christmas Day it was sung for the first time by children in an Austrian village to the accompaniment of a guitar.

That Christmas Eve the village priest, young Josef Mohr, sat reading the story of the Nativity when a peasant woman knocked at the door. A child had been born in one of the humble homes in his parish in the Alps. He went to bless it and returned so filled with the meaning of the Christmas story that he sat down to write what he felt. The lines kept turning into verse: "Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright..."

A second knock at the door brought his friend, the organist and schoolmaster Franz Gruber, with word that the church organ had broken down. If there was to be music tomorrow it must be a very simple hymn since there was little time to rehearse the children. Gruber there and then composed the music for "Silent Night," later erroneously attributed to Hayden. Next morning, with only a guitar to guide them, the village children sang the song that was to become the carol of the world.

Sung at Court of Saxony

Nearly twenty years later four brothers and sisters were asked to sing it at the court of the King and Queen of Saxony. The journey of "Silent Night" had begun. It was introduced to America by bands of Tyrolean singers and bell ringers who toured the German-American communities that sprang from Boston to Milwaukee.

And yet "Silent Night" and most of the other Christmas songs America knows are not really carols at all. They are Christmas hymns set to solemn music by such famous composers as Bach, Handel and Mendelssohn.

Strictly speaking, carols are to be sung merrily and the term originally meant a dance. Perhaps the only real Christmas carol known to many Americans is "Deck the Halls With Boughs of Holly." Other real carols that appear as favorites are "Boar's Head Carols," the "Cherry Carols," the "Hunting Carol," and "Good King Wenceslas."

Simplicity of Music

America seems to be the one country in the world where the terms "carol" and "hymn" become interchangeable at Christmas time. But all the songs Americans have claimed as their favorite carols have one thing in common—extreme simplicity of the music. There is almost no choir or group any-

where that can make "Silent Night" "Little Town of Bethlehem" sound attractive.

The origins of all these songs are obscured and varied. As in the case of "The First Noel" or "Nowell," both engage in a genteel battle as to whether its genesis is English or French. The two different spellings. It was first printed in England, but perhaps even there few people realize that the complete text of all its stanzas tells the entire Nativity story as told to the shepherds by an angel.

Tune From Handel's "Messiah"

Another founded on Biblical text, "Joy to the World." Based on the ninety-seventh Psalm, it was written by an Englishman named Isaac Watts in 1719. The tune is from Handel's "Messiah."

Charles Wesley, brother of the great John Wesley, wrote "Hallelujah Chorus." The melody comes from the second chorus of Mendelssohn cantata that was originally composed to celebrate the birthday of printing.

Luther Wrote Words

And Martin Luther wrote that children's favorite "Away in a Manger" for his own children, who formed a domestic choir. The origin of the music is in doubt.

"Oh Come All Ye Faithful" has no clear history, but its Latin origin is attested to by the fact that all present-day Latin countries have their own versions. It is believed it was once sung to a fast tempo and danced around the "creeche" or crib that was always set up to commemorate the Nativity. The carol's certain history began in 1751 when it was sung at Stonyhurst College. It was sometimes referred to as the Portuguese hymn because it was a favorite at the Portuguese chapel in London as well as at other Roman chapels.

Only one of the favorites is of strict American origin: "We Three Kings of Orient Are." Written by John Henry Hopkins, an Episcopal clergyman, in 1857, its dramatic stanzas imply that it may originally have been meant for a home-made drama in the village church.

Originally Song of Happiness

Some of the most interesting histories belong to the songs that are properly carols. "Good King Wenceslas" was originally a springtime song of happiness. In Bohemia, where Wenceslas ruled in the Tenth Century, street singers used to make their appearances in warm weather and sing these words about the King's extreme generosity as a hint to passers-by to loosen up their own pockets. Being associated with generosity, it naturally became a song of Christmas and gift-



"The village children sang the song."

Grass Root Reveries

By JOE GANDY

(Copyright, 1945, by the Southwest Magazine Co.)

THIS would be the happiest Christmas in America in a quarter of a century if it were not for industrial warfare. After brilliantly winning a war on two fronts we start a war at home among ourselves, thereby holding up reconversion. Labor and capital could settle disputes if motivated by the Christmas spirit. Good will goes a long way toward smoothing out differences and disagreements.

Yes, good will now is sorely needed—not only at home but abroad. Hate almost destroyed the world. A Third War can wipe out the human race as it exists today. Atomic bombs would do the job and do it quickly and completely.

Therefore, at this glad Christmas time let's stop hating one another for once and forever. Let's put good will into our hearts and keep it there. Let's read over and over the "Sermon on the Mount," by the Apostle of the golden rule who said nineteen hundred years ago: "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God."

Christ came into a world of hate and revenge, a world that sought an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But He taught a new doctrine—a doctrine of brotherly love and good will to all men. Nevertheless, most of his teachings still go unheeded. When the human race accepts and lives the philosophy of life as laid down by the

Saviour, there will be no more race hatred and no more wars.

Despite the labor rumpas, we are going to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year because troopships are bringing home thousands of our soldier boys to be with their loved ones again. This homecoming is the best of all Christmas gifts. We welcome them with exceeding great joy. They fought a good fight, won a glorious victory. No braver men ever faced an enemy in defense of their country.

Turkey on the table Christmas and New Year has been the most popular meat. But not so this Christmas. The most popular meat, if you can get it, is cured ham. The old weather-beaten smoke-house with ham, bacon and sausage hanging from its rafters will look like a mansion these wintry days while you hunger for fried ham and brindle gravy. Songs and poems have been written about the odor of new mown hay, but it's a flop compared to the odor of ham sizzling in the skillet while wife pulls a panful of fluffy biscuit from the oven and says, "Breakfast is ready!"

Speaking of eats at Christmas time, you can't beat the traditional pumpkin pie and pound cake. Some housewives serve new fangled pastry with hifalutin names, but I haven't run across a thing better than old-fashioned ambrosia, boiled custard and cookies. I can eat my weight in cookies—and that is why wife hides the cookies. Some-

times I discover where she has hidden them and slyly eat my fill. Once I heard her say to herself: "That hound (meaning me) has been eating my cookies again!"

One of Ripley's cartoons recently pictured a plain bar of iron worth \$5. This same bar of iron, when made into horseshoes, is worth \$10.50. If made into needles, it is worth \$3,285, and if turned into balance springs for watches, it is worth \$250,000. At the same ratio a bale of cotton is worth \$3,500 if made into shirts, and worth \$6,200 if made into socks.

The 28-year-old new president of Ford Motor Company, Henry Ford II, said recently to a nation-wide radio audience:

"We have come out of this war with monumental proof that our country can discover and invent and build and produce at a rate that no human being thought possible. Are we now going to sit back and listen to prophets of gloom? Actually, all we need to do is to direct our creative energy into new channels to bring to our country a life richer and better than any of us ever have known."

Henry Ford II is right. Opportunity knocks at our door. Shall we open the door or shall we close it? The answer is up to you and me and all other men in these United States.

The coldest spot on earth is reported to be the Yakutsk region in Siberia where the temperature drops as low as 95 degrees below zero in winter. The next coldest spot on earth is right here in the Southwest if you are caught out in a norther without an overcoat. A good neighbor of mine lost his life because he failed to heed his wife's advice to take along his overcoat when going on a long journey. He ran into a norther, got chilled, took pneumonia and died in a few days.

TEXAS BRIEF NEWS --- from Over the State

DEER DAMAGE CROPS

Sixty farmers and ranchmen attended a meeting in San Antonio early in the fall to talk over ways of protecting their corn and other crops from marauding deer. The animals increased during the war. Some farmers reported their corn field losses as high as 100 per cent.

GALVESTON WINS SAFETY PLAQUE

For the third time in four years Galveston has won the safety plaque awarded by the State. During 1941, 1942, 1944 the city had fewer traffic fatalities than any other city in Texas in the 50,000 to 100,000 population on bracket. So far this year Galveston has had only one traffic death in the city limits.

TEXAS OFFERED "BATTLESHIP TEXAS"

Secretary of Navy Forrestal is reported to have offered the " Battleship Texas" to Texas, as the grand old warship is to be retired from service. Representative Thomas suggested that the warship be sailed up the Houston Ship Channel and permanently berthed off the San Jacinto battle ground.

PENNY PARKING METER

El Paso has been giving the penny parking meter a trial. The meter will take either a penny or a five-cent piece. One penny will buy 12 minutes of parking time; two pennies will pay for 24 minutes of time; a nickel buys an hour's time at the curb. Five hundred parking meters of this variety recently were installed in Mexico City.

CHINAMAN SAYS "NO" IN 3 LANGUAGES

Houston police questioned a transient Chinaman concerning \$7,000 found in his hotel room. Although he declined to answer questions as to where he obtained the money, he spoke freely in three languages, Chinese, English and Spanish, on all other subjects.

RIO GRANDE GIVES TEXAS 200 ACRES

Thanks to whims of the Rio Grande, Texas is 200 acres bigger than it was a while back. The shifting river in a recent flood cut a new channel and added a good sized farm, 200 acres, to the late near Los Indos, Cameron county. Three families, cut off, will become non-resident citizens of Mexico. The boundary Commission will establish the new border line and life will go on usual in the lower Valley.

LANDED A GOOD JOB

B. Hogan, Jr., of Dallas, is 30 years old. He was discharged from the Army Air Forces with the distinguished service cross, the air medal and four oak leaf clusters. He didn't walk the streets looking for a job. He simply inserted the following advertisement in a Dallas newspaper: "Are you crazy? Discharged veteran wants job with high salary. Comes recommended as lazy, inefficient, not too bright, plus other debatable qualities. Heaven help you. Come and get me."

EARLY DAY BUFFALO STAMPEDE

In early times a stampede of bison left an untold number of dead animals in a Texas stream channel running near Plainview, Hale county, and Texas University Museum Director, Dr. E. H. Sellards, is trying to find out about it. Bones of the animal, piled in layers, lie under 12 feet of valley soil in what once was a stream, and from spears found there it is believed the pile-up occurred when Indians first started hunting buffalo in Texas. Bones so far uncovered indicate the animals were larger than the later day buffalo which roamed the plains of Texas.

UNWELCOME TAXICAB PASSENGER

Near the end of a long, uneventful night, R. L. (Red) Engelking, a Houston taxicab driver, delivered two passengers to West Alabama street and when they stepped out of the cab a ferocious-looking bulldog jumped in. The bulldog occupied the seat, refused to alight. In desperation the taxi driver rolled up to the nearest police station where several officers removed the animal from the cab. Kinny Poston, of the Humane Society, who knows nearly all Houston dogs, undertook to return the taxicab-riding bulldog to his master next morning.

FFA BOY HONORED

At the 18th annual convention of the Future Farmers of America in Kansas City, Marion F. Baumgardner, of Wellington, Collingsworth county, was elected vice-president of the national organization. At a banquet given by The Kansas City Star, he was awarded one of the 150 American Farmer degrees given for Future Farmer work. As a vice-president, Baumgardner represents twelve Southern States. He is the second Texan ever elected to a national office in the FFA. Roy Martin, of Cotulla, served in 1936. In this position, Baumgardner will direct the work of 200,000 Future Farmers in 6,500 departments.

BIRTH RECORDS SOAR

Texas recorded 164,033 births in 1944, highest in history. The 1944 rate of 23.9 per 1,000 population is larger than the 1943 rate of 23.4. Death rate for the year, 8.9 per 1,000, remained unchanged.

COUPLE LIKES FARM LIFE

Sixty-six years ago Mr. and Mrs. William Arnett were married in Alabama and came to Anson, Texas, December 1, 1891, where they settled on a farm which they bought. They have lived on this farm 50 years. Once they moved to town for a short time but did not like town life.

CYCLIST CLAIMS 300-MILE RECORD

Jack McDonald, of Dallas, claims the record bicycle-time of 15 hours and 48 minutes actual riding time from Dallas to San Antonio. He made the trip on a special bicycle of his own make, with six 30-minute stops for food and rest.

CITRUS CROPS ENRICH RIO GRANDE VALLEY

More than 9,000,000 citrus fruit trees are enriching farmers in the Rio Grande Valley this year. The crop is expected to cash in for more than \$60,000,000. P. J. Neff, Houston, vice president of the Missouri Pacific lines, says perishable shipments from the Valley increased 50 per cent between 1940 and 1944, and added that his railroad expected another 50 per cent increase in the coming five-year period. Cannons are credited with having done much to stabilize the market for citrus products.

GI PIGEONS FOR SALE

Thousands of Army homing pigeons have been for sale in five-pair lots for \$25 the lot. Any person may apply to the Office of Surplus Property of the Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., for detailed information regarding the GI message bearers. Many of the pigeon's were taught to fly at night, all are of exceptional breeding and have been carefully trained. Many are descendants of the nation's finest homing pigeon stock.

GROWS SWEETER BEETS

Beets grown in the Brazos river valley between Waco and Navasota contained a higher sugar content than beets grown in the western sugar beet States, according to Representative Poage, a member of the House Agriculture Committee. The report was based on tests made by F. G. Blake, of Cameron, Milam county, a soft drink manufacturer. Saccharine content of the Brazos valley beets is said to be about 21 per cent.

ALAMO GIVEN VALUED COLLECTION

Three thousand books about Texas, valuable old Texas paintings, documents and early-day newspaper clippings have been presented to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas by Dr. William E. Howard, of Dallas. The priceless collection represents the work of a lifetime and a large cash outlay. The collection is to be placed in the Alamo. Some of the first maps of Texas and letters from Bowie, Travis, Crockett and Houston are included in the collection. Portraits of 62 Mexican viceroys who ruled Texas for Mexico and letters from each are among the valued articles. There are 75 different portraits of Sam Houston.

"UPSTAIRS" SUPER-HIGHWAYS FORECAST

High land costs and increasing traffic are going to force some of Texas' super-highways "upstairs" after a while, says W. J. Van London, State highway engineer. "Skyways would be extremely useful in some places in Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio right now," the engineer says.

WATCH OUT FOR MAD DOGS

Rabies is more prevalent in winter than in the "dog days" of summer and fall, says Geo. W. Cox, State health officer. He reported that in February last year the State laboratory examined 312 animal brains for rabies and more than 37 per cent tested positive, while in August only 155 brains were examined with 30 per cent positive. If all stray dogs were destroyed and all pet dogs vaccinated, the disease could be more easily controlled, doctors say.

COUPLE WED 65 YEARS

Mr. and Mrs. Levi Adkins were married October 15, 1880, in Petrilla, Ill. Forty years ago they moved to Texas and made their home at Eagle Lake, Colorado county, where they raised six children. A daughter, Mrs. William Spalinger, of Eagle Lake, and her husband, entertained the couple on their 65th wedding anniversary.

ATTACKS AND KILLS CATTLE

Henderson county farmers are on the lookout for a panther, or other large animal, which has attacked and killed one or two calves and which attacked, but did not kill, a grown cow on the farm of M. R. Renfro between Baxter and Flat Rock. Panthers have been reported in the vicinity over a period of years but none have been killed there recently.

100-YEAR-OLDSTER KEEPS UP TO DATE

Although more than 100 years old, having lived through four wars, H. S. Hilburn, of Graham, Young county, keeps posted on the news of the world and manages to walk to town frequently to chat with other early day settlers of the county. He celebrated his 100th birthday with a party at the home of his daughter, Mrs. T. E. Matthew, of Graham. His first home there was a dugout. Later he built a house, and at a still later date erected a modern house on the land which he still owns. Mr. Hilburn was born at Paris, Texas, September 27, 1845.

OWNER CONSERVES TIRES

Tire rationing never bothered Wesley Richards, of McAllen, Hidalgo county, and he never worried once during the war about his car wearing out. Mr. Richards drives a 1929 Ford which is as spick and span as it was 15 years ago when he bought it and his tires, the same ones that came with the car, are in fine shape. He simply takes good care of his car, never drives faster than 30 miles an hour and keeps his tires in the shade when not using them.

BUFFALO-BRAHMAN CROSS-BREED BULL SOLD

Chris Smith, who operates a service station at Four-Way, 30 miles north of Amarillo on the Dumas highway, has sold his crossbred buffalo-brahman bull to an Oklahoma concern for show purposes. The cross-breed, probably the only one in existence, is a 4-year-old and weighed more than 3,000 pounds. For a while Mr. Smith kept the animal on a ranch in Colorado, but he became unruly and was returned to Texas.

NO INFLATION THEN

From an issue of The Texas Coaster, dated 1895, the following prices were taken from advertisements of leading merchants:

Shot guns, from \$5 to \$25, at Dyer and Ransom's.

Fresh fish, dressed 10 cents a pound, every day at A. Kaulfers.

Best quality American sardines, 5 cents, at Baker & Hirsch's.

Children's hose at Dyer's for 5 cents a pair.

Every day, fresh oysters, at 75 cents a hundred. Cooked, 25 cents a dozen, at A. Kaulfer's.

Numsen's Clipper brand tomatoes, 4 two-pound cans for 25 cents, at Baker & Hirsch's.

Good syrup at 30 cents a gallon, at Baker & Hirsch's.

The Reliable Dairy, J. W. Cornett, manager, delivers the purest milk at five cents a quart; butter, the best, at 25 cents a pound.

You can get a fine cassimere suit of men's clothes at Dyer's for \$4.75.

Baker & Hirsch will sell you one barrel of good flour for \$3.85.

CAPITAL POURS INTO BUSINESS

During the first nine months 1945, domestic firms incorporated in Texas had authorized capitalization of \$9,932,000, compared with \$8,344,000 for the same period in 1944. In September alone 83 new firms were incorporated with authorized capitalization of \$1,679,000. For the most part the new concerns are merchandising and building companies.

KILLS LARGE BOBCAT

Sid McCreary, of Palestine, went hunting for squirrels in the Trinity river bottoms. An animal came creeping toward him as he still-hunted the squirrels and when it was close enough he shot and killed it. It was a bobcat, three feet long, and about 18 inches high.

BANANAS GROW IN LOCKHART

Several years ago some banana trees were planted in Lockhart, Caldwell county. The trees grew, but never produced until this year. Due to recent mild weather, 12 fine bunches were harvested from the trees.

FORMER SLAVE PREACHES

J. W. Thompson, negro Baptist preacher who lives in the rear of an apartment house at 111 N. Winnetka Avenue, Dallas, celebrated his 96th birthday in December. Born a slave in Victoria, Texas, he has lived through four wars. For 20 years he worked for a packing company in Dallas. Now he spends his time preaching and occasionally performs a wedding ceremony. He enjoys fine health.

MEXICO BUYS TEXAS KARAKULS

Jose L. Sanchez, of Mexico City, has bought 50 head of Karakul sheep from Mrs. Alex Allbright, of Dundee, Archer county, for the Mexican government. Mexico is to conduct breeding experiments with the Karakuls from which many fine "fur" coats are made. Alex Allbright established the Karakul ranch in Archer county, Texas, 43 years ago. Mrs. Allbright has managed the ranch since his death in 1936, and now has 800 sheep on the ranch. The Allbright ranch is well known in New York where the fine pelts from the new-born lambs are fashioned into many fine fur garments. Original stock for the Allbright ranch was imported from Astrakhan in southern Asiatic Russia.

TO CELEBRATE 103RD BIRTHDAY

Mrs. Mary Holcomb, of Tyler, Smith county, will celebrate her 103rd birthday the day after Christmas. Of her nine children, three are still living. Mrs. Holcomb was born in Skipper county, Alabama, moved to Kentucky Town, Grayson county, a number of years ago. She now lives in Tyler with her daughter, Mrs. A. L. Carr.

STEEL BOAT FOR FISHERMEN

In Abilene, Taylor county, a manufacturer soon will start turning out a boat made of 22-gauge steel which may be taken apart easily and carried in the back of an automobile. The parts can be reassembled in about five minutes, the maker said, who claims it is an ideal boat for fishermen.

TO PLANT OIL-BEARING TREES

Oil-bearing trees from Mexico are being planted for experimental purposes in the Rio Grande Valley. E. D. Cook, of Southern Methodist University agricultural department, supervised the planting of a truckload of "Garcia Nutans" on a farm owned by Carl Hohlitzelle. Similar trees have been planted on property owned by Dr. C. L. Ludell, of SMU.

THIEVES INVITED TO TAKE CARS

A classified ad in the Daily Sun of Goose Creek, Harris county: "The party or parties responsible for the theft of seven wheels and tires off two cars parked in the driveway at Slapout Gulley, are invited to come and get the rest of the cars. No questions asked." The thieves did not accept the invitation.

CHRISTMAS EVE ON A HOSPITAL SHIP AT SEA

(Continued from Page 2)

After repeating our performance in the cabin of each of these very sick men, the carolers proceeded to the mess hall, singing "Deck the Halls With Boughs of Holly." Here we had a good movie and an inspiring talk by our skipper, who spoke of the Christ Child as One for whose principles of life we are fighting. After this talk we had a feast.

Just think of it! Real steak, sandwiches, coffee, coke, ice cream, cakes, candy, Christmas cookies baked by our own ship's baker, all you could hold. During all this time my fine marine with but two fingers carried sandwiches, one by one, around to the stretcher cases.

The next day the patients slept late as though inebriated with good food and pleasure. Few of them waked for breakfast. They were still in a daze when I saw them at about 10 o'clock, as though they had been out all night and kicked up their heels. When I came to the bed of my fingerless marine I found him looking up at the ceiling, smiling. He jumped out of bed at attention and said: "Sir, I really believe that was one of the finest Christmas Eves I have ever had. And a Merry Christmas to you, sir; a Merry Christmas to you."

NATIVE PECAN TREE 24 FEET CIRCUMFERENCE

(Continued from Page 2)

near Bend, have brought up petrified pecans from great depths, proving that pecan trees thrived there in remote geologic times.

The great size of the Jumbo Hollis is best appreciated when compared to other large pecans trees in Texas.

In San Antonio, on South Flores street, there is a pecan tree with a circumference of 15 feet, standing 62 feet high.

Thirteen miles northeast of Breckenridge, Stephens county, is another pecan tree which measures 22 feet in circumference, and has a spread of 120 feet.

A large pecan tree, just found and measured at Toledo Bend, Newton county, is 15 feet six inches in circumference, 119 feet high and has a spread of 119 feet.

The Texas Forest Service, A. & M. College, College Station, is conducting a continuing search for largest trees in Texas, including pecan, of all species, and will welcome information about big trees of any sort in any part of the State.



THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS!

TALE OF 19 POSTHOLES

An old story going the rounds is about an accountant in Dallas, checking the voluminous inventory files of the Defense Plant Corporation, says he found listed by the government, in addition to millions of dollars worth of other property, an item labeled: "19 postholes."

BEAR KEPT COMING

Charley Bazzell, of Longview, Gregg county, is showing a fine dressed bear hide from a 225-pound bear which he killed in the Cellways district of northern Idaho last winter while visiting his sister. He shot the bear at a distance of 200 yards with a 30-30 rifle. But the bear kept coming, and at 10 yards stopped and stood up. Then Mr. Bazzell gave him another shot which laid him out.

NUECES RIVER DAMS TO BE BUILT

Two of six dams to be built on the Nueces river will be started within 14 months, and cost approximately \$20,000,000, according to F. W. Pulliam, of Crystal City, president of the board of the Nueces River Conservation and Reclamation District, which met recently. Water from the first two dams is expected to irrigate nearly 40,000 acres of land, 21,500 acres at Cotulla and 18,500 acres at Uvalde. The other four dams will be built at Concan and Sabinal and will irrigate more than 30,000 acres.

THE FLOP FAMILY



By SWAN

A LITTLE FUN *Jokes to Make You Laugh*

Under Cover

A first grade class was asked to draw a picture with a horse in it. One small urchin did nothing, declared he couldn't draw a horse and flatly refused to try. Suddenly without further urging, he got to work. When the teacher looked at the picture later Johnny's achievement was a large barn, doors closed, covering the entire paper. "But where is the horse, Johnny?" inquired the teacher. "In the barn," said Johnny confidently.

Ole's Rejoinder

Ole had bought a tractor but couldn't run it in spite of the fact that the dealer had shown him again and again how to operate it. The dealer finally quit in disgust. "I can sell you a tractor, but I can't sell you brains to run it," he said. "Shoor you can't," retorted Ole. "You can't sell vat you haven't got."

Uncle Zeke's Wisdom

The late Simon Bolivar Buckner used to tell a story of an old resident in his Kentucky home who was celebrated for his wisdom. "Uncle Zeke," a young man once asked, "how does it come you're so wise?" "Because," said the old man, "I've got good judgment. Good judgment comes from experience, and experience—well that comes from poor judgment!"

The Small Son

The small son of the house had been told that he must always wait patiently till he was served at meals, and not draw attention to himself. One day he was dining out at a friend's house with his mother, and somehow he was accidentally overlooked. Nobody noticed, and for a time he was patient, but at last he could stand it no longer. Leaning across to his mother, he said in a low voice: "Mother, do little boys who starve to death go to heaven?"

Sweet Land of Liberty

Lord Halifax, who once said that it seemed to him every airman he met in London was an American, now is telling this story: A man died and went to heaven where amid all the delights, he was startled to find four men in chains. "Men in chains, in heaven?" the new arrival gasped. "Oh, we had to put them in chains," he was told. "They're dying to get back to America."

Sandlot Baseball Story

My favorite story is of a sandlot baseball game that lasted into late twilight. The trailing home team had finally managed to fill the bases. Two men were out and two strikes had been called on the batter. At this crucial moment, the pitcher and catcher of the rival team held a conference: "It's so dark, nobody can't see nothin'," said the pitcher. "I'm going to wind up and make believe I'm throwing the ball, but instead I'll slip it to you now. After I go through the motions you pound your glove and pretend to make the catch." The men retired to their positions and went through the elaborate motions, as proposed. The umpire peered over and bellowed: "Str-r-ike three! You're out!" At that decision the batter became enraged. He pounded his bat on the plate in disgust. "Strike!" he yelled, "that was no strike—it didn't come within two feet of the plate!"

Sales Solution

A resourceful packaging man was able to make a hair-growing preparation sell after it previously had had a sorry sales record. The solution: Printing in red on the label, "Do not place this preparation on any part of the body where you do not wish hair to grow."

GOOD TIDINGS

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.—Luke 2:8-12.

WORLD SERIES INCOME

The world baseball series income from selling of tickets to games totaled \$1,400,000. While players' shares can only be estimated, it is believed the victorious players will receive about \$6,500 each while the losers will get about \$3,900 apiece.

Savannah, Ga., has a theater in active use which was established in 1818.

One after another... they all reach for Hi Ho because of their finer flavor!



LOOSE-WILES BISCUIT COMPANY—Brown Cracker and Candy Company Division

Poultry News

Written by
JUDGE WALTER BURTON,
Licensed American Poultry Association
Judge of All Breeds of Poultry,
Arlington, Texas.

I have been thinking seriously this year, as in other years, of the things that should have been done in November on my poultry place. This year, I am reminded more than ever, that too few of us poultrymen have brought our breeder birds into production in December. All experienced poultrymen know that flocks for market egg production as well as those for hatchery flock purposes should be housed and in laying quarters by December 1st of each year. Any blood testing, selecting, treating for lice, mites and so forth should have been done well along before the 1st of December. When we have had a moderate fall such as this year up to November 22, too much is put off getting the layers under way on time.



In November roosts should have been treated with carbolineum. But if you still have the job to do, I would rather be late than not at all. This month, you still may have a day of moderate weather when you can do the job. Paint the roosts or spray them and the house early in the day, feeding the flock and watering them outside for eight to ten hours so the house will have plenty of time to air out and, then, you should have no blistering of birds and consequent molt or drop in production as a result. A great many manufacturers of carbolineum give you this warning printed on the containers: "Be sure to use a carbolineum with an anthracene oil base if you wish to spray it." The coal tar base carbolineum, and there are a lot of them advertised to be used with poultry, are effective but they must be painted on only. If labor were plentiful, this might be okay.

If you did not dust your hens for lice in November, as all of us should do, December is sure

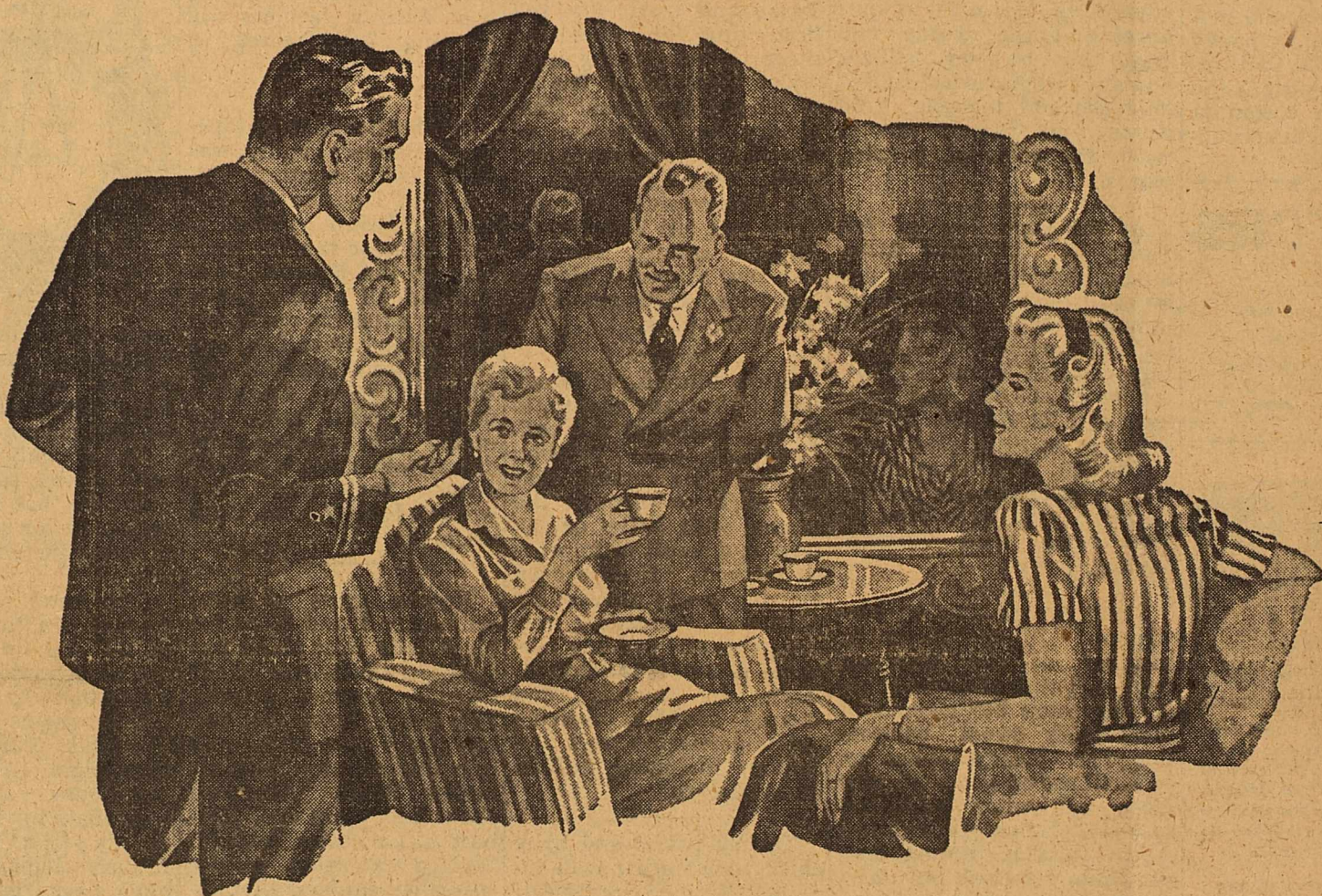
the dead line for you to get busy. There are a good many dealers in every locality that sell a good dusting louse powder and have a booklet they can give you on the use of the product.

If you didn't worm your birds in October or November or in some instances both (depending upon the amount of contamination), you may find your hens are not in production in the house in December as they should be. There is no dodging it, so now is the time to do some worming. If you don't think they're wormy, however, pick up several of the worst looking birds, pen them, and give them a pill. Place these birds in a coop with a wire bottom so that nothing can get to any worms they might pass through to the ground or floor underneath. If these ten or more specimens pass worms, then I would not hesitate to go to the expense of buying pills and worming the whole flock. Use a worm pill with a coating that will carry the medicine into the bird's system far enough that the dose will be effective at the right place or where the worms are. Several commercial worm pills of this type are on the market.

If any of your birds have scaly shanks so frequently seen in warmer weather and you did not treat their legs by dipping them and bathing them in kerosene several times daily until healed, when it was warm, you still have the job to do. In catching birds for any of these operations, handle them carefully. You have frequently heard it said, "I don't believe in pilling birds, because it is too severe." Often the severity is a result of harsh treatment in catching the birds. Use a wire trap in your house or a good standard culling coop.

For winter litter, I believe there is nothing that will wear as well or prove more sanitary in the laying house as shucks. They should be placed about one foot deep and replaced when worn to the point that they no longer look like shucks, but shreds. You can buy commercial litter if no other.

Winter is coming on so now is the time to stop all cracks on the sides and ends and on the roof. A warm, well-ventilated house is what you should have.



ISN'T *Good Living* JUST A MATTER OF CHOICE?

Good foods carefully selected and properly prepared are the basis of good living. Among all the foods you serve, good coffee is probably the most important. It's the "backbone" of many menus, notably breakfast and supper; it's the one part of any meal that must be good if other foods are to be enjoyed. Hence don't take chances by trying to save a penny or two a pound. Buy the choicest, most skillfully blended coffee the market offers. Such a coffee is *Admiration*—superb in quality, rich in flavor, delightfully aromatic and inviting. More people in the Southwest drink it than any other brand. There's a reason.

Methods Alone
WON'T MAKE
Good Coffee!



Admiration *Duncan's* Coffee



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TEXO FEEDS
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Dallas • Fort Worth • McKinney • San Benito
WILEY AKINS, Manager

Texas Farm News Reports

Many States have egg-grading laws, but there is none in Texas. Jesse Bass, of Crosbyton, has installed an egg-grader in his Crosby county hatchery. He says there are three main grades of eggs with two minor ones, and he grades his eggs both for hatching and for commercial selling.

An International Harvester Company cotton picker, purchased by George C. Chance, one of the big planters of the Brazos River Valley, was demonstrated near Bryan, Brazos county, during the picking season. The cotton had been defoliated in a demonstration by the American Cyanamid Company and was clean of foliage. The picker harvested an acre of cotton in approximately one and a quarter hours, traveling at the rate of two miles an hour. Cotton men estimated the crop harvested by the new machine would average three-fourths of a bale to the acre, or about 1,200 pounds. At prevailing rates for pickers, \$2 per hundred, the machine was earning money fast. It is estimated that under all sorts of conditions the machine will pick cotton at from \$9 to \$25 per bale cheaper than hand pickers.

RADIATORS

Install a new Copper Core into your old radiator. TRACTORS—CARS—TRUCKS—ETC. Ask your local radiator man or write us. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED. **WORTH RADIATOR MANUFACTURING CO.** West Belknap and Lamar Streets Fort Worth 3, Texas 3-3457

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Mexico comes a centuries-old flavor to add piquancy and tang to your menus. Use Gebhardt's famous powder, made from genuine Mexican chili peppers and other spices, to heat to even the humblest dishes. It's complete ready-to-use seasoning.

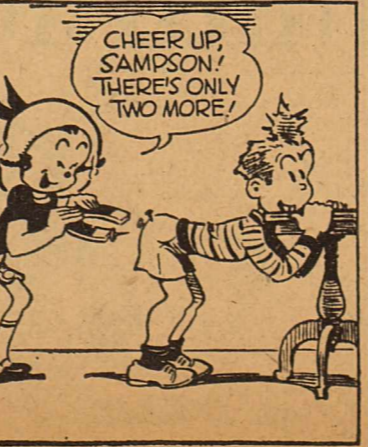
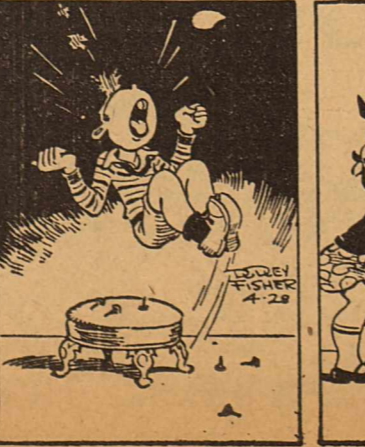
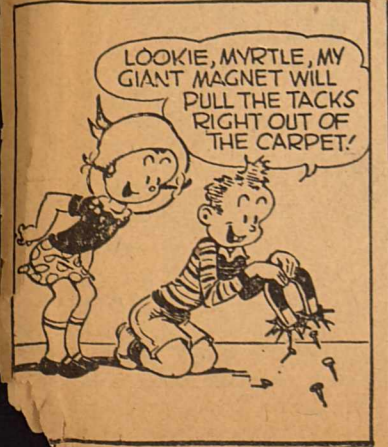
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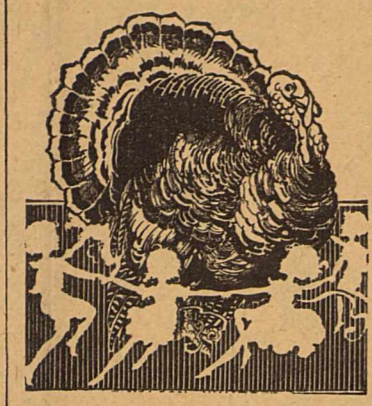
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MYRTLE Right Around Home



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Texas bees contributed 7,392,000 pounds of honey to the nation's dinner tables this year, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported. This is 820,000 pounds more than the State's honey output in 1944. Nine thousand additional colonies, plus increased production of one pound per colony, brought about the large production this year. Texas ranks tenth in honey output for the nation.



In an open letter to farmers of Freestone county, Charlie V. Hanning, agricultural agent, says too many farmers are "fire bugs" and advised the farmers to quit burning grass, weeds and stalks that are good fertilizer and also, when turned under, hold the soil together, hold water and permit air to reach the roots of growing plants.

At the beginning of fall Texas had 1,500,000 fewer laying hens than a year ago but still led all of the States in number of producing birds. U. S. Department of Agriculture counted Texas egg layers at 21,888,000 and Iowa next with 21,478,000; Minnesota was in third place with 18,387,000. But Texas' honor was an empty one in production per hen, Texas being in 39th place, with Vermont leading.

From a one-acre demonstration Julian Reynolds, member of the Lessburg boys' 4-H club of Camp county, harvested 245 bushels of marketable sweet potatoes this year. Heavy application of fertilizer on good soil plus clean cultivation were responsible. County Agricultural Agent Ross H. Brison does not claim a record, but characterizes the yield as "unusual."

There will be no cotton acreage quota in 1946, U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson announced in November. Earlier in the month the Department of Agriculture estimated the 1945 crop at 9,368,000 bales. Estimate for Texas was slightly over 2,000,000 bales, a decrease of about 100,000 below September 1 expectations. This is the smallest Texas crop in 50 years.

Thirteen new applications for soil conservation assistance in Austin county have been approved by the Austin - Washington county district of the Soil Conservation Service.

Hybrid corn in the field may look light, but "the yield will fool you," says Troy Hiller, Jr., of Sanger, and Alex Collins, of Cooper Creek, Denton county, in a report to Denton County Agent G. R. Warren. Both harvested more corn than their fathers who used different varieties on nearby land.

Texas rice mills are running 20 to 24 hours a day, the Eagle Lake Headlight, Colorado county, reported. All varieties have been pouring in, including the late Roxoro. Fifty-five per cent or more of the crop goes to the government, while some is going to Cuba. Not all orders can be filled.

The new drug, "Phenothiazine," developed in Texas and used for the first time in doctoring sheep, is now being used under direction of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Husbandry for prevention of worms in cattle, horses and hogs. Thirty members of the Progressive Farmers Club met at Victoria, in Victoria county, recently and saw a special picture and heard instructions on use of the drug.

Steve Murrin, of Mansfield in Tarrant county, is loud in praise of soil conservation and rotation grazing. He reports that his stock go through the winter with little or no feed as a result of improved methods. He has been mowing weedy areas of his pastures, overseeding rescue grass and sodding bermuda grass on the bottom lands, in corrals and around feedlots, clearing out undesirable trees and contour furrowing buffalo grass pasture.

Turkey poults and baby chicks don't grow well together. Farmer county 4-H club boys who received awards of poults in the cow-sow-hen program last spring, were advised by County Agricultural Agent Lee H. McElroy, and not to place them with their chicks. Those who followed his advice raised 60 per cent, and those who did not, raised only about 30 per cent. The surviving turkeys were fed on waste grain and skimmed milk and went to market at weights of 20 pounds and better, McElroy says.

In times gone by Texas turkeys, like old-time Texas longhorn cattle, ran wild on the range and were rounded up periodically. Usually hens sold for 50 cents and toms for 75 cents regardless of size, age or condition. But times have changed and turkey raising is a new industry of almost incalculable value to the State. One turkey egg can bring a farmer \$10, if it is the right kind of egg. It is estimated there are more than 4,700,000 turkeys in Texas, worth approximately \$28,000,000. Production this year is 25 per cent above last year.



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OVERSEAS GIFTS for Folks Back Home

By CHARLES W. DUKE. As a consequence of the global war there will be a more bewildering array of gifts under the Yule trees of the United States on Christmas Eve this year than ever before in history.

For weeks every ship returning to this country has been laden with the Christmas offering of GI Joe and his fellows of the Army, the Navy, the Wac, the Coast Guard and other units for

analyzed by Philadelphia and New York perfumers from samples submitted by wives and sweethearts of soldiers.

Variety and novelty have made up in most instances, however, for any lack of quality in the gifts from foreign lands. And many a doughboy has managed to get a real bargain from a grateful merchant or an individual in one of the liberated lands. The list includes Glangarry caps from Scotland, Oriental slippers from the North African countries, real Irish linen handkerchiefs, white kid gloves hand made in Naples, sabots of wood from the Low Countries, mosquito boots of leather from Natal, Brazil, Kashmir robes and exotic items from many other foreign lands.

In the Pacific area the soldiers have had much less choice of gifts to bring home. Nearly all of them have managed to acquire grass skirts, however. They also have sent home highly-flavored native sweetmeats and decorative articles. Included are ear and nose rings which will be kept as mementoes. When nothing else is available they serve the purpose of reminding wives, mothers and sweethearts that the thoughts of their fighting men, always turning back home, do so



their loved one at home. Millions of these returning service men and women have been ransacking the world's shopping centers.

The doughboys have been raiding the shops in such numbers that it has been necessary for the Red Cross to organize shopping brigades.

D. P. Gallman, Uvalde county agricultural agent of the Extension service of A. & M. College, gave instruction to orchard owners in his area for applying paradichlorobenzene crystals around peach trees late in October and early in November for controlling the peach tree borer. Many Uvalde farmers are thus protecting their trees.

Ninety thousand pounds of Austrian winter peas have been distributed in Wichita county, Samuel A. Billingsley, Agricultural Adjustment Administration representative, announced. The peas, used as a winter legume to restore nitrate to the soil, cost the farmer nothing and Wichita farmers are planting 3,000 acres of them.

Chester Schmidt, of Pipecreek, Bandera county, was killed while fighting with the 85th Division in Germany. Before going to war, Chester ran the combine on the Schmidt farm and did all of the heavy work. After his death, his two sisters, Rosa Lee, age 19, and Irene Schmidt, age 20, took over, raised a bumper grain crop, operated the combine, and did all other work on the farm. Sometimes they worked from 7 a. m. until midnight.

Rescue grass is most commonly found from the blacklands west along fertile bottoms where shade excludes summer grasses. Few people know that rescue grass was introduced into this country from its native South American about 140 years ago. Herbert A. Lancaster, A. & M. College extension service specialist, explains that annual sweet clover can be grown with rescue grass to good advantage. The rescue grass helps keep the clover from bloating cattle and the clover in turn enriches the soil. If the grass is permitted to ripen and seed, a volunteer fall crop may be expected.

Billy Hancock, member of the Lesley boys' 4-H club of Hall county, this year is demonstrating a herd of 10 milking Jerseys, a herd of registered Duroc hogs, a flock of poultry and a beef calf which he entered at the Greater Pan-American Hereford Show, Dallas. Billy commenced his club work seven years ago with a pig on borrowed capital. Today he is farming 150 acres on his own. He has been a prominent leader not only in his community, but in State 4-H club circles. He was among the delegates of 24 club boys who toured Mexico in June, serving with Rodolfo Moreno, a student of the National School of Agriculture of Mexico, as joint toastmaster at a banquet in Mexico City.

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Another Big Sinclair FARM MEETING

Featuring the NEW SOUND MOVIE



A new series of Sinclair Farm Meetings is being held this fall in thousands of communities. The meetings, which are free, feature a new sound movie, "Heaven with a Fence Around It," which shows how you can help solve the problems of returning veterans. Your Sinclair Agent will welcome you to his local Meeting. He is the man to call when you need gasoline, kerosene or lubricating oils for your farm.

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HOUSEHOLD HELPS

By MARGARET MOORE

YULE DECORATIONS

Do your best to get the Christmas Spirit into your good home. The war over, this should be the happiest Christmas we have had in years. Make "Merry Christmas" really MERRY. Many of us will be together this Christmas for the first time in a long while. Let's leave nothing undone to make it a day to always remember.

Take a drive or walk into the country and gather the fall leaves and mistletoe to decorate your home. Decorate the table and fill the wall cases with the leaves. Lay them on the mantle of your fireplace if far enough away from fire to be safe. Put them in the chandelier; they are lovely with the light shining on them.

Some of the forest shrubs have berries that make the loveliest wreaths. Tie them together, into a circle, and hang them in your window. Put one on your door. Make a spray for your porch and put MERRY CHRISTMAS on a big red bow and fasten the spray with it. Let the whole world know that you are glad there is peace once more in America.

Don't forget to use mistletoe around and overhead if you are lucky enough to have it grow in your locality, or can buy it in stores. Dad will surprise the life out of mom when he catches her under the mistletoe and it will tickle the kids pink.

If you have cedars in your yard or any green foliage they are nice to mix in with the fall boughs. We have an ornamental pepper in our yard and it is really effective to add to the spray in the wall vase.

Make your Merry Christmas for the bow out of white paper, just cut it out and paste it on. Tie your bow first and then you will have it in the right place.

If there's a large mirror in the living or dining room, give it a holiday air by spelling "MERRY CHRISTMAS" with red gummed paper letters across the top. Or border it with small gold stars sprinkled on the glass.

Hunt up all the Christmas books the family owns—Dickens' "Christmas Carols," the children's dog-eared "Twas the Night Before Christmas," and other old favorites.

It's fun to cover them with new jackets of gayly patterned gift wrapping paper and keep them on a table in the living room all through Christmas week.

Want something different for the Christmas dinner table? Get an inexpensive small red drum and remove one side. Circle it with a holly wreath and fill the center with little surprise gift packages that are not to be opened until after dessert.

A CHRISTMAS PARTY

Mom can surprise the kids by having a Christmas party for them. Kids love get-togethers and for amusement can decorate the Christmas tree. What can be more fun than decorating the tree.

If you are short on tree decorations, as most of us are because of shortages, you can let the girls pop some corn and string the popcorn with cranberries. It makes nice danglers, or can be hung in scallops all around the tree.

The smaller children like to make bright chains of colored paper. Some stores have Christmas paper for wrapping packages and you can save this for the chain. Scissors and a little paste is all they need. Santa Claus can be made of red paper with bits of cotton pasted around for white fur. Little black boots will make a nice ornament and you can tuck a stick of striped candy in the boot. Little snowmen can be made the same way. Chewing gum is back on the market, also cigarettes, both wrapped in tinfoil and enclosed in colorful packages. The little

wrappers can be folded diagonally down to a small piece and the open edge scalloped or pointed. Hold the center with your fingers and open up; shape it a little and you have a pretty flowerette that sparkles. Tie a string on the back and hang it on the tree.

Popcorn balls can be made, enough for the whole neighborhood, to have as gifts from the tree. Make little boots and fill them with candy. All the kids like to have something off the tree on Christmas morning.

End your party with all the kids singing Christmas carols and give each child a cup cake with a glass of punch. All children love cake and punch and it is good for them just before bedtime.

This is clean fun for the youngsters, and you will enjoy making them so happy. The whole neighborhood will be talking about the wonderful time they had at your Christmas Tree Decorating Party. If you are without lights for the tree try some colored globes in your lamps. It gives a cheerful effect.

GIFTS FROM THE KITCHEN

Gay packages containing food delicacies of your own making are always among the nicest and friendliest of all Christmas gifts. But this year especially, with food less plentiful and so many hungry soldier boys coming home, gifts from the kitchen will still praise your cookies. The amount of sugar you use will have to be watched, of course, but almost all of us have saved up during past weeks to be ready to do some extra baking at Christmas time. By adding honey to sugar you can save almost 50 per cent of your sugar.

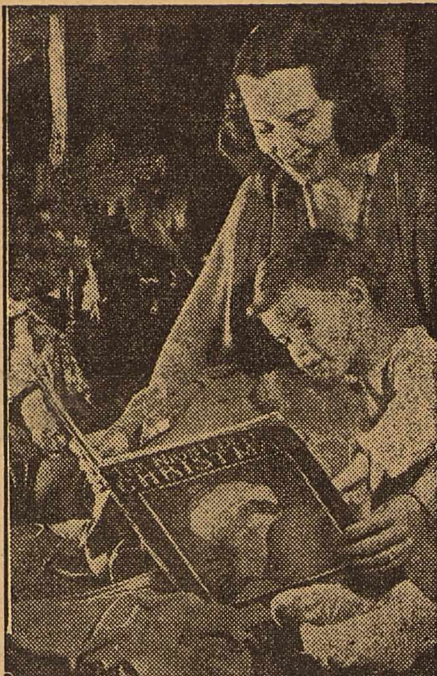
A glance through your Christmas list will suggest a number of people for whom gifts from the kitchen will be the most appropriate of all possible remembrances. The following are a few recipes that may be helpful in preparing gifts of food:

Pecan Puffs
 ½ cup shortening (part butter)
 2 tablespoons sugar
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 1 cup pecan meats
 1 cup cake flour
 Confectioners' sugar.

Beat shortening until soft. Add the sugar and blend until creamy. Add the vanilla. Grind the pecan meats in a nut grinder. Sift the cake flour before measuring; stir it and the pecans into the butter mixture. Roll the dough into small balls. Place them on a greased baking sheet. Bake in a slow oven of 300 degrees F. for about 45 minutes. Roll the puffs while hot in confectioners' sugar. When cold, roll them again in confectioners' sugar.

These are rich and delectably good. Makes about 32 1½-inch small cakes.

Butter Thins
 2/3 cup sugar
 (Continued top of column)



Make delicious
CHILI CON CARNE
 and CAN IT!

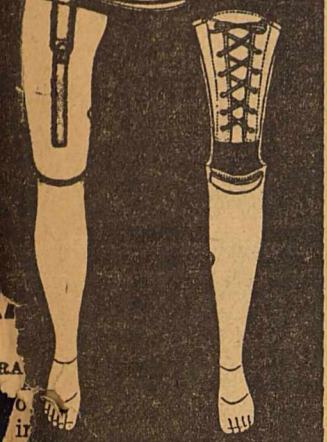


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FIND REMNANTS OF ANCIENT TEMPLE

Remnants of a temple dating from the period between Alexander the Great and Cleopatra and said to offer a fine example of Hellenistic design have been unearthed by excavators of Faruk el Awal University at Ashmun in Upper Egypt.

Inscriptions indicate it was built by one of Ptolemy III's cavalry regiments, which was camped in the area where large columns of Corinthian style, magnificently colored, were discovered.

In the vicinity were fragments of a marble statue of Venus and specimens of pottery and bronze plates, probably Hellenistic.—The New York Times.

YOU CAN DO SOME RETURNED VETERAN A REAL FAVOR

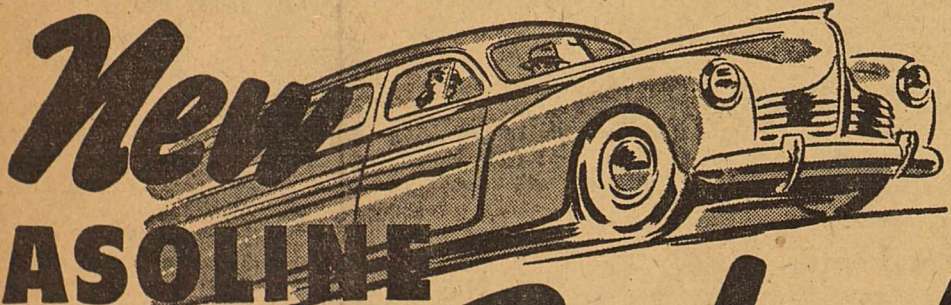
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 AT ITS BEST



¾ cup shortening (part butter)
 2 eggs
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 1 ½ cups bread flour
 ½ teaspoon salt.

Sift sugar. Beat shortening until soft; add the sugar gradually. Blend until very creamy. Beat eggs in one at a time. Add the vanilla. Sift the cake flour before measuring; resift it with the salt added. Stir the sifted ingredients into the butter. Drop it from a teaspoon well apart onto a greased sheet. Make the cookies about 1½ inches in diameter. Decorate each one with a nutmeat. Bake them in a hot oven of 400 degrees F. until the edges are brown.

Molasses Mint Taffy

1 ½ cups light molasses
 ½ cup sugar
 2 teaspoons vinegar
 1 ½ tablespoons butter or margarine
 ½ teaspoon salt
 ½ teaspoon baking soda
 7 drops oil of peppermint

Cook molasses, sugar and vinegar in a large saucepan slowly, stirring constantly, to 260 degrees F. or until a little of the syrup dropped in cold water becomes brittle. Remove from heat and add butter, salt, and baking soda. Stir until mixture ceases to foam, then pour into a greased or oiled pan about 12x 8x1". When cool enough to pull, drop peppermint in center and draw corners toward the center. Press together, then pull the candy until it is light in color and begins to harden. Then pull into 2 long strips ½" in diameter and cut with scissors into pieces 1" long. Wrap in Cellophane or waxed paper. Makes 80 pieces.

Spiced Nuts

1 cup granulated sugar
 ½ teaspoon cinnamon
 ¼ teaspoon cream tartar
 ¼ cup boiling water
 1 ½ cups walnut or pecan meats
 ½ teaspoon vanilla.

Mix sugar, cinnamon and cream of tartar. Add boiling water and stir over slow fire until sugar is dissolved. Cover a

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CHRISTMAS ROSES

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