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Music at Christmas Time

by Alice Eversman

THE first Christmas night was God's special benediction on music. By His divine sanction it was the means of proclaiming the advent of a hope and happiness hitherto not considered ordained for humanity. On the night when the Christ child was born, heavenly singers were sent forth and the music of celestial choirs was heard for the first time by human ears. The melody of that glorious hymn came and passed into the harmony of the spheres beyond our ken and only the message of peace was handed down to the generations to come. How different the destiny of music had the pattern of celestial harmony and the melody the angels song been preserved for us. It was left for man to find within himself the heavenly music.

No event in the history of the world has set vibrating the finest chords of music in the hearts of the gifted ones equal to the festival of the birth of the Christ child. The supernatural messengers announcing His coming, the loveliness of character of His mother, the heavens themselves exulting at His birth are subjects which to contemplate but a moment awakens music in the heart and forms a song in the stillness thereof that is the echo of that song that rang through the universe that starry night 2,000 years ago. Yet the melody the angels sang was lost.

Mary, His mother, gave vent to the fullness of her heart when she knew that she was to be the chosen one of her people in the magnificent "Magnificat," the poetry of which still has power to thrill whenever its spontaneous glorification of the Lord is heard. Yet the melody the Virgin sang is lost.



Tender Lullabys Were Crooned by the Young Mother.

The lullabys crooned by the young mother in the stillness of the moments when the divine child was lulled to sleep have had no listener who passed them on to an eager world. What could have been the burden of the intimate things of which the mother sang when the restless world was shut away and the two, closely entwined, communed together, with the knowledge of their destiny hovering about them. Did she sing Him tender baby songs that made no reference to His divinity or did she praise Him as her God and sing her fidelity as she held Him close and soothed His earthly weariness? Did she beg of Him to spare her the suffering she knew awaited them or did she encourage Him in tender human fashion to bear the terrible human agony foreordained for Him? The lullabies that soothed the sacred child were never heard by profane ears.

In the life of Christ there must have been much music. Descended from the greatest singer of all times, the psalmist David, and His advent into the world proclaimed by the singers from His heavenly home, there was a human and divine heritage of music woven into the scheme of His existence on earth. In the childhood years of the Lord, what were His childish pleasures, what were His childish songs? Was the soul of the young Saviour too sad for singing or did He fashion Himself songs from a heavenly source whispered by angels or did He sing the songs of His people heard on the lips of His companions? In the synagogue did He praise His Father after the manner of David and to the tune of the lute and was His sacred voice heard when He read from the scriptures. The songs the Saviour sang have vanished.

Yet the music of that sacred time is not lost, for it is born again in the hearts of the great composers. Bit by bit the melody that was heard the first Christmas night has come back to us distilled from the pens of the specially chosen, and who is there to say it is not akin to the music of the celestial choirs? The inexplicable urge of melody, the grandeur of musical thought, the loftiness of inspiration must surely be from the same source as was the music that was heard but once on earth.

It was not without intent that the message of peace was sent out on the "wings of song," for that is the power of music—to bring peace. Nor was it by chance that the melody came from the heavens, for ever the inward eyes of the soul turn heavenward under the influence of great earthly music. The radiance of the star shines in the heart under the touch of melody and the soul expands to a fuller comprehension of the promises for eternity.
—Washington Star.

WNU Service.

Dog Tax Must Be Paid At Once

All persons who own or keep a dog in Kent county must pay a dog license for same. These taxes are PAST DUE.

If you have not paid your dog license this is to warn you to do so. If not paid the owner will be arrested and fined.

It is much better to pay the license than to have to pay costs of arrest and fine.

See your dog constable and pay your dog license.

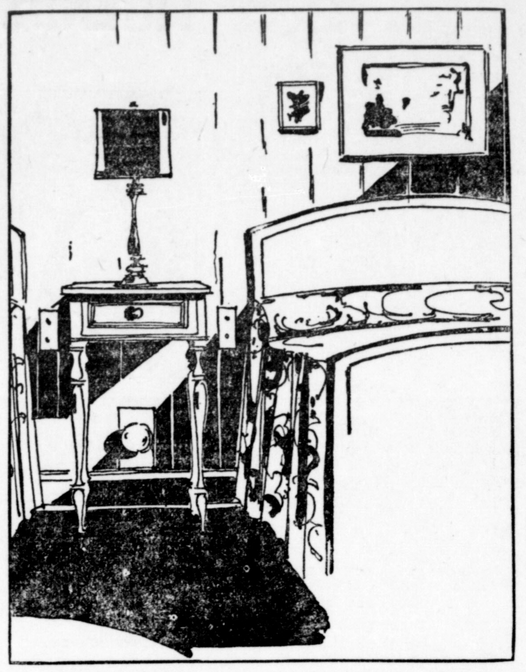
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HOME IMPROVEMENTS

by Paul T. Haagen, A.I.A.

MODERNIZE NOW!



NIGHT LIGHT

WHEN you modernize your house, be sure to look to the electric outlets.

One unique feature is a new night lamp arrangement directly above the baseboard and under the bedside table. This is simply an electric outlet placed flush with the wall surface in which a lamp of small wattage is placed. There should be switches on either side of the night table, close to each bed, to control this night lamp.

This arrangement makes it possible for the occupant of either bed, on arising at night, to turn on the light illuminating the floor yet not disturbing the occupant of the other bed—and it is more comfortable from the standpoint of eye-strain resulting from flooding a darkened room with light.

Finish for Pine Trim

Interior pine trim should be perfectly clean and dry before the finishing starts.

Stain the wood with an acid or oil stain; light honey, amber or brown are the easiest colors to handle.

Lightly sandpaper the wood after staining. Then apply a thin coat of orange or white shellac. Paint over the knots with white lead paint and wipe off the paint at once with a cloth. This treatment will give the effect of age.

Rub down the first coat of shellac with steel wool and finish with a second coat.

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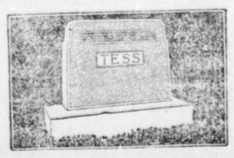
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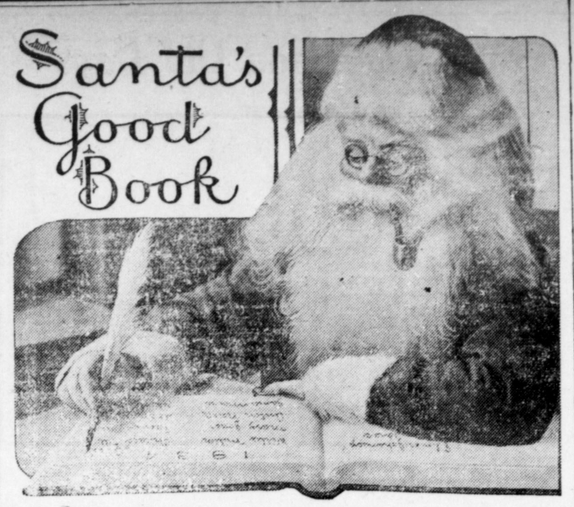
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A statement by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation follows:

"The purpose of the signs is to let depositors know which banks are insured. Heretofore, although 90 per cent. of the licensed banks are insured, depositors have had no easy means of identifying them.

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