### PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO REOPEN JANUARY 6TH.

The public schools of Baltimore County closed for the Christmas holidays on Wednesday and will reopen January 6th.

### NO SERVICE AT WHITE HALL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TOMORROW.

There will be no services at the White Hall Presbyterian Church tomorrow (Sunday).


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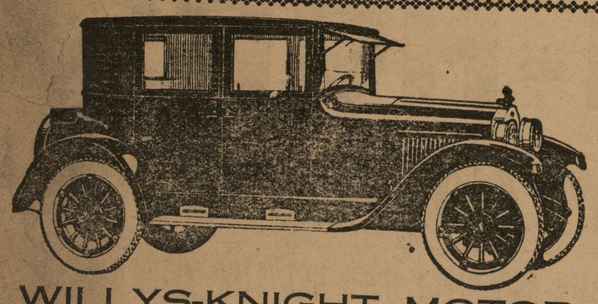

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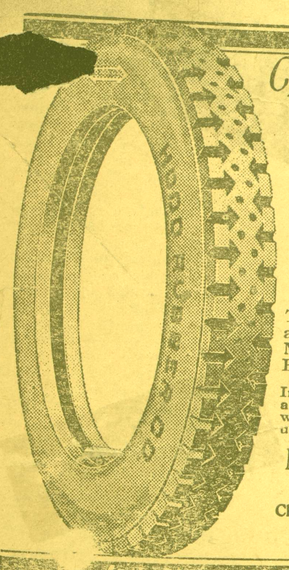

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### SHIP CAPTAIN TURNS HIS TALENTS TO MAKING MODELS AFTER INJURY

**Man Who Had His Leg Crushed By Heavy Anchor Still Retains His Love For Sea And Sailing Vessels.**

In a tiny workshop below a modest sign Nils Sjoberg, former ship captain, his crutches beside him, sits and builds, reconstructs and repairs ship models at a little shore facing the water front of Baltimore county. Captain Sjoberg does not "manufacture" models. He builds them, and his workmanship has brought him the recognition of the Maryland Historical Society.

Before a 2500-pound anchor anchor crushed his right leg, in 1906, Captain Sjoberg was a sailor. He still is a part of the sea. He was born on it. It was in 1867, on a little barkentine bound from Aberdeen Scotland, to the United States, that Nils Sjoberg first saw the blue sky, and a few days afterward the blue water. A few months later his father, captain of a ship, was lost at sea. His mother died shortly afterward, and little Nils, at the age of 6, sat beside his uncle, a Swedish fisherman, picking herring from the nets.

The lure of the sea was strong, and at 12 Nils started his career as a sailor. He signed as a cabin boy on a full-rigged ship. For 18 years he sailed on deep water. Seven times he was shipwrecked, one time spending nine days drifting in an open boat. He sailed all over the world and learned to sing the old sea chanties in four or five different languages. Finally came the accident while he was in the Government service, and his sea-going days were over.

Captain Sjoberg's love for the sea, however, was not crushed when the anchor fell on his leg. Into every model on which he works at his shop in the cellar of his home he puts all the feeling which the true "salt" holds for the briny deep.

Many kinds of wood, including mahogany, teak, spruce and white pine, go into these models. Captain Sjoberg searches until he finds the right place. And then the models are accurate. Captain Sjoberg, before starting work on a model, often visits the Congressional Library at Washington, where he peruses for hours old records to get information about the ship of which he is to build a model. Whenever possible he obtains photographs and in some instances blue prints.

In the actual work everything is done to scale, sometimes a sixteenth of an inch representing a foot. An assortment of tools ranging from drills, which can hardly be seen when held in the hand, to an electric lathe and a buzz-saw, enable Captain Sjoberg to do his work. Everything must be exact, and in some cases he finds it necessary to make miniature anchor chains himself out of wire. In rigging, different kinds of silk are used, each in thickness, and even strength, corresponding to the original rigging of the ship.

When silk will not suffice, Captain Sjoberg makes his own rigging, weaving the ropes to scale, out of flax. Small blocks are carved out of wood, turnbuckles are made on the lathe and little anchors are cast in wooden molds. And when finished the model stands forth in all the glory of the stately ship which plowed the ocean years ago, and which, perhaps, has since been pounded to pieces by angry waves on some jagged reef, or has been scrapped.

Hobbling here and there on his crutches and humming a sea ditty now and then, Captain Sjoberg recently has completed restoration of the models of the United States frigates Constitution and Constellation.

### JOHN O. STAFFORD LAID TO REST.

The funeral of John O. Stafford, of Towson, was held from the residence of his brother, Joseph B. Stafford, Murdock road, Anneslie. Services were conducted at the house by Rev. S. F. Cassen, pastor of the Towson M. P. Church. Burial was in Greenmount Cemetery. Mayor Howard E. Jackson, of Baltimore, was one of the pallbearers.

### STRAY DOGS KILL DUCKS.

Stray dogs killed a number of ducks on the place of Mr. Joseph Bazzell, Oella.

### WOMAN HELD ON DISORDERLY CONDUCT CHARGE.

Mrs. Catherine Reding, of near Avalon, was held in $200 bail by Justice Andrae at the Catonsville Police Station for grand jury action on the charge of being disorderly. Wm. E. Young, of Avalon, was the complainant.

### CATONSVILLE ODD FELLOWS ELECT OFFICERS.

Providence Lodge of Odd Fellows of Catonsville, has elected the following officers: Noble Grand—Chas. Adler; Vice Grand—Harry Waltemyer; Recording Secretary—Shepherd Owens; Financial Secretary—A. G. Nash; Treasurer—D. Diehlman; Representatives to the Grand Lodge—H. C. Kalben; Trustees—Heine C. Andreae, Oscar M. Grimes, Kenneth W. Ways, William F. Davis and Mellor Marsden.

### JEWELS HIDDEN SO WELL OWNER ASKS POLICE AID IN SEARCH.

Mrs. Frederick Kirby, of Dunmore, Frederick road, Catonsville, hid her jewelry in too safe a place. She called the Catonsville police, declaring burglars had entered her home and robbed her of jewelry valued at $3000. The police joined her in a search of the house and the jewelry remained missing.

As the report was being written at the police station Mrs. Kirby telephoned, saying she had found the jewelry in a box among some clothing, where she had concealed it for safe keeping.

### NEGRO FINED $165 ON THREE TRAFFIC CHARGES.

Charles, B. White, colored, 643 Vine street, Baltimore city, was fined $100 and costs for driving an automobile while under the influence of liquor, $50 and costs for reckless driving and $15 and costs for failing to keep to the right of the road in Catonsville Police Court by Justice Andreae.

White's truck struck an automobile operated by Charles L. Smith, of Baltimore, on the Frederick road, near Ellicott City. Mr. Smith's he was taken to the University Hospital for treatment. White was arrested by Patrolman Cornelius Scannell.

### HOLY NAME SOCIETY ELECTS OFFICERS.

At a meeting of St. Charles' Holy Name Society, Pikesville the following officers were elected for 1925: President, Augustus J. Tierney; vice-president, Raymond A. Duke; secretary, Lawrence McKim; treasurer, Augustus Creaghan; marshall, William J. Hunter.

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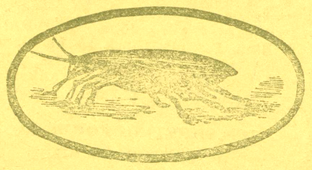

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### GIRLS HOLD FROLIC AT NORMAL SCHOOL.

Fair ladies, lords and sires, quaint little pages, a wandering minstrel, waif, mummers, village folk, the court fool, medieval monks, choir boys and St. George of the Dragon himself mingled in brilliant pageantry at the State Normal School, Towson.

"Ye Festivalle of Christmas Eve," as the frolic was called, was celebrated before hundreds of onlookers in the setting of a medieval castle. About 150 students and youngsters of the practice school, all of them in colorful costumes, participated. Miss Alta E. Thompson, an instructor in English, was responsible for a delightful and tuneful performance, inasmuch as she herself had planned it and written most of the lines. Carol singing, which included songs of many lands, was under the direction of Miss Rose Marie Barry.

The entire pageant was based on tradintional material. Dances were directed by Miss Mary Cook. Stage settings were arrange by the Craft Club.

### BALDWIN-SWEET AIR ROAD OPENED.

The first section of the new State road leading from Baldwin station to Sweet Air has been completed, it being opened to traffic on Saturday last.

### SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS TO BUILD NEW SCHOOL.

The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia have filed an application for a permit to build a two-story brick and stone school building at a cost of about $50,000.

The structure is to be located at the northeast corner of Franklin avenue and Belair road and will have dimensions of about 90 by 160 feet. The builder is Frank H. Gomes.

### WILLIAM F. SMITH GRANTED ABSOLUTE DIVORCE.

Judge Walter W. Preston signed a decree in the Circuit Court at Towson granting William F. Smith an absolute divorce from Mrs. Hilda Hickey Smith. The decree was based upon proof of abandonment. The parties were married December 6 ,1920, and separated the following May.


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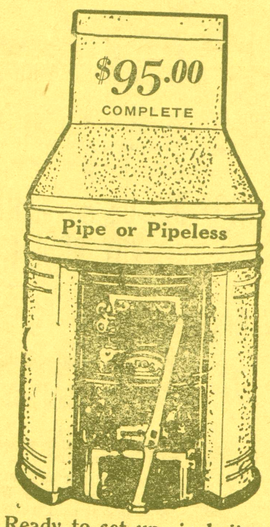


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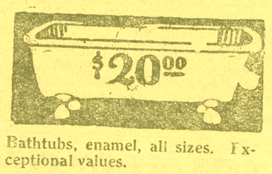


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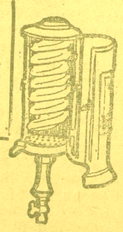

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### BAYNESVILLE CHURCH TO HOLD XMAS ENTERTAINMENT MONDAY.

Th Sunday School of Arnolia M. E. Church, Baynesville, will hold its annual Christmas entertainment on Monday evening.

### THOS. A. B. MERRITT NAMED TAX ASSESSOR FOR 12TH DISTRICT.

The Count Commissioners made their annual appointments on Tuesday. The only change made was to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Thomas McDonough, tax assessor of the Twelfth district.

Thomas A. B. Merritt was appointed to the position. All other county officials, numbering 63, were reappointed.

### SUNDAY WAS SHORTEST DAY IN THE YEAR.

Sunday last, December 21st, when the sun reached its southernmost point and the earth drifts northward, was the shortest day of 1924, members of the Weather Bureau announced. Monday the 22nd was only a few seconds longer than the preceding day, and beginning Wednesday the sun resumed its normal position.

On the twenty-first the sun rose at 7.22 A. M. and set at 4.47 P. M. On the following day it rose at the same time and set a few second later. There is a difference in time of about three minutes between these two days and the other days in the year.


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