

## A Merry Christmas

BY MARY GRAHAM BONNER

Merry Christmas to each one, From early morn 'til set of sun, Merry Christmas to you all, Whether you are big or small.

Whether you are young or old, Greetings to you often told I must wish and wish again— It's a happy old refrain.

May your Christmas be so jolly, With greens and mistletoe and holly, With presents and a lot of cheer And a following happy year.

Merry Christmas to each one From early morn 'til set of sun, Merry Christmas to you all, Whether you are big or small.

## DECEMBER TERM OF CIRCUIT COURT

### Convenes At Elkton--- Cases Tried---Sentences Imposed

The December term of the Circuit Court for Cecil County convened at Elkton with all four Judges in this circuit—Chief Judge Stephen R. Collins and Associate Judges Thomas J. Keating, J. Owen Knott and James F. Evans, on the bench.

The juries were selected as follows:

Grand jury—Frank L. Rowland, foreman; Edgar Price, C. Albert George, Joseph Clay, Herbert W. Price, Jacob C. Balliff, Ralph T. Wilson, J. Willis Hathaway, William D. Ewing, Richard E. Merritt, Jr., W. D. Bradford, Edmund W. Crothers, Reuben Reynolds, Frank Mathews, Norman C. Way, Samuel Aiken, Alvin Nickle, Patrick Deakin, Joseph Sullivan, James A. Kirk, Jacob Steele, A. Woodall and Stewart Smith.

Petit jury—John D. Beaman, Guy Lockerman, M. Earl Davis, Frank Hutton, Fletcher White, negro; Robert Brady, negro; J. Alfred Taylor, Victor S. Taylor, William Edward Hayes, Robert Criswell, James B. Frazer, Thomas Saunders, Harry W. Strahorn, Charles E. Biddle, Howard N. Brickley, Joseph Boddy, negro; Cecil Kirk, J. Otis Kennard, and Harry B. Alexander.

The Grand Jury completed its work, only six indictments being returned.

James Lester Ashley, formerly of Sparrows Point, and now of this section, charged with non-support, was heard before the Court. Ashley pleaded guilty and was given a suspended sentence with the order to pay \$30 at once and \$100 by January 5 with \$5 per week thereafter. Ashley has a wife and one child.

Raymond Henderson, colored, was found guilty before the Court on the charge of larceny of a car. He was sentenced to one year in the House of Correction.

Robert Purnell, colored, pleaded not guilty of bastardy. After testimony the Court found him guilty and he was ordered to pay \$3 per week for the support of the minor child.

William Taft Maker pleaded guilty to the larceny of a shotgun. He was given 3 years in the Pen and a suspended sentence on the payment of costs and the cost of the gun.

## Nottingham Detective Association

The annual meeting of Nottingham Detective Association was held in the Oxford Research Club room. Following a turkey dinner, enjoyed by 91 members, the election of officers was held resulting as follows: President, Robert R. Whiteside; Sec.-Treas., J. Hastings Whiteside; Directors, Chester C. Campbell, A. E. Townsend, Thomas Sloan, Charles McCoskey, Paul Toot, J. C. Brown, Granville Coates, J. Hayes Lindsey and George C. Powley.

During year, losses came to four dollars. Under by-laws of the Association, payment of 50 per cent was ordered. Treasurer Whiteside showed a balance of \$219.49 on hand. New members received were John H. Ware, III, Harry Rhoades, and Ralph Wrigley.

## Burned By Furnace Blast

J. Earl Tyson, of this town, suffered painful burns on Thursday morning by a "dust explosion" in his furnace. The furnace was not heating properly, and while investigating Mr. Tyson opened the fire box door and was met by a blast of flame and soot, full in the face. He was painfully burned about the eyes, ears and hands.

## WELFARE BOARD LACKS FUNDS

In a statement issued today by Mr. Joseph R. Grant, Chairman of the Cecil County Welfare Board, attention is called to the fact that the Board has no funds that can be used to provide toys and other Christmas gifts for families who are receiving assistance. There seems to be a rather widespread erroneous belief that families on relief are being well cared for this Christmas time. This will be true only to the extent that individuals and organizations who are in a position to give will share what they have with those who are less fortunate.

Mr. Grant pointed out that under the Public Assistance laws the use of relief funds is restricted to grants for the necessities of life, such as food, fuel, rent, clothing, medical care, etc., and the amounts given are not sufficient to leave the families any margin for Christmas cheer. As everyone knows, there has been a tremendous increase in the cost of living. Your dollar and mine buys far less than it did a year ago. The relief dollar is no more elastic than the dollar earned as wages, and in many cases it will not stretch to cover the necessities of life. Yet, so far it has not been possible to make allowance for the increased cost of living by a general increase in grants to relief recipients. The people who are on relief are those who for one reason or another are not able to work, whether on account of illness, old age, or, in the case of women, because they have small children who need a mother's care. For this reason their need is not affected to any great extent by the improvement in industrial conditions.

The Welfare Board and staff will gladly confer with any persons or groups who wish to provide Christmas cheer for either children or grown-ups. The office is located at Rooms 303-307 in the Court House and the telephone is Elkton 414.

## Cecil Gunners Bag 14 Deer During Season

Deputy Game Warden Maurice Hudson, of Chesapeake City, reported that during the open season for deer in Cecil County the first week in December, 14 deer were bagged by gunners, compared with seven last year. The law permits but one deer to be bagged by a gunner during the season. The gunners were: William H. Irwin of North East; Charles Brown, Elkton; William Purdy, Chesapeake City; Rudolph Ragan, Conowingo; Norman Bakeoven, Elkton; Francis George, Elkton; Harry M. Jackson, Port Deposit; Chester A. Richards, Elkton, R. D.; Burchell Reynolds, North East; Charles Mars, Principio Furnace; Warren Ewing, Elkton, R. D.; John J. Hostetter, Rowlandville, and Fred Narvel, Port Deposit.

## School Board

### Transfers Teachers

At the December meeting of the Board of Education for Cecil County, held at their office in the Court House building, the resignation of Mrs. Emma L. Lewis, as assistant in the Elkton Elementary School, was received and accepted.

The following transfers were also approved by the Board: Mrs. Elizabeth A. Boulden from the second grade, Howard street school, Elkton, to the fourth grade in the Elkton elementary school; Mrs. Jean G. Abrams from the principalship of the Jefferson School to teacher of second grade in Howard street school, Elkton; Mrs. Gladys F. Gregg from the principalship of the New Valley school to the position of assistant in the Cherry Hill School.

## Dockets Suit For Divorce

Mrs. Mary Emma Girard of this county has docketed suit in the Circuit Court for an absolute divorce from Earle W. Girard, on the grounds of abandonment. The plaintiff alleges that they were married on Nov. 14, 1933, and resided in Cecil County and Dover, Del., until Dec. 15 of the same year, when they separated. Under an order of court, the defendant is given until Jan. 5, 1942, to answer.

## Air Raid Protection For Schools

At a recent meeting of all High and Elementary School Principals, Bus Owners and Drivers, a series of rules and regulations were adopted whereby it is hoped to safeguard school children of this county during the emergency which is upon us.

E. D. E. Rollins, Chief Air Raid Warden of the County, was present at this meeting and gave valuable assistance in formulating the plans adopted. These plans and regulations will be in the hands of the parents and teachers this week.

## To Our Friends

In a typical rural American community like ours, that immortal Christmas message—"Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men"—finds its truest meaning and its sincerest applications.

OR it is here that the individual really counts. Nowhere else are people so willing to lend a helping hand to a fellow man. No cry of distress remains unanswered, no plea for help ignored. Not only at Christmas time, but throughout the year, every day activities of our friends and neighbors are guided by a sense of brotherly love.

VEN our friends and relatives of the large cities realize and admit that Christmas "back home" is the finest Christmas of all. And "back home" they'll come, every year, every one of them, if they can.

Ordinary times these facts might be considered unimportant. But in a stricken world that must come to adopt as its cardinal objective that same message of Christmas—"Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men"—the significance of the part we must play in shaping the future of mankind stands out in sharp relief. In so much of the world the individual counts for little. In communities such as ours in America every human being retains the rights and freedom of the individual.

If we epitomize the true Christmas spirit, we represent the truest of democratic ideals. And thus each of us has a sacred, yet simple, duty to perform. We must reaffirm our will to continue being a peaceful neighbor and a faithful friend. If we do this and do it in the divine spirit of Christmas, the world can continue to look to us as the bulwark of high ideals.

His newspaper realizes that as a member of this community we have our obligation to fulfill. We have tried to be a "good neighbor and true friend" to all of you. We will continue to do so. And we know that in turn you have the same feeling toward us.

WITH this faith uppermost in our hearts we wish for you an abundance of all the blessings that will bring you—A Merry Christmas.



## Civilian Defense

### Activities

In response to the call issued a large number of our citizens assembled at the Fire House here on Friday evening last to form a Defense Auxiliary. A number signed up and training will start at once. A class in First Aid will be organized on Friday evening, Dec. 19, at the Fire House, meeting from 8:00 to 10:00 o'clock each week hereafter. Anyone who desires to do so may take the course. The class will be under instruction of Dr. R. C. Dodson, of this town, who has other classes in the county and is contributing eight hours of his time each week for this particular work.

An observation post, manned 24 hours a day, has been established on "The Ridge", about two miles north of town, where a check is made of all passing air planes and reported to the military authorities.

## Snow, Sleet, Rain

The ground was blanketed with about an inch of snow Friday night, turning to sleet in the early morning hours Saturday, then to rain later in the day. Traffic conditions were treacherous on all highways Saturday morning, numerous accidents of skidding autos and trucks being reported. Warmer temperature and rain later in the day cleared up the precarious travel conditions.

## SOCIAL AND PERSONAL MENTION

Miss Mildred Retzer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Retzer, "Seven Gables", Oxford, and J. Walter Wagner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alec Wagner, Sylmar, who were married on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27, have gone to housekeeping on the Wagner farm, Sylmar.

Mr. and Mrs. Willett Yerkes, of Calvert, entertained at a turkey dinner in honor of the birthday of William Holmes, Jr., and their son, James, who left recently with a number of others to join the Army.

Mr. and Mrs. John Mackey entertained the latter's brother and wife, Sgt. and Mrs. James Hudson, while he was on his furlough from the U. S. Army.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Burcham and Leroy Revese, of Port Elizabeth, New Jersey, were Saturday-Sunday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Thomas, Cherry street.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Slaybaugh were week-end visitors in Fayetteville, Pa.

Mrs. Lidle Smith spent the week with relatives near Pleasant Grove, Pennsylvania.

Miss M. Lidle Stewart is visiting relatives in Philada.

While on a shopping tour in Wilmington Mrs. Anne Russell, of North East, either lost or had her pocket-book stolen. It contained \$166.

## Red Cross Call

### Doubled

Mrs. J. Mercer Terrell of near Elkton, chairman of Red Cross drive in Cecil County, reports that the sum of \$3,327, which is only \$423 short of the goal of \$3,750, originally set has been raised.

The quota for the county, however, has been raised to \$6,000, and now it will be necessary to start a second drive in an attempt to raise \$2,673.

The increase was made necessary by the entry of this country in the new world war. An appeal has been made for additional workers.

## Boy Scout Troop

### Tendered Party

The Mother's Auxiliary of Rising Sun Troop of Boy Scouts tendered the members of the Troop a surprise party on Monday evening, at the "Cabin in the Woods", the summer cottage of Mr. and Mrs. William McNamee, along the Octoraro creek, near Porters Bridge. Various games were played and ice cream and cake served.

About forty members of the Auxiliary, Boy Scouts and invited guests enjoyed the affair.

West Nottingham Academy closed on Friday for the Christmas holiday vacation.

## CECIL RAID

### WARDENS NAMED

E. D. E. Rollins of Elkton, chief air raid warden for Cecil County, has set up an Air Raid Warden Control in his office, Elkton, to receive reports from Chesapeake City, North East, Rising Sun, Port Deposit and smaller communities in the county, should raids occur.

Zone wardens have been appointed as follows: For first, second and third district, John J. Maloney; for fifth, seventh and eighth district, C. Otis McCauley; for fourth, sixth and ninth districts, J. P. Slaybaugh.

Sectors and air raid wardens in Elkton: West End, Henry Shank; Pulp Heights, Edmund Crothers; Armory, Jesse Pierson; hospital, Lee Caldwell; business district, Arthur M. Cameron; Negro section, Rev. Mr. Collins; East End, Stanley Evans.

## Old Span May

### Be Reopened

Leo M. Moore, of Havre de Grace, member of the Maryland House of Delegates, on Wednesday called Governor Herbert R. O'Connor by telephone and urged the reopening of the old Susquehanna highway bridge stating the span would be less liable to damage by saboteurs if it were again placed in use for the public's convenience than its present barricaded condition. The Governor said he was appreciative of the suggestion and would immediately take the necessary steps, including a conference with War Department officials to have the span reopened.

The agreement with the bondholders of the new bridge was that the old structure should be razed when the new steel structure was placed in commission, but Governor O'Connor very wisely halted these proceedings as he considered the retention of the bridge as an important part of defense, which today has proven his action was both timely and patriotic. —Ledger.

## Double Guards Placed

### At Munition Plants

Double sentries have been posted at Defense plants in the Elkton area and guards have been placed at bridges and strategic points, it was announced Tuesday by John K. Burkle, chief of the air warning system, who ordered all 10 outposts in Cecil County on a 24-hour basis. State Guard, Company D, was mobilized Tuesday night to stand ready for instant call.

## Blackout At Elkton

By direction of the Governor, a blackout of the town of Elkton was held on December 15, at 10 p. m. When the siren sounded all lights observable from the outside were turned off. All persons remained indoors except the wardens and their aides. Cars halted at the curb, and turned off lights. Siren signaled all clear at 10:15.

## Lincecum--Liggett

The marriage of Miss Ollie Lincecum and Frank M. Liggett, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Liggett of 1206 Florida Street, Corpus Christi, Texas, was solemnized Saturday Dec. 6, in West Columbia, Texas, the bride's home. They will reside in Freeport where Mr. Liggett is manager of the parts department of the Wright Chevrolet Co.

Frank M. Liggett, Jr., will be remembered by his friends here, where the family formerly resided. He was a member of the 1939 graduating class of Rising Sun High School, and was editor of the High School Annual that year. The bride was formerly Secretary of the Wright Chevrolet Co., in West Columbia, which position she held for about two years, following her graduation from West Columbia High School.

## Rawlings--Bannister

Miss Marian Rawlings, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Rawlings, Conowingo, and Lieut. Ernest Lee Bannister, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Bannister, Liberty Grove, were married on Saturday evening at 8 o'clock. The ceremony was performed by Dr. Sidney J. Venable, in the manse at West Nottingham.

The bridegroom is a graduate of the Jacob Tome Institute, Port Deposit, and the University of Delaware, Newark, Del., where he received his B. O. T. C. training. He is stationed with the U. S. Army at Fort Eustis, Va. The bride is a graduate of the Rising Sun High School. Members of the immediate families witnessed the ceremony.

## Engagements Announced

Miss Margaret Ann Slaughter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Slaughter, of Elkton, entertained friends from Elkton and Wilmington, at a card party at Glasgow Arms, at which her engagement to Mr. Roger Davis, of Wilmington, Del., was announced.

## Christmas Givin'

BY AUNT AGGIE

Sometimes I wonder about Christmas, as folks observe it now— The give an' take o' presents, like swappin', it seems, somehow— An' I can't help doubtin', a little, though it ain't for me to say, If He whose birth it remembers approves o' the modern way.

Of course it's nice an' pretty, all holly an' mistletoe, With bundles tied in ribbons an' greetings flyin' so; But what sets me a-thinkin', in a sort o' doubtful fear, Is whether exchangin' presents is more'n a selfish cheer.

There wa'n't no thought o' barter, or gifts with strings to them, When Christ was sent to us, back there in Bethlehem. The comfort still's in follerin' the example from above: The spirit o' that first Christmas was pure an' simple love.

## DROWNED IN ATTEMPT RESCUE

### Defense Worker Loses Life Trying To Save Girl

Edison Barr, 20-year old defense worker from Lansing, N. C., was drowned Saturday night making an attempt to rescue one of the two passengers riding in his automobile when it crashed through a guard rail into 12 feet of icy water in the Elk River.

Barr's body was found Sunday by a grappling party composed of firemen, Maryland State Police and deputies under Sheriff David J. Randolph of Elkton, 14 hours after his car plunged through the bridge guard rail on the outskirts of Elkton.

His two companions, Geraldine Shade, 18, of Martinsburg, W. Va., Barr's fiancée, and Dorothy Madison, 18, of Elkton, are recovering from shock and exposure.

Police said they believed Barr started to swim ashore in the swift current of the Elk River, seeing one of the girls ahead of him. Remembering the other passenger the youth turned back and swam against the current to the car. He disappeared from view and was not found until Sunday, 150 yards from the spot where the car was submerged.

Police pulled the car up on the river bank with a wrecking truck. Sheriff Randolph said the girls told him the accident happened about 9 p. m. Saturday.

Barr had been living in Marcus Hook, Pa. Relatives in North Carolina were notified of his death. Miss Shade was employed in Elkton.

## Caldwell--Rybakowski

Announcement is made by Mrs. Ida Caldwell, of Elkton, of the marriage of her daughter, Miss Dorothy Janet Caldwell, to Sergt. Bernard Rybakowski, of Jersey City, on Nov. 6th, in the rectory of St. Peter's R. C. church, Wilmington. Miss Catherine Mulligan and Mr. Joseph Dorris were the attendants. A small reception followed the ceremony. Sergt. Rybakowski is stationed at Fort duPont.

## Bair--Bryan

Mrs. Esther Kay Bair, of Elkton, and Mr. Walter G. Bryan, of Baltimore, were quietly married at Cherry Hill Methodist parsonage, by Rev. L. L. Powell, Saturday evening, Dec. 6. Mr. and Mrs. Bryan will reside in Baltimore.

## Invitations Issued

Invitations have been issued by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Benedict Decker of "Hill Top farm", Elkton, for the wedding of their daughter, Miss Marian Decker, to Mr. Thomas Reed Hunt, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Clifton Hunt, of Wilmington. The ceremony, which will take place on December 27, at Hill Top farm, will be performed by the Rev. George Creswell of the Immaculate Conception church, and will be followed by a reception.

## Community Christmas Tree

The Community Christmas Tree, sponsored by the Lions Club, was planted in front of the National Bank in this town on Tuesday afternoon. The tree is a beautiful cedar, tall and asymmetrical, measuring 35 feet in height, and came from the farm of Julius Rutkowski, west of town. It will be trimmed in time for the lights to be turned on Saturday night.