The Candle in the Window

(Continued from Page 7, 2nd Sec.)

her candle, lettin' it flare out on the lonely, storm-threshed darkness of my way. Hardly one chance in a thousand, on that Christmas Eve, that any human bein' would need it. But they did. Golly! Don't I know they did. I was froze nearly to death, but how that candle light did begin to warm me I staggered up to the winder, too chilied to find the door, and looked inside. My eyes was blurred for a minute. Then I see a sight that made it the best Christmas I ever had, just as I told you long ago in the beginnin' of this evenin'. Some of you here may remember back when this tale begun.

Tod's eyes were sparkling now, but his voice, that had dropped low, did not change.

There was a big fire in the stove, and the room was dark, except for the light through the gratin' in the stove door, and the Christmas candle. Ruth Ravenstow was sittin' by the fire with little P'like cuddled in her arms. And they was singin' "My Old Kentucky Home."

But what seemed strangest to me, and I rubbed my bleared eyes with my frozen paw to be sure I wasn't dead and in heaven, was Ruth's face in the firelight through the bars of the stove door. Day after day, that fall, I'd never seen anything but a still, cold, marble woman's face. That night in the warm shadders, her cheeks was pink as June roses. And her smile—a man would be willin' to be froze nearer to death than I was just to get the memory of that smile, and the red lips, and the pretty white teeth—the picture of it, I say—tucked away for a keepsake in his mind's big storehouse.

Can you vision it, gentlemen? Me outside clingin' to the winder sill to hold myself up, and lookin' in at a thing like was inside that old soddy of the plains? . . . I'm talkin' a mile too long tonight . . .

The hotel lobby was very quiet, and Tod's voice, even and gentle, hardly seemed like sound. We were visioning the story as he told it, and the world outside was forgotten in the sweetness of that Christmas spirit.

THE rest can be told quick enough, though it took some little time then. As I've said, P'like was a stubborn little round-head when he got set on a thing. He'd got a letter, and his bright eyes saw what mine, bein' blurred, had overlooked—that it was for District 33, not Box 33, as I had supposed. He didn't know the word "district," but he could read "box" all right anywhere, and as the Gabels never got any letters, he figured it must be for somebody else. And who, but for teacher? His little heart was bustin' with sorrow for her—children can love so much deeper than us grown-ups, who blab about love, can understand—and that little boy had the grief of the world on his heart that night.

"I knew it wasn't for Grandma, she doesn't read writin' very well," he told me as I was thawin' out, "and I wanted to make teacher glad 'cause she didn't have any letter or anything at all. And you know, most anything can happen at Christmas, so I thought I'd p'like 'thirty-three' meant her, and I had something for her, and it would be a letter that would make her so happy, and I'd run all the way back and give it to her, and then scoot for home fast as I could. And I'd p'like she'd be so glad she would smile at me sweet. But . . ." his voice went down low . . . "It got cold and dark, and . . . I didn't get lost."

The little fellow buttoned his lips up tight.

"I didn't get lost, but it was awfully, awfully dark, till—*I found a light, and it was teacher's candle in the window.* She put it there herself just to p'like somebody way out on this big prairie might come Christmasing along, and need it. And it called to me. I heard it, in the little, soft voice candles have. It said 'hurry,' and I hurried, and hurried, and hurried, and it got brighter, and brighter, and — it laughed when I come in. And my letter wasn't a 'p'like' at all, but a real sure-enough letter and teacher is so happy. We've just been laughing and laughing."

Was teacher happy? Gentlemen, can you run off through your minds what it would mean to you if you'd ever been a pretty young girl livin' back in New England? You'll have to "p'like" like the dickens to do that, but stretch your imagination to the crackin' point and do it. And you had a sweetheart over seas. And the last word you'd got, definite, awfully definite, was that he was dyin' in a German prison camp —dyin' of sickness, and hard labor, and starvation. And the world went black before your eyes. And all you could do to keep from goin' desperately mad, was to burn every bridge behind you, and bury yourself out of sight. You can do that about as effective on the upper Smoky as anywhere I know of. And just to live on day after day, the only thing to feed your soul on—but it's the dead-surest thing they is—bein' the touch of children's hands, and the sound of children's voices five days in the week—the other two days bein' a dumb blank—growin' more desperate and lonely every day, till it took a lot of courage and an awful grip on a far-away, seemin' unmerciful God to even light a candle on Christmas Eve.

AND then—"so far that little candle throws its beam." I've heard you say that, Elbert—then a little child from a home of poverty and ignorance, a child that had to just dream all his good times, till his dreamin' is realer than his reality, he comes through the dark and cold, beckoned on by that candle light, and filled with child love, to bring you a make-believe letter, that I, in my broken eyesight, had throwd into Box 33, that was meant for District 33, and I hadn't never read the name, "Miss Ruth Ravenstow" on it at all. This little child comes in the dark and bitter cold of the lonely twilight of Christmas Eve, 'cause he loves you. And you read—you pretty, broken-hearted girl—you read the letter he had had to just "p'like" would make you happy. And it told you, the letter did:

"Darling Ruth:

"I'm safe in Paris, and almost well. Will sail for America when it's over, over here. Two German guards—heaven bless them —helped me to escape. One lost his life by it in the (Deleted by censor). Love is bigger than hate.

"Always yours,

"Hadley."

My best Christmas? The time I took them candles to the folks on the upper Smoky; the time a little light glowed in a winder in every one of them far away homes of that valley; and maybe a little sweetness of Holy Night glowed in the hearts of those poor folks. And one of the candles shinin' from the winder of an old soddy schoolhouse, saved a little boy with his precious message, and saved the storm-wracked soul of a girl from madness. Saved me to tell you fellows here, that all the riches in the world, all the fame, all the power, and learnin', all the big business, and beautiful homes, are only half finished and more than half worthless without the candle in the winder, the sign of sympathy for the wanderer outside. The token you might say of the love that a baby came more'n nineteen centuries ago to put into the heart of the world, and bring it peace and good-will.

The wind's layin' some and I've got to make my route again tomorrow. Here's hopin' you all get as merry a Christmas as you deserve, and good-night to you.

Abram Star, the richest man in the county, Tec Jennings, the best dressed man in town, Elbert McCullen, the ablest minded one among us, with the adroit Eastern salesman, all stood up silently as Tod passed out.

[THE END]

HILLSBORO

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Eaton visited in Philadelphia over theweek-end.

Miss Nancy Jane Kline of State Teachers' College, Salisbury, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Milford Kline.

Quite a number from Queen Anne, Hillsboro and Ridgely, acompanied Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Blades on his bus trip to Baltimore, Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Russell were Sunday guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Price near Matthewstown.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Pinder and daughter Barbara Ann, of Pine Brook, N. J., were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. Howard Dadds. On Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Dadds and guests visited Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Thomas of Chester.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown Thawley and daughter of Milford, Del., were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Blades.

ODD ACCIDENTS OF 1939

Presenting the strange record of the old year's most curious misadventures that read like fiction. One of the many features in The American Weekly, distributed Sunday, December 31st with the Baltimore American. On sale at all newsstands.

Cashew Nut Growth

Cashew nuts grow on trees from 20 to 40 feet high. The fruit is kidney-shaped, about an inch in length, and has a double shell. The nut grows on the end of a fleshy, pear-shaped stalk called the cashew apple, which is juicy and slightly acid. The trunk of the cashew tree exudes a gum not unlike gum arabic.

HOLLYWOOD STAR-LITES

By Chuck Cochard

Old Saint Nick has certainly taken over this star-studded city of glamcur . . . That real old-time Christmas spirit (and not the kind that is done up in bottles) is prevailing everywhere just as it was intended so many years ago . . . Hollywood, the city of stars, has been completely transformed into a mythical land of the far north where that whiskered gentleman , Santa Claus, is the double feature all year long.

Hollywood stars, producers, and directors and all the other persons whose efforts go into the making of pictures have gotten together and are staging a real premiere for this fine old man . . . Hollywood Boulevard, one of the most famous streets in the world, has been renamed and is now Santa Claus with the street lmaps having been changed into beautifully lighted artificial trees . . . Lighted Christmas wreaths and pictures of your favorite stars hang across the street.

Each evening an elaborate mechanized sleigh costing $20,000 is drawn down the street . . . A different celebrity rides with Santa Claus each night . . . This amazing contraption produces an artificial snow storm.

—o—

Carole Lombard's attempt to keep life on a strictly informal basis at the Gable-Lombard ranch in the San Fernando Valley have been carried just a bit too far, the blonde star told your correspondent after a phone-call home during a lull in the shooting of her latest film. Emerging from the telephone booth, Craole told me that when she asked "Is Mr. Gable there, please," the maid cupped her hand over the mouthpiece and yelled, "Hey Paw, Ma's on the wire!"

—o—

Frederic March returns to Hollywood after a long Broadway engagement to star in "Susan and God" with Greer Garson, the young lady whose debut in "Godbye Mr. Chips" was nothing short of sensational.

—o—

Flashes along Film row . . . Garbo's latest laugh-getter "Ninotchka" is breaking records everywhere at box offices . . . Shirley Temple, for the first time in her spectacular career, has enrolled in a regular school . . . No more straight dramatic roles for Alice Faye—she will sing again in her latest "Little Old New York"—her fans demanded it.

—o—

Previews of the Week:

"Destry Rides Again" starring Marlene Dietrich, James Stewart, Mischa Auer, Charles Winninger, Una Merkel, Brian Donlevy, and Irene Hervey brings Marlene back to the screen in a swell old-time western action film with plenty of excitement. It is swell entertainment. The cast is excellent. And we recommend this 3 Star-Lite hit.

"His Girl Friday" featuring Cary Grant, Rosalind Russell, Ralph Bellamy, and Gene Lockhart is a good comedy and one which should keep you in stitches most of the evening—lots of amusing situations A newspaper story that has been made into a splendid 2½ Star-Lite picture.

—o—

Whispers behind the studio gates . . . Joan Bennett is reported to be objecting strenously to the way she has been billed in "Housekeeper's Daughter"—we see no reason for objection as it is one swell film and will create many new followers for La Joan Bennettt . . . They are burning the midnglht oil at the Chaplin lot these days . . . his first in many years is being rushed plenty.

—o—

Wculdn't it be swell if . . . Harold Lloyd would return to the screen and make a picture . . . Louise Rainer would forget about those petty feelings against MGM and make another film . . . Double Features would be eliminated entirely from the face of the earth . . . Those old-time popular two-reel comedies would be revived . . . Theaters everywhere would install softer seats for us moviegoers.

Until next week this is your Hollywood correspondent who is going to be put on the spot when he names the ten-best films of this year. Have you any ideas? I think I can name the best right now without any further thinking. See you then. Cut

Christmas Carols Sung On Governor's Lawn

Government House, the residence of Governor and Mrs. Herbert R. O'Conor and their family of five children, will be the center of a time-honored Chirstmas Eve ceremony on Sunday evening, when the members of the combined choirs of the Annapolis churches, together with the United States Naval Academy Band, will assemble on the Government House lawn to sing Christmas carols for the Governor and his family, and the people of Annapolis.

The choir singing will be under the direction of Charles H. Sherman Director of the St. Anne's Church Choir, but he will have under him in addition to the St. Anne's singers, members of St. Mary's, and a number from the other churches. The band will be under the direction of Lieutenant William R. Sima.

Carols will be sung from 9:15 to 10:00 p. m., and it is expected that it will be heard by several thousands of people of Annapolis. Following the carols, the members of the choir and band will be the guests of Governor and Mrs. O'Conor for refreshments at Government House.

Paris Vitamin Bar

Ranks of American bars in Paris, already reaching from the Bastille to the swank purliens of the Porte Dauphine, have a new addition—the vitamin bar. It serves tomato cobblers and potassium flips. There's an iron cocktail for pale people, many mixes for the non-lean, and numerous drinks generally in the cause of beauty.

22nd Anniversary Finds Finland Invaded By Foe

December 6 Was Finland's "Fourth Of July". Became A Republic In 1919 After Gaining Freedom From Sweden

There was little time for Finland to celebrate its 22nd birthday. Finland's "Fourth of July" (December 6) found Russian invaders occupying Finnish islands in the Gulf of Finland, the Finnish shores of Lake Ladoga, and regions in the north around the nickel-mining center of Petsamo. Meanwhile many Finns who would normally celebrate Independence Day were refugees in Norway.

The December 6 move for Finnish independence in 1917 gave Europe its seventh largest nation, a forested country three times the size of England, which became a great reservoir of timber for the continent's lumber trade, says a bulletin from the Washington, D. C., headquarters of the National Geographic Society. That December 6 also gave Finland its first taste of independence in nearly 800 years, since Sweden at the Pope's command had started in 1155 a series of crusades to Christianize Finland and join it to the Swedish Kingdom.

In 1809 the Finnish land of lakes and forests had exchanged Swedish domination for Russian, bceoming a self-governing Grand Duchy under the Tsars When Russian revolution in 1917 overthrew the Tsarist regime, the Finnish ship of state seized the opportunity to cut itself adrift. Soviet Russia was the first to recognize the nation.

The new Finland, undecided about its form of government, started its independent life with four months of civil war. When general Mannerheim's army won a victory with the aid of German troops, the government in June, 1918, invited the German Kaiser's brother-in-law, Frederick Charles of Hesse, to become King of Finland. Frederick accepted, but the impending defeat of Germany prevented his reaching the throne. Less than a year later, in March, 1919, Finland's interval as a Regency was closed in favor of a republican form of government.

In July, 1919, a republican constitution went into effect and the first president toook office. Finland joined Europe's family of nations with two official languages, Finnish and Swedish, in recognition of the Swedes forming more than a henth of its population. A small fraction of the population were the Lapps of the far north. The nation rapidly developed into an industrious farming, fishing, and timber-producing country, linked by the Baltic with the continent on the south and stretching northward into the realm of the Midnight Sun on the Arctic Ocean.

St. Leger Race

England's Epsom Derby had its first running in 1780, but the St. Leger has a history beginning in 1776.

ATTENTION!

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I have been building for more than a year a foundation herd of purebred Berkshires. I am now justified in introducing the herd to Berkshire and other Breeders. I have not compromised on quality, regardless of price, because a good foundation herd is essential to obtain good offspring.

I now have for sale about twenty select bred gilts for March and April farrowing, ready for delivery in December and January. These gilts are all well developed and are being bred to sons of outstanding prize winning boars, and are offered at attractive prices.

THIS IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO GET FOUNDATION STOCK TO ESTABLISH A BERKSHIRE HERD, OR ENLARGE YOUR PRESENT HERD.

I also have for sale two tried Senior Yearling Boars I cannot use with my present herd, that are just the type for market breeding at very attractive prices.

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FRESH DRESSED PILGRIM BRAND TURKEYS Lb. 24c

PORK SHOULDERS ..... Lb. 15c
CHUCK ROAST—Steer Beef .... Lb. 19c
PICNICS—Lean Smoked ..... Lb. 15c
BONELESS HAMS—Whole or half Lb. 29c
BOILING BEEF Lb. 10c
Dry Salt WHITE MEAT . Lb. 9c

FRESH SALT-WATER OYSTERS STANDARD ..ct. 35c
FRESH SHRIMP lb. 15c
STEAK FISH .. lb. 10c

CRISCO VEGETABLE SHORTENING 1-lb. can 20c 3-lb. can 50c

A&P SOFT TWIST BREAD LARGE LOAF 9¢

Lay aside a couple of loaves to become dry—for use as stuffing.

CRANBERRY Sauce Ocean Spray 2 17-oz. cans 23c
TENDER PEAS 3 No. 2 cans 23c
BUTTER OUR FINEST CREAMERY TUB CUT lb. 34c
SUGAR CORN Crushed 3 No. 2 cans 20c
IONA PEACHES Slices or Halves 2 No. 2½ cans 25c
8 O'CLOCK COFFEE 3-lb. bag 39c 1-lb. pkg. 14c
CAMPBELL'S TOMATO JUICE 3 20-oz. cans 25c
MINCE MEAT WOOD'S lb. 21c
FRUIT CAKES JANE PARKER 1-lb. cake 37c 2 -lb. cake 73c
HARD CANDY American Mix 2 lbs. 25c

MIXED NUTS ALSO WALNUTS OR PECANS lb. 21¢

"HOLLY" ASSORTED Chocolates 5 -lb. box 89c

Quick or Regular Quaker or MOTHER'S OATS Lge. pkg. 18c
BRAZIL NUTS JUMBO lb. 17c
Karo Blue Label SYRUP ..... 1½-lb. can 12c
PLUM PUDDING R&R 1-lb. can 25c
PEANUTS SCHINDLER'S SALTED 1-lb. pkg. 17c
SPARKLE DESSERTS ANN PAGE 3 pkgs. 10c
OLIVES ANN PAGE STUFFED 6¾-oz. bot. 35c
Campbell's TOMATO SOUP .... 3 cans 23c
RITZ CRACKERS N. B. C. 1-lb. pkg. 21c

CHOCOLATE CREAM DROPS 2 lbs. 19c
COCONUT BON BONS lb. 19c
STUFFED DAINTIES lb. 17c
DATES DROMEDARY PITTED 7¼-oz. pkg. 14c
CIDER SCOTT'S ½-gal. bot. 25c 1-gal. bot. 39c
CAKE FLOUR SUNNYFIELD 44-oz. pkg. 15c
MILK WHITE HOUSE EVAPORATED 3 tall cans 19c
PRESERVES ANN PAGE 1-lb. jar 19c
PUMPKIN A & P or Scott's No. 2½ can 9c

CHRISTMAS TREES GREEN each 53c SILVER each 65c Holly Wreaths each 20c

YUKON CLUB ASSORTED BEVERAGES 3 1-Qt. Bots. 25¢ PLUS DEPOSIT

JUICY FLORIDA THIN SKIN ORANGES 20 For 23c

TANGERINE—Juicy Florida ..... Doz. 12c
STALK CELERY—Crispy, Tender ..... 2 bchs. 15c
GREEN PEAS—Full-Pod, Texas ..... 2 lbs. 19c
BANANAS—Golden Ripe ..... Doz. 21c
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SWEET POTATOES ..... 3 lbs. 10c
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