Merrie Christmas

STORE OPEN EVERY NIGHT

A&P

EVERYTHING FRESH-ALWAYS!

A&P's flawless system of distribution—of constant truck delivery to all stores—means that everything we offer you is fresh—always!

The Following Prices Effective
Monday, Dec. 28th to Saturday; Jan. 2nd

Red Ripe Tomatoes 4 No. 2 Cans . 25c

Old Dutch CLEANSER 3 cans 19c

Iona PEACHES can 19c

BIG BROOM SALE

Regular 35c value 25c

Regular 49c value 39c

Regular 65c value 55c

Regular 75c value 65c

RED CIRCLE COFFEE pound . 42c

A&P CATSUP 8 oz. bot. 15c

Iona COCOA 2 lb. can 25c

The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co.

Chstertown, Md. Rock Hall, Md.

Your friend the telephone!

YOU want the best telephone service you can get. We are just as anxious to give it to you. So that's one thing we have in common.

Most of the job of keeping the service up to scratch belongs to us. But there are some things you can do, and taking proper care of your telephone instrument is one of them.

Inside that telephone on your table are a lot of small parts—over two hundred of them. Every time you bang or drop the instrument the adjustment of these parts is made a little less true. Result—a noisy telephone; a cuff on the ear doesn't improve your hearing.

Any telephone is only as good as its cords—the wires which join it with the bell box. If these cords are often twisted and jerked or allowed to get wet, you may expect poor service—or no service at all.

Your telephone is as well made as the best brains and hands can make it. It is a friend, and deserves to be treated as such.

THE CHESAPEAKE AND POTOMAC TELEPHONE COMPANY

Bell System

Kent News $1.50 per year

Christmas for Adults

By Mary Graham Bonner

THERE wasn't a single child in the family now and Christmas, they all agreed, was a time for children. At any rate they all said that.

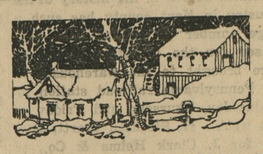
They had scattered as families sometimes do, and those left in the town were two older families. Yes, it was quite true. There wasn't a single child in the family now. They had nieces and nephews, small children they knew and were fond of to whom they would give presents. They would give nice presents, too.

They themselves would be sensible. They would not give presents to each other. They were grown-up. Why should they go in for something that was distinctly a possession of childhood?

They would have Christmas dinner together. That they had finally decided they could not forego. Oh, the other ruling was very sensible, and they all agreed, but—well, it was quite sensible. Children belonged to Christmas, Christmas to children. Let it remain that way.

The family who lived down by the old mill were having the Christmas dinner. The other family were coming to it and were going to bring the mince pies and the plum puddings as their part of the Christmas feast. They wanted to do something about a Christmas dinner—there wasn't any special reason for it but they wanted to do something.

The table was set the night before. There wasn't much to do Christmas



morning. Later they would go to church and join in singing the Christmas hymns. That would be suitable to the day—to the holiday, holy day, joy.

But there was a time in between—a time before when the children had had their presents—while still they were children, before they had grown up or gone away. That time would be curiously, outstandingly empty.

No one talked about it. No one said a word. But none of them could quite bear to think of that Christmas present time when the packages were opened, when there was curious, eager excitement and pleasure, delight in one's own gifts and in the gifts of others.

No one said a word. No one knew what each other was thinking.

But early that morning one of the members of the family down by the mill telephoned the other family and asked them to come down early.

"I just fixed up one or two little things," said the one who had telephoned, a little shyly, and to her own family she said the same.

They came. Every one gathered about the old table that had been brought out every Christmas. It was a shaky old table, but it somehow seemed to be a part of Christmas. And in no time it was covered with gifts. Every one had surreptitiously been fixing up little presents for each other. And the table groaned under its weight of packages tied with gay old ribbons and tissue paper as of yore.

"But we agreed we wouldn't give any Christmas presents to each other this year," they murmured from time to time.

"We said we wouldn't have a Christmas celebration now that we were all grown up."

"Christmas, we said, was entirely a day for children."

Yes, so they had said. But so deeply was the Christmas celebration around the shaky old table, before the big fireplace, rooted in the heart of each that they couldn't, in spite of their resolves, do any differently.

"I think," one of them said when every present had been opened, sim-

ple, thoughtful little gifts and surprises, "that Christmas should be for every one. No one is too old to enjoy it."

And how proudly they said to their friends as they met after church:

"You must come in and see our presents. We got lovely things. Just what we wanted!"

(©, 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

Christmas Wisdom

A foolish man is one who doesn't know what his wife wants, so he goes and gets it—probably a clothes wringer.

A wise man knows his wife needs a pair of arctics, but has wit enough to buy her double-decker jade earrings! —Martha Banning Thomas.

Curse of Exaggeration?

Wherever two or three Americans are gathered together they are standing in line.—The Duluth Herald.

New Experience for Santa Claus

By W. D. PENNYPACKER

CAPTAIN and Mrs. Pickering promised to play Santa Claus. They loved to do a little towards making the day bright and spreading the holiday spirit. Christmas after Christmas they had taken some part—if not for the children, then for the sick or aged—but always some part.

This time it was different. They, themselves, nervously awaited the day. It was to be unique. They were to help in a festive occasion at a state's prison. They were to carry gladness and the spirit of Christmas with them and radiate it within four sombre stone walls. It seemed almost impossible.

The Pickerings were to impersonate Santa and Mrs. Santa Claus.

When the time arrived and everything else was in readiness Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus found there was but one way to get into the assembly hall to create the proper effect. That was by climbing three tiers of fire escape and entering a window. This was the plan chosen as there was no dressing room in connection with the hall and no place where Santa and his party could be detained in comfort throughout the first half of a lengthy program without being observed by all.

To climb three stories of fire escape on a winter's night with ever so small a bundle is difficult enough, but to ascend the cold iron stairway each with a large basket or bag filled with oranges and candy, and to have to replenish their supply through this same dangerous way was almost more than they bargained for or were, indeed, able to do. It was work, and Captain and Mrs. Pickering never denied it.

When Santa poked his bewhiskered head through the window and dragged his lumbering bundle after him there was a hum of suppressed voices, and a marked increase in noise and merriment when Mrs. Santa appeared.

All the time they were distributing candy and fruit they were besieged by questions from the crowd, and replied with as much spirit and gaiety as the place and the condition of the assembled audience would allow. It is but fair to say that Santa and Mrs. Santa both enjoyed their visit to that unusual place, and that they lingered longer than their usual custom on holiday visits.

Christmas is always a day of joyful interest, and Santa was glad to look squarely into the faces of the many gathered in that hall that night. In spite of the clouds and mists of circumstances that engulfed them his visit during that holiday season seemed to have touched a chord that was welcome in the memory of each. Countenances at first hard, softened with the recollections of happier years. Flashes came into eyes that bespoke all that is good, and ambitious, and noble. Regrets, and remorse, and sorrows—if there were any—were this day swallowed up in the more sentimental and romantic myths about Christmas.

That was a memorable day for Mr. and Mrs. Pickering. They had given a little of themselves in their desire to cheer others, and in doing so the chimes of gladness were started with renewed vigor in their hearts. They had learned something, too. They were wiser. They became conscious that there is no soil so dark that it will not respond promptly to the sunshine and gladness of Christmas. The almost instantaneous change in the expressions of many faces was entirely convincing. Christmas had come, and again it had impressed the old, old message of peace and good will to men.

When the Pickerings went back to their own comfortable home that night and sat in front of a welcome log fire they were conscious of wishing that this good spirit of Christmas might last throughout the entire year. It doesn't, of course, for human nature will be human nature while the world lasts. And they felt grateful for the sense of good will which it had brought them, and hopeful that it might linger with them for many weeks, at least.

As for the scores of persons who that day had seen their first Santa Claus since their happy childhood days in the old home, there can be no question but that their hard, unresponsive feelings were temporarily swallowed up in the more tender, humanizing strains of the shepherds'

KENT NEWS $1.50 PER YEAR.

SCHOOL STANDARDS

Why Should The State Set Up Minimum Standards For Schools?

Striking evidence of the need for standards set up by the State to guide the counties in the solution of their school problems can readily be seen in the case of the one-room school building recently erected in the Turner's Creek district of Kent County, Maryland. This building was constructed very much along the lines of the old building that was accidently destroyed by fire in November, 1924, after some fifty or seventy-five years of service. The height of the ceiling is much less than that required by law; the class room is lighted by widows on three sides when the light should come from one side only (elevated half windows being permitted in the opposite side); and the glass area should be equal to one-fifth of the floor area. These provisons were made by the State for the purpose of safe-guarding so far as possible the general health and eye sight of the children by proper ventilation and lighting.

The standards referred to above and others laid down in the Maryland public school law for new one-room school buildings were ignored by the Board of County Commissioners when they awarded the contract for the new Turner's Creek School Building. Here we have an instance of disregard for law in a case where the birthright of children is concerned—the best educational opportunities in the best type of school building.

Can stronger evidence be found for the need for those standards that have been set up by the State? Not unless it lay in the fact that even the best of our citizens fail to condemn such disregard for law as that cited above. Last week, we read in the columns of this paper the following statement that was made by one of the leading citizens in the Turner's Creek section: "As I view the situation these were facts of minor importance." This statement was made in reference to "certain facts," including among others, the way in which the County Commissioners ignored the school law, set forth by the writer in the previous issue of this paper. When the best of our citizens minimize in that way disregard for law by public officials does it not make you wonder in what condition the "moral fabric" of our nation will be within the next generation or so? Of what value will an education be to the coming generation unless we instill into their minds the highest regard for law and the keenest sense of right?

It is indeed true, as Mr. Harper said, "This building is far superior to the one the children would have been attending if it had not burned," but only so far as new material and a coat of paint make it better in appearance. What new building would not look better than an old one that had not felt the whisk of a paint brush for a score or more of years? If the building that stands were made of gold bricks studded with diamonds it could not be accepted by the Board of Education inasmuch as it is not of the type required by law and best suited to safeguard the health and eyesight of the children.

Quoting Mr. Harper again, * *" the children that should be attending this school have been without instruction this entire term." No one but the parents of those children are responsible for that condition. With much less money allowed them this year for the current expenses of the schools than was appropriated last year, the Board of Education could not do any more for the Turner's Creek children than to place a third teacher in the Kennedyville school to take care of them. This was done at the opening of the schools in September with the intention of providing instruction for them there until such time that the County Commissioners could have a building erected in Turner's Creek in accordance with the required specifications. At the end of the first month it was found that all the patrons of the Turner's Creek school except Mr. Harper had refused to send their children to Kennedyville. The three children that had attended up to that time were placed in the classes of the Kennedyville teachers to save unnecessary expense.

It was thought that a building would be provided in the Turner's Creek district by the County Commissioners so no further arrangements were made for the children in that section. The building was completed about last of October or early November but it cannot be accepted by the Board of Education for reasons stated above. The County Commissioners have known this since the work was finished and long before the construction of the building was begun they were given a copy of the specifications required by law for new one-room school buildings. Unless the building is changed within the next week or two to meet those requirements the Board of Education can do no more than provide transportation for the Turner's Creek children to the Kennedyville school beginning January 4, 1926. Every opportunity will, by that time, have been given the County Commissioners to right their wrong and unless they do so the building will have to stand unused as a reminder to passersby that minimum standards for school buildings have to be set up by the State in order to insure progress.

LOUIS C. ROBINSON,
County Superintendent of Schools of Kent County, Maryland.

A MERRY XMAS

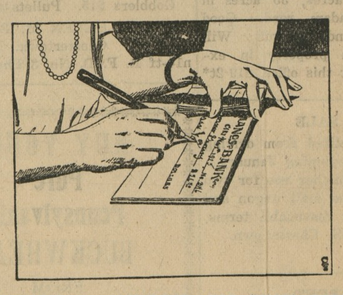
Among our assets we like to count the only one that money cannot buy—your good will. And so at this Holiday Season we extend to you---not as a customer alone, but as a friend---

THE BEST OF WISHES FOR THE COMING YEAR.

JOHN BARTLEY

CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

What a fine feeling it would be Xmas 1926



TO WRITE A CHECK ON THE MILLINGTON BANK for $10, $20, $30 or $50 and buy your Xmas presents, pay your taxes or pay other bills.

To help finance your Christmas buying The Millington Bank of Maryland has a savings plan, the CHRISTMAS SAVINGS CLUB, which solves the old problem that worries you each year. We will start this plan on December 9, 1925.

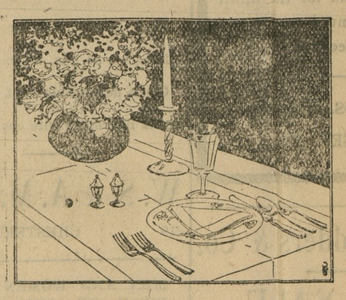
Under the CHRISTMAS SAVINGS CLUB plan you can make small deposits, ranging from 10 cents up to five dollars or more each week. You'll never miss those small amounts and when Christmas comes next year you will be prepared with ready cash.

Everybody sees the wisdom of this plan and more are starting it this year than ever before. You should join too and also start a small account for the children and teach them the wise habit of thrift.

The Millington Bank of Maryland

Millington, . . . Maryland

Tableware as a Christmas Gift



And plan to give your selection before Christmas so that it may be used in beautifying the table on Christmas Day.

H. B. Rote, The Jeweler Chestertown

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