

We will have no more messages for you until after Christmas. The great event is only six days off.

It's a wonderful festival, yet it has always been fraught with mystery for us. What can it be that seems to soften the hardest heart on that day?

There is a soul in every human being. The soul was God's gift to man when He created him. It is the "little something" within us that eternally trying to speak with our tongue, to think with our mind, to work with our hands.

That was God's greatest gift to man. Without it there might have been science, but there couldn't have been art or love and life would have been as cold as the poles.

Strangely, it was the gift that started man to seeking for some explanation as to when, why, how he had been made.

Marvel and argue as we will about Christmas, the very word is radiant with holiness. No matter how low and mean we might have been at other times during the year then we are at our best.

Laugh clown, laugh at our preaching. But listen to this: No matter who you are: how vile, how scoffing, how humble, how rich, next Thursday you will do something—just a little something—that you rarely do at any other season.

Christmas is the season of giving. Why? What could have suggested such reaction to it other than the gold, and frankincense and myrrh that were carried to the manger in the Little Town of Bethlehem many, many years ago.

The ologias might smile indulgently, others might tap their heads, but our concept of the universality of the Christmas spirit is really the exemplification of experimental religion.

In other words creeping years and increasing wisdom dispelled the Santa Claus myth that made us happy as children when Christmas came, but that "little something" down in our hearts didn't die when we discovered that the jolly old elf was only a fantasy.

Account for this spirit in any way you like, but you can't explain it in any other way than that God gave you a soul and his Son's coming revealed it to you.

It's only a little journey From the dawn to the sunset of life Let's try to make it a pleasant one And ban all the discord and strife.

It's only a little chasm, That separates friend from foe Let's bridge it and be happy As on the same journey we go.

It's only a little distance To the home of some one, forlorn, Let's all find time to go there With gifts on Christmas morn.

Democratic Watchman

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Mr. Pinchot's New Cabinet.

The Governor-elect has removed the veil of secrecy concerning his cabinet in part, at least. In an announcement, issued the other day, he names Clyde L. King, of Chester county, for Secretary of Revenue, William A. Schnader, of Philadelphia, as Attorney General; George W. Woodruff as a special counsel to hold utility corporations in line, and P. Stephen Stahlnecker, as secretary to the Governor.

These selections indicate a renewal or continuance of the policies of Mr. Pinchot's previous administration on all controversial subjects with the variation that restraining utility corporations will have first consideration in the future instead of prohibition enforcement as in the past.

The only surprise in the recent announcement lies in the fact that Mr. Stahlnecker will be assigned to a subordinate position. That he is a capable secretary is beyond question and his fidelity to the person and political estate of the Governor-elect is equally certain.

It has been announced that the Philadelphia machine will offer no opposition to Mr. Pinchot's plan for organizing the Legislature. That is ominous, to say the least.

Senators Resent Hoover's Aspersions

Senator Blaine, Republican of Wisconsin, has obtained a correct measure of President Hoover. In a debate in the Senate, the other day, Mr. Blaine declared that Hoover is a "mediocre politician" who has been overpraised. His record in the White House clearly proves this.

With this meager equipment for leadership President Hoover undertook to "crash the gate" of the Senate the other day. In a statement made to the press correspondents he accused Senators of "raiding the treasury" and playing politics at the expense of human misery.

As Senator McKellar has shown the charge of raiding the treasury comes with poor grace from him. He began raiding the treasury even before his installation and has been practicing it ever since.

Send the Watchman to some friend for a Christmas present.

President Hoover and the Senate.

A break of some kind between the President and the leaders of his party in the Senate was inevitable. For months their lines of action have been diverging. The Senators have been patient, even indulgent from the beginning.

They have had plenty of cause of complaint. Many of his nominations for office were unwise and subversive of party harmony, and though some of them were rejected there was no expressions of resentment.

The big stick was a potent force in the hands of Roosevelt. He had the popularity and the audacity to use it with effect. But it will be remembered that he associated the big stick with "soft speech."

We think you will be both interested and amused by "Talks with the Editor" this week. They appear on page seven of this issue and covers a wide range of thought. Look them up.

Borough Councilmen Held Brief Session.

The regular session of borough council, on Monday evening, was short and devoid of any unusual features. There were no verbal nor written communications.

The Street committee reported that the cesspool being dug on east Howard street is now down to a depth of 36 feet through solid rock and as yet no sign of an opening.

The Water committee reported testing out fireplugs and making a record of same, completion of the laying of the pipe from the spring to the Gamble mill and also that a test of the new pump had been made on Monday afternoon.

The Special committee recommended that the request of the secretary of the Association of Boroughs for a contribution toward the expenses of the Legislative committee be honored and that council contribute \$10, which was authorized.

Mr. Cobb, of the Water committee, reported that borough engineer H. B. Shattuck had been in Bellefonte on Saturday and made an inspection of the reservoir, and will prepare several sets of tentative plans for repairing or enlarging the same.

Borough bills \$3023.15 were approved for payment, after which council adjourned.

A Few Final Stories of the Hunting Season.

Thomas Stark, of Snow Shoe, was committed to the Centre county jail, last Saturday, by justice of the peace E. T. Haynes, of Snow Shoe, for a period of 132 days for two violations of the game laws.

Austin Furst, son of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Furst, who was sixteen years old in November, shot his first deer, a 4-point buck, on Saturday afternoon. He and his younger brother, "Woodie," little Bob Curtin and Hayes Darby, piloted by John Curtin Sr., had gone down to the old Masonic camp, this side of Curtin, to see if there were any wild ducks on the dam.

Motoring down from Tyrone, late Saturday evening, A. Miles Barr killed a buck which jumped onto the State highway right in front of his car. He brought the carcass along home with him and turned it over to game protector Thomas G. Mosier.

Missing Youth Indicted For Murder in Pittsburgh.

A Pittsburgh grand jury, last week, returned an indictment against George Clark Skidmore charging him with the murder of Charles Hammon, a crippled gas station attendant in that city, on the evening of September 20th, and also returned an indictment against Skidmore's two companions, Eugene Baldorf and Henry White, alias Henry Uncilino, as participants in the hold up which resulted in the murder.

It will be recalled that the week following the murder of Hammon George Skidmore and Baldorf came to Centre county and went into hiding in the Allegheny mountains. Officers traced them here and when an attempt to arrest Skidmore was made on September 27th he shot State highway patrolmen J. G. Olmes and W. F. Fox, keeper of the beacon light at the Rattlesnake, then made his escape as completely as if swallowed up by the earth, and not a trace has been found of him from that day to the present.

There has always been a suspicion in the minds of some men that in the interchange of shots between the officers and Skidmore the latter may have been critically wounded but had managed to evade the officers and hide in the dense underbrush, only to perish later, but most of that territory has been pretty well covered by hunters during the deer season and no skeleton was found.

Weigh Feed to Make Proper Dairy Profits.

Centre County dairymen can save many dollars this winter if they will weigh the feed given to their dairy cows, says county agent, R. C. Blaney.

Many cows are overfed, which makes the cost of producing 100 pounds of milk too high and therefore cuts down profits. On the other hand, many cows are underfed so that they are not permitted to produce to full capacity.

He gives the usual suggestion: Feed one pound of grain for each three pounds of milk produced by Guernseys and Jerseys and one pound of grain for each 3 1/2 or 4 pounds of milk produced by the other breeds of cattle. This method of feeding is flexible, so that cows having a poor quality of roughage can be fed slightly more grain.

If it is actually true that President Hoover and Senator Robinson have come to an agreement it is a safe bet that Hoover has the better of the bargain.

A CHRISTMAS MEMORY

This is the street and the dwelling; Let me count the houses o'er— Yes: one, two, three from the corner, And the house which I loved makes four.

This is the very window Where I used to see her head, Bent over a book or needle, With ivy garlanded.

And the very loop of the curtain, And the very curve of the vine, Were full of a charm and a meaning Which woke at her touch and sign.

I began to be glad at the corner, And all the way to the door My heart outran my footsteps And frolicked and danced before—

In haste for the words of welcome, The voice, the repose and grace, And the smile, like a benediction, Of that beautiful, vanished face.

Now I pass the door and I pause not, And I look the other way; But ever like wafted fragrance— Too subtle to name or to say.

Comes a thought of the gracious presence Which made the past day sweet, And still to those who remember Embalms the house and the street.

Like the breath from some vase now empty Of a flow'ry shape unseen, Which follows the path of its lover To tell where a rose has been.

Altoona is Aglow with Christmas Lights.

For the past several years the Altoona Booster Association has sponsored outdoor Christmas lighting contests and as a result of their efforts many beautiful lighting effects have been created in the business district, as well as in the residential sections of that city.

This year the Association, in cooperation with the Penn Central Light and Power Company, has created a more beautiful display of Christmas lighting than has yet been featured in Altoona and it is doubtful if any city is more beautifully lighted for the Christmas season.

Each side of the streets in the business district is festooned with strings of colored lights running parallel with the trolley wires which, together with festoons on the cross wires, present a colorful effect that is worth going miles to see.

In addition to the street lighting there is a large community Christmas tree located in the Logan House Park, at 11th Avenue and 12th Street, which also presents a beautiful Christmas effect, in perfect harmony with the Christmas season.

In addition to the Christmas lighting in the business district, many homes in the Altoona residential districts have arranged beautiful outdoor lighting effects in connection with the contest that is being sponsored by the Altoona Booster Association in order to make "Altoona Bright with Christmas Light."

Many automobile parties from the surrounding communities are making night trips to Altoona to see the outdoor Christmas lighting effects. Altoona will be illuminated each day from 4:30 to 11 o'clock.

The new water wheel and pump at the Gamble mill property has been tested out this week under the direction of C. A. Stiles, of the Scranton Electric company. Owing to the fact that the outlet from the pump is confined to a 6-inch pipe it has been impossible to test it up to its rated capacity.

The State College football team did not make any great record this season, so far as winning games was concerned, but its receipts for the season exceeded the expenditures by \$29,317.85. In fact it is the only athletic sport at the college that generally has a balance to its credit.

A Christmas service will be held in the church at Linden Hall on Monday evening, December 22nd, at 7:30 o'clock. A collection will be lifted to apply on the church debt. The public is invited.

Maybe Senator Robinson, of Arkansas, imagines that he is the majority instead of the minority floor leader of the Senate.

There is a wide difference between the methods of relief in Albany and Washington. In Albany quick results are obtained.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Through Greyhound motor coach service between Williamsport and Harrisburg, operating via Sunbury, will be inaugurated by the Pennsylvania General Transit Company, Saturday.

Russell Lease, of York, Pa., 8 years old, was treated at the York hospital for wounds on his right hand, inflicted when he was attacked by a rat. The boy was gathering wood for fuel in the backyard at his home when the rodent lunged at him and bit him.

The mail must go though it is not the air mail. When carrier Norman A. Harshman, serving Connellysburg R. D. 3 in his automobile, was stopped by a snow drift, John Biler, a resident, arrived with a team of horses and pulled Harshman and his car over the entire route.

Thieves using motor trucks looted the United Brethren church at Greenpoint and Sarrazahn's Lutheran church, both in remote regions of northern Lebanon county. Chairs, tables and Christmas toys were taken by the thieves, who did not disturb crosses and the American flag.

The new S. & J. shirt factory which has just been completed at Mt. Carmel in record-breaking time of seven weeks will open the latter part of this week. Nearly 200 girls will be given employment in the factory which has enough orders on hand to keep it busy for several months.

Eight hours after they staged a payroll holdup which netted them \$1400—thems for about three hours—three Archbald youths, each 20 years of age, at Scranton on Monday, were sentenced by President Judge E. C. Newcomb of York, Pa., to serve from ten to twenty years in the Eastern Penitentiary.

Definite assurance has been given the board of trustees of the Lewistown hospital by its building committee that the new \$100,000 annex to the hospital will be completed by Christmas and plans have been made for the formal dedication early in January, when it is expected to have Governor-elect Pinchot as the principal speaker.

A steel casting weighing 55,600 pounds is being machined at the York plant of the S. Morgan Smith Company. The casting when finished will be shipped to Seattle, Wash., where it will be used in a large power plant. The casting is in one piece and was made by a Pittsburgh concern. Because of the piece, it was necessary to allow six weeks to elapse before it was removed from the mould and exposed to the air.

While John Schillo, Frackville cemetery sexton, made love to Mrs. Harry Thomas, the woman's husband, watched from above, hidden in the rafters of the cemetery shanty. At an opportune moment Thomas pounced on his rival, beat him up, shot him in the right leg, and after handcuffing his wife and Schillo, turned them over to the police. The husband is in Pottsville jail. His wife is under bail as a witness and Schillo is in the Ashland hospital.

Down at Elizabethtown, Dauphin county, is a farmer who is today rejoicing in the realization that his friends in need are friends indeed. Fire destroyed his hog house and some of his pigs. It had been a poor year for him and "available" funds were not available, but quickly there came to his relief some generous neighbors who not only gave of their own money but assisted him with lumber and other materials necessary for the rebuilding of the home of the hogs.

The meat market and grocery store of Sam Perri, at Renovo, was robbed early Sunday morning of supplies including two 30-pound boxes of spaghetti, a crate of eggs, 15 pounds pork chops, 10 pounds of fresh sausage, six or seven pounds of butter, the same amount of cheese, 10 pounds of lard, five chickens, one whole ham and a part of another ham, a bushel of potatoes, and other articles. Entrance to the store was gained by removing the rear window.

A certificate of public convenience was granted at Harrisburg on Wednesday to the Golden Arrow Coach company to operate a transportation service from the Pennsylvania State line near Fasset, Bradford county, to the Pennsylvania-Maryland line at Hale, Bedford county. The route goes through Canton, Williamsport, Lock Haven, Mill Hall, Bellefonte, Tyrone, Altoona, Hildsburg and Bedford. The route runs from Elmira, N. Y., to Cumberland, Md.

Walking into police headquarters early on Monday Mrs. "Ollie" Turner, of Wilkes-Barre, told the desk sergeant her husband had bitten off her right ear. To substantiate her story she produced the severed organ from a coat pocket. She was taken to the General hospital, while detectives rounded up her husband. Mrs. Turner produced the evidence in police court again later in the morning, and her erring husband was held for court on a charge of felonious wounding.

Finding what apparently was a Christmas package on his porch on Sunday, Joseph Mastelkas, 49, a miner, living in the suburbs of Wilkes-Barre, rushed into the house with it and called his wife. While they were unwrapping the tinselled red and green paper, there was an explosion. State police said the package contained a bomb. Mastelkas was blown into another room, his body torn and twisted and was killed instantly. His wife, her left arm almost severed, and her body covered with burns, fell near the table, which the detonation blew to bits. Parts of the rear of the house was torn away. Three daughters, asleep on the second floor, were not injured.

With the filing of papers in the Northumberland county court last week to place Miss May Langton, school teacher, under arrest pending disposition of a suit, it was revealed that she is to be sued for \$5000 in connection with an insured for a pupil's eye. The papers were filed by Russell M. Long, of Natalie, father of Alvin L. Long, and gave notice of intent to sue Miss Langton for damages. The papers allege that Miss Langton, who is a teacher in the Natalie schools, near Locust Gap, slapped Alvin Long's hand with a ruler during a writing lesson, causing a pen to fly out of the boy's hand and strike him in the right eye. The charge is made that the pen entered the eyeball and resulted in his loss of sight in that member. Attorneys for Long said that he will ask for \$500 for a doctor's bill and \$5000 for injury to his son.