

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS OPEN TOULE SEASON

Early Celebrations Start for Youngsters and Many of the Unfortunate

BLIND ARE REMEMBERED

Although there are still two more days before Christmas actually is with us, and notwithstanding that this is a fact which parents everywhere find it necessary to impress upon backsliding or overconfident little boys and girls, Christmas activity is swiftly approaching a climax.

Today is a day of feasting and celebration in many parts of the city. There were dinners and dancing and distributing of gifts and many foreign hearts were gladdened. Not merely charitable organizations, but organizations of every imaginable genre were at work from early morning spreading moral and physical joy of one sort and another.

Candy for Children

The Philadelphia Jolting Children's Association distributes candy for poor children everywhere in the city. This year, when so many papas have been thrown out of work and so many mammas must scrimp so hard, the candy distributors were more generous than ever. They sent out 5000 pounds—which is a good many tons if you care to reckon it that way. The distribution was made chiefly through the National Army and Air Corps of America, which organizations the manufacturers think are more closely than others in touch with the poor.

Blind to Have Holiday

Those unfortunate who have been born blind or rendered blind by accident shared heavily in this general dissemination of candy for Christmas. The Blind Relief Fund of Philadelphia is taking precautions to see that no blind person within the city is forgotten or neglected. Messengers, with their arms full of packages of warm clothing.

What of the schools? Here, indeed, there was rejoicing and festivity that made the more of Christmas itself. Teachers did so worse than from at the most outrageous pranks. There was singing of Christmas songs and speaking of Christmas speeches, and Christmas wishes were exchanged that magnificently phrase, "No more school for ten days," was uttered and re-echoed in shouts of wild joy, and boys and girls said gleefully to one another that really Christmas is at last upon them.

School Smgs Carols

The boys and girls of the Germantown High School held their annual Christmas entertainment in the assembly hall of the school at noon today.

The singing of Christmas carols opened the exercises, followed by the reading of a Christmas story by Dr. Keller, principal of the school. The school orchestra played a number of selections.

Songs by the Boys' Glee Club, the reading of Dickens' "Gabriel Grubb" by Miss Manship, a member of the faculty, and the singing of "Holy Night" by the girls' choir closed out the program.

Dr. Keller extended Christmas greetings to the students in behalf of the faculty, and the exercises closed with singing.

The pupils of the Kensington High School for girls celebrated Christmas day by giving candy to many of the 1800 children in the kindergarten and in the public schools in the northeastern section of the city, and from the gar nurseries.

"The Christmas Dream," a two-act play, written by Miss Florence Small, a teacher at the Kensington High School, was presented by the students to the hearty enjoyment of the children.

Following the play each of the 800 children was given a toy and a package of candy. The toys and candy were contributed by the students of the Kensington High School.

Christmas exercises were held at the George W. Childs Public School, South and Tawker streets, today, and in addition to the usual Christmas musical program there was music by the newly organized school orchestra.

Playlets Are Presented

Several one-act playlets were presented by the grade and kindergarten pupils, who also received a visit from Santa Claus. The gifts were given to each child. The girls received dolls and each boy was given a new presented by students of the William Penn High School for Girls.

Pupils Get Toys Made in School

This morning the children of the lower grades of the Vaughan Public School, Marlborough and Thompson streets, had a Christmas party. Each youngster was given a toy made by the boys of the manual arts class, made up of pupils of the fifth and sixth grades.

Miss Elizabeth Ulrich, in charge of the class, conducted the idea of putting the work to immediate practical use and had the boys busy in the manufacture of the toys. There were about twelve models, the most popular being two wooden toys called "the number" and "the wadding duck."

Raymond Chambers, principal, turned the whole school over to the children. The teachers simply acted as police to steer the traffic and prevent accidents.

The toys received by the children are the only ones some of the youngsters will have this year, but that fact did not lessen their enthusiasm, but seemed to heighten their enjoyment.

Violinist Entertains Schoolmates

A little girl violinist, Minnie Apple, of 22 Dewey street, gave a concert at the Berry Public School, Fifty-ninth and Race streets, this morning as part of the celebration there. The recital was attended by the parents of the children.

At the Adjunct School of Progressive Thirteenth and Cambria streets, Christmas exercises were held, in which the 1200 pupils participated. There were recitations and singing in the assembly room where a large Christmas tree has been erected. The parents of the pupils were invited.

Exercises at Playgrounds

And then there was a merry break for the playgrounds.

At the Starr Garden Center, Sixth and Lombard streets, there will be a party in the evening, and at the Bacon Center, Longshore and Ditman streets, another.

At the Happy Hollow Center, there was an elaborate celebration of the Christmas holidays in the evening one will be held for Italians.

The Kingsessing Center, at Fifty-first and Locust streets, also will have a Christmas party this afternoon and the evening there will be a Christmas feast for grown-ups.

There will be a Christmas dance tonight at the Hillwood Center, Fifty-sixth and Catharine streets, and at the Stanton Center, Sixteenth street and Locust.

Wyoming avenue, there will be a Christmas entertainment.

And at the Water Tower Center, at Harwood lane and Sullivan street, there will be singing of Christmas songs tonight.

At St. Christopher's Hospital the Philadelphia Mother's Club gave a Christmas party to the little inmates who are, of course, cripples.

Baskets to Be Distributed

Families of destitute patients in the Jefferson Hospital will receive huge Christmas baskets containing a full supply for a Christmas dinner as well as other things to make things bright for the holiday, and patients in poor circumstances in the hospital also will be provided for by the Social Service Bureau and the Sisters.

A committee consisting of Mrs. Alba B. Johnson, chairman; Miss Olive Purdew, Miss Marion Burton, Miss Josephine Hoover and Miss Mary Devaux will distribute the baskets this afternoon at the hospital and on Saturday morning make the distribution.

Schoolgirls Cheer Patients

Hattemann Hospital gave its third annual Christmas party this afternoon for 300 children and disconsolate parents. Students of the William Penn High School for Girls have contributed 250 toys, so that each child will be well provided.

Twenty-one of the girl students gave a jolly entertainment and a program of violin and piano music.

A decorated Christmas tree has been erected in all of the wards. The social service department gave Christmas dinners for seventeen families in the neighborhood.

A holiday party was held this afternoon for the employees of the Methodist City and Children's Hospital. Gifts were distributed and there was a program of music. Monday a Christmas party for the patients will be held, beginning at 6 o'clock in the morning, when the nurses will sing Christmas songs.

Forty children, who are patients at the Memorial Hospital at Roxborough, enjoyed a visit from Santa Claus this afternoon, although it will be a little ahead of his regular schedule. Santa Claus showed up at 2 o'clock and greeted the children who were able to leave their beds in the dispensary, where a large party was given. Santa Claus had a large supply of toys, candy and ice cream.

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Children to Be Made Happy

Christmas also was celebrated at the Children's Homeopathic Hospital, Franklin and Thompson streets, this afternoon for 100 patients and children, with whom the social service department is in touch. There was a Christmas tree and a Santa Claus, who distributed presents. A large quantity of candy was distributed to the children.

The children were entertained with Christmas stories by the nurses, and the Christmas cheer that was spread was largely due to the efforts of a committee headed by Mrs. August Kropf, of St. Joseph's hospital.

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Central Y. M. C. A. Plans

The Central Branch of the Y. M. C. A., 1421 Arch street, is going to make happy the hearts of fifty children by giving them a real Christmas.

The times of the Christmas cases have been divided by the nurses of the State Clinic, and each child has received a special invitation. And such a good time they are going to have! The men of the department have supplied the gifts, which will be served at 7:30 o'clock tonight.

A poor child's conception of a Christmas dinner will be fulfilled and then some by turkey, hot mince pie and all the trimmings, and a very special, and glowing stocking; the day would not be complete without that.

One for each youngster will be here, candy toys made to resemble horses, trucks, and other things that the boys and girls love, and the inevitable orange and a horn. The very roof will vibrate from a blast of horns blown forth from fifty lusty pairs of lungs.

The Christmas tree resplendent in electric lights and trailing tinsel and an extra present for each child, will be given out by Santa Claus.

More than 300 girls and young women members of the clubs of the various branches of the Y. W. C. A., have filled baskets with food for the needy and good things to eat for the shut-ins.

A "White Christmas" party is to be held tonight by all the groups that meet in the clubs at the downtown Y. W. C. A. The gifts donated by the members will be placed on the "White Christmas" tree, later to be delivered to the needy.

Each gift will be brought to the tree by a child dressed in white carrying a white candle and each child will have near the tree a new light will be put on it.

The Athletic Club of the Kensington Branch, 174 West Chester, in which sixty girls are active, will entertain 200 needy children tonight. A stocking filled with candy and toys will be given to each child, besides picture books and fruit. The members of the Athletic Club raised the money to provide for this entertainment.

The Franklin Girls' Club of the Franklin Branch of the Y. W. C. A. will give a party tonight for poor children. Members of the Blue Triangle Boosters, the Y. W. C. A., and the Y. M. C. A. have given boxes for soldiers and filling stockings for shut-ins.

HITS CIVIL SERVICE REPORT

Legion Official Denies Veterans Service Absolute Preference

Washington, Dec. 23.—(By A. P.)—The attitude of the Civil Service Commission toward the Federal law giving former service men and women preference in ratings for Government employment, as expressed in the commission's annual report, was attacked in a statement here today by John T. Taylor, vice chairman of the National Legislative Committee of the American Legion.

"The annual report of the commission," Mr. Taylor said, "implies that ex-service men and women are receiving a special consideration and preference in ratings for Government employment, a more liberal opportunity to enter Government positions than is considered practicable by the commission. The American Legion, through its legislative committee, denies that former service men want absolute preference in obtaining Government positions."

Stops Card Game; Shot in Wrist

Julian Housuz, proprietor of a boarding house at 1806 Junata street, Nicetown, was shot in the left wrist last night when he stopped a card game among boarders. Housuz told police the shot was fired by Philip Fry, who ran from the house and hid in a nearby lot. The injured man was treated at St. Luke's Hospital.

EXTRA! SPECIAL ROTOGRAVURE

Supplement will be issued Friday, January 7, in the Evening Public Ledger, showing the names of the contractors on the new Delaware River Bridge.—Ad.

TODAY'S MARRIAGE LICENSES

John B. Warner, 4022 Sanson st., and Miss Mary E. Jones, 2117 Tenth st., and Ada Marie White, 152 N. Broad st., and Anne Marie, 939 N. Darby.

Do. Krasulic, 3107 Locust st., and Anna Krasulic, 3107 Locust st.

George A. ...

Charles L. ...

Benjamin H. ...

John H. ...

John H. ...

John H. ...

John H. ...

John H. ...

John H. ...

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SHOPPING FINISHED—NOW FOR HOME



Standing in the safety zone at Seventh and Market streets, this group of Christmas shoppers awaited trolley cars

YULE TRAVELERS JAM R. R. DEPOTS

Congestion at Terminals Here Expected to Reach Peak Tomorrow

The Christmas ingress and exodus this season surpasses anything in recent years, railroad men say.

Should you feel disposed to controvert this statement, it might be well first to consult the statistics of one of the big railroad terminals of the city.

As a matter of fact, this would be a difficult thing, for during most of the time as you would find yourself getting into the way of almost every one else besides, this is a time when the railroad watermen deem station letters unnecessary.

But at any rate you would see streams of men and women and children at the rate of about five hundred a half minute pushing in and out of the doors, two or three or even four extra ticket windows, these that are roads in length and remain so in spite of the briskness of the ticket clerks.

The waiting rooms are packed with bundles and baggage and humanity. Nearly all important trains leave stations in two or three and sometimes four sections, which is a way of saying that two or three or even four extra ticket windows, these that are roads in length and remain so in spite of the briskness of the ticket clerks.

The heaviest of the Christmas travel seems to be on the New York-Philadelphia-Washington division of the Pennsylvania Railway. There are four extra trains running between these points and tomorrow there will be six. The trains to Atlantic City have been increased to six and to Baltimore and Washington to five and to New York and Washington to five.

The travel congestion has been steadily developing since approximately December 16. It will reach its climax tomorrow. The return traffic, however, will not be so formidable. For one thing, it is likely to extend itself over a longer period.

A look at the railroad orders shows that between 25 and 30 extra trains will probably come into the city in the next few days. On New Year's Eve and New Year's Day there will, of course, be a rally. On those days there will be a good many extra trains between Philadelphia and Atlantic City and between Philadelphia and New York.

Almost without exception, trains are running on time and under very good conditions develop, probably will continue to do so. Whether for this reason or because of the Christmas spirit, the railroads have posted in posters the railroad spirit in general, and the passengers maintain an extraordinary good humor.

BURGLAR GETS 15 YEARS

Judge Rodgers, in Sentencing Man, Says Crime Must Be Stopped

Further evidence that Judge Rodgers means to deal with criminals with a hand that is given today when he sentenced Adolph Zolka, of Paxton street near Market, to fifteen years in the Eastern Penitentiary for burglary. Zolka had pleaded guilty.

The judge in passing sentence said the Court will see that you at least will not commit any more burglaries for some time. Zolka has served in the penitentiary more than fourteen years and nine months and not more than fifteen years in the Eastern Penitentiary.

Zolka robbed a number of places in the vicinity of Fifty-second and Market streets and was apprehended when he tried to pawn his loot.

ASK HIGHER FILM RATE

Manufacturers Want Tariff Check on German Imports

Washington, Dec. 23.—(By A. P.)—Increased import duties on motion-picture films, sent into but not exposed, were urged before the Senate Commerce committee today by Charles H. Cole, of Boston, speaking for the Bay State Kodak Company, the Anso Company and the Fox Film Products, all of Rochester, N. Y.

The witness said foreign competition, largely German, already had resulted in the closing of two of the five film-making factories in this country.

In place of the 20 per cent ad valorem rate in the Fordney bill, Mr. Cole asked for a specific rate of three-quarters of one cent a foot on positive films, and one and one-quarter cents a foot on negative films. If specific rates are not granted, he urges an ad valorem rate of 35 per cent on American valuation or 20 per cent on foreign valuation.

SLAYER'S FUNERAL

Services for Cornelius Cuff to Be Held on Rockwell Street

Cornelius Cuff, 5569 Market street, who killed himself Wednesday after murdering Mrs. Minnie Warrington and Bella Drake and wounding Mrs. Agnes Howell, will be buried by afternoon from an undertaking establishment at 713 Rockwell street.

Mrs. Warrington and Mrs. Drake will be buried from the same place tomorrow.

JUDGE HELPS UNTANGLE IT

William Jerry Swartzel, a first-class fireman attached to a tug at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, got off with a suspended sentence in Judge Rogers' court on a charge of bigamy today.

"Sweetness" and "Lotus-Blossom"—to use the young man's pet names for his two wives, were present in court, abruptly severed him from wife No. 2, who was Miss Alice Styers, by granting her an annulment then and there.

Judge Rogers ordered that a letter be written to the authorities at League Island in Swartzel's behalf, to forestall further punishment. The sailor already has spent five days in jail, and the judge said that under the circumstances the sailor had been sufficiently punished.

"On the whole," said Judge Rogers, "I think he acted very decently. So far as I can see, he did not intend to cause any trouble."

This was Swartzel's second appearance in court. It was when first arraigned, several days ago, that the judge, Swartzel, revealed the undisclosed names he had for himself. Each name, and pretty.

Swartzel explained that he married Ethel Victor Swartzel in Brooklyn in 1912, but got a divorce in 1915. The duration after a week's honeymoon, he was back ashore for thirty days after the first and was again accompanied the last and was gone during the war.

"Sweet Adeline" appeared on the witness stand to her, he said.

The defendant told the judge his first wife had wished to divorce him and he had given her \$200 for the purpose. He married in this city, and thought she had got the divorce.

Then a few months ago he met Miss Alice Styers, and wooed and won her. He made over his first wife's \$200 divorce and he and Styers, both natives of Poland, were married.

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BANK ROBBED OF \$16,800

Mount Wolf Officials Estimate Loss at That Minimum

York, Pa., Dec. 23.—(By A. P.)—Officials of the Union National Bank, Mount Wolf, which was robbed yesterday, place the loss at \$1800 in negotiable securities. They admit, however, that this may be a low estimate, since they have not made a complete check-up of the ninety-three safety deposit boxes robbed.

The burglars, it is believed, made a quick flight in an automobile. Mrs. Joseph Arnold, who resides next to the bank, heard the motor of a car in front of the bank about 2 o'clock yesterday morning.

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NEEDS DOG TO KEEP POLICE OFF PORCH

Always Park There, Woman Tells Court—But Neighbors Don't Like Howls

"The cops parked themselves on my porch and I needed the dog to keep them away,"

Mrs. Emma Alice Thorpe, fifty years old and fearless, told her armpits and looked Magistrate Renshaw straight in the eye. She lives at 2519 South Garret street.

The scene was the Central Police Court. Banned to the right of Mrs. Thorpe were her followers. They school her every statement, frowning when she was mad, smiling when she was glad. Off to the left was another delegation from her neighborhood. They were signers of a petition demanding Mrs. Thorpe get rid of her dog.

She glared at her as she testified, that she had a dog named Jimmie, who was a St. Bernard, and she was a St. Bernard. She was a St. Bernard. She was a St. Bernard.

"Jimmie" was noisy and generally disorderly were vigorously denied by Mrs. Thorpe. She pictured him as a sleek, sociable and obliging little pet. She declared his bark was not gritty or repulsive as stated by some of the complainants, but on the other hand was somewhat pleasant and rather colloquial in effect.

"What do you need the dog for," asked the Judge.

"I need protection," replied Mrs. Thorpe.

A look akin to a sneer was registered by the complainant. "The police" she snarled. "What good are they any longer, and then she made the declaration that she used her porch for a lodging house."

"The police in Columbus, where I come from," she added, "are three times as good as those in this town. As to the petition, I never saw it and I have nothing to say about it. They are always petitioning about something; if it's not dogs it's about house rents."

Somebody else who wanted to rout an dog from the neighborhood but the thing ended in a petition.

There was a murmur of protest from the anti-Thorpe; but the magistrate smiled.

"I'll give you to January 2 to get rid of the dog," he said, "and meanwhile hold you in \$500 bail to keep the peace."

Mrs. Thorpe was permitted to sign her own bond.

Out in the corridor after the hearing the pro-Thorpe and anti-Thorpe regarding Jimmie's fate. There was a danger of more serious action when guards cleared the halls.

U. S. INTERVENES TO KEEP PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Police Note Sent to Two Countries After Guatemala Coup

Washington, Dec. 23.—(By A. P.)—An effort on the part of the United States to preserve peace in Central America following the revolution in Guatemala was disclosed today at the State Department.

Immediately after the outbreak in Guatemala City, which resulted in the overthrow of the Herrera Government, the United States Government addressed a message to Salvador and Honduras, expressing the hope that peace would be preserved by them in accordance with the terms of their treaties with Guatemala. This note, it was said, was not intended to interfere with the revolutionary government's expression of the American Government's desire for world peace.

Salvador and Honduras were mentioned in Guatemala of the proposed republic of Central America, and it was feared in some quarters that the revolution in Guatemala would result in efforts on the part of the other two Central American nations to prevent Guatemala's withdrawal from the proposed confederation. For this reason the note was forwarded to the two governments.

Recognition of the de facto government in Guatemala will depend upon the report of conditions there to be made by the new American Minister, Roy Davis, it was said today.

HOSPITAL CHIEF ARRESTED

Accused of Selling 'Wildcat' Stock to Maimed War Veterans

Waukesha, Wis., Dec. 23.—(By A. P.)—Dr. J. P. Barrett, state commander of the American Legion, reported to the State authorities today that he had arrested the chief of the Hethman Sanatorium, Waukesha, and Roy Jackson, a patient, were arrested today on warrants charging with selling speculative oil stock to World War veterans patients at the institution without obtaining a permit from the railroad commission. Dr. Barrett is listed as president of the Disabled Veterans' Gas and Oil Company and Mr. Jackson is named as secretary.

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MINERS COMPLETE PLANS FOR SHAMOKIN CONVENTION

Increase of 20 Per Cent Likely to Be Asked in New Contract

Shamokin, Pa., Dec. 23.—(By A. P.)—John L. Lewis, international president of the United Mine Workers of America, has notified District President C. U. Golden that he will preside at the tri-district convention which opens January 17 to frame demands to be submitted to the anthracite operators prior to the expiration of the present working agreement April 1.

President Golden announced