Richmond County Record

"Pledged but to Truth, to Liberty and Law: No Favor Wins Us and No Fear Shall Awe"

FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR — ARICHAT, CAPE BRETON, N. S., DECEMBER 27, 1952 — No. 15

Hon. Robert H. Winters Reports From Ottawa

(Head Over From Last Issue)

The Speech from the Throne occupied Parliament again this week and will probably continue to be debated until the adjournment for the Christmas recess.

I imagine the readers of Hansard would conclude that this debate is of an unusually high order. Members of all parties are clearly projecting their thoughts forward to the next election, and this alone introduces an element of spirit into the debate which makes it more interesting. Activities and policy statements extending back many years are now being brought to light, with a view either to showing up inconsistencies or to substantiating present policies.

Most of the Members obviously do a great deal of work and research on their speeches, and much valuable information about conditions in Canada can be gained from listening to or reading them. Each Member tends to reflect those matters most important to him in the part of the country he represents. For example, there is sharp and sometimes bitter debating between C.C.F. and Social Credit Members, both of whose parties have little or no representation in eastern Canada. The Liberals and Progressive Conservatives from the west are also not unaware of the fact that the Social Credit party formed a government in British Columbia recently and they are thus devoting more attention to Social Credit policies than has heretofore been the case.

The Social Credit party which is relatively unknown east of Manitoba, is said in the west to use a mixture of religion and politics. One of the Liberal Members speaking in the debate on Friday made a pretty apt reference to this when he said that years ago crusades sought to convert heathens to christianity but now Social Creditors try to convert Christians to politics.

On Friday, the Progressive-Conservative party, through their spokesman, stated their views on health insurance. The subject is complex and for that reason the speech was somewhat difficult to interpret. The programme would be an expensive one, resulting in more taxation. The Progressive-Conservative party stand seems to be that while they will vote against the CCF emendment calling for such a scheme, they are, in the words of the spokesman, "in favour of a contributory health insurance plan for this country."

The Prime Minister and Mr. Abbott are still in London, discussing Commonwealth problems and it is reported that good progress is being made. The Canadian approach to the problem is designed to encourage sterling countries to take those steps which would result in convertability of sterling and, at the same time, permit a broader flow of multilateral trade. The problem is undeniably difficult and it is heartening to know that a spirit of determination and co-operation is prevading the discussions.



JIM COULTER

Jim Coulter brings you Neighbourly News from the weekly papers of the Maritimes and Newfoundland each Sunday morning at ten o'clock over Maritime stations of the CBC's Trans-Canada Network.

———:o:———



CHRISTMAS LECTURE . . . "Now this is a Christmas tree," big brother appears to be telling the toddler. "It grows in the living room only once a year, and it always has a lot of nice presents under it."

———:o:———

And if you keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone.

—Henry van Dyke.



STABLE AT BETHLEHEM: The shepherds "came with haste and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger."

Holly Superstition: It Will Determine Ruler in Household

HUSBANDS and wives! Attention! There is an old superstition about holly that will interest you. It was a belief of the ancients that the first to bring Christmas holly into the house, either husband or wife, would be the one to rule the household during the ensuing year.

But don't put too much stock in the belief. Like other Christmas legends, the truth might be lost in history.

The Druids were great admirers of the holly plant. They believed that its evergreen leaves attested to the fact that it was never deserted by the sun and was therefore sacred.

Legends have related how the crown of thorns was plaited from holly. The leaves of the plant were white until the Crucifixion after which they turned a deep blood red.

A holly wreath placed on the door is believed enough to frighten away even the boldest of witches.



The joy of a soldier's return from war is depicted in this family picture taken at Windsor Station, Montreal when Cpl. Lionel LeBlanc of 4423 Wellington St., Verdun, P. Q., kissed his two-year-old son Michael, after he and other Montreal and Maritime members of the 1st Battalion of the Princess Pats stepped of a C.P.R. trans-continental train on their return from fighting with United Nations forces in Korea. Other members of the family greeting the soldier on his return from a year and one month's service in Korea include his father, Ralph LeBlanc, and his wife.

—C. P. R. Photo.

Training Course For Movie Projectionists

During the week of December 1st two Training Courses were held in the County to train young people to operate and care for movie projectors.

The Courses were given in two evening sessions. December 1st and 2nd in the Provincial Building in St. Peter's, and December 3rd and 4th in the school house at D'Escousse. Approximately ten people attended each Course which lasted for about three hours each night.

These people were trained to operate three types of machines, the Bell & Howell, the Ampro and the Victor. Only a limited number of students could be trained at this time, but it is hoped that the Course may be repeated in the Spring if there are sufficient people interested in the subject.

Visual Education is becoming more and more accepted as a powerful force in Education. There are a number of movie projectors in the County available to different organizations, and with trained projectionists over the County eventually it should be possible for any association to make use of films.

The Course was sponsored by the newly organized Film Council, and the instructors were: Mr. E. A. Fraser, National Film Board Representative, New Glasgow; Mr. D. A. MacLean, National Film Board Representative for Cape Breton Island; and Mr. R. J. Chiasson, Inspector of Schools.

Isle Madame Hospital Fund

The Isle Madame Hospital Board acknowledges with sincere thanks the following donations:

Mrs. Mary M. Boucher and family West End Arichat	$25.00
Ven. Archdeacon G. A. Andrew of Toronto	$25.00
Total	$50.00

M. J. Bourinot, Sec'y-Treas.
Isle Madame Hospital Board

———:o:———

'Christkindli' Is Swiss Counterpart of Santa

Santa Claus plays a very insignificant part in the Swiss celebration of Christmas, observed mostly on December 24. It is Christkindli, the Christ Child, who makes the rounds of Swiss homes on Christmas Eve.

This radiant angel is said to have come from the North, traveling on a fairy-like sleigh pulled by reindeer, much in the fashion of our Santa. Christkindli brings good Swiss children a beautiful tree, and many gifts. Like Santa, he stresses obedience and admonishes naughty youngsters.

———:o:———

A little given seasonably excuses a great gift.—George Herbert.



UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

Loading Pulpwood At The Bras d'Or Lakes

One of the more interesting and unique sights to be seen on the Bras d'Or Lakes during the summer months is the loading operation of the "Liverpool Packet".

The ship is usually to be seen anchored in the quiet of some sheltered bay with two huge booms of pulpwood on either side of her spread out like a pair of gigantic wings on the water.

On closer inspection it may be seen that the picturesque factor is only one component of the picture. The scene hums with the activity of more than a hundred men; their lack of fuss and their absolute absorption in their duties convey to the watcher a vivid impression of efficiency. And the records fortify this impression.

The working time required to load an average of about two thousand cords, (every stick of which must be stacked) was just sixteen hours and twenty-eight minutes (average of 17 loads). This employing only ninety-three stevedores for stacking purposes.

An operation which runs as smoothly as this one, did not, of course, just happen. It is the result of careful intelligent planning and ingenuity and a constant eye for improvement. Sandy Cruickshank and his men justly deserve the credit for setting their teeth into the problem and hanging on until all the snags were chewed off. It is an operation of which all participants can well be proud.

(The foregoing was taken from the "Mersey Quarterly", which is beautifully printed in the up-to-date shop of the "Liverpool Advance" The article features loading of the "Liverpool Packet", in the Bras d'Or Lakes, showing a few photos of the methods used in loading. We are pleased to note that our good friend, Sandy Cruickshank and his men played an important part in bringing about such an efficient system of loading pulp. We wish to thank the person who so kindly sent us a copy of this splendid publication.—Editor.)

Local News

From Sydney

Miss Jean Malzard of the Department of Welfare, Sydney, is spending the Christmas holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Malzard. Jean's friends are glad to see her.

———:o:———

On Holidays

C. R. Edwards, M. A., the efficient and popular Inspector of Schools for Annapolis County, arrived from his home in Middleton, to spend part of his Christmas holidays with his mother, Mrs. Philip Edwards. Cliff never forgets his old home town.

———:o:———

From Halifax

Leon and Lubin Theriault, CNR employees, Halifax, spent Christmas with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Theriault. Their friends were glad to see them.

———:o:———

From Antigonish

Miss Margaret Doyle, student nurse at St. Martha's Hospital, Antigonish, sepnt the week-end with her parents, Municipal Clerk and Mrs. E. C. Doyle. Margaret's friends were pleased to see her.

———:o:———

From Halifax

Eddie Edwards, the efficient representative for the famous Morse's tea and coffee, is spending the Christmas holidays with his wife and family; also his mother, Mrs. Philip Edwards.

———:o:———

Visiting in Pondville

Mr. and Mrs. James Briand and family are visiting friends and relatives in Pondville and Barrachois during the Christmas season.

They will return to Halifax over the week-end.

———:o:———

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

—Longfellow.

Monthly Meeting Arichat Home And School

The regular monthly meeting of the Arichat "Home and School Association", took place at the Convent on Friday, December 19. After prayer and roll call, the minutes were read and adopted. Then following a discussion concerning the proposed social of December 30th in the school building. Committees were organized and action was planned.

The singing of carols, reading of Christmas poems and distribution of gifts filled in the social hour. The hall had been decked by the pupils of grades 7 and 8 who had also set up the Christmas tree. The members enjoyed the exchange of gifts and they appreciated Father Poirier's presence.

CAPSULES—Parents may secure fish liver oil capsules for their children by sending 25 cents per child to the teachers.

———:o:———

Gems of Thought

• • •

CHRISTMAS

I have always thought of Christmas time as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely.—Charles Dickens.

• • •

At this immortal hour, all human hate, pride, greed, lust should bow and declare Christ's power, and the reign of Truth and Life divine should make man's being pure and blest.

—Mary Baker Eddy.

• • •

Heap on more wood; the wind is chill;
But let it whistle as it will.
We'll keep our Christmas merry still.

—Sir Walter Scott



That controversial character Rawhide looks with scorn on a picture of Max Ferguson, the CBC's multi-voiced announcer. For some strange reason he has been closely identified with the good-looking young man, and when people call him Max it makes the old codger's blood boil. The look on Ferguson's face might aptly be called "double-take". Recordings of unusual music, along with satirical skits are featured on the Rawhide show every Monday, Wednesday and Friday on the CBC's Trans-Canada network.

—Courtesy C. B. C.

Richmond County Record

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Opinions of correspondents not necessarily that of this newspaper.

All letters for publication must bear the name of the author.

Printed and published in our own plant at Arichat.

M. J. BOURINOT, Publisher

ARICHAT, Cape Breton, Canada.

DECEMBER 27, 1952

PLANS FOR NEW PINE HILL COLLEGE RESIDENCE MAKING PROGRESS

A committee of laymen of the United Church in Halifax, under the Chairmanship of Mr. G. Raymond Smith, prominent Halifax insurance man, is making progress in their plans for a financial campaign to erect a new residence at Pine Hill Divinity Hall, Halifax. A Publicity Committee is also at work under the Chairmanship of Dr. Elias Andrews, Professor of New Testament at Pine Hill.

The appeal to the Maritime church constituency is expected to take place in February, 1954, but this appeal will be preceded by a Special Names Campaign in all the churches of the Maritimes and Newfoundland. The objective is five hundred thousand dollars.

During the winter of 1952-53 a committee of churchmen from all the presbyteries of the Maritime Conference will meet at Pine Hill Divinity Hall in Halifax, with a view to cooperating with the Halifax committees in planning the organization for the approach.

It is expected that the United Church people of the Maritimes and Newfoundland will respond readily and generously in the support of the Theological College where a great percentage of their ministers are trained.

TYPEWRITERS and ADDING MACHINES. SPECIAL CLEARANCE, 100 All Standard Model typewriters, regular price $175.00 up, now only $39,50. Later models with all later features only $49.50. Latest Remington and Underwood Noiseless Standard (identical to 1952 model) regular price $235.00, Specially Reduced Now to $69.50. New latest Royal portables only $69.50 (12 months to pay). Lightning Desk Model Adding Machine, adds to $99,999.99, only $19.95. Each fully guaranteed. Deposit $5.00 each order, balance C.O.D. Write Crown Equipment Co. Ltd., 1011 Bleury Street. Montreal 1, Quebec. 3i

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VILLAGE TURNOUT TURNS OVER STONE TURNS AWAY DEVIL

SHEBBEAR, England — Six sturdy farmers armed with crowbars turned over a large boulder last night to keep the Devil away from this Devon village for another year.

The stone lies at the foot of an old oak tree near the 12th Century church where it was dropped according to local legend, by the Devil on his way to Hell.

The legend says the stone must be turned over every Nov. 5 night for if it stays in the same place for two years evil will come to the village, the crops fail and misfortune beset inhabitants.

Only once within living memory has the ceremony been neglected —during the First World War when most of the young men were away.

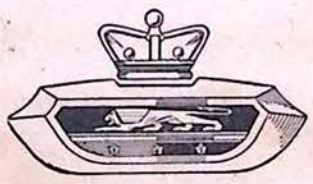
The following year the crops were bad, cattle fell ill and several mishaps occurred to villagers.

—:o:—

Under the Disaster Services Committee of the Nova Scotia Red Cross, as many as 47 persons in single fire were granted much needed assistance during 1951 and the total was many times that figure; that is only bearing on situations where homes were burned. On other ocasions, where larger buildings were swept by flames, much greater numbers were given assistance at the actual time of the fire. Support of the Red Cross makes this form of assistance, and varied other helpful acts possible.

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THE EXTRA 50 CENTS will be held in the Unsatisfied Judgement Fund set up under the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Liability Law to protect you against financially irresponsible drivers.
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NEWS ABOUT TOWN AND COUNTY



Christmas Stories

We were obliged to hold over several Christmas Stories, from our Christmas number due to lack of space. As similar stories in the past have received favorable comment from our readers we are publishing them in this issue of the Record in keeping with the Yuletide Season.

———:O:———

Returns Home

Aimable Bonin, arrived from Toronto, where he had been employed on a ship in the Great Lakes. He will spend the winter here with his wife and family.

———:O:———

Returns to Halifax

After spending the Christmas holidays at the home of her sister, Mrs. Raymond LeBlanc, Jeannette Hureau, returned to Halifax to resume her duties at the main branch of the Royal Bank of Canada. Friends here were glad to see Jeannette.

———:O:———

From Bridgewater

Miss Rosemary Rippon, of the staff of the Children's Aid Society of Lunenburg County, arrived from Bridgewater, on Monday to spend her holidays with her parents, Col. the Rev. and Mrs. Wm. Rippon. Her friends are pleased to see her.

———:O:———

From Yarmouth

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Huskilson and family of Yarmouth are spending the Christmas holidays at the home of Mrs. Huskilton's mother, Mrs. Philip Edwards.

From Great Lakes

Raymond LeBlanc, engineer on one of the Great Lakes boats, arrived from Ontario on Christmas Eve, to spend the winter with his wife and family. We wish Ray a very happy vacation.

———:O:———

To Montreal

Constable G. A. Kennedy, R.C.M.P., is spending the Christmas holidays with his parents, in Montreal. We wish Constable Kennedy a pleasant holiday.

———:O:———

From Halifax

Miss Anne Madden, of the staff Zellers Ltd., Halifax, spent Christmas with her mother, Mrs. Alice Madden. Anne's friends were all happy to see her.

———:O:———

From Halifax

Miss Anita Acton, of the staff of the Morris and Barrington Sts., branch of the Royal Bank, Halifax, spent Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Acton. Anita's friends regretted that her stay was so short.

———:O:———

From Halifax

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Drysdale, Halifax, spent the Christmas holidays with Mrs. Drysdale's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Dobson.

———:O:———

To Sydney

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Acton spent Christmas Day with Mr. Acton's mother, Mrs. Florence Acton, North Sydney, and their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Samson, Sydney.

OLA Convent

In a future issue of the Record we will present to our readers the history of the founding of OLA Convent here, which was established the 24th of December 1902.

———:O:———

Holiday Visitors

If members of your family or friends have been visiting at your home over the holiday season, please send their names along to the Record. As we have so often repeated, we do not wish to omit anyone and your co-operation is the only way we can report all the arrivals and departure of visitors.

———:O:———

From Greenwood

Lloyd Latimer, R. C. A. F., of Greenwood, spent Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Latimer. We are happy to report that Lloyd is much improved from a recent leg injury, which kept him confined to hospital for some time.

———:O:———

From Maine

Mrs. Beatrice Parker, arrived from Fort Fairfield, Me., recently to visit her daughters, Mrs. Roy Campbell, St. George's Channel and Mrs. Ivan Shaw, Arichat. Her many friends are giving her a warm welcome.

———:O:———

Arrives Home

Capt. Clarence Forgeron, arrived from Port Alfred, Que., recently, where he was in command of a tug boat for the Foundation Maritime. Capt. Forgeron will spend a few weeks with his wife and family at West Arichat and will be leaving for Halifax shortly where he will be in command of a harbor tug for the winter.

———:O:———

Week-End Visitor

Miss Constance Binet, a nurse-in-training at St. Martha's Hospital, Antigonish, spent the week-end here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Binet. Connie's friends were happy to see her.

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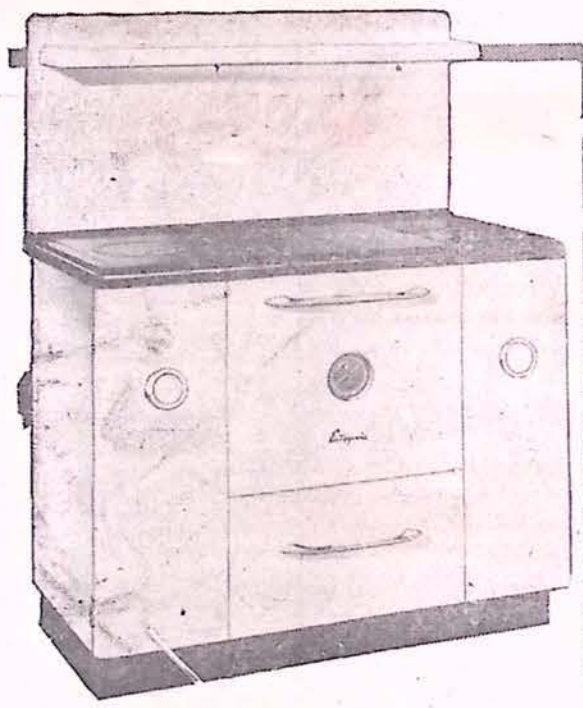
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Sporting Mountain Echoes

It is winter officially now, and thus terminates one of the finest autumnal seasons in the memory of our oldest citizens.

The Sporting Mountain teachers, Eunice McPherson of Seaview and Frances Murphy, Oban went to their respective homes in Sydney and Barra Head for the holidays, during the week-end.

[illegible]th have made enviable reput- [illegible]n their professional capa- [illegible]d a friend in every ac- [illegible]e.

[illegible] them a pleasant vaca-

[illegible]ighbourly act on the [illegible]J. McPhail to come [illegible]n, and thus alleviweek-end for J. H.

[illegible] days, the veteran [illegible]Donald, went part [illegible]Ceretha in order [illegible]nour with some [illegible]who are always [illegible] their guest.

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[illegible]ays him on [illegible]orse rounding [illegible]manifesting that [illegible] active.

Ceretha McLennan motored us to St. Peter's, Friday.

Enroute home we made a seasonable visit at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Morrison and their daughter, Patricia, who is home from Antigonish College, for the holidays.

Theirs is now a palatial little residence with all modern accessories, and we trust the afternoon of life will be long and happily extended for our former neighbors there.

Foreman Fougere, Mrs. Fougere and Alfred Boudreau motored up from Sterling Thursday evening to attend Miss McPherson's school concert.

Speaking of the concert it was as we anticipated, a pronounced success.

The youthful performers faced a capacity audience, but acquitted themselves in a manner most creditable to their instructors and themselves.

In between the acts, Willie A. McRae favored the assembly with excellent violin music.

D. A. S.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "TENDER FOR BREAKWATER REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS NORTH SYDNEY, CAPE BRETON COUNTY, N. S." will be received in the office of the Secretary, until 3.00 P.M., (E.S.T.), WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1953.

Plans, form of contract and specification can be seen and forms of tender obtained at the office of the Chief Engineer, Department of Public Works, Ottawa, at the office of the District Engineer, Dominion Public Building, Bedford Row, Halifax, N. S., and the Post Offices at North Sydney and New Glasgow, N. S.

Tenders will not be considered unless made on printed forms supplied by the Department and in accordance with conditions set forth therein.

Each tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque on a chartered bank in Canada, payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works, or Bearer Bonds as specified in the form of tender, for 10% of the amount of the tender.

NOTE: Upon application to the undersigned, the Department will supply blue-prints and specification of the work on deposit of a sum of $20.00 in the form of a certified bank cheque payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works. The deposit will be released on the return of the blueprints and specification within a month from the date of reception of tenders. If not returned within that period the deposit will be forfeited.

ROBERT FORTIER,
Acting Secretary

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, December 15 ,1952.

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By Shirley Sargent

HARLEY DAVIS was always wanting something. He knew Christmas was only two weeks off, but he just itched to buy a gondola car for his electric train. One day he ditched his little sister, Charlene, and hurried down town. He spent his entire monthly allowance and all his savings for a blue gondola car. Harley hoped his mother wouldn't be angry because he had been gone all afternoon. He hoped.

Contrary to his expectations, Mrs. Davis was jovial, teasing him, and even, to his immense relief, keeping Charlene away from his package. Charlene was five and a pest to Harley, because he was nine and grown up. Helping mother with the dishes that night was almost fun, Harley thought; she was so friendly and nice. Then it happened.

"Harley," his mother said tenderly, "Don't tell me what you bought unless you want to, but what did you get for Charlene?"

Harley was stunned. He wished she wouldn't smile at him—couldn't she see he was trying to think? "Nothing, mom," he stammered, "I bought a gondola car."

"Oh," she wiped a plate slowly, "I thought you had been Christmas shopping."



Harley was stunned. He wished she wouldn't smile at him.

"I guess I spent all my money; I guess I sort of forgot about Christmas presents," Harley hung his head.

"Yes, I guess you did," she answered and that was all she said about it, but he felt terrible. He didn't even unwrap his new car.

Gee, he'd really pulled a dumb trick this time, Harley thought miserably. He'd always bought them presents, but he'd completely forgotten it. Well, he'd have to earn some money; even his piggy bank was empty. He earned a quarter the next morning shoveling snow, but he had to take care of Charlene most of the time.

HE TRIED to get a job the next day, with no luck, and when he found a dime in the snow Charlene grabbed it, yelling "Finders keepers . . ." He was so furious, he felt like choking her. Instead he made her a big snow house on the sidewalk, right in everybody's way, but people didn't seem to mind. Then the apartment lady with her little girls stopped to admire it.

"How old are you, Harley?" she asked.

"Nine," he said proudly.

"I wonder," she smiled, "I wonder if you could take care of my little girls this afternoon?

Harley started to tell her gosh no, but she interrupted, saying she'd pay him 25c an hour. Harley was so surprised he leaned against the snow house, knocking part of it down. "Why sure, I'd be glad to," he said.

Harley worked hard that afternoon, doing everything three little girls could think of and he could build. Once in a while the lady would wave to him from the apartment window, but he was usually too busy to look up. She paid him a whole dollar and asked if he would take care of the children again the next day. Harley, tired as he was, managed to say "Yes." His mother teased him about being a baby sitter, and was he going to charge her for taking care of Charlene? Harley didn't mind; after all he had a cash capital of $1.25.

Although it rained the following day, Harley earned another dollar taking care of the little girls in the apartment.

That afternoon, with his mother's blessing, he went Christmas shopping. He felt proud to pay for the presents with money he had earned. He had the packages gift-wrapped and put them under the tree without telling his mother what he had gotten.

Christmas morning the floor was littered with gay papers, children's toys and Harley's electric train. He opened the box and put the gondola on the track. It looked keen.

Then mother handed him another package. "I bought you a gondola car a long time ago," she explained, "But of course I had to return it. I think you've earned this, though."

Harley grinned at his mother as he peeled the paper off. He knew what she meant. "A tank car!" he shouted, "Gee, mom, just what I need."

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CONTRIBUTION

Joel Poinsett, U.S. Statesman, Noted for Flower

Although he was a brilliant statesman, and the friend of four American presidents, Joel Roberts Poinsett is famous chiefly because he introduced the Mexican plant known as the "Painted Leaf", of "Mexican Fire Plant" into the United States.

Poinsett, then U.S. ambassador to Mexico, called the plant to the attention of American botanists and grew the plant himself as a hobby at his South Carolina home, after he left Mexico.

The plant grew heavily in American favor—especially popular at Christmas time—and was renamed poinsettia, in honor of the man who brought it to this country.

Contrary to popular impression, the flaming red bracts of the poinsettia are not flowers, but leaves, and it is for these bracts that the plants are grown.

It is possible to have variations of either pink or white varieties, as well as of the more usual red, popular because it carries out the holiday color scheme of rich bright red with a contrast of the dark green of the leaves.

The beautiful poinsettia, almost a "must" as far as Christmas decorating is concerned, is one of the most temperamental of plants.

The poinsettia thrives in its native Mexico, but elsewhere must be handled carefully—perhaps pampered slightly. However, the brilliantly colored flowers it has at Christmas time is reward enough for any efforts needed to make the plant thrive.

Constant warmth is needed by poinsettias. Temperatures should be kept between 70 and 80 degrees during the day and no less than 65 degrees at night. Any sudden change in temperature and drafts will cause the plant to drop its leaves.

Abundant water is also a necessity, but it should be applied but once a day so that the plant may become moderately dry between waterings. This permits needed oxygen to reach the roots.

Try to give the poinsettia the sunniest spot available. It is wise to fertilize it occasionally with a good commercial food tablet.

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By Maud McCurdy Welch

PATTI WAS TRYING to forget it was Christmas. Last Christmas there had been Jimmy and a ring on her finger. Then there was a girl named Ann and everything was over. Patti had packed up and come to this part of the city to live.

So there were no holly wreaths or Christmas trees in Patti's Pie and Bake Shop just off one of the bustling avenues. There was only Patti with her brown curls and mellow brown eyes and the long rows of pies and cakes in the show-cases.

People came from all over to buy Patti's cakes and pies and drink her coffee. There was the little old lady who sold magazines on the corner, who came in every day.

She was the first to come in on Christmas Day, and she was lugging a big wreath of holly and mistletoe. "Hang it in the window, dearie," she said.

Patti looked at the wreath and a sick pain caught at her heart.

Then there was the telephone operator who worked in a branch exchange, and later the little boy who always stopped by from school. He had such sad blue eyes it made Patti's heart ache. Patti always gave him a huge slice of pie



When he saw the wreath his eyes brightened. "Gee, that's pretty."

and he ate it with relish, but the sad bewilderment of his eyes never seemed to go away.

When he saw the wreath, his eyes brightened. "Gee, that's pretty. You goin' to have a Christmas tree too, Mis' Patti?"

Patti started to say no, but choked. Instead she asked, "Don't you have a Christmas tree, Tommy?"

He shook his head. Patti said, her voice still choky, "Then we'll have one here. You can help me trim it."

In no time at all the tree was up and they were trimming it. In spite of her stern efforts, Patti was conscious of a slow excitement. Tommy asked if she believed in that Kris Kringle stuff, and she had to stop to think before answering. At last she said, "Yes, Tommy, I—I think I do. Kris Kringle may be just a symbol, but he's really alive in the hearts and spirits of hundreds of people all over the world."

Tommy's blue eyes grew bright. "Then do you think if I told him I only wanted my daddy back, and nothing else, he would bring him back to us? My mommy told him to go, but she didn't mean it. Now she's sick, but if Daddy would come back, we'd both be happy and she'd be well."

An idea was slowly dawning in Patti's mind. "We'll see what we can do, Tommy," she promised.

Patti hurried like mad and got a personal ad. in the late edition of one of the big dailies. It read:

"Mr. Thomas Baker, please call at Patti's Pie & Cake Shop at once."

PATTI WAITED and waited. The little shop was brightly lighted and the Christmas tree was a beautiful sight to see.

But no one came. Everything had been sold, so Patti was putting out the lights when a tall young man walked in. He said, "I may be the Thomas Baker you're looking for. Of course I don't know.

Patti just felt it in her bones that he was the right one. She said, "Do you have a wife by the name of Margaret and a little boy named Tommy?"

"Yes, yes, I do."

"Then you're the right Thomas Baker. They want you to come home."

"Are you sure Margaret wants me too?" The young man's eyes were suddenly full of hope.

Patti nodded "I'm very sure," and the young man thanked her, turned to go and almost collided with another tall young man who had just come in. He was looking at Patti with his whole heart in his eyes. "The minute I saw that personal, I was sure it was you. No one ever spelled Patty with an "i" as you do." Then he reached for her hands. "Patti, won't you forgive me for thinking I could ever love another girl? Won't you let me put this ring where it belongs?"

Patti was choked up with happiness as he slipped the ring on her finger. "Finding you is like a Christmas miracle," he whispered as he took her in his arms.