

THE GAB BAG

By ALAN BROWNING, JR.



THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

As we wander, in our rounds, from toy department to toy department, we cannot help but meditate upon the difference in the Christmas of today and of yesterday.

Long years ago when we were a youngster, Christmas only came every five years, or so it seemed. And when at last the great day was but a week hence, each day was at least a month long. Then, when the night before Christmas did finally arrive, long hours of it were spent in sleeplessness, and what few minutes we did doze off were filled with dreams of Santa failing to come!

But finally came the dawn! And then downstairs to the living room to find stockings well filled with raisins, nuts, candy, apples and oranges, plus a toy horse pulling a toy fire wagon, and perhaps a toy horn. That was Christmas deluxe, and no kid of today who finds an expensive electric train, a tricycle, mechanical gadgets and other modern whatnots beneath the tree has

ever gotten a bigger thrill out of Christmas than did we!

When we were little—and how long ago it seems as we peer back through the misty years (quick, children, get pappy his handkerchief)—our Christmas tree, had no pretty electric lights, for we didn't have any electricity in our town then. Candles were usually used to light the tree, but not at home, for the danger of fire was too great. And homes were not gaily lighted as of today. But old Santa was the same.

We spent a lot of time in those

days trying to figure how Santa Claus always managed to get down the chimney. We remember taking a tape measure and measuring our chimney and arriving at the conclusion that Santa would have to do a great amount of reducing in order to get down. But down he came while we were asleep, and he didn't knock down any soot, either.

We used to have an old negro mammy who would take us upon her lap (can't you see us sitting on the lap of an old negro mammy now!) and tell us about Santa Claus and how he never brought anything to bad boys. And we still remember the sweetness and light of our conduct for at least two weeks before Christmas.

One of the biggest thrills we can remember was when Santa brought us our first train-on-the-track. It had a small circular track, an engine and four cars. And before we had gotten a chance to play with it once, our older brother wound it up too tight, broke the spring and promptly lost interest. We spent the remainder of Christmas day pushing it around the track.

And then there was the night that we were crawling around the floor in the dark hunting for a piece of this train, and bumped head first into the leg of the piano, breaking off four of our front teeth. "Snaggle Tooth Al" we were known as in them days!

Confidentially, and despite the fact that the Christmas of yesterday and today are unlike, we still get just as big a kick out of it as ever. For our boy usually gets an electric train, and we have a big time playing with it together—when we can get it away from Gene Hall.

THIS AND THAT

In case you're interested, next week's Tribune will come off the press Monday, so that it may reach subscribers on Christmas Eve. In this issue, the Gab Bag will present its annual "letters to Santa Claus," which always disclose the wishes of Elkin's prominent citizens.

A well-known local woman, wishing to buy some extra nice toys for Christmas, sent away to a big department store in New York for them. Later she came uptown and found the same toys in a local store—and at half the price!

A local dime store manager told us yesterday that next year lights for Christmas trees are going to cost a lot more than they do this year, because imports from Japan are going to be naught. We have found, though, that American-made light bulbs for tree sets, even though they cost more, are cheapest in the long run. For they don't burn out every time someone sneezes.

One Christmas, with four strings of lights on our tree, we used over 60 bulbs in the course of a week. These bulbs were made in Japan.

This year we are going to tie lightning bugs on the tree.

But Not Cap
Service Station Man: "Where's your radiator cap?"
Motorist: "On the front of my car, but don't call me Cap."

Jump to Conclusion
The aviation instructor, having delivered a lecture on parachute work, concluded: "And if it doesn't open—well, gentlemen, that's what is known as 'jumping to a conclusion'."

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE
Having qualified as administrator of the estate of Dr. Hugh Parks, late of Surry County, this is to notify all persons holding claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned within one year from date of this notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons owing said estate will make immediate settlement with R. W. Parks or W. M. Allen, Attorney. This the 3rd day of December, 1940.

R. W. PARKS,
Administrator of Dr. Hugh Parks.
W. M. Allen, Attorney. 1-9c

ADMINISTRATRIX'S NOTICE
Having qualified as administratrix of the estate of Mollie V. Ring, late of Surry County, this is to notify all persons holding claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned within one year from date of this notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons owing said estate will make immediate settlement with the administratrix. This the 4th day of December, 1940.

ETTA R. PAUL,
Administratrix of Mollie V. Ring, deceased.
W. M. ALLEN,
HOKE P. HENDERSON,
Attorneys. 1-9

EAST ELKIN

The Loyal Workers team met Tuesday night at the home of Bobby Creed. The meeting was opened with singing and scripture reading by Jack Daye. Prayer was led by Ralph Smoot. Bible stories were told by Ralph Smoot and Charlie Hinson. Twenty-seven were present. Rev. Fincham, president, was the principal speaker. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Creed.

Rev. Claude E. Fincham and Doyle Newman spent the weekend visiting Rev. Fincham's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Fincham, at Pilot Mountain.

The W. M. U. of East Elkin Baptist church will give a special Christmas program at the church Sunday night at 7 p.m. Mrs. G. W. Creed, president, will have charge of the program.

A Christmas program will be given at East Elkin Baptist church Tuesday night, December 24, at 7 p.m. The program will consist of speeches, dialogues and pageants. The public is invited to attend.

ARLINGTON

The Arlington W. M. U. met at the home of Mrs. S. S. Swalm Friday evening, December 13. Twenty members were present, and a large number of visitors. The husbands of the members of the circle were special guests.

The topic of the month, "Pressing on Through Difficulties," was discussed by the following members: Miss Omie Wagoner, Mrs. Faye Mathis, Mrs. W. P. Jones and Mrs. J. H. Dunman. Miss Dixie Rose sang "Silent Night." Mrs. Wayne Stroud and Mrs. Odell Holcomb were in charge of the program.

A special "Lottie Moon Christmas Offering" was taken. During a social hour the hostesses served delicious refreshments.

Read Tribune Advertisements!

Owe Landlady
"I owe all I have to one woman."
"Your mother?"
"No, the landlady."

Father Helped
Small Boy: "Mummy, we are going to play elephants at the zoo, and we want you to come."

Mother: "What on earth can I do?"
Small Boy: "You can be the lady who gives them peanuts and candy."

HOW CAN YOU GUESS?



Even the best "guesser" can't imagine how really good a bottle of beer can be until he has tried that even finer Schlitz. Enjoy it today—you'll want it again tomorrow.

Schlitz



Copyright, 1940
Jos. Schlitz Brewing Co.
Milwaukee, Wis.

THE BEER THAT MADE MILWAUKEE FAMOUS



Don't Say Bread—
Say Holsum

NOTICE!

THE
C. L. MORRISON
HOME PLACE

Located about 2½ miles southwest from Elkin, just beyond Jonesville on old Wilkesboro Road, consisting of 114 acres, will be divided into two tracts and sold separately and together on—

December 21st

1940

AT 2:00 P.M. O'CLOCK AT
THE HOME PLACE

TERMS:

One-Third Cash, the Balance in
One and Two Years

Elkin's Newest ELK THEATRE Superior Sound

Thursday, Dec. 19—Matinee and Night—

DOUBLE JOES! DOUBLE LAUGHS!
DOUBLE THRILLS!



Information Please - News — Adm. 10c-30c

Friday-Saturday, Matinee and Night—

MOONLIGHT MELODIES IN RANGELAND RHYTHM!
As Gene brings you a thrill-packed jamboree of new tunes and fast action.



Serial - Leon Errol Comedy - Donald Duck Cartoon
Regular Admission 10c-30c

NOTE: We regret that we were unable to accommodate all the people that wanted to see "Lum & Abner" and for this reason we will bring back this picture within the near future. Watch for the date in The Tribune.

Monday-Tuesday, Matinee and Night—



FRANK CRAVEN • DONALD CRISP • FRANK McHUGH • ARTHUR KENNEDY
An ANATOLE LITVAK Production
Screen Play by John Wesley • From the Novel by Aban Kandel • Music by Alex Steiner

Latest News Events — Admission 10c-30c

Christmas Day, Matinee and Night—



The Jesse Crawfords - Serial— Adm. 10c-15c

Coming Dec. 30-31—

"GRAND OLE OPRY"