

Christmas Play

By Katherine Edelman

THE town hall was wreathed with holly and mistletoe. Bright red bells hung from the old-fashioned chandeliers. Christmas candles sent their soft glow into the night. The whole place cried out welcome to the crowd who thronged through the doors.

By eight o'clock every seat was occupied. Small gossip and murmurs of expectancy ran through the crowd. The little town was proud of the boy who was taking the leading part in the play. They had known Ted Rawlings all their lives. Known him as an easy-going lad, interested in nothing more than fishing and hunting around the country, and later as an astonishingly changed ambitious fellow. No one seemed to understand how the quick transition occurred.

All eyes turned to the stage as the heavy curtain rolled upward. Three hundred pairs of eyes fastened themselves upon the moving, speaking figures. "Isn't Ted wonderful," young girls whispered breathlessly to each other. Between acts, thun-



"Ted, you were perfectly wonderful," Sally was saying.

derous bursts of applause filled the room. Hands clapped with vehemence. Small boys made their approval known by shrill whistling.

Ted carried the audience with him, every step of the way. He seemed to enter, to merge himself completely in the character he portrayed. His make-believe was so intense in the last act, that there was a deep silence for a moment when the final curtain fell.

FOR the time it was no make-believe to Ted. He was living again all the agony of parting, of seeing Sally Howard go away without a word. He had been sure until her train pulled out that she would come and say how sorry she was for the bitter, reproachful words she had hurled at him. Words that had left their mark upon his soul—that had stung him into a mad, ambitious desire to show her what he could do.

He found no real satisfaction in the tumultuous applause that followed. In this hour of his triumph, his heart cried out for Sally. If only she was here! If only she had cared! He scarcely knew what he was saying in answer to the lavish congratulations.

Suddenly small hands pressed tightly around his arm, and a remembered voice spoke in his ear. "Ted, you were perfectly wonderful," Sally was saying, "wonderful, wonderful. I'm so proud—so proud of you."

"But, Sally, I don't understand. I thought you were in New York."

"I was, until last night. I've been keeping track of you. I knew you about the play, and—and the way you have been working lately. I wouldn't have missed this for anything in the world."

"But the things you said, Sally? They hurt—they still do."

"I wanted them to hurt, Ted. I know—I know it was cruel, but there seemed no other way. Someone had to give you the right kind of push to get you going. You know you were really lazy? But now, well, you've really put on speed."

"Nothing like the speed I'm going to show in getting ready for a Christmas wedding. There's just two days left. We've got to make it a really big event. Let's give out the announcement now—while the crowd is still in the hall."

The First Santa Claus

The first Santa Claus was St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, who started mysterious midnight gift-bearing journeys. In the Fourth century he was famous because he was a rich man who enjoyed giving secret gifts to the poor. One of his tricks was to throw purses of gold into cottage windows and run away.

From Europe's Christmas Menu

Take your choice of Christmas eats: Plum pudding in England, Pfeffernüsse in Germany, Vierknack in Denmark, Fatigman's Bakels in Norway, Horse-shoe cake in Hungary, Speculaas in Holland, and Lutsk in Sweden.

Getting a Shoeful in Holland

Not on reindeer but on a white horse, St. Nicholas arrives in some parts of Holland, and instead of looking for stockings he searches for wooden shoes to fill them with gifts.

CHRISTMAS MAIL

● Uncle Sam has a big job this Christmas—he even delivers Santa's mail!



Last year's Holiday mail was the biggest ever handled by the United States postoffice, and this year's will probably be bigger. Cards, childish letters to Santa Claus, carelessly wrapped and addressed packages and the always-present human element of waiting until the last minute complicate the job. First mail to be handled each year is that for foreign countries, shown above being placed aboard a transatlantic liner. Such packages must be mailed early.



Towns bearing Christmasy names like Santa Claus, Bethlehem, Nazareth and Christmas (they're real towns, too) always have a land-office business in re-mailing cards and packages forwarded from all parts of the country. Above, at Bethlehem, Conn., Postmaster Earl S. Johnson stamps the special postmark used last year. It is the shape of a Christmas tree with the words, "Greetings from the Little Town of Bethlehem." He handles about 80,000 pieces of mail each season.



Pity the poor postman at a time like this! Small town postoffices usually add more clerks at the holiday season. In big cities additional mailmen like these are pressed into service. Uncle Sam does a good job of it—just so your cards and gifts will be delivered by Christmas morning!

Plan Songs, Games To Combat Dullness After Heavy Dinner

For that "stuffy" feeling after a heavy Christmas dinner there's nothing better than a few games to clear the atmosphere. Or, for that matter, any of the following:

Get down a few parlor games and get together (in advance) whatever paraphernalia you need for them.

Give charades. For this plan what kind (words, proverbs, etc.) and collect some gadgets or "properties" or sketchy costume material—and do it the day before if not sooner.

Let the children give a little play or a little entertainment of singing carols and reciting.

Give a Christmas pageant or dramatize a Christmas carol. This can be done easily in an informal way.

Have a candlelight procession with singing.

Give a little party or invite a few outside grownups and children in for simple refreshments.

Bethel School News

The December edition of the B. H. S. Booster was circulated on Wednesday, December 20. The staff worked hard to make the second edition of Bethel's school paper an improvement over the first. Each class in the elementary and high schools is being given the opportunity to contribute. New features, which will give the students more opportunity to participate in this activity, will be added to the paper. The Booster has more pages and is more complete in every detail.

A Christmas tree has been erected in the auditorium by a group of high school boys. This tree is beautifully decorated and is to be used in the program Friday at which time the gifts will be exchanged by teachers and students. Some of the classes are displaying beautiful trees in their rooms also.

The fifth grade gave a very beautiful and interesting program last Friday in assembly. The program, which was based on the Christmas theme, was arranged by Miss Harmon, fifth grade teacher. Many favorable comments about the success of the program were made.

The Glee Club is rehearsing a number of Christmas carols which they plan to use in a short Christmas program Friday morning before school is dismissed for the holidays.

The basketball teams from Bethel divided a twin bill with Cove Creek Tuesday night, December 12. Bethel girls were victorious while the Cove Creek boys defeated the Bethel boys. These games were played at Cove Creek.

On Friday night, December 15, Bethel high school girls traveled to Lees-McRae College where they were defeated in a basketball game with Lees-McRae girls by a 19 to 15 score. This was the first defeat for the local girls. On the same date the Bethel boys met Spruce Pine in a game at Bethel. The locals won this game 27-20.

School will be dismissed on Friday of this week for the Christmas holidays, which will last until Tuesday, January 2, 1940. We take this opportunity to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Vassar College has received special funds to finance a study of child behavior and normal personality development.

COVE CREEK HIGH SCOOPS

Band Concert

At the combined band concert-oyster supper program given at Cove Creek high school last Friday evening, \$23.75 was taken in at the gates. This money will be used to aid in paying for instruments purchased last month by the Cove Creek band.

P-T. A.

The Cove Creek chapter of the Parent-Teacher Association met in the auditorium of the Cove Creek high school last Thursday evening, December 14. Teachers and parents were entertained by a program given by students of the grammar grade and high schools. Included in the program were a series of songs and recitals by the members of the first grade, selections by the fourth grade toy orchestra, and student reports and various club activities of the high school. Climaxing the program for the evening was a showing and explanation of old and antique dishes owned by Mrs. A. C. Mast.

Vacation Begins On Dec. 22
A recent announcement from

Prof. S. F. Horton, principal, indicates that Cove Creek high school and grammar schools will close on December 22 for the Christmas vacation. The spring term will begin January 2.

Deep Gap News

Mr. T. J. Sparks of Spruce Pine, has leased the Deep Gap mica mine from Mr. France Watson and has opened it up several feet from the old mine shaft. Mr. Sparks has had much experience in mica mining. He has already taken two truck loads of mica to the market and thinks the mine will yield large lots of mica which is now bringing good prices on world markets.

Deep Gap consolidated school, under the principalship of Prof. Donald Thompson of Boone, has recently had the school grounds landscaped by Mr. W. A. Watson of the Deep Gap nursery.

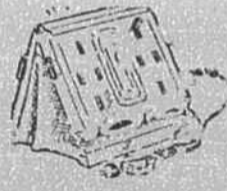
The residence of Mr. Howard S. Steelman is rapidly being erected by Mr. Trivette, local carpenter, who has the job of constructing the building.

Mr. Alex Ray of Deep Gap, was recently married. Mr. Ray was living alone at his home prior to his marriage.

Gift SUGGESTIONS

Choose Gifts for the Home!

Bring Christmas cheer to every home you know, including yours, with practical Electrical Gifts that start the day off right all the year through. Choose those tasteful appliances that mean more comfort, more efficiency. Come to our show rooms today and see our vast array of gift ideas for the home... all exceptionally low priced.



2-Slice Toasters

Start the day off right with good toast, made golden brown on one of these toasters. Designed to give long service and priced at

\$2.95

45c Cash—50c per Month

Electric Percolator

You need never worry about lack of time for preparing breakfast if you use an electric percolator. We have a fine assortment at



\$3.45 and \$7.95

95c Cash—\$1.00 per Month

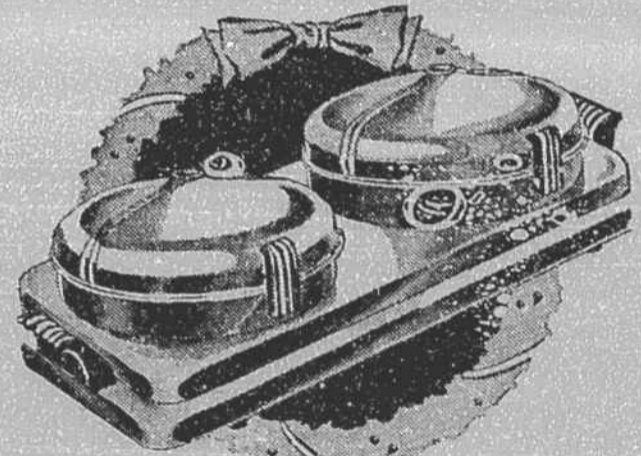


Sandwich Toaster and Grill

with attachable waffle grids. There's not a housewife who wouldn't appreciate this fine appliance, which makes the quick meal an easy task

\$8.45

\$1.00 Cash—\$1.00 a Month



HOT-POINT WAFFLE IRONS

It delivers delicious hot waffles as they are wanted, right at the table. Finished in chromium plate. Cleans easily.

\$4.95 up

50c Cash—\$1.00 per Month

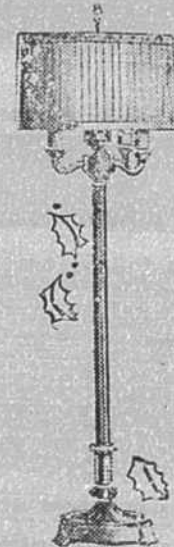


Hot-Point Automatic ELECTRIC IRONS

A wide assortment of these dependable appliances, which lighten house work. Prices are

\$3.95, \$4.95, \$6.95

50c Cash—\$1.00 per Month



6-Way Floor Lamps

A lovely and useful gift for the home, at an amazingly low price. Wide assortment of shades to choose from in floor and table models.

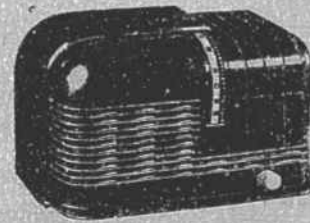
\$1.00 Cash—\$1.00 per Month

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

- NOVELTY LAMPS
- ELECTRIC MIXERS
- ELECTRIC RAZORS
- HOT-POINT RANGES
- SANDWICH GRILLS
- REFRIGERATORS

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Model H-500



Dynamic speaker, 5 G-E Tubes. Drum type dial. Attached antenna. AC-DC operation. Attractive brown plastic cabinet. Ivory and colored finish also available. Only

\$16.95 up

\$1.00 Cash—1.00 Week

New River Light and Power Co.

BOONE, N. C.