

SHOPPING HEAVIEST IN CITY'S HISTORY

Stores Report Big Increase in Christmas Sales Over 1921 High Record

Retail merchants in this city are enjoying what is described by many as the heaviest Christmas shopping season in the city's history.

All the department stores report substantial increases in volume of sales over the 1921 season, which was the largest year to that time. These gains range from 10 per cent up to 25 per cent over the daily figures. Last Saturday is said to have been the largest day, from point of sales, ever witnessed in the central shopping district.

All lines of merchandise are sharing in this activity. But a significant feature is the large sales of household utilities and furnishings and other articles which are described as practical gifts. Purchases of this kind show substantial gains, in some cases amounting to double those of last year.

Christmas goods, such as toys, novelties and small gift articles also are in large demand and storekeepers say there is no tendency on the part of most shoppers to seek the lowest priced merchandise.

Even among luxuries, sales have been running large. Musical instruments and expensive wearing apparel are being bought in larger volume than was the case a year ago, the department stores report. Sales of silk hosiery and other garments have been heavy. Jewelry, however, is running about the same as in 1921.

In explanation of the large business in the retail district, merchants cite the favorable employment conditions which have prevailed in this locality throughout most of the present year and the high rate of wages paid.

There was a large accumulation of savings in Christmas clubs conducted by the banks and by business and manufacturing establishments during the year. These savings amounted to several millions of dollars and have been paid off in the last few weeks. A substantial portion of the total has been used in Christmas buying.

PHILA. SANTA CLAUSES WILL CHEER THOUSANDS

"Angel of Kensington" and "Mother" Moore Busily Engaged in Preparing for Poor Families

Thousands of poor persons in the city will receive not only Christmas baskets and presents in their stockings, but the true happiness and joy of a real Christmas will be brought to them through the efforts of three of Philadelphia's most noted Mrs. Santa Clauses.

"Mother" Moore will provide Christmas cheer for her "boys" in the army, navy and marine corps, and in the service hospitals Mrs. Christopher C. Herron, head of the Philadelphia district of the Volunteers of America, will supervise the distribution of Christmas baskets to 3000 poor persons.

Mrs. M. W. Ketchum, 3068 Frankford avenue, "The Angel of Kensington," will spend all that remains of her income after she has paid for the one modest room where she lives making people happy this Christmas, just as she has done for twenty-seven years.

"Mother" Moore Active

"Mother" Moore is going to buy 100 Christmas trees and place them in various parts of the Navy Yard, in the Navy Yard Hospital, Recreation Center, the Naval Home for Beneficiaries, Hospital No. 49 and in the Philadelphia General Hospital.

Stockings will be given out in Ward 17 of the Naval Hospital Friday. Officers who are ill will be cared for by the Women's Republican Club.

Saturday there will be an entertainment and Christmas party in the stockade and brig.

The party in the Naval Home, Twenty-fourth street and Gray's Ferry road, will take place Sunday. Later there will be carol singing there. From the home the carolers will go to the Navy Yard.

A dinner for about 500 orphans will be given on Sunday at 1 o'clock by the boys of the Navy Yard. An entertainment will follow, in which a 300-pound yoeman will act as Santa Claus.

An entertainment will be provided in the hospital wards Christmas Day.

Festivities After Christmas

Even after Christmas Day the festivities will continue, for on December 26 a big Christmas party will be given in Chaplain D. MacNair's Recreation Center, when every boy in the camps, on the ships, and in the Receiving Station will be given a Christmas gift.

December 27 there will be a vaudeville show in the center. The following day, 100 Boy Scouts will visit the yard through the courtesy of Rear Admiral Nuttall. In the evening there will be a party and dance in the Recreation Center for the boys in Hospital, No. 49.

The children of officers in the Navy Yard will participate in an entertainment to be given on the afternoon of December 30 in the Philadelphia General Hospital. A tree will be erected in the children's ward and each child will receive a gift.

Mrs. Ketchum works all the year round to alleviate the suffering of the poor in Kensington, but at Christmas time she makes a special effort to bring happiness to poor families who are suffering through no fault of their own. The distribution of gifts will be made December 23, from 2 o'clock until midnight.

Turns House Over to Poor

Mrs. Ketchum's brick house has been turned over to the poor in her district and she lives in one room, spending little for food and clothing, and devoting the rest of her income to good works.

Toys for the children, food for ill nourished families and provisions for the "Old Ladies' Christmas Dinner," which is the one happy event of the year for many of the grandmothers who attend it, is what Mrs. Ketchum needs to help her in her work.

STORM HALTS BERENGARIA

Liner Compelled to Stay Off Shore Near Cherbourg

Berengaria, from New York, December 11, for Cherbourg and Southampton, to remain off shore near this port throughout last night to insure her safety. Passengers for Cherbourg were landed this morning.

Major General George H. Harries and Mrs. Harries, who wished to board the Berengaria on their way to London, ventured out at midnight during the height of the storm on board a French admiralty cutter. The trip was a dangerous one, the cutter being badly buffeted, but she finally made the Berengaria safely and placed General and Mrs. Harries on board.

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NEWEST PATTERNS IN ENGINE TURNING WITH PLATINUM OVERLAY, OTHERS WITH DIAMONDS	
CIGARETTE CASES	\$13—\$235
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BAR PINS	\$5—\$75
GREEN GOLD AND GOLD WITH PLATINUM OVERLAY, SET WITH PEARLS, TOURMALINES, SAPPHIRES AND DIAMONDS	
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OF THE LATEST DESIGNS. PLATINUM COVERED OTHERS OF GREEN GOLD CHASED	
EVENING DRESS SETS	\$20—\$85
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RINGS	BAR PINS	BROOCHES
\$90-\$5000	\$125-\$2500	\$200-\$1300
WRIST WATCHES \$275-\$850		

CRIPPLES ACCLAIM LINCOLN AS GREATEST OF AMERICANS

"Atta Baby, Abe," Is Expressive, if Unconventional, Compliment Voiced by Young Enthusiast at Academy Performance

How worshippers, with little twisted bodies, sat in rapt attention in the Academy of Music yesterday afternoon and watched a special children's performance of John Drinkwater's "Abraham Lincoln."

Accompanied places of honor in the program boxes. Fifty of these crippled boys and girls were brought from the Widener Memorial School as guests of Edward Bok. For three hours they drank in the simple, great story of Abraham Lincoln. Little crutches, staked and forgotten in the corner of the boxes, their faces alight and their boy and girl hearts thrilling.

It was a great afternoon with Frank McGlynn playing as he had promised to play—the very best he could. These little cripples were not the only guests in attendance at the first of the series of five entertainments for children at the Academy. In more seats of honor in the first rows of the balcony sat children especially invited. Sometimes it seemed as though Mr. McGlynn was saying his lines particularly clearly just for them. They were blind children. These sightless boys and girls, from the Georbrook Asylum for the Blind, sat motionless lest they miss a word.

It was down in the boxes during the intermission that one first sensed the straining of allegiance on this subject of who is the greatest American hero.

Perhaps Paul Holstead, the smallest attendant of them all, started it. It was Paul whom Mr. McGlynn took by the hand and with whom he had his picture taken just before the performance. What could Paul, who is about seven, do in these circumstances but declare himself for Abraham Lincoln? It was Paul, who, during that breathless moment when the great President was about to free the country sentenced to be shot, whispered out on the darkened house, "Atta baby, Abe!"

When the big, beautiful red velvet curtains were pulled across the stage and the lights went on, Isabella Walslock came out frankly with her opinion.

"I always did like Abraham Lincoln best anyway!" It was hard to believe they were Isabella's crutches leaning over there against the upholstery! Her bright eyes shone and her blond hair tossed. "I think that part about where they're winning's just great. Don't you?"



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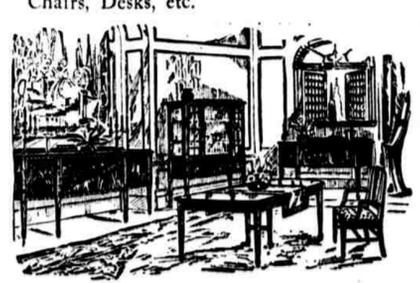
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