JEAN ELIOT'S WEEKLY CHRONICLE OF CAPITAL SOCIETY

Social Realm Is Ready For 'Merry Xmas'

MERRY CHRISTMAS! Here it is upon us and from all indications it will be a truly merry Christmas in Washington. The clans are gathering rapidly, every train into town brings its happy freight of girls and boys let loose from school or college for their holidays and from the time they arrive until they return to their books every moment will be taken up.

While there are no end of parties especially for the sub-deb, they will also be included in many of the parties for the debutantes and will even have a preliminary taste, some of them, of the more official functions on calendar.

The "advertisement ball" for the benefit of Noel House on Wednesday evening, the Junior League's Christmas dance on Thursday, the annual Christmas night ball for the Children's Country Home—always one of the smartest functions of the year—Miss Anne Hight's coming out dance on Christmas Eve, Miss Elinor Wheeler's dance, Miss Adeline Oxnard's dance, the fancy dress ball which Mrs. James W. Wadsworth, jr., and Mrs. Henry M. Hoyt are giving jointly for Miss Evelyn Wadsworth and Miss Nancy Hoyt—there you have just a sample of the festivities which will make the Christmas season memorable. In addition, of course, there will be some official dinners, although the official season doesn't really commence until January.

HOUSE PARTIES RULE FOR HOLIDAY SEASON.

House parties are the rule at this season, with the White House leading the way. The President and Mrs. Wilson are to have Miss Margaret Wilson with them and possible either the Sayres or the McAdoos—or both—and if they come the great rooms of the Executive Mansion will resound to the patter of little feet—for the Sayres have two kiddies and the McAdoos two—and the great House Christmas tree will not be decked out in vain.

Somehow there is almost always a White House baby to give a fillip of interest to Yuletide festivities. In the early days of President Wilson's administration, it was little Josephine Cothran, daughter of the President's niece, who used to come a visiting here. Then the Sayre babies came along and the McAdoo children and one or more of them has been at the White House each Christmas, even last year when President Wilson was so ill and anxiety hung over the White House household like a pall.

The "family dinner party" on Christmas Day—and it is a feature of every holiday at the White House—will undoubtedly include Mrs. Wilson's mother and some of her brothers and sisters. And her nieces, the Misses Lucy and Anne Maury, have already arrived to stay at the White House through their holidays.

When Mrs. Wilson first became Mrs. Wilson—fancy that was five years ago—her little niece, then just letting down their knee length skirts—nowadays they'd probably be puttin 'em up instead of letting 'em down—were spoken of as potential White House debutantes. The President's illness prevented anything of that sort and, moreover, the Wilsons will be out of the White House before the Maury girls are out of school. But the girls have made occasional visits to their aunt, and have tasted of the sweets of staying at the White House. Miss Lucy Maury was here for Thanksgiving.

If the McAdoos and the Sayres don't come for Christmas, at any rate the President's family circle is likely to be complete at New Year, for both Mrs. Sayre and Mrs. McAdoo—and Miss Wilson as well—expect to be here for the marriage on December 28 of their cousin, Miss Marjorie Brown, and Benjamin King, of New York.

Yesterday the President and Mrs. Wilson celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary, the last they will spend in the White House—and what a five years it has been! Mrs. Wilson has known service and sorrow, for the President's long siege of ill health has naturally been a great sorrow to her, and certainly she has been devoted in her service to him. But she has known glory as well, has hobnobbed familiarly with the great ones of the earth, and her word has had weight in the affairs of State—witness the friendly but firm little notes signed "B. B. W." which have been handed out to Cabinet officers and other officials upon occasion.

It seems but yesterday that the President was married to Mrs. Norman Galt and their names stared at one from the front pages of the papers, and the fact that Mrs. Galt selected to be married in a black velvet gown was commented upon, and the wedding presents were described at length—more or less accurately—and a half column was devoted to the startling fact that a black cat had crossed the street in front of the bride's house. Yet since that time the great war has been fought and the face of the world made over.

I remember every detail of that wedding day, how cold it was and windy, and how the crowd in front of the bride's house shivered and shook. Yes, I'll admit I was there myself, but I didn't last long and after a few minutes in the biting air I was quite content to go home and to read in the papers the next morning that President Wilson and his bride had gone to White Sulphur Springs for their honeymoon. They occupied the very suite where the Prince of Wales was put up on his historic visit last year, if I mistake not.

LAST YEAR FAMILY SCATTERED FAR.

That year only the staff of employes "made Christmas" at the White House, for the family was scattered and the President and Mrs. Wilson didn't return to Washington until the New Year, just in time for her to make her debut as Mistress of the White House at the great reception given by the President for the delegates to the Pan-American Congress then in session here.

Now the little house in Twentieth street in which Mrs. Galt lived for a number of years and where the President went a courting, is the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. Lee Phillips. And the President and Mrs. Wilson have just purchased the beautiful big house at 2340 S street, belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Henry P. Fairbanks, where they expect to make their home after March 4. It's a charming place, well arranged for entertaining and yet perfectly designed for a home, with a love of a formal garden at the back, which is terraced down toward Decatur street and ends in an ornamental brick wall.

DISAPPOINTS JOURNALISTS PRONE TO GUESS WORK.

It's pleasant to have the definite assurance that the Wilsons are to remain on in Washington after the President's retirement from public life. But what else the newspapers going to do now that they no longer life. But what are the newspapers future plans to dilate upon? It's been rather amusing to note the number and diversity of the homes which Dame Rumor has selected for President Wilson—first the old Nourse place in Georgetown, which Rear Admiral Cary T. Grayson purchased some time ago and which the public insisted upon assigning to the President despite the Graysons' statement that they expected to occupy the house themselves when they could put it in order without having the alterations cost them more than the original price of the place.

The Oaks, the beautiful old Blount estate in Georgetown, was also spoken of and the Harry Bouies' place out on the Rockville road. And just before it was announced that the deal had been closed I heard a rumor that Mrs. Wilson was trying very hard to buy the new house in or on the edge of Georgetown which the Ernest Walkers are building, but that Mrs. Walker did not want to sell.

Although the Wilsons did not finally elect to live in Georgetown, as in spite of many predictions, the old city which likes to remind Washington that it is the verriest upstart and to boast that it never was a boom town, seems to be undergoing right now something closely akin to a boom. The official world naturally "discovered" Georgetown when the Secretary of War and Mrs. Baker went to live there some five years ago—in May, and Mrs. W. E. P. French's lovely old house in N street. Then the Robert Todd Lincolns bought a handsome and historic old mansion just over the way. The John L. Newbolds bought one of the old houses across Rock Creek from Washington and, when the Q street bridge was built and the street cut through, proceeded to pick it up bodily and move it out of harm's way. It is now occupied by the Chargé d'Affaires of Italy and Mme. Brambilla, with her mother, Mrs. George von Lengerke Meyer, and all the social world finds its way to their door.

The F. B. Duehays now own Evermay, one of the loveliest of the old Georgetown homes, which Mr. and Mrs. William B. Orme occupied for nearly twenty years. The Ward Browns bought two charming old homes in the same neighborhood, renovated and remodeled them, and keep them rented or live in which ever one happens not to be let. Goodes and Mrs. Claude Mayo have recently taken possession of a house in O street, which they have made into the most delightful of homes. And just recently Mr. and Mrs. Warren Delano Robbins have purchased the old Dodge house, where the Carcassone, most delightful and original of the houses, was established for a long time, and will do it up and restore it to its original beauty with a view to making it their permanent home. The house abuts on the garden of Mrs. Hare Lippincot's house, also a quaint old-time Georgetown mansion brought up to date, so far as comfort is concerned, with all the "atmosphere" preserved.

CHRISTMAS PLANS OF WASHINGTON NOTABLES.

But I have digressed as usual, for what I started out to write about was Christmas plans and parties. Mrs. Bainbridge Colby and her three girls will spend a rather quiet Christmas, as the Secretary is in South America. The Houstons—the Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Houston—will have a little celebration for their children Lawrence and Helen, but are undertaking nothing else, as they will soon be in the throes of moving. They have sublet a little house in Sixteenth street, furnished, and expect to be moved and settled, with their own household goods in storage, by January 1. The Secretary of War and Mrs. Baker rather expect to have her father and brother with them, but that is as yet undecided. For the rest, Christmas is always a children's festival with them, although Bert and Jack Baker have almost grown out of childhood.

The Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Daniels will have their usual Christmas house party—their four sons. All of the boys will be with them for the day—and doubtless Mrs. Daniels' mother and sisters as well—and each will stay as long as his duties in college or in business permit. The Attorney General and Mrs. Palmer are making no plans, as they are living from day to day on account of the continued illness of her father, Robert Dixon. However, Mrs. Palmer is one of a large and clannish connection and there is almost always a family dinner on Christmas Day either at her house or at the home of one of her sisters.

MARSHALLS HAVE SPENT VERY ACTIVE WEEK.

The Vice President and Mrs. Marshall will spend Christmas out of Washington, but not at their home in Indianapolis, as they would like. They will be "somewhere in Pennsylvania," where the Vice President is scheduled to make an address, returning the early part of next week.

The Marshalls have had a busy week, attending the Monday Everglades Club's banquet on Tuesday, dining with the Secretary of Agriculture and Mrs. Meredith on Thursday, and last night with Senator Walter Edge and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Sara Lee Phips, who is his hostess. They had a distinguished little company to meet as guests of honor.

On Tuesday Mrs. Marshall presided at the regular meeting of the Ladies of the Senate—to which she is very faithful. It was their last meeting until after the holidays—and was made notable by the reading of what one Senator's wife described as a "perfectly beautiful" letter from Mrs. Harding. This was in lieu of the speech that they had tried to get out of her the week before, when their first meeting of the winter had been turned to a picnic luncheon in honor of the prospective First Lady, on that occasion Mrs. Harding had begged off on the ground that she was too full for utterance.

The Congressional Club had its second meeting of this season at its club house on New Hampshire avenue, on Friday afternoon. It was a particularly picturesque party, of which the feature was the ceremonial presentation to the club of the different State flags. Realizing that it would be rather a long drawn out affair they started in an hour earlier than usual—at 3 o'clock instead of 4. And at that, some dinners were kept waiting.

The club opened its season in its usual hospitable fashion with a reception to which the wives of all Senators and members of Congress were invited—you know all the Congressional women are eligible for membership but not all are members—and not only was it the pleasantest sort of a party, but the ice was broken for many of the newcomers to Washington. The Congressional Club is playing a more and more important part in the social life of the Capital, helping to solve the hideous

(Continued on Page 21.)

UNDERWOOD & UNDERWOOD

MRS. ROBERT McCLANAHAN ALLEN, Formerly Miss Augusta Glass, who is the daughter of Senator and Mrs. Carter Glass.

HARRIS & EWING

MISS JANE GREGORY, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Watt Gregory, whose engagement to George Stuart Heyer, of Texas, has been announced.

IRA HILL

MRS. HENRY GETTY CHILTON, Whose husband, once secretary of the British embassy, will return shortly as counselor.

HARRIS & EWING

MRS. EDWARD GARRETT RIDDICK, Formerly Miss Marie Sims, daughter of Congressman and Mrs. Thetus W. Sims.

MME. LORINDA MARCHETTI, Of Paris, who is visiting Mme. Coquelet in Washington and is being continuously entertained.

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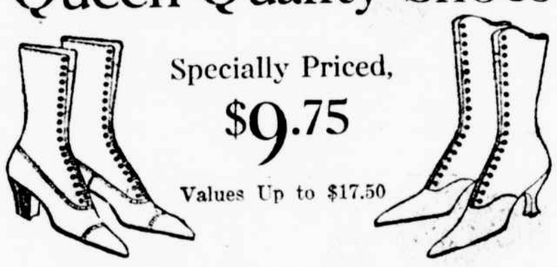

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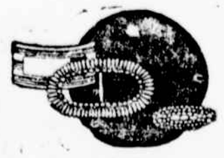

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