

The Durant Weekly News
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CHRISTMAS AND THE COMMUNITY

What is the Christmas spirit? It prompts giving what? To whom? What for? Did you ever ponder these questions?

Is it good Christian spirit to give presents mainly or only to those who you know, will give in return, expensive gifts to those who give expensive gifts and cheap gifts to those who give cheap gifts? Is Christmas a loose kind of barter, when people exchange goods without haggling in advance over the price, waiting to grumble over the bargain afterwards?

Is Christmas properly an occasion when selfish children are loaded down with toys and other gifts with the result that they become more selfish still?

Did you ever consider the enormous wastes of Christmas? Not the extravagance of love, for no expression of sincere love is really extravagant, however costly the gift. But the tons and tons of useless articles which people bored almost to death by shopping feel it necessary to give to people who do not want what is given them?

Are you ever disturbed by the hundred and one abuses of the Christmas festival, the insipid frivolities, the gross feasting, the reckless throwing away of money upon what benefits nobody and injures multitudes?

Would it not be good for all of us to think again what Christmas is for? It was prompted by the life and teachings of one who had little to give anybody, measured in dollars and cents, or the coin of any realm. It began with the giving of a life the whole life.

It was not limited to a narrow circle of friends who were sure to pay back in kind all that was given. It was prompted by a desire to benefit all, to serve the common good, to include humanity in the common good, to include humanity in the commonwealth.

Ought we not to rededicate Christmas as the great community festival and make good citizenship its highest joy and richest reward?

SMALL BANK DEPOSITS

It is sound advice that Secretary Mellon of the treasury has been giving to banks on the subject of small deposits. It is a mistake, he says for banking institutions to refuse to accept accounts of less than \$100, as many do, particularly in the large cities.

The secretary speaks from experience. The problem was threshed out in his own bank in Pittsburgh. It was proven that the small accounts were desirable, because they cost little to handle over and above the inevitable overhead expense, and because while they showed no profit in themselves, many of them grew into large and profitable accounts.

The matter is worth considering, too, from the other side. Many a potential depositor refrains from opening a checking or savings account because he thinks it isn't worth while with the little money he has available at the time. It is very much worth while to start an account, however humbly, because of what it may grow into when the banking habit is formed.

HARNESSING THE FLOODS

Engineers are studying plans for damming the tributaries of the lower Mississippi on a sufficiently huge scale to hold flood waters and provide electric power for the surrounding areas.

It is believed that a system can be worked out by which the waters of both the tributaries and the main stream can be controlled at all seasons and the annual flood damage reduced to minimum.

People in the regions of the south most effected by the floods have a lively interest in these plans. If the force which year after year lays waste to their fields and towns could be harnessed and made to furnish electric power, it would mean all the difference between having a friendly constructive force for a neighbor and having a hostile, destructive one.

Building levees merely for the purpose of holding the streams in their banks is a passive solution of the difficulty in which the people work for the rivers. Under the new scheme the rivers would work for the people.

THE PRICE OF PLATINUM

Demand for platinum, from jewelers and manufacturers of radio equipment, forces the price up steadily, and every increase stimulates the importing of this increasingly popular precious metal.

A year ago an ounce could be had for \$80. Last week the price was \$112, and there is no guessing where it will go if weddings continue popular.

Columbia, now the largest producer, is running 50 per cent ahead of last year, and the high prices have brought a steady flow of the metal from Russia sources, via Estonia, Sweden, France and England.

Platinum, it appears, is here to stay and price reduction seems out of the question. These last years have made it a necessity rather than a fad.

OUR GREATEST DANGERS

That must have been a tremendous earthquake in the South Pacific, from the evidence still coming in from Chile. It battered a thousand miles of coast with mountainous waves, smashing shipping and docks and low lying towns, in addition to the destruction wrought by the earth movements themselves.

There were at least 1,500 people killed and the property damage will run into tens of millions of dollars. And when all is said and done, the loss in human life and property together will be far less than the damage from any one of dozens of battles fought in the recent war.

Nature in its worst moods is destructive enough, but man himself is incomparably more destructive. Man is a worse enemy to man than fire, storm or earthquake.

Only one thing is more deadly to the human race than its own violence. That is the invisible and unconquered army of disease germs.

THE PRICE OF OLD AGE

Tannous Karen has just celebrated his one hundred and fifteenth birthday at his home, Mt. Lebanon, Syria. Writing to his grandson in Boston he gives these reasons why he has managed to cheat the grave since 1808.

"I have always been an enemy of strong drink. I did not watch the stars and I did not overtrain my vital organs. The conscience and heart should be kept free from worry. Don't eat too much meat, but use plenty of vegetables."

This is a plausible, logical formula, but the average American will probably consider the price too high.

NEW EUROPEAN RUMOR

Now comes a rumor of an alliance between Russia and Germany, the object being to wage war of revenge against European countries, and especially France.

It may be true, and it may be merely another false alarm.

So many strange rumors have come out of Europe during the past few years that nothing startles now. It will take action of some kind by somebody to attract attention.

OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM

In 1892 a Chicago man sued another for \$500. The case dragged along for years, the litigants spending over \$10,000 in appealing to the higher courts, or twenty times the amount at stake.

A judge has recently dismissed the suit, which leaves it still unsettled. Both litigants are dead. So is one of the original lawyers. No one is certain now what the bone of contention was at the start. Some think it was a dispute about a piano.

Something is wrong with a legal system that will permit the spending of \$10,000 to determine the ownership of \$500.

THE END OF A CASE

The end, for the present at least, of a famous murder case found members of the grand jury applauding their own refusal to indict anybody. The Rev. Dr. Hall was found murdered, a woman leader of the choir beside him. She had been shot to death and her throat cut after she was dead.

A woman testified that she saw the murder committed and named the accused. There was clear evidence of a motive in the case, if jealousy is a motive.

There will probably never be any trial. The applauding grand jurors make it certain that under certain conditions, the public generally approves of murder.

NEW AIRPLANE STUNT

Staid and blase New Yorkers who say nothing new can thrill them stood the other day with their heads thrown back as they watched a sky pilot with a message.

A small black dot shot about over the Hudson river, spelling out a long tail of sky writing. The dot was an airplane equipped for writing with "ink" of white vapor against the blue background of the skies. Its pilot was Capt. Cyril Turner.

Sailing a mile high, Captain Turner spelled out the letters: "Hello, U. S. A." that were four miles long. The letters remained visible for 15 minutes.

The chemical preparations and devices in the writings were devised by Major Jack Savage of London. The vapor passed through a jet at the end of the machine and was controlled by levers. Eight million cubic feet of smoke were used in each letter.

FEAR

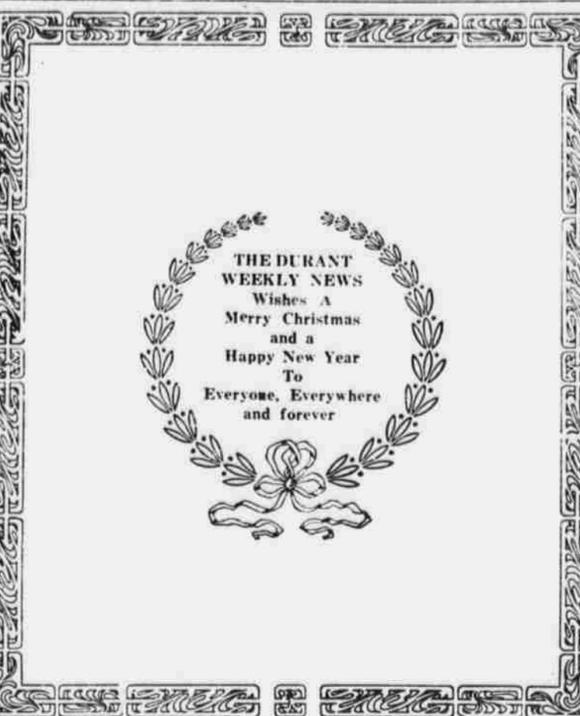
Alfred Drieu, a Frenchman, feared he had cancer of the stomach. The fear became an obsession. To cure himself, he began rigid dieting.

Now he is dead. The autopsy revealed that he had no cancer, and that death was due to starvation. Getting back of that, his death was due to fear—to imagination.

Fear, a mental illness, is one of the deadliest diseases. Most of our ills are purely imaginary.

AIM OF EDUCATION

Education that fails to fit men and women to play an intelligent, commanding part as sovereign citizens in a great industrial and political world fails of what must in this day be its prime purpose. It is not enough to have understanding and good education among a few; what we require is good understanding and good education en masse. We must in the mass understand the problems with which we must deal as a democratic people. We can advance and develop democracy but little faster than we can advance and develop the average level of intelligence and knowledge within the democracy. That is the problem that confronts modern educators. That is the problem that confronts democracy itself.—Samuel Gompers.



THE GREEK IDEA

The new Greek government has put to death several officials who had charge of the campaign against the Turks, claiming that these officials were false to their duty to the country and the army and permitted the army to be wiped out when it could have been avoided.

There has been a great protest from many quarters, but many people will endorse the action that has been taken.

If it were the rule to put to death government officials who fail in their duty, there would be better government in every country in the world.

LONDON BURGLARS

Daring cracksmen burglarized the London headquarters of Scotland Yard, the world's most famous organization of detectives.

They carried away many fur coats, fancy umbrellas and pieces of jewelry from the Lost Property Office, where missing articles are held for identification by their owners.

A London newspaper, with a nasty sense of humor, hints that the "Yard" may take out insurance policies to protect the personal property of the detectives.

This should get a chuckle out of American police, chafing under criticism.

The best way to get around a hard-boiled chap is to soft soap him.

And speaking of bachelors, the older they get the harder they fall.

Another good thing about Christmas is that it comes but once a year.

The rule in Europe seems to be that a new beggar is born every minute.

These new Turkish cigarettes may be useful to neutralize the scent of that kind of pipes.

Pancho Villa has again won the respect of the world. He has refused to write his memoirs.

The automobile driver who crashes into a telegraph pole always claims that he blew his horn.

But what do you suppose would happen if the moving picture operators would go on strike?

There is a growing belief that Europe will be saved in spite of all these fool efforts to save her.

If you haven't bought enough German marks to last you through the winter, they are very cheap now.

When a politician tells us he is on the fence on the prohibition question he means he is on the other side.

Anyhow, Clemenceau knows what he is talking about, and that is more than can be said of some other people.

The ex-kaiser's bride says she loves him more than anybody does. She don't know how much he loves himself.

Ambassador Harvey has made another speech, but don't suppose anybody read anything except the headlines.

This new third party might attract more attention if it were not for the suspicion that its bank account is not very large.

There is no more moonshine. The kind of stuff that is being sold now is made in a damp cellar in the dark of the moon.

Greece evicted her discredited politicians by legal methods, while in Germany and Russia they were simply assassinated.

A San Francisco couple got married within half an hour after their first meeting, and the man thinks he did all the wooing.

The ex-service men will be astonished if congress passes a ship subsidy bill after being unable to find money for a soldier's bonus.

The Greek precedent of executing officials who lost a war may tend to make future wars improbable, and that is something gained.

THE OFFICE CAT

"A school paper is a great invention," says Bill Spivens. "The school gets all the fame, the printer gets all the money and the staff gets all the blame."

NO TIME
Old man: One should always practice what one preaches.
New man: Yes; but often a man puts in so much time preaching that he has none left for practice.

Hey, Bill! What is it?
Your doctor's out here with a flat tire.
Diagnose the case as flatulency of the perimeter, and charge him accordingly, ordered the garage man. That's the way he does biz.

Bill Spivens says most of the people who keep on expecting the worst fail utterly to grasp the significance of the present.

I ain't never doubted Pa's love since the day we was married, says Aunt Het, but I know enough concerning the carnal nature of men folks to thank God I'm a good cook.

Bill Spivens says all roads lead to jail if you drive fast enough.

The other day Attorney General Daugherty said that President Harding would be renominated. But a more timely matter, according to Bill Spivens is whether or not Daugherty will be retained.

Minutes are precious little moments—
Many things can be done,
Takes just a minute to ring out—
So don't run.
Just a minute to be hired,
Only a minute to be fired,
Just a minute to be polite,
Only a minute to do right,
Just a minute to take care—
Only a minute to cross o'er there,
Just minutes make up the days
Only the honest minutes pays
Just a minute is worth while
Only a minute—smile, smile, smile.

Bill Spivens says the public is the one big political boss of this great country.

Why do they say a bride is "led" to the altar? Did you ever see a bride pulling back?

THE QUALITY OF MERCY
"Dearest, I must marry you—"
"Have you seen father?"
"Often, honey, but I love you just the same."

THE WICKED WORM
Cuthbert had been listening for half an hour to a lecture from his father on the evils of late nights and late risings in the morning.

"You will never amount to anything," said the father, "unless you turn over a new leaf. Remember, it's the early bird that catches the worm."

"Ha, Ha!" laughed Cuthbert. "How about the worm? What did he get for turning out so early?"

"My son," replied the father, "that worm hadn't been to bed all night; he was on his way home."

Personally we have an idea that the longer skirts won't be much worn until some of the shorter ones are worn out.

THREE HELD OVER CADDO BANK ROBBERY

Continued from page one

spare tires on the rear. The robbery was the boldest yet recorded in the annals of Oklahoma crime.

Frank Semple, president of the bank told a story of the affair to a representative of this paper, substantially as follows:

The bank opened at the usual hour, and all forces were busy waiting on customers, seven of whom were in the bank at the time. Mr. Semple had his back to the lobby and his first intimation of a holdup was a customer upon whom he was waiting cried out, "Look, Frank," when he turned around to face a gun and to hear the crisp command, "Well, stick 'em up," which he proceeded to do and realized that the bank was being robbed. The men had evidently come in the back door, that is three of them did, while the car and the fourth man remained outside. Mr. Semple and the customers, upon whom he was waiting in his office at the front of the bank and outside the cages, were herded down the corridor to the rear of the bank, there one bandit stood guard over them and one more bank employee and seven customers in the building at the time. A second bandit covered the employees inside the cage, while a third calmly gathered up every bit of currency, silver, gold and Liberty Bonds in sight, entered the vault, opened the safe, cleaning its contents out and into his sack. Finished with the task the bandits locked all employees, and customers into the vault, left the building and sped away.

The bank's officers and employees were Mr. Semple, president, Mr. Maytubby, Mr. Whit, Mr. Carraway, Mrs. L. M. Wood, stenographer and Miss Frances Swartz, bookkeeper. The bandit who seemed to boss the gang was loath to lock the two ladies in the vault, and asked them if they would give the alarm if they were spared the ordeal of being locked up. Being silent when the question was asked, they two were hustled into the vault and the door locked.

Inside the vault is a telephone for such emergencies. Immediately after the vault door closed, a call was made to the telephone central of what had happened, and the operator stuck her head out of the window and alarmed the town, and sent help to the imprisoned people, fourteen in all, who released the prisoners upon directions given them by the prisoners.

Mr. Semple says that the bandits apparently made little attempt at disguise. Of these entering the bank, one of them had his face smeared with black, the other two were not disguised at all, and none were recognized by any of the persons in the bank at the time of the hold up. They were dressed after the manner

of farmers Mr. Semple says, but this is believed to have been in itself a disguise, as the men acted as calm and composed as if they had entered the bank on ordinary legitimate business. Just before locking the vault door, one of them asked the assistant cashier how to get out of the building to the front, and was given the information.

Complete check of the loss reveals that the bandits got away with \$23,000 in Liberty bonds, which had been left in the bank vault for safe keeping by the bank's customers. They also gathered up every cent of cash in the teller's drawers and in the safe in the vault, amounting to \$3,700 in round members.

The loss of the bank and its customers is fully covered by insurance. The entire population of the town was said to be in a state of great excitement after the robbery, the boldness with which it was executed literally taking the people's breath.

It is believed that the robbers drove east to Cade, thence south to Boswell, hoping to reach the latter place and get rid of their car before Boswell could have learned of the affair. On the other hand, they may have driven right on east, secreted the car and cash somewhere in the hills, changed their clothing and might right now be lying low until they see a chance to escape with the money.

The sheriff's office here was notified as soon as the victims were released from the vault, and Sheriff Taylor and every available deputy hurried to the scene. Officers at every town with telephone connections for miles around has been notified of the robbery and by this time, probably hundreds of officers and thousands of citizen possemen are on the lookout for suspicious persons.

MUNICIPAL CHRISTMAS TREE GRACES INTERSECTION

The prettiest municipal Christmas tree Durant has ever erected now graces the intersection of Main street and Third avenue, where lighted by countless small multicolored electric bulbs, it makes a beautiful sight after darkness falls. The tree was procured by Frank Dyer, the work of erecting the platform on which it stands was done by Carl Hallmark and the Consumers Light & Power Company is furnishing the juice for the lighting.

HERE FROM ARKANSAS

E. G. Cole of Rogers, Arkansas is here to spend Christmas with his daughter, Mrs. W. B. Stone and family. Mr. Stone has been quite sick at his home on North Fourth for the past week, but is much improved and able to sit up in his bed now. He had a touch of pneumonia, or almost had it.

NORTH AMERICAN LIGHT & POWER COMPANY

Preferred Dividend No. 27

At the meeting of the Board of Directors December 6, 1922 a quarterly dividend of One Dollar Seventy-five cents (\$1.75) per share on the preferred stock of the Company was declared payable January 1, 1923 to stockholders of record at the close of business December 20, 1922.

P. C. DINGS, Treasurer.

Merry Christmas
May your gifts be many, yet not exceeded by a single remembrance of the friends that you hold "True Blue"
HILTBRAND-STATON Co.
The best Apparel under the Sun at the Most Reasonable Prices

THE RED CROSS SUPPLEMENTS GOVERNMENT SERVICE BY MEETING THE PARTICULAR NEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL EX-SERVICE MAN. THIS WORK CANNOT GO ON UNLESS YOU SUPPORT IT WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP DOLLAR PAY UP TODAY