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WORCESTER DEMOCRAT

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"Chirps" from the Democrat's Pen

Well, Sir, I don't know whether it was Santa Claus or not that arrived just a little bit ahead of time or not, but if it were, then somebody played a joke on him, and put into his bag a lot of bad luck, in the way of zero weather, frozen and burst water pipes, and general disorder in many households in and around this neck of the woods.

I was wondering if he hadn't slept somewhere near that enemy of creation—Der Fuhrer—and this gentleman had exchanged some of the good will Christmas goods for some of the Devil's own manufactured trouble makers. Anyhow, this sudden descent of cold weather, unknown here for decades, caused lots of argument as to the fitness of that word, "Merry", which seems to be inseparable from the word "Christmas." I know this, I've heard some rather doubtful exclamations when water was seen seeping through a ceiling, and forming itself into pleasant little pools on the parlor carpet.

Still, it's a big job to smother entirely the Christmas spirit. There is still enough left, even in the hearts and minds of those whose smile is lost when viewing the havoc of Jack Frost to rejoice that this side of the world is still lable to feel something merry in this most important of all church festivals.

Weather severities we experience are but trifle when compared to those which bite and chill, even unto death, quite frequently, the warring hosts treading the frozen, snow covered wastes of colossal Russia. Whether they be Soviet or Nazi, they must share one's pity; human beings that, it may be, are totally unaware of the cause of the war, are dying by thousands as the Christmas season is heralded, the watchword of which is "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men." What a miscarriage of the true meaning of this holiday time!

True it is, that we Americans are experiencing some of the horrors of the terrible carnage; experiencing it in both a material and an immaterial way. Our resources are being drawn upon to an extent never before known. We are called upon to practice unusual sacrifices; we are placed in jeopardy, some of us, as to our sources of material sustenance, and many a business has gone on the rocks because of governmental demands. In the expenditure of billions, some greed must exist, even in the face of national disaster; taxes which may finally swamp hundreds, go into the pockets of war exploiters, and it may be that we shall become, in time, a people of millionaires and paupers.

Then, again, what heartaches rend our souls when the call of war summons the fathers, brothers, sons, and sweethearts into the line of battle. Those left behind are bowed with such grief as belittles material loss; when scenes like Pearl Harbor are flashed on the screen; when transports laden with human souls become the prey of under-sea craft; when some miraculous conqueror of the air swoops down upon surface ships sending hundreds to a watery grave—these are deeds that wrack the souls of those left behind, and make sordid losses of concrete stuff sink in insignificance. A mammoth steel and iron fighter on the seas, is cheap beside the life of the American soldier, and the spiritual woe far outweighs the stress of war when applied to mere shot and shell.

Still, there is consolation in the fact that a great political issue is being debated in Continental Europe—Democracy against Autocracy; Freedom against Servitude; Brotherhood of Man against the Tyranny of Despots; Christianity against Paganism; Honor and Virtue of Women against Debauchery; Peace against War—and, withal, a world worth living in, instead of one seething with woes and turmoil.

It is to be hoped that before another Christmas season rolls around, the clouds of war will have been dispersed, the dove of peace will be perched upon the banners of the universe, and all nations can rejoice that "Peace upon Earth and Goodwill to Men" is a fact and not a myth.

ZERO WEATHER STRUCK THIS VICINITY SUNDAY

Cold weather, the like of which seldom visits these parts, swooped down on Sunday night and from various reports the thermometers showed zero weather, ranging from 2 to 8 below zero.

Much of the Eastern seaboard was included in the cold spell. Philadelphia papers announced the coldest 20th of December in 57 years.

The freeze-up following the drop in temperature, caused much inconvenience to householders. Plumbers were in demand more than could be supplied and many pipes are still not giving up the much needed water.

A two to four inch snow accompanied the spell and it looked as if this community was in for a white Christmas. At this writing, the usual thaw has materialized and the streets are muddy slush instead of pure white element.

DOMINO AND CARD PARTY IS HELD ON FRIDAY NIGHT

About \$50.00 Raised By Woman's Club Of The County, As Donation To C. Guard

Over one hundred persons assembled in the new fire engine house, on Friday evening last, to attend a domino and card party, sponsored by the Women's Club of Worcester County, and brought to a successful issue here by local members of the club under the leadership of Mrs. Hartley Stevens, Sr.

The proceeds, which amounted to about \$50.00 were donated to the project of a Recreation Centre for the members of the Coast Guard at Ocean City. The prizes were given by the citizens of Pocomoke, and these were supplimented by individual cash gifts.

The function, which was most successful, both financially and socially, was brought to a close by a prayer and benediction by Rev. H. V. Clary, rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, this city. This clergyman, a member of the American Legion and a veteran of World War I, knows the meaning of clash arms, and his invocation was a very effective plea for the safety and support of those on the land, in the air, and on the sea, in foreign climes; and for those defending the home fronts.

The Women's Club should be heartily commended for their patriotic services in behalf of the Coast Guard.

MR. AND MRS. SCOTT'S DAUGHTER IS ENGAGED

Mr. and Mrs. Dewey L. Scott, of this city, announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary Frances, to Mr. Linwood Francis Stant, son of Mrs. Nias Stant, also of this city, and the late Mr. Stant.

Miss Scott was a graduate of Pocomoke High School this year and is employed as secretary to Dr. A. A. Parker. Mr. Stant was graduated in 1938 and has since been employed by E. I. DuPont de Nemours and Company, at Seaford, Delaware, until December 18, when he was inducted into the U. S. Army.

No date has as yet been set for the marriage.

Mr. Dawson Clarke was called to Dover, Del., by the death of his mother, Mrs. John Clarke, who died early Wednesday morning. Funeral services will be held Saturday, December 26, from the First Baptist Church in that city.

GEORGE MYERS DECLINES THE APPOINTMENT

Asks To Be Relieved From The Judgeship Recently Tendered Him By Gov. O'Connor

STATES "GAS" SHORTAGE AS CAUSE FOR ACTION

Governor O'Connor arranged on Tuesday to consult the Maryland Bar Association and other interested groups before naming an associate judge for the First Judicial Circuit, vacant a second time because George H. Myers, of Princess Anne declined the post.

The Governor announced that Myers, an attorney, had asked to be relieved and said the Princess Anne lawyer had expressed the fear that gasoline rationing might work against successful discharge of the judgeship.

Myers' selection was announced on Friday of last week by O'Connor, who said he had received a telegram of acceptance from Myers shortly before making the announcement.

The attorney would have taken the place of Judge T. Sangston Insley, who reached retirement age of 70 on November 18.

The State Bar Association had recommended Myers for first consideration by a unanimous vote, the Governor said.

O'Connor explained he would have to consult with the bar association and other interested groups before making a new appointment and added, "there is always a chance that he may change his mind and accept the commission."

W. Laird Henry, Jr., of Cambridge was the second choice of the bar association for the judicial appointment. Emerson C. Harrington, Jr., was a third aspirant to the post. Both are from Cambridge.

The Rationing Board in Pocomoke City will be closed Christmas Day and Saturday, December 25th and 26th.

GAS SHORTAGE CAUSES RUN ON FILLING STATIONS

Many Pumps Ran Dry When Messages Of Drought Came Over Air To Car Owners

A small sized panic prevailed in this section and likely everywhere else in the Eastern States, when the announcement came over the radio that no more gasoline was to be sold after noon on Friday of last week.

There was a rush to the "gas" pumps and the scene resembled a rush for the counters in the department stores on bargain days. Many tanks were emptied in short order and the sign "No Gas!" stared anxious "juice" seekers in the face. It is currently reported one man was being shaved when the news came to him. He jumped out of the chair, his face half scraped, and with lather giving him a rather pale complexion on one-half his face.

Relief came after Sunday, but B cards are now good for only 3 gallons instead of 4; "A" cards remain the same—good for three gallons. The cause of sudden shut-down of the gas supply was a hurry call for it from Africa where the Allies are chasing Rommel out of that Continent, or, at least trying to do so. It was easier to get the gas from the Eastern seaboard than from Texas.

If the dry spell here can help accomplish a defeat of the Nazis, then no one will regret the temporary deprivation.

MISS HENDERSON'S ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

Mr. and Mrs. George H. Henderson announce the engagement of their daughter, Margaret Anne, to Mr. John S. Hartnett, son of Mrs. Elizabeth R. Hartnett and a grandson of Mr. Solomon W. Slaughter, of Wilmington, Delaware.

No date has been set for the wedding.

CRISFIELD HAS LARGE FIRE ON TUESDAY LAST

Started In Packing Houses Bordering Dock And Caused Heavy Dollar Lossage

BLAZE THREATENED THE BOATS TIED AT WHARF

A fire of large proportions in Crisfield, which, at times, threatened to become larger, put more than 100 persons out of work on Tuesday, the blaze destroying a large building housing five seafood packing concerns.

Damage amounting to "tens of thousands of dollars" was done, fire department officials said. The structure was located in the Crisfield dock section.

The blaze, of undetermined origin, broke out at a time when no one was in the building, and it had gained considerable headway before it was discovered.

A large amount of safood, especially shell stock oysters, was destroyed. Low temperatures and lack of water hampered firemen and the blaze quickly swept out of control, for a time threatening several oyster schooners tied up at a nearby slip.

Oystermen got their endangered boats away from the slip only after considerable difficulty.

The packing firm of L. R. Carson and Co., occupied the larger part of the building. Other seafood packing concerns with quarters there were Carl Tyler and Co., Tawes and Carson, and Herman Riggan and Clarence Riggan.

George E. Sheriff, a fireman, said the blaze may have started from an overheated stove or a defective chimney. It broke out just before packers reported for work yesterday.

"We were afraid an oil tanker was going to catch fire for a time," Sheriff said. "She was tied up near the blaze and because of the ice in the river, they had trouble moving her."

The Crisfield Volunteer fire department fought the blaze for more than four hours, using two pumers. Water was pulled from the river.

"It was a nasty fire," Sheriff said.

STREET LIGHTS BEING PAINTED FOR DIM-OUT

Col. Barrett Reports Dim-Out Conditions On Three Counties "Excellent"

EVERY OTHER LAMP IN BUSINESS SECTION OUT

Work on the ornamental street lamps in this city, began this week to make the dim-out conform to the requirements of those in charge of Civilian Defense. The painting of the globes would have been finished on Monday night; but, due to the rigors of winter, workmen appointed could not get to this section. Every other lamp in the business section is put out entirely.

The fact that the street lights have been in full flare, has caused many households, business and public buildings to be somewhat negligent of interior lighting. Now, that the street will be darkened, it may prove a little dangerous for residents to be careless about their homes.

In the "Sun" on Tuesday morning the following account appeared relative to the conditions on the Shore, and in particular to the three lower counties. It read as follows:

Col. Henry S. Barrett, State Air Raid Precautions Director, announced Monday that the observance of dim-out regulations in Wicomico, Worcester and Kent counties is "Excellent."

LIST OF REGISTRANTS SELECTED BY BOARD

The following list of white registrants who have been accepted at induction station, is furnished by Local Board No. 1:

Lloyd Lee Warren, Berlin; George Emory Powell, Berlin; Theodore Stevens Hadder, Jr., Berlin; Joseph Preston Smack, Pocomoke City; Joseph Littleton, W. Ievyville; Earnest Clifton Hudson, Lishop; William Norman Lank, Berlin; Linwood Francis Stant, Pocomoke City; Robert Aaron Sherkey, Snow Hill; Sylvanus Parker Baker, Jr., Whaleyville; Preston Lee Elliott, Berlin; William R. McCabe, Berlin; Asher Phillip Day, Shovel; Joshua Miles Thompson, Jr., Pocomoke City; Horace James Cropper, Berlin.

NEW BOOKS AT PUBLIC LIBRARY IN POCOMOKE

Good Reading For Both Adults And Children Now Newly Arrived For Patrons

Patrons are advised that a number of new books have been ordered for the Pocomoke Public Library and quite a few of them have been received and placed in circulation. The others will arrive shortly.

Among the adult books are: "The Robe"—Lloyd Douglas; "The Lieutenant's Lady"—Bess Streeter Aldrich; "The Day Must Dawn"—Turnbull; "Crescent Carnival"—Keyes;

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CULLEN-DeKOYER WED- DING ON JANUARY 1ST

Invitations have been issued to the marriage of Miss Catherine De Koyer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob De Koyer, of Wallington, New Jersey, to Mr. John B. Cullen, Staff Sgt., U. S. A., son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Cullen, and grandson of Mr. W. S. Schoolfield, of this city, and the late Mrs. Nan Polk Schoolfield.

The marriage will take place Friday evening, January first, at 6 o'clock at the Wallington Presbyterian Church in Wallington, N. J.

Staff Sgt. Cullen is at present attending an officers training school at Red Banks, N. J., and will complete his course around December 30th.