

CHRISTMAS!
Yule Epidemic Sweeps America;
Nobody Escapes This Disease!



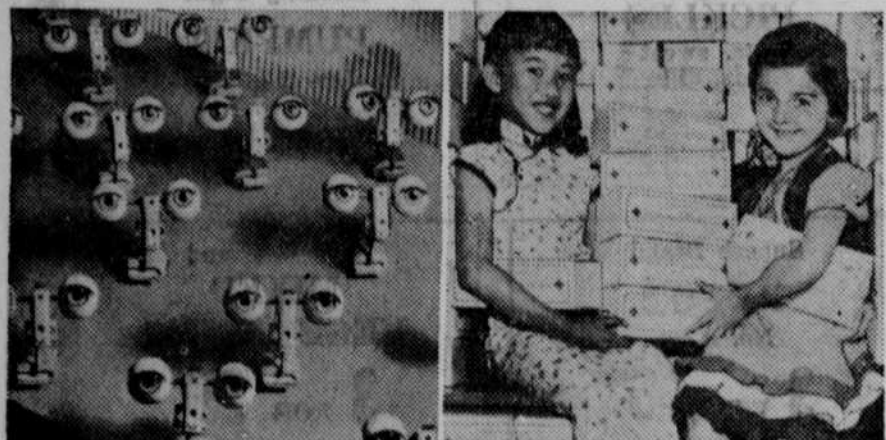
Immediately after Thanksgiving each year, America begins planning its Christmas celebration. In every city and hamlet decorations blossom on streets and in store windows. Merchants put their shoulders to the wheel, for December is responsible for one-sixth of the year's total retail trade (see graph). On Monday, December 4, banks begin paying more than \$300,000,000 to some 7,000,000 Christmas savers.



In New York, Santa Claus is welcomed to the city on Thanksgiving day in a huge parade. Throughout the nation, volunteer groups begin repairing discarded toys for needy tykes.



At Santa Claus, Ind., Charles Howard of Albion, N. Y., begins conducting his school for Santa Clauses.



Toy manufacturers finish their season's work. These eyes will soon provide vision for the doll Sister receives on Christmas. In a war-torn world, Christmas is a time for good deeds. Thousands of gift boxes like these are shipped to China.



Christmas trees are cut in northern forests and shipped to market, where they will gladden many a heart on Christmas. In schools and churches, choral groups begin practicing Holiday productions. Every community has many such activities.



Uncle Sam's postoffice gets ready for the Christmas rush.

AMNESIA ALIBI

By THAYER WALDO
(McClure Syndicate—WNU Service.)

STIFFLY Brian rose as she came smiling toward him. Without a word he pulled back the chair and seated her. "Sorry to be late, dear," she said; "but you know how those studio fittings are. Honestly, I sometimes think a picture career isn't worth going through that for. Three solid hours of just standing around, being pinned in and out of gowns, while the designer and the director and two supervisors looked on. I'm simply worn out."

Glancing around at the group of tables under the broad canopy, she exclaimed: "But this is delightful! I'm beginning to feel refreshed already. Such a charming continental air about these sidewalk cafes."

He sat staring at her with hard eyes, still silent.

Suddenly she became aware of it, and concern masked her face. "Why, Brian—what's the matter? You haven't said a thing, and you look so—so strange!"

A waiter attended them.

Crisply Brian ordered, then faced her again with a slight grim twist to his lips.

"Yes. Perhaps I'd better explain right now. It may make our luncheon a less pleasant affair than I'd looked forward to; but I'm afraid that can't be helped."

She kept her gaze steadfastly upon him as he lit a cigarette and continued:

"We've known each other quite a while, Linda—since a couple of years before we were married. I've always thought you were the one woman in the world I could really trust. That is, until last night. You didn't know it, but I was awake when you came in from—what was it?—oh, yes: from 'visiting Aunt Emily.' I was awake and I heard a decidedly unfeminine voice say, 'Well, toodle-oo, old dear.'"

There wasn't an instant's hesitation in her response.

"Why, you silly, shameful boy! I wouldn't have believed it of you. To think you'd let such a suspicion destroy your confidence in me—and with no more grounds than an overheard whisper. Brian, I hope it'll make you feel very small to know that the man who said good night to me at the door was Uncle Edgar!"

He didn't reply at once.

Into his expression had crept something which didn't entirely resemble conviction.

Yet at last he smiled apologetically and said:

"Very well; I'm sorry, my dear. Just forget it and forgive me, if you can."

The service came and neither spoke while the waiter was bustling around them.

Brian's glance idly swept the now rapidly filling cluster of tables, to light upon a man just entering.

An impeccably garbed fellow he was, with steel-spine trousers, spats, and a mallee cane.

As he drew near, Brian saw the face and started.

Then, pausing at a vacant table nearby, the man beckoned the headwaiter.

"I'm a trifle early," Brian heard him say; "I have an appointment here with Mr. Jones—Mr. Alexander Jones. You can serve me now; I'll have coffee and liqueur when he arrives."

Linda noted her husband's absorption and asked:

"What are you watching so intently?"

With an odd look at her, he said carelessly:

"Oh, just a chap who came in a moment ago. The one sitting alone on your right."

Her eyes followed his indication. The newcomer had seated himself, and for a moment she scrutinized him in silence.

"Why, you know," she remarked finally, "there's something awfully familiar about him, but I can't for the life of me think who he is."

"Really?" A hint of intensity was in Brian's manner, though his tone remained casual.

"That's unusual; you have such an excellent memory for names and faces."

She turned upon him a smile both sweet and frank.

"Only with people we both know, dear, I'm afraid. I've become so wrapped up in you and our life together, I doubt if I should remember anyone I knew before I married you. Queer, isn't it, what love can do to a perfectly normal woman?"

Almost fiercely his hand closed over hers, but the grin he wore was of sheepish delight.

"Honey, I—listen: let's get out of here. I want to go home; I want to be alone with you and try to tell you how ashamed I am of what I said a few minutes ago. Never mind the lunch; we can eat any time."

Regarding him in wide-eyed surprise, Linda reached for her purse and fumbled it uncertainly.

"Why, Brian, what on earth made you say that all of a sudden? I don't—"

"Tell you later. Let's go."

Quickly he summoned the waiter, settled their check, and led her from the cafe.

When they reached the street, she halted him to demand:

"Now, out with it. I won't go another step until you tell me what this is all about."

Beaming down at her, Brian replied:

"Gladly, darling. It just happens that that fellow you didn't recognize is the man you were going with and practically engaged to when I met you. What you said about it made me realize what a rotten fool I'd been to doubt you. Come along—we're going where I can just sit and hold you in my arms!"

The gentleman in spats was leisurely finishing a frappe.

The headwaiter approached and made a throat-clearing sound.

"Pardon, sir; did you—ah—say you were expecting someone to join you?"

Consulting his watch, the diner said: "Hmm—yes; but it looks as if he weren't coming. Too bad."

"Then of course you'll take the check, sir?"

"Well, now unfortunately I've come off without my billfold."

Immediately the waiter stiffened.

"I shall have to call the manager. Here, number ten; inform the manager that—"

"Just an instant there, garcon; I hadn't finished. I was about to say that my coming here was arranged as a little favor to a lady. If you'll just look under the nearest plate on that table—the one right over there—I think you'll find she hasn't forgotten me."

Palpably skeptical, the headwaiter stalked across and lifted the half-empty dish of lobster salad that had been Linda's.

There on the white cloth reposed a five-dollar bill.

"Ah, quite as I thought," the man at the table said.

Rising, he flicked a crumb from his lapel, reached for his walking stick, and added:

"Keep the change, but let that be a lesson to you. Only trouble and embarrassment come from hasty suspicions. Toodle-oo, old top."

**Act of Congress Aided
Telegraph Development**

A last-minute act of congress gave telegraphic communication to the world and that act undoubtedly has been of as much universal service to mankind as any other act ever passed by that august body.

The senate in the last five minutes before adjournment on March 3, 1843, voted to grant Samuel Morse \$30,000 to construct an experimental line for his magnetic telegraph between Washington and Baltimore. The house had passed the bill 10 days earlier, perhaps to placate Morse, who had asked for a similar grant five years before. Few of its members believed in the practicability of the idea.

Morse left the senate gallery late in the evening of the third, convinced that in the short time remaining before adjournment his bill would not come up for a vote.

Next morning, since no messenger had brought him any word concerning the fate of his bill, Morse took its defeat for granted and dejectedly prepared to return to New York.

Before his preparations were completed, a caller, Miss Anne Ellsworth, was announced. Miss Ellsworth, the daughter of his intimate friend, Henry L. Ellsworth, commissioner of patents, explained to Morse that his bill was one of two passed during the last five minutes before congress had adjourned.

Miss Ellsworth also brought her mother's invitation for Morse to breakfast with the family.

As a token of his appreciation of her good news, Morse accorded Anne Ellsworth the honor of selecting the first message to go over the wire when the line was completed. That message, "What God hath wrought," was sent from the Supreme court room in the Capitol in Washington to Baltimore on May 24, 1844.

Shortly after this first transmission of words by dots and dashes, a rhymester of that period wrote:

"What more, presumptuous mortals, will you dare?
See Franklin seize the clouds,
Their bolts to bury;
The sun assigns his pencil to Da-guerre,
And Morse the lightning makes his secretary."

Neither Morse nor congress itself could have realized the prophetic significance of the demonstration message before a few New York friends before Morse left to present his bill to congress. It was, "Attention the universe—by kingdoms—right wheel."

State Political Barometers

The most reliable state political barometers are Arizona and New Mexico, whose electoral votes have always been cast for the winning candidates since they became states in 1912. North Dakota and Ohio have been on the winning side since the 1896 election, while Kansas has given her electoral votes to the winner in every election since and including 1900. California is fairly reliable, on the winning side in every election since 1888 with two exceptions, in 1892 when one of her nine votes was given to the loser, and in 1912 when 11 of her 13 votes were given to the Progressive candidate. Maine is unreliable, having voted for four losing candidates since 1884. Her alleged strength as a barometer comes only from the fact that her state elections precede the national election by two months; these often hinge on state rather than national issues.

**It's a Blouse, Chic and Lovely,
That Gives 'Oomph' to the Suit**

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



SUITS are in! And now for the upkeep in the way of one flattering blouse after another to wear with the suit of your choice. For as we all know it's the blouse that gives "oomph" to the suit.

One among many of the likable things about the blouse is that it so graciously fits into the scheme of things, enters, so to speak, into the mood of its wearer, being formal or informal, sporty or dressy to suit time and occasion. One good-looking suit and a wardrobe of versatile blouses and your clothes problem is solved, for via a proper blouse one can meet almost any emergency in dress.

The world of fashion has gone wildly blouse-conscious this season. About the most exciting spot in shopping districts these days is where blouse displays hold forth.

The revival of sterling quality white satin for the blouse marks a significant highspot in the present program. See the smart white silk satin blouse pictured below to the left in the illustration. Note that the sleeves are long and full, gathered into a snug-fitting band at the wristline. Sleeves in the new blouses trend in three directions: short, bracelet length or long, as here shown. The silver necklace and jewelry worn with this blouse add a note of formal elegance.

Not only is white satin a favorite in the blouse realm, for satin blouses

Her Plaid Coat



Of course little daughter must have a winter coat of gay plaid wool, for fashion simply adores plaids this season. The new wool plaids are the handsomest ever and the winter landscape, wherever young folks congregate, is ablaze with colorful plaids. A scotch cap of velvet with crown of matching plaid adds the finishing touch to this stylish outfit.

Initials on a Bow

Your own initials cut out of silver and set into the center of a flat silver bow make a personalized pin which may be worn at the throat of a frock or as the clasp for a plain dark belt.

**Gay Pinafore Apron
Shields Your Dress**



No. 8557. Your favorite kind of apron! Make it up time and again, so that you'll always have one ready to slip on! It thoroughly protects both the skirt and the top of your dresses from splashes and spots, and it simply can't slip off the shoulders. Grand idea for gifts, too, and church sales. Sizes 34 to 48. Size 36, 3 yds. 35-inch material. Six yds. braid or binding.

Send your order with 15 cents (in coins) to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., Room 1324, 211 W. Wacker Dr., Chicago, Ill.
(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

**Gwen Took the Words
Right Out of His Mouth**

The dashing young traveler with the lady-killer reputation seated himself at the table and put on his most seductive smile as the pretty waitress approached him.

"Nice day, little girl," he said.

"It is," she replied. "And so was yesterday, and my name is Gwen, and I'm pretty, and have lovely blue eyes, and I've been here quite a long time, and it's not a bad place, and I'm not too nice a girl to be working here, and my brother is cook in this place, and was once a professional boxer. Now, what is your order—roast beef, roast lamb, stew, or liver and bacon?"

**Pull the Trigger on
Lazy Bowels, and Also
Pepsin-ize Stomach!**

When constipation brings on acid indigestion, bloating, dizzy spells, gas, coated tongue, sour taste, and bad breath, your stomach is probably loaded up with certain undigested food and your bowels don't move. So you need both Pepsin to help break up fast that rich undigested food in your stomach, and Laxative Senna to pull the trigger on those lazy bowels. So be sure your laxative also contains Pepsin. Take Dr. Caldwell's Laxative, because its Syrup Pepsin helps you gain that wonderful stomach relief, while the Laxative Senna moves your bowels. Tests prove the power of Pepsin to dissolve those lumps of undigested protein food which may linger in your stomach, to cause belching, gastric acidity and nausea. This is how pepsinizing your stomach helps relieve it of such distress. At the same time this medicine wakes up lazy nerves and muscles in your bowels to relieve your constipation. So see how much better you feel by taking the laxative that also puts Pepsin to work on that stomach discomfort, too. Even finicky children love to taste this pleasant family laxative. Buy Dr. Caldwell's Laxative—Senna with Syrup Pepsin at your druggist today!

Vanity Dies Hard

In some obdurate instances vanity outlives the man.—R. L. Stevenson.

**That Nagging
Backache**

**May Warn of Disordered
Kidney Action**

Modern life with its hurry and worry, irregular habits, improper eating and drinking—its risk of exposure and infection—throws heavy strain on the work of the kidneys. They are apt to become over-taxed and fail to filter excess acid and other impurities from the life-giving blood.

You may suffer nagging backache, headache, dizziness, getting up nights, leg pain, swelling—feel constantly tired, nervous, all worn out. Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination.

Try Doan's Pills. Doan's help the kidneys to pass off harmful excess body waste. They have had more than half a century of public approval. Are recommended by grateful users everywhere. Ask your neighbor!

DOANS PILLS

**New Jewelry Ideas
Are Cropping Out**

Gold jewelry accents on black are still the outstanding fashion. However, new jewelry trends are developing. One of which is the increasing favor expressed for silver necklaces, bracelets, clips, buttons, belt buckles and other gadgets. Huge silver-wrought lockets suspended from silver chains are especially good style.

There is also a tendency to wear white jewelry, moonstone settings being in high favor. Many style-alert women are wearing exquisite diamond or rhinestone pieces especially with black or the new rich wines and greens. As for pearls, they have held good right along and still remain first choice with women who dress quietly and with un-failing good taste.

**Gulliver Travel
Prints Are Latest**

Fabric prints inspired by the characters and mood of Jonathan Swift's immortal classic are on the way. The promise is that we will be seeing ere long children's dresses, negligees, nighties, and so on made of these new picture prints. Ladies' housecoats, dresses and blouses will be styled of these tested rayon prints that promise perfect fabric construction, color fastness and washability. They will show all the leading characters in miniature, also castles in the sky and other pictorial motifs.