FILEBEES I WIR OWN P

ITH Christmas, New Year's and the holidays past, the Busy Bees will all be going back to school again and settling down for the long stretch until spring. But there is such fun these midwinter days, especially since the snow has come. It doesn't matter much whether one lives in town or in the country, there is always a hill some place near and everybody loves to coast.

The competition is very close between the king and queen, Nora Cullen, captain of the Blue team, and Joseph Kolar, captain of the Red, but the Red team is ahead, having won six prize stories, while the Blue have only four.

Ruth Robinson, who is one of the Busy Bees from Little Sloux, Ia., writes that she and her family are going to move soon to Omaha. In that case the editor will be glad to make her acquaintance personally.

Now that the New Year has opened, all of the boys and girls undoubtedly have made new resolutions, and to these let each one add the resolution to read every rule over carefully every week, and not only remember all of them, but remember to attach that very important word "original" to every story

The first prize this week was won by Albert Kostal, aged 11 years, 1616 O street, South Omaha; second prize by E;eanor Mellor, aged 12 years, Malvern, Ia. Honorary mention was given to Lotta Woods, aged 13 years, Paw-

Those who have sent in their names as having postal cards to exchange with the other Busy Bees are: Ada Morris, 3424 Franklin street, Omaha; Clara Miller, Utica, Neb.; Emma Kostal, 1516 O street, South Omaha; Florence Pettijohn, Long Pine, Neb.; Ethel Reed, Fremont, Neb.; Madge L. Daniels, Ord, Neb.; Irene Reynolds, Little Sioux, Ia.; Alta Wilken, Waco, Neb.; Alice Temple, Lexington, Neb.; Eunice Bode, Falls City, Neb.; Jean De Long, Ainsworth, Neb.; Mildred Robertson, Manilla, Ia.; Louise Reebe, 2609 North Nineteenth avenue, Omaha; Gail Howard, 4722 Capitol avenue, Omaha; Edna Behling, York, Neb.; Estelle McDonald, Lyons, Neb.; Juanita Innes, 2769 Fort street, Omaha; Marguerite Bartholomer, Gothenburg, Neb.; Louis Hahn, David City, Neb.; Vera Cheney, Creighton, Neb.; Fay Wright, Fifth and Belle streets, Fremont, Neb.; Ruth Ashby, Fairmont, Neb.; Maurice Johnson, 1627 Locust street, Omaha; Lotta Woods, Pawnee City, Neb.; Miss Pauline Parks, York, Neb.; Louise Stiles, Lyons, Neb.; Hulda Lundberg, Fremont, Neb.; Edna Enis, Stanton, Neb.; Alice Grassmeyer, 1545 C street, Lincoln, Neb.

How Master New Year Triumphed

By Annie James.

one day intervened between the old regime and the new, the new which he was to be king! He was making his tollet very carefully, donning a garment of crested ice, trimmed about with bands of softest, downy snow. And over the garments glistened the most beautiful frost gems, laid out in fantastic designs. A cap, fringed round the back with slender icicles that sparkled like diamonds, was set jauntily great book, a book whose leaves were as yet uncut and whose covers were sealed.

New Year he would be, and very soon, Year with his toilet, halling him as the coming king. And as he departed from out the great northern cave, the stronghold of all the New Year's that had gone before him, they gave voice to a mighty anthem which ended with the lines, "Peace on earth and good will to man" And smiling in his happiness, warmed through with anticipation, Master New Year, as yet a child, shook out his flaxen hair of spun ice and cried farewell to the place that had given him birth, the place where his forefathers had come into life, for lo! these thousands of years. Then he was off spoken he looked up, asking: "Would I like the wind, carrying the great volume better return to my cave and keep my as easily as though it had been a feather's volume sealed?"

me not. Know you that I am Master New mischief, I do!" Year, soon to be crowned king of all the land, and I am intent upon my journey.

bit," declared Jack Frost. Now, that his as the unruly Elements, it seems. Begone, work for the year was over, and finding I'll have nothing to do with you! time heavy on his hands as he wandered toward his icobound home in the north- plenty and peace. If Present Year, one whither old winter had driven him-he wished to dally on the road and find any is only a sign that he is no longer capable idie pleasures that might come his way, of managing the affairs in his hands. I Master New Year. I may be able to tell 12, December 81, shall relieve him of his you many things of the land and the peo- work, which has grown too neavy for his ple that you are going to reign over for aged shoulders. I am young, full of hope the next 266 days."

"Ah," and Jack Frost sighed, "if only ing, so to speak,"

in a way fuscinated him.

ASTER NEW YEAR was as with you, Jack Frost," said he, resting happy as he could be. Only himself on the edge of a snow bank. "I should like to hear something of my father -Present Year-who is so soon to give over the throne to me. Did he have a successful reign?" Jack Frost laughed till his sides shook, the frost that covered them flying about in the air like so many bits of down, "Ah, ha! Just listen to that! Why, don't you know that every New Year, no matter how much he tries to be kind and just, is governed by the Elements upon his head. In his hands he carried a and Man? Yes, my child, you are really not king-or, that is to say, you'll not be the real king on January 1. The Elements On the stroke of twelve, December 31, and Man, my kind sir, are the rulers. he would come into his power; then he Ah, ha, ha! Now, if only you could hear would break the seal of the great volume the words of Present Year-who within and cut the leaves, preparatory to inscrib- twenty-four hours will have passed into ing within it the events of the 366 days that strange country called the past, and King Many ice fairles assisted Master New Quite content to go. The elements have ficult for her to raise it in that wind. poured rain on one part of the country bright-faced boy, taking the umbrella in while a drouth burned up another part his hands. of it. Men joined together in bands to words or the music. And Present Year became melancholy, finding that he had work her. to do that was beyond his power."

> Master New Year sat quite still, listening, with head bent. After Jack Frost had

"You cannot do that," laughed Jack But hardly had Master New Year got Frost. "You have your mission on earth, beyond the leebergs of the great northern and you cannot shirk it. No. go on and circle, enroute southward, when his prog- do your best-or worst. I always wreak ress was retarded by a little chap he had all the mischief I can while on my exnever met before. The youth stopped ploits. I nip at everything in my path. Master New Year, saying: "Come, young I kill plants and vines; I send people hursir, what's your name? Mine is Jack Frost, rying under shelter to get away from the Master New Year was displeased that chill breath I blow upon them. Oh, how this upstart, as he deemed Jack Frost to I do wreak ruin wherever I get the chance! be, should have stopped him in his prog- But I get to make myself felt only once a reas, for he was determined to be on time year-just after that beautiful maiden thing wrong or were in mischief. when the bells rang out the hour of his called Summer has departed, leaving her coming. So, frawning sightly, he replied. aunt, Dame Autumn, severe and calm, to try a new rule to keep them out of trouble. "Be on your way, Jack Frost, and delay hold her place. Ah, then I get lively in She called them from their play and told

Master New Year rose, tossing up his proud and beautiful head. There was determination in his eyes. His voice was full "But there is always time to play a of strength, as he said: "You are as had love to cause ruln. I want to bring about like them. time New Year, has become melancholy, it "Come. let's have a chat. If you're really shall go hither, and on the stroke of and good cheer. I shall carry truth, fatth, love and charity into the hearts of all you knew the task before you! Why, I've mankind. No matter about the tricks of been visiting with King Present Year—soon the Elements, no matter about the mischief to be known as Old Year, and he told me a of such little brats as you are, if the heart lot of his worries. You see a year grows of man is good. Since the birth of the old very quickly after he has got his inn- first New Year the earth has been kind to its creatures. And if you meet me this Although Master New Year knew he time next year, as I am departing from my should not tarry a moment, his interest labors-leaving my throne to a younger one had been roused by the words of the than myself-you will read on the leaves and the sky looked gray and threatening. sprightly youth who was so bold. And, of this volume the history of my reign. It was the afternoon of November 28, deciding that he would travel faster to And I shall do my utmost to make that make up for lost time, he granted a few history grand and good, a pride to comminutes to the young stranger who had ing New Years and a thing for people of the earth to look back to with pride. Ah.



BNOW YOU NOT THAT I AM MASTER NEW YEAR, SOON TO BE CROWNED HING OF ALL THE LANDS

Three Bright and Active Members of the Busy Bee Family



RUTH ROBINSON, Little Bloux, Is.





RULES FOR YOUNG WRITERS

Write plainly on one side of the paper only and number the pages.
 Use pen and ink, not pencil

4. Original stories or letters only will be used. 5. Write your name, age and address at the top of the first page. First and second prises of books will be given for the best two con-tributions to this page each week. Address all communications to

CHILDREN'S D.FARTMENT, Omaha Ess.

(First Prize.) I Like to Help People

woman was walking along the street one windy day, when the rain began to who, on the moment of your advent, will come down. She had an umbrella, but her be designated as Old Year. Well, he is hands were full of parcels, and it was difused him badly. In the first place, they "Let me, ma'am; let me, please," said a

The astonished woman looked on with cheat and rob each other. In vain did satisfaction while he managed to raise the Present Year and his fairy court sing their rather obstinate umbrella. Then, taking coronation anthem, 'Peace on earth and one of those ever-handy strings which boys good will to man;' no one istens to the carry, he tied all the parcels snugly into one bundle and politely handed it back to

> "Thank you very much," she said. "You are very polite to do so much for a

"Oh, it is no trouble, ma'am." he said, with a smile; "I like to help people," Both went their ways with a happy feeling in their heart; for such little deeds of kindness are like sweet-smelling roses blossoming along the path of life.

> (Second Prize.) The Watchwords

Mrs. Wright had two children, a boy aged 10 years and a girl & These children were always doing some-

One day Mrs. Wright thought she would them she had a new rule to bear in mind at play or away from her. The children both asked her what it was. She said that your father and mother."

remembered what their mother told them. of the day.

she wanted them before they went to bed you and have made you work very hard, to say the rule as a prayer, "Obey your father and mother." These children have being cheerful and obedient, and if you always kept this rule in mind and ever will stay in my employment you shall work since that day they have been obedient to less hours and have larger wages."

(Honorary Mention.) The Thanksgiving Angel By Lotta Woods, Ared in Years, Pawnee will be rewarded in the end. City, Neb. Red.

A few flakes of snow had been falling Thanksgiving day, and the rich man on the corner, Mr. Hastings by name, had partaken of his solitary Thanksgiving feast "Well, I shall be glad of a few words ha, ha! Hear me as I go on my way, Mas- this big house with whom he could claim alone. Solitary, for there was no one in relationship. His wife had died a few years before, and their only child, Janie, had followed soon after.

Mr. Hastings was the richest man in town and a man of the world. His motto was every one for himself, and he fol-

ter Jack Frost, mischief maker, singing the anthem that shall so soon fill all the hearts of mankind-Peace on earth and good will to man."

And Jack Frost, the mischief maker. stood staring at the brave little soldier, Master New Year, as he ran along over New Year's heart and touched him. "Ah, he would not come home. Jeck Frost went on his way,

did not stop to think that it was sometimes hard for poor people to get enough money to pay their rent. Back of his house stood a small building.

It belonged to him and was rented to a family, which consisted of mother, son of 14, and daughter of 6. The father had been killed in a railroad accident and the mother took in sewing, while George worked in a store for 40 cents a day, and together they the other room thought he had better tell road, riding past trees, houses and pastures.

This afternoon their mother was sick, about the rent, which was due this after- At that the old man died. Robert always for dinner, but before they could get ready Jimmy (which was the boy's name) began

Presently a rap was heard at the door and Fannie opened it to find Mr. Hastings, their creditor, to collect the rent. He shivered as he looked around the cold, bare The widow laid her pitiful story a basket of good things as a Thanksgiving present.

He went out of the little door on his way home feeling happy. And many of his Brown came to the city to do her Christthe Thanksgiving angel.

Cheerful Obedience

By Ada Morris, Aged 14 Years, 3424 Franklin Street, Omaha. Blue.

school and go to work.

wages; and many times, after his day's time before. work, Tom was ordered to do odd jobs about the place, which Tom always did were expecting their guests. The first ones without a complaint.

He would go home very tired and est his very scanty meal, but he would never carrying something white in her arms. It By Eleanor Mellor, Aged 13 Years, Malvern, say how hard he had to work or that he was so big the children thought it con

For many months Tom stayed with Mr. Hardy (that was his employer's name) dered to do work. But the longer Tom stayed, the harder he was compelled to work, and Tom's mother began to see that his health was falling; so she told him to inform his employer that he was going to By Ruth Ryley, Aged 13 Years, 1254 South leave, which Tom did the next morning.

Sixteenth Street, Omaha. Blue. leave, which Tom did the next morning. That evening as Tom was ready to go it was a sentence in five words; "Obey home, he heard someone call. He looked around and saw Mr. Hardy calling him, The children both listened while their very much to his surprise. He went back,

mother told them a story of a little boy and Mr. Hardy said: "Tom, I have been thinking about your leaving me and I As soon as their mother was through think I can arrange things so that you they scampered out to play, but they had will stay; but first tell me your reason for leaving." Tom said, "I have been working so they did not have any trouble the rest too hard, and mother said that if I did not guit I would be sick." "Yes." said That night Mrs. Wright told them that Mr. Hardy, "I have been very severe with but you have taught me a lesson by always

Tom was very much pleased and promised to come the next morning, and he went home with the conclusion that no matter how severe a man is, if you do your work cheerfully and obediently you

The Ink Blot

By Ruth Newton, Aged 11 Years, 209 Templeton Street, Omnha. Blue. Once upon a time there lived a little boy named Robert. He was a very honest boy with large blue eyes. His mother had died when he was but a baby. His father By Josephine Simodynes, Wahoo, Neb. was an invalid. Robert carried newspapers.

With the little money he earned he supported himself and father. One day he got acquainted with a box named Dan Carter. Not very long after- over its back. Carl could not say elephant ward Dan wanted Robert to run away so he called it Jim. with him, but he said he must stay with

They started on the early morning freight train. Next day they went around play room. the city. That night they slept in a dry goods box. Robert dreamt that something had happened to his father. Next jumped so hard that his legs broke. Carl morning Robert told Dan what he dreamt. ran to his mother and asked if a new Jim We must go home. When they got home would come and soon eat the old Jim. the ice crags as fast as a bird flies. And Robert's father asked where he had been he felt his coat melting from his little and he said he had been having such good body, for the warmth had radiated from luck selling newspapers that he thought

he's the grandest one that has ever gone Just then he saw his father close his to reign!" said Jack Frost. He'll prob- eyes and tremble. Robert was freightened ably be heard of all over the world yet, and ren to a neighbors and told one that for he has determination as well as vir- he thought his father was dying. Se one tues. Well, it's not my fault if I'm a came over, looked at him and said he begged to be allowed to go. At last her mischiel maker. And I'll tantalize him- had better send for a doctor. When the father and mother consented and she ran the proud fellow-a bit next autumn." And doctor came he said he didn't think he upstairs to get ready. would live long. Robert, who had been in



yard.

his father the truth, so he went in where They reached their destination about 9 his father lay pale and trembling and he o'clock that evening. said: Father, I told you a lie, I ran away The next morning Dorothy and her father had been sick all week and, with worrying with Dan Carter, I knew it was wrong, and grandparents were going to her aunt's a pocketbook which she had lost. Then

> The Unexpected Guest By Nora Cullen. Aged 13 Years, 2212 Web-

ster Street, Omaha. Blue. Great preparations were being made in Albert Kostal, Aged II Years, 1516 O before him and his heart was touched with the Brown homestead for Christmas. The orchard and put up a swing. Dinner came sudden pity and he drew up a deed then Brown family was overjoyed, especially all too soon. and there giving them the little house and little Fanny and Henry, thinking about the visits of their relatives and friends on

Christmas eve. About a week before Christmas Mrs. got caught in a barb wire fence. poor renters' hearts were made glad by not mas shopping. The ground was covered took Dorothy with her for supper. After Jimmy had gone before she said this. having to pay that month's rent, and in with deep snow, so they used their big supper they played tin-tin, who, where and many a home he was blessed and called two-seated sleigh. Mr. and Mrs. Brown occupied the front seat of the sleigh and Fanny and Henry the back seat. The bells jingled and the horses trotted as fast as

they could, for it was a bitter cold day. How glad Fanny and Henry were, they By Paul Hatt, Aged 9 Vears, Plattsmouth, Neb. Blue. just clapped their hands. They arrived Tom was 15 years old and his parents about noon time at their destination, and being very poor he was compelled to quit when their shopping was finished they loaded their bundles into the sleigh and lived side by side and played together. They with money and Jimmy felt much happler He tried for a long while to find a place, started home. The sleigh was so packed and finally was employed by a man who with bundles it really looked like Santa was very cruel. Tom had to work very Claus' sleigh. When they arrived home hard, and worked all day for very small they all said they never had such a gay

At last Christmas eve arrived and they they saw coming were Will, their married brother, and his wife. Mrs. Brown was tained Christmas presents. When they opened the door how surprised everyone was, for there in Mrs. Brown's arms was but Tom only saw him when he was or- her baby boy. Everyone thought the baby was surely the unexpected guest.

The Bandit Mouse

There was once a bandit mouse who their largest foe, and secured the plunder without fear. One night the bandit king, who had help me work!"

been prowling around, told the other Puggle bounded up at sound of his little flesh, they would certainly have poured bandits that he had seen some mice like mistress' voice and ran gally into the yard, forth blood. But as they were only of soft themselves, but white, and having pink where he was introduced to the headless snow they crumbled away and became a

cowered in a corner very much frightened. But while they were thus engaged, Tommy, the house cat, who was a friend of the white mice, crept softly nearer and nearer, till he was almost upon them. and then giving a spring caught the bandit king.

The other bandits ran away to their council chamber, under the floor, and, much trouble.

Carl's Pet

Red. When Carl was 2 years old his mamma gave him an elephant. It was made of cotton flannel and had a blue blanket

This little fellow loved Jim as much as his father, but Dan pleaded so hard that if it had been alive. Every night Carl at last he consented. him to papa. The barn was a box in the

Jim was getting old. Once he fell down the cellar and lost one of his eyes. He

What Came of an All-Day Ride By Ethel Reed, Aged 12 Years, Fremont, Neb. Blue.

As it was a fine Saturday and her father and uncle were going to drive to her grandfather's, thirty-six miles away, Dorothy

It was not long before they were on the

and recite the work missed. Elizabeth, when she came back, went straight to see

about making up her work, Miss Smith, her teacher, told her to stay whenever she could and recite, for she had many lessons to recite. Just as Elizabeth was coming in the ball later she heard Miss Smith tell Mary she guessed she did not have to make up the work if she would be very attentive. Elizabeth felt as though she had been eavesdropping, but she did not mean to, so she hurried ord.

Soon a great examination came and Mary failed, but when her teacher told her she was surprised at Mary's mark. Mary lifted her pretty head and exclaimed: "It was partly my fault, but mostly yours, because you did not make me make up my work; but I have learned a lesson."

Elizabeth got through beautifully. She got the prize which had been offered for the best marks. This prize was a pretty little purse with a 35 gold piece in it.

A Happy Christmas

By Mabel Witt. Aged 12 Years, Bennington, Neb. Blue.

If you go to the kindergarten in one of the New York City public kindergartens you will see children receiving Christman gifts on Christmas day. Every little boy or girl who attends one of these schools looks forward to Christmas with a great deal of pleasure, for the teacher usually pays for the gifts with her own money, as no money for this purpose is given.

But she is anxious for all her little folks to have a good time, and she wants to teach them, even though they are so young, that the real spirit of Christman means to unselfishly give others pleasure In some of the schools, and especially in the lower east side of the city, the children are very poor and their parents have no money to spend for Christmas gifts, even though they may love their little ones just as much as your father and mother love you, so this celebration in school. A small present from the Christmas tree means a great deal of joy to them. You who have kind parents cannot imagine the gladness this kindergarten celebration puts into the lives of some of these poor children.

A New Year's Day .

Bý Ruth Robinson, Aged 13 Years, Little Sloux, Ia. Red.

It was on New Year's day when a little ragged boy stood at the door of one of the great depots of New York. He was very pretty if he had been cleaned up. He would have looked better, but he had been a very naughty boy till today and then he told his mother he would turn over a new leaf and try to be good. When he looked up he saw there was a great bustle of excitement to hunt, forgetting all about what he told his mother that morning. He thought to

himself, "If I find it I'll keep it." Just then he espied it lying under a seat. picked it up and put it inside his coat. The lady who owned the pocketbook said she did not care for the money, but

there was a beautiful ring which her greatgrandmother wore when she was a little child inside and she said the person who gave her the pocketbook back she would When Dorothy's aunt went home she give the money which it contained, but

He went home as fast as he could ge and when he got there he told his mother The next day Dorothy went home. She what he had done. His mother was very sorry that Jimmy had done this and told him he must take it right back to the lady and to remember the promise he made

that morning. Then he thought it all over and took back Mary and Elizabeth had been absent from the pocketbook and told the lady all about school two weeks with the measles. They what he had done and she filled his hands than if he had kept the pocketbook, and he In the school which they attended each kept his promise to turn over a new leaf.

Minnie, Puggie and the Snow Man

By Holena Davis.

INNIE had worked busily all the building."

her aunt and cousins had driven into the

Such a day as they had. They played

games and had a tester-totter about five

feet from the ground. Their Uncle John

After dinner they took turns and swung

until dark. While Dorothy was waiting

her turn she ran after her cousin, who

Two Friends

what you're doing and other games.

reached home shortly before dark.

were very good friends.

to help her. She knew he could scratch him remain out of doors till she should snow and pile it up for her to use. So she return. Well, the little miss did not know with his brave band fought and robbed went to the house and called to Puggie, who her puppy's ugly tricks. As soon as the was asleep on the fur rug before the fire. door had closed behind her, Puggy made s

snow man, "This is Mister Snowman, Pug- heap without form. "Bow-waw, bow-bow-bow."

disliked the headless snow man, too, just bed tonight without your supper, too."

week making a fine, big snow Minnie provoked at Puggie, made him sh man. Minnie was not very big down on the cold doorstep, where she could herself, therefore it was very keep an eye on him. After a while she hard work for her to build a thought it time to go into the house to man all alone; so, when she was warm her hands and sat a cookie. But to almost up to his head she decided to call punish Puggie for his stubbornness in re-Puggie, her pretty, pet puppy, and ask him fusing to help her in her work she bade Oh, Pug-Pug-Puggie, come here and leap at the snow man, scratching and gnawing at his legs till had they been of

He and his band agreed that they would gie," said Minnie. "Of course, he can't bow. Just as Puggie was finishing his work of conquer these mice, and take away the to you yet, as he hasn't a head. But as destruction Minnie reappeared on the scene, splendid food that they are so straight- soon as he gets one maybe he will do so. For a moment she could not speak, her forth they marched to the cage where the Anyway, you must bow to Mr. Snowman mouth was so full of cookie. But the inwhite mice were playing, and took all and show your good manners." And Minnie stant she swallowed the sweet morsel she the food away, while the white mice made Puggie, greatly against his will, bow ran toward Puggie, crying out: "You bad, very low and shake his paw and say, naughty little scamp! You've killed my poor snow man, and before he'd got his But Puggie was fuller of mischief, than head on! Oh, I'll whip you for your he was of manners or tricks. He may have naughtiness. I will. And you'll go to bed

on general principles; but, anyway, he re- And that night, as Puggle lay him down fused to work as Minnie dictated. She in his warm basket, his little stomach begshowed him repeatedly how to scratch ging for a nice supper, he felt that to be being very much scared, agreed that they up loose snow into a pile for her to work have naughtily only injured himself. The would never again rob and plunder while from, but the minute she let go of his paws snow man didn't suffer, and Minnie could the house cat was around. Thus ended he would put them tremblingly down, rebuild another one; but he-Oh, he the bandit gang, which had caused so white and shiver as much as to say: "Now, couldn't have his supper and an affectionfor pity's sake don't oblige me to work on ale good night from his kind little mistressi this lifeless, silent thing. If this great, So he made up his mind, Puggie did, to be clumsy snow man could run and jump and good and obedient after this, and never play I'd do my best to help you put a head to kill any more headless snow men-especon him. But he's of no use except to freeze tally if his young mistress were likely to



"THIS IS MR. SNOWMAN, PUGGIE," BAID MINNIE.