

FEW XMAS CARDS FOUND IN MAIL SACKS THIS YEAR

Parcels Post Business is Light and Omaha Office is Not Clogged as Usual at This Time.

A remarkable feature of the Omaha Christmas mail this year is the absence of Christmas post cards.

"You hardly see any of these cards at all this year," said Postmaster Fanning. "Last year the mails were clogged with them."

The probable reason for this is said to be the increased postage. It costs just twice as much to send a post card now as it did last Christmas and this increase applies alike to cards mailed to addresses in the city or out-

side. If conditions in this respect are the same throughout the country as they are in Omaha it will mean a loss of a millions of dollars to the government.

Fewer Packages. Another striking thing is the great decrease in parcel post Christmas business.

"Last year at this time we had mountains of parcel post packages piled up in a great room in the basement," said Postmaster Fanning. "Today the room is bare. The big bins which were specially built to handle the incoming parcel post business are empty."

"This is partly due to the fact that many men are in cantonments or elsewhere in the service of the country and their Christmas packages were mailed to them early. Another reason undoubtedly is that people this year are practicing economy. They are not sending as many presents. They are learning not to give useless things."

Give Thrift Stamps. "A large number of people are giving thrift stamps and war savings stamps instead of the more or less useless things they sent to their friends and relatives in former years."

Only two weighers are stationed in the corridor of the postoffice at present. "Last year at this time four weighers were on duty and had all they could do."

A new thrift order has gone into effect at the local postoffice under orders received from Washington. The string with which packages of letters are tied when received here is not cut and thrown away, but is untied and used in tying up packages of outgoing letters.

"You can't find a ball of new twine around the office," says Postmaster Fanning. "We use the old. And after we use it it gets used again several times before it is worn out."

Grand Jury to Investigate Bazaar for War Sufferers

New York, Dec. 19.—Charges that only \$13,000 of \$60,000 raised at the Italian bazaar held here in November, 1916, went to destitute families of Italian soldiers placed in possession of the district attorney today, elicited from him promise of an investigation. The Italian consul is understood to have asked for a grand jury inquiry. The district attorney was told that persons said to include alien enemies profited personally.

Vacation Starts in The Omaha High Schools

Vacation starts today for the pupils of the local high schools. The high schools are being dismissed earlier than the grade schools that the boys and girls may help the business men during the Christmas rush. About 50 Central High boys have been working after school hours during the last week. At least half of them have jobs that will keep them busy until Christmas.

Union Pacific Sends Six Engines East to Aid B. & O.

Six of the freight engines of the Union Pacific have been sent to the Baltimore & Ohio road to help in moving the congestion of freight on that road. To help the Union Pacific out in handling its business the railroad war board has ordered four Illinois Central engines turned over to the Union Pacific. The Union Pacific transfer is made in Chicago and the Illinois Central in Omaha.

Commission Seeks to Find Real Owner of Stock Yards

Washington, Dec. 19.—The federal trade commission announced today that it would hold an open hearing tomorrow to try to develop the real ownership of the Chicago stock yards and the terminal railroad there. The commission is investigating the food shortage under the \$250,000 appropriation for an investigation, and has subpoenaed New York and Boston business men.

Residents of Suburbs to Get New House Numbers

Residents of Benson and Florence, whose house numbers were changed during the recent revision, are requested to call at the permit department, city engineer's office, and obtain corrected numbers. This is said to be essential to facilitate the work of the postoffice.

Ensign Page Killed in English Seaplane Accident

Washington, Dec. 19.—The death of Ensign Phillips Ward Page in England, December 17, as the result of a seaplane accident, was reported today to the Navy department. His home was in Boston.

"Two Bits Clubs" Are Being Formed in Many Cities

Washington, Dec. 19.—"Two bits clubs" are being formed under direction of war savings committees in a number of cities. Members agreed to buy one 25-cent thrift stamp every day.

Harry Thacker Rounds Out 30 Years of Service With The Bee

Harry Thacker, night foreman of The Bee composing room, rounds out 30 years of continuous service today. He is just six days older than the Bee, and was born in Sheffield, England, June 12, 1871.

When but 16 years old he began in the capacity of "printer's devil," gradually working his way up to the foremanship. During his 30 years' service he has not been absent from his duties except on account of sickness or vacation. He entered the service of The Bee on December 19, 1887.

For a period of 25 years he has been affiliated with local No. 190 of the International Typographical union. In 1906 he was elected delegate to and attended the international convention at St. Joseph, Mo.

Thacker and his wife and three "kiddies," two boys and a girl, live at 4307 Erskine street.



Harry Thacker

Travels Long Distance To Enlist, Turned Down

J. L. Cain of Medford, Mass., believes he was born under an unlucky star. He was 21 years old in September, he says, and was not eligible to draft. He came to Omaha to enlist at Fort Omaha. He was turned down.

He applied at the army recruiting station in Omaha and was informed that he was not subject to draft and could enlist in the army. He made another trip to Fort Omaha, with disappointing results, so he sent a telegram to the War department at Washington asking that his status be established.

The Bee Want Ads Are the Best Business Boosters.

Dewey Wants Public Servants to Pay Tax

County Clerk Frank Dewey is making a crusade in Nebraska against the provision of the income tax law exempting county and state officials from paying the war tax on their salaries. "It is not right that public employes should not bear their part of the war expenses," Dewey says. "They ought to be glad to do it."

Christmas Gifts Sent to I. C. Boys Fighting in France

Every United States soldier in France who formerly was in the employ of the Illinois Central will receive a Christmas present. Employees of the company who remained at home have contributed to a fund to buy presents for the boys in the trenches and in the foreign camps. Accompanying the gifts, each man will receive a personal letter from President Markham.

In his letter, President Markham extends the best wishes of all officers of the company and tells them that he is certain they will perform the

duties required of them by Uncle Sam in the same efficient and faithful manner that they performed their duties while in the employ of the company.

Each package sent to the Illinois Central boys in France contained a box of cigars, cigarettes, smoking and chewing tobacco, candy, chewing gum, five pair of woolen socks, woolen vest, tooth paste, soap and pipes.

First Month's Receipts From Increased Postage

Washington, Dec. 19.—First receipts from the increase in first-class postage rates totaled \$5,485,000 for November.

One true Aspirin Only One



Tablets in Pocket Boxes of 12—Bottles of 24 and 100 Capsules in Sealed Packages of 12 and 24

The trade-mark "Aspirin" (Reg. U. S. Pat. Office) is a guarantee that the manufacturer of Bayer tablets and capsules is of the reliable Bayer manufacture.

Beware of Substitutes

The sole makers of genuine Aspirin brand every tablet and every package with the Bayer Cross.

"The Bayer Cross—Your Guarantee of Purity"



Great Christmas Player Piano Sale

A most wonderful opportunity to save money on a Player Piano backed by the famous SCHMOLLER & MUELLER Guarantee. Six beautiful 1918 Models.



PLAYER PIANOS

\$395 Fully Guaranteed. Built to last a lifetime, on terms \$2.50 per week. Free, Beautiful Seat, Drape and Selection of Music.

Do not delay, call tomorrow and secure one of these real bargains for Christmas.

Schmoller & Mueller Omaha's Leading Piano House. 1311-13 Farnam St.

When Buying Advertised Goods Say You Read of Them in The Bee

Standard Brands Cigars For Christmas Presents

Fresh From Factory

Notwithstanding the scarcity of merchandise, our Cigar Department was never in better condition to cater to the fastidious tastes of smokers than it is at the present time. All the Cigars we are offering for sale are "fresh, clean merchandise," just received from the factories, as all the cigars we owned in our own warehouse at the time of our fire we sold out complete in one day. You cannot obtain a cigar from us that is not in fresh, prime condition, and, moreover, at money-saving prices.

We have been especially fortunate in getting half size boxes for those wishing to make a Christmas present without buying in full 100 or 50's.

Ladies will be courteously and wisely advised at our cigar department. Read our list—

Brand	Size	Box of 25	Box of 50
El Pazo	High Life	15c	\$3.00
El Pazo	High Life	15c	\$5.75
Flor de Murat	Navarre	10c	\$1.00
Flor de Murat	Opera, 3 for	25c	\$2.00
Flor de Murat	Navarre	10c St.	\$2.25
Flor de Murat	Frontenac	15c	\$3.00
Roi Tan	Brevas	10c	\$2.25
Roi Tan	Diplomats	15c	\$3.00
Yankee Consul	Junior	5c	\$2.00
Yankee Consul	Perfecto	7c St.	\$1.60
Robert Burns	Invincible	10c	\$2.25
Robert Burns	Invincible	10c	\$4.50
Little Bobbie		5c	\$2.25
Earl of Pawtucket	Invincible	6c	\$1.40
La Preferencia	Perfecto	15c	\$2.75
Pietora (Porto Rican)	Corona	10c	\$3.50
Saramita	Perfecto Royal	10c	\$1.00
Saramita	Perfecto Royal	10c	\$2.25
Saramita		5c St.	50
Black and White	Club House	5c St.	\$2.50
Black and White	Perfecto	5c St.	\$2.50
Chancellors	Imperial	10c St.	\$2.25
Lady Curzon	Invincibles	10c St.	\$2.25
(The above is an especially mild, pleasant smoke.)			
Flor de Portuondo	Londres	5c St.	\$1.25
(The above cigar has been sold in this market for more than 30 years, and is of known excellence.)			
Padova	Invincible	7c St.	\$1.50
Ten Eyck	Generals	15c	\$2.75
La Marca		7c	\$1.75
Reio	Common Sense	10c St.	\$2.50
Reio	Exceptionales	15c	\$5.75
Royal Sovereign	Brevas	10c	\$4.25
Royal Sovereign	Invincibles	11c	\$2.50
Humana	Invincibles	7c St.	\$1.75
Manila La Pazy	Perfecto	5c St.	\$1.25
Tom Moore	Invincibles	10c	\$4.50
Hand Made	3-50-2		\$1.25
Princess Mercedes	Brevas		\$4.00

Tobaccos in Christmas Packages

We have an unusually complete stock of all the standard smoking tobaccos and Army Comfort Kits of tobacco, pipes, etc., as follows:

1-lb. Glass Humidor Jar of Tuxedo, for	\$1.00
1-lb. Glass Humidor Jar of Velvet, for	\$1.00
1-lb. Glass Humidor Jar of Prince Albert, for	\$1.10
Special size Christmas package Tuxedo, for	.50
Bull Durham special Christmas package, of 12 packages of regular size, for	.60
Black & White "Smoker's Kit," containing French Briar Pipe with cleaners, Fuse Lighter, and assortment of Smoking Tobacco in several forms, all ready to mail, for	\$1.50
8-oz. Black & White, rolled cut, Smoking Tobacco	.45

A Splendid Pipe Assortment at Low Prices. Expert Service at Our Cigar Department.

SHERMAN & McCONNELL DRUG CO.

Corner 18th and Dodge (The Original)
Corner 18th and Farnam (The Owl)
Corner 24th and Farnam (The Harvard)
Corner 19th and Farnam (Handsome Commodious)
Corner 49th and Dodge (The West-End Pharmacy)

Great Christmas Sale of Fine Footwear

Just When Everybody Needs Shoes, Slippers, Rubbers and Fancy Boots This Wonderful Store Offers These Great Values For XMAS GIFTS

Sale Starts Thursday Morning, December 20th

<p>For Women</p> <p>Slippers, Juliet styles, fur trimmed, Flexo soles, felt tops, all colors. Xmas special, price—</p> <p>\$1.00</p>	<p>"Budoir Slippers"</p> <p>Fine soft kid, low heels, colors red or black, hand turned soles; sale price—</p> <p>\$1.39</p>	<p>For Men</p> <p>Opera slippers, Everett slippers, slippers with rubber in the soles. Black or brown. Xmas sale price—</p> <p>\$1.95</p>
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Pretty Heel Black Kid Boots

Fine, soft kid boots, street soles, high heels, snug fitting. Xmas sale price—

\$3.95

Felt, Ribbon Trimmed Slippers

These beauties come in blue, gray, wine and black colors; sale price—

\$1.25

Military Boots

Brown soft kid. The newest of all brown boots, all-over brown or brown boot cloth tops to match. Xmas sale price—

\$4.95

BUY HER A PRETTY PAIR OF BROWN BOOTS

The NEW "Hawaiian Boot"

10-inch Tops

Beautiful brown kid-skin vamps, Napoleon cut, topping of rich chocolate boot cloth.

Leather Louis XV heels and welted, street weight soles. A big special, at

\$7.95

Men's Dress English Shoes

Fine soft calf, new recede toes, street soles, Xmas sale price—

\$3.95

Men's Opera Slippers

Fine soft, brown kid, turn soles, \$3.00 values, Xmas sale price,

\$1.95

Men's Dark Mahogany English Dress Shoes

The newest of all men's dress shoes. Xmas sale price—

\$4.95

Give Footwear Gifts to the Children—Our Children's Department Alive With Bargains

BIG BOYS' HIGH TOP SHOES	RUBBERS--RUBBERS--For the Whole Family	Boys' "Solidwear" Shoes
Just the shoes for these wet days. Fine tan leather heavy soles, as near water-proof as can be made; sale price—	For Women, High or Low Heel Rubbers, 69c	\$2.45
\$3.95	For Girls, Plain or Storm Rubbers, 59c	The famous "Solidwear" shoes, made of durable black calf, with double strength soles, lace and button, sizes to 5½. Special—
NEXT DOOR EMPRESS THEATER	1512 DOUGLAS STREET	\$2.45

PANORS

OPPOSITE KILPATRICK'S