

Christmas Memories For Others

By Florence Harry Welby

"HARK! the Herald Angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King!"

The Christmas chimes were pealing overhead as Mrs. Peggy Walton hurried past the great department store.

A lump rose in Peggy's throat. Her eyes grew misty. She wondered if all these hurrying Christmas shoppers heard the chimes and felt as she did. Their faces gave no evidence of emotion; but neither did hers, Peggy assured herself.

Communicating with herself Peggy thought of other Christmas shopping expeditions when all was joy and anticipation. But that was when Bob was little and the four grandparents and two aunts were all coming for the holiday festivities to the big brick house in the little town. Now Bob was twenty-one, the grandparents had passed away—Grandmother Walton and Grandmother Prentiss had gone just a short time apart the past summer. The two aunts left as Peggy did, that Christmas morning would be less poignant if they didn't try to have the customary reunion. And instead of the big brick house with its cherry fireplaces, in the friendly little town, they lived in an apartment in the city. Not much Christmas atmosphere about an apartment Peggy reflected.

But something must be done about Christmas for Bob's sake, if for no other reason. It wouldn't seem much like Christmas for Bob to come home from college to just her and Dad.

Peggy had passed beyond the sound of the chimes, but between shopping ventures her mind dwelt constantly on this Christmas problem and what she could do. All



Peggy Had Passed Beyond the Sound of the Chimes.

their friends had their own families at Christmas, just as they had theirs until this year.

That brought her back again to the little town and the many changes that had taken place even in the short time they had been gone. Other homes besides theirs would miss the older generation this Christmas. Peggy began enumerating them in her mind.

There was Judge Hatford who had done so much for them when the first break had come and her own father had passed away, and even last summer when her mother, too, had gone. It was Judge Hatford who had taken the sting from the legal aspects. Yet, it was but a few weeks later when he also had been laid to rest in the little cemetery on the hill; then there was genial, courtly Mr. Morrow, and Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, separated from each other but a brief month, and Mr. and Mrs. Dawson—Peggy stopped in her summary. Why hadn't she thought of the Dawsons before? There was Fred Dawson, and Katherine, and their little boy Dick, and Katherine's younger sister, Mary; they, too, must be looking forward to Christmas with sorrowful memories; for always they had come from the far-off city to the home in the little town for the holidays and now there was no home to which to come.

It's worse for them than for us, I'll write them at once," Peggy decided. "They're just what we need. Mary and Bob will have a good time. We always enjoy Fred and Katherine. And there's little Dick, bless his heart; a child in what we want to revive the Christmas spirit."

Again Peggy found herself with in, hearing of the Christmas chimes. "Joy to the world" was ringing forth as she approached the department store on her homeward way. But there was no jump in her throat this time and her eyes were clear and sunny as she gaily hastened along, planning for others and winning for herself a Merry Christmas.

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A Yule Fancy

Love that glows in Christmas shopping.

Love in Christmas cheer and joys.

'Tis a mine whose bright outcroppings

Is the gold of childhood joys.

—William Tipton Talbott.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Dec. 22.—

(AP)—A bank cashier carrying \$14,000 today refused to be held up at the door of the Haystack National bank in Haysborough and two bandits fled after firing four shots at him. The cashier, Murray Cook, and a teller who accompanied him were not injured.

Blasting Through Hell Gate To Protect U.S. Battleships

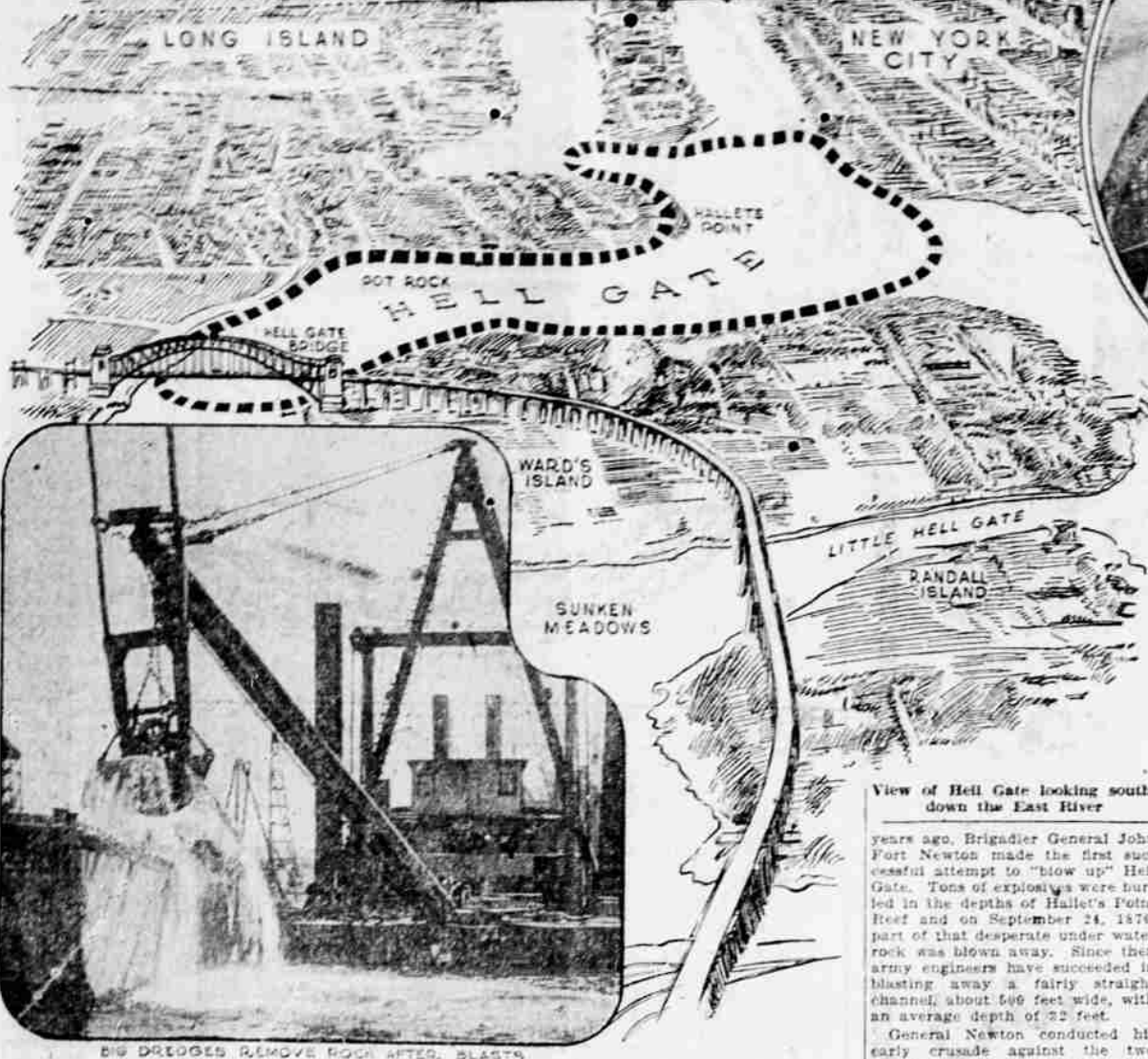
HELL GATE, that tortuous and rock strewn strait, approximately three miles long and half a mile between Brooklyn and the part of New York City known as Long Island, has been a trouble to navigation from the East River into Long Island Sound since way back in the days when the Dutch took over the site of New Amsterdam from the Indians. It is at least about to be tamed.

For fifty-two years government engineers have been at the work of clearing away the ragged sunken rocks and ledges which, together with the vicious currents, have destroyed many ships and imperiled and endangered the whippers of thousands of others.

This month sees the beginning of a 10 year campaign to complete the work approved by the Government in 1917 at a total cost of \$50,000,000, and which will at last make this three mile stretch of swirling water safe even for the largest warships and incidentally prevent the possibility of part of the Atlantic fleet being bottled up in the Brooklyn Navy Yard through a bombing of the Brooklyn Bridge.

The plans, part of which are already carried out, call for a 40 foot channel of mean low water running through the lower New York Bay to the Brooklyn Navy Yard and from there up the East River and through Hell Gate, a thirty-five foot channel varying from 55 to 100 feet in width. This will clear the way for all merchant vessels except such monsters as the Leviathan and Majestic, and all war vessels. The treacherous cross currents, the meeting of the swirling tidal waters swept in from Long Island Sound at one end and from Sandy Hook on the other, which even today sweeps many ships on the bordering rocks and shoals, will be controlled to a large extent by the presence of a wide deep channel through which the biggest ships can steam in safety.

One hundred and seventy thousand yards of rock must be blasted away to create this 35 foot deep channel, 1,800,000 pounds of dynamite being the estimated amount necessary for the next two years' work. Following the method used in recent years for each work, holes will be bored in the rock beneath the water, with hydraulic drills operated from the decks of special drill boats anchored over the spot. The holes will be ten feet apart and about ten feet deep. Into these holes, five by sixteen size



Big Drifts Remove Rock After Blasts

powerful gelatin dynamite cartridges will be lowered, and the charges connected by wires. Ninety percent gelatin dynamite, one of the strongest explosives known to man has been used in this work. It is particularly fitted for sub-

marine blasting. About 250 pounds of this gelatin dynamite will be used in each hole and, when the charges are fired, the blast will shake away the rock to a depth of two feet under the surface, or 47 feet from

the surface of the Gate. The fragments of rock will then be lifted by dredges, dumped on scows and the channel cleared.

Much advance in explosives and explosive methods have been made since the last time, fifty-two

years ago, Brigadier General John Fort Newton made the first successful attempt to "blow up" Hell Gate. Tons of explosives were hurled in the depths of Hallett's Point Reef and on September 24, 1876, part of that desperate under water rock was blown away. Since then army engineers have succeeded in blasting away a fairly straight channel, about 600 feet wide, with an average depth of 32 feet.

General Newton conducted his early crusade against the two greatest menaces of the Gate, Hallett's Point Reef and Flood Rock, by tunneling. The former, three acres in extent, was attacked by boring a big shaft on the shore and of the reef and from it running tunnels through the rock in all directions until the whole reef was undermined. When he dynamited

the supporting pillars, the roof collapsed, leaving a 25 foot channel. It took nearly seven years.

Next he turned his attention to Flood Rock which was in the middle of the Gate and which covered about nine acres. Four miles of tunnels through that rock were bored over a period of ten years. There were, at the end of the work, 234,000 tons of rock left and it took 233,956 pounds of explosive distributed in over 44,000 copper cartridges to blow it down.

One of the outcomes of these great excavations and blastings was the invention by Gen. Newton of the steam drill, which is said to be the first of its kind and which was the precursor of the present effective rock drills.

The work of fighting the battle of Hell Gate was taken up, after Gen. Newton's death in 1895, by other army engineers and has been going on ever since. It has been, in many of its phases, one of the most stubborn and picturesque encounters between man and Nature that was ever undertaken on this continent. Always Hell Gate has been a source of danger and anxiety to the merchant craft that ply from the East River docks of Brooklyn and Manhattan up into Long Island Sound, making for the various ports along the Connecticut shore, or seeking an outlet to the deep sea through fifty miles of inside route.

But greater worryment has been caused in the War and Navy Departments because of the danger that a hostile fleet, threatening the Port of New York might, with proper luck, succeed in bottling part of the U. S. fleet in the local Navy Yard just below the Brooklyn Bridge. Only the smaller craft could get into Long Island Sound, the seaward entrance to which is easily protected by mine fields. That, and the constant injury to shipping in general, is the reason the government has been so persistent over the years in trying to make Hell Gate safe for all manner of craft.

Even after the channel is finished, the three miles of narrow water, the meeting place of two tides which surge back and forth through the narrow strait, there being sometimes as much as two feet difference in mean highwater between the Battery at the end of Manhattan Island and Throggs neck near the Gate, will be a place that requires good navigation, although the hidden rocks will be removed and to some extent the swirls will be conquered.

SHERIFFS TO ASK WITHDRAWING OF 'TONIC' PERMITS

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 22.—(AP)—

Sheriffs of Oregon, in annual session here, endorsed proposed establishment of state reformatories for adult first offenders, in order to segregate them from hardened criminals. District Attorney Stanley Myers, of Multnomah county, and Guy Gordon, of Douglas favored the plan, and it was accepted unanimously with the idea that money for the purpose may be available some time in the future.

Withdrawal of permits by federal prohibition officers for manufacture and sale of "wine tonics" was proposed in a resolution. Sheriffs in annual session re-elected T. M. Hurlburt, of Multnomah county president for the 12th consecutive term; O. D. Hoverson Marion, was elected vice-president; John Aschm, Tillamook, was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

SARDINIAN BANDIT CHIEFTAIN KILLED

NUORO, Sardinia, Dec. 22.—(AP)—

With a price of 100,000 lire (about \$5,000) on his head, the bandit chief Santino Bucci was killed yesterday in battle with the police at the village of Orgosolo.

Bucci, who was only 26 years old, became leader of a marauding band after their old chieftain, Santino Borchino, was shot by the gendarmes earlier this year. He was charged with five murders, two attempted murders, numerous thefts and the killing of a herd of 420 head of cattle.

Bucci put up a stiff fight against the carabinieri. Though wounded, he fled along the route of the chase until he finally fell with three shots in his body.

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Snowless Brazil Has Never Been On Santa Claus' Reindeer Route

By Hal Walker

(Associated Press Correspondent)

RIO DE JANEIRO—(AP) Tropical Brazil, where snow and chimes are unknown and few children wear stockings, has never heard of Santa Claus.

Once, long before the present generation, there was a custom of children placing their empty shoes at the foot of their beds on Christmas eve. If they had been well behaved and respectful toward their parents, they would awake in the morning to find that Papa Noel had arrived from some mysterious locality and filled the shoes with gifts.

This tradition coming from Europe, especially France where the youngsters place their wooden sabots in front of the open fireplace, is all but obsolete in the sections of Brazil where Papa Noel was once known. The custom of having a small Christmas tree is still followed in the homes of those

who have several children and the money to spend. For the grown-ups the holiday has come to be accepted in the French fashion, midnight mass and supper, although the special dish, fresh oysters, of the French revolution is missing. The hotels of the capital and other large cities make a specialty of these midnight suppers.

However, as the daughter of Portugal but now mistress in her own house, Brazil carries out some of the traditions of the mother country at Christmas, especially among the families of the ordinary citizens whose interests do not encompass large hotels and restaurants. The "consoada" or midnight supper is a feature in these homes with nuts, raisins, dried figs and "pabandias" (bread soaked in milk, then in an egg batter, fried, and eaten with sugar) as the traditional dishes.

Even the "presepe" which shows the shepherds at Bethlehem and

the Three Wise Men on the road, which was once, in more or less elaborate form, a Christmas feature in every home in passing, and now only the department stores make a feature of it in their show windows.

Until about twenty years ago every rich family built a "presepe" sometimes most elaborate, and the Wise Men were moved along on the road each twenty-four hours toward the Manger and Child. It was the custom then for visitors to go to all the houses which had these preseps and pass judgment on which was the best.

Thrilling Romance at State Theatre

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