



OPEN HOUSE SLATED—Pictured above is an interior view of Gates Furniture store at 341 North Central ave., which opens Saturday with an "open house" event. The new store, which occupies a new building constructed for Gates Furniture, will provide the firm with twice the floor space avail-

able in the previous location. The new building is the culmination of 14 years of planning by the owners, George and Dora Gates. Added parking space is provided adjacent to the new building. Gates Furniture also operates stores in Ashland and Grants Pass. —(Brainerd Photo)

Better Conditions Raise Production

Washington — (U.P.)—An experimental post office at Richmond, Va., shows how improved working conditions can raise production, according to the post office department here.

After the department had accepted recommendations from leading light and color engineers, there was an eight per cent production jump in mail handled between December and January of 1953.

The department pointed out that it handles more than 50,000,000,000 pieces of mail annually and employees need to read the address on each piece of mail five times or more to route it properly to the addresses. The hundreds of billions of visual operations resulting from this volume of mail makes proper lighting conditions a must.

From the experience gained in the "Richmond experiment," the post office department has embarked on a modernization program of building larger post offices as rapidly as funds permit. Working with the General Services Administration, the department's initial goal is the modernization of 8,000,000 feet

of floor space in the largest buildings within the next three years.

Ultimately, the modernization program will be a large undertaking. The department said the program will involve the installation of modern illumination and ventilation systems in some 3,200 government-owned buildings and 20,891 leased buildings.

The department feels the program will give the American people faster, better mail service at a reduced cost.

PUBLIC INVITED

The Sunday evening services at the First Baptist church will be especially featured and all interested persons are invited to attend, church officers have announced. The services will begin at 7:30 p.m., and members of the youth choir will present the music in an informal song service.

CHRISTMAS TREES DUE

Montreal — (U.P.)—New York City was down for some 3,000,000 Canadian Christmas trees today as railways prepared 3500 cars to carry a total of 11,000,000 evergreens to the United States.

Mother Strangles Daughter; Severely Cuts Self With Knife

Modesto, Calif. — (U.P.)—Mrs. Marguerite Blanchard, 38, told police yesterday that she strangled her nine-year-old daughter, severely slashed herself with a paring knife and razor blade, and then lay for 36 hours near the body of her child.

The tragedy was discovered by Don Lapan, Mrs. Blanchard's brother-in-law, who came to the house to take the woman and her daughter out for Thanksgiving dinner.

Went To Police

Lapan told police that when he arrived Mrs. Blanchard opened the door part way and whispered, "I think I've killed Carol Ann." Lapan went to the police without entering the house.

Authorities said they found Mrs. Blanchard lying on the bed beside the body of her daughter. There was blood all about the house. The mother had two deep slashes on her neck, two on each

temple and one on each arm above the elbow. She was rushed to the county hospital where her condition was reported as "fair."

Recently Divorced

In broken sentences, Mrs. Blanchard told police what had happened. She said she was recently divorced and had considered killing her daughter and committing suicide, but lacked the nerve.

She said she made her decision Wednesday morning, after lying awake all night. Mrs. Blanchard said she used a silk scarf to strangle Carol Ann—"but it took a long time because she struggled."

She then tried to take her own life with a paring knife, but later switched to a razor blade. A large pool of blood in the bathroom indicated she may have stood in front of the mirror so she could see where to strike the blows.

Mrs. Blanchard said that she was "up and down" several times during the 36 hours that elapsed before Lapan arrived at the house—despite the fact that she also claimed to have taken 20 sleeping tablets.

She told police: "Don't know what troubles caused it... just everything... been in my thoughts for some time... recently divorced... maybe it was just Thanksgiving."

Provoe Enters Innocent Plea To Charge of Treason

Baltimore — (U.P.)—John David Provoe, former Army sergeant, pleaded innocent today to charges of treason while a prisoner of the Japanese in World War II.

Arraigned before Federal Judge Rosel Tomson, Provoe pleaded innocent to all seven counts of the treason indictment.

Letter Drops Counsel

It was disclosed at the arraignment that Provoe had written a letter to Tomson last Saturday asking that James J. Laughlin, Washington attorney, be dropped as his counsel. A court appointed attorney, Joseph Rosenthal, also said he would not be able to serve.

Tomson then appointed Hilary Gann and Reuben Oppenheimer, both of Baltimore, to represent Provoe.

Trial date was set for March 14. Provoe, 37, former San Francisco bank clerk, was tried once before in federal court in New York City and sentenced to life imprisonment. However, the verdict was overturned by a federal court of appeals. He was re-indicted in Maryland.

Provoe was accused of donning the robes of a Buddhist priest while a prisoner of the Japanese and attempting to induce fellow prisoners to give information to the enemy.

Provoe lived in the San Francisco Bay Area until he made a trip to Japan in 1940. He studied Buddhism and the Japanese language until he returned to the United States and entered the Army. He was captured when Corregidor fell in May, 1942.

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Montgomery Ward

Phone 2-6241

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White, colors 3.98 34 to 40

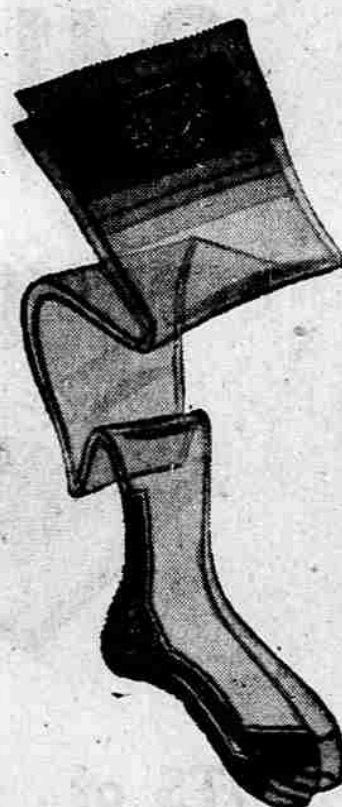
Smart boxy or fitted Cardigans in soft-to-the-touch 100% zephyr wool. Richly styled with matching pearl buttons; snug-fitting double looped necklines. Select yours now for school, office or casual wear.



MEN'S HORSEHIDE JACKET

In brown 25.98 Sizes 38-44

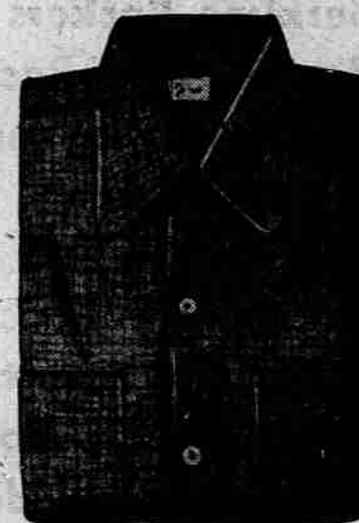
Tough, long-wearing horsehide, with quilted lining for extra warmth. Snug knit wristlets inside sleeves, shirred elastic waist snubbers, full-length zipper front. "Hand-warmer" pockets inside snap pockets.



FRAME HEEL NYLONS

1.25

Feminine and flattering for all your special costumes. 12-denier, 66-gauge Carol Brent de luxe sheers with a picture-pretty dark heel for slimming leg flattery. Sheer, but strong 66-gauge construction for added wear. Full-fashioned. Dainty dark seams. 8½-11.



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Washable 4.98 Men's sizes

Carefully tailored in Dan River wrinkle-resisting fabric. Stays neat and fresh-looking longer than ordinary cottons. Choice of handsome solid colors: gray, blue, maize, or green. A splendid gift item.



FINE WOOL CARDIGAN

3.98

Perfect for Christmas. Pure white wool Sweater with tyrolean-type hard embroideries. Front cable stitch. 3-6X.



BOYS' SPORT SHIRTS

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Always welcome as gifts. Colorful Sanforized woven flannel Sport Shirts. Popular plaids. Long sleeves. Sizes 6-18.



COMFORTABLE SLIPPERS

2.29

Women's felt Everetts, deep wine with checked corduroy collar. Sturdy leather soles, rubber heels. In sizes 4 to 9.



LINED DRESS GLOVES

2.49

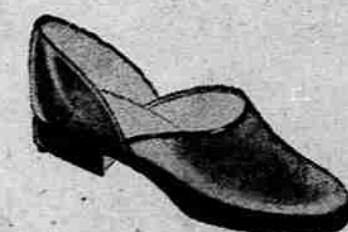
Fine leathers in black or brown. Fully lined in 100% wool for extra warmth and comfort. All men's sizes.



INFANTS' SLIPPER SOCKS

98c

For your finest Christmas angel. Soft 100% wool with hand-stitched leather soles. Gay applique trims. S-M-L.



COMFORTABLE SLIPPERS

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Men's soft supple Brown kidskin Operas for easy relaxing around the house. Long-lasting composition soles. Sizes 6-11.

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