

Christmas Poet's Corner

CHRISTMAS
May Christmas bring you happiness
And the New Year bring you peace.
May the love in your heart for God and man,
With its blessings never cease.

And I wish for you throughout the year
The spirit of God within,
That you may be happy and content
Away from life's cares and din.

That the spirit of Christ Jesus
May be round and about you so near
That you may feel his loving presence
As a friendship more close and dear.

Theresa M. McCormb.

CHRISTMASIDE
The cannoners stand ready to fire their booming guns
The bugler's hand is steady and the drummer mans his drum
The battle lines are drawn and the horsemen's banners fly
And the grand marshals in their uniforms of brilliant colors vie

They await the signal of the battle royal in style
When a little boy on Christmas morn rolls out his greeting smile.

The dollies and the teddy bears are not to be outdone
For they know they are meant to cuddle when a sweet girl's bedtime comes
A little voice will croon a tune, a wee mother's lullaby
And dolly with her golden curls will slip into dreamland with a sigh

And will not little teddy bear with coat so furry warm
Guard his little mistress there and keep her free from harm?

A jackknife there, a set of blocks, a story book that tells
Of daring deeds and knights on steeds that weave their magic spell
A set of china dishes shine, a gleaming white cook stove,
A Noah's ark of animals, a child's own treasure trove

A set of tools of every size and make, to gladden some dear heart
Of some small lad to build and dream his happy playtime mart.

There are little carts of almond nuts, box sleds of caramels stored
Where candy houses shed their light on paths of those adored

The kegs of little oranges stand for lass and lad alike
While flannel frocks and hand-some boots root winter for each tyke

Who knows what joys and blessings each boy and girl will share
Beneath the ornamental ever-green and silver stars so fair?
(Maurice R. Keop)

I OWNED AN INN
In the little town of Bethlehem,
I can see it yet;
I owned a rooming house,
But I wish I could forget.
A gentle knock upon my door,
If I had only known;
May time erase from memory,
This little inn I owned.

Nay—nay—I'm sorry sir,
There is not a single bed;
Good night—sir—Good night,
That was what I said.
But he didn't turn away,
And in a voice, so mild,
Please—Oh please sir,
My wife may have her child.

My heart it ached, for that poor man,
But I didn't hear him say:
There is no room—I'm sorry sir,
But he didn't turn away.
Then I thought of our little barn,
Down and across the way;
I then showed him the manger,
Which was now filled with hay.

Soon the shepherds knocked,
Asking the shortest way;
Where a King was being born,
In a manger, on some hay.
A bright star stood overhead,
Bright lights were everywhere,
They sang, peace on earth,
Then I wished, I were dead.

We then hurried to the barn,
Lo—and my soul it froze;
For lying in the manger there
A babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes.
A happy smile on her face,
Star light upon her hair;
That little baby's Mother
So meek, oh, so bright, so fair.

Oh, Unhappy me, but he didn't say,
For if I had only known
I would not have turned away
Our Savior, who was born.

C. J. H.

ZIP CODE
My street address is legible
I even write the zone
And I use digit dialing
When I have to use the phone.
I know my old age number,
And now at last I'm flipped,
I can't recall the "Zip's" at all,
Must I remain unzipped?

HE WHO WATCHES OVER US
Lo, the Angels came upon a star lit night
To a manger where the baby Jesus lay,
They tenderly blessed and watched o'er Him
As He slept peacefully on a bed of hay.

Oh, blessed little town of Bethlehem
May we never forget to remember,
The real, and true cause for rejoicing
On this twenty-fifth day of December.

May our light so shine
That He, our silent Guest,
May see, too, and rejoice
He, whom on that night the Angels blessed.

Mrs. Russell E. Jones.

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS
It's not how much you spend,
Nor how much you're giving
But the birth of Jesus Christ
That makes this life worth living.

Now there's fun in a toy
For a girl or a boy,
And over presents we fuss
But if you'll recall
The best present of all
Is the Savior God gave to us.

So joy to your heart with peace and good will,
You do your part, with love, life fulfill,
A prayer of thanks to Him who made us
If it wasn't for God there'd be no Christmas.

Louis J. Taucher,
1630 Nimitz.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS
Have you lost the spirit of Christmas,
And face its coming with dread,
And trying to think of the gifts you should buy,
Has left you with aching head?

Then you've lost the spirit of Christmas,
If you want to find it in joy,
Then pick up some toys and goodies
For an unfortunate girl or boy.

Take some gifts to the home for the aged,
And pausing along the way,
Stop at the Gospel Mission,
With some food and clothing today.

For this is the spirit of Christmas,
The spirit that more of us need,
For in helping the ones that have little,
Will make our lives richer indeed.

Grace Jones.

LEST WE FORGET
Lest we forget the dear ones at the Nursing Home . . .
Age may bring infirmity, loneliness, heartache and tears,
A gift from those of us could bring them Christmas cheer.
For many, sole happiness lies in memories of yesterday.

It seems a person earns a right to peace in age
But for many, it's only wracking pain,
For the hard labor they've done down through the years
Would put many of our soft hands to shame.

The number is many on a bed of pain tonight
And sleep is such a sweet reprieve,
It brings to them, dear ones all 'round
In memories of another Christmas Eve.

Their knotted work-worn hands once trimmed a Christmas tree
And they moved with skill and pride . . .
Their legs no longer lumber
Which once had swiftness in their stride . . .

May the Lord bless and watch over them
And may we, His servants do our share,
That it may bring a little sunshine into each life
And to tell them that someone cares.

Mrs. Russell E. Jones.

CHRISTMAS IS HERE
Christmas is here—is here once more,
Here for the rich—Here for the poor,
Eager Children wait—Counting each day,
Old folks smile—Their thoughts are gay.

Christmas is here—With fuss and frills,
Here in the city—Out in the hills,
Carols are sung—Candles are lit,
Homes are filled with merriment.

Christmas is here for every land,
Whether it's north or desert sand,
Peace on earth the bells all chime,
Our Saviour was born at this time.

Jennie Charles.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
The night before Christmas and All through the house,
Not a creature was stirring,
Except for my good spouse,
Like most wives alerted,
She sat up with a bound;
And frantically she whispered,
"I hear a strange sound."

From under my blankets,
I rolled out of the sack;
Propelled by her feet in
The small of my back,
I threw open wide the door,
And to my great surprise
There stood Old Santa Claus
Before my very eyes.

Soon he filled the kiddies stockings
And without turning his back,
He again faced the door, as
He shouldered his pack;
I heard him cry out as
He went out of sight,
A Merry Christmas to all;
And now turn out the light.

C. J. H.

POETRY FEATURE MUST LE THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS
Is it true there is no Santa?
Asked a sad little girl of three;
On the night before Christmas
In a grief-stricken home,
As she sat on her mother's knee.

How could one tell a child in a room with no heat,
Where the cupboard is bare
And there are no shoes for her feet,
That such a being actually exists
And fills all of our needs from an inexhaustible list?

Yet there must be a way to explain to a child
That all that is unseen need not be a dream that is wild.
There is love, hope, health and faith, all unseen but true
Beyond a doubt.

So why should belief in Santa from the mind be cast out?
As that mother wracked her mind for the right answer to give,
There was a knocked at the door as sure as you live,
Mother opened the door and looked out into the night.
The stoop was piled high with boxes, but no one was in sight.

The boxes were filled with warm clothing,
Tasty foods and dry fuel,
Put there when they were most needed—
On the night of the Yule.

Some say the home was visited by old Santa,
Others say it was only neighbors, or a friend,
But what is so important about the donor,
When there is a child's faith to defend.

So mothers, when that question comes to you,
There is no reason to pause,
For just as sure as there are fairies,
There is also a Santa Claus.

Lawrence Bullard.

Fire Fighter For 45 Years
CHEHALIS, Wash. (UPI)—If you think the tough, demanding job of fighting a forest fire is suitable work only for the young, don't tell Bob Graham. He just won't believe it.

Graham, 75, has been on the fire lines for 45 years.

At an age when most men have long since retired, Graham is the boss man of a crew of young men, most of them about 17 years old.

Graham's crew, one of four of its type employed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, is headquartered here but can be dispatched anywhere in the state within a matter of minutes.

The job of the mobile squad is to help battle fires that small local crews can't control alone.

A small wiry man with a fringe of white hair, Graham is enthusiastic about his job. He always refers to his crewmen as "my boys."

But the years are beginning to take a toll. He admits that it takes a little longer to do things now than it did 40 years ago.

Graham now is planning to retire at the end of the current fire season. But many people aren't counting on it. They think Graham may be doing business at the same stand next year.

SWAP PLATES
BYFIELD, Mass. (UPI)—The swapping of auto license plates is a popular fad hereabouts.

Members of the Auto License Plate Collectors Association collect the plates that are discarded at the end of the registration year. At a recent meeting, club members came from as far away as Maryland to show some of their prize plates and to make swaps to fill gaps in their collections of the old, the new and the unusual.



LINE OF SUCCESSION — President Johnson and House Speaker John W. McCormack (right), D-Mass., are shown together in this 1963 photo. If anything should happen to President Johnson before his term ends, McCormack would be president and a new House speaker would be elected to be next in line. — UPI Telephoto

U.S. Line Of Succession Won't Pass Speaker

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Sen. Carl Hayden, 86, president pro tem of the Senate and a fixture on Capitol Hill for almost 52 years, can quit worrying about the possibility he could be asked to move to the White House.

So can all the younger Cabinet members who stand behind Hayden in the long presidential line of succession set up in its wisdom by Congress in 1947, when President Harry S. Truman felt uneasy without a publicly elected backup man in the vacant vice president's spot.

The fact is that if Lyndon B. Johnson should die or become disabled between now and the end of the term he is filling out for the slain President Kennedy, the job would fall to the speaker of the House, currently Rep. John W. McCormack, D-Mass.

Under no likely set of circumstances could it ever go further. McCormack will be 72 on Dec. 21. He is shocked at suggestions he might, or should — as one New England paper proposed editorially — step aside from the No. 1 spot in the line of succession he now holds in accordance with the 1947 law.

McCormack said two weeks ago he still supports the 1947 law, as he did when it was enacted, "not because I'm in it but because I feel it's the best way of solving the problem."

A review of the succession law is a matter for Congress to explore if it wishes, he said, but "I don't want to pursue the matter further because it concerns a thought that I don't even want to entertain."

If anything should happen to Johnson, McCormack said a ready-made line of succession is set up in its wisdom by Congress in 1947, when President Harry S. Truman felt uneasy without a publicly elected backup man in the vacant vice president's spot.

But suppose he should succeed Johnson and himself fall by the wayside before the end of the current presidential term? Would not the presidency then go to Hayden, or the secretary of state, or some other official on down the line?

No, it would not. By that time the House would have elected a new speaker. And he would be first in the new line of succession.

It was Mr. Truman himself, an old Senate man, who suggested this House-oriented approach to the problem of assuring an orderly continuation of government if both president and vice president died or became unable to serve.

Satellite 'Chit-Chat' Proves Costly

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Satellites are too gabby.

So scientists are looking for some way to make them talk only when they have something worth saying.

A single overly articulate satellite can transmit enough data to earth to keep magnetic tape recorders busy 24 hours a day.

Such gabbliness means waste of time, talent and money. Moreover, since the radio spectrum is finite, it puts an intolerable burden on the limited communication links between spacecraft and earth.

What is wanted, and what engineers are trying to develop, is a space-borne editor to screen out repetitious chit-chat and idle gossip before they are transmitted.

The editor will have to be a light-weight, long-lived, high-speed computer possessing great powers of discrimination and judgment.

It may take five years to perfect a compact computer for such vital executive work, but engineers say it is both possible and necessary.

Use Numbers Code
Information-gathering satellites use a numerical code in making their radio reports. They talk, so to speak, in "data points." A data point in satellite language is expressed in three decimal digits—anything from 000 to 999. It can best be explained for the layman by analogy.

Imagine a man who for some reason is obsessed by temperature readings. Every hour on the hour he leaps from his chair to see what the outside thermometer says. He is operating at the rate of one data point per hour.

But a gifted satellite, like the geophysical observatory to be put in orbit late next year, can transmit 10,000 data points per second if not curbed in some way. Actually, ground stations simply refuse to listen to much more than a tenth of what such a satellite has to say.

Much Is Useless
In that tenth, however, is a lot of stuff conveying no useful meaning. Much of it is mere repetition. Go back to the man who is so interested in the outside temperature. As long as the reading is around 72 degrees, say, he is satisfied and makes no notes in his record book.

But if on one of his hourly visits to the window he saw the thermometer reading had

jumped to 85 degrees, he would be concerned and would record the change.

That suggests one way in which the space-going editor might function — it would instruct experimental devices aboard the satellite to report only the changes in whatever conditions they were observing. That alone would eliminate a lot of monotonous repetition.

22,300 mi. Altitude Synchronous Orbit



"SYNCOM" HIGH ALTITUDE COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE
TOO MUCH YAK-YAK — One trouble with satellites is that they talk too much. Space scientists are trying to develop a computer that will keep them from giving repetitious or unimportant messages. Here, in an artist's conception, the "Syncom" high altitude communications satellite beams some of its voluminous data back to earth. — UPI Telephoto

Staple Gun Handy And Versatile Tool

By MR. FIX
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Tacks and brads and small hammers with which to pound them in place are not yet obsolete, but you may think them so once you have used a staple gun.

It's one of the most versatile shop tools you could add to your collection. With it you can accomplish one-hand fastening of a variety of materials.

The convenience of the gun makes it a most practical tool when installing ceiling tile and this is where you have probably seen the tool in use.

The flange of the tile is stapled to a furring strip. The tiles interlock and the next tile covers the tacking of the first.

Designed for Duty
Staple guns come in a variety of sizes. Lightweight models that will accept staples 1/4 or 5/16-inch long are inexpensive. They can be used for most light duty fastening jobs. These work, fastening fabrics or other thin coverings.

Then there are larger models. They cost more and they do more. They will handle staples up to 9/16-inch, the longest available.

With a larger gun you can install ceiling tile, staple light pieces of wood together, fasten thin sheets of plywood and do some temporary tacking until other fastening can be accomplished.

Various Uses
Staple together pieces that must be held firmly until glue dries. Or use staples to hold materials in position until

screws, bolts or dowels can be set in place.

When assembling a frame, staple a thin strip of wood diagonally across a corner to serve as a temporary brace. This tool is useful when installing insulation and weatherstripping. In both instances you will cut your time down to a fraction of that required when using a hammer.

If screening needs repair or replacement, you can do the job neatly and quickly.

Use the right size staple for the job. The smallest is fine for holding down shelf paper, but you need something heavier for screening, heavier yet for fastening upholstery and heaviest of all for ceiling tiles.

Remember to hold the gun firmly against the surface. Push the handle, don't squeeze it. Although it's a one-hand tool you'll drive the staple better if you steady the front end of the

gun with a thumb or finger whenever you can.

Care for your stapler as you would any other good tool. Keep it away from moisture. Never fire staples when the gun is not up against a surface. The practice is dangerous to anyone who happens to be around. It also hurts the tool since the plunger should meet resistance.



TO HOLD TEMPORARILY. IT MAY WELL BE ONE OF ITS MOST IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS.

Family Homes



Ranch Style Home Offers Many Years Of Good Living

Today's choice is a ranch home featuring the kind of simple design that will pay dividends in good living for many years.

Spacious, rectangular living-dining area has china cabinet near front door to prevent direct entry. Guest wrap closet is conveniently located. Fireplace is placed against inside wall for pleasing and functional arrangement, leaving ample wall

areas for furniture placement. Beautiful picture window is opposite fireplace with another extra size window featured in the dining area. An "all-weather" living center that will be sunshine bright in the winter and cooled by summer breeze during the warm months of the year.

Note the privacy of the sleeping wing—with both bedrooms featuring top favor "wrap-around" corner windows placed high so that your furniture will be placed easily. Activities room can double as a third bedroom as it has a separate wardrobe closet.

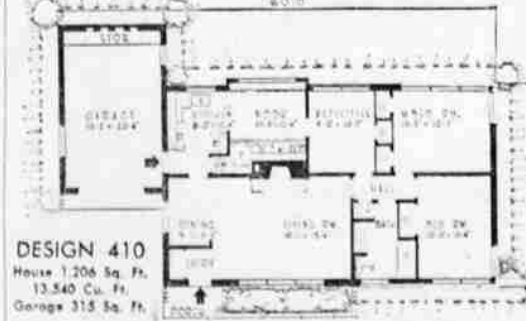
Short hall is actually a traffic "hub." Large, full bath contains linen closet which has handy access door in hall.

Even a casual glance reveals the advantageous layout of the kitchen and utility area. Kitchen has "boxed-in" work center with sink beneath window overlooking garden. Kitchen also has door to garage.

Utility room has drop beam over bay windows overlooking garden and a plastered beam over laundry section making the room into an attractive dining nook with door to activities room. Hot water tank and furnace are shut off by louvered door.

Recommended exterior construction is brick veneer. Wood trellis and protective overhang give the porch effect which is so popular among prospective homeowners.

This plan conforms to general FHA, VA and Building Code requirements. You can obtain building plans with material list and specifications — see order coupon.



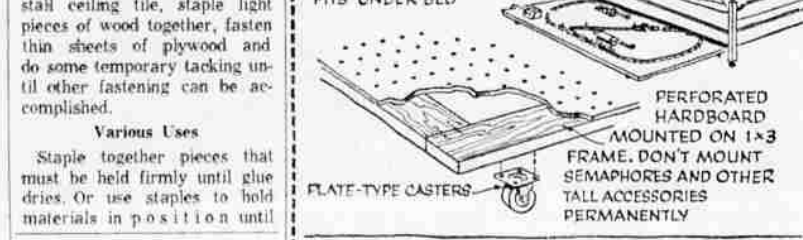
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Let's Try It
Own a rug that has turned up corners? Use your steam iron on the front and back of the rug where the corners turn up. Straighten the rug down on the floor while it is still damp and it will dry out straight . . .

Have you looked at your books lately? Be sure they are near the edge of the shelf so that air can circulate behind them. They can be cleaned best with the dusting brush of your vacuum cleaner.

To make a new rope clothesline pleasantly pliable, boil it for several minutes and rinse it in hot water before stringing it up . . . Finger marks on candles can be cleaned with a soft cloth moistened with denatured alcohol . . . Don't starch cottons before storing. Michigan State University home economists say silverfish feed on the starch.

Never scrub wood floors to excess. Water is the natural enemy of wood. A coating of wax, well polished and buffed, is the most satisfactory finish for all types of wood floors.

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