

DAILY DEMOCRAT

Published Every Evening Except Sunday by
THE DECATUR DEMOCRAT CO.
JOHN H. HELLER, Editor
ARTHUR R. HOLTHOUSE, Associate Editor and Business Manager
JOHN H. STEWART, City Editor

Subscription Rates
Cash in Advance
Single Copies..... 3 cents
One Week, by carrier..... 15 cents
One Year, by carrier..... \$7.50
One Month, by mail..... \$1.25
Three Months, by mail..... \$3.25
Six Months, by mail..... \$4.00
One Year, by mail..... \$4.00
One Year, at office..... \$4.00

Advertising rates made known on application.

Entered at the postoffice at Decatur, Indiana, as second-class matter.

IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?

We take pleasure, says the New York Sun of many years ago, in answering the communication below:

"Dear Editor—I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

"Papa says 'If you see it in the Sun, it's so.' Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?"

"VIRGINIA O'HANLON,
115 W. Ninety-fifth St."

Virginia your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would

be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus. You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen or unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise in side, but there is a veil covering the unseen world, which not the strongest man, or even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus? Thank God! He lives and He lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, He will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

If you would spend an hour or so with Col. Fordyce or Cal Peterson and see the real need for the associated charity work in Decatur, you would be glad to just subscribe for a little cash with the understanding

that they will do the work of caring for the needy. It's an easy, sensible, business way to take care of those who need charity. About the worst thing that can be done in such cases is to be spasmodic and that's what happens unless we work through a general organization. If you feel that you want to help in this greatest work, notify these men and if you have clothes, food or money to give, be sure to do it through the one organization which represents all churches and lodges. It saves time, effort, money and gets much better results.

The legislature of Indiana will begin its regular grind early in January and for two months we will watch the mill grind along. The danger is that they will pay more attention to quantity than quality and when they finish we will have another bunch of useless and needless legislation. If they will correct the defects in tax and highway laws they will accomplish the biggest improvement we can think of and as an added inducement for the "normalcy" program, they certainly ought to do this.

Long before spring comes you will be able to decide whether you like "normalcy" as well as you thought you would when it was being preached to you from the political platforms. Many are already out of work and it will be a long time before there will be more jobs than men for a lot of the big employees want it that way.

Of course things are not as bright as they were a year ago, business is "shot," competition is fierce, we are going back to "normalcy" on a fast express, but it won't make so much difference in twenty-five or thirty years so just keep on smiling.

This is Christmas week. Let's forget a lot of things, or as near as we can, and have a good time, not neglecting to see that the poor and needy are made happy too.

HAD 324 QUARTS OF IT

(United Press Service)
Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 20—(Special to Daily Democrat)—James Smith, 41, Detroit, auto salesman, and R. C. Freeman, 30, Toledo, auto mechanic, arrested by federal authorities here charged with violating the liquor laws, were released today under \$1,000 bond each by United States Commissioner Waer.

They were arrested while driving here from Detroit with 324 quarts of liquor valued at more than \$4,000, present prices.

NEW COAL PRICES

(United Press Service)
Indianapolis, Dec. 20—(Special to Daily Democrat)—Contemplating a drop of the open market price of Indiana mined coal the state special coal and food commission is about to prepare a new list of prices to be charged at the mouth of the mine, it was learned here today.

An order of the commission issued in October said the price for coal at the mine ranging from \$2.30 to \$3.85 a ton depending on the quality. It was indicated that the level of prices would be brought much below these.

Jesse Eschbach, chairman of the commission, would not say what the new prices are likely to be but indicated they will be reduced in accordance with the fall of the open market.

"I believe that the bottom has just about fallen out of the market," Eschbach said.

Yellowstone Park estimated 79,777 tourists during the 1920 season.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Those merchants and professional men who wish to send a Christmas Greeting to their friends, customers and patrons through the columns of the Daily Democrat, are requested to get their copy into this office not later than Wednesday noon. The Daily Democrat will go to press at noon on Friday, the day before Christmas in order that workmen can repair the foundation under the press. There will be no paper on Christmas day. You can extend a Merry Christmas greeting to at least fifteen thousand people for a dollar or two by running an ad in the Daily Democrat. Those business houses who have instructed "Cap" Richmond to prepare their copy will be duly taken care of.

SPORT NEWS

Herman-Lynch Fight.

New York, Dec. 20.—Champion Pete Herman and Joe Lynch who are to battle fifteen rounds in Madison Square Garden Wednesday night for the world's bantam weight championship, pronounced themselves ready today. Although early betting makes Lynch a five to three favorite for the championship Herman is confident.

A box of "WHITE STAG" cigars spell A Merry, Merry Christmas. Have you bought you box of 'em? 299-51

---WANT ADS EARN---\$---\$---WANT ADS EARN---\$

"ALWAYS IN TROUBLE"

A Very Interesting Play to Be Given.

The Junior class will present one of Walter Ben Hare's plays at the Pleasant Mills high school, Wednesday evening, December 22, 1920 at 7:45 p. m.

If you want an evening of rollicking fun, good wholesome laughter "and everything," don't fail to see this play. There's a jazz-time wedding, a real-for-sure-enough negro with a great-big "razzer", a cross cook, a grouchy old man and a pair of lovers. Mr. R. J. Mann directs the play.

The music will be furnished by the "Stellar Four" of Decatur. The admission is twenty-five cents. Reserved seats thirty-five cents.

Bank Accounts Increase Opportunities

Scores of successful men will attribute their success to the fact that when Opportunity called they had sufficient funds set aside to enable them to grasp the situation.

A bank account not only enables one to grasp such opportunities as they are offered but also gives the owner a standing in the community that inspires confidence and establishes credit. Make arrangement to open your Savings Account at this bank.

The Peoples Loan & Trust Co
Bank of Service.

Buy Ready-to-Wear Garments

Now at After Christmas Prices

Holiday Suggestions For Christmas Shoppers

Why Wait?

The Clearance Prices are established on Niblick & Co's. Ready-to-Wear stocks and to buy now means the choice of considerable larger stock than to wait until later.

FINAL CLEARANCE ON ALL CLOTH COATS AND SUITS

Group No. 1

Cloth Coats that were \$35 to \$40

\$19.75

Group No. 2

Cloth Coats that were \$45 to \$50

\$25.00

Group No. 3

Cloth Coats that were \$60 to \$65

\$32.50

Every Fall and Winter Suit
at One-Half Regular Price

\$60.00 Suits **\$27.50**

\$50 and \$55 Suits **\$25.00**

\$40.00 Suits **\$19.50**

All Children's Coats at Less Than Cost.

Wonderful Bargains in Plush Coats

Saltz Plush Coats,
Worth \$40.00; Sale **\$25.00**

1 lot of Wool Serge Dresses,
Former price, \$23.50; This Sale **\$12.75**

Niblick & Co.

Pianos Marked Down \$75.00---\$100.00



You can have music in your home Christmas.

Several have taken advantage of our Cut Price Piano Sale this week and next week.

We have cut them down from \$75.00 to \$100.00 each. Pay our store a visit and play them yourself. They are all high grade and fully guaranteed pianos.

Yager Bros.

East Side Second St.

Open Evenings.

The Old Reliable Furniture Dealers and Undertakers.

Efficiency at the Throttle

THE automobilist appreciates good gasoline most when he steps on the throttle and notes the efficiency in performance of his engine—blueprint efficiency alone means little to him.

Knowing this, the Standard Oil Company (Indiana) has devoted much of its energy to the development of a motor gasoline which not only stands the grueling test of research laboratories, but which has proved its efficiency in thousands of cars operated under every-day road and weather conditions.

The Company has studied the needs of the motorist at first hand, and has developed Red Crown, its motor gasoline, to a point where it meets exactly the needs of the automobile engine operating under conditions obtaining in the Middle West.

The efficiency of Red Crown symbolizes the spirit which animates the Company as a whole in its endeavor to render an intelligent, efficient service to the public generally.

The tremendous increase in the number of automobiles and trucks from 1,253,000 in 1914 to 7,459,507 in August, 1920, has made more apparent than ever the absolute necessity of a comprehensive, dependable system of distribution.

The development of such a system has changed from something merely desirable to something vitally necessary. The best gasoline in the world is useless if you cannot get it when you want it.

Every step from refining to final delivery is of such importance to the Standard Oil Company (Indiana) that its interest never abates until its lubricating oils are helping do the work of the world to the satisfaction of the ultimate consumer.

The greatly increased yield of gasoline which this Company has been able to recover from the crude obtainable has been accomplished without sacrifice of quality.

Red Crown and Polarine performance are the best proofs of Standard Oil Company (Indiana) service.

Standard Oil Company
(Indiana)
910 So. Michigan Ave., Chicago
2360

SILK UMBRELLAS
SILK TAFETTA
SATIN CHARMUESE
WOOL HOSIERY
VANITY BAGS
FANCY PURSES
LARGE RUGS
CLOTH COATS
PLUSH COATS
LADIES SUITS
LADIES BLOUSES
WOOL GAUNTLETS
KID GLOVES
TABLE LINENS
SILK GLOVES
WOOL
DRESS GOODS
WOOL SWEATERS
SILK HOSIERY
WOOL SWEATERS
WOOL DRESSES
LADIES WAISTS