

Of course as Christmas approaches the usual number of letters to Santa Claus have been written from this county, and a stack of them high enough to frighten the kind old gentleman we fear, quite badly, has been received at this office. We regret that we have been unable to publish them on account of the lack of space, and we assure our little friends that they have been duly forwarded to Toyland where they receive due attention no doubt from the old gift man. These letters are interesting. Some want many things, others will be satisfied with just most anything, a few would rather that brother or sister was taken care of and all are written in a childish way that makes them good to read. The following from one modest little fellow is a sample of what the average youth wants nowadays:

Monroe, Ind., Dec. 18, 1908.

Dear Santa Claus—Please send me a little drum and a wheelbarrow and a sled and a little tin horn to blow and a shetland pony and a little cart and a long buggy whip and a automobile with men ridin on it one that can go like sixty if you can't bring these bring me a pair of skates and a fiddle a lots of peanuts and candy and oranges would like to have some building blocks and a revolver to kill indians and bears and a little lantern and a balloon and a fiddle and bangs and a plain and hatchet and saw to build a big house with please send these dear Santa Klaus as I am a good boy and mind my pa.

Good by Santa,  
George A. Myers,  
Monroe, Ind., R. R. 1, Box 38.

The case of Daniel Straub et al vs. Chicago & Erie Ry. Co., damages \$1,500 has been sent to the superior court, Fort Wayne, for trial, change of venue being granted on motion by defendant.

Fort Wayne & Springfield Ry. Co. vs. Andrew Miller et al, injunction bill of exceptions No. 1 filed by plaintiff, signed, dated and made a part of the record.

Real estate transfers: Henry Colter to Harvey Brodbeck, lot 9, Rivaray \$35; B. F. Brown to J. M. Hoagland, 20 acres, Washington township, \$2,400; Decatur Cemetery Ass'n lot 458 to A. B. Wolfe, \$35; Ross L. Watts et al to Winnie Marhenke, tract in Root township \$200; Maggie Vesey to Mary E. Rickard lot 16, Monroe, \$305.

Arthur Ford, an oil pumper and C. Shoemaker, both from Geneva, were married at the clerk's office Saturday evening. Squire J. H. Stone officiated. The groom is twenty-two and the bride seventeen years old.

The United Brethren Sunday school

was re-organized Sunday morning for the year 1909 and the following officers were chosen to guide the destiny of the religious institution during the coming year: Superintendent, J. J. Foughty; assistant, Mrs. Etta Ball; secretary, Homer Knodle; assistant, Jesse Hurst; treasurer, John Hill; organist, Gala Nelson; assistant, Flossie York; chorister, Effie York; assistant, Mrs. Philip Mehlis. In the above mentioned an able corps of officers has been chosen and the Sunday school will continue on its prosperous career.

The United Brethren Sunday school will render a very interesting Christmas cantata next Friday night, entitled, The Star of Blessing, which portrays beautifully the attendant glories of the birth of Christ. A large number of the young and older people will participate in the program which will without a doubt appeal to all who are fortunate in being in attendance. The cantata consists of literary and musical numbers. The United Brethren Sunday school is closing the most successful year ever experienced for which every member should be proud. The record shows a noticeable increase in attendance and interest has been at high tension throughout the year. An adult Bible class will be organized on the first Sunday in January and the school will be graded.

Charles Leimanstahl and Samuel Neuenschwander, living east of this city in the edge of Adams county, left this morning for New Madrid county, Missouri, where they will work for Ike Gehring and Jacob Klopsteg in helping clear up their tract of timber land. The two gentlemen have taken a colony of about eight people west to work for them.—Bluffton News.

Agent T. L. Miller received a very commendatory letter this morning from the general passenger agent of the Clover Leaf concerning the extensive ticket sales which have been made for points in the west and southwest through the local office. The official pays a very tribute to Mr. Miller's enterprise in selling tickets in surrounding towns over the heads of competing roads.—Bluffton News.

Indianapolis, Dec. 21.—That all but one of the Democratic candidates for state office will contest the election of their Republican opponents before the legislature was the statement issued by State Chairman Stokes Jackson following a meeting of some of the state candidates with their attorneys yesterday afternoon at Democratic state headquarters. The decision of Burt New of North Vernon, Democratic candidate for court reporter of the supreme court, not to contest the election of his Republican opponent, George W. Self, of Corydon, will not affect the other candidates, it was said. The meeting yesterday was called for the purpose of making plans for financing the contests. The state committee, it was said, will stand behind the candidates in their contests. The meeting was attended by James E. Cox of Columbus, the Democratic candidate for secretary of state; Marion Bailey, of Linton, candidate for auditor of state; Bernard Korbly and Henry Seyfried, attorneys for the contestants, and State Chairman Jackson. Both Mr. Cox and Mr. Bailey said they had no intention of abandoning the contests, for both believed they were elected. Attorney Seyfried is assisting in the hearing of the contest filed by Edward Simon against his opponent, Edward Wickey, who was elected to the legislature in Lake county. It is upon the alleged frauds in Lake county principally that the Democratic candidates base their hopes. The situation in Lake county, as it is being disclosed at the hearing now being held at Crown Point, was reviewed by Attorney Seyfried yesterday. The candidates also went over the figures compiled by the accountants who have been in the employ of the Democratic state committee since the election. While the Democrats are not giving out any of their figures, they say that the figures show conclusively that Cox Bailey and Walter Lotz, candidate for attorney general, were elected, as well as P. J. Kelleher, the candidate for state statistician. The Republican candidates are also preparing for the contests, and they say that where the Democratic candidates are making gains, they are gaining also, according to the figures as they find them, and they will resist any contests that are filed. The contests, according to State Chairman Jackson, will be filed within twenty days after the legislature convenes. Investigation by a joint committee of seven from the house of representatives and seven from the senate. The house, it is taken for granted will elect seven Democrats and the senate will elect seven Republicans. The Democrats, it is understood, will endeavor to have representation on the senate committee.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Cabinet builders at the national capital, and those who have moved to Georgia as a part of the entourage of President-elect Taft, are succeeding in placing on the anxious bench public men in all sections of the country who have been looked upon as aspirants for portfolios, or whose qualifications have been urged by admiring friends. For example, Charles Nagel of Missouri, has suddenly loomed up as strong cabinet timber, his name being discussed in connection with the secretaryship of the department of commerce and labor. It is known that at one time Judge Taft thought very strongly of naming Nagel as attorney general, but that later he considered Wickersham more adaptable to the purposes of that department. He has said, however, that he would like an able lawyer to head the department of commerce and labor.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The indications are that the 2,500 clerks to be employed in taking the census will be chosen under the spoils system. Congressman Crumpacker has assurances from the senate that that feature of the census will not be disturbed, but will pass the senate and go to the president precisely as it passed the house. That this is a correct surmise is indicated by the action of the senate committee on census, which reported the census bill, spoils feature and all, favorably. President Roosevelt thinks the clerks should be appointed under the competitive plan, but it is hardly thought he would veto the census bill because of his objections to this provision.

A \$20,000 damage suit which was to have been tried in circuit court here today before Judge Sturgis was compromised Saturday out of court and the suit was dismissed from the dockets here. The case came to Wells county on a charge of venue from Huntington county, being a damage suit brought by John E. Emley against the Chicago & Erie railroad company. The suit grew out of an accident that occurred in Ohio, in which Emley, who was employed by the C. & E. claimed that his eyesight and hearing were injured. It is said that the basis of the settlement was about \$1,500.—Bluffton News.

Dr. C. B. Wilcox, recognized as one of the ablest and most scholarly ministers of the North Indiana conference, and who has so successfully filled the pulpit at the local M. E. church during the past two years, made a formal announcement Sunday morning that he would resign from the active pastorate at the next session of the conference which will convene in April, 1909. The announcement came as a surprise to many, while some of his most intimate friends were not so greatly astonished. Dr. Wilcox, as stated before in this paper, purchased one of the best newspapers in the state of Michigan and the concern will require much of his attention. In addition to this, he will devote some of his time to the lecture platform, upon which he has made such a decided hit at many places. His great ability as a lecturer, minister and thinker places his services in demand at any time if his voice (which is affected), permits him to lecture. Dr. Wilcox in notifying the congregation of his intention, took occasion to express the sincere appreciation of himself and family for the many courtesies extended and further stated that he would serve the congregation as best he could until his resignation became effective. The many friends of Dr. and Mrs. Wilcox regret to hear of their intention of leaving the city.

#### JOHNS WHITE WAS UNRULY.

Wouldn't Go to Bed so His Wife Called the Police.

A call was received at midnight by Sheriff Lipkey to go to the home of Johns White, where Mrs. White said her husband and his brother, "Dug" White were raising a row so that none of the family could sleep. She said that she would like for them to be taken away. The two brothers live close together and when the officers arrived "Dug" immediately started for home and announced that he was going to go to bed. His brother, however, said that he would be darned if he went to bed. He did not like the idea of accompanying the officers to jail, but under pressure he was forced to do it. Lew Stout has taken the man home twice from town but he refused to remain there each time and returned downtown, until the last time when he concluded to raise a disturbance at home instead of downtown.—Bluffton Banner.

#### THE RURAL CARRIERS

Would Like to Be at Home on Christmas.

In manipulating the affairs of this great nation, Uncle Sam seems to have neglected the welfare of the rural mail carried in regard to allowing them to spend Christmas day with their families. The rural carriers will be compelled to make their regular trips Christmas day as usual, being the only federal employees doing duty on this day. While this is no doubt greatly appreciated by the patrons of the R. F. D. at the same time there are few who would not gladly do without their mail for this day in order that their carrier might spend Christmas day as any other freeborn American citizen. There are indeed few patrons of rural routes but have great respect for their mail man, and on Christmas show their appreciation of his service by filling their mail boxes with the best of the country affordances, labeled for the mail man. These packages contain nearly every conceivable thing produced on the farm, and help to make Christmas a bright day for the carrier. It is to be hoped however, that one another year rolls around that the postoffice department will see fit to give the boys in the wagon Christmas holiday, a thing they surely deserve.—Contributed.

Postmaster Fristinger reports the following unclaimed letters, and the persons calling for them will please say advertised: John Agustus, Bertha Augustus, Aaron Henderson, Frank Konkle, D. A. Moser, Katie Smith and Mrs. Estella Smith.

One of the features of the Elk's minstrel show to be given in the city January 7 and 8 will be an augmented orchestra under the able direction of Prof. True R. Fristoe. Up to date music will be rendered and several out-of-town musicians have been engaged for the occasion.

Pennville, a little town over in Jay county, had a \$100,000 fire Saturday morning, when a whole block was destroyed, including the Home department store, the largest store there, whose loss alone was about \$40,000. It is said this store was not in very good financial condition, and as they had but \$15,000 insurance it is probable they will not rebuild.

"Little Dolly Dimples" is the attraction at the Bosse opera house tonight and from what we are able to learn, it is one of the very best attractions on the road. The seat sale is good and from indications they will be greeted by a large audience.

A very interesting meeting of the Gleaners was held with Nami Dugan Saturday afternoon. The girls are taking up different writers and giving selections from their books or whatever they wish to give out, for study. This meeting was the study of Ruth with its historic relations. Ireta Erwin having charge, and directed the study with very great interest to all, and the following poem by Stella Perkins entitled "The Gleaners" we think worthy of more than passing notice:

From Judea's sundried country,

Where famine had spread dismay

There came one day four travelers

To a heathen land to stay.

The travelers were one woman, Her husband and two sons, The sons married Ruth and Ospah So the story runs.

The woman's name was Naomi, And when her husband died She felt her stay and protector Had fallen by her side.

And when her sons died also She realized in truth That all her friends had vanished Except Ospah and Ruth.

She then resolved to travel Back to her native land; For God had blessed that country With harvests richly grand.

So Ruth and Ospah started To speed her on her way; But Ospah went back home again Before the close of day.

But now Ruth loved her mother, Therefore she still did cleave In spite of the entreaties made For her to take her leave.

And from the story of this maid In friendship true alway We have the good foundation Of our Gleaner's club today.

Ruth Buhler gave a very fine piano selection. The "Queerest Christmas" read by Francis Laman, was a very pretty Christmas story. Naomi Dugan then gave "Up in a Swing," a piano solo. This ended the afternoon's program. Dorothy Dugan by request played two very pretty selections after which delicious refreshments were served by Miss Frances Dugan and Dorothy.

Mrs. Fred Sellemeyer gave a delightful Sunday dinner for her son Albert, who is at home for the holidays from Warren, Indiana, where he is teaching school. The guests were Mr. True Fristoe, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fruchte, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Loch and son Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Sellemeyer and Miss Lucy Fruchte. The dinner proved one of those delicious feasts for which Mrs. Sellemeyer is noted among her friends and the hours were happily spent.

Misses Kathryn Bennet, Lucille Locke, Mary Craig Dean, of this city, who are attending school at Glendale, will arrive home tomorrow for the holidays. Miss Helen Good, of Warren, who is also in school there, will accompany them, going later to her home.—Bluffton Banner.

Frank Irvin, a well known young man, has opened a Penny Studio over J. H. Voglewede & Sons shoe store, and is doing a dandy business. He opened Sunday and his first day was a winner. If it keeps up as good Frank will be satisfied. Give him a call. His work is guaranteed.

Fort Wayne district organizers for the W. and H. Walker Grocery establishment, Pittsburgh, to the number of twenty-seven, held a conference at the Rich hotel in this city yesterday, and Mrs. L. M. McEwen, of this city, was chosen manager for the Fort Wayne district. Messrs. C. E. Stewart and A. W. Bennett, of the Pittsburgh headquarters, were in attendance at the meeting.—Fort Wayne Sentinel.

At Bluffton in the case of Robert Fryback against the Fort Wayne and Wabash Valley Traction company, demand for damages of \$1,000, the jury returned a verdict in favor of the defendant, and Fryback did not get a penny judgment. He alleged that his back was seriously injured by the carelessness of another employee of the company, who dropped his end of a tie which he and Fryback were carrying.

Here is good news for the children: Mr. J. B. Stoneburner has received a letter from old Santa Claus that he will be here on Christmas afternoon and evening and will make the Star theater his headquarters. He will have a treat for everybody, young and old, and he will be a real live Santa, not an imitation, but one who will have a joke for each little girl and boy and some of the older ones. Be sure to arrange to see him. Mr. Stoneburner has also special films for all this week. One of the best is tomorrow night, Abraham Lincoln, a film showing the life of this great man from his childhood to his death.

A large class of candidates from Deatur was adopted into the Modern Woodmen lodge of America and all enjoyed a great time, returning last night.

A choice treat to all lovers of music will be given by the pupils of St. Agnes academy at Bosse opera house on December 29, 1908. Begins at 8:30 p. m. All are kindly requested to encourage the pupils by their presence. The academy will be closed after the recital until January 4, 1909. The piano will be furnished by Mr. Stoneburner. The program follows:

1. Christmas Bells March. Piano Solo Misses Agnes Meibers, Ruth Buhler, Dale Payne.

2. Evening Chimes ..... Duet Misses Edna Ehinger, Lettie Fullenkamp, Minnie Loether, Adelaide Sellemeyer, Rose Egan and Georgine Meibers.

3. Military March ..... Trio Misses Eva Stein, Louisa Teeple, Catherine Keller, Frances Gaffer, Frances Burrell, Irene Eady, Naomi Baker, Marcella Kuebler, Dreda Parent.

4. Friendship, Love and Song ..... Vocal Quartette Piano, Miss Mary Deininger; sop., Miss Clara Terhaar; alto, Mrs. J. Q. Neptune; ten., Dr. J. Q. Neptune; bass, Mr. H. Yager.

5. Congenial Hearts ..... Duet Misses Esther Corbett, Agnes Coffee, Edith Ervin, Josephine Lange, Etta Elsey, Ruth Buhler.

6. Dying Poet ..... Duet Masters James Sprague, Joseph Didot, Misses Naomi Niblick, Agnes Kohne, Marie Kintz, Agnes Meibers.

7. Shooting Stars ..... Trio Misses Veda Hensley, Matilda Bell, Gladys Meyers, Matilda Heimann, Marie Connell, Stella Braun and Masters Eugene Bremerkamp, Raymond Keller, Norbert Holtzhouse.

8. Silver Trumpet ..... Quartette 1st piano, Misses Mary and Bertha Deininger, Cecilia Kinney, Josephine Lange; 2nd piano, Mrs. J. Q. Neptune; 3rd piano, Miss Georgia Meibers.

9. Charge of the Hussars ..... Duet and Trio Miss Nora Ahr, Mrs. E. Vaughn, Misses Rose Colchin, Lettie Fullenkamp, Germaine Coffee, Genevieve Bremerkamp, Genevieve Berling.

10. Jolly Brothers Galop ..... Duet Masters Norbert Holtzhouse, Omer Niblick, Misses Gladys Meyers, Laurine Keller, Matilda Heimann, Stella Braun.

11. Come and Join the Merry Dance ..... Vocal Quartette Piano, Miss Mary Deininger; sop., Miss C. Terhaar; alto, Mrs. J. Q. Neptune; ten., Dr. Neptune; bass, Mr. Louis Holtzhouse.

12. Ventre Terre Speed Galop ..... Quartette 1st piano, Misses Marie Kintz, Naomi Niblick, Agnes Kohne, Agnes Meibers; 2nd piano, Misses Germaine Coffee, Genevieve Berling.

13. Race for Life Galop ..... Duet Misses Leona Bosse and Laurine Keller, Masters James Sprague, Joseph Didot, Francis Schmitt, Glen Tague.

14. Midnight Fire Alarm ..... Vocal Quartette Piano, Miss Mary Deininger; sop., Miss C. Terhaar; alto, Mrs. J. Q. Neptune; ten., Dr. J. Q. Neptune; bass, Messrs Louis Holtzhouse and H. Yager.

DIPLOMA PARTS.

IV and III Grade.

Morning Prayer, by Wiegand.

Piano Solo, Genevieve Berling, Naomi Niblick, Agnes Kohne.

III and II Grade.

Music on the Water, Reverie, by Wyman.

Misses Josephine Lange, Marie Kintz, Agnes Meibers.

II. Grade.

Little Postillion ..... Piano Solo Laurine Keller, Stella Braun, Matilda Heimann.

Distribution of Diplomas.

..... Rev. Father Wilken.

Light Cavalry March ..... Quartette 1st piano, Misses Eva Stein, Laurine Keller, Leona Bosse, Masters Glen Tague, J. Didot; 2nd piano, Matilda Heimann and Stella Braun.

Misses Genevieve Berling and Naomi Niblick have finished Major and Minor scales in a most creditable manner, and will be presented with a scale book to serve as future guide.

Following is a list of names of pupils who completed grades and will receive diplomas:

Grade IV.—Miss Genevieve Berling, Naomi Niblick, Mary Deininger.

Grade III.—Misses Josephine Lange.

Grade II.—Misses Genevieve Berling, Agnes Kohne, Marie Kintz.

Grade I.—Misses Catherine Keller, Louise Teeple, Frances Gaffer, Emma Kinney, Dreda Parent, Eva Stein, Frances Burrell, Naomi Baker, Edna Ehinger, Esther Corbett, Electa Baltzell, Etta Elsey, Irene Eady, Effie Johnson, Rose Colchin, Rose Egan, Marcella Kuebler, Edith Ervin, Masters Omer Niblick, Norbert Holtzhouse.

Poor fellow," said that lady soothingly. "I'll set you right. I know my sex perfectly. The proposal is a very important matter in a love affair. Though plain Brown Reed, you must do it in the right way. Come to my fancy dress ball next week and come as Byron's Corsair. I'll suggest to Miss Singleton to come as Medora. Meanwhile I'll send you a form for a brief proposal. Commit it to memory."

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