

# Royal Oak

## Latest From Our Sister Village

Miss Minnie Esman is visiting in Pontiac.

Mrs. Lily Butler has been visiting friends in Troy.

John Ballard, who has been on the sick list, is well again.

Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Bristol are visiting relatives at Jackson.

Owing to the stormy weather the cars have been very irregular.

Mr. and Mrs. Ecks spent Christmas at the home of their parents at Romeo.

Miss Bessie Gass, of Romeo, was a guest at the home of Harriet Closser.

Mrs. Charles Sage is on the sick list and under the care of Dr. Anderson.

Miss Allie Warren, of Detroit, was the guest of relatives here the past week.

A party of young people of this village spent Friday skating at the D. A. C.

Mrs. A. P. Glaspie, of Oxford, was a caller at the home of Mrs. Quick last Friday.

S. J. Esling moved his family to Highland Park last Saturday. We are sorry to lose them.

Maro and Harry Merritt are attending their vacation in Marquette with their grandmother.

Miss Agnes Hallberg, of Birmingham, spent a very enjoyable day at the home of Mrs. Parr.

George H. Dwyer, of Detroit, called on friends in town Friday.

Mrs. Dewey owns a farm here.

Mrs. A. C. Campbell and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bell visited at the home of Samuel Reid recently.

The W. C. T. U. held a very interesting meeting at the home of Mrs. Lyman Richard last Friday.

Miss Lucy Litt, of Romeo, visited her grandmother and other relatives here the past week.

Miss Stella Wright, of near Rochester, called on her parents Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Wright recently.

We are pleased to report that the school board has ordered fire escapes placed on our school building.

The New Year's eve dancing party at San Sara hall was a grand success. All reported a good time.

A number of young people of Royal Oak spent a very enjoyable evening at the home of Miss Clara Starr.

Mr. and Mrs. Hagelstein and son Fred, who went west for the latter's health, is expected home today.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary society meets this Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Sarah Spohn.

The young men of the Congregational church have organized a club. It promises to be a great success.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Brace and children, of County Line, spent Christmas with their daughter, Mrs. Wm. Wilson.

Miss Anna Hilsinger began her duties as teacher in the Brewster school northwest of Rochester last Monday.

The remains of Thomas Pallen were brought here from Hamtramck Saturday and deposited in Royal Oak cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. George Penney attended the funeral of C. J. Vinton, the well known contractor in Detroit, Monday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Dickinson and daughter Anna, of Pontiac, were visitors this week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Gillette.

Several people from here attended the Sigma Tau dancing party at Birmingham last Thursday evening. All reported an enjoyable time.

Mrs. H. Hitchcock, who had the misfortune to fall and break her leg several weeks ago, was taken to Harper hospital last week for treatment.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Mow visited relatives in Rochester last week.

Miss Daisy Kasper visited friends in Rochester the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Murray, of Detroit, called on friends here this week.

A. W. Willson and son James spent the holidays with relatives in New York state.

Frank Dickinson and family, of Pontiac, visited friends here one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bell and children spent New Year's with relatives in Detroit.

The Royal Oak Woman's club will meet Monday afternoon, Jan. 9, at the home of Mrs. Gass.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Pierce, of Pontiac, visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh over Sunday.

Miss Withersell, of Wayne, was a visitor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Goodfellow last week.

The Royal Oak band attended the funeral of their old band teacher, Prof. Frank Norton, at Troy Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Laidler, a bass singer of Oil City, Penna., delighted the congregation at the M. E. church Sunday evening by his singing.

Catherine, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Miller, was quite sick for a few days the past week but is better now.

The treasurer of the Monitor Insurance Co. of Oakland county was in town Tuesday collecting the insurance money due the company.

Last Saturday H. S. Gardner and family attended a family reunion at the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. George Whitfield in Waterford.

A party of friends met at the home of Mr. H. Cook to watch the Old Year out and the New Year in. A most enjoyable time was had by all.

Do not forget the Men's meeting Tuesday evening, Jan. 10, addressed by Prof. Snowden on "The Relation of the School to the Community" at the Congregational church. All men invited.

The Bank here is doing a fine business, having paid four percent from July 1, 1910, which is equal to 8 percent for the year. They have just transferred \$1,000 of the profits to the surplus fund.

Ensign Winegar, of the U. S. S. Wheeling, is spending his holiday vacation as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Wilcox at their residence, "Willow Bough," 10 Mile road and Woodward avenue.

Holiday guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Silman were Mrs. Goodwin of Birmingham, Mr. and Mrs. Strassburg and little daughter of Riant, Miss Gusta Bachmeier of Warren, Mr. and Mrs. McDowell of Detroit.

A musical was given at the home of Mrs. W. O. Wilcox by a number of people of the Conservatory of Music. A delightful feature of the evening was the numerous Scotch dances given by the Riley sisters, Janet and Marguerite, of which accomplishments they are Detroit's foremost.

M. E. church announcement Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. Subject "The Conquest of the World." Afternoon at 3 o'clock Opening of the Men's meeting. A. L. Moore, of Pontiac, will address the meeting. His subject will be "Insurgency." These meetings promise to be very interesting. Some of the very best speakers that can be procured, will address them. The announcement of the speakers to be made later. We can assure our readers that it will pay them to attend these meetings and listen to the different subjects that will be discussed from time to time. In the evening the second number in home series. Subject, "My Mother."

Now write it, "1911."

It is reported that the snow in Marquette is three feet high.

Mrs. Frank Knowles was on the sick list the past week.

Royal Oak Baptist church Rev. J. Mathews, pastor. Morning services at 10 o'clock. Subjects, "Gratitude and Courage." Special music.

All the business places in town looked swell in holiday attire. The merchants put forth an extra effort to make their places of business as attractive as possible.

Mrs. Horace Hitchcock was taken to Harper hospital last week for treatment. It will be remembered that Mrs. Hitchcock fell down stairs some time ago and fractured her limb, and the injury was not improving as fast as it should and it was thought best to take her to the hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Silman gave a dinner Monday evening in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Esling, who moved to Highland Park. The guests that were present were Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Erb, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stauch, Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Blair and Mrs. J. W. Anderson. After dinner progressive pedro was indulged in and a most enjoyable evening was passed.

Richard Rose was the recipient last week of a liberal supply of white sand from the island of San Blas, Florida. This island is situated about 30 miles from Pensacola and is surrounded by the Gulf of Mexico and Pensacola Bay. The whole island is composed of this beautiful sand and if it was not for the heat you could imagine you were in a large field of snow. It is considered quite a curiosity by those who have seen it.

I have been standing around the corners of the streets of this village chatting with old friends, occasionally meeting with farmers as they come in with the milk on earth to ship to Detroit and most of the gossip among the farmers visit about thusly. What do you think of Fred Warner in pardoning those bloody murders? Huh! I bet he'll be ashamed to visit any of his old friends for six years. 'Tis simple contemptible.

The Violin Maker.

He chisels top and bottom of the violin's body from solid blocks of spruce and maple, coaxes the subtle and delicate conformation through a month of patient labor, putting soul and yearning in the wood, as perhaps no other handicraftsman may, in his search for exquisite tone. He is building a slender and sensitive bow with a wonderful power to emit vibrations garbled into tones and delivered as a voice. No visible beauty of carved form and no original departure from set design avail him in reaching from his soul the intangible essence of sound and means for its loftiest beauty. For him there is no consolation in the fact that he is doing no simple thing in the world, but in his rapturous perfection. He pursues an ignis fatuus of quivering air-ways that leads only to the void. He may only strive toward achievement, the object austere to the forebears of the craft, and frequently with far less reward—Harper's Magazine.

Ministerial salaries.

According to a new government bulletin the ministerial profession is not in so bad a way as it is sometimes represented. As we are sometimes led to suppose, in this country there are 120 Christian ministers in the United States, they were increasing at the rate of about 4,000 a year, and they are paid an average salary of \$600. It is estimated that this year a hundred million dollars will be paid to this country for ministers' salaries, and twice as much more for maintenance of churches, missions, extensions and congregational expenses. Three hundred millions is a fair estimate—more than the cost of the war—more than our annual payment for new automobiles—Harper's Weekly.

Fish Influenced by the Moon.

A recent report of the Scotch fishery board mentioned a curious habit which, according to the Scotch, is associated with fish in the waters of the moon. It was asserted, however, a very direct connection with the willingness of fish to be netted.

To test this theory statistics were obtained of the catch of herrings from 1904 to 1906, with the result that the largest catches were made on the moon coincided with new moon and the smallest with full moon. The report suggested that a full moon enabled the fish to be seen much easier than at the times of new moon or the crescent phase or that the tides, which were with the lunar phases, were possible factors in the matter—Westminster Gazette.

Three Balls.

Stubb—The best umbrellas to put up quickly are those with the patent steel springs.

Penn—If I have found those with a gold handle the most convenient to put up.

# ROLES WITH A ROD

## Picturesque Career of Porfirio Diaz, President of Mexico.

Originally a Revolutionist, for Thirty Years This Remarkable Man Has Governed the Republic With Autocratic Power.

City of Mexico—President Porfirio Diaz, who has been inaugurated president of Mexico for the eighth time for years has just returned about him a system that makes him one of the most powerful and autocratic sovereigns of any country in the world.

The 29 states of Mexico are governed by 29 men of President Diaz's personal choice. The 220 prefects are also appointees, who have the power to make arrests, judge and execute prisoners. In Mexico a man who commits a misdemeanor instead of serving his time in jail serves it in the army. Officers of the army are privileged to kill any subordinate who disobeys a command. The result is that President Diaz, to whom all military officers are responsible, rules with an iron hand.

President Diaz was born in Oaxaca in 1857. His mother was a full-blooded Aztec belonging to the large and powerful tribe of Zapotec in the state of Oaxaca. His father was a Spaniard, who died in 1838, leaving his widow with no other property than five healthy children, of which little Porfirio was one.

He studied under Benito Juarez, who subsequently became president of the republic, and was the first man against whom young Lawyer Diaz raised his hand in rebellion. Diaz fought against the Aztecs invading Mexico in 1847 and 1848. For the next 15 years he was frequently in revolutions for or against the favorite candidate of the republic.

In 1860 Diaz, who had now become a colonel, was sent to command a regiment. He asked the president if he could take all people in the state of Oaxaca to make them such concessions as he well knew would not be granted.

On the refusal Diaz raised an army of 1,000 Indians and started another revolution. It was quickly quelled and Diaz and his followers fled for their lives and for several years lived in the mountains, making frequent raids in the lowlands. He made overtures to President Juarez for amnesty for himself and his band of followers. It was granted.

In 1863, when Napoleon III sent his troops to Mexico with the object of making it a French dependency, Col. Diaz was made a brigadier general in the regular army. He subsequently visited his home town and was married to Mrs. Belina Sanchez y Ortega.

Col. Diaz was defeated for the presidency in 1870 and he started up another revolution. He was defeated and fled to Texas.

In 1875 Diaz, after many adventures, smuggled himself back to his native state, Oaxaca.

In 1877 both Sebastian Lerdo de Tejada and Diaz claimed to have been elected president. Diaz raised the biggest army in support of his claim and Tejada fled to the United States. Since then Diaz has been president of Mexico.

From the moment he seized the reins of government he has worked to surround himself with a corps of faithful subordinates. An astute and shrewd soldier himself he has made the government a military one. Every government must have a military standing for the laws of Mexico require every officer and soldier to swear allegiance to his superior and as the president is the commander in chief of the army, every member of his vast army has taken a personal oath to obey him.

In thirty years President Diaz has been building up an army which at present, active and reserve, numbers almost 2,000,000. As stated, every man who commits a crime must serve his time in the army. At the end of his term, he is released a finished soldier. From the time of his release he must report at regular intervals to his captain and be subject to service at a moment's notice.

The Human Body.

Washington—A man will die for want of air in five minutes, for want of sleep in ten days, for want of water in a week. Hunger is slow to kill. When one falls asleep, the surrender of sight, taste, smell, hearing and touch is complete. The mind is not the lightest sleeper and most easily awakened, hearing comes next, then sight, while sluggish taste and smell last. The human body is a rich store in nature of all mechanics, all hydraulics, all architecture, all machinery, of every kind. There are about 310 mechanical movements known to exist, and all these are but modifications of those found in the human body.

# CONQUERING A LANGUAGE

## Louis Agassiz Learned Enough English to Lecture While Crossing the Atlantic Ocean.

The death of Prof. Alexander Agassiz last spring called to mind many of the incidents connected with the life of his famous father. The career of the great naturalist was one of victory through endeavor. When he first visited America his unfamiliarity with the English language threatened to stand in the way of his advancement. How he met the difficulty is told by Prof. Jules Marcou in "Life, Letters and Works of Louis Agassiz."

The first thing necessary in coming to the United States was to master English sufficiently to speak in public. He had been accustomed to translate for some years, but he spoke it so little that he was very hard to understand. Professor Agassiz told him that when Agassiz was in England, that it would be useless to lecture in America in either French or German, as both languages were used in narrow limits. He must speak good English if he was to make a good impression.

During the long journey across the Atlantic in 1846 Agassiz went to work in earnest to master the new language. He spent most of his time speaking and committing to memory words and sentences, and repeating them aloud to anyone who had the patience to hear. The captain remarked, "I never saw a passenger like you, Professor Agassiz." He, as every one else, was charmed with the Swiss naturalist.

His great memory helped him. Soon he had a sufficient number of words and sentences to allow him to speak in public. It was very late in life to admit of his acquiring a complete mastery of English, and he always spoke with a strong French accent, which was not without charm to his listeners—Youth's Companion.

# NAUTICAL ALMANAC FIGURES

## Great Care Exercised in Preparing Tables for the Guidance of the Sailor.

It may be safely said that no one outside the publishing office has read the entire "Nautical Almanac" from beginning to end, but each figure of the printed almanac is in the original examined twice and read three times. The total number of figures entered is a million, but great as the number is, it is trifling compared with the number of figures employed in the calculations. The almanac figures represent the number of figures required for instance, requires for its calculation more than a million and a half of figures, and similarly with other branches of the work, such as the sun, planets, etc. Contrary to the general opinion, practically every figure in the book is fresh from year to year. The tables contain which nearly all the work is carried out have been originally constructed from the labors of the astronomical observer, and to a large extent from the observations of the sun, moon and planets made at the Royal observatory, Greenwich. Telescopes and other astronomical appliances are consequently absent, as the work of the staff is purely mathematical and not observational. From "The Sailor's Bible" in the Strand.

# GENESIS OF SPECTER SHIPS

## One Instance in Particular Satisfactorily Vouched for Explains Many Stories of Sailors.

Perhaps the most likely explanation of the extraordinary tales produced by sea mirages, in the Arctic seas in particular are to be seen many strange sights produced by refraction. There is at least one instance on record that is satisfactorily vouched for, and which explains many of the stories current among sailors. It is a story of 1850. One evening in the early thirties a passenger ship was approaching Port Danger, on the North Atlantic coast. Suddenly there were seen several ships at sea, a well-known English warship close to them. So clear was the vision that they were able to recognize acquaintances among the officers and crew. A boat was lowered out from the stranger and it was observed to contain in it everything was so real, so obvious, that seemed impossible that they could be deceived. They recognized the ship as the Barracouta. She was too well known to admit of the least doubt as to her identity. When the passenger ship arrived at St. John's Bay a short time after, every officer expected to see the Barracouta at anchor. But she was not there, and did not arrive until a week afterwards. The first thing to do was to compare notes and explain the mystery. It was found that at the time the warship's being seen near Port Danger was at least three hundred miles away. There is no room for doubt as to the details of the story. People do not imagine with such unanimity as to admit of any explanation other than reflection of refraction in a cloud or fog bank.

An Exception.

"He believes in making himself heard on all possible occasions," said the householder, "but his contributions are called for."

"Well, now, he doesn't."

# Merry Xmas to Everybody

Here are a few Footwear suggestions for Christmas, and you couldn't select more appropriate gifts if you sat up nights to think of something.

### FOR MEN

A pair of our choice Shoes, Storm Shoes, Dress Shoes, Slippers, Rubbers, Arctic, Rubber Boots, etc.

### FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

Dress Shoes, School Shoes, Storm Shoes, Legging, Rubbers, Arctic, Rubber Boots, Slippers, etc.

### FOR WOMEN

Street Boots, Storm Boots, Dress Shoes, a pair of the Fur-trimmed, Felted, Rubbers, Arctic, Legging and Overcoats.

### FOR THE LITTLE TOTS

Jeckey Boots, Natural-shape Shoes, a pair of good Leggings, Moccasins, Rubbers, etc.

Fill the stockings with Footwear, and you'll do a very wise thing.

We will gladly make any exchanges desired after Christmas.

We're yours for Useful Christmas Gifts.

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# Gluten Meal, Dairy Feed and Bran at Smith Bros.

# BRICK - TILE

Prices Subject to Change

Good Hard-burned Brick, f. o. b. yard, per M., \$7 75

Light-colored, Kiln-burned Brick for grouting, inside-wall work, etc., f. o. b. yard, per M., \$6 50

4-in. Tile, hard burned, good red stock, all ware guaranteed, per rod, 48c

3-in. Tile, hard burned, all good red stock, and guaranteed, per rod, 32c

Small stock of other sizes on hand; prices on application.

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Would He Wasting Time.

"Dad," said Rivera's little boy, "is there such a thing as a central sun?"

"I suppose so," answered Rivera, who was occupied with his papers and didn't fully comprehend the question; "but there's no use in calling 'em up. Line's probably busy."

Mr. J. C. Warren.

"Of course," said the very talkative person on the back platform, "no man ever is a hero to his valet." And what is more, to the purpose, said the soured individual in the doorway, "no woman ever was a saint to her hired girl."

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