

## Uncle Sam and Santa Claus

The United States again this year will give away \$38,000,000 worth of food packages at Christmas time to needy persons in foreign countries. It is estimated that some eight million Christmas packages will be distributed around the world by Uncle Sam.

This program, which was followed in 1953, was thought to have been highly successful. The Foreign Operations Administration distributes the gifts, working through voluntary and non-profit relief agencies in other countries.

The food which is given away by Uncle Sam is taken from the Department of Agriculture's surplus food stocks, and, therefore, is readily available at a fair price.

WHILE WE FAVOR the program, we often think such programs as this one

carried on abroad would be beneficial at home as well.

Of course, there are many complexities to the problem of giving away food parcels in the United States—and such a program would probably not be administered to such effect in every side.

However, it is a little ironical that the United States gives away so many million dollars worth of food and aid to inhabitants of foreign countries, while so many suffer from under-nourishment here in the United States.

PERHAPS NOTHING can be done about it and certainly the \$38,000,000 Christmas gift program is not one which will hurt the budget much. But it is unfortunate that there are citizens of our country suffering extreme hardship, and sometimes paying taxes to finance the distribution of gifts overseas.

## Queen Elizabeth's Visit

Although many people will pay little attention to the visit of Queen Mother Elizabeth to the United States, the Queen Mother is a remarkable woman. She performed her duties and made many sacrifices for her people during World War II.

Once before, 1939 when the world was on the verge of war, she and her husband, then King George VI, visited the United States. Since that time, the Queen Mother has lost the husband and seen her daughter become Queen.

It can truthfully be said of the Queen Mother that she has conducted her life in such a way as to have remained an example to her people.

SHE HAS GRACEFULLY assumed the

role of Queen Mother, even though she is not yet an old woman, and has been very active in many ways since the death of King George VI.

Although we think monarchies are on the way out in this world of ours, we believe the British ruling family comes perhaps closest to performing a service and fulfilling a need of their people than any other ruling family of a major power.

And though we believe monarchies usually are not worth their cost to the taxpayers, in the case of the Royal Family in Great Britain, we believe their members earn their keep, even to the extent of 80 pieces of luggage, including five-foot high trunks, brought over to the United States on this recent trip.

## Two Cruisers and One Yacht

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who scrapped the Williamsburg as a presidential yacht, is to be given the use of two cruisers instead. The 92 foot cruiser named the Barbara Affie is said to be ready for presidential use at this time.

It was rebuilt and refurbished at Annapolis recently, amidst much secrecy.

Although the Barbara Anne—the name being given the boat in honor of one of the President's granddaughters—will not take the place of the much larger Williamsburg, it and another cruiser which is also to be elaborately refurbished, will provide the President with a luxurious mode of water transportation.

THE BARBARA ANNE is expected to

be available to the President when he wants to take a cruise.

The Barbara Anne's sister cruiser, expected to be known as the Susie E., after the President's other granddaughter, was like the Barbara Anne—an escort cruiser for the Williamsburg.

So it seems the Navy has won a battle after all in putting the Chief Executive on the waves in his special sea-going boats.

THE PRIMARY DIFFERENCE between the two cruisers' accommodations and the Williamsburg is that the cruisers will not be overnight boats.

But the President, who called the Williamsburg too rich for his blood, apparently has decided there is something to the idea of presidential yachts after all.

## The Cabinet on TV

The recent experiment of the Eisenhower Administration, in putting a cabinet session on view before millions of Americans via TV, is a very interesting one. Of course, no real cabinet meeting can be televised and the people of the country cannot hear all that is said in a down-to-earth cabinet session.

A meeting such as was televised recently, covering the efforts of the Secretary of State in the field of foreign affairs, is feasible, since there is little of a controversial or secret nature which must be discussed in such a meeting.

WE BELIEVE THE AMERICAN peo-

ple would profit from regular reports to the nation by the top leaders of the Government.

We also believe it would be in order to have at least some of the President's press conferences televised.

We do not think it would be possible to televise all of the press conferences, but it might be possible to televise one each month, even if it is a special news conference.

The public would find these programs most interesting, very informative, and get a better idea of the task which confronts the Chief Executive of the United States.

## From The Eccentric's Point of View...

A Cleveland, Ohio, Methodist minister recently complained about the laxity among too many young folks who are about to get married. He stated that the girls admit they know little about practical housekeeping, while the boys haven't acquired those self-disciplines that will enable them to meet the economic needs of matrimony. He adds that, "they also haven't any dependable convictions in the realm of the spirit."

When a singer, or an orchestra, renders a composition, it is traditionally true that,

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before the last notes have faded away, the usual audience begins to applaud—often spoiling those last, lingering and beautiful sounds of harmony that are a proper part of the program. Is this because of a crude impatience, or just because people are impatient—with the same impatience that makes so many motorists "step on the gas" before the traffic light shows only green?

Matadors in Madrid, Spain, recently complained about the tameness of some of the bulls they contended in the ring. One bull, so domesticated that it ate from a matador's hand, answered its name, and even allowed the matador to ride on its back, was disqualified. Some men are very daring and brave before the multitudes—otherwise tiny mortals in their private lives.

## So They Say...

Dwight D. Eisenhower:  
"No institution is more necessary to our way of life than a free press."  
French Deputy Foreard:

"I voted against Premier Laniel because he was too dumb. Now I vote against Mendes-France because he's too smart."



The Snatch

## HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

"Well, Bud," Uncle Abner told the grandson who asked what he had to be thankful for, "I'm thankful for a lot of things. More than I have time to tell about, because while I talk about one I think of a dozen more."

The old gentleman spoke slowly, deliberately, not slurring his words as he usually does. It seemed almost as though he were a minister, delivering a Thanksgiving service. Everyone stopped to watch and listen.

"I guess maybe I'd like to thank God for letting me see Him. It's been the biggest privilege of my long life, to know God was there. I've known, ever since I was a little sprout, that God was letting me work for Him and repaying country on earth. I'm thankful for that. With His great love and kindness an understanding."

"GOD HAS always let me know He was there in the things He let me see. The growing things in spring, the resting things in the fall, the restfulness of sunrise and sunset."

"God has let me know His fury in storms and His gentleness in life-giving rains that gave man and his cattle their food."

Uncle Abner paused. His hand stole out and caressed the dog that had crept close and leaned against the old man's knee. The gnarled, calloused fingers were in and out of the heavy coat. The dog sighed and closed his eyes. He was thankful to be near his god, too.

UNCLE ABNER went on. "I'm thankful for my family. As the brown eyes looked adoring at him, Uncle Abner said softly, "I'm mighty thankful for this old dog of mine. He makes me feel like maybe I'm a little bit living a lad's life. So war train-

ing for you, no forced labor. When you're older you'll go in the army for me—warm clothes, a comfortable home, good food."

"I'm thankful for the joys that have been mine—the fun, my family, the good times with friends. I'm thankful that you are well and strong enough to be ready to protect your country if she needs you. "I'm thankful to be in a country where a man can set his soul his own. We have our troubles, life wouldn't be worth living if it didn't, but so still are the luckiest country on earth. I'm thankful for that. He blessed my fields and the crop was large enough to have a lot to spare."

"Yes, sir, Bud. I'm a pretty thankful man. I'm even thankful for that union smell that means to you a 'takey' dressing is going to be awful good!"

HE CHUCKLED and roughed the dog's shaggy head. "As the brown eyes looked adoring at him, Uncle Abner said softly, "I'm mighty thankful for this old dog of mine. He makes me feel like maybe I'm a little bit living a lad's life. So war train-

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## ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Now that the automotive industry is showing signs of becoming competitive again, perhaps one smart manufacturer will include as standard equipment a handy place to park the vehicle.

A student gets more out of attending a school which frankly faces the questions of the day in an exploratory manner, than from a school where all the answers are known by the teachers and rammed down the students' throats.

If this last process be education in any sense of the word, then there is no need to spend money in the name of public education.

It should be time for the Birmingham city commission to re-submit to the voters a bond issue by which the municipal parks can be developed.

Since the first proposal was defeated a couple of years ago, comparatively little progress has been made.

If the residents don't want to spend the money to develop this city property, perhaps the land should be sold.

As things stand now, the land is only getting older.

Some day, somewhere, some time I'll be in an audience when the speaker begins his remarks WITHOUT these first

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SEE YOUR DEALER OR Detroit Edison

The local football team defeated the enemy last Friday in the game between the Baldwin high school and Wyandotte on Barnham field, the score at the end of the game being 9 to 0.

An ultimatum issued this week by State Fire Marshal at Lansing regarding the showing of motion pictures in the Baldwin auditorium has caused the school board to cancel all reservations for the motion picture programs there this