





# Wishing you A MERRY CHRISTMAS

## SPECIAL DELIVERY

(A CHRISTMAS STORY)

By Roger Wheeler

EDITH'S drab room over-looked a snow-covered roof. Not the clean, cheery snow like they had back home on the farm but a murky gray covering on which rested the soot of a thousand city chimneys.

"So this is Christmas," she moaned, leaving her chair to pace the floor. "Oh! What I'd give to be back home tomorrow!"

But then, Edith had two Christmas presents to which she could look forward. Today, Christmas eve, the mailman MUST bring her annual package from home. And tomorrow there would be Christmas dinner with Ken—dear Ken who was working so hard these days that he could hardly take time off to think about Christmas.

Edith heard the bell ring downstairs and she skipped to her door, opening it softly and waiting tensely while the old landlady, answered.

Yes, it was the mailman! And then came the shrill cry: "Miss Harris! Mail for you!"

Edith practically leaped downstairs, for there would be her package from home. Then her heart sank, for the landlady handed her only two letters, a greeting card from her friend Margie and (of all things at Christmas!) a bill from the department store.

Edith climbed sorrowfully back to her room and wept. Something was wrong, for Mother and Dad never forgot her at Christmas. She cried spasmodically the rest of the day, while downstairs she heard the other roomers shouting Christmas greetings as they arrived and departed.

But finally Edith consoled herself, for she could still look forward to Christmas dinner with Ken tomorrow!

He was due at two o'clock that day, and after church Edith hurried home to get ready. At 1:30 she was seated restlessly awaiting the doorbell.

She was still waiting at 2:30, for Ken did not arrive. And Edith was getting hungry.

Three o'clock passed, and Edith frowned.

"What could have happened to him?" she asked herself.

At four o'clock she cried. It was too much! First her family had forgotten, and now Ken had chosen Christmas day to tell her in this painful fashion that he didn't care!

At 6 p. m. misery began mingling with the pangs of hunger. Edith put on her coat and started to the corner restaurant. But she never got past the door. There she ran into a breathless Ken.

"Edith, dear!" he cried. "Sorry to be so late, but I knew you'd understand when you got my note."

"But—" Edith was confused, "I didn't receive any note, Ken."

"What? But I sent a special delivery message when the boss asked me to finish that laboratory experiment this afternoon. What happened to it?"

The blundering old landlady answered him.

"Please come in or go out, and close the door," she barked from the hall. Then—

"Incidentally, Miss Harris, I forgot to give you these things. They arrived this afternoon."

She handed Edith the missing special delivery letter—and a huge package from home! Edith tore into the Christmas box and found a note from Mother. They'd had a blizzard; couldn't get to town; she hoped Edith would get the package Christmas day.

A few minutes later a happy Edith sat across the table from her Ken in the little restaurant around the corner.

"And now, dear," he began very carefully. "How about your Christmas present for me?"

"But I gave you the fountain pen, Ken," she protested.

"Yes, silly one, and I appreciated it. But if you want to make me still happier, listen to this. The boss came in tonight and said I'd done such a fine job on that research project that he was raising my salary. Know what that means?"

"Not the faintest idea," Edith lied.

For, after all, you can't take the words out of a man's mouth when he's about to propose!

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

### Dog Uses Telephone To Untangle Mixup

SAN JOSE, CALIF.—When a cocker spaniel belonging to Howard Wilder knocked over the telephone and got tangled up in the cord it knew just what to do. It barked excitedly in the receiver. The telephone operator heard the barking, knew something must be wrong, and notified police, who came on the run.

### This Job Not for Drug Store Cowboy

#### Man Spends Nightly Vigil To Scare Away Deer.

CANON CITY, COLO.—Every night in the year, Ed W. Coryell, equipped with flashlight, pistol and shotgun, will go on patrol to frighten deer away from the gardens of Canon City.

For the lack of a better title, the state game and fish department has listed Coryell as a "deer herder." There are other deer herders in the state but their duties are to feed and protect the herds in the winter. Coryell protects the city's vegetables from the deer.

How many thousand deer he has driven out of Canon City gardens in the last eight years Coryell doesn't know. Once he saw more than 100 deer in one hour. One herd numbered 67 deer before he drove them away.

Coryell has developed his own system to frighten the deer. First he aims at their feet with his .22-caliber revolver. If that doesn't work, he uses a small caliber shotgun loaded with bird shot. The shot does not penetrate the hide, merely stinging them enough to start the herd running.

Coryell's job was created when a law was enacted providing a gardener can sue the state if his property is damaged by a protected animal. So far no gardener near Canon City has sued.

Coryell drives an average of 100 miles each night, examining each garden hourly. His "deer patrol" mileage in the last eight years approximates 130,000 miles.

The prettiest sight he has ever seen, Coryell said, was when his spotlight swung down a line of 28 deer standing shoulder-to-shoulder along the bank of a stream. They fled when he fired his revolver at them.

Deer are not the only animals Coryell has seen on his patrols. Twice he has seen mountain lions and smaller game is often discovered.

Coryell said the deer come to Canon City district for protection during the hunting season.

### Man Is Hunting for Wife Who Can Make Applesauce

CANDIA, N. H.—Five thousand women—and none of them can make applesauce.

That is part of the complaint of Joseph Cronan, 50-year-old farmer, who has spent the past three years advertising for a wife to keep house for him so he can run his farm.

In response to his ads, Cronan says he has received about 5,000 replies from women eager to share his life on a 180-acre farm—"one of the best in the state." But none of the would-be brides suit him.

Cronan admits his standards may be high, but at the same time he thinks middle-aged women lack ability. "None of them can make applesauce," he moans.

The applesauce question is important because Cronan likes "good eats and I want a woman who can cook while I run the farm." Unable to find his ideal by himself, Cronan now has offered \$100 to the person who introduces him to the "right woman."

### Badger Feast

One of the strangest surviving Christmas customs is the badger feast held at Ilchester, Somerset. It was started by poachers in Norman times, says the Montreal Herald, and has continued without a break.

The lads of the village catch a badger, kill and dress it some time before the feast. On Christmas eve it is strung on a spit over a huge fire at the inn and cooked slowly. When it is ready the party attack it with fingers and pen-knives; no cutlery other than this is allowed.

### Steward's Hint

"Doesn't this ship tip a great deal?"  
"Not that I've noticed, ma'am. She leaves that to the passengers."  
—M-K-T magazine.

### Only One Day!

Texas now formally devotes a day to the mother-in-law, which seems like skipping the problem.

### BELL LAB SCIENTISTS DEVELOP NEW SUPER CALCULATING MACHINE

Arithmetic Made Easy by Device Constructed of Standard Telephone Apparatus

An electrical super calculating machine recently has been developed by the Bell Telephone Laboratories to expedite the extended calculations required in the design of electrical filters and networks, and in the solution of other circuit problems.



An operator sits at the keyboard of the new electric calculating machine, the only one of its kind in the world.

Calculating machines of various kinds are familiar equipment in banks and offices, but the new machine differs radically from them not only in appearance and principles of operation, but also in that it performs complicated calculations and returns the answer in written form without any attention on the part of the operator other than writing out the problem on a set of typewriter keys. It is constructed entirely of standard telephone apparatus, using for its computing elements relays and crossbar switches such as are used to connect subscribers in the most modern type of dial exchange.

There is only one of these calculating machines in existence. It is installed in a small room in the Bell Telephone Laboratories in New York City. One need not go to this room to use the machine, however. Instead, the operator sits at a teletypewriter, which may be located at any convenient place, and presses keys to record the numbers and to indicate what operations are to be performed.

This machine recently was demonstrated by its inventor, Dr. G. R. Stibitz, before a meeting of the American Mathematical Society at Hanover, N. H.

### Forecast Rainfall

It is now possible to forecast rainfall eight months ahead, with only a 5 per cent leeway for inaccuracy if it is done in February. Such was the information given to the American Association for the Advancement of Science on the University of Washington campus. Prof. Fred Merryfield of Oregon State college has found that by measuring rainfall from September (beginning of the scientist's rainfall year) until February, and then comparing it with the compiled previous 40 years rainfall for the rest of the year then can be forecast with reasonable accuracy. He has found that rain falls in the same proportion during the second period as in the first, year after year.

### Fishes Without Hook

A northern Indiana angler, J. W. Souder by name, reports he catches catfish without using a hook. He ties pieces of beef on a line, and when the fish grabs the meat, he deftly pulls it into the boat. According to Mr. Souder, you must not let the fish's tail touch anything or else it will let go. The reason for this does not seem to be clear, but maybe it's just a fish story.—From the National Wildlife Federation.

### Cad!

"I have always had a presentiment," she said, "that I should die young."

"Well, my dear," remarked her woman friend, "you didn't, after all, did you?"

### JEALOUSY



Fat Lady Bug—Why, Miss Wasp, your thin waist is out of style.

Miss Wasp—Nonsense, you're jealous.

### Cat Airplane Stowaway Flies Just for Fun of It

FORT WORTH.—A high-flying cat whose home is in airports from coast to coast presents a puzzle to air line officials between New York and Los Angeles.

The cat, a furry black and white youngster, appeared at the Fort Worth airport early this summer. Someone said it came from Memphis. Another pilot said he had seen it in Los Angeles.

Animals are regular riders on the commercial air lines, but this kitten has a knack for slipping unnoticed into plane baggage compartments. Shortly after its first visit here the cat showed up in New York.

Three days later it was snoozing peacefully in the airport manager's office here.



## TODAY, AMERICA DEPENDS ON THE TELEPHONE

The Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company of Baltimore City.  
WM. B. HOPKINS, Manager  
Taneytown 9900 E Baltimore St.,  
Taneytown, Maryland.

## NOTICE

We are in receipt of notice from the office of THE COMMISSIONER OF MOTOR VEHICLES that under the provisions of Chapter 744, Acts of General Assembly of Maryland passed at its January 1939 session it is necessary for them to be satisfied that all municipal taxes are paid, before license tags for automobiles, or titles transferred for automobiles belonging to residents of an incorporated town.

Persons who are known to be in arrears or who have not paid municipal taxes on automobiles within the corporate limits of Taneytown are advised to give this their attention in order to avoid inconvenience when applying for their 1941 tags.

By Order of  
**THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL**  
12-20-39

## PRE-INVENTORY Used Car Sale

One 1940 DeLuxe Ford 2-door Sedan  
One 1940 Ford 2-door Sedan  
One 1939 Hudson Coupe  
One 1939 Ford DeLuxe 4-door Sedan  
One 1939 Ford DeLuxe 2-door Sedan  
One 1937 60-h. p. Ford 2-door Sedan  
Two 1937 60-h. p. Ford Coupes  
One 1937 Graham 4-door Sedan  
1936 Terraplane Pick-up Truck  
1933 4-cyl. Ford Pick-up Truck

All Units have very low mileage and the appearance of a new car.

Anyone desiring new car performance at a big savings come in and look over this sale of Used Cars.

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192 FOOT POUNDS TORQUE 93-HORSEPOWER HEAVY DUTY "LOAD-MASTER" ENGINE (Optional at extra cost on Heavy Duty trucks)

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