

Santa Claus will make his annual appearance on our streets Saturday at 2 p. m. to entertain the kiddies and to present each one of them with a box of candy. He has asked *The Echo* to announce for him that he wants to see all the children of Prophetstown and the surrounding country, and to give them a box of candy.

A big Christmas tree has been erected near the south end of Main street just west of the Eclipse Machine company, and Santa will be there promptly at 2 p. m. He wants all the kiddies to be there on time as he has numerous calls to make and won't be able to stay here so very long.

The big Christmas tree has been decorated with electric lights and the 24 small trees which have been placed in the center of the street thru the business section, will also be illuminated with colored lights. The streets will have much the same appearance as they had last year when they elicited so much praise from visitors.

A damper was put on the Christmas celebration for a short time Monday evening when six of the large electroliers were wrecked. Workmen had been busy all day stringing wire from which the electric lights on the small trees were to be suspended. These wires had been placed across the street and fastened to the tops of the electroliers in the same manner as last year.

C. W. Short came into town about 5:30 p. m. and knowing nothing of the wires, ran his truck, which was loaded high with Christmas trees, down Main street from the North. The wires strung from the Glenn Wheat corner to the J. H. Tascher corner caught, and both electroliers were pulled down.

Mr. Short did not hear the crash due to the noise which the truck was making. When he reached the Frank Cleaveland corner two more electroliers went down, those on the Carl Marvel and the Rest Room corners. Mr. Short heard a noise this time and stopped the truck thinking he had lost a can from his truck. It was not until he got off the truck that he realized what had happened.

Mrs. J. H. Tascher was standing on the Farmers National bank corner talking with Miss Jessie Adams. Other cars passing the corner did not heed the warning of the onlookers who had been attracted by the noise and ran right thru the wire pulling down first the electrolier on the bank corner and then the one on the Cleaveland corner.

As the electrolier on the bank corner fell part of it hit Mrs. Tascher a glancing blow on the back of the head, knocking her down into the street and stunning her. Miss Adams was also knocked to the ground but was practically unhurt. Mrs. Tascher's right hand was also cut by falling glass.

Dr A. L. Johnson, who had heard the noise and was looking out of the window of his office, saw Mrs. Tascher fall and rushed down stairs to her assistance. He found that she was not seriously injured, having received only a bruise on the back of the head, and she was taken home. She was able to be out Tuesday.

Tuesday town officials made a trip to Sterling and made arrangements to have six new electroliers here by next Tuesday. They will be erected that day and will be in working order for the Christmas celebration. The cost of the new fixtures installed with lights and globes will amount to just about \$150.

A Christmas program and community sing similar to the one held last year will be given again this year at the Christmas tree on Christmas night. Amos Ott is in charge of the music, and other arrangements are being made for special numbers. The program will be published in next week's *Echo*.

## Good News For The Boys and Girls

Santa Claus  
to be  
Here Saturday Afternoon

Watch for Santa Claus Saturday



## Carnival Dance

—AT—

## TAMPICO

FRIDAY, DEC. 19

Plenty of Ballcons and  
Serpentine Ribbon

MUSIC BY

**CHAS. DARBY**  
AND HIS ORCHESTRA

His office was above the Farmers National Bank. Which was in the building that is now the home of the PAHS.

John Lewis was a highly respected member of our community. Having been born a slave he moved north after the Civil War and ended up living here. He was our town constable for many years.

## JOHN LEWIS HAS HIS ANNUAL COON DINNER

About 115 Present from All Over  
County Thursday to Help Him  
Celebrate Birthday

The annual genuine coon and 'possum dinner given every year by John Lewis, was held Thursday, Dec. 4, at Fraternal Hall, and celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary. His friends from all parts of the county were present.

Those who were present were: Frank M. Stager, Robert W. Besse, H. C. Ward, Walter Stager, F. W. Eskey, and R. J. Besse of Sterling; H. E. Cain, I. A. Woodrow, N. E. Denison, Alfred Smith, L. E. Smith, and E. W. Meredith of Tampico; H. F. Daggett, Frank T. Brown, and C. A. Staples of Rock Falls; A. P. Thomas, E. E. Gardner, Ralph P. Morris, George Morris, Wm. H. Shaw, and H. C. Allen of Lyndon; Fred W. Tripp, W. E. Burritt, Joseph Mann, M. P. Brewer, Forest Belt, and A. E. Hamilton of Morrison; F. C. Merrill of San Francisco; George B. Jackson of Rock Island; F. M. Prestley of Fenton; F. N. Brewer, Clarence Olinger, G. P. Fisk, Amos Ott, Walter Sommers, Presley Mann, James A. Foard; Swan W. Gibson, W. C. Graham, Frank West, H. C. Lawrence, B. D. Hart, Albert Roberts, Glenn Graham, E. C. Marvel, Fred Brown, F. J. Thompson, John Teach, Gilbert Rogers, W. J. Thompson, Earl J. Cleaveland, Jay Cleaveland, E. Jay Sibley, Henry Taber, Frank Sibley, Fred M. Richards, G. W. Nelson, James H. Jenkins, W. H. Lamont, E. Griswold, W. H. Olinger, L. E. McNamara, A. C. Sturtevant, G. F. Devenney, Simon Keiser, George E. Kiner, J. H. Upton, A. E. Truax, Edgar Rodee, George I. Poulter, William McNeill, J. W. Medley, S. R. Chapin, J. H. Tascher, Charles Maxfield, H. S. Roblee, H. C. Mathis, A. V. Skarin, E. G. Mathis, Tyler Lane, H. T. Warner, C. C. Hansen, R. K. Kine, Albert Field, F. P. Dudley, Earl G. Fassett, C. E. Sibley, E. Porter Brown, E. L. Sholes, N. B. Brown, Lawrence Kiner, C. A. Schryver, H. H. Waite, T. H. Taber, W. S. Eldred, George W. Andrews, O. E. Clark, H. W. Wildman, Jack Johnson, Isaac Mabel, H. B. Cleaveland, E. L. Hill, G. G. Thompson, D. A. Waite, and W. H. Hurlbert of Prophetstown.

Beside Mrs. Nora Gresham of Cedar Rapids, Ia., and Mrs. Essie Lewis of Rock Island, those who assisted Mrs. Lewis were Mrs. Dell Thompson, Mrs. Lettie Thompson, Mrs. Becky Ott, Mrs. Belle Hurlbert, Mrs. Bessie Beechel, and Mrs. Emma Warner.

Mrs. Lewis was unfortunate in having her left hand in bad shape for the event. She had a felon or poisoning of some sort that had been troubling her for several weeks, but it got worse this week and preparations for the dinner were made under her direction but without as much of her assistance as is usual.

Ross Kiner has written up the following account of the dinner.

### "POSSUM DINNER"

A "possum" is a great deal like myself. He'd rather eat chicken and sleep than do anything else in this world. But even a possum has some good qualities (which I haven't). You let Uncle John Lewis dress—(or rather UNDRRESS him)—then, have Mrs. Uncle John fool around with him and a roaster, a range, and some sweet potatoes and he isn't a thieving, night prowling, chicken bandit anymore—he's—OH BOY—he's very, VERY good to eat—which I wouldn't be—me being too highly flavored with tobacco and bad liquor. That's the reason cannibals always had a fondness for parsons and missionaries—they didn't smoke or drink.

Well—Uncle John you have made it,

Seventy-five years and a day—  
And for you it's been UPHILL  
goin'.

Practically all of the way.

Yes, Uncle John had a birthday last Thursday, Dec. 4. It's been a far cry, Uncle John, from those boyhood days of slavery, when, instead of the pleasures the white youth of today enjoy, football, baseball, tennis, swimming, and golf, you—you because you were fleet of foot—spent your summer vacation days training bloodhounds for your master.

Cap Hubbard must sure have been a good old scout. But I've heard Harrison Upton say he wasn't, because I've listened to Harrison aver, that the night you were watchin' the melon patch and you took after him that every time you'd reach out and touch him on the shoulder and he'd let out another link of speed that he didn't know he possessed, Harrison, would "Darn well wish Cap had left you in the south to train bloodhounds."

Uncle John and Mrs. Uncle John—  
THAT WAS SOME DINNER. Rev. J. A. Foard asked the blessing (I wasn't referring to Mr. Foard when I mentioned the cannibals and the parsons and the missionaries 'cause I ain't acquainted with him).

For a full hour after that blessin' there was a continuous rattle of silverware and the shuffle and clink of china, interspersed with requests—"POSSUM, possum at this table, please. Any more turkey left? Where's that platter of coon? Shoot the gravy this way."—All the familiar sounds when men are feeding.

I started out with the frappe, held my own all down the line, until I reached and passed the punkin' and mince—but I waved the cake and fruit salad aside—I know when I'VE got ENOUGH.

Handicapped from your boyhood,  
A boyhood of slavery—unnamed—  
You've reached seventy-five and past  
John,

In a way that makes one feel ashamed.

Mrs. Nora Gresham of Cedar Rapids, Ia., had full control of the dinner and it's arrangement. That statement means that there was no flaw from the frappe to the last toast, and that says it all.

At her request Judge H. H. Waite acted as toastmaster and when the Judge tackles a job of that kind—there ain't no skiddin' no matter how slippery the road. He puts on the chains before he ever drives out of the garage.

If I remember correctly Ex-States-Attorney Stager of Sterling was one of the first to respond to an invitation from the Judge.

Attorney Stager is too well known in our county to allow me to dwell upon his response. The bare fact that he has been acquainted with "Our Uncle John" since his first appearance "Up Noth" will be sufficient. But he did remark that "No one but Uncle John could have induced him to make the trip considering the state of his health."

Mrs. Essie Lewis then favored the company with a reading in which a colored Mammy is doing her best to get her son up in the morning. I'll tell the village that went great with me—(I've stood on the side lines and watched Bridget raise George from a freckled-faced, crane-legged kid who was afraid of the girls up to the point where he got married, thereby spoilin' one of the best pool and pinochle players in town) and I've heard her recite the same piece a thousand times.

As an encore Mrs. Essie read the "Visit of the Censuus Taker to a Darktown Washerwoman."

Judging from the applause the color line is not drawn when it comes to hearty appreciation of talent.

Judge Ward then laid down his stogie, pushed his chair back so that the bulge around the lower button of his vest wouldn't interfere with the sharp edge of the table and started in. Prominent among the other gems of his address was this.

"When I look around this room and see so many old fellows such as F. N. Brewer, Jay Cleaveland, Uncle John, and others who have passed their three score and ten, some a full ten years farther on, I thank the Heavenly Father who in his kindness has permitted us to remain here so long thereby giving us TIME TO REPENT"—(Old stuff Judge—Old stuff—I'm always full of repentance when I'm too full of possum, candied sweet potatoes, and pie and have the bellyache.)—

The Methodist Parson from Tampico arose after some of Judge Ward's table neighbors had eased him down in his chair and relit the Pittsburgh rope.

I don't remember the Tampico Parsons name (An' I wasn't referring to him either when I mentioned the cannibals, the parsons and the missionaries)—but I infer from his remarks that repentance (if parsons ever have to repent) was kinder breakin' out on him as well.

If I have omitted any of the speakers, please overlook it. In newspaper parlance—"I never covered a dinner before," but I do remember the short but pithy reply to the toastmaster's invitation given by our representative, Henry Allen of Lyndon.

It seems that upon his first official trip to our State Capitol he made some joking remark to the colored custodian of the cloakroom in regard to the safety of his overcoat and hat.

"You fum Whiteside County ain't you boss man?"

"Yes" Henry replied.

"Do you know a colored gemman up theah by the name of John Lewis?"

"Why, yes," answered Henry, following with the query, "Is he a friend of yours?"

"Yessuh—yessuh! He suah is—I just thot you'd know John Lewis—evbuddy up noth knows John Lewis."

This then was Representative Allen's reply, "Boy—I've been personally acquainted with John Lewis practically all of my life. If you are a friend of his, I'll trust you with anything I own."

"Neither creed, nor color, nor race,

John—

Running life's race as you've ran—  
Neither race, nor color, nor creed,

John—

Will hinder—just so one's a MAN."  
P. S.

Perhaps the above is a quotation—my memory is very faulty at times—but I do not plagiarize intentionally.

P. S. 2:

"Gloom Chaser" Sommers and Foreman Art Skarin of the foundry, ran a dead heat for 2nd place in the capacity race. First—as always—to States Attorney "Bob" Besse of Sterling.

P. S. 3 This has no connection with the "Possum" dinner, but it may be of interest to some to become acquainted with the fact that the genial Charles Schryver is preparing to install a new system of traffic signals on his automatic shotgun.

This will be a great saving of time and heated language to Charlie, besides, any cottontail with good eyes will know just what to do.

When she shows "RED" she's goin' off. When "GREEN" she's clogged.

### MAKING IMPROVEMENTS

A steel ceiling is being installed in the Odd Fellows hall, and the interior will be redecorated.

This was done on the second floor of the old Sholes' Hall, which later became what we knew as the Town Theater.

### HAD STAG PARTY

Henry Adams held his annual stag party Tuesday evening at his home. Eleven tables were surrounded at progressive euchre. Simon Keiser and C. J. Warner had the low scores, and F. P. Dudley, George Fisk, N. B. Brown, and J. N. Lowry all tied for the highest place. George Fisk drew the high card on the cut. Following the game Mrs. Adams served a light luncheon. Cigars were passed, and the remainder of the evening was spent in conversation.

Henry Adams was in charge of the Eclipse Lawn Mower Company. By 1930 it was the largest lawn mower manufacturer in the WORLD! After Henry passed away his wife, Minnie, and their children had our library built and donated it to the City.



# Gift Time Again

And Not a Day Too Early to Select a Present for "Her"

For Mother, Sweetheart, Wife, Sister, or Friend—the personal gift of jewelry is unexcelled for Christmas giving. You cannot hope to please better—even tho it be the gift unusual or unique you wish to bestow. Our cases and shelves are loaded with many new, clever and original presentations. Take advantage of the opportunity to shop early this year.

**BULOVA WRIST WATCHES** in rich white gold 14 K or 25 year gold filled, \$20.00 to \$45.00.  
**DELTAH PEARLS**—Nature's rarest gems duplicated perfectly. Indestructible quality. \$10 to \$30 strands.

**SILVERWARE**—Rich patterns in Community Silver. Prices to fit every pocketbook.  
**FRENCH IVORY**—Wonderful set combines in plain white, shell, and amber tone. By far the best collection we have ever shown. Look us over.

**JUST OODLES OF GIFT THINGS**

Cigaret cases, men's belts, bill folds, beaver sets, military sets, umbrellas, Kodaks, vest chains, cuff links, candle sticks, console sets, book ends.

If you want to make your selections now while all our stocks are complete we will hold them for you for Christmas delivery.

**C. W. Fenn & Son**

This is now Hartig Drug. You will notice that today Hartig has two sections, one on the north and one on the south. Originally, the drug store was in the northern part. Other businesses were in the southern part. Notice that Fenns sold more than just drugs.



The C. W. Fenn Drug Store.



Yes, there was a balcony at the back of the store. It was still visible in 1964, but was closed in at a later date.



Tots and Teens at 318 Washington. Charlotte Dumbauld and Marilyn Waite.

# Practical Christmas Gifts

## For Men and Boys

- |             |          |            |
|-------------|----------|------------|
| Sweaters    | Neckties | Mufflers   |
| Shoes       | Socks    | Underwear  |
| Shirts      | Hats     | Caps       |
| Mittens     | Gloves   | Suspenders |
| Wool Shirts | Belts    | Wool Socks |

**Handkerchiefs**

- |         |       |       |
|---------|-------|-------|
| Initial | Linen | Plain |
|---------|-------|-------|

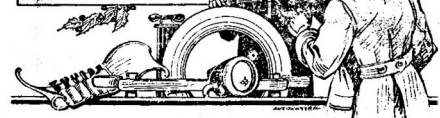
**CHRISTMAS WRAPPING PAPER**

**M. E. HODSON**

M. E. Hodson was in the south part of the drug store building. BTW, during our day Tots and Teens was at one time in that section, too, at 318 Washington.

# ACCESSORIES

FOR THE AUTOMOBILE



## Surprise Dad With a Gift

He always needs something for the car. May we suggest that you come in and select a gift for Him and his car.

We can show you a wide range of articles, each is utility itself. Strong, well made and finished to the last polish. They will add attractiveness and comfort to driving.

*Here Are a Few Suggestions:*

- |                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Spot Light         | Pedal Pants |
| Cigar Lighters     | Heaters     |
| Windshield Wipers  | Dash Lights |
| Speedometers       | Tire Chains |
| Set of Spark Plugs | Stop Lights |

*Automobile Accessories*

**ROY BELL**

Yes, you could purchase a heater for your car. They were not included in many cars back then.



## Practical Christmas Gifts for Women

Your mother, your sister, your sweetheart, your wife—any woman prefers a gift she can use. All our gifts are practical ones, the kind every woman wants.

If you're having trouble finding a Christmas gift for a woman, come in and let us help you select something which will suit her as well as if she had picked it out herself.

**HERE ARE A FEW SUGGESTIONS**

- |               |                |         |
|---------------|----------------|---------|
| Silk Hosiery  | Gloves         | Hats    |
| Fancy Work    | Handkerchiefs  | Flowers |
| Book Ends     | Bulbs          | Plants  |
| Stamped Goods | Silk Underwear | Garters |

**Sue S. Crook's Shop**

Notice the items that are seldom used by women today.

# Special Prices for CHRISTMAS

—ON—

IVORY PERFUMES

COMPACTS

POWDER BRACLETS

SPORT CAPS

GIBSON CAPS

AND VARIOUS

OTHER ARTICLES

## Oriental Beauty Shoppe

EDYTH E. OTT

Beauty shops back then were more than just a place to get your hair done.

## White's Studio

CHILDREN'S PORTRAITURE  
HOME PORTRAITURE  
AND COMMERCIAL WORK

### Special Christmas Folders Now Ready

HAVE YOUR CHRISTMAS  
PICTURES TAKEN NOW

W. E. WHITE



These are the Paxson gals. Their variety store was similar to a Ben Franklin.

## MISUNDERSTANDING OVER T. B. SEALS

List and Quota Prepared in Sterling  
Contains Many Errors,  
Committee Finds

The tuberculosis seals were received here from Sterling Monday, and many of those who received them were a little indignant at the large number sent them.

The list of names and the quotas for each were prepared in the county headquarters at Sterling without the knowledge or approval of the local committee.

The local committee had prepared a list with the amounts which it considered equitable for each one to contribute, and this list was to have been sent in Monday in accordance with instructions from J. A. Kilgour, president of the Whiteside County Tuberculosis society.

Some one at headquarters apparently decided that he could prepare a better list than the local committee could, however, and did so, mailing out the seals Saturday so that they reached here Monday morning. Included in this list were a number of persons who had been dead for several years and a number of others who had moved away from here some time ago.

In some cases the quotas were out of proportion to the individuals means, some of them being too low and others too high.

The local committee greatly regrets this mistake, but trusts that it will not affect the contributions from Prophetstown. Those who did not receive as many seals as they need can secure more at The Echo office, while those who received more than they feel they can afford are requested to keep as many as they can and return the money and the other seals in the envelopes provided.

In the early part of the 1900's tuberculosis was a leading killer in America. To raise money for research the American Lung Association began to issue Christmas seals in 1907. These seals could be applied to Christmas cards and packages. They were sold at the local post office for one cent each in the beginning.

## SUGGESTIONS



### Come in Now and Select Your Christmas Gifts

FANCY DISHES, DOLLS AND DOLL BUGGIES,  
BOOKS, GAMES, TOYS OF ALL KINDS AND  
CHRISTMAS CANDIES.

PAXSON SISTERS

This store was in what is now the Post Office parking lot.



### Make That Boy Happy And Bring Pleasure to the Entire Family

Every boy wants a radio, and with the new low prices in effect there's no reason why you shouldn't gladden his heart this Christmas.

A radio set will bring pleasure not only to your son, but also to the whole family. It's something you never tire of, for there's always something new coming in over it.

With a phonograph you have to play the same records over and over or buy new ones, but with a radio you get all the new music as soon as it is published and at no expense.

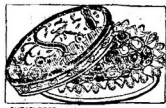
Come in and let us tell you how cheaply we can deliver a radio to you for Christmas. Orders for Christmas delivery must be placed at once, however, so don't delay.

Prophetstown Tire Co.

This store was also in what is now the Post Office parking lot.

# CANDY

...for...  
**CHRISTMAS**



The best candies made, put up in special Christmas packages—Whitman's, Bunte's and Morse's. Maraschino cherries in holiday boxes at 75c a lb.

Candy is always appropriate for Christmas gifts, for everyone likes candy, and no woman ever received too many boxes. One of our special Christmas packages will make a hit with her.



Our bulk Christmas candies are the best we've ever had. Special at 25 cents a pound.

For the men, fancy pipes, cigars, and cigarets in Christmas packages.

**JACK TRAH**

There was more than just candy for sale here. Twenty-five cents a pound would amount to about \$4 a pound in 2024.



# SANTA Says:



## Join Our Christmas Club

and deposit a little every week to meet your holiday expenses

The various classes are so arranged that it is very easy to accumulate any amount you may desire.

*Everybody  
Welcome to Join*

Enroll in one or more classes

**JOIN NOW**

**The Farmers National Bank**

At this time the Farmers National Bank was located at 302 Washington, where the Prophetstown Area Historical Society is now. For a short time the Bank of Prophetstown was in the same building.

# DANCES

Thursday, Dec. 18  
NEW COLISEUM  
at ANNAWAN

Friday, Dec. 19  
at AMBOY

Saturday, Dec. 20  
MOOSE HALL  
at STERLING

Monday, Dec. 22  
MYSTIC WORKERS  
at PROPHETSTOWN

Tuesday, Dec. 23  
MYSTIC WORKERS  
at STERLING

MUSIC BY

**Sommers and His Gloom Chasers**

Prophetstown's Walt Sommers and his Gloom Chasers. Walt owned the Sommers Song Shop. Dances were quite the thing back then. Not so much today.