ERREK SOYHIET

The Free Press' Christmas Story BABABABA

The Miracle of Christmas

BY EARL REED SILVERS

stood up with a touch of embarrass-

ment. "I'm going down town now. Can

from the centre table and went down-

the sidewalk and looked up enviously.

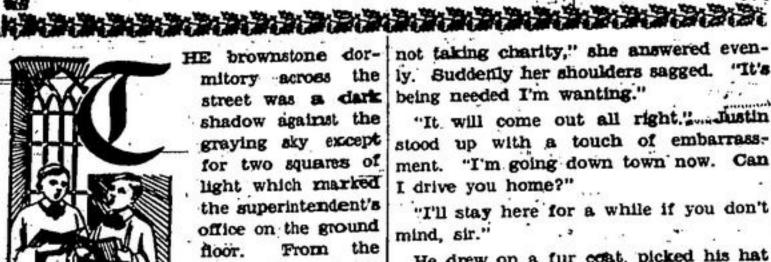
New England Hills

the memory of one kindly word.

shifted to an antercom.

voice broke into reflections:

ing a large bundle.



HE brownstone dor- not taking charity," she answered evenmitory across the ly. Suddenly her shoulders sagged. "It's street was a dark being needed I'm wanting." shadow against the for two squares of light which marked I drive you home?" the superintendent's ffice on the ground From the

front room of his apartment in Westminster Court, Jusregarded the lights re-

He sat forward in a garnet leather armchair, his handsome, rather arrogant face expressive of a vast discontent. He and now it was six-thirty for he had nowhere to go except down town to the ornate dining room of the Winfield Scott Hotel. .It was Christmas Eve, he reflected moodily, and he had not a single friend to turn to in this one night of and mistletoe was in inconspicuous all the year when the spirit of good will and fellowship was paramount.

Ve could see beyond the dormitory. the lights at the entrances to other entered. buildings on the campus. They had He glanced without interest at the which was covered with big. never held any special significance for guests at adjoining tables; a young man freckles. His small nose was turned up him, in spite of the Alma Mater song and a starry-eyed girl absorbed in congleaming." He had long since decided by a curly-haired boy who had spilled earnestness. that such sentiments were childish; col- gravy on his bib. In the far corner, a lege boy stuff which he had always des- man sat alone looking drearly out of a again. pised. The college meant nothing what- window. ever to him, he reflected. As a matterof-fact, nothing mattered except the boys came in, laughing. He recognized deep, unending ache of loneliness which had become a veritable part of him ever | Approaching his table, they hesitated, as -since Merton Hallock had walked smil- if they would have liked to join him, but ingly out of their room over in the "old at his curt nod they passed on. The dorm," and had not come back.

Merton had been struck by an auto- Justin remembered again the Christmas mobile, driven recklessly by another undergraduate down University Place. His ensuing death had left Justin Anderson with a great bitterness in his would never mean anything except tragic gentle heart against his fellow students. Although it was mid-season and he was a deep sense of unhappiness possessing Jimmy?" admittedly the star of the team, he had resigned from the football squad; had given up his room in the dormitory and moved to an apartment across the street. At times, the realization that his friend off to the care of hired tutors; of himself. would never return, that no resumption of the ideal relationship which existed to remain during vacation for adequate dazedly between them could ever be made, he was filled with such seething anger that ague. Mostly, his sorrow was just a dull ache which took from him all ambition. He would gladly have traded it all for and-and I want one very bad, sir."

desire and friendliness. He became a recluse, living alone in his spacious apartment, with only Mrs. Connolly to share his self-imposed exile. He knew that his former friends considered him queer, gripped by an otsession which he made no effort to throw off. He knew that they resented his which he would have been captain in a moment later a jaunty announcer ad- voice, "Jimmy, boy, would - would a lime has been opened up recently as a his Senior year. He did not care. The vised a waiting public that the "Happy father do?" gay friendliness of Merton Hallock's Hour" was about to begin. Justin toss-

smile haunted him. -Now, at six-thirty o'clock on Christmas to the lobby. He could see through the a father would do if-if he's a big man | Canada possesses an abundance of lime-Eve, he sat facing the square of dark- revolving door that it had begun to snow. like you." ness which was the dormitory and retrees and the river a blue mirror of ice, knocking the snow from their hats, and unashamed.

nolly's step in the hallway, if he would over her son's approaching marriage, the boy's curly head. ever find peace again. He did not think She had said something about not being "I can tell by your eyes that you mean in order, is the source of slightly more could do about it. Long since, he had endlessly. surrendered to his obsession. He did not mind his lack of companions; he had no desire for friendship. He became aware of Mrs. Connally's presence in the room, and he turned without interest.

ed on a floor lamp beside the plane. duties for the day; he had told her early in the evening that it would not be necessary for her to prepare his supper.

inadequately. divan and fixed her eyes upon an intricate design on the Oriental rue at audibly. her feet.

lessly. "I knew it was coming but still in the world, especially among nights of bitterness, no aching yold in tity or community. It is equally importthought that he would wait a while that on Christmas Eve.

Justin nodded "He'll be living with you, I suppose."

"No. He-he seems to want a place of his own. He can afford it, he says, left the hotel. His car was parked near going home. But first, we've got to buy the standard of Ontario and Western and he wants to move to a better the entrance but, ignoring it, he saun- some toys for Christmas and go around Canada. More attention should be raid neighborhood. He asked me to go along, tered down Main Street. It was not yet to the Home and make the proper ar- to the necessary after-care of patients but I'm not needed now."

bad," he said, and was seized, suddenly, the storm. He heard smatterings of the Home?" can keep on where you are. I'll see that, trees, the number of guests at dinner, a the boy wait just a minute while he had Tuberculosis Association which may be you have enough for expenses," and a church service in the morning.

building from which the sounds emerged, but decided against it. Instead, he walk- know until to-night that he could perdepartment store in town, and he fol- cerols. lowed a stream of people inside. For some unaccountable reason, his feeling of depression had disappeared, and with it went some of his self-pity and bitter-

ment and wandered from counter to United States that shows the perseverdining room of the hotel. He came finally to an alcove in which sat a rather bedraggled Santa Claus. - Free for the

He drew on a fur coat, picked his hat | wearily. "I'm tired," he said, "and after tonight I lose my job."

stairs. A gleaming coupe stood at the curb, and he slipped into the driver's Only a few children were in the de seat. A man carrying bundles passed on partment and they apparently, had already made their needs known. Justin Justin drove through the centre of was about to pals on when he glimpsed town to the shining facade of the Winof the elevator. The boy had apparently prising, perhaps ,that the Stroopal idea. field Scott. An obsequious doorman helped him alight and gasped a grateful, been running, for his freckled face was "Thank you, sir," as he realized the flushed and he was breathing heavily. He hurried anxiously toward the alcove amount of the tip which Justin gave him. The hotel lounge was bright with color; and, ignoring Justin, addressed the beholly wreaths hung from the chandeliers, whiskered man in quavering tones:

"Are you Santa Claus?" Justin waited curiously. The young places. In the dining room the orchestra was playing Christmas music. Jusster, he decided, was no more than six tin tossed his coat to an attendant and for seven years old. Curly hair the color of carrots made a crown fo about "friendly lamps like starlight versation; a family of four, dominated garded the man before him with intense

Justin ordered a simple meal. Two them as Freshmen who lived in town.

glanced at Justin and grinned. "And what can I do for you?" "You can give me something orchestra played "Jingle Bells," and Christmas."

"Santa Claus always gives things he had spent with Merton Hallock in the little boys. What is your name, son?" "Jimmy.

Merton was gone now, and Ohristmas .The tired man's voice was surprisingly "What would you like for Christmas. memories. Justin toyed with his food,

him. Curiously, he found himself re-"I want a mother." the boy said. A lump formed suddenly in Justin membering other holiday seasons, half forgotten years of his boyhood when Anderson's throat. For the first time in selfish, too-rich parents had shunted him many months, he forgot to think about

"A mother?" Santa Claus repeated schools which permitted unwanted boys

His parents had gone now, leaving him hurriedly." "I ain't never had one, only of 1938. his massive body shook as if with the no inheritance but money; more than he the matron over at the Chikren's Home. needed, more than was good for him. So I sneaked out to-night to find you,

> "Well, now-" The man who was paid The orchestra, concluding "Jingle to be Santa Claus looked up helplessly. Bells," laid down their instruments and "I don't know whether we have any The head mothers left or not," he said, doubtfully.

waiter turned on the radio, and a mellow "I want one very bad," pleaded the boy. He turned and looked directly into "And on earth peace, good will to- Justin's face, as if asking him to help. "Jimmy." asked Justin Anderson, and The voice trailed off into silence; and was surprised at the gentleness of his A new market for white, high-calcium

The youngster regarded him judicially, filler in place of imported clay in newsed a bill upon the table and went out and after a long moment, he spoke: "Yes, print and magazine paper.

He loitered indecisively, dreading the A mist of tears formed suddenly over lime, and lime is manufactured in every membered the Christmas of his Sopho- return to his apartment but having Justin's eyes, and two big drops rolled more year. He had spent it with the nothing else to do. Gaily-lighted win- down his cheeks. Justin had not been Hallock family in a white New England dows along Main Street held no allure. able to cry since Merton Hallock had house on the top of a high hill, with and after a time he seated himself near left him that late afternoon in the old snow clinging to the branches of pine the doorway. Men came into the hotel, dormitory. Now he was crying, openly

.That was the greatest happiness he had glanced at him curiously and passed on. "Jimmy, if you're willing to come with pulp mills, considerable interest has He found himself thinking about Mrs. me. I-I'll be your father," he said. He wondered, as he heard Mrs. Con- Connolly. Obviously, she was unhappy! Santa Claus was looking at him over calcium limestone in the northern part

so. He was young to be sure. Only needed any more. That was a tragedy it." Santa said. "You can adopt this twenty-two; and yet, something had maturing years, Justin reflected. An in- youngster if he lives in the Children's Both high-calcium and dolomitic limes happened to him. The realization that finitely greater tragedy was to be young. Home: Have you got enough money?" he was not as other men worried him, without friends, without interests, with "Yes," answered Justin. He opened and yet, he could think of nothing he only a dull heartache which went on his wallet and drew out a yellow bill high-calcium lime is made in Quebec, which he crumpled in his hand. "My Alberta, and British Columbia. The dean of the college had talked to name is Justin Anderson and I live in

> him about it; had told him in a mem- Westminster Court. Come up to-mororable interview that other people had row, Santa, and have dinner with us." sustained losses and had carried on Santa Claus' whiskers were slightly without bitterness, without discourage, awry, but Jimmy did not motice. ..

reminded the dean, had not been starve- | suggested. . Just Anderson looked at her inquir- ed for affection through the long years "Easy, old man!" Justin reached for- the different provinces and in various inly. She had long since finished her of youth. The dean, not understanding, ward and stuffed the bill in the pocket sections of Canada. The average death-

had called him a quitter, had said that of Santa's blouse. "We'll be seeing you rate in Ontario and the Western provhe was morbid, and had dismissed him, to-morrow, Santa Claus," A shabbily-dressed woman came into "You're crying." Jimmy said. "I thought you'd be home," he said the lobby, followed by a little girl, carry- "No," Justin answered. In his own Maritime provinces the deathrate is big hand crept the hand of the freckle i- more than twice as high. In the latter

"I want to go home how and wait for faced boy. They stood for a moment areas it is as high as that of Ontario Santa Claus," the child, announced facing Santa Claus, and for the first and the West 20 years ago. time in more than a year Justin saw The basis of any tuberculosis campaign Unexpectedly, Justin winced. He could his future clearly outlined. Mrs. Con- is early diagnosis. It is possible to disnot remember ever having believed in nolly would be needed now to help or ing cover 3 new cases of tuberculosis for Santa Claus. Apparently some faith was up Jimmy. He would have no more every tuberculosis death in a municipalchildren. After all, they had a right to his heart.

. Not knowing exactly why he did so ever going?" ..

Justin buttoned his raccoon coat and "Yes," Justin told him gently, "we're bring Quebec and the Maritimes up to nine o'clock, and the store windows were | rangements, haven't we?".

Justin was only vaguely aware of the lighted brilliantly. Men and women "No." the boy answered, "I don't want vision if their cure is to be complete.

his upturned face. On the corner of strong arms and carried him through McCullough, M.D., D.P.H.

MESSAGES

Bayard Street, while he waited for a the snow to the gleaming coupe. "This is swell," Jimmy said. "Santa moment, he heard the volces of a church choir. He was tempted to enter the big Claus can do a lot of things, can't he?" "Yes." Justin answered. "But I didn't ed on for another hundred feet and form miracles." He started the engine, Telegraphs between Prince Edward Issought relief from the storm by step- and as the big car glided noiselessly past ping into the entrance of a store. He the church on the corner, he heard recognized it as the Bon Ton, largest the sound of voices singing Christmas is now in operation between Charlotte-

A CANCER CURE FRAUD

The widespread mortality from canc has been responsible for many years for Without knowing just why he did so, the exploitation of fake "cures," one of he-took the elevator to the toy depart- the most interesting being a fraud in the ance of those who prey upon the gullible. It is known as "the Stroopal the curly-haired boy he had seen in the fraud," which recently has had to have Government attention after being under the ban nine years.

The Stroopal cancer cure fraud originmoment, the man looked up and smiled ated in Germany many years ago. It consisted of three powders, to be taken at monthly intervals. When it is considered that many otherwise intelligent country people are still convinced that a calf should be weaned and the potatoes planted at certain phases of the moon. and when many city people exhibit a small boy with red hair coming out superstition in other ways, it is not sur-

> At all events, after the business was forbidden in Germany and the headquarters transferred to England, s branch was opened in Chicago and for nearly twenty years it was able to carry on a profitable trade. Most of the American business was directed to Americans of German descent for much of the advertising was printed in Ger-

> man script. As for back as 1914 it was known that Stroopal was nothing more than powdered leaves of wood garlic but it was not until 1930 that action was taken against the company. Then it was shown that the advertised "certificates of merit" were utter fakes and the stuff was dangerous to health.

After the importation of Stroopal was barred it was smuggled into the United States as "metal cleaning powder."

Then the promoters conceived the idea of operating the fraud from London England still finding victims in the United States. This year's order by the U.S. Post Office Department closes the Stroopal concern of England to the mails. Letters addressed to the Company are now returned to the senders marked "fraudulent," and postmasters are warned not to issue postal money orders to the Stroopal concern.

LIME PRODUCTION UP

Lime production in Canada during the first eight months of the current year amounted to 321,146 tons compared with "Yes, sir!" The red-headed boy spoke 313,962 tons in the corresponding period

> In Canada lime is marketed principally as quick-lime in the lump, pebble crushed and pulverized forms. Less than twenty per cent, of the output is marketed in the hyrated state; which is a specially prepared slaked lime in the form of fine powder. In these various forms Canada's lime output finds a multitude of uses in chemical and metallurgical processes and in construcresult of the use of calcium carbonate.

> stone suitable for the production of province except Prince Edward Island. Saskatchewan's production, however, is intermittent, and is very small. Ontario the leading producer, supplies more than one-half the total Canadian output. Because of their proximity to mines and been shown recently in deposits of highof the province. Quebec, which is next than one-quarter of the total output. are produced in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, and Manitoba, but only

TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL

According to Dr. G. J. Wherrett. Secretary of the Canadian Tuberculosis "Good evening!" she said, and switch- ment. These other people, Justin had. "We ought to be gettin' home," he Association, tuberculosis control is a relative term since the death-rates vary in vinces is approximately 35-per one thousand of population. In Quebec and the

> ant to have sufficient sanatorium or "Say." Jimmy protested, "ain't we hospital beds for the treatment of cases. Two thousand more beds are needed to who still require careful, skilled super-

unhappmess in her voice. "That's too brushed past him, their heads bent to nothing-but you." Can you fix it up at All of the foregoing and much other excellent advice is confained in the by an impulse of generosity. "But you conversation: about lights for Christmas "Surely," Justin told him. He made September bulletin of the Canadian a brief conference with Santa Claus, obtained on application to the Associ-The snow fell steadily, beating against He lifted the red-headed boy in his ation's office in Ottawa.-By John W. S.

TELETYPE SPEEDS UP WIRE

land and the mainland is the introduction of a duplex teletype circuit, which town and Halifax. The teletype is in reality a typewriter operated by electrical contacts at a distance so that the operator working a keyboard similar to a typewriter in the Charlottetown office causes the keys of a typewriter at the receiving end in Hallfax to print the message the same as if the operator were sitting at the keyboard of the machine in Halifax. The duplex circuit permits of two such teletype machines operating two distinct messages over the same

WELL NAMED

wire simultaneously.

Hubby: "What are we having for des-

Wife: "Sponge cake, I sponged th eggs from Mrs. Brown, the flour from Mrs. Smith, and the milk from Mrs

New Mixed

Denver Assorted

Aylmer

Cut Mixed

Red Glaced

CHERRIES

Seeded Lexis

Golden Hallowi

RAISINS 1-lb. pkg.

PEEL

DATES

FLOUR

Table

FIGS

Silver Star

CANDIES

Colored Cake

Duchess Mixed

CANDY

CANDY Ib. 15c

PEAS

CORN

Apple Sauce

Aylmer Golden Kernel

2 16-oz. tins 190

7-lb. bag

Bungalow Assorted 1-lb. 24c

34-lb. pkg.

Deposit Extra

lg. btl.

Catarac Dry GINGER

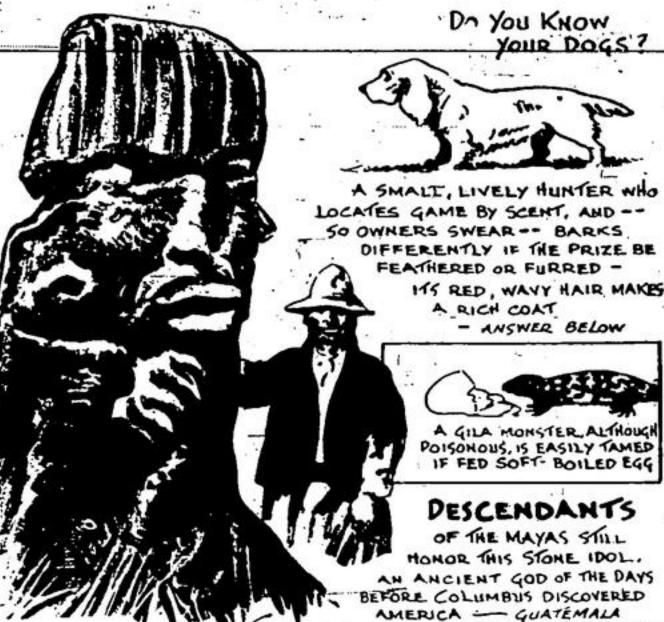
quantities.

Tube

CORN

2 17-oz. tins 170

SCOTT'S SCRAP BOOK _____ By R. J. SCOTT





Special Till Saturday Night Only-First Grade Creamery

NUTS in lb. 19c

Wagstaffe's JAM

Rasabbrry or Strawborry 2 lbs. 25c

JELLIES Jelly Beans or Gum Drops 2 lb. 25c

Star Chocolate

DROPS 15. 15c

Creams and

1b. 15c

Aylmer White or Golden

SOUP

41c

15c

16c

8c

BAKING POWDER 28c Cash and

FEARMAN'S PURE

1-lb. pkg. 90 MINCENEAT MAPLE LEAF 2 Ib. 250

Chocolate PUFFS

APRICOTS 2 15-oz. tins 270 Special-Aylmer

PEACHES 2 15-oz. tins 21C Easifirst Shortening or 13c DOMESTIC 1-lb. pkg. 1-lb. tin 27c

COCOA %-lb. pkg. 15c Chateau Hellmann's 335-os. 10c MAYONNAISE

Aylmer Honey Drep PEAS 2 16-oz. time Special-Fry's COCOA Aylmer Asparagus Jif SOAP FLAKES

P. & G. Naphtha

HAMPERS FOR CHRISTMAS If you are giving Christmas hampers away this year see your Carroll store manager before placing your order. They have several already prepared to sell at \$1.89

19c

19c

Texas Seedless GRAPEFRUIT MILL STREET

Fresh Navel ORANGES

and \$2.89, or if you would like to make your own selection, they will be pleased

to help. Special attention will be given to groups or organizations buying in

Crisp CELERY HEARTS 10c each

PHONE 158

FREE DELIVERY

Grocory Bargains on Sale Till Monday Night-Fruits and Vegetables Till Saturday Might Only