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JOHN J. VERONIS, Publisher



OUR COVER

Will you be entertaining all through the holidays? Then plan now to set a festive board. You'll find a host of table-setting ideas beginning on page 34. Shown here—the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Oberman, West Los Angeles, Calif. Photographer: George de Gennaro.

The Curtis Publishing Company: **MATTHEW J. CULLIGAN**, President; **CLAY BLAIR JR.**, Editorial Director

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DEAR READER:

Christmas is December. From the very first day of the month our thoughts and much of our energies are devoted to this very special day. There are presents to buy, decorations to put up, and friends and relatives to entertain. And, before you know it, the children are home for their Christmas vacation. One can hardly write anything about December without writing about Christmas and yet what can you possibly say? Everything that one would wish to say about Christmas has been said before and by some of the greatest writers of all times. So rather than ask you to read what we have to say about Christmas we'd like to suggest that you read or re-read what others have said about it.

In this issue, we bring you a Christmas story by Edward Streeter. It's about a contemporary Christmas in a contemporary house and some very contemporary children—yet it still contains all the magic of Christmas Eve. Some evening before the presents are opened we hope you'll sit down with the entire family to read Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." This is a joyous story and to watch the delight in a child's eyes as old Scrooge confronts Bob Cratchett at the office the day after Christmas is one of the greatest presents you'll ever receive. The very young ones will want to hear "A Visit From Saint Nicholas" and one or more of them is almost sure to giggle at the phrase "... He had a broad face and a little round belly that shook, when he laugh'd, like a bowl full of jelly." One of our favorites for Christmas reading is the chapter in "The Wind in the Willows" where Mr. Mole and Mr. Rat are visited at Christmas time by the little field mice singing Christmas carols. If you've never read this we heartily recommend it. And, most meaningful, you'll want to read from the Bible those passages from Saint Matthew and Saint Luke that tell how the first Christmas came about. And while the small children may close their eyes as you read they will remember and they will understand.

And now as the joyous day approaches, nothing remains to be said except to all of you from all of us at *The American Home*—Merry Christmas!

THE EDITOR

THE AMERICAN

December 35¢

HOMER

HAVE A WARM AND JOYOUS CHRISTMAS!
GALA MEALS FOR THE HOLIDAYS
TABLE SETTINGS FOR TWO OR TWENTY
GAY SPARKLING DECORATIONS
GIFT IDEAS FOR YOUR FAMILY AND HOME
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