

LOCALS

Nettie Staman of Lansing spent the holiday season with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Staman, and her sister, Miss Martha Staman.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Axford, daughter Marcella Ann and Don Williams of Pontiac; Duke O'Brien and Miss Adeline Brown also of Pontiac; and Miss Maxine Flisler of Channing, Ontario, were New Year's day guests of Mrs. Elizabeth Holcomb and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Demman of Norway, Michigan are visiting at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Harold Hurkett.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Cox and the parents of a baby girl born on December 31, at the Detroit Osteopathic Hospital. Her name is Karen Anne.

Miss Marian Erwin, who is teaching at Treary, Upper Peninsula, has returned after spending her holiday vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Erwin.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Leland were Saturday evening guests of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Durgan.

Mr. and Mrs. Rolf Smith entertained a few friends at their home on New Year's Eve.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Smith entertained their bridge club on New Year's Eve. Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. Joseph DeVriendt, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Hedley, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Eisenold, Mr. and Mrs. Hanley Schroeder, Mr. and Mrs. Manley Newman and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Elkins.

Mrs. Jennie Smith Hart is spending the winter at Lakeland, Fla.

Mrs. Eleanor Talbot, her sister, Miss Alice Smith of Detroit, and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Harry Smith of this city left Monday to drive to San Antonio, Texas, where Mrs. Talbot and Miss Smith will spend the winter months. Mrs. Smith will return after a short visit there. Miss Edith Smith is at home during her mother's absence.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mantel spent New Year's day with Mr. and Mrs. David Sackett of Dighton. Mrs. Mantel is a sister of Mrs. Sackett.

Mr. and Mrs. Reinhold Esch and daughter Betty of Northville, and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Rossow and children, Howard, Doris and Richard, were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Esch and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hammond of Detroit were Wednesday afternoon callers at the home of Mrs. Harriette Gravin.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Way and children Kenneth and Shirley were New Year's day guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Esch and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Dohany visited Mr. Dohany's sister, Mrs. Patrick Fitzpatrick in Detroit on New Year's Day.

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Ross left Sunday for Hamilton, New York where they were called by the death of Mr. Ross' mother, Mrs. A. R. Ross. She is survived by her husband, three sons and two daughters, all except A. L. Ross, living in or near Hamilton, New York.

Miss Beatrice Lloyd of Monroe has returned after spending her Christmas vacation at the home of her aunt, Mrs. Sam Turner.

Bobby Ely and Shirley Ely of Northville and Mike Thomas of Detroit spent their Christmas holidays at the home of their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Dohany.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Clark of the Base Line Road and Mr. and Mrs. Eleanor Talbot of Northville were among the twenty-eight to be entertained at bridge on New Year's night at the home of Miss Grace Duratt in Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Johnson

Background

By SALLY LLOYD
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AS BILL started across the polished floor towards his hostess he could feel himself growing. Especially his feet. Outside the Blaine mansion his feet and his normal feet were in conventional, if rather shabby, patent leather pumps. But now that they were headed towards Mrs. Philander Blaine they assumed the dimensions of packing cases. His hands, too, increased in size. They felt like heavy red starfish flapping at his sides.

Within six feet of Mrs. Blaine he saw that she was staring at a spot half way between his knee and ankle. Perhaps his garter! He glanced down hastily. No, it was his trousers. They were too short, much too short to be just what a young man should wear to a formal dance. He had grown several inches since he bought his tuxedo two years ago.

Bill planned his packing boxes in front of Mrs. Blaine and bowed. She made him feel like some sort of insect wherever she looked at him. Just now he felt like a cross between a doodle-bug and a cut-worm. Mrs. Blaine had dug a heel into him he would not have been surprised. She had that heel-digger look.

He lifted the heavy red starfish at his side, that in happier moments had been a hand, and his hostess shook it lifelessly. Bill backed away from her with a smile frozen on his face. Like the Cheshire cat in Alice in Wonderland he felt all grin from the neck up.

The blare of Littleton's Jazz Johns beat his ears as he pushed his packing cases towards the shelter of a doorway, where several other black-coated young men lounged. When he had almost reached the threshold he relaxed a trifle and his unruly packing boxes skidded on the highly waxed floor. For one horrible moment he felt like a grotesque scarecrow. Then he regained his equilibrium and rushed to the door.

"Some peppy drag," commented a sophisticated appearing young man at his elbow. "Were you at that wet Reihardt dance last night?"

No, Bill had not been at the wet Reihardt dance and he would not be here had his mother not nagged him into it. His might have known that she would have egged him into this when he told her that Luis Blaine had invited him to her first real grown-up dance, to quote Luis.

"The Philander Blaines," Mrs. Blaine had replied in a haughty voice. Listening to her one could almost see the brown Blaine mansion sitting like a huge chocolate cake on its green lawn on the very top of Pleasant Hill. Bill could almost hear the Rolls Ruling purring on the white gravel driveway and see Mrs. Blaine throwing her aigrettes in the air.

"You must go," his mother insisted, when she found that he had no intention of doing any such thing. "You ought to take advantage of every invitation like that. You're as good as the Blaines, even if your father does work in a store and they own ten factories. Remember, one of your ancestors fell off the Mayflower into Plymouth harbor."

There was no stopping his mother when she got started on this subject. Throughout the next week she brought the subject up continually, urging him to go, assuring him that he was as good as the Blaines.

"Hang it, ma, I know I am!" burst out Bill. "I just don't want to go to Lu's old party. That high-brow crowd make me tired."

"You're afraid of them," snapped his mother. "You, whose ancestor fell off the Mayflower into Plymouth harbor?"

"I'm not afraid of anything that walks on two feet," shouted Bill. But down deep he knew he was lying. There was something about Mrs. Philander Blaine that made him want to run. She gave him the "heebie jeebies."

He looked at his right hand, expecting to see an icicle dripping from the fingers that he had touched.

Luis passed, hopping the Charleston with Andy Hascomb. She looked at Bill expectantly over Andy's shoulder. The fat Barrett girl clumped past and smiled kittenishly. He'd have to dance with that tonight, Bill thought moodily. This living up to an ancestor who had fallen into Plymouth harbor wasn't all it was cracked up to be!

"Get to dance with Elsa Barrett!" he muttered to the chap at his elbow, as he reluctantly left the sanctuary of the doorway.

"That portable house," sympathized the other. "Tough luck!"

Once out on the smooth floor with the strains of the syncopating Jazz Johnnies in his ear, Bill's packing boxes became feet once more. He could dance marvellously. He had won the record non-stop fox-trot contest at Mechanics' hall, much to his mother's disgust.

After he had danced with Elsa Barrett, Bill went in search of Luis Blaine. Not that he really wanted to dance with her. There was enough of her mother about Luis to make him ill at ease. She had a cool way of looking at him from un-

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