

## Merry Christmas

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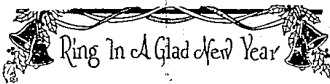
Clarence Bickling

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## Merry Christmas

At this, the brightest of all holidays, we extend our greetings and wish that the New Year will bring the very best to you and your loved ones.

## Clark Coal Co.



In extending the season's greetings to you we wish to thank you for your patronage. Our sincere wish is that you enjoy a delightful Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

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## HENDRICK NAMED ACTING MANAGER OF PONTIAC S. S.

Appointment of Richard H. Hendrick as acting manager of the Social Security Board was announced this week at Cleveland, regional headquarters of this Federal agency. The announcement was made by Robert C. Goodwin, director of the agency in Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky.

Mr. Hendrick, who has been manager of the Jackson office of the Board, succeeds Walter B. Redman, who has been appointed manager of a new office which the agency is opening in Detroit. Both designations represent substantial promotions for the two men, Mr. Goodwin said.

Pontiac's new manager received his early education in Dayton, Ohio, and later in Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; the University of Dayton; Wayne University and the University of Michigan. He has been a resident of this State since 1930, having formerly been director of the boys' bureau of the Detroit department of public welfare. Later Mr. Hendrick was director of transient relief with the State Emergency Relief Administration in Lansing.

Mr. Hendrick was appointed to the staff of the Social Security Board in June, 1937, under the Federal classified, competitive civil service system. After training in Washington and in Cleveland he was designated as manager of the Jackson field office and has since continued in that capacity. The Pontiac field office serves the counties of Oakland and Macomb. Mr. Hendrick will take up his residence in Pontiac later this month.

## SECRETARY KELLY EXPLAINS LICENSE NUMBERING PLAN

What does GB mean on my license plate? Why are these letters assigned to my county? Why do they differ from letters on the license plates in the next county? These and a dozen similar questions have been recently directed to Harry F. Kelly, Secretary of State.

To remove any remaining doubt regarding the letters appearing on license plates Kelly went to great length to explain the reasons behind the adoption of the new 1940 plate.

"Primarily, the letters are for identification purposes," Kelly said, "but there is a great deal more to it than that. Following a suggestion, submitted by leading law enforcement agencies, safety

directors and traffic managers we determined to eliminate entirely all license plates bearing six or seven numbers, because a long series of figures is difficult to read, and almost impossible to remember.

"It was decided that two letters and four figures would be a great deal easier to read and remember than any other combination. Further study revealed that the placing of the two letters before the figures instead of in any other position was also conducive of easier reading.

"We were then faced with the problem of devising a code suitable for our own particular requirements. In this most difficult task we were fortunate in securing the services of coding experts who cooperated to the fullest extent in devising a code that is simple, effective and of unlimited scope. "Our next job was to assign the letters to counties. This was done in the one logical way, by assigning letters beginning with AA to the county having the largest automobile registration. Continuing in alphabetical sequence we assigned letters straight through the alphabet to counties in direct ratio to their automobile registration.

The adoption of this system eliminated the possibility of assigning letters "MP" to Macomb or "IN" to Ingham for the reason and the plan of uniformity destroyed.

## U. OF MICHIGAN HAS 25 DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS FAITHS

More than 25 religious faiths are listed in the student census recently compiled at the University of Michigan.

For purposes of classification the various religions are placed in to four main groups: Protestantism, which includes "Baptists, Brethren, Christian Disciples, Congregationalists, Episcopalians, Evangelicalists, Lutherans, Friends, Methodists, Nazarenes, Presbyterians, Reformists, and Unitarians; Judaism for those of the Jewish faith; Catholicism, which includes Greek and Russian orthodox; and the Far Eastern religions.

Forty-four courses in religious education are offered in seven different departments of the University, according to Dr. Edward W. Blakeman, counselor in religious education. Various social religious activities are held at Lane Hall under the leadership of Kenneth Morgan, director of the Student Religious Association.

## DIFFERENCE IN PRIVILEGES TOLD BY ELKS' WRITER

The following article is the second in a series written by Arthur C. Read on behalf of the Americanization committee of the Elks Club.

In the year 1938 Nicholas Kustoff was earning a living as the manager of a small restaurant in an interior city of China.

Kustoff, a White Russian by birth, had been away from his native land for many years. He had traveled extensively, and shortly before coming to China, had served an enlistment in the French Foreign Legion in Africa. (During our acquaintance, Kustoff showed one document which proved these statements.)

One afternoon in May, 1938, I entered his restaurant to find Nicholas quite elated at having just met on the street that morning a man who had formerly been a boyhood schoolmate of his in Old Russia.

This gentleman was now a Red army officer serving as military advisor in the Chinese units.

Since Red Russian officers were not permitted to hold conversations with foreigners or Chinese who were outside the Communist Party, Kustoff and his friend had privately arranged to meet again that evening in a small Chinese tea house where they would be less conspicuous than in the open street.

Out of curiosity as to the outcome of their meeting, I made it a point to drop in again at Kustoff's place that night about ten-thirty to ask him what had transpired.

I found him quite happy at having been able to reminisce with someone of childhood days and friends; but he did not mention that his friend seemed to have little joy in life and to be only concerned with existing from day to day along the lines laid down by his superiors. They had both avoided the subject of the military situation as it was naturally strictly forbidden for the Communist officers to discuss such items in public.

The next afternoon, through one of my Chinese military friends, I learned that the Red officer was to be sent back to Russia under armed guard, and that Kustoff had already been seized by the Communist-controlled Chinese gendarmes and was that very minute enroute to Canton where he would be executed.

Ironically enough, I later learned that he was shot on the same execution grounds near which I had camped, and often visited, during my service in south China. I never knew what became of the Red officer but, judging from similar cases, concluded that he too was "purged" upon his return to Russia.

Naturally the question arises in your mind as to why such drastic result could come from a simple meeting of two friends of boyhood days.

Was it because of the military conditions surrounding the episode? Could either of the two men have been suspected of espionage or other spying activities? Decidedly not! If there had been any suspicion in this respect, both parties would have been grilled in an effort to find out for whom they were working and what they actually knew.

In this case there was no trial of accusation or defense, but merely a pair of handcuffs, a rope and a firing squad.

The fact was that the Communist authorities could not afford to have a White Russian, such as Kustoff, earning a decent living in a "capitalistic" way under the very eyes of Soviet converts, who were being taught that for a man to desire to earn his own bread for himself and his family was a selfish, evil thing.

It is naturally difficult for we Americans in our own free country, where a man is innocent until proven guilty to understand a nation where a man could be dragged from his house in the name of the Party and executed by that Party without reason or redress.

It is equally difficult for us to appreciate the freedom of our government when we are not able to actually see the outrages which are the order of the day in some other nations.

It behooves us, therefore, when we are deluged by foreign "isms" and "theories" to remember that while the country of China might be forced to accept certain Communist influence in order to carry on its present combat, we as Americans, are in no such dilemma. We need no false foreign prophets.

What is necessary is a common sense continuance of true Americanism.

**CONFERENCE BUILDING**  
Within the last year, 15 national conferences, 17 state, and over 50 local, graduate and faculty groups have centered their activities in the Rackham Building at the University of Michigan.

Letters to the Editor are always welcomed by this newspaper.

## SOCIAL SECURITY CIRCULAR NOW AVAILABLE

A circular comparing the original Social Security Act with the amended program of old-age insurance is now available. Copies

may be had without charge by calling on or writing to the Social Security Board field office, Peoples State building, Pontiac, Mich. This announcement is made by Walter B. Redman, manager of the Pontiac Social Security office.



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.... Health and Wealth.

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## Season's Greetings

It is with much gratitude that we look back upon the friendship of our patrons during the year just closing, and in a spirit of thankfulness we extend to each and every one the Greetings of the Season.

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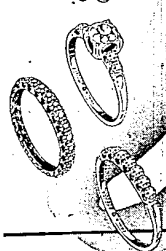
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