



Another Christmas

By Archie Boyd

Ted and Mrs. Conroy looked across the lawn. Some of the other patients were happily straggling down the sidewalk evergreen that dominated the entrance to the hospital.

It just didn't seem like Christmas. For one thing, there certainly wouldn't be any snow this far South. But then, it hadn't snowed like Christmas for some years now. Two Christmas trees in far away lands, one of them in a stinking jungle and now this, flat on his back in a hospital!

"I guess there has been some reason to be happy at least they can walk," he was saying, and somehow ashamed of the lines of sarcasm in his voice.

Question: Helen Conroy didn't seem to notice. "Would you like me to wheel you around the grounds? They're doing some decorating at the other entrance, too."

Ted took the look he had been reading and covered his eyes. "No, thanks, Nursesister, I think I'll take myself a little nap. This winter South here, temperatures make a Yankee like myself somewhat lazy."

The woman smiled. "Okay, how come I'll be here if you need anything?"

"Well, if sleep, or half sleep that developed him," he was never any more. But he was back again, the whirring sound of the



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repeated Helen Conroy in his ears, and the starburst bursts of ground fire, sudden explosion, pain and the realization that he couldn't move that would hold failure in on top of him.

"He was just like you, Ted, exactly the same. He suffered. He wanted to suffer. He hunched himself up and shut out the world with a curtain of suffering. I suffered because I loved him and because I would find no way to build a bridge that would reach him."

Mary, Mary, don't be contrary, forget me now. You're just like you, if you try. I'm not the same girl. He's gone. They left him in a rattling, stinking jungle, exchanged for a lance, corpse, Go away, Mary. Go away and stay

"You have everything, Ted. It's yours for the asking years for the taking. There is a wonderful girl who loves you. There is the promise that you can walk again if you try. You have to try, Ted. No one can do it for you. Try as others have done. Ted, get up and try!"

Answer: Helen Conroy rubbed for ward, hugged each affectionately. "Ted, I want you to meet."

"I know."

"My husband, John Conroy."

"Your husband?"

John Conroy let out a boom in his chest. "I know you, son. And I know what you are going through. A few years ago, I lost an argument in Korea and wound up here the same as you are now. This little woman talked me back on my feet and I guess I talked myself into a lifetime contract. What do you think of that?"

Ted smiled. "I think it's time you get me back on my feet and I guess I talked myself into a lifetime contract. What do you think of that?"

It was Mary on the arm of a straight-backed arm of a straight-backed arm. He struck every seat and ground. He struck every seat and ground. He struck every seat and ground. He struck every seat and ground. He struck every seat and ground.

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Christmas morn the tree is ablaze with light When the tots behold the wonderful sight.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
AGE _____ PHONE _____

Dollar Store



It's Christmas Eve and look at the snow! Time to 'hitch-up' and away we go!

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
AGE _____ PHONE _____

Hopkins Drug Co.

BOYS, GIRLS. Christmas COLORING CONTEST

COLOR THE PICTURES ON THIS PAGE! HAVE FUN! WIN PRIZES!
Color the pictures any way you please, with crayons. Contest open to any child 12 years or younger, except children of the sponsors or this newspaper's employees. Enter as often as you wish. Fill in the entries, cut them out, then deposit with the merchant whose name appears on the bottom of each entry.
Contest closes Dec. 17, will be judged following week!



These prizes will be given at each store! WATCH THE MERCURY FOR STORES WINNERS!



Johnnie's eyes are like stars, He's looking at his new racing car!

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
AGE _____ PHONE _____

The Mercury



There's the tiniest Angel to sing a song, A merry carol to speed him along.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
AGE _____ PHONE _____

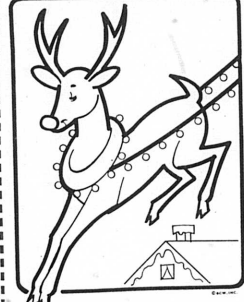
The C.C. Cole Co.



Oh, see Santa's helper leap so high As Santa's sleigh flies into the sky.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
AGE _____ PHONE _____

C & G Grocery



Santa's reindeer, so faithful and tame, Are led swiftly by "What's-his-name."

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
AGE _____ PHONE _____

Morrison's Variety



Mrs. Santa prepares his lunch. It's a tasty ginger man to munch.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
AGE _____ PHONE _____

Garrett's Furniture



Susie excitedly whoops, "Golly-e, Santa's brought me a new doll!"

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
AGE _____ PHONE _____

Baker's Dept. Store

"You have everything, Ted. It's yours for the asking years for the taking. There is a wonderful girl who loves you. There is the promise that you can walk again if you try. You have to try, Ted. No one can do it for you. Try as others have done. Ted, get up and try!"

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Known as the Cole-Horley private collection, the Hall-Prince collection, the Hall-Prince collection, in many Historical Collections, the card is named for Sir Henry Cole and John Lubbock Horley, Sir Henry, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, commissioned Horley, a noted London artist, to design the card, which first appeared in print in 1945.

The card is composed of three panels. The center panel portrays a family at Christmas dinner, the other two panels illustrate the Christian virtue of feeding the hungry and clothing the needy.

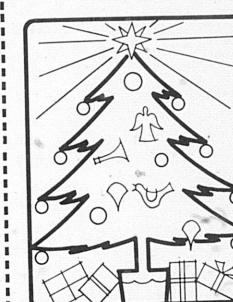
Toy Craftsmen: The Japanese like the toy business very seriously and excel in the production of mechanical toys. Their forte is building the craft in special schools.



Stockings overflow with prizes and sweets. Santa fills 'em to the brim with treats.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
AGE _____ PHONE _____

Neal's Grocery



Oh, there was so much to see In gay gift boxes under the tree!

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
AGE _____ PHONE _____

Coatney Bros. IGA

the Christmas Visitors
By Mary Hannah
Jimmy Roberts looked longly out the window. The snow-covered fields and barns were white in the soft moonlight. What a way to spend Christmas! He thought, all alone with a cat brother.

What a Christmas! Dad in the hospital after an automobile accident, mother spending peacefully every day and night with him and me here all alone with a cat brother.

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Jimmy looked at the big clock on the kitchen wall. The kids were probably gathering now for the annual church raffle. He would just imagine the laughter ringing about the Marklin farm as the two teams were huddled for the home-made check. He'd miss the Christmas cards and the return letters to the warmth of the fireplace and the winter night of snow and cold outside nearby. That was Christmas night to be. How Christmas had always been.

Sounds
Jimmy walked into the living room. Mary was a deep spread on the rug before the fireplace. Jimmy sat down in an easy chair and studied the room.

That of the sketch they gave every one from mile around.

Happily, each brought gifts they picked up on the bus, and the picture, expression, and the last-minute fluff. From across where the children gathered in a loggia as a Santa on the roof.

Now Jimmy and Susie, Mr. Marklin said, while Mrs. Marklin and the ladies present were out shopping in the kitchen. It was for all of us. We knew that our Christmas cannot be the special winter the excitement, but you must remember that those who are just temporary. Most of us visited your father home. He'll be home soon, and go as new. All of us would have thought for you have spent Christmas Eve with us, but we needed it would be better if you brought a little of our Christmas spirit to you.

Susie was fumbling among the presents. Jimmy, who had expected to see the children, had expected to see the children, had expected to see the children, had expected to see the children, had expected to see the children.

Jimmy stood on the porch and watched the children. He had expected to see the children, had expected to see the children, had expected to see the children, had expected to see the children, had expected to see the children.