

Merry Christmas to Everyone!

Read Letters
To Santa
Section C

AVON PARK SUN

Volume 58 Number 5

Thursday, December 22, 1977 32 Pages 15 Cents Per Copy

Weather Report

	Max.	Min.	Rain
Dec. 14	79	68	.06
Dec. 15	75	65	.13
Dec. 16	78	67	.81
Dec. 17	73	69	.06
Dec. 18	71	60	.00
Dec. 19	68	42	.00
Dec. 20	73	40	.00



Vanessa Bowen Visits With Santa Claus

.....Santa will be making his yearly home visits Saturday night.

Proof Of Insurance Must Be Shown After January 1

Beginning January 1, proof of automobile insurance coverage, personal injury protection or liability must be shown at the time of renewal of a tag, it was announced today by Tag Agent and Supervisor of Elections, Jimmy Whitehouse.

The 1977 Legislature shifted responsibility for checking insurance coverage from the automobile inspection station to the tag agency, Whitehouse pointed out.

Whether a tag is renewed at the Tag Agent's office or by mail, proof of such coverage, according to Whitehouse, must be presented in the form of an insurance ID card, policy, binder or self insurance certificate. If the motorist is under financial responsibility requirements, he

or she must also show proof of liability insurance.

Florida motorists as of January 1 are not required to carry liability insurance, but they must maintain personal injury protection coverage on four wheel passenger and utility automobiles (recreational vehicles), including pickup and panel trucks, Whitehouse stated.

Pip insurance will not be required on trailer type vehicles, such as mobile homes, utility trailers, or motorcycles, motorcoaches, truck-trailers, straight trucks, or government owned vehicles.

If an individual does not maintain the required insurance, the new law prohibits the tag agent from issuing a renewal decal or new tag, and the

Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is required to suspend all tags and the driver license, Whitehouse emphasized.

Permits Issued Total \$633,037

In the Avon Park Building Department C. W. Ellerbe, Building Official, reported that the Building Department issued two CRC registration permits, 33 building permits, 45 building inspection, two mobile home permits, five mobile home inspections, 11 electrical permits, 19 electrical inspections, 12 plumbing permits, 20 plumbing inspections, three air conditioning permits, two air conditioning inspections, one fence permit and one fence inspection. There were a total of 64 permits issued and 92 inspections made.

\$2,878 was collected by the building

department, which included \$40.00 for CRC registrations, \$2,413 for building permits, \$30 for mobile homes, \$235.30 for electrical permits, \$133 for plumbing permits, \$22.50 for air conditioning permits, and \$4 for a fence permit.

There were eight new Multi-Family homes permits issued in Avon Park costing \$633,037, two new mobile homes were put in the city costing \$10,600, and four new commercial buildings costing \$56,570. There were 20 additions and alterations made to residential buildings amounting to \$30,884.67. The total number of construction sites was 34, with a total cost of \$731,091.67.

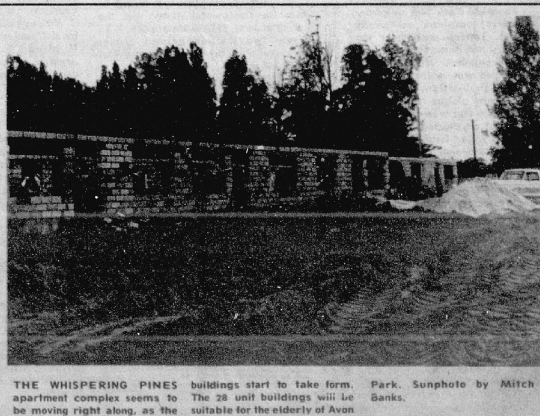
New Housing Project Available To Senior Citizens, Handicap

The Whispering Pines apartment development is beginning to take shape as the work on the main buildings has begun. The new apartment buildings are being developed for the elderly in Avon Park. The complex will have 28 units including one office unit, one laundry-maintenance unit, and 26 living units.

The purpose of this Housing and Urban Development project is to provide apartments for the Senior Citizens of Avon Park at reasonable rents. The H. U. D. financial aide should make these apartments affordable to the average low income retired citizen.

The builders of the complex, D. S. Construction, Avon Park, experienced some problems when re-enforcement rods and cement pads were found missing and damaged. The construction company solved this problem by building a fence with barbed wire strung at the top, to prevent vandalism of machinery, equipment, and supplies.

The owner of Whispering Pines is Avon Park, Ltd., and the developers are Prime Builders, S. E., Inc., Lakeland. The 28 one bedroom apartment building is located on Florida Avenue and Hall Street.



THE WHISPERING PINES buildings start to take form. Park. Sunphoto by Mitch Banks. The 28 unit buildings will be moving right along, as the suitable for the elderly of Avon

State Test Results May Change Teaching Priority

With the functional literacy and basic skills tests in communications and math behind them, most Avon Park High School eleventh graders are waiting for Wednesday, Jan. 4 to find out how they fared individually in the four part test covering communication basic skills, functional literacy in communications, math basic skills and functional literacy in math.

To Les Watson, principal and Bill Knecht, curriculum supervisor, the attitude of the students was excellent. There were no absences on the day of the test while one student ill with food poisoning was able to make up the test. To them the students are serious about the results of the test and anxious to know, yet are willing to be patient until after the holidays for the day of revelation.

Watson expected that there would be some shocked kids, some tears and recriminations but he expected the students to bounce back. Some students may drop out but he hopes they don't as they have two more chances to take and pass the test. The first test will be in October, 1978 and the second in the spring of 1979.

With a total of 187 juniors taking the test on basic skills and functional literacy, Watson gave an analysis of the scores in the following groups: Twenty seven students had basically perfect papers; 3 students had minor deficiencies in math; 24 had minor deficiencies in communications and 18 had minor deficiencies in both math and communications. With these students he expect no problem as he felt the deficiencies could be remedied in one afternoon session.

There were 108 students with what was felt as being major deficiencies in math and communications, being failure on either part of the literacy test or missing more than two standards on either the math or communications basic skills test. These students will be designated as needing remedial instructions.

The most frequently missed portion of the test was the use of apostrophes with proper nouns, such as the Jones' residence. Watson said that 125 students had difficulty with these questions.

There were 88 students that failed one or both tests, said Watson. This number has been reduced, as 20 students have withdrawn from school or are attending school in other places. This group of students were described as students with learning disabilities, mentally handicapped and Spanish speaking students. It is expected that there will be consultation with some of student's parents on the advisability of the student retaking the tests.

The efforts of this group of students on

taking the tests were described as defeating for some who tried very hard; some played with the tests, while others did much better than expected.

Overall on the basic skills the kids did better on practical application on the communication skills than in the practical application of math skills, said Watson. They could apply basic skills easier in English than math and those that failed functional literacy communication also failed math functional literacy.

On Wednesday, Jan. 4 the plan is

to release the test results to small groups of students in the high school auditorium with Helen Britt, assistant principal, assisting Watson and Knecht in explaining the overall meaning of the tests on a one to one basis with the student and to answer any questions the student may have on the tests. The main thing Watson stated, is to pinpoint the particular point in the student's academic growth, so the student will know which way to go.

Please see story on Page 12A

County Could Lose \$50,000 Over Census

While no news may be good news, Highlands County Commissioners are anxious to learn the results of a University of Florida review of the recent census estimate.

Commissioners asked Charles Cullens, administrative assistant, to contact the university to see when results of the review would be available.

The county provided additional information in late November for university census takers. As of Tuesday's regular meeting, no news had been

received by the county on the study.

According to the new census, Highlands County gained a total of 106 persons during the 1976-77 census period. That brings the total population to an estimated 41,113. County officials feel this estimate is too low and could cause the Highlands to lose up to \$50,000 annually in state revenue sharing funds.

Commission Chairman C. J. "Buddy" Wise said they should find out what the new estimate totals are, then the county may take action on its own to get a new census.

Commissioner Robert Skipper said, "I think we should go into our own census."

Wise said that although there is a chance the university may be right, it could be financially advisable for the county to conduct a census. The 1980 federal census may take a couple of years before it has an effect on the county's share of state funds and in the meantime, the county receives a smaller allocation.

Estimated cost of a special census is \$33,000.

Holiday Schedule

Due to the Post Office, banks, state and county offices being closed on the Mondays following Christmas and New Year's, The Avon Park Sun will also be closed. Deadlines for those two weeks have been shortened.

All advertising copy, whether display or classified, must be in by noon Friday, Dec. 23 and Dec. 30.

Social, religious, civic organizations, subdivision and mobile court news must be received here by noon Friday, Dec. 23 and Dec. 30.

"Hard news", will be accepted up until Tuesday noon.

Viewpoint/Commentary

Edward Carter, Publisher - Lewis Miller, Editor

AVON PARK SUN

2A The Avon Park Sun, Dec. 22, 1977

Parents Comment On Literacy Tests

Since last week's article on the results of the Functional Literacy Test, given to Highlands County's eleventh graders, Les Watson, Principal of Avon Park High School said he had received no calls from parents commenting on the test, or inquiring why Avon Park had the lowest scores in the county.

The Sun contacted several parents to get their reaction to the test. When they were asked what they thought of the overall scores of Avon Park students when compared to the county's average overall score, three of four parents said such things as, "they are terrible," or "it's an indication that our teachers aren't as good as the rest of the county's."

The parents made some suggestions as to what the schools could do to improve the test scores and insure higher ones in the future. "The teachers need to enforce discipline," and "the parents must encourage the student," were just two of the age-old cries for help heard from parents.

Possibly the oldest and best known cry is the demand for a return to basics. This request for the "Three R's" was also heard from parents of Avon Park students.

One parent commented that the test has had a perturbing effect on her family, but it should help to improve our school system.

When parents were asked what effect the test had on their personal opinion of the school system, the replies varied from "not so good," all the way to the other end of the spectrum with the reply, "it has had no effect on my opinion. I think we still have a pretty good school system," which came from a member of the school system.

One possible reason for the comparatively low scores in the Avon Park schools is the inclusion of a large number of mentally handicapped and foreign students. In order to remedy this problem, those asked said the parents of those students with such problems need to learn to help the child and the handicapped should be taught separately. But foreign students must learn the English language in order to function in our society.

At the present, remedial services have been proposed for those who did not pass the test so they can learn those items which they missed on the first test and be able to pass a similar test to be given in October 1978.

The state has set aside \$57,000 for a remedial project, but before the county can receive the funds, it must inform the state on how it intends to use the funds. Only after state approval of the program of spending, may the county receive the money.

The parents' reactions to such a program ranged from positive to negative. One parent said that a remedial program would help if given on an individual basis, while another stated that the program can't get done in a short time what hasn't been done in three years.

Highlands County receives \$4,314,625, including grants from the state annually, for its school system. This money is proportioned to the county's schools.

Whether or not the lack of comment by parents concerning the scores is because of lackadaisical concern will show up after Jan. 4, when the students receive their individual scores.



A blessed, happy Christmas

Major Shape Up In State Attorney's Office Seen Here

A major personnel shake-up has rumbled through the state attorney's staff and will send the Highlands County office into the new year with a 50 percent turnover.

The Highlands office — which had earned plaudits as the most smoothly running in the 10th circuit — is caught in a combination of policy and personal decisions.

William Fletcher, who for two years has handled felony prosecutions in Highlands County, and Esther (Mrs. Richard) Sikkenma, office coordinator, have resigned their positions and leave at the end of December.

Terry Wolfe, who had been investigator in Highlands and Hardee Counties, left his post Dec. 15.

Tenth Circuit State Attorney Quilian Yancey said Tuesday that all divisions of his work — in Highlands, Hardee and Polk Counties — are being organized with "a little different emphasis."

He said a plan to place more responsibility on law enforcement agencies is being "well received throughout the circuit." This plan eliminates the post of fulltime investigator for Highlands and Hardee Counties.

Yancey retains some investigators on his staff and will make them available to Highlands County law enforcement agencies, he said. Yancey said Wolfe's decision to leave the staff was a "mutual kind of thing," adding that the Sebring man had cited "personal reasons" for the resignation submitted last week.

On Wednesday of this week (Dec. 21) Fletcher revealed that he had submitted his resignation, effective Jan. 1. He is joining the staff of veteran Sebring attorney Joseph O. Macbeth.

Fletcher joined the staff of the Polk County attorney immediately after his graduation — with honors — from Florida State University's law school. He then shifted to public defender's office and after two years there moved to the state attorney's staff.

"It seemed it was time for a change; if I wished to go into private practice, now is a good time," Fletcher commented, adding that while he is a native of Polk County he and his wife like Highlands County and wish to stay here.

Yancey lauded Fletcher's abilities as a trial attorney. Records show that he has lost only one case in the past 18 months.

Although he was complimentary about Fletcher's courtroom work, Yancey indicated that his re-

organization plan does include a shift in emphasis among the lawyers on his staff.

He said Fletcher's replacement would be from a group of "more experienced" lawyers he is recruiting for the state attorney staff and the prosecutors would be seeking a closer working relationship with the sheriff's department and the municipal police forces in the county.

David Langford, assistant attorney who has handled misdemeanor prosecution in Highlands County, was praised by Yancey.

Yancey said Langford will be attending a seminar sponsored by the National College of District Attorneys.

This seminar and some other educational opportunities are being made available to the staff as a major drive to improve and up-date skills, the state attorney said.

Yancey said he has no plans to transfer Langford, who "likes Highlands County" and things are "working well here."

Yancey and his administrative assistant Paul Hawks said they are a little apprehensive about the transition forced by the resignation of Mrs. Sikkenma.

"We accepted her resignation with deep regret," Hawks said, "and we tried to talk her into staying."

Mrs. Sikkenma had indicated several months that she wished to be replaced so she would be free to join her husband in the extensive travels he makes in his work. They will continue to make their home at Spring Lake, she said.

Yancey said this week that Georgann Daniels, an investigator-secretary presently working in his Bartow office, has been assigned to the Highlands office. She will be handling some of the work previously done by Wolfe and Mrs. Sikkenma, particularly in the child support portion of the prosecutor's work.

Yancey said secretaries Beth DeVane and Fran Ross, who are remaining with the Highlands staff, will be assigned more work. He admitted that his office is experiencing financial difficulties because of budget troubles with Polk County but he claims that the reorganization plan is a drive for improved efficiency and building of a "better prosecuting team" rather than an economy drive.

Things Out My Way

By Alice Smith
Rumor has it that there's some talk locally about organizing a little theater group.

There are a few of us around who pick up the ears and come to attention. We are the forever stage-struck amateurs. With practically no encouragement, we will fondly recount our past disasters and triumphs in the dramatic world.

As for me, I'm a frustrated producer-director at heart. I discovered this many years ago at Christmas time and remember it when the season comes around.

The Literary Club in my town, a staid and tradition-bound group, assigned the Christmas program to me. Tea and imported music was the usual, but there were no prizes to the assignment. And I had the time of my life.

Not having a stage, we flung open huge double doors to frame a series of tableaux, depicting Christmas classics. My light crew was a lady armed with a powerful floodlight who lit the scene on signal, held it during the accompanying narration, then plunged us back into darkness for the change.

Remember "The Little Match Girl" from your childhood? We used the frailest child available, with bare feet and skinny legs below a faded cotton

stock, a shawl clutched about her head and shoulders, shivering in blowing snow. Really shivering, too. I was standing off side with an electric fan trained on her, pouring dime store snow into the air stream.

From Dickens's "Christmas Carol," we depicted the Cratchit family at table, with Mrs. C. in mob cap, just bringing in the flaming plum pudding. Panic almost took over here when the brandy refused to burn. After six matches, the blue flame flared just in the nick of time. Tiny Tim held his crutch aloft, and it was a thrilling sight, indeed.

There was much more, but we crowded our efforts with a living "Madonna". For this the producer deserved no credit. Among the club members was a young woman endowed with a perfectly oval and serenely beautiful face, which would have graced a gold leaf frame on a museum wall. All we needed were heavenly blue and white draperies and a tiny bundle to put in her arms.

I've had a few things at production on a shoestring since, but none more rewarding than the first.

My good friend with the delightful sense of humor, calls me Flo, once in a while, a reference, of course, to the late, great Flo Ziegfeld, who put on some pretty fair shows in his day.

Our Reader's Opinions

What Will Tests Prove

Dear Sir:
On reading the lead article in the Dec. 5, 1977 "Sun," I became very disheartened.

It does not really make a lot of sense that we should be told that the reason for the low scores on the so-called math portion is mainly that the students were required to read the problems.

If they scored so well overall on the reading part of the test why would they suddenly not be able to understand what they read on the other part?

All the discussion concerning the exceptional program students contributing to the low percentage of passing students is a facade, a smokescreen. I am sure that all the test results throughout the state also reflect these types of students scores. No where else have I read of exceptional classified students being used as a contributory reason.

The "Sun" and I assume, based on information provided by Dr. Davis' office, went into great detail as to percentages, with and without these students. I say, So What?

In previous years these same students have received high school diplomas. One of the reasons for these tests is to restore credibility to high school diplomas. We cannot remove these exceptional and foreign language students from society and they cannot be removed from the school system, so therefore why should there be any discussion of removing them from the testing program?

While on this, I was told that the Sebring High School Principal had

somehow managed to exclude 20 students from the tests. This was done by having parents sign waivers, or some such methods. It would seem to me that this would be in violation of state law. Yet nothing has been reported about this by those in proper authority.

I would also like to strongly remind the public that these tests are based on seventh grade-level work. Seventh Grade! I emphasize, not eleventh or twelfth.

What will these tests prove? They will show that some marginal students that graduate and receive high school diplomas have as much knowledge as your everyday average seventh grader.

Tests given to twelfth graders should be based on twelfth grade work and knowledge.

As another example, though admittedly small, of the charade being played upon the public and students by the people in charge of our schools I would like to ask the "Sun" to explain to its readers the definitions of the word math or mathematics and the word arithmetic.

These words do not mean the same and they are really not interchangeable although for some reason our county school system does not like to use the word Arithmetic or buy the textbooks with the proper terminology. This is not true of all county school systems in Florida.

Thank you for the use of your forum. Respectfully, Lawrence P. "Gator" Tate

Valley Forge Winter Toughened Troops

By Congressman Skip Bafalis
This week, most Americans will be bustling to and fro, doing their last minute Christmas shopping and final plans for the holiday weekend.

And, if one's nerves don't get too badly frayed, this is usually one of the happiest weeks of the year in this country.

But it wasn't that way 200 years ago. No, two centuries ago, some 11,000 Continental regulars under the command of General George Washington were trudging through sleet and freezing rain on their way to a small Pennsylvania Village destined for the history books — Valley Forge.

Under pressure to keep his small, tired Army near enough to protect Philadelphia and thereby keep Pennsylvania in the war, Washington had to forego his plans to encamp for the winter in a safe area close to food and shelter.

There was neither in the Valley Forge area. The British army had foraged through the countryside in the fall, taking away all the food and grain they could carry. What was left many farmers didn't want to part with — some because of their British sympathies and some because of rampant inflation which cast serious doubt on the value of the Continental paper money.

But Washington had to spend the winter there. He had no choice.

His army started the march for Valley Forge on Dec. 11, from just 15 miles

away. But the terrible weather and the weakened condition of the troops turned what should have been a good day's march into an eight-day ordeal.

By the time Washington's army reached Valley Forge almost 2,900 of his 11,000 men were unfit for duty. Many caught pneumonia or suffered frost bite because they lacked the proper winter shoes or proper winter clothing.

And, it didn't get any better once Valley Forge was reached.

The first task was to build shelter, crude log huts capable of keeping out some of the cold winter winds. It took a long time for the exhausted soldiers to build enough 12-man huts to get the entire army out of the biting cold. But until the huts were built, Washington slept in a tent just like the soldiers.

It was the start of a long, cold winter. Sentries patrolled with rags wrapped around their feet in places of shoes and with scarves tied tightly around their heads to protect against frost bite. Bloody tracks in the snow marked the trails the sentries walked.

Before the winter was over, some 3,000 of the 11,000 soldiers died. And another 3,000 were still unfit for duty when spring came.

But spring finally came and brought with it good news — the signing of the French-American military alliance which meant French soldiers, ships and weapons for the new army.

And the winter itself hadn't been a total loss. The soldiers who survived the winter were tougher, harder men than they'd been the fall before.

They'd frozen, but they had drilled. So when the Continental Army met the British in June, 1778 in Monmouth, N.J., it was two well-disciplined armies clashing, not an army versus an untrained militia.

And by the end of the first day of battle, the British had had enough. They moved out under cover of darkness — never to fight in the north again.

That bitterly cold, horribly cruel winter is commemorated this year by our Christmas stamp — Washington kneeling in prayer for divine help for his troops.

It's a scene we all should reflect on as we give thanks during the holiday season.

Happy Holidays.

Avon Park Sun

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The views expressed on this page except under the heading of Editorial are those of the writers expressing them, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Avon Park Sun or its staff.

Second class postage paid at the Post Office at Avon Park, Fla. under the Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.			
In this County		Outside this County	
1 Year	\$8.00	1 Year	\$12.00
6 Months	\$4.50	6 Months	\$7.50
3 Months	\$2.50	3 Months	\$4.00

Single Copy 10c



Coffee Time Talk

By Mitch Banks

And did you know that a number of citizens are taking flying lessons out at Highlands Aviation? Well in a few months you can add Mark Barringer, Kenny Carman, Lou Green,

Bob D'Amico, Winky Williams, and Tim Kirby to the long list of Avon Park pilots who use the facilities at the Avon Park Municipal Airport.

A lot of flying originates out of the airport in Avon Park. Stan MacDonald flies out of Avon Park to work with the United States Department of Agriculture and the Army Corp of Engineers in Clewiston.

Hey, all the students and teachers are out of school for Christmas again. It's about time you had working men and women get a break.

Registration at South Florida Junior College ends pretty soon. The last day to register for the Spring Term is on Tuesday, Jan. 3. You'd better hurry before it's too late for this term. Go ahead and get that education that you've always wanted, take a night course at the junior college.

The Avon Citrus Bank's Annual Employee's Luncheon was held Wednesday, Dec. 14. According to those attending, the food was the best in town, and they can't wait until next year.

Have you ever had the urge to just drop what you're doing and go flying? Well why don't you go on over to the Highlands County Aviation's flight shop? You can talk about airplanes and plan that flight you've been putting off so long. Let the pros teach you about the hobby that is spreading over Highlands County.

Did you hear about J. C. Penney's Associate's Christmas party, which was held Wednesday night, Dec. 14? It was the associate's first Christmas party since the opening of the department store at the Avon Square Shopping Center. Dining and dancing were the highlights of the evening.

The Avon Citrus Bank would like to thank Mrs. C. R. Wingfield for the wonderful flowers she gave the last employees of the bank last week. It was really nice and again thanks.

It looks like the people at Avon Investment, are being kept busy with the new shopping center they are building. You may have seen their crews out working. The new structures will be located on Highway 27 South.

For all you flying enthusiasts, the weather isn't been all that wonderful lately. Low cloud cover has made quite a few pilots reschedule flights.

Everyone can be proud of Norma George, Paula Pender, and Edith Gust. They have received "Good Customer Service Awards" from the J.C. Penney Department Store. Congratulations girls!

Hey did any of you see Santa Claus at the Avon Citrus Bank last week? Well, Old Saint Nick was there handing out candy and wishing everyone Merry Christmas.

Well it looks like the Highlands County Bank of Avon Park has two new tellers. Both Chris Thompson and Gail Corbison are now employed at the bank. Chris started two weeks ago after arriving from the Florida State University. Gail was employed by Coker Fuel Company before coming to the bank. Congratulations girls!

Congratulations to Robert L. Herrman who just joined his father and brother at Avon Park Investment Co. Bobby will be a great asset to the business run by Bob, his father and Punksy, his brother.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Olsen had a baby girl. She weighed 8 pounds and 10 1/2 ounces. The girl was named Laura Michelle. Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Olsen!

Have you seen the new footer Avon Investment has poured? 5 new apartments in Manors II. Congratulations to Avon Park investment for more housing.

The Avon Citrus Bank would like to wish a Happy Birthday to two of its employees, Mrs. King, whose birthday was on Dec. 15 and Miss Lori Behal who turned 21 on Dec. 16. Happy Birthday girls!

Congratulations to John Gurney, who is now working in the sporting goods department at J.C. Penney Department Store. Prior to joining the J. C. Penney crew, John owned his own fishing tackle shop and at one time was advertising manager for the Avon Park Sun.

We're sorry to hear that Gwen Hafford is leaving the Highlands County Bank of Avon Park. Gwen was a teller at the bank when it first opened in May of 1974. Later Gwen moved to the Safe Deposit Department. Gwen will be going to the Avon Park Correctional Institute to work as an Accounting Clerk. Sorry to see you leave, Gwen, and good luck on your new job.

And here is some good news, Peggy Payne has given up smoking. And guess what? After Peggy quit, so did her mother. Congratulations to both of you.

We should all welcome Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Turlier, who have just moved into the Manors II complex. The Turliers moved to Avon Park from Pennsylvania. We all hope that you will enjoy living in Avon Park.

The Highlands County Bank of Avon Park would like to wish the City of Avon Park a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Congratulations are in order for Mrs. J. Fitzgerald, who has been promoted to Merchandise Assistant at Penney's. Mrs. Fitzgerald was formerly a salesperson in the store's patio department. Again congratulations Mrs. Fitzgerald, and Good Luck!

The Coffee Time Talk Column will be featured in each week's Avon Park Sun. If your office, group, or organization would like to have any personal interest items placed in Coffee Time Talk, please contact Mitch Banks at the Avon Park Sun at P.O. Box 1117, Avon Park, FL 33825. No special sales, political announcements, or prices will be printed in this column.

Retirees

Hold Party

A. A. R. P. Chapter 222 Highlands County Fla. held its annual Christmas party on Dec. 14th with 100 present.

The following were installed as Officers for 1978 Mrs. Blanche Jenkins President, Mrs. Edna Dummire Vice Pres., George Taylor 2nd vice pres., Angelica Gonzales Secty., Alfred Medeiros Tres, Venture Gonzales Norm Committee.

New Members on the Board of Directors are as follows Mrs. Cecelia Medeiros, Mrs. Harriet Thompson, Mrs. Lola Taylor and Mrs. Ellen McLean.

Christmas Of 1944

It was Christmas of 1944, the second World War was well onto its way to being over Lyle Michener was a Morse Code instructor at Sioux Falls Air Base, in South Dakota. A young, bachelor student came to him with a well-known brand of coffee, a Christmas gift sent to him from his former employer and friends, the student said that he couldn't

use it and wanted to know if Michener and his wife, Mildred would like to have it.

"A week later, as we opened the can, we detected an aroma unlike that of any coffee we'd ever smelt," said Michener. The can was jammed with almost impossible-to-get gum and candy. "There was no other way but to return the student said that he couldn't

"coffee" to an astonished corporal," stated, Michener.

The Micheners are retired high school teachers from Iowa. Lyle taught typing, shorthand, and accounting; Mildred taught Senior English and Speech, to college preparatory students. They were involved with the schools

newspaper and year book. Lyle is a member of the Lion's Club and financial secretary of their church, the United Methodist Church of Indian Lake. Mildred belongs to Delta Kappa Gamma, an honorary teachers organization and President of the Woman's Society, of their church.

There is more than 1 place to buy your jewelry, but try Highlands first!



CHRISTMAS COUNT-DOWN!

ONLY 4 DAYS

left to buy your gifts at...
HIGHLANDS JEWELERS

Open this Wed., Thurs. & Fri.
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Open Sat. (Christmas Eve) 9 a.m. to ??

We have a fine selection of gift items
for the last minute shopper!

"Merry Christmas"

HIGHLANDS JEWELERS

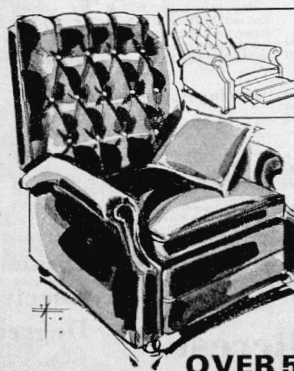
"Where service is the answer"

Southgate Shopping Center Phone 385-7365

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Master Charge

Give a Gift of Comfort!



Give a...
Lay-Z-Boy

Recliner

or

Wall Hugger

By ACTION INDUSTRIES
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Both companies give you a lifetime
guarantee on the mechanism.

OVER 50 TO CHOOSE FROM

Buy now, before Christmas
and SAVE...

UP TO \$80

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Rt. 27 North
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ON OUR
GIANT 6' T.V. SET

Thurs. - Fri. - Sat.	QTS
Kessler.....	\$5.57
Canadian Club.....	8.87
Lord Calvert.....	6.30
Canadian Mist.....	6.50
Dewars.....	9.77
Gilbeys Gin.....	5.63
Smirnoff 80°.....	6.34
Bacardi.....	6.73
Canada House.....	5.49
Evan Williams 90°.....	5.99

Every Day Specials

Rocking Chair.....ft.	\$3.99
T.V. Vodka.....	4.99
J.W. Dant.....	5.49
Clan McGregor.....	5.99

EXCELLENT WINE!
CORDIAL SELECTION!
CERAMIC
CHRISTMAS GIFTS!
BE SURE TO STOP IN AND ENJOY OUR GIANT
6' T.V. SCREEN IN THE LOUNGE.

Amana's 10th Anniversary Sale

The only microwave ovens the
U.S. Government exempted from
displaying a consumer warning
label* on the door!

Both Models RR-9 and RR-7 provide these
performance and convenience features.

- 675 watts of cooking power
- Stainless steel interior
- Save energy.
- Operate on ordinary, 115-volt household current.
- Pull-down door design
- See-through window plus an interior light
- Defrost frozen foods in minutes.
- Removable glass oven tray
- Quick, easy cleanup.
- Automatic electric lock.
- Large oven capacity...

ON DISPLAY IN OUR NEW SHOWROOM
Palmer Electric
415 W. Main Street
Avon Park 453-6688

If it doesn't say *Amana*. It's not a *Radarange*.



People / Events

By Betty Amburn

4A The Avon Park Sun, Dec. 22, 1977



Mr. and Mrs. George Kelsey

Couple To Celebrate Golden Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. George A. Kelsey are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, with a reception from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m., Monday Dec. 26, in Wesley Hall of the First United Methodist Church of Avon Park.

Mr. and Mrs. Kelsey were married Dec. 26, 1927 at Hicoria, FL, at the home of the

bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James L. Townsend. They are the parents of three children: George S. Kelsey, Brownsville, Texas; Anbel Tyrell, Pensacola, and Sandra Reddick, Tampa.

All friends are cordially invited to attend the reception. They ask that gifts please be omitted.

Elrod - Wells Rites Held In Sebring

Miss Teri Ann Elrod of Sebring and Howard Eugene Wells of Avon Park were wed Dec. 21 in a single-ring service at the Sebring First Christian Church.

The Rev. Tom W. Jones officiated at the wedding. Bob Dennis was the organist. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Elrod, 1011 NE Lakeview Drive, Sebring, and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wells, 1306 W. Hill St., Avon Park.

When the bride was given in marriage by her father, she was wearing a long gown in candlelight color that featured a high neck and a lace bodice. Kathy Freeman of Sebring

served as maid of honor. She wore a long blue organza gown over taffeta.

Best man was Dale Wells of Avon Park. The wedding reception was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Goolsby, grandparents of the bride.

Joan Goolsby kept the guest book. Betty Austin assisted with receiving and serving.

The bridal couple took a wedding trip to Washington, D.C., where the bridegroom is stationed with the Army. He is a 1975 Avon Park High School graduate. The bride is a 1977 graduate of the South Florida Junior College adult education program.

Christmas At Hillcrest Nursing Home This Week

Although Christmas is always a joyous occasion for children, it is often sad for the aged. With spouse gone, gone gone, perhaps sight, hearing, taste gone, there is often very little left to enjoy during the Holidays.

However, the residents of Hillcrest Nursing Home have

been very fortunate this year as the community of Avon Park, as well as many of the surrounding communities, have gone all out in bringing Christmas Cheer to Hillcrest.

People of all ages have come through the doors of the home to help to entertain the



Cradle Roll

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Preston Foster, of Punta Gorda announce the birth of a son, Charles Lynn, born Dec. 11, at Walker Memorial Hospital, weighing 8 lbs., 15 1/2 oz.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Andre Jayne, of Avon Park, announce the birth of a daughter, Heather Michelle, born Dec. 12, at Walker Memorial Hospital, weighing 6 lbs., 6 oz.

Mr. and Mrs. Jose Cruz Alonzo, of Zolfo Springs, announce the birth of a son, Jose Cruz Jr., born on Dec. 12, at Walker Memorial Hospital, weighing 8 lbs., 7 1/2 oz.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Earl Powell, of Sebring, announce the birth of a daughter Dorothy Ann, born Dec. 14, at Walker Memorial Hospital, weighing 7 lbs., 3 1/2 oz.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Torres DeLarosa, of Wauchula, announce the birth of a son, Polonio Francisco Parra, born Dec. 14, at Walker Memorial Hospital, weighing 8 lbs., 12 1/2 oz.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Hayes, of Avon Park, announce the birth of a daughter, Kahneeta NMN, born Dec. 15, at Walker Memorial Hospital, weighing 7 lbs., 1 oz.

Mr. and Mrs. Terry Lee Burnett, of Wauchula, announce the birth of a daughter Michele Lee, born Dec. 15, at Walker Memorial Hospital, weighing 8 lbs., 11 oz.

No Bingo

There will be no Bingo at the Recreation Hall by the Highlands Lodge No. 74, of the I. O. O. F. until Saturday, Jan. 7, 1978.

Due to the Holiday Season we agreed not to hold Bingo on Saturday Dec. 24, 1977 or on Saturday Dec. 31, 1977. The next bingo night the Jack Pot will be \$45.00 so come one and all and start the New Year right.

Bingo games start at 7:30 p.m. and Fred Hughes, P. N. G. invited the public to come and spend an evening with Highlands Lodge No. 74.

Marriage Licenses

Ralph H. Sanderson, 79, Sebring, and Nancy Virginia Bright, 71, Sebring.

Howard Eugene Wells, 21, Avon Park, and Teresa Ann Elrod, 21, Sebring.

James Franklin Ziegler, 32, Lake Placid, and Cheryl Jean York, 27, Lake Placid.

Blanca Francis Schwarz, 28, Sebring, and Lisa Marie Malor, 18, Sebring.

Walter Robert Cochran, 22, Sebring, and Elizabeth Mae Emmett, 19, Sebring.

Ivan Yergovich, 57, Frostproof, and Gladys M. Yergovich, 69, Frostproof.

Dorothy Glenn Antley, 51, Avon Park, and Linda Durrance Ragdale, 28, Avon Park.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Donnell Altman, of Zolfo Springs, announce the birth of a son, Michael Allan, born Dec. 15, at Walker Memorial Hospital, weighing 7 lbs., 14 oz.

Virginia Crews Inducted Into Phi Kappa Phi

Virginia Crews, was inducted into the University of South Florida's honor society, Phi Kappa Phi, in November. Phi Kappa Phi is one of the nation's oldest and prestigious academic honor societies.

The inductees, which include 281 U. S. F. seniors and graduate students, represent those in the top ten percent of their class.

Womens Executive Board To Meet

The Executive Board of the Woman's Club of Avon Park will meet, as usual, on the last Friday in December. It has been customary, in the past, to change the meeting date when it falls on the day before New Year's Day.

Since that is not the case this year, the Board will meet on Friday, December 30, at 9:30 a.m. at the club house. Mrs. Couch, club president, urges all officers, department heads and committee chairmen to be present.

More than 300 diabetic children who are eligible for free medical services through the Suncoast Regional Diabetes Program are not taking advantage of this service, according to Dr. John I. Malone, program director, who suspects that many "people aren't aware that there's anything available."

The Suncoast Regional Diabetes Program offers medical care, family education and consultation to any diabetic child under age 21. Based on 1975 census figures, 1031 diabetic children live in the 14 counties on the West Coast which are served by the Suncoast program, and 350 are eligible for free services. But, according to Dr. Malone, only 43 are now enrolled in the program.

"In order for medical care to be free, children have to meet CMS financial requirements, but the service is available to everyone," Dr. Malone said.



Faye Dance

Dance Receives Degree

Faye Dance, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Dance, of Avon Park, graduated from Florida State University School of Nursing on Dec. 19.

Faye served as President of Alpha Xi Delta for one year; Student Nurses Association of Fla. for one year and is now serving as a graduate consultant. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, a National Nursing Honor Society, and Rho Lambda, a National Panhellenic Honorary.

Lucy was a Student Government Senator at Florida State University for one year and chairman of the Academics and chairman of the Academics and Services Committee. Miss Dance is also a member of: Mortarboard; Gamma and Gold, a Florida State University honorary for leadership; National Student Nurses Association; and Phi Sigma Delta (Phi) Little Sister.

Lucy is also listed in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

Christmas Blessings

Couple To Celebrate 60th Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Ayling will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on Monday, Dec. 26. An open house celebration is being planned from 2 p.m., until 4 p.m., at the Aylings' home in Sunny Ridge Trailer Court, 103 N. Anoka Ave.

All friends are invited to attend.

Landress's Entertain Employees

On December 12, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Landress entertained his employees along with their husbands and wives with a Christmas Dinner at the Jacaranda in Avon Park. The Christmas Theme was carried out.

Mr. and Mrs. Landress greeted each guest as they arrived at the Social Hour. Lunch was served by Mrs. DeWayne Lemler. Dinner was served in the Main Dining Room. Afterwards there was singing.

Also attending was Mr. DeWayne Lemler, Craig Landress and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Landress.

Regional Diabetes Program

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"In order for medical care to be free, children have to meet CMS financial requirements, but the service is available to everyone," Dr. Malone said.

Persons interested in the program may call 813-974-2277, collect, or write the Suncoast Regional Diabetes Program, Box 15, Department of Pediatrics, College of Medicine, University of South Florida, Tampa, 33612. Counties served include Highlands.

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THIS WEEKS SPECIALS

End Cut Pork Chops Hunts Catsup U.S. Choice Rib Steak 38 Oz Jar Wesson Oil	79¢ 79¢ \$1.59 \$1.39
32 Oz. Bottle	
Look For Many More Unadvertised Specials	
PHILLIPS'	
Prices Good 1 DEC THRU 5 DEC	While Supply Lasts



Santa Said, Nikki Mundell's Gift Is Almost As Big As She Was

Reflections

During the bustling bustle of the holiday season, each one of us is encouraged to take a few minutes out of our busy schedule to reflect on what Christmas is all about. Take the time to talk 'with

your children, friends and relatives. Monetary gifts may only last a short while, but a gift of your love and time has no ending value. Keep in mind that, 'For the

love of mankind God gave only begotten son.' May each and everyone you have a very Merry Christmas.

Betty Amburn



We wish the following people celebrating their birthdays this week a big "Happy Birthday."

December 25 — Mrs. Lee T. Mitchell, Dedra Marrs, Traci Hill, Evelyn Cook, Ruth Tomek, Kay Dunnaway, Jim Pierce.

December 24 — Julie Kangeter, Eric Lewis, Johnny Chestnut, Mrs. Kenneth Tote, Brunelle Murphy.

December 25 — Carol Ann Clark, Molly Waters, Calvin Gibbs, Mary Tote, Azzie Lee Walker, Henry Hensen Jr., Ray Jones, Steve Bohavchik.

December 26 — Jackie Collins, Donnie G. Antley, Sandra Ann Russ.

December 27 — Mrs. Howard Dow, Philip Wooten.

December 28 — E. Ray Wells, Mildred Sirenth, Bill Peck Jr.

December 29 — Sheen Carroll, Wesley Thayer, L. R. Waters, William Jefferson Boseman, IV, Mandy Leigh King, Jerald Timothy Hawkins.

If you have a friend or loved one that will be celebrating a birthday soon, please call us so that we may add their name to our birthday list.



JOHN HOOD LIGHTS the Union Congregational Church fourth Advent Candle at the Sunphoto by Lew Miller.

Thomas' Bakery And Coffee Shop

ON THE MALL
PIES — CAKES — COOKIES
BAKED FRESH DAILY
SPECIAL OCCASION CAKES BY ORDER

BREAKFAST SPECIAL 69¢
BUSINESS MANS SPECIAL \$1.55

HOURS 8 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.



This Week Children From Highlands Lakes Junior Academy Entertained At Hillcrest Nursing Home



Great Utrique Canyon lookout point. The old mining village of Utrique is at the bottom on the river banks.

Susan Mason Visits Mexico

Susan Mason and her nephew have just returned from their trip to lower California and Mexico. Susan made the trip via rail and air. The train called the Chihuahua al Pacifico railroad, is said to be the highest in the world. The pleasant passengers were taken across 30 bridges and through 86 tunnels, one of which circled an entire mountain.

Sometimes called the Eighth Wonder of the World, the engineering marvel, the Chihuahua al Pacifico railroad, connects Los Mochis in the lush coastal farm belt of Lower California with Chihuahua in the high interior plain via the Grand Canyon of the Utrique and Copper Canyons. Inaugrated in 1961, the railroad is one of the most scenic trips in the world. The trip takes 13 hours with such sights as may never be forgotten.

The railroad stations of Creel and Bahuchivo are the portals to two little known truly Mexican and Indian communities. Creel is the door

to the Cooper Canyon. Bahuchivo leads to Cerocahui Village, the gateway to the great Utrique Canyon. This community of about 600 people in the Tarahumara country lies in a beautiful valley surrounded by mountains.

With its altitude of 5000 feet, it offers a healthful and pleasant climate, and scenic tours, such as horse-back riding to a lovely waterfall and a visit to Gallego Mountain for a breath taking view of one of the wonders of nature—the great Utrique Canyon 7600 feet below.

Miss Mason flew to Chihuahua from Los Mochis and stayed there a few days

where a ferry ride took her across the Sea of Cortez.

Susan told of her first trip to Mexico in 1961 when the railroad was first built. She said the Indians had never seen a white woman before and used to hide behind bushes in order to get a view of this rare creature. But now, 16 years later, the Indians have built curio shops and are quite commercialized.

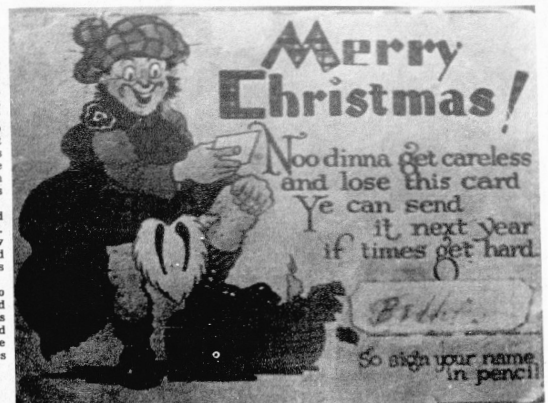
Miss Mason had a wonderful time and hopes to return in the near future to this land that she loves.

ANTENNAS AMPUTATED
John Howard of Avon Park Correctional Institute Trailer Park, Avon Park, and Earl French of Zolfo Springs complained to Highlands County sheriff's deputies that CB radio antennas were taken from their autos, while the cars were parked at Ridge Lanes Bowling Alley.

SCOTTY'S ADVICE was taken as Fred Sharp, Sylmar, Calif.

and William Taylor, Avon Park Lakes have been using this

Christmas Card for 49 years. Sunphoto by Lew Miller.



Baptist Christmas Services

There will be Sunday School at 9:45 and worship service at 11 on Sunday, morning December 25. There will also be the Drive-In Worship Service at 8:30 on the day.

A Vesper Service will be held at 5 p.m. instead of the regular Sunday night schedule.

COME AND CELEBRATE THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS—CHRIST'S BIRTHDAY with us.

On Tuesday, December 27, a number of our youth will be attending the Youth Evangelism and Missions Conference, Curtis Hixon Hall, Tampa. There will be three sessions: 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.-7 p.m.

The faculty includes Dr. Sam Cannata, Former Imprisoned Medical Missionary, Ethiopia; Dr. Jimmy Allen, President, Southern Baptist Convention, San Antonio, Texas; A. L. "Pete" Gillespie, 30 year Missionary, Japan; Mary Ballance, Missionary, Kenya; Tim and Vicki Serley, Singing Missionary, Journeyman, Austria; James A. ponder, Director of evangelism, Florida Baptist Convention.

Holiday Ranch News

By Barbara Ebmeyer

Holiday Ranch residents are looking forward to the holiday festivities, which start on Wednesday evening, with a Christmas party. They will be a gift exchange and caroling, also a program and light refreshments. The lovely Christmas tree and other decorations are already in place in the recreation room.

The Christmas dinner will be Saturday at 5 p.m. and will include all the traditional foods.

Forty-five people enjoyed Saturday night's dinner including two "carry-outs" for Karl and Ida Walters. Although Karl is home from the hospital and looking fine, he is not yet ready to attend gatherings.

On Friday evening Bob Savage showed slides of Florida and his home state of Michigan, including Mackinac Island, the tulip festival at Holland, Copper Harbor, and Isle Royale. He also had many slides of the covered wagon group, as it went across Michigan on its trip from ocean to ocean last summer.

Owen and Doris Brown finally arrived from Grant Michigan, and right away took off for Miami to see Owen's brother-in-law and sister, Jack and Myrtle Briggs. Returning on Saturday they stopped to see Bill and Ruth Sann at Zolfo Springs, near Charlie Creek.

Harold and Dot Manges, and Aland Marlan Pettys went to Orlando on Monday to see Harold's dentist and shop; According to Miriam they got lost just driving around the block.

Max and Dora Crossett spent Monday and Tuesday at Jensen Beach visiting the Lee Hammond family. They were formerly neighbors in Elba, N. Y. Other Elba friends visiting the Crossetts on Wednesday were Mr. and Mrs. Darwin Homer. They are vacationing in Avon Park.

Harley and Gladys Kimerer and Willis and Wilma Lehman were in Palmdale Wednesday to visit the Cypress Museum and Swamp. They also visited in Sebring and had dinner at the Tower Restaurant in Lake Placid.

Bob and Mary Waterhouse spent Tuesday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Art Griebel at Sebring. On Wednesday evening Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bolt were their guests, as were Mr. and Mrs. Delma Brooker on Sunday.

Tuesday, the Bill Bergstroms, the Dudley Bacons and the Francis Seales

went shopping at Winter Haven and ate at Duffs. The John Ebmeyers were also there finishing up their Christmas buying and lunched at Morrisons.

Mr. and Mrs. Clair Reno attended the Christmas dinner and party at the Florida Avenue Baptist Church on Wednesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Brown of Napoleon, Mo., had dinner with Bob and Mildred Savage Friday, the Browns are wintering in Runkin.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Niday of Springfield, Ohio visited the

Sororities Sponsor New Year's Party

The Beta Sigma Phi sorority is sponsoring a New Year's Eve dance to be held at the Agriculture Center on Highway 27, in Sebring. The date for the dance is December 31, from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m.

Entertainment for the occasion will be provided by "Southwind".

There is a fee of \$10 per couple, and Bring your Own

Ted Lees Friday, Sunday the Lees and Angie Tessmers attended church services at Highlands Hammock State Park.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Reed entertained Charles Larson of Avon Park for dinner Saturday. Pet and Joan Mechanick of Middle Grove, N. Y., are spending some time in the park. They are friends and neighbors of the Al Pettys and Les Clutes in New York. The Pettys spent last Tuesday and Wednesday with Cliff and Ida Hoose, friends who live in Sebastian.

Bottle Mixers will be sold at the dance. Se-ages are available, and door prizes and party favors will be supplied.

Tickets may be purchased in Sebring at the First National Bank, Barnett Bank, and Cameo Hairstyling Salon.

No one under the age of 18 will be admitted.

Ethan Allen Sale

Open Monday Dec. 26th
For Your Convenience

Gift Ideas for Very Special People

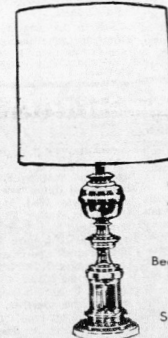
This clock has a 19th century twist.



\$75.00

You'll find it in the revolving pendulum, which was invented by a 19th century Prussian nobleman. His inspiration? The unwinding of a chandelier that had been twisted around and released after the lighting of its last candle. Ask for the Lucerne, by Howard Miller.

Stiffel



for your living or your giving

3 styles in Beautifully Crafted Brass.

Savings of 20% NOW \$99.00

Carriage House An Ethan Allen Gallery

4505 S. Florida Ave. Lakeland, Fla. 33803 644-2434 10-5:30 Weekdays 10-9:00 Mon. & Fri.

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REGULAR HEARING AID SERVICE CENTER

JACARANDA HOTEL
FRIDAY DEC 23
10 AM till Noon

•FREE CLEANING AND CHECK-UP OF ANY HEARING AID
•FREE ELECTRONIC HEARING TEST
•SPECIAL BATTERY DISCOUNT

If you can't come in, we'll come to you. Just call us.

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WHEN A HEARING AID WILL HELP

BELLONE HEARING AID SERVICE
207 East Lemon Street
Lakeland, Florida 33801

While Supply Lasts

LONG DISTANCE HOLIDAY SALE

Christmas

We hope you'll take advantage of dial low rates when exchanging holiday greetings with your friends. To avoid delays on your Christmas greetings, we suggest you call during daytime hours on Christmas Eve, or during the afternoon of Christmas Day. (We don't anticipate delays on New Years calls.) And if you obtain the correct numbers in advance, you won't tie up long distance circuits for Directory Assistance during these traditionally busy days.

Happy Holidays from your neighbors at

United Telephone of Florida
UNITED TELEPHONE SYSTEM