

# OBSERVATIONS

By C. P. S.

## USEFUL AND HAPPY

The Las Vegas Community Christmas celebration has established itself as a tradition both useful and happy. This Christmas will be the twentieth one to find the people of Las Vegas, almost unanimously, working to carry out the spirit of the season.

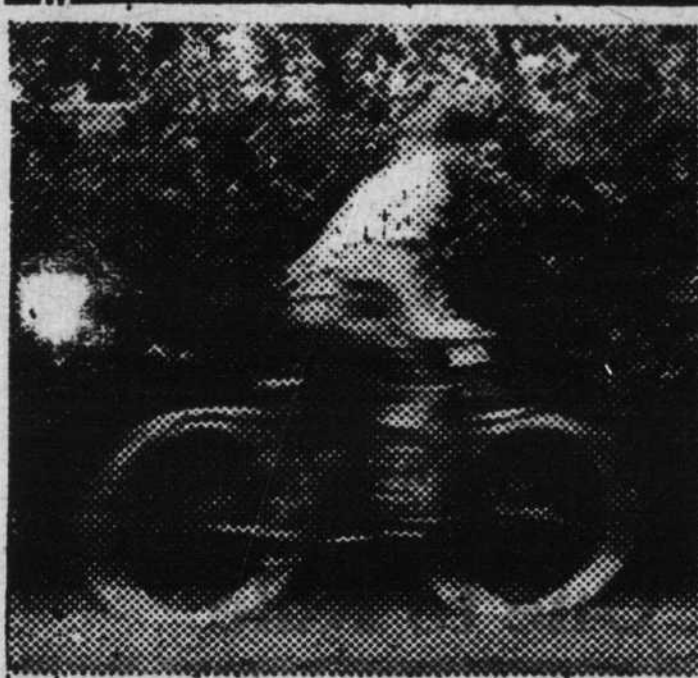
At first there was some opposition expressed by those who thought it a foolish waste to spend money on a tree and decorations and candy for the children. But from the very first Las Vegas community Christmas tree was only the symbol of what was being one quietly, almost

secretly, to help the unfortunate. And in those early days there was money enough collected to provide the tree and decorations and a little bag of candy for the children, but to provide a dinner and Christmas comforts for each destitute person here. And then part of that money was hoarded by the committee and used to relieve cases of destitution all through the year.

And well I remember occasions when a few dollars from that fund proved a lifesaver to some unfortunate family months after Christmas.

## The SNAPSHOT GUILD

ACTION!



It's all in the angle! It's hard to "stop" action when it's whizzing by you, but easy if you catch it at an angle as it approaches.

If you've ever envied a news photographer as he shoots away at ball games, races and other such speedy affairs, put away your envy and get out your camera.

For, no matter how simple your camera may be, you, too, can get good pictures of intense action.

Here's how.

Action, as Doctor Einstein might say, is a matter of relativity. Take, for example, an automobile coming down the street at thirty miles an hour. As you watch it from the sidewalk, it doesn't appear to be going very fast until it gets directly opposite you. Then, of course, you have to turn your head quickly to follow it.

In other words, it's easier to see a speeding object as it approaches you than it is during the instant it's nearest you.

If you apply this bit of "relativity" to your snapshotting, you will discover that even a box camera, with a shutter working at about 1/25 of a second, will "stop" the 20th Century Limited in full career.

And even if your camera is capable of shutter speeds considerably faster than 1/25 of a second, you'll get more satisfying results by working at an angle. Remember, too, that the faster you work the shutter, the larger the lens aperture should be.

Distance is another important factor in action shots. At considerable distances you can "stop" action

that would be impossible at close range. And a good snap can always be enlarged to give you a closer view.

Analyze your shots before you make them. In snapshotting a pole-vaulter, for example, decide beforehand whether you want to get him at the top of the vault or on the upward sweep. At the top of his flight, his speed is—for an instant—relatively slow, and you can perhaps catch him more easily than at any other part of the jump.

Watch your backgrounds. Try to get a dark background for a light-colored subject. The resulting contrast helps to bring out the details of the action.

Much film is used every year on shots of airplanes in flight. A common error is that of snapping the planes at too great a distance. A fifty foot plane a thousand feet away makes a mere speck on the film. Make it a rule not to shoot until you can see the big numbers on the wings of the ship. Too, for the sake of a pleasing picture and perspective, try to get something else in the picture—a bit of a tree, the edge of a course marker, a beautiful cloud, or even the head and shoulders of an interested on-looker.

Try anything! But give your patient, eager camera all the breaks by observing the few simple fundamentals of action photography.

JOHN VAN GUILDER.

## MESQUITE CLUB

It was in November 1915 that the women of the Mesquite club suggested the Community Christmas idea and The Age promoted their plans with enthusiasm. Then in The Age of December 18, 1915, we find the plans well formulated. The corner of First and Fremont streets was selected as the place for the tree and the exercises. Committees were named and some of those first workers are still active in the work. Among the first committee members were Mrs. Frank A. Doherty, Mrs. C. C. Corkhill, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. VonTobel, E. W. Griffith, H. M. Lillis, Mrs. C. L. Connelly, Miss Julia Russell, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Ball, Mrs. J. J. Silk, J. C. Frazier, Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Ed. Long, Mrs. Holland, Mrs. Nordquist, Mr. and Mrs. Harley A. Harmon, Peter Diehl, T. B. Bale, Julius Austin, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. McCarthy, Mrs. Newell Leavitt, Mrs. Charles Ireland. There were others quickly drawn into the enterprise whose names are not included in the above list. Mrs. W. B. Mundy, one of the early group, is still taking part in the work each year. The Las Vegas Volunteer Fire Department and the band, both of which had as members then some who still are part of the Community Christmas organization, gave enthusiastic assistance. Among them were Harold Case, the Rockwells, and others of whose names I cannot be sure.

## UNIVERSAL CUSTOM

Community Christmas observance



## GIVE HIM PHOENIX SOCKS

35c and 50c

● The newest patterns in Phoenix Socks harmonize perfectly with winter fabrics in men's clothes. That's why half a dozen pairs of these fine, long-wearing socks will make a hit with any man who receives them for Christmas.

## Beckley's Beckley's

FREMONT at FIRST

MOST STYLES \$8.75

FREMONT at FIRST

has become an almost universal custom in the United States. Hardly a city, great or small, but celebrates publicly. And from a single tree set up in a public place, the enterprise has grown until we find great cities with whole streets blazing with illuminated Christmas trees. Even the great and cruel New York City has its tree, an immense one, glowing with happiness in Times Square.

## MORE MONEY

Las Vegas must provide more money this year for the Community Christmas than ever before. The list of destitute and sorrowing families and almost famished children, receiving aid to be sure from the government, but only enough to keep soul and body together, is appallingly long. Let us hope and to bring to them on Christmas a revival of long deferred hope and happiness.

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## You give a FLORSHEIM GIFT CERTIFICATE

He selects the shoes!



● When you give Florsheim Shoes, you know you're giving a gift that gives real satisfaction. Forty-two years of fine shoe-making have proven that Florsheim Shoes are the standard of shoe quality, that they give more miles of satisfactory wear.