. . . Washington window . . .

By MERRIMAN SMITH
UPI White House Reporter

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Backstairs at the White House:

Every holiday season, countless Americans send out long family newsletters in lieu of Christmas cards. These missives, reporting on everything from car wrecks to root canal jobs, are directed primarily to those who have not heard a word from the senders in at least a year—sometimes five or 10 years.

Some of these things run to two and three mimeographed pages, single-spaced. Proud couples with large families and large pocketbooks send out folding photographic records from which vast numbers of poker-faced children stare out in living color.

Well, it occurred to an imaginative soul around the White House that if the President and Mrs. Johnson sent out a family Christmas letter of this sort, it might read something like this:

"We've all been too busy to write often but this may help you to catch up. We're still living in the same house and we won't even think about renewing the lease until some time next year.

"The old place down home still looks pretty much the same, although we do add to it from time to time. Folks call it the Pedernales Hilton which is so silly. We'll be there for New Year's Eve—just the family and maybe a few close friends from the Cabinet, the court, congressional leaders and Walter Cronkite.

"For those of you who couldn't come to Lynda's wedding, it was a dream, simply a dream . . . so attractive on all networks as those of you with color sets already know. Lynda was pretty as a picture, as the saying goes . . . and Chuck was thrilling in his dress uniform (he's a Marine, you know). Several people cried when they marched through the arch of swords.

"And thrill of thrills—Patrick Lyndon Nugent, who at this Christmas season will have reached the ripe old age of six months . . . Luci and Pat are so fortunate . . . we're all so fortunate . . . except that awful George Gallup who used to be so friendly . . . (He's not coming for New Year's Eve.)

"Baby Patrick Lyndon is a marvel. People say (ha ha) that he's been clocked doing 30 miles an hour in his stroller with a can of Similac on the floor beside him. Hard to tell who worships whom the most—granddaddy or grandbaby.

"Granddaddy, as he adores being called, has had a busy, busy year . . . new molecules from California to worry about . . oodles of company.

"We don't see as much of some of our congressional friends as we once did, but then, we suppose, everybody is busy these days.

"And such wonderful Christmas cards. We heard from just about everybody . . . nothing from Mr. Ho Chi Minh . . . but we still hear from our friend Mr. Kosygin. He's a thrifty one . . . sent his Christmas greetings over the hot line. You should have seen Dean's expression when we told him about it."

Any resemblance in the foregoing to persons living or dead seems more or less inevitable.

● Extension Clubs

December meeting of the **Upper Ten** club was held at Mrs. Melvin Wetgen's home with Mrs. Walter Wetgen as a guest. Collection was taken to be used toward purchase of playground equipment for the Opportunity Center. Carols were sung and officers were in charge of entertainment. Prizes went to Mmes. LaVern Wetgen, Clarence and Glen Goering.

Members and their husbands had their annual Christmas party at Club 31. Prizes in 10-point were won by Glen Goering and Mrs. Julius Gehring, high; Julius Gehring and Mrs. Dale Lutjens, low.

Each member of **U and I** club brought a guest for their annual Christmas party at a Columbus cafe. Mmes. Rodney Jacobsen and Fred Krueger were in charge of entertainment and awarded Yahtzee prizes to Mmes. Connie King and Julius Hembd. Mrs. Arlyn Borchers won the door prize. The group also had a gift exchange.

Mrs. Gus Viergutz was hostess to **Town and Country** club, assisted by Mmes. Jack Bullington, Ed Trofholz and Leo Janssen. Secret pal names were drawn for the coming year. Game prizes went to Mrs. B.T. Thoelke, high, Mrs. Bernard Hay, low, and the door prize to Mrs. Harvey Welch. Gift exchange was followed by lunch, with each member receiving tray favors and a handmade tree ornament.

Mrs. Arnold Curtis was a guest of the **Sociable Sues** club at Mrs. Ramon Jacobson's home. Members brought bibs and lap robes for the Newman Grove Community hospital, and the club is painting several of the hospital rooms. Club voted to purchase a library book for the Newman Grove library and orange juice for the Mid-Nebraska Lutheran Home. Christmas songs were sung, gifts exchanged and Mrs. Harold Christensen read the Christmas story from Luke. Mrs. Ronald Wiese had charge of games.

Study will be made on TV service

LINCOLN (UPI) — A two-month statewide study to determine the efficiency and future needs of the state's instructional television service will begin in January, it was announced Tuesday.

According to Jack McBride, general manager of the Nebraska Television Network, the study will be conducted by a consultant team of recognized experts as part of the national project for the improvement of televised instruction.

The project, funded by the Ford Foundation, will be made at no expense to the taxpayers, McBride said.

Too much conflict over state highways

LINCOLN (UPI) — Chairman Jerome Warner of the legislature's Roads Committee said Tuesday too much conflict exists within the state over how to handle highway improvements.

He made the statement following a two-day hearing by his committee on the $450,000 state highway needs, classification and management studies.

Witnesses from major highway user organizations testified. Most took exception to portions of the studies' recommendations.

"These hearings pointed up one big thing—that there is a lot of disagreement over the best approach for an improved highway program," Warner said.

"These conflicting interests are going to have to compromise on some issues or we won't get a thing done in regard to our highway and street needs."

Warner said no organization offered a better alternative to the hired consultants' proposal that the state be given central control over all local roadbuilding.

"To me this is the guts of the highway matter. We need an integrated state and local road network and to achieve that requires administrative coordination," he said.

ARREST SMUGGLER

MANILA (UPI) — Philippine customs officials arrested the wife of a cabinet undersecretary for attempting to smuggle diamonds and other jewelry into the country from Hong Kong, authorities reported today. She was not identified.

Creston residents visit, have guests

CRESTON — Mrs. Elmer Graham visited her brother, Percy Resseguie and family in Madison.

Mrs. Louise Bachman visited her sister-in-law Mrs. John Langhoff at the Senior Citizens home at Schuyler Tuesday. It was Mrs. Langhoff's 80th birthday.

Attending the Nebraska Association of County Officials meeting in Omaha were Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Sander and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Korth.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Loseke and family of Sheridan, Wyo., will spend Christmas here with his parents Mr. and Mrs. H.G. Loseke, her father Otto Littleman, and with other relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Moran of Roy, Utah and Mr. and Mrs. Armbrust and. Mr. and Mrs. Larry Armbrust of Wheaton, Minn. will be here holiday visitors at the Moran home.

Friends have received word that Mrs. Violet Zacek, formerly Violet Clark of Creston, is seriously ill in an Iowa City hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Eick enjoyed a pre-Christmas dinner Saturday with their son-in-law and daughter Mr. and Mrs. Bob Olsen of Spencer, their grandson Lawrence Shippen and Mrs. Shippen, and sons Larry and Jeff, of Friend.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Rozmarin of Leigh were supper guests of Mrs. Wayne Moran Sunday.

POLE CONFESSES

WARSAW (UPI)—Polish engineer Jerzy Strawa told a military court Tuesday that he passed railway and factory information to U.S. intelligence agents, the official news agency Pap reported. Strawa's trial began Monday.

Reward offered for slayer of two men

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa (UPI)—A reward of $775 has been offered here for information leading to the slayer of two men at the Club 64 on Dec. 5, according to Police Chief William Swassing.

A total of $675 was donated anonymously and $100 was contributed by the local chapter of the International Footprint Association, a law and business men's group.

Killed in the apparent holdup were off - duty patrolman John L. Stephens, 32, and Paul Rayner, 51, club manager.

A total of 130 persons have already been questioned in the probe.

Will host series of ETV programs

LINCOLN (UPI)— University of Nebraska faculty will host a series of educational television programs entitled "Latin America: Friend Or Foe."

The first program, "Cuba: Is It Still A Threat?" will be telecast at 3 p.m. Dec. 26 on KUON-TV and the state ETV network. It also will be carried at 2 p.m. Dec. 27 and 3 p.m. Dec. 31.

Dr. Roberto Esquenazi-Mayo, director of the Institute of Latin American and International Studies, will serve as moderator.

The Celebes Sea is one of the world's deepest bodies of water, according to the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

CONTINUE SUPPLIES

PARIS (UPI)—France has no intention of banning arms sales to the apartheid government of South Africa as Britain has done, official government sources said Tuesday.

Now you know

By United Press International

The first actor to portray The Lone Ranger on the former radio serial was a man remembered by his colleagues now only as a Mr. Deeds.