

# Partners in Policing

## Euless Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association Monthly Newsletter

Volume 14 Issue 12 | DECEMBER 2010

### 2010 Officers

**President:** Pete Jones

**1st Vice President:** Jerry Goad

**2nd Vice President:** Lou Baum

**Secretary:** Sandi Jones

**Treasurer:** Leah Benoit

**Coordinator EPD:** Sgt. Eric Starnes

### Committees

**Bereavement:** Sharon Finnegan

**Hospitality:** Sharon Finnegan and  
Helen Wagner

**Newsletter:** Leah Benoit

### Submissions Welcome!

Do you have any funny stories,  
e-mails, or photos to share with  
our members?

Please e-mail your police-related  
submissions to  
[eulesscpa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eulesscpa@sbcglobal.net)

Submissions are due the first day  
of each month.

Link to ECPAAA Web Page

<http://www.ecpaaa.org/>

Link to ECPAAA Calendar

<http://www.ecpaaa.org/cal.htm>

Link to ECPAAA Events List

[http://www.ecpaaa.org/  
event.htm](http://www.ecpaaa.org/event.htm)



## December Meeting Food Menu

Sandwiches

Chips

Please bring a dessert  
to share with everyone.



## Congratulations to

## ECPAAA 2011 Officers

President — Pete Jones

First Vice President — Loretta Doty

Second Vice President — Jerry Goad

Secretary — Sandi Jones

Treasurer — Steve Doty

**Our Mission: To provide the citizens of Euless a better understanding of the dedication and integrity of the police department.**

## FROM THE CHIEF

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

We are in the middle of preparations for our Christmas Party, I think just about everyone plays a part in making this event an enjoyable evening for our families. I hope you are busy with your plans for Christmas and that your plans include a little time where you are able to relax and reflect on how blessed you are. I know we all face challenges, we all have areas of our lives that could be better, but the one thing that we share is our ability to set our attitude toward the world. I don't know who said it first, but they were correct when they said, "It's not so important what's happened to you. What's important is how you react to it." Our character is not developed when we win; our character develops when our strength and resolve are tested. How we react to the challenging times in our lives is stone that sharpens our character.

In this time of year we are reminded of those who are less fortunate than us. Please remember to serve them as you can. We are also reminded of the great times we have shared together. Remember the greatest times we have shared together were the times when we served others.

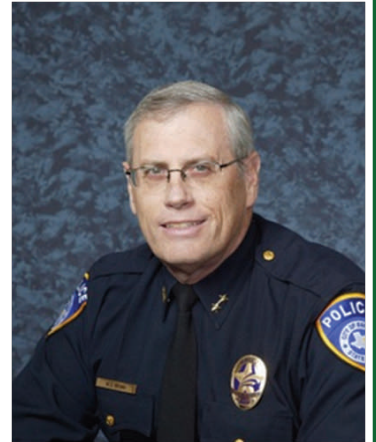
Christmas is a time for sharing and serving. Let us all remember that our strength as individuals, and as a group, is founded in our willingness to serve. I thank each of you for the way you have served this organization and the Euless Police Department. I am comforted by the thought that this department is surrounded by true servants who bring their servant's heart with them in everything they do.

Please enjoy your Christmas and New Year Holidays! Please know that you are members of the finest organization in the world, your service to your community makes it richer and that you are truly blessed people to be where you are, at this time and in this place.

Merry Christmas

Your Servant,

Mike



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**



## Sgt. Eric Starnes

### **"Inspire Personal Accountability"**

An Excerpt from

**Change is Good...You Go First**

**by Mac Anderson and Tom Feltenstein**

Something magical happens when we accept personal responsibility for our behavior and our results. But, it's not easy, because it's human nature to "pass the buck". I (Mac) know there have been times in my life when my business was struggling where I found myself blaming others, blaming the economy, blaming this, blaming that! But as I've gotten older (and a little wiser) when things go wrong in my business, or my life, I can always find the culprit...in the mirror. In every instance, it always comes back to choices I've made in my life that put me exactly where I am today. I have to say, that this one "tweak" in my attitude may sound like a little thing, but it has made a big difference in my life.

What does all this have to do with change? Plenty! As a manager, one of the most important things you can do in times of change is to get your people to understand how taking personal responsibility and recognizing problems as opportunities, will not only help the company, but will help them as individuals. In other words, sell the idea of...what's in it for them?

Authors B.J. Gallagher and Steve Ventura wrote a great little book about achieving success through personal accountability titled: *Who Are "They" Anyway?* I like their list showing how each individual in the company can benefit by adopting a "personal accountability attitude":

- ◆ You have more control over your destiny
- ◆ You become an active contributor rather than a passive observer
- ◆ Others look to you for leadership
- ◆ You gain the reputation as a problem solver
- ◆ You enhance your career opportunities
- ◆ You enjoy the satisfaction that comes from getting things done...the power of positive doing
- ◆ You experience less anger, frustration and helplessness - all leading to better physical health
- ◆ You realize a positive spillover effect into your personal life at home

According to Gallagher and Ventura, the most important words of personal responsibility are as follows:

The 10 most important words:

***I won't wait for others to take the first step.***

The 9 most important words:

***If it is to be, it's up to me.***

The 8 most important words:

***If not me, who? If not now, when?***

The 7 most important words:

***Let me take a shot at it.***

The 6 most important words:

***I will not pass the buck.***

The 5 most important words:

***You can count on me.***

The 4 most important words:

***It IS my job!***

The 3 most important words:

***Just do it!***

The 2 most important words:

***I will.***

The most important word:

***Me***

## Upcoming Events

Dec 17 — IceFest 2010, 6-9 pm, Dr Pepper StarCenter, 1400 S Pipeline Road W

Dec 18 — Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus, 9:30-11 am, Raven's Grille, 1400 Texas Star Parkway, see <http://www.eulesstx.gov/news/BreakfastWithSantaAndFriends.htm> for more information on the cost of this event

Dec 21 — ECPAAA Board Meeting, 6:15 pm; General Meeting, 7 pm, Police Station

Jan 8 — CPAANT Meeting, 10 am General Meeting, Eules EOC Room Upstairs in Police Station

Jan 8 — Christmas Treecycling Event, 10 am-1 pm, Midway Park — 300 Midway Drive West, go to <http://www.eulesstx.gov/news/TreeRecyclingEvent.htm> for more information

Jan 11 — City Council Meeting, 7 pm, City Hall

Jan 18 — ECPAAA Board Meeting, 6:15 pm; General Meeting, 7 pm, Police Station

## November 2010 Volunteer Hours

CFPA/CERT Class - 10 Hours 0 Minutes

CID Clerical - 16 Hours 30 Minutes

Citizens On Patrol - 49 Hours 45 Minutes

Number of Handicap Citations Issued - 3

Number of Handicap Warnings Issued - 1

Courts - 21 Hours 0 Minutes

Crime Victims Assistance Program - 4 Hours 30 Minutes

Jail - 23 Hours 0 Minutes

Meetings/Training - 120 Hours 0 Minutes

Includes the following:

CPAANT Meeting - 13 Hours 0 Minutes

CERT Medical Ops/Triage Training -

62 Hours 30 Minutes

ECPAAA General Meeting - 41 Hours 0 Minutes

Miscellaneous - 48 Hours 0 Minutes

Speed Trailer - 10 Hours 30 Minutes

Vehicle Maintenance - 75 Hours 30 Minutes

Watering of Plants - 7 Hours 0 Minutes

**Total - 385 Hours 45 Minutes**

**Value of Volunteer Time — \$8,036.63**

**Year-to-Date Value of Volunteer Time —  
\$115,373.48**

**November Meeting — 30 Alumni Members Present**

## Happy Birthday ECPAAA Members

Jud Park — 12/12

David Brown — 12/17

Leah Benoit — 12/18

Patrick Hinde — 12/30

## It's Time to Renew Your ECPAAA Membership for only \$20

Dues will be collected starting at the January 18, 2011 meeting. If you want to pay at the December meeting, your dues will be held until early January and will be deposited after the 1st of the year.

If you prefer, you can mail your dues to:

ECPAAA

Attn: Membership

1102 W. Eules Boulevard

Eules, TX 76040



### CPAANT— December 4, 2010

#### Grand Prairie, Texas

#### By Geri Sorg

CPAANT meeting and Christmas Party was hosted by Grand Prairie CPAAA in their new Public Safety Building. We had 11 CPAAA Representatives and 25 members attending for a fun filled gift exchange and networking. CPAANT wishes all a safe Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday!

Eules will host the January 8th CPAANT meeting. Come to the meeting and meet other CPAANT members from our surrounding Cities. The CPAANT Board will meet at 9:00 a.m. and the general meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. upstairs in the EOC room. We are asking the ECPAAA members to provide breakfast items for at least 40 people, which needs to be at the Police Department no later than 8:30.

For more information on CPAANT, please visit our web site [www.cpaant.org](http://www.cpaant.org).



### From the President — Pete Jones



This year, 2010, has been an exciting and busy year for ECPAAA.

Thanks to Chief Mike Brown for the support and giving us the opportunity to serve with his excellent team - the City of Eules.

Thanks to the committee members who took on individual activities and saw them to a successful completion.

Thanks to the Executive Board for the hard work for this year and good luck to the new Board, who I *am sure will be great!*

Thank you to each member for your involvement. No one person can make everything happen, but together, as a Team, we made it work. Remember, without your involvement nothing is possible, but with everyone working toward one goal, the sky's the limit.

Next year will be a real challenge. We have set a new standard of performance for ECPAAA. How can we top ourselves in 2011? Be thinking of ways to improve ourselves, for in quality, there is no limit.

The December meeting is on December 21<sup>st</sup> – plan to be there. It is our Christmas party and although the meeting will be short, the food will be great!

I just want to say “MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS” to each and every one of you.

Pete

Who have you asked back to the ECPAAA?





## ★ Officer Biography

### ★ Brian Lord



**Date of Biography:** December 4, 2010



**Current title with the EPD:** Police Officer, Patrol Division



**Year started with the EPD:** January 2007



**Where were you born?** Atlanta, Georgia



**In what city do you currently live?** Dallas



**Tell me a little about your family, spouse, children (ages), grandchildren, pets, etc.** I'm an only child and almost all of my family still lives in Atlanta. So I enjoy flying home and visiting them whenever I can.



**What are your hobbies?** I enjoy watching movies and playing sports. I am a die-hard Atlanta Falcons football fan and have been going to the games my entire life. I can't wait till we win the Super Bowl one day soon! I also like hanging out with my friends, trying new places to eat and traveling the world!



**What is your favorite part of being a police officer?** My favorite part of being a Police Officer is getting to help those who are truly in need. Getting to chase after bad guys is just an added bonus!



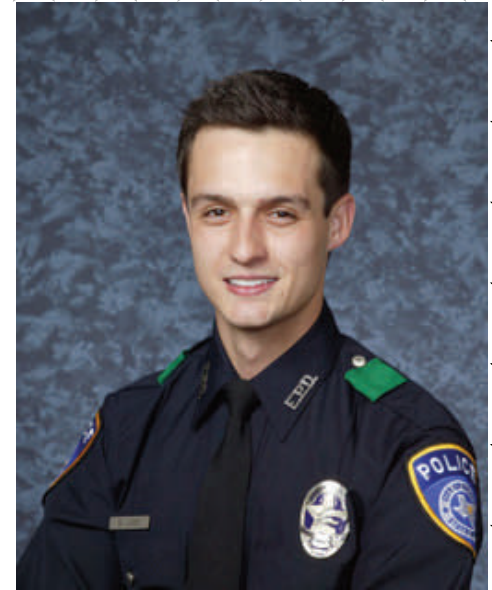
**Any interesting or little-known facts about yourself...** I served in Fallujah, Iraq with the Marine Corps in 2004 as a Humvee mechanic. It was the definition of on the job training considering I was an ammunition technician going into the situation. But I am thankful for all of my experiences overseas and I have made lifelong friends because of it.



**Who is your favorite celebrity?** My favorite celebrity right now would have to be Will Ferrell. I think that he is absolutely hilarious.



**What is your favorite food?** Well being from the South, I happen to loooove Watermelon! Sprinkle a little salt on top and Voila! Perfect!



# **EULESS CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**November 16, 2010**

Meeting Called to Order at 7:05 PM

## **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jozef Balint, Leah Benoit, Renee Bierschenk, Dan Clark, Ken Denne, Loretta Doty, Steve Doty, Kay Goad, JR Goad, Marian Holden, Pete Jones, Sandi Jones, Jerrie Keller, Sue Kosec, Pat McDowell, Donna Mickan, Dawn Nisbet, Betty Overstreet, Lisa Potter, Judy Rick, Dick Rick, Wanda Siebern, Al Simmenroth, Barney Snitz, Geri Sorg, Rosemarie Stevens, Faye Stinneford, Susan Vest, Helen Voss and Julie Watkins.

## **INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & TEXAS ALLEGIANCE:**

J.R. Goad

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A motion was made to accept the Minutes of the Last Meeting by Geri Sorg and seconded by Ken Denne. Members voted and minutes were accepted.

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report by Faye Stinneford and seconded by Jerrie Keller. Group voted and motion was passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Sue Kosec, of the Election Committee, handed out ballots for new officers for 2011 and then left the room to count them.

Pete Jones thanked the Ricks for the turkey casserole dinner.

Geri Sorg gave a CPAANT update. They have a new executive committee and Grand Prairie is having their Christmas party. It was

decided that we would hold next year's meeting at our place in September.

At \$25.50 an hour, the ECPAAA saved the Police Department year-to-date \$107,324 in volunteering their time through the month of October.

Faye Stinneford made a report that we only made \$21.26 on our last social at Freddy's. Next social will be in January.

Pete Jones congratulated all the birthdays for the month of November: Chris Shanahan on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Sandi Jones on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Michael Garza on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Lisa Potter on the 21<sup>st</sup> and Leah Bennett on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

A new budget was proposed by the Budget Committee. Leah explained what they did to prepare the new budget. The major change being that they added more money for the barbeque and that it is \$3,350 higher than last year's. Ken Denne made a motion to accept the new budget and Kay Goad seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Pete Jones told us about 100 cameras at around \$100 each that Chief Brown would like to have. Helen Voss made a motion to buy the cameras and Jerrie Keller seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Leah Benoit explained that she was writing a check for the Red Man Suit for the police and that we received a CRUD check to put into our account.

Pete and Leah explained that we need about \$2,000 to order shirts for the ECPAAA, Ken Denne made a motion to buy shirts and Faye Stinneford seconded the motion. Motion passed. This will take us below \$25,000 in our checking account so we do not have to pay taxes.

JR Goad brought up that we should make Eric Bessemer an honorary member of ECPAAA. He has earned a pin for over 100 hours of volunteer work each year. He takes care of all our patrol cars and anything else the police department needs.

Rene Potter made a motion that we accept him as an honorary member and Sandi Jones seconded the motion. At that point, there was much discussion with Faye Stinneford bringing up that Eric should pay his dues instead of us making him an honorary member.

The group voted to resend the motion and table it until next meeting to think it over.

JR Goad asked for volunteers to work the Parade of Lights on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> to work in the Trinity High School parking lot. He needs 6 more.

JR Goad also stated that he needed a list of people that needed a badge and to let him know tonight.

Pete Jones welcomed the visitors.

Pete Jones set up an Audit Committee to audit the books before we send to the actual auditor. Susan Vest, Steve Doty and Jerrie Keller volunteered.

Two food committees were needed: One for the Christmas Party which Leah Benoit and Sandi Jones volunteered for and the other for the Police Christmas Dinner which Renee Potter and Jerrie Keller volunteered for.

Sue Kosec got up in front of everyone and stated the winners of the election.

President – Pete Jones  
1<sup>st</sup> VP – Loretta Doty  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP – JR Goad  
Secretary – Sandi Jones  
Treasurer – Steve Doty

Pete Jones congratulated the winners.

Geri Sorg made a motion to close the meeting with Ken Denne seconding the motion.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

## November 2010 Treasurer's Report

INCOME	Carry Over	November	YTD Income	Annual Budget	Over/Under Budget
<b>12/31/09 Balance in Checking</b>	<b>\$13,459.87</b>				
Afghan Fundraiser			\$450.00	\$0.00	\$450.00
BBQ Dinner/Silent Auction			\$8,771.98	\$4,000.00	\$4,771.98
Brick Sales		\$700.00	\$735.00	\$200.00	\$535.00
CRUD Day		\$700.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,200.00	\$200.00
Donations/Outside Income		-\$50.00	\$1,125.01	\$0.00	\$1,125.01
Grocery Care Cards			\$51.26	\$100.00	-\$48.74
Membership Dues			\$1,520.00	\$1,200.00	\$320.00
Member Merchandise			\$102.25	\$0.00	\$102.25
Recycle Program (Cans & Cartridges)			\$213.40	\$200.00	\$13.40
Recycle Program (Electronics)			\$350.00	\$500.00	-\$150.00
Note: Funds from the Electronics Recycling Program are allocated to the PALS Summer Camp.					
Restaurant Fund Raisers			\$695.29	\$0.00	\$695.29
Warrant Roundup			\$1,050.00	\$1,300.00	-\$250.00
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$1,350.00</b>	<b>\$16,464.19</b>	<b>\$8,700.00</b>	<b>\$7,764.19</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,459.87</b>	<b>\$29,924.06</b>	<b>\$29,924.06</b>		
EXPENSES	Carry Over	November	YTD Expenses	Annual Budget	Over/Under Budget
9-1-1 Day			\$249.36	\$250.00	-\$0.64
Audit - Treasurer's Records			\$0.00	\$150.00	-\$150.00
BBQ Silent Auction			\$1,332.07	\$1,300.00	\$32.07
Bricks			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Checking Account Expenses			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CPANNT Dues			\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00
Expenses Not Categorized			\$69.95	\$125.00	-\$55.05
Honorarium Awards and Gifts			\$67.00	\$200.00	-\$133.00
Member Merchandise Items			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Memorials and Gifts			\$0.00	\$100.00	-\$100.00
Office Supplies		\$71.50	\$112.47	\$150.00	-\$37.53
PALS Summer Camp			\$1,009.74	\$1,000.00	\$9.74
Police Appreciation Week			\$394.95	\$400.00	-\$5.05
Police Chief Wish Projects		\$3,205.30	\$10,266.95	\$2,875.00	\$7,391.95
Police Clown Program			\$0.00	\$300.00	-\$300.00
Police Officer Christmas Meals			\$0.00	\$200.00	-\$200.00
Postage/Envelopes for Newsletters		\$27.98	\$162.19	\$200.00	-\$37.81
President Awards			\$93.00	\$50.00	\$43.00
Social Events			\$19.12	\$300.00	-\$280.88
Water by the Gallon			\$420.00	\$1,000.00	-\$580.00
Web Site/Domain Name			\$204.68	\$75.00	\$129.68
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$3,304.78</b>	<b>\$14,426.48</b>	<b>\$8,700.00</b>	<b>\$5,726.48</b>
<b>Funds Available in Checking</b>			<b>\$15,497.58</b>		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT					
Major Projects/Future Projects		\$50.00	\$10,053.63		
Interest from Savings Account		\$0.35	\$3.57		
<b>Funds Available in Savings</b>			<b>\$10,057.20</b>		

**Total ECPAAA Funds** **\$25,554.78**

**Our Mission: To provide the citizens of Euless a better understanding of the dedication and integrity of the police department.**



To be honest , I had originally intended to write about something else, no biography this month; but I couldn't find the information I sought. For some reason, this story came to mind. It has long been a favorite, and it now seems appropriate. Our true blessings come from love. May you all bask in it. Rosemarie Stevens

### THE GIFT OF THE MAGI

By O. Henry

One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies. Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing the grocer and the vegetable man and the butcher until one's cheeks burned with the silent imputation of parsimony that such close dealing implied. Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas. There was clearly nothing to do but flop down on the shabby little couch and howl. So Della did it. Which instigates the moral reflection that life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating.

While the mistress of the home is gradually subsiding from the first stage to the second, take a look at the home. A furnished flat at \$8 per week. It did not exactly beggar description, but it certainly had that word on the lookout for the mendicancy squad. In the vestibule below was a letter-box into which no letter would go, and an electric button from which no mortal finger could coax a ring. Also appertaining thereunto was a card bearing the name "Mr. James Dillingham Young." The "Dillingham" had been flung to the breeze during a former period of prosperity, when its possessor was being paid \$30 per week. Now, when the income was shrunk to \$20, though, they were thinking seriously of contracting to a modest and unassuming D. But whenever Mr. James Dillingham Young came home and reached his flat above he was called "Jim" and greatly hugged by Mrs. James Dillingham Young, already introduced to you as Della. Which is all very good.

Della finished her cry and attended to her cheeks with the powder rag. She stood by the window and looked out dully at a gray cat walking a gray fence in a gray backyard. Tomorrow would be Christmas Day, and she had only \$1.87 with which to buy Jim a present. She had been saving every penny she could for months, with this result. Twenty dollars a week doesn't go very far. Expenses had been greater than she had calculated. They always are. Only \$1.87 to buy a present for Jim. Her Jim. Many a happy hour she had spent planning for something nice for him. Something fine and rare and sterling—something just a bit near to being worthy of the honor of being owned by Jim.

There was a pier-glass between the windows of the room. Perhaps you have seen a pier-glass in an \$8 flat. A very thin and very agile person may, by observing his reflection in a rapid sequence of longitudinal strips, obtain a fairly accurate conception of his looks. Della, being slender, had mastered the art. Suddenly she whirled from the window and stood before the glass, her eyes were shining brilliantly, but her face had lost its color within 20 seconds. Rapidly she pulled down her hair and let it fall to its full length.

Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride. One was Jim's gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair. Had the Queen of Sheba lived in the flat across the airshaft, Della would have let her hair hang out the window some day to dry just to depreciate Her Majesty's jewels and gifts. Had King Solomon been the janitor, with all his treasures piled up in the basement, Jim would have pulled out his watch every time he passed, just to see him pluck at his beard from envy.

*Continued on page 10*

So now Della's beautiful hair fell about her rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters. It reached below her knee and made itself almost a garment for her. And then she did it up again nervously and quickly. Once she faltered for a minute and stood still while a tear or two splashed on the worn red carpet. On went her old brown jacket; on went her old brown hat. With a whirl of skirts and with the brilliant sparkle still in her eyes, she fluttered out the door and down the stairs to the street.

Where she stopped the sign read: "Mne. Sofronie. Hair Goods of All Kinds." One flight up Della ran, and collected herself, panting. Madame, large, too white, chilly, hardly looked the "Sofronie." "Will you buy my hair?" asked Della. "I buy hair," said Madame. "Take yer hat off and let's have a sight at the looks of it." Down rippled the brown cascade. "Twenty dollars," said Madame, lifting the mass with a practiced hand. "Give it to me quick," said Della.

Oh, and the next two hours tripped by on rosy wings. Forget the hashed metaphor. She was ransacking the stores for Jim's present. She found it at last. It surely had been made for Jim and no one else. There was no other like it in any of the stores, and she had turned all of them inside out. It was a platinum fob chain simple and chaste in design, properly proclaiming its value by substance alone and not be meretricious ornamentation—as all good things should do. It was even worthy of The Watch. As soon as she saw it she knew that it must be Jim's. It was like him. Quietness and value—the description applies to both. Twenty-one dollars they took from her for it, and she hurried home with the 87 cents. With that chain on his watch Jim might be properly anxious about the time in any company. Grand as the watch was, he sometimes looked at it on the sly on account of the old leather strap that he used in place of a chain.

When Della reached home her intoxication gave way a little to prudence and reason. She got out her curling irons and lighted the gas and went to work repairing the ravages made by generosity added to love. Which is always a tremendous task, dear friends—a mammoth task. Within 40 minutes her head was covered with tiny, close-lying curls that made her look wonderfully like a truant schoolboy. She looked at her reflection in the mirror long, carefully, and critically. "If Jim doesn't kill me," she said to herself, "before he takes a second look at me, he'll say I look like a Coney Island chorus girl. But what could I do—oh! What could I do with \$1.87?"

At 7 o'clock the coffee was made and the frying pan was on the back of the stove hot and ready to cook the chops. Jim was never late. Della doubled the fob chain in her hand and sat on the corner of the table near the door that he always entered. Then she heard his step on the stair away down on the first flight, and she turned white for just a moment. She had a habit for saying a little silent prayer about the simplest everyday things, and how she whispered: "Please God, make him think I am still pretty."

The door opened and Jim stepped in and closed it. He looked thin and very serious. Poor fellow, he was only 22—and to be burdened with a family! He needed a new overcoat and he was without gloves. Jim stopped inside the door, as immovable as a setter at the scent of quail. His eyes were fixed upon Della, and there was an expression in them that she could not read, and it terrified her. It was not anger, nor surprise, nor disapproval, nor horror, nor any of the sentiments that she had been prepared for. He simply stared at her fixedly with that peculiar expression on his face.

Della wriggled off the table and went for him. "Jim darling," she cried, "don't look at me that way. I had my hair cut off and sold because I couldn't have lived through Christmas without giving you a present. It'll grow out again—you won't mind, will you? I just had to do it. My hair grows awfully fast. Say 'Merry Christmas!' Jim, and let's be happy. You don't know what a beautiful, nice gift I've got for you."

*Continued on page 11*

"You've cut off your hair?" asked Jim, laboriously, as if he had not arrived at that patent fact yet even after the hardest mental labor. "Cut it off and sold it," said Della. "Don't you like me just as well, anyhow? I'm me without my hair, ain't I?" Jim looked about the room curiously. "You say your hair is gone?" he said, with an air almost of idiocy. "You needn't look for it," said Della. "It's sold, I tell you—sold and gone, too. It's Christmas Eve, boy. Be good to me, for it went for you. Maybe the hairs on my head were numbered," she went on with sudden serious sweetness, "but nobody could ever count my love for you. Shall I put the chops on, Jim?"

Out of his trance Jim seemed quickly to wake. He enfolded Della. For 10 seconds let us regard with discreet scrutiny some inconsequential object in the other direction. Eight dollars a week or a million a year—what is the difference? A mathematician or a wit would give you the wrong answer. The magi brought valuable gifts, but that was not among them. This dark assertion will be illuminated later on.

Jim drew a package from his overcoat pocket and threw it upon the table. "Don't make any mistake, Dell," he said. I don't think there's anything in the way of a haircut or a shave or a shampoo that could make me like my girl any less. But if you'll unwrap that package you may see why you had me going a while at first."

White fingers and nimble hands tore at the string and paper. And then an ecstatic scream of joy; and then, alas! a quick feminine change to hysterical tears and wails, necessitating the immediate employment of all the comforting powers of the lord of the flat. For there lay The Combs—the set of combs, side and back, that Della had worshipped long in a Broadway window. Beautiful combs, pure tortoise shell, with jeweled rims—just the shade to wear in the beautiful vanished hair. They were expensive combs, she knew, and her heart had simply craved and yearned over them without the least hope of possession. And now, they were hers, but the tresses that should have adorned the coveted adornments were gone. But she hugged them to her bosom, and at length she was able to look up with dim eyes and a smile and say: "My hair grows so fast, Jim!"

And then Della leaped up like a little singed cat and cried, "Oh, oh!" Jim had not yet seen his beautiful present. She held it out to him eagerly upon her palm. The dull precious metal seemed to flash with a reflection of her bright and ardent spirit. "Isn't it dandy, Jim? I hunted all over town to find it. You'll have to look at the time a 100 times a day now. Give me your watch. I want to see how it looks on it. Instead of obeying, Jim tumbled down on the couch and put his hands under the back of his head and smiled. "Dell," said he, "let's put our Christmas presents away and keep 'em a while. They're too nice to use just at present. I sold the watch to get the money to buy your combs. And now suppose you put the chops on."

The magi, as you know, were wise men—wonderfully wise men—who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger. They invented the art of giving Christmas presents. Being wise, their gifts were no doubt wise ones, possibly bearing the privilege of exchange in case of duplication. And here I have lamely related to you the uneventful chronicle of two foolish children in a flat who most unwisely sacrificed for each other the greatest treasures of their house. But in a last word to the wise of these days let it be said that of all who give gifts these two were the wisest. O all who give and receive gifts, such as they are wisest. Everywhere they are wisest. They are the magi.

# CHRISTMAS CHILD

By Terry Martin

On Christmas night a blessed child was born  
The Angels sang his praise and came to blow their horns.  
His mother was a virgin when the Angel Gabriel came  
Then told her she was chosen in God's holy name.

She was just a young girl and knew nothing of the world  
Her virtue shown in God's eyes she was his golden pearl.  
Her innocence was so supreme and mighty was her grace  
She'd give up her only son for the human race.

As he grew she understood that he would someday leave  
To take his place out in the world his duties to achieve.  
Of his early childhood years there is little known  
But when he grew to manhood he seldom walked alone.

He came into the world to help his fellow man  
To do his heavenly Father's work as it was the plan.  
Saint Joseph was his earthly father in his early life  
And taught him how to cut the wood with every single slice.

Yes, Jesus was a carpenter so the Bible tells  
From the stories written he did his job quite well.  
When it came his time to bid them both adieu  
With tearful eyes they understood all he had to do.

She loved her child who was now a wondrous man  
She understood he had to leave as it was the plan.  
She watched his agony and suffering as he was crucified  
For all the sins of men and then she watched him die.

So, when Christmas comes around and there aren't any toys  
Remember, Baby Jesus for he's your precious joy.  
His heavenly father gave him as a special gift  
To bring us peace, and love and spirits we should lift.