

GRAM SAYS

Christmas here and gone. Another fresh and bright new year in which we all look forward to health and happiness.

Here the sun is now promising us warm beautiful days, so won't mention what you people are not enjoying so the weather man informed us.

But here I sit confined with the old sore back but with grand-dad, now an all around homemaker and lucky to be able to sit and hope to be better soon. I am missing so many out-door activities.

Today grand-dad is planting flowers around our patio which gives us a homely feeling.

We also have our little friends the squirrels, and as long as the peanut bag is full they are happy except when a jay comes for his share. This really distrubs them and their chattering reminds us of a zoo.

We wish so many of you nice people could miss that cold weather and be with us down here and enjoy Florida.

Dr. Harry Maness and wife from Anderson is in Tarpen Springs, a niece visiting them, Earl and Beulah Edmonds from Goodman have rented a trailer here at this park. Their daughter and two sons from Washington are visiting them. They left for the Keys to be gone a week.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard from Neosho are also here and have rented a cottage, so our district in Missouri is well represented.

Our Christmas at our court here was eventful, two of our grand-daughters flew down from Chicago. Our community turkey dinner served around one hundred, all living here. At night we exchanged presents, played Bingo, square danced and ate our left overs from dinner.

Saturday, we with the girls, left for Cecil Field, just eighteen miles south of Jacksonville to visit our son, Capt. W. R. Staggs and family.

Here the four cousins, who had not seen each other for eight years, now in the teens, were together and such fun.

So our son took us many interesting places, as the Old Fort at St. Augustine, on down to Marineland where we saw a marvelous show. The porpoise being the actors. It seems impossible that man could train these creatures so perfectly. They are playful and enjoy their school performance. The male carried his books to his teacher, rang the school bell and hoisted the flag. Then school opened, he went through baseball, football and basketball to receive his school letters, then his mate was introduced and they raced, jumped high hurdles, played with hoops and he leaped sixteen feet straight up and took from a long pole a pine knob and took it to his teacher. It was the super act.

They are from four to six feet long. After each act, each received his reward, a portion of fish.

These men are now training two young whales.

Another visit (which by now my back refused me to see) was to witness and board one of our largest carriers, the S. S. Roosevelt. The girls will never forget it and also the watching the jets (which this carrier houses) in practice. We arrived home (our trailer) on Wednesday and our girls left Tampa air field at 3:30 p.m., arriving in Chicago at 8:30 p.m. Such is life in this age.

What will we witness in the new 1960?

Perhaps by now, you friends of mine have had enough so hoping our Editor is feeling much better by now. I will say "Good-bye" for now.—"Gram", S.E.B.