

A Merry

COURIER CHRISTMAS



59. Mr. and Mrs. U are a young couple with four young children (infant to age 8). He is employed full-time and she works part-time but there is just not enough money coming in to pay for anything but shelter, utilities, doctor bills, food and clothing. Like many they scrimp on the latter when the former take most of the money. The infant is well cared for and much loved. Mrs. U does not want to return to full-time employment until she is older as she feels that the baby needs her now. This appears to be the only way in which these people can become solvent as his employment is steady but low paying.

60. Mrs. W is a 69-year-old woman who has been extremely deprived all of her life. She reared five children and is now living in a three-room shack (converted garage) with no basement and only a wood stove to provide heat. She cannot make ends meet and rarely has food in the house.

61. Mrs. G, a 38-year-old mother with three school-age girls, is depressed and unhappy. Her husband, since marriage, has been nervous and high-strung and she had grown accustomed to his occasional outburst of temper. In the past few weeks, however, his inability to control his feelings has increased to the point that he needed to be hospitalized. It is anticipated that he will be in the hospital for at least three months. As she views the holiday decorations and bright lights in the store windows, her life seems very bleak and she is especially worried about not being able to provide the extras at Christmas for her three little girls. A special Christmas dinner would certainly be appreciated by this family.

62. Mrs. C is an 86-year-old widow who never had any children and her closest relative, a niece, lives in a distant state. Generally, they have been able to get together at Christmas time but this year Mrs. C, because of failing health is not able to travel. A Christmas dinner and a telephone call to her niece will help her feel cheerful and appreciated.

63. Mr. J. has been both a father and a mother to his two teenage children ever since the mother died two years ago. He has struggled and has been

determined to keep his family together. There never was much money because the father was an unskilled laborer. However, the strong sense of family was a comfort to all of them. Last week he lost his job due to cutback at his factory. Today life seems grim but a happy Christmas would go a long way in bringing some cheer into the family.

64. Mrs. H, a widow with six school-age children, is an excellent mother and a working mother, too. She supplements her Social Security by a full-time clerical position. Often she does not feel well as she is troubled with migraine headaches. Going to the job each day and still being patient and kind with her children takes all the personal strength she has. A bright Christmas with a hearty meal would help her feel people cared about her struggles.

65. Mrs. I was recently hospitalized for a nervous breakdown which occurred after her husband deserted her. Her two school-age boys were placed in a temporary foster home. It is anticipated that she will be released from the hospital in a few weeks. The children will be returned and they will then again begin to function with the caseworker's help, as a family. The family will need extras at Christmas time which can also be an incentive to help the family to pull together.

66. Mrs. M. is a 60-year-old woman who is taking care of her 6-year-old granddaughter whose mother died three years ago. She herself is not well and finds it difficult existing on a very limited income. Any contributions which would make this holiday season a happy one for this courageous woman and her granddaughter would be gratefully received.

67. Miss Y. has had a most difficult life, both of her parents are alcoholic and have never done much to help this girl. But she has strength enough to graduate from high school and is now attending college on an extremely limited budget. She finds it almost impossible to meet her own basic needs, but she is determined to make a better life for herself.