

his wife in a barrel of water." Near Chatham, a farmer's cows were on their way along the road to a familiar pasture, with no one in charge, when the Poundmaster found them and drove them to the pound. The farmer soon learned of this and "took the law into his own hands - broke the fence down and released his stock."

Suitable gifts for Christmas were advertised daily - ladies' high-button shoes (12 buttons), priced from \$3.00 to \$5.00 at Smith and Luers; rattan, plush and tapestry rockers at A. Dirksen and Sons; gifts "highly prized by Lady Friends" included lace handkerchiefs, ostrich feather boas, silk gauze fans and fancy work-baskets, all sold at R. F. Herndon and Co. The Boston Store (Macpherson, Edward and Co.) had dress goods specials featuring black dress silks, and stated that "A BLACK DRESS is the most useful PRESENT you can make and the value we are offering is UNSURPASSABLE."

William Spengler's Grocery at 208 N. Fifth advertised coffee at 25¢ a pound, chewing tobacco at 40¢ a pound, tea for 50¢ a pound, bulk oysters at 35¢ a quart, and 16 pounds of granulated sugar selling for \$1.00.

News notes included an item about the elevator boy at Simmons Book Store whose foot was injured in an elevator accident. He was taken into R. W. Diller's drug store and treated there by a surgeon.

Springfield was declared to be one of the healthiest cities in the country - there were only a few cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria at that time.

Reports of holiday activities filled the news. The High School (there was only one then) presented a "Handsome entertainment" of music and readings, the Bettie Stuart Institute closed for the holidays with a pupils' recital; many workers from the Watch Factory were spending the holidays abroad (and "abroad" was identified as Athens, Illinois, Greenfield, Hillsboro - and even as far away as St. Louis and Chicago!). The Children's Christmas program at the Home for the Friendless was provided by a Kings Daughters Circle and several groups from the Second Presbyterian Church. The tragedy, "Henry VIII," played at the Chatterton Opera House, with admission prices of 25¢, 50¢, 75¢, \$1.00 and \$1.50. A popular type of dancing party, a "German" (conducted by a leader), was held at the Sangamo Club. At the Second Methodist Church (now Kumler) the Young Peoples' Society of Christian Endeavor held a holiday bazaar on December 17 and it was reported that "The popcorn and chewing gum booth was draped with pink and white with a pretty fence around it made of popcorn."

All of the town's many churches held Christmas services - some had them on Christmas Eve, Christmas morning, and Christmas night, as well. A chorus at the Church of the Immaculate Conception presented Mozart's Twelfth Mass; St. Paul's and St. John's A.M.E. Churches had programs of singing and dialogue, and special observances took place in all Protestant and Catholic churches. The First Portuguese Church (Presbyterian) Sabbath School had their Christmas entertainment on December 26.

In the newspapers for days after Christmas many stores were still advertising gifts for Christmas! (Maybe they were encouraging "do your holiday shopping early" for 1891?)

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WE WISH A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS, AND TO OUR BUSINESS STAFF AT ROBINSONS! SEE YOU IN 1991!

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