

TREAT FOR MESSENGER BOYS

Jolly Entertainment Given Them
By Mrs. Robert Garrett.

A little before 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon a number of messenger boys were seen hurrying toward Mount Vernon Place. When they reached the home of Mrs. Robert Garrett, 9 West Mount Vernon Place, the majority of the boys took off their caps, gave their locks a little slicking down, replaced their caps, gave their jackets a few touches and disappeared down the basement steps of Mrs. Garrett's house.

The messenger boys of the Eutaw Street, Richmond Street, Central and Hotel Rembert District Telegraph offices, the farm hands and their families from her country place, "Uplands," were invited to the Mount Vernon Place house by Mrs. Garrett for their usual Christmas treat. The entertainment which preceded the treat was held in the large hall which runs through the basement. Bokman Brothers' Orchestra was stationed in one corner of the hall. The messenger boys were seated in the hall, the men and women and children from "Uplands" and the house servants stood or were seated in rooms which open on the hall. Mrs. Garrett, Mrs. J. Swann Frick, Mrs. Richard Irving, of New York; Mrs. Hollins McKim, Mrs. Sidney Price and Mrs. Garrett's father, Mr. William F. Frick, sat in one of the rooms during the entertainment, then during the treat the ladies assisted Mrs. Garrett in serving the refreshments and in distributing the gifts.

"Hello, Ma Honey" and other ragtime songs were played by the orchestra and were sung by the boys. The Lowman Sisters, lately with the Dewey Surprise Company, sang several songs and did some fancy dancing. Johnny Johns, the comedian, taught the boys a new song about the "Messenger Boy." He sang a weird tale about "The little heard that on a young lad grew," and taught the boys another song, "My Ann Eliza, She is a Surprise-a." Then he suggested a cake-walk. Two of the blue-coated boys—George Tallbot, of the Eutaw street office, and Howard Lbnes, of the Richmond street office—took up the suggestion. The orchestra struck up the cake walk tune, the rest of the boys clapped in time to it, and the dancers did the rest.

Without forgetting for a minute that they were little gentlemen, and were the guests of a lady, the boys entered into the spirit of the entertainment with the greatest zest. They gave several rousing cheers for Mrs. Garrett, for her secretary, Mr. A. B. Crane, and for the caretaker of the Mount Vernon Place house, Mrs. Julia Holton, whom they all seemed to know. When their chief, Mr. J. B. Yackle, the general manager of the American District Telegraph Company, arrived, somebody said: "Three cheers for 'Jimmy' Yackle," and they were given with a will.

After the entertainment the boys and the bright-eyed little people from "Uplands" enjoyed the Christmas tree that had been trimmed and lighted for them. Then they marched into the servants' dining hall, where there was a big table loaded down with cakes, candles, nuts, ices and other things enjoyed by the small boy. The messengers were served first by their hostess and her friends, and after the boys had done full justice to the treat, the "Uplands" people were served.

The distribution of toys to the little people and of candy canes, tin horns and of envelopes, each of which contained a piece of money, to the messengers, closed the treat. The boys expressed their thanks to Mrs. Garrett very politely before leaving the house, but that didn't satisfy them. They crowded together in a big bunch in the middle of the street in front of the house and blew long blasts upon their tin horns. They cheered again and again for Mrs. Garrett. Then the leaders waved their candy canes and the different gangs disentangled themselves from the bunch, and each gang marched in good order toward its office.