

Jest 'Fore Christmas.

FATHER calls me William, sister calls me Will,
Mother calls me Willie, but the fellers call me Bill!
Mighty glad I ain't a girl—rather be a boy
Without them sashes, curls an' things that's worn by Faunteroy!
Love to chasenk green apples an' go swimmin' in the lake;
Hate to take the castor ole they give for belly aches!
Most all the time, the whole year round, there ain't no flies on me,
But jest 'fore Christmas I'm as good as I kin be!

Got a yeller dog named Sport, sic him on the cat;
First thing she knows she doesn't know where she is at;
Got a clipper sled, an' when us kids goes out to slide
'Long comes the grocery cart an' we all hook a ride!
But sometimes when the grocery man is worried an' cross
He reaches at us with his whip an' larrups up his boss,
An' then I laff an' holler, "Oh, ye never teched me!"
But jest 'fore Christmas I'm as good as I kin be.

Gran'ma says she hopes that when I git to be a man
I'll be a misloneer like her oldest brother, Dan,
As was et up by the cannibals that lives in Ceylon's isle.
Where every prospect pleases an' only man is vile!
But grand'ma, she has never been to see a wild west show,
Nor read the life of Daniel Boone or else I guess she'd know
That Buffalo Bill and cowboys is good enough for me—
Except jest 'fore Christmas, when I'm good as I kin be.

And then old Sport, he hangs around so solemn-like an' still,
His eyes they keep a-sayin', "What's the matter, little Bill!"
The old cat sneaks down off her perch an' wonders what's become
Of them two enemies of hern that used to make things hum,
But I am so perlide an' 'evn' so earnestly to biz
That mother says to father, "How improved our Willie is!"
But father, havin' been a boy hisself, suspicious me
When, jest 'fore Christmas, I'm as good as I kin be!

For Christmas, with its lots an' lots of candies, cakes an' toys,
Was made, they say, for proper kinds an' not for naughty boys;
So wash yer face an' brush yer hair, and mind yer p's and q's,
An' don't bust out yer pantaloon, an' don't wear out yer shoes;
Say "Yessum" to the ladies an' "Yessur" to the men,
An' when they's company don't pass yer plate for pie again;
But, thinkin' of the things yer'd like to see upon that tree,
Jest 'fore Christmas do as good as yer kin be!

AURORA, THE HEART OF THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY

Aurora, situated just half way between Portland and Salem on the Pacific Highway, and on the main line of the Southern Pacific R. R. to California. There is no town in the entire state, using it as a point that a like radius will include, so much of the good and valuable of the state. A 25 mile radius will take in Salem, Portland, Oregon City, Woodburn and a number of smaller towns and vast areas of fertile farms, of berries, fruits, corn, potatoes, onions, garden produce, wheat, clover seed and hay, hops, sheep herds, and swine herds, of blooded cows and last but not least this circle includes vast manufacturing plants of lumber, pulp plants and wolen mills. In fact with the exception of iron and coal this most blessed area could all but exist in its present state without the importation of any article. From Canada and Washington on the north and Mexico and California on the south Aurora can not be well overlooked or avoided. You must make a detour in your travels or you must go through Aurora, Aurora is the hub of a vast series of paved and graveled roads, that lead spokelike to prosperous farms and areas of timber. There is no part of the state highway system that has the density of travel that the Pacific Highway has between Salem and Portland and it passes through the center of Aurora. Mr. Nunn, chief Highway engineer, estimates that at times this traffic reaches 3000 vehicles an hour along this highway through Aurora. A veritable continuous procession. Aurora is a logical distributing center. With the good roads, (getting better each year,) leading in all directions it is the focus of a vast buying community. Farmers come from the north, from the south, from the east and the west to bring their produce here to the warehouses, and to the depot for shipment. Here all farmers do their banking, and a liberal share of their buying. My observation is that the mail order business in this area is small comparatively. Aurora is blessed with an excellent supply of best quality artesian water. This is electrically pumped to the elevated reservoir and thus a supply of water for domestic purposes and for fire protection is a most valuable asset to the town.

E. G. Robinson.

Read the Ads

Facts are Facts

Aurora is better financially than any other town in the state in our class. Our two banks have shown better strength than in most towns our size and better than many towns much larger. Aurora does not have penny indebtedness; there are no bonded out whatever, town was never bonded. Our business houses are all doing good business, and the town has modern conveniences.

With the figures from one small district not yet in, County School Superintendent Moore announces that the number of persons of school age counted in the recent school census of Lane county totals 11,405, which is approximately 250 more than were counted last year.

Four squads of state traffic officers working out of Salem arrested more than 25 motor vehicle drivers on charges of violating the traffic regulations with relation to lights. Similar drives will be conducted by the state officers in various sections of Oregon in the near future.

Percy Cupper, state engineer, will leave for Salt Lake City late this month, where he will attend a meeting of the Western States Reclamation association. Other Oregon representatives at the session will include a number of prominent men appointed recently by Governor Olcott.

Charles E. Strickland, special investigator for the state engineers' department, has returned to Salem from the Summer Lake and Silver Lake irrigation districts, where he made an inspection of the development work under way. Work on both of the irrigation districts is progressing satisfactorily, the investigator said.

The case of Abe Evans, who is in the state penitentiary at Salem awaiting execution on December 2 for the murder of James Doran of Bend, will be appealed to the supreme court despite the statement made recently by Evans that he desired to hang on the date set by the court. This was announced by Mrs. Evans, who is providing the funds for her husband's defense.

Two highway "lighthouses" have arrived at Astoria and W. D. Clarke, of the state highway engineer's department is arranging to erect them as an experiment at some point on the Columbia river highway. These lighthouses are lighted by acetylene gas and flash rays intermittently. They are not intended to illuminate the highway, but to act as a warning of the dangerous spot ahead.

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Our large buying power enables us to undersell all competition.

We wish you all a Merry Xmas and a prosperous New Year.

Shop With The Thrifty At Busick's

Lots of Christmas Suggestions in the ads, this week
Read them all

NEW YEAR'S BALL!

Given under the Auspices of the
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December 31, 1921

Come Dance the Old Year out, and the New Year in.

FAMOUS MOONBEAM ORCHESTRA
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Tickets \$1.00

THE MIDWAY BEAUTY SPOT

Farm land around Aurora is low in price as compared to most any part of Oregon, and the climate conditions and soil is, we believe, the best to be found in the state. Our markets are near and easily reached. It's a good place to live. In Aurora we have fine homes and want many more. You have here the best water to be found, electric light and power, good neighbors and a paved highway putting either Salem the Capital or Portland the metropolis, one hour from your door. Come and build a home among us and help in beautifying the prettiest spot of the valley.

FARMS OF MARION

IN TOP CLASS

County Leads State in Number of Ranches and Production of Most Crops

Marion county leads the state in acreage devoted to oats, corn, clover, potatoes, hops, prunes, walnuts, loganberries, strawberries, and the number of farms within its borders, according to the summary of agricultural and horticultural statistics just compiled by Frank A. Lovell, state tax commissioner.

Has 4,724 Farms

In fact, the summary shows, with 4724 farms to its credit Marion county has more farms within her borders than any other two counties in the state. Clackamas county which ranks second has 2157 farms and Lane county is third with 2116 farms.

Of this 6,259.27 acres devoted to loganberries in the state 3,868.06, or more than one-half the total for the state, are in Marion county.

A total of 1273.70 acres of strawberries is credited to this county with only 4,049.07 acres devoted to this crop throughout the state.

The summary shows a total of 33,917 farms in the state comprising an aggregate of 8,410,954 acres of which 3,081,338.99 acres are devoted to agricultural and horticultural products as follows:

Crops Segregated

Winter wheat, 785,946.94 acres; spring wheat, 272,126 acres; oats, 263,608 acres; barley, 66,546.50 acres; rye, 61,029.87 acres; corn, 47,409.12 acres; clover, 87,339.08 acres; alfalfa, 164,181 acres; wild or marsh hay, 158,401.75 acres other hay crops, 202,461.33 acres; potatoes, 39,702.24 acres; other root crops, 6,482.66 acres field pea, 291.75 acres; field beans, 856.25 acres; hops, new acreage, 9,923.95 acres; hops, old acreage, 1,458.25 acres; other crops, 793,064.63 acres apple trees bearing 39,310.23 acres; apple trees, non-bearing, 6,321.73 acres; cherry trees, bearing, 3,479 acres; cherry trees, nonbearing, 627.42 acres; peach trees, bearing, 3,055.70 acres; peach trees non-bearing, 413.88 acres; pear trees, bearing, 9,176.05 acres; pear trees nonbearing, 2,718.67 acres; prune trees bearing, 23,564.73 acres; prune trees, nonbearing, 12,082.60 acres; walnut trees, bearing, 1,334.42 acres; walnut trees, nonbearing, 1,327.11 acres; loganberries, 6,259.27 acres; blackberries and raspberries, 4,049.27 acres; other fruits and nuts, bearing, 1,752.66 acres; other fruits and nuts, nonbearing, 566.75 acres.

Quality Circulation Counts.
The Observer has it.

RAILROAD TIME CARD SOUTHERN PACIFIC

| NORTH BOUND | |
|------------------|------------|
| No. 16 (on flag) | 7:52 a.m. |
| No. 28 (Stop) | 10:15 a.m. |
| No. 18 (stop) | 3:08 p.m. |
| No. 24 (stop) | 7:16 p.m. |
| SOUTH BOUND | |
| No. 23 (stop) | 9:09 a.m. |
| No. 17 (stop) | 2:57 p.m. |
| No. 27 (on flag) | 6:10 p.m. |

Mrs. A. C. Marsters of Roseburg was elected president of the Women's Foreign Missionary society of the southern Oregon district of the Methodist church, at the closing session of the annual conference of the society, held at Eugene. Other officers elected were: Mrs. J. O. Osburn, Medford, vice-president; Mrs. K. D. Henson, Medford, recording secretary; Mrs. F. C. Edwards, Medford, corresponding secretary; Mrs. J. M. Isham, Grants Pass, treasurer, and Mrs. S. A. Danford, Eugene, secretary.



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