

Chemawa American

A bi-weekly paper devoted to Indian education. Published and printed on alternate Friday's during the school year by the students of the Chemawa Vocational School, Chemawa, Oregon.

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—Editorial—

To make others happy instead of yourself, is the true Christmas spirit. Even if it does take a lot to make them happy, the attempt is worth the effort. If your thoughts are only for yourself and how many presents you will receive, you do not have "true Christmas spirit."

As a child your picture of Christmas was the day when Santa Claus gave you a lot of toys with which you might play. And as you grow older, you realize the holiness of this Christmas day.

A happy jolly family gathered about a warm cozy fire and everyone wearing a broad smile on his face has always been my idea of a happy, merry Christmas. A smile goes a long way—a smile lightens up a Christmas day and carries the message of the "true Christmas spirit" to everyone's heart.—BEATRICE SAMPSON.

Many people do not realize what Christmas means or is. It is the celebration of the Christ Child's birth. There are many who think of it only as a time for exchanging gifts, never once thinking that Christmas should be kept as a day of holiness.

About two thousand years ago in Bethlehem, there was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary a child that was to become our Redeemer. Wise men came from far and near bringing frankincense and gold. That is where the tradition of giving gifts on Christmas started. These wise men were guided by the eastern star that was shining brightly, brighter than any other star in the heaven. These wise men did not expect gifts in return for theirs.

Exchange your gifts and feel happy that you can be doing something for some one else's benefit. You may know of a family that is in need, a family that does not have enough money to buy food for a Christmas dinner or they have no one to give them gifts. Those are the people that are most thankful for gifts from you that have more to share than they.—JUNE COURVILLE

Have you given any thought to your New Year's resolutions? Probably not all of us are familiar with the true meaning of the word "resolution." It is an act of determination to change our actions in the future. Most of us make our resolutions with good intentions but after perhaps three or four days forget all about them.

Few, if any of us, are so nearly perfect that we cannot stand improvement. In this case a good resolution would be for our own personal improvement. Maybe we haven't been getting our night work as regularly as we should. Should we resolve to study harder in order to get better grades? There are also other possibilities, that the demerit list has been too long. Perhaps we should take it upon ourselves to shorten this list by keeping our name off of it. Are you gradually losing your friends or do they act differently to you? Perhaps you have been slightly grouchy and critical at times. With the new year coming in let us turn over a new leaf and make others as well as ourselves happier.—MARGARET ARCASA

MISS EDNA GURKIN, HEAD OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN SERVICE TELLS OF PHILIPPINES

Miss Gurkin, head of the Health Department of the Indian service, gave an interesting talk to the students in chapel on December 29. Since she had been transferred from the Philippine district, her topic was on her experiences while in the Philippine Islands. She was introduced by the student chairman, Dorothy Jones.

Some of the interesting features that Miss Gurkin brought out in her talk were about the customs and habits of the Philippino people. In the Philippine Islands there are many mosquitoes and the people that come there to visit are convinced that it is necessary for them to sleep with mosquito netting. There is still another way they have of keeping the mosquitoes away and that is by having little lizards that crawl around on the walls and are perfectly harmless.

The Philippinos are very hospitable and Miss Gurkin found that to be true on several occasions. She happened to be going up a river in a small boat and was supposed to meet her friends at a certain place, but everything happened on the contrary. When she landed it was raining and her friends were not there. She was undecided as what to do so she thought she would sit on her bags and wait. While she was waiting a Philippino man came along and took her to his home. He and his wife were very kind and friendly to her. She was very much impressed when he told her not to be afraid because if there was any danger, he and his wife would be the ones to face it.

Miss Gurkin ended by saying that she never realized how much that old phrase, "Home Sweet Home," meant until she had been gone and again returned to her own people and living.

The students were well entertained by Miss Gurkin and considered her speech one of the most interesting of the year.

Pugilists Wapoed

The Indian pugilists journeyed to Portland last week to show the Portland "pugs" a few tricks in the art of self-defense, but due to lack of training and experience most of the boys returned low of spirit and with swollen eyebrows. Champine, the only fighter who returned with a scalp, won a three round decision over "Ace" Haynes, Oregon's champion feather-weight.