

**MEETING ON FISH
DERBY DATED HERE**

A meeting of all persons interested in the chinook salmon fishing derby, tentatively scheduled to start April 24, will be held at 7 p. m. Saturday at the Powell Hardware Co. store. Interest in the contest is growing rapidly, according to Paul Dempsey, chairman, and the number of registrants has increased materially during the past few days.



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Lenten Devotions

THE CENTRALITY OF THE CROSS

By REV. J. R. TURNBULL.
To the Apostle Paul, the cross of Christ was central and supreme. "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Gal. 6:14) gives us the secret of his life, as well as his estimate of Calvary. Thousands were put to the cross in those bitter days; but one cross stands out from all others, because it was Christ's cross.

The cross is central in God's revelation to man. When our first parents sinned, God began to reveal the cross in foretelling the bruising of the serpent's head by the woman's seed, and the bruising of the seed's heel. Abraham's sacrifice of his only son, the passover, and all the multitudinous sacrifices demanded by the law; all the ritual of the tabernacle with its brazen altar, the type of substitutionary sacrifice, at the very door of the tabernacle; the day of atonement, etc., all combine to declare this central truth—the truth of the cross—"without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins." While the very essence of Old Testament prophecy is expressed in Isaiah's words, "the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

The cross is central in the life of Christ. Christ was not merely the victim of human enmity; He was not merely a great martyr dying for certain ideals. His death was not something that he had finally to accept reluctantly as inevitable. The cross was the very pur-

pose of the incarnation. "He took upon Himself the form of a servant" that He might become "obedient unto death." He came "to give His life a ransom for many." The gospels are not really a "life of Christ," but are chiefly the record of His passion and death. One-third of their space is given to the passion week and resurrection.

The cross is central to the church. She owes her very existence to it. The ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, constantly testify to the centrality of the cross. The Apostle declares that the gospel he preached was "Christ died for our sins, according to the scripture, etc." (1 Cor. 15:1-4). In fact Paul is intolerant, with a holy jealousy, of any other "gospel," which omits the cross. But it is the intolerance of God, who commands, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me."

The cross is central in history. Christ said to His disciples "Ye are the salt of the earth"—the world's preservative. Society would have perished in corruption but for the cross. The sin-sick world was saved by a blood-transfusion through the cross of Christ. Our very language testifies to its centrality. We speak of the "crux" of the matter, and of a "crucial test."

The cross is central in salvation. Paul says this gospel of the cross is "the power of God unto salvation." "There is none other name" Peter declares, but the name of the Christ of the cross, "whereby we must be saved." May it be ours like Paul, not only at this Easter season but every day, to be able to say, "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."

BARGAIN LUMBER

at Page's old site in North Roseburg.—Adv.

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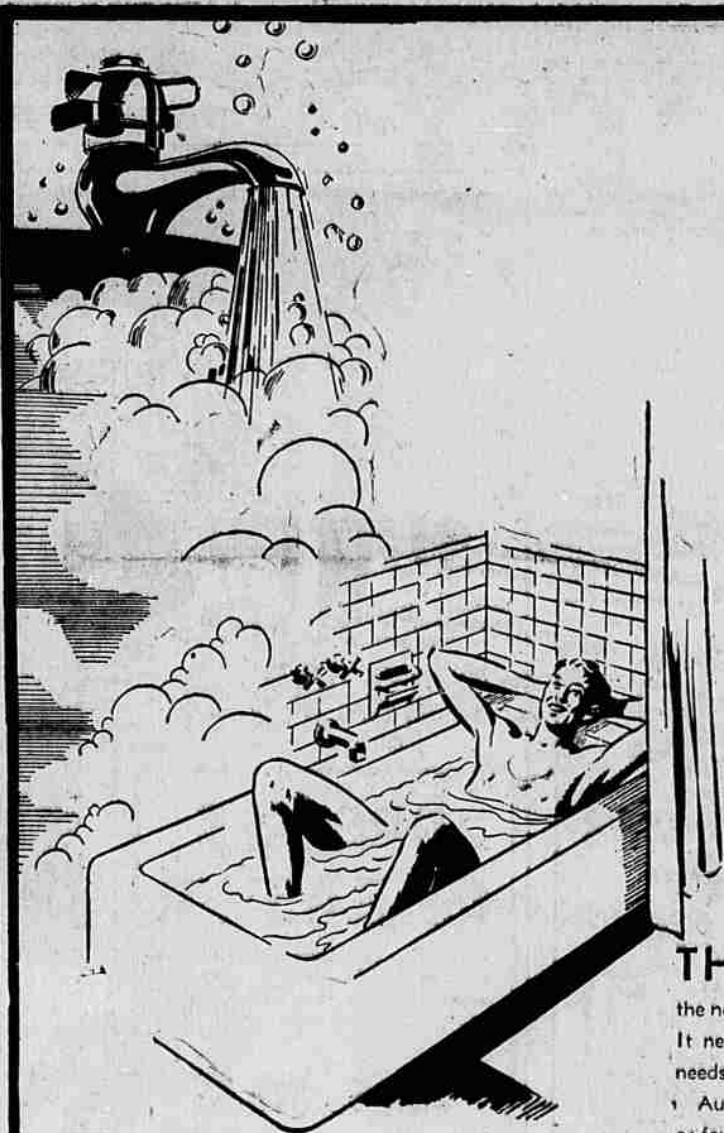
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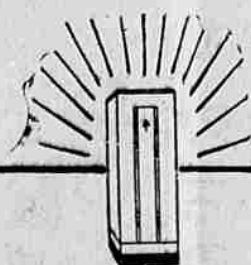
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