

# The News-Review

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## A "Wary" Christmas

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Editorial mail these days is filled with seasonal material containing safety warnings. There is good reason why these admonitions should be circulated at this time. The National Safety Council reports that December has the highest traffic death toll of any month of the year. The Christmas-New Year holiday season is the most dangerous single period of the year. Heavier travel and the festive spirit of the season increase the normal winter hazards, such as bad weather, slippery roads and more hours of darkness. More drinking by both drivers and pedestrians during the holiday season also is partly responsible for the increase in traffic toll, the Council declares.

Last year the total of pedestrian deaths in December was 42 per cent higher than the average for the first 11 months. But all deaths are not due to traffic. The National Fire Protection Association points out that from a few days before Christmas to a few weeks after New Year's, a plague of fires rages over the country. Many of these fires are the result of hazards existing only during the holiday season.

In a little country schoolhouse in Babbs Switch, Oklahoma, where 150 people were crowded for a Christmas party, candles ignited the Christmas tree. There was only one exit. Windows were heavily barred. Thirty-six celebrators were killed in the panic or left behind to burn to death when the crowd stampeded.

In a fashionable Selma, Alabama, country club, six women were burned to death and several others injured when a carelessly handled match ignited cotton-trimmed costumes.

Four people were killed in a Jersey City, N. J., hotel when a Christmas tree in the lobby was ignited by a toy electric train.

Hundreds of homes were burned throughout the nation, many of them with accompanying fatalities or serious injuries.

Many other causes contribute to holiday accidents. Sports take their toll. Sleigh rides are turned into "slay" rides. Children are killed or injured. Falls kill, maim and injure thousands during the holiday season when homes are overcrowded and when the festive spirit leads to carelessness. Scores of other causes could be cited, but all lead to one admonition: Be Careful!

Make it a "Wary" Christmas and you'll have a Merry Christmas!

### Farewell to Pheasants?

Upland bird hunters are hearing some discouraging news from State Game Department heads. The battle to maintain shooting populations of game birds is rapidly losing ground. Despite large sums of money poured into bird management, the Game Commission is finding that its program is not producing results. A shift is being made from operation of game farms to habitat improvement, which means that many sections of the state doubtless will be virtually without pheasants in the near future unless hunters give better cooperation.

Birds reared on game farms represent only about one percent of the annual take by hunters, Game Department experts report. Yet the operation of game farms costs thousands of dollars, far out of proportion to the benefits derived. It is planned to continue a limited farm program as a means of saving brood stock, but much of the money heretofore spent to propagate birds in hatcheries will be used to improve conditions for natural propagation.

This means that pheasant population in the future will be very largely confined to sparsely peopled and non-agricultural areas, public shooting grounds, bird refuges, etc.

There is good reasoning behind the Commission's policy. In the densely populated areas it is not economically feasible to attempt maintenance of bird population—adequate for shooting demand; too many factors operate against survival.

Farm mowers and tractors working in fields—the natural habitat of the China pheasant—kill annually twice as many birds as are shot by hunters, according to a guess-estimate by Game Department scientists. Thousands upon thousands of birds are killed by automobiles along state and county roads. Birds are subjected to constant predation by poachers in addition to the many natural predators, particularly house cats, which increase in proportion to the density of human population. Then, too, there is much resistance. Many farmers do not want the birds on their land, nor do they want hunters tramping over their property, breaking down fences, trampling crops, scaring and even killing poultry and livestock, etc.

Another factor—and a sorry one—is the lack of sportsmanship among hunters, who, in addition to failing to recognize and respect property rights of the landowner, refuse to conform to obvious conservation rules. Although restrictions are placed on the killing of hen pheasants, studies show that the ratio of cocks to hens remains constant—proof that this first law of conservation is being ignored. Furthermore, while definite bird shooting seasons are set by law, it is a well known fact that pheasant poaching is a year-around practice, too extensive to permit of enforcement without an army of police officers.

Populated sections of the state, therefore, soon will be without pheasants unless there is a prompt improvement in hunting etiquette, a real effort put forth to improve habitat for natural propagation, and more cooperation between hunters and landowners.

**BAD SERUM TAKES TOLL**  
 TOKYO, Dec. 21 — (AP) — Diphtheria immunization deaths in the city of Kyoto yesterday totaled 60 children. Impurities in the injections were blamed.

**TO HEAD CANCER FUND**  
 PORTLAND, Dec. 21 — (AP) — Next year's state cancer fund campaign will be headed by Walter W. R. May, publisher of the Oregon City Enterprise.

### OUT OUR WAY



BORN THIRTY YEARS TOO SOON T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

### Scrap from the MENDING BASKET

By Vianett S. Martin

Today, December 21, the time of the Winter Solstice, or "standing still of the sun," has been for many years—ever since my father opened my eyes to the wonder of it—one of the year's most exciting days. It is a happier day than the Summer Solstice, this turning of the year towards longer days, towards Spring!

The Summer Solstice is like the time of geese flying south; but, the turn of the year, the winter turning from the ebb of daylight hours to the flood of full summer—ah, that is like the geese flying north again, lifting our hearts in a surge of excitement, knowing that spring is nearer!

What if the coldest days are ahead? We have passed the turn of the year! Each day is a little longer. Not much perhaps, but still a little. We are glad of the little.

I used to enjoy being out in a boat in an inlet just before ebb-tide ended. Waiting. Waiting for that moment when there would come a stillness, a sudden breathless hush (what is the use of imagination if one can't use it?) that preceded the first tentative swirls of the incoming tide. Bit by bit the incoming water would

### In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

**Chinese WON'T LIKE communism.**

**WHY?**  
 Well, did you ever notice that Chinese in this country LIKE TO OWN THEIR OWN LITTLE BUSINESSES? A few generations ago, the Chinese in the small towns of America were rather generally in the laundry business.

In that way, they could work for themselves and build up a business that would be THEIRS.

**COMMUNISM** doesn't work that way. The big shots who run communist states are SUSPICIOUS of people who run their own little businesses. Such people are apt to be independent. They don't like to kow-tow to the big boss.

There is no place in communism for independent-minded people.

**A LITTLE** while back, a blind Portlander hitch-hiked across the country to New York, where he hoped to obtain an operation that would restore his sight.

He got two operations. A New York business man paid his hospital bills. (Business men, you know, are supposed to be hard-boiled, tough, mean, grasping.) The surgeon who operated wouldn't take a cent. Everybody helped. Nobody would take any money.

The blind man is back in Portland, still blind but with the hope that another operation six months hence will enable him to see. He says:

"Seems like I've had nothing but Christmas ever since I started across the country in September . . . the farther I went the more people wanted to do for

### By J. R. Williams

**Early-Bird Congressmen Start Framing Plans for 81st Congress**  
 By PETER EDSON  
 NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON.—Senators and representatives blown back into office by the recent elections have been homing on Washington early, in order to sound off on what big things they are going to do next year.

The result is that they have now outlined for the 81st Congress a program that is every bit as definite as whatever may be proposed by President Truman in his State of the Union, Budget and Economic Report messages. Congressional forecasts also give some idea of how the President's proposals will be received.

Biggest issues are probably labor, farm prices, housing, congressional reorganization, civil rights, inflation and taxes.

Rep. Mike Monroney of Oklahoma, co-author of the LaFollette-Monroney Congressional Reorganization Act of 1946, wants to revise this measure further. He would curb the power of the House Rules Committee and have the Senate ban filibusters by requiring all speakers to confine their remarks to the question under consideration, instead of being allowed to ramble on endlessly.

**Filibusters Target**  
 Revision of Senate rules to do away with filibusters will have bipartisan support. If the Republicans had retained control of the Senate, a Republican committee under Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio had intended to force limitation of debate by simple majority, instead of the two-thirds vote now required.

The only reason the LaFollette-Monroney bill was permitted to pass in 1946 was that the reorganizers agreed to make no change in House rules. Rep. Aime Forand of Rhode Island has an idea of enlarging House Rules Committee membership from 12 to 15. This would break up the six-to-six tie that snarled up so many measures in the last Congress. It would permit the Democrats to name the more members to the committee, to provide a safe working majority favorable to President Truman's program.

The President himself will probably consider these matters as problems for Congress to decide, and will keep his hands off. Both questions will probably have to be settled, however, before any

dustry and the Pacific Northwest on a sounder basis.

**A Danger to Be Eliminated**  
 Coos Bay Times

The 120,000-volt power line from Roseburg to Coos Bay is out of commission today, having broken during the storm. Saturday night somewhere between Sukum and the top of the mountain to the east.

The breaking of this line caused a power shortage in Coos County Sunday. It made necessary the shut-down of a number of mills today, and curtailed other normal power uses.

All this should be enough to make us think quite a bit about the 120,000-volt line today. But it has been in our mind over the weekend for an entirely different reason.

Saturday, while the storm was still in progress, we went over the Coos County road from Fairview to McKinley. Happening to look up, we saw the heavy cables of this 120,000-volt line overhead.

The wires were not exactly hanging motionless, either. The striking thing about the power line in this area is that it runs parallel with the county roadway and over the traveled section most of the way for four-tenths of a mile.

It is had enough for a high voltage line to cross high ways. But when such a line runs practically over the roadway for a considerable distance, it strikes us that this is a situation which needs remedying. Particularly is this so in such a location, where high winds sweep down canyons; where trees fall across lines, and where other hazards to power lines exist.

The line is the property of the California-Oregon Power Company. It is of extreme importance to the Coos Bay area, being our only link with "outside sources of electrical energy."

But school buses travel this McKinley-Fairview road. There is considerable other traffic. And we have heard of freshly-snapped power lines snuffing out lives in other sections of the country.

If we were a member of the County Board or of the rural school board or of granges in the McKinley Fairview area, we would certainly look into this power line location. A hundred feet one way or another should eliminate what we consider a very real and immediate danger.

me . . . New York City (according to all the dope hard and cruel and uncaring) has a heart as big as New York."

**THE** moral?  
 There isn't any moral. One of the fundamental facts of life is that people as a WHOLE are better-hearted than they get credit for.

### Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

### SANITY RETURNING TO LUMBER INDUSTRY

(The Oregon Journal)

There are signs that the abnormal lumber boom is about over. It is well.

Lumber prices and quality went clear out of hand. Between August, 1939, and September, 1948, cement went up 146 per cent, brick and tile went up 174 per cent, while lumber went up 352 per cent. In most cases quality went completely haywire, and the gray market flourished. Although many of the established lumber firms attempted to keep standards, the urgent demand for lumber—any kind of lumber—created a pressure that brought speculators, "easy money" boys and opportunists into the industry seriously to undermine its standards.

Representatives of the National Association of Manufacturers say that recent national slump in building activity has brought about a 20 per cent drop in mill prices. Inventories are good, production is high, and the market is still good. And it is a healthier market now. Buyers are insisting on better lumber and competition again is beginning to become more than a word.

Price reductions, better grades, an end to indiscriminate cutting and gray market dealings benefit not only the home builder but also the lumber industry, which is so important to this region. The sooner prices settle down and quality is reestablished, the better. It puts the lumber in-

### Vocational School Elects; Yoncalla Students Enroll

Charles W. Clark of Roseburg was elected Friday to the position of treasurer of the student body at the Oregon Vocational School at Klamath Falls. Clark is a student in the school of business at OVS and has been active in student affairs on the campus. He will take office on Jan. 3, for a six-month term.

Heading the student body is Wade of Coos Bay who defeated Paul Heins of Albany for the office of student body president. Aldo Bellotti, Klamath Falls, was elected vice-president and Earl McCaughey, also of Klamath Falls, was elected secretary.

Among new students registering at the Oregon Vocational School during December are Ernest Jackson and Aaron Baldwin, both of Yoncalla.

Both Jackson and Baldwin have enrolled in a 26-month course in auto mechanics, where they will train in the school automotive shops in all phases of automotive repair including motor overhauling, power train, brakes, steering and chassis, electrical systems, cooling systems, and carburation. A portion of the time spent in the course will be in machine shop practice which includes experience in crankshaft grinding.

### Traffic Accidents Kill 2 Persons in Salem Area

SALEM, Dec. 20. — (AP) — Two persons were killed in automobile accidents here yesterday.

Emil Moen, Salem, was killed when the car he was driving was sideswiped by another on the Pacific Highway three miles south of Salem.

Mrs. Elizabeth Myers, 74, Salem, died after she was struck by a taxicab while walking across a downtown street.

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### GOP-Controlled Group to Request T-H Law Changes

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 — (AP) — The republican-controlled congressional "watchdog" committee on the Taft-Hartley law decided yesterday to urge the new Democratic Congress to make about nine changes in the act. Six were described as "fairly important."

Senator Bill (R-Minn.), chairman of the Senate House group, announced the committee's action after a closed meeting.

Ball, defeated in his bid for reelection to the senate, told newsmen the proposed changes were approved by seven Republican members of the committee and one Republican and five Democrats were absent.

The Democratic platform calls for repeal of the Taft-Hartley law. President Truman also has urged repeal.

Ball declined to go into detail about the changes the committee majority has in mind, but he said they deal generally, among other things, with:

1. A provision requiring an election to authorize a union shop. Under a union shop, workers are required to join the union shortly after they are hired.

2. The section setting up machinery to deal with "national emergency" strikes.

3. The provision covering mass picketing. The act forbids it, but there has been some confusion as to what constitutes mass picketing.

4. The jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Board. The matter at issue is the extent of the board's authority in particular industries.

Ball told reporters the committee's final report will be filed in Congress Dec. 31. It probably will be made public at that time.

### U. S. May Have to Pay For Japs' Evacuation

ONTARIO, Ore., Dec. 21 — (AP) — Uncle Sam may be called on to pay damage claims ranging as high as \$100,000 in damages for evacuating Japanese and Nisei from Pacific Coast areas early in the war.

More than 200 lower Snake Valley residents met here in two groups to discuss claims they plan to present to the federal government.

Attorney Martin P. Gallagher said the basis of the claims would be broken farm leases, money lost through quick disposal of machinery and real personal property and the cost of moving.

He said the claims would vary as much as a few hundred dollars to \$100,000. The payments are permitted under federal law over a five-year period.

Older Japanese-speaking residents met with an interpreter. The younger, English-speaking Nisei met with Attorney Gallagher.

The sessions were sponsored by the Japanese American Citizens League of Snake River Valley.

New York has about 2,000,000 Jews, more than there are in Palestine.

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