

The News-Review

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SPREADING GOOD CHEER

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Unlike the children who, according to legend, are supposed to have "visions of sugar plums" at Christmas time, merchants have visions of tax statements, income taxes, first-of-the-year inventories, payroll overtime, personal property assessments and mounting overhead. Consequently they are exceedingly pleased by the way merchandise is moving from floors, counters and shelves.

Retail business wasn't too sure of this year's Christmas buying. Opinion of experts varied widely. In fact, some of the best and usually most accurate forecasters were caught way off base in predicting a drop in Christmas sales. Too, many predictions were in error concerning items people would buy.

One usually reliable source had expected buying to be confined largely to smaller items of durable goods, but reports are that people are buying expensive items of furnishings and appliances, rather than the smaller pieces predicted for brisk movement.

This year's trend, merchants report, is toward durable goods, particularly household furnishings. Jewelry stores say they are moving much silverware, china, watches, etc., rather than costume jewelry and accessories. Clothing stores are doing brisk trade on quality items.

People are spending freely for Christmas, but are selective in their buying.

Indications are that dollar volume will fully equal that of last year although in some cases profits may decline slightly, due to lower mark-up on the type of merchandise moving out of stores.

On the whole, the Christmas trade has been very satisfactory, merchants report.

Preparations Made For Holiday

While merchants are pleased by the commercial aspect of the Christmas season, spiritual and festival factors also are prominent in holiday planning.

Many people and organizations are engaged in charitable work. The Elks lodge gave its annual Christmas party for children last Saturday. Religious, fraternal and civic organizations are working diligently preparing Christmas baskets containing food, clothing and toys. The Junior Chamber of Commerce has arranged with Santa to be on the telephone for last-minute requests. It would be impossible to list in this space all the work in progress by the many organizations to spread happiness during the holiday period.

For the first time in many years, Roseburg homes are again displaying outdoor decorations and Christmas lighting. Power shortage had prevented this activity in late years, but for the current season the outdoor lighting contest is being revived. The lifting of restrictions on use of power also has made it possible for Roseburg to string colored lights again along its main streets and a most effective display has been provided. Another beautiful display is made at the city hall.

The outstanding scene, however, is to be found on the grounds of the Veterans hospital, where the nativity is portrayed in a unique way. Everyone able to do so should go to the hospital grounds to see this outdoor, animated picture, with its live shepherds and animals under artistically arranged floodlighting.

Then, of course, preparations for the holiday are being made in homes, as plans are advanced for reunions, dinners and parties.

In the churches of the city, the Christmas story is being told through entertainments for children and adults.

Another outstanding event of the celebration was the presentation of "The Messiah" by the Roseburg Choral society Tuesday night. Carol singers will add to the musical interpretation of the season and choirs will sing the story at special programs.

Altogether, the events of the week presage a merry Christmas for all.

LETTERS to the Editor

Urges "Take It Easy" On Voting New Taxes

ROSEBURG—We notice some very interesting letters in your paper recently. Also an interesting editorial in which the editor thought it very "amusing" that anyone would bring up such a trifling matter as a few local taxes. You will likely be "amused" at this: There was an election held December 13 for annexation of certain "fringe" districts. Out of more than 3,300 voters only 434, or about one-eighth of the total voters, went to the polls and voted. That might make the "fringe" feel like poor relations. On Wednesday the police, fire department and officials staged quite a demonstration to welcome them into the city. We wonder what is the matter that we have so small a vote. Could it be we have become tall-talantian?

Here is a secret you will be let in on when it comes to paying for a new city hall and airport at a half million or so: It will show up on your taxes. There will be no election in the coming year. We need sewers in West Roseburg. Thursday evening a couple of professional petition packers were on the job. A sort of blank check

for sewers. We need sewers. We need a new city hall. We need an airport. We need more schools. We need to keep our taxes down to where we can pay them. It wasn't too long ago the city owned a good many lots, foreclosed for taxes. When we get all these things, taxes will likely be at a confiscatory point. Let's take it easy on voting taxes.

NAME ON FILE, Roseburg, Ore.

F. D. R. Jr. Heads Drive For Jewish Aid Funds

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Rep. Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr. (D-Lib) has accepted the job of chairman of the National Christian committee of the United Jewish appeal.

He will serve as national chairman of committees formed throughout the nation to solicit funds from persons of the Christian faith to help Jewish refugees all over the world.

Henry Morgenthau Jr., general chairman of the UJA, said at a news conference with Roosevelt that the organization's 1950 goal is \$72,453,800.

UJA funds are used for immigration and settlement in Israel, rehabilitation and relief in Europe and North Africa, and adjustment of refugees in the United States.

It takes four pounds of fresh grapes to make one pound of raisins.

'Twas the Night Before Christmas



In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

HAD LOOTED FROM THE PEIPING PALACE AND MUSEUM!

HERE in the middle of the Christmas season, that sounds pretty rough to you and me and others of our commoner kind. Imperfect as we doubtless are, we couldn't bring ourselves to the point of taking care of our Christmas list with gifts we had looted from somebody else.

That is because we ARE just common, everyday people. The Big Ones have been doing it Mao's way ever since history began. They go out and LOOT IT FROM SOMEBODY THEY HAVE CONQUERED and then give it as a gift to somebody they want to make a deal with to go out and conquer somebody else.

In world-conquest circles, that has long been known as statesmanship.

IN considering all the aspects of the situation, we have to remember that the 15 carloads of "rare historical and art objects" which Mao looted from the Peiping palace and museum to give to Stalin and his gang had probably been given to the Peiping institution in the first place by some other royal looter who looted them from somebody else to give them to Peiping.

The pages of history are full of incidents like that.

IN Jogjakarta, Java, a new nation is being born. It is the Indonesian Republic. Its first president, Dr. Soekarno, is being inaugurated at Jogjakarta. He has led his people in a successful rebellion against Dutch overlordship, and the new nation will be a PARTNER, not a vassal, of the Dutch.

Great things can come of it all.

GREAT things will come of what is happening down there UNLESS THE INDONESIANS ARE THINKING MORE OF THE PRIVILEGES THAN OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF SELF-GOVERNMENT.

If self-government is to work, responsibility must go hand in hand with privilege.

THIS seems to be history day in the news.

Forty-six years ago, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Wilbur and Orville Wright made the first successful flight in a heavier-than-air, power-driven machine.

THE Wright Brothers were of course immensely proud on that day 46 years ago of what they had accomplished.

Do you reckon they would have been as proud of it if they had known that a direct descendant of their invention would be used some four decades later TO DROP AN ATOM BOMB ON HIROSHIMA?

I sometimes wonder.

DRUNKEN DRIVER RAPPED Benjamin Arthur Zellmer, 54, Days Creek, charged with operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, was sentenced in justice court to 30 days in the county jail and fined \$250, Judge A. J. Geddes reported.

Songs from the MENDING BASKET

By Viannett S. Martin

Christmas for everyone undoubtedly contains a rejoicing thought that a Girl Scout (Mariner—Sea Scout) demonstrated the value of that fine activity for boys and girls—SCOUTING.

"Daddy, it was my Scout training that saved me. It taught me to conserve my energies . . ." An Oregonian dispatch quotes Ruth Aberle as saying. There were two Sea Scouts in our home for several years; how well I know what a wonderful training it is for the boys—and girls, too—who really take an interest in it. Scouting, like everything else worthwhile, gives returns in proportion to what is put into it.

Not long ago the newspapers paid tribute to 17-year old Don Lee of Salt Lake City, picturing his happy smile as Miss Anna Rosenkille, his guardian, pinned the Eagle Scout badge on him. Don Lee had refused to accept defeat. In spite of a handicap which most anybody would think certain to prevent any such ambition, Don Lee won through.

God bless him for the inspiration he must be to younger boys who may be tempted to 'slide through' any of the Scout tests or think them not worth bothering about!

Even the Hiking badge . . . every step of the way was made by a brave-hearted lad, who has been legless since babyhood, on artificial legs. There may be veterans, too, who will find comfort and inspiration in that Boy Scout's achievement. Why limit it to any group? ALL of us can take fresh heart when difficulties beset us, can we not?

There have been other distinguished Scouts through the years. Just now Ruth Aberle has been receiving the headlines. A while ago it was Don Lee. Tomorrow it will be the boy down the street, or the one in the next town . . . county . . . state . . . country . . . overseas! Scouting is worldwide, doing its bit toward brotherhood! Girls of other races, other creeds will hear about Ruth and Don and find inspiration, and greater understanding.

U. S. Forces Paid In Script To Combat Inflation

MANILA, (AP)—American Armed Forces personnel in the Philippines were paid in military script in an effort to combat inflation in the islands.

The ban against possession of United States currency and negotiable foreign exchange instruments was extended to the military personnel of the American government. The ban already was in effect for Filipinos. The military script will be used

for transactions in service stores. American military personnel may obtain as much peso currency as they desire in exchange for their script at the legal rate of two pesos for \$1. Pesos, however, may not be converted into script.

The script may be converted into postal money orders or other foreign exchange to be sent out of the country by military personnel.

Children's Party Slated By Lions

The Roseburg Lions club's first children's Christmas party is scheduled for Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Hotel Umpqua.

Approximately 40 children will be present for the occasion. They will be treated to dinner and a program in the banquet room, and a Christmas tree party in the hotel lobby, where gifts will be presented.

Dr. E. W. Carter is in charge of general arrangements. Al McBee has arranged transportation. Several of the members will take the responsibility of getting the children to the hotel, and Lions members and their wives are each asked to assume the responsibility of taking charge of a child for the evening, to show them the best time possible.

Members calling for children should do so by 6 p.m. and are asked to be present by 6:15 to take over their charges.

CAMELLIAS NEED O.K.

SALEM.—(AP)—Mississippi won't let Oregon camellias be shipped into that state unless the plants are free from soil and are accompanied by a certificate from the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

The Oregon Agriculture department said Mississippi adopted the ban on Oregon and California camellias because of camellia flower blight.

TAFT CENSUS UPPED

SALEM.—(AP)—The population of Taft, a newly incorporated city, is 489. Secretary of State Newby announced after taking a census of the city.

The census will make it possible for Taft to share in state highway and liquor revenues.

Rev. Tyson Tells True Meaning Of Christmas

Christmas without Christianity is not true Christmas, Rev. Alfred Tyson, rector of St. George's Episcopal church, told the Roseburg Kiwanis club Tuesday.

Rev. Mr. Tyson reviewed the history of Christmas and the carols. Christmas need not be sad, he said. It should be gay, as indicated in the carols, but the Christmas season should be filled with the Christian spirit, he said.

Many of the songs we commonly refer to as carols are hymns, he said. The true carols, most of which were written in the 15th century, had their origin in dance tunes. Such favorites as "Come All Ye Faithful," "Joy to the World," "Little Town of Bethlehem," and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" are hymns rather than carols.

He read one carol, which, he said, seemed to lend the modern idea of "trick or treat" at Halloween. The song referred to singing for treats.

We usually associate Christmas with Christ, the term originating from the words Christ and mass, or holy communion in whatever form to which it is referred. The spirit of giving is referred to as pertaining to the gifts brought to the Christ child.

However, he said, the idea of Christmas giving to others, the Christmas tree and decorations have their origin in pagan festivals.

The speaker stressed the importance of Christianity. It is not just a matter of being good and living by the Golden Rule, he said. It is not just a matter of ethics.

Christianity is the basis of democracy, he asserted. While only about seven percent of the people living in the colonies at the time of the Revolutionary war were Christians, about 90 percent of the constitution signers were.

Dictators Mindful The national average of Christians in the United States is 50 percent, while on the west coast it is only 25 percent or less.

Whether or not we recognize the importance of Christianity, dictators do, he said. Dictators have sought either to destroy or control the church. The FBI reports 80 percent of crimes are committed by juveniles. Of these, 85 percent are from broken homes, where either one or both parents were non-Christians. J. Edgar Hoover, FBI chief, he said, has considered the church the strongest factor in the prevention of crime.

The greatest enemy of Christianity, he said, is ignorance of its true meaning, he stated.

A feature of the meeting was presentation by Rollie Quam, Douglas county scout executive, of a trophy to Glenn Scofield, guide of Explorer troop 237, sponsored by the Kiwanis club. The trophy was awarded the Roseburg unit as winner of a shooting competition, held in connection with a recent scout meeting in Eugene. The trophy was purchased by the Eugene Rotary club. The local team's total score was 747, or an average score of 106.7.

PLANT CONGESTED

Due to the congestion of turkeys at its plant, the Northwest Poultry and Dairy Products company, Roseburg, will be unable to receive any more chickens until after the Christmas holidays, it was announced Tuesday.

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ROADS ABANDONED

The Douglas County court has issued orders abandoning portions of the Edenbower-Millwood county road 6 and a portion of Hayhurst road, known as Morning Star Bridge, as no longer necessary in the general road system of the county.

For "Tops"

See Phil Durnam on Drainboards Lino'eum Laying and Venetian Blinds 920 S. Main 1336-J

PHONE 100

between 6 15 and 7 p. m., if you have not received your News-Review.

Ask for Harold Mobley

Oregon FEP Law Not For Vocational Schools

SALEM, Dec. 21.—(AP)—The state fair employment practices law doesn't apply to vocational schools, Attorney General George Neuner ruled.

The law makes it illegal for any employer, labor union or employment agency to discriminate against any person because of his race or religion.

The opinion was asked by David Robinson, Portland, chairman of the state fair employment practices advisory committee.

Under the opinion, vocational schools can refuse to admit a person because of his race or religion.

A New Year's Resolution

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So we're closing from Monday, December 19th, to Tuesday, January 3rd, so the workmen can make repairs without us underfoot. In the meantime . . .

A Merry Christmas a Happy New Year to You, from

CARL'S HAVEN Garden Valley Road