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Little White Gate

(A Memorial Day Story
by Mary Wilson)

As Grandmother went through the little white gate toward the large mail box which was sitting on it's neatly painted post, she glanced wistfully down the dusty road, where the little heat devils shimmered and skipped like so many prancing imps.

The quick tears rose to Grandmother's tired old eyes as she slowly twisted the corner of her checked gingham apron in her work-worn hands, for this morning she was thinking of the procession of lads who had passed through the little white gate.

First, she saw the tall, handsome lad as he ran quickly through the little white gate, whose paint was scarcely dry, to place in her eager hands the very first letter from the shiny new mail box. She remembered how her heart had swelled with pride as she glanced at the inscription on the letter, Mrs. John Smith; MRS. JOHN SMITH—why she had the horrible feeling that she was prying into a stranger's mail for three days ago she had not been Mrs. John Smith, then as she glanced up into the smiling, dark eyes that were looking at her with such love and pride, she knew that no Queen had ever possessed greater treasure than did this Mrs. John Smith.

Dear John—she could still see him so young and handsome, though he had been dead these many years—ever since young Jim was six years old. Young Jim—she could see him trudging through the little white gate, fishing pole over his shoulder and his eager, freckled face flushed from the heat and the triumph of the one speckled trout that he so proudly carried in the large fish basket which John had always loved, how proud John would have been of him—how like John he was, though not handsome like his Pa—had more of her looks—sandy hair and freckles—though he grew up to be such a handsome lad, especially in his uniform; he would never forget the day he and Annie ran away and got married, she could have spanked the pair of them, so young and foolish, but so much in love; it was just ten days before Jim sailed for France.

Young Jim, all these years he had lain in Flinders Field under a white cross marked "Captain Jim," she could always picture that cross with the red poppies softly kissing its cold marble cheek—Jim had always loved red poppies; red poppies and white crosses—white for the young souls that had forced their Gethsemane and stood before their Maker, cleansed of all that was imperfect—red, for the blood that stained the battle-fields and slowly drained from the Mother hearts which broke—white crosses and red poppies—but she mustn't think of that—they got the message the day little John was born—poor Annie, she couldn't live without her Jim.

Once more Grandma saw the procession marching by and another little lad passed in and out of the little gate, usually with old Shep trailing at his heels.

He too, had gone away in uniform—tall and handsome, so much like his grandpa—she would never forget how the sun sparkled on his silver wings that morning, as he stooped and gently kissed her goodbye. Just such a morning as this, strange, how dark the night could be after such a bright morning—made a body a mite afraid to know that the heart could hold so much darkness—but then a body had to have Faith.

By this time Grandmother had reached the big mail box and

once more the icy fingers of fear squeezed her old heart; it had been so long since she had a letter—not since the one from the War Department saying "Missing in Action." Only God could know how her heart curled up and died in her breast, only He could know how she had prayed for strength. Dear God, dared she hope that through one of his miracles there might be a letter from Johnnie, it had been so long and Johnnie was all she had—it seemed as though something as soft as the kiss of a butterfly's wing brushed her wrinkled cheek, just as Johnnie's little hand used to as he was drifting off to sleep after she had tucked him in. She reached into the mail box with confident hand. Sure enough it was there—a letter from her Johnnie. She whispered softly, "Thank you God." And as she walked swiftly back through the little white gate, they all walked beside her, big John, Jim, Annie and little Johnnie.

Grandmother smiled as clutching the precious letter in her eager hand she stooped and softly touched the velvet of a blue for-get-me-not which grew beside the little white gate, already, she was picturing the procession of small lads of the future—as she put her gauged, old hand on the little white gate and whispered, "THEY TOO, SHALL PASS THROUGH." In the gentle breeze the little white gate swung softly to and fro as though already feeling the touch of eager little hands.

LION ROARS

(Helen Hudgins and Irene Schaffer, editors.)

One-Act Plays

The junior english classes are presenting one-act plays as a part of their english. All of the students have a part in one of the plays. Some of the plays being presented are: "Spreading the News," "Six Who Pass While the Lentils Boil," "Patchwork Quilt," "Rising of the Moon," "Trifles," "Finders Keepers," and "Suppressed Desires." Only juniors and seniors may see these plays that are in study hall at the time the play is to be given.

Freshmen Present Assembly

The freshman class presented a talent assembly in the auditorium on Friday, May 18.

The program consisted of: "A Green Cathedral" by the freshman girls' glee club; an electric guitar number by Francis Calvert; two vocal solos, "Always" and "Together," by Shirley Holmes; a comedy vocal solo by W. C. Martin; two songs by the freshman sextette; "Billy Boy" by Mable Bolton and Juanita Marcy; two Spanish songs by Clara Morel; a song, "While Strolling Through the Park," by Lois Williams, Marina Rynearson, W. C. Martin and Charles Trude; two whistling numbers by Alice White; and in conclusion, three piano solos by W. C. Martin.

Junior Class Picnic

The junior class picnic was held after school Friday, May 18, at the Flaten ranch.

The evening was spent swimming, roasting weiners, playing games, dancing, and eating ice cream.

Approximately 40 students attended. Mr. Pyle and Mrs. Tate, class advisors, chaperoned.

Kitchen Shelf

For that discouraging open kitchen shelf, which leaves you to your own devices as far as covering goes, a blind provides a smart, sanitary and convenient solution. The blind permits free circulation of air and pulls up out of the way during working hours. Tape it to match your kitchen.

Hay Growers to Meet June 1st

An explanation of hay grades which bring highest prices, hay making methods to attain these grades, and a discussion of OPA price ceilings on hay will be the three-fold purpose of a meeting to be held in the 4-H club building on the county fair grounds in Eugene on June 1, starting at 1:30 o'clock, announces O. S. Fletcher, county agent. Hay growers, hay buyers, dealers and other interested persons are invited to attend the meeting.

To obtain top ceiling prices, as established recently by the OPA, growers will need to use methods that will insure hay of highest possible grade, says the county agent. High grade hay is that which has the greatest value in terms of production of milk or meat.

Representatives of the federal and state inspection service will be present to give a hay grading demonstration, using samples of various kinds of hay. E. R. Jackson, extension specialist in farm crops, will discuss hay making methods with special reference to quality, and T. S. Park, representative of the price division of the OPA, will interpret ceiling prices on alfalfa and other types of hay grown in the Willamette valley.

The meeting at Eugene is one of a series being held in Willamette valley counties by the extension service to aid producers, dealers, and users of hay in this territory.

DISTON SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

The eighth grade commencement exercises Thursday evening, May 17, marked the closing of the school year for the Diston school. At this time a program was presented on a stage with a background of green interwoven with dogwood, their class flower. The class members chose green and white for their class colors and the appropriate motto of "Work and Win."

The invocation was given by the Rev. Sylvester Jackson; song, "Fairy Ring" (Thomas); upper grades; essay, "Lewis and Clark Expedition," Charles Ballinger; essay, "Frontier Life and Democracy" (written by entire class), Lewis Ball; "Oregon State Song," upper grades; class prophecy, Joan Dixon; solos, "By the Bend in the River" (Clara Edwards), and "By the Waters of Minnetonka," an Indian love song, by Miss Eleanor Culver, accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Leta Culver; address, "Roads," by the Rev. Frank Brown; presentation of diplomas, Harry Mosby.

The graduating class was composed of Joan Dixon, Bertie Lee Ballew, Charles Ballinger, Lyle Wiscarson, Lewis Hass and Dallas Shepherd. Teachers at the Diston school this year were Mrs. L. W. Coiner, upper grades, and Mrs. Morrow, lower grades.

At the close of the exercises congratulations and gifts were given the graduates and refreshments were served.

Lions Take Junior Track Meet Here

The Cottage Grove Lions composed of non-lettersmen won the 7th annual junior track championship here Tuesday afternoon with a total score of 53½ points. Eugene high with a four man soph team took second place with 38 points, Springfield got third place with 27½ points, Uni high of Eugene, fourth with 26 points and Junction City, fifth with nine points.

Six new records were established by the contestants, three of these going to the Lions. Tom Busby of the Lions took two records in the high hurdles and high jump, placed second with the quarter mile and was a member of the second place relay team, amassing a total of 13½ points. Mike Duerst of the Lions set a new record for the mile in 4:58.3 bettering the record of Lee Krause in 1940 by 13 seconds.

The Lions placed in the following events: High hurdles, Busby, 1st, Porter, 4th; 100 yard dash, Campbell, 1st, Sheets 4th; mile, Duerst, 1st, Godard, 3rd; shot put, Githens, 2nd; 440 yard dash, Busby, 2nd, Wiese, 4th; pole vault, Campbell, 3rd, M. Campbell tied for fourth; low hurdles, Newton tied for first with Kirkpatrick of Springfield; high jump, Busby, 1st; 200 yard dash, Campbell, 2nd, Sheets, 4th; 220 yard dash, Campbell, 2nd, Sheets 4th; broad jump, Sheets, 4th; 880 yards, Duerst, 1st; football throw, Newton, 1st. The Lions also placed second in the mile relay.

Divide

Three of the cabins at Reed's store were destroyed by fire about 10 o'clock Sunday evening. It started in a cabin where the family were away and spread so rapidly that only part of the furniture and personal belongings of the occupants were saved.

Lyle Mullica came from Camp Livingston, Louisiana, to spend an 8-day furlough with his wife and son Dale. He will be stationed at New York on his return.

Amos McGarvin injured a leg in an accident in the woods last week.

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and is unable to work for a few days.

Mrs. Buelah Robinson left Monday for Tacoma, Washington, to visit with her son Dale and family.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUNGSTERS WARNED

High school youngsters and other juveniles were warned today that the recently observed fad of wearing clothing with the letters "PW" stenciled on them, may get them into trouble.

Pointing out the dangers of the practice, Col. Robert L. Allen Jr., commanding officer of Portland Port of Embarkation, explained that the letters "PW" are stenciled on the backs of outer garments worn by prisoners of war in the custody of the United States.

"The use of the identifying letters 'PW' on clothing is an extremely dangerous practice, as military personnel, on the alert for escaped prisoners of war, may mistake the prankster for prisoners and act accordingly," the Port Commander declared.

Congratulations

to the

High School Graduates

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HORSE RADISH, Mustard, B. Foods 9c

Catsup

Garden Brand

12 ounce 10c

SUN VALLEY Juices, ½ gal. 49c

TOMATO SOUP, Phillips 8c can

BEAN DINNERS, 33c value 15c ea.

KRAFT DINNERS 2 pkgs. 19c

Walnuts Oregon ungraded lb. 29c

White King Large Size Pkg. 23c

PEANUT BUTTER, Hoody's 2 lbs. 49c

APPLE BUTTER, point free! 25 oz. 29c

PLUM JAM, Del Monte No. 5 tin 89c

FOOD WRAP, Large roll 29c ea.

White Rose

Bleach

½ gal.

25c

Gallon

45c

Kitchen Klenzer

Large Glass Free

3 for 21c

PUREX, Drain Opener 15c can

CLEANEX Window Cleaner 25c lg size

VANISH Bowl Cleaner 25c can

GLO-COAT Quarts 98c

Flour Fisher's Homelike 50 lbs. \$2.09

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