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Seems a lot longer ago than one year that heavy snows closed the schools and temperatures dropped to about 13 degrees above the zero mark, doesn't it? But that was the weather picture at this time last year. Then the week after the big snow came the big rain. And I don't have to tell you what it's been like this year... 'cause by now you oughta know. Doesn't appear as if it's gonna change much, either. But I can get along without them white flakes, honest. Used to thoroughly enjoy it when I was just a lad... now it's a different story. How about you?

Don't fail to attend the big basketball tourney at Pacific Friday and Saturday nights. Them Pirates should show you some more exciting maneuvers... and they'd appreciate your continued support. They play Bandon in the second game Friday. If you remember last year, the Bucs whipped the Tigers at Bandon... then lost to 'em here in an overtime. They plan to change the story this year. The tourney starts at 7 p.m. both nights.

Nick Reynolds stopped by last Wednesday (when I was a printing this here newspaper) to show me a 23 1/2 pound stealie he'd managed to lure out of the Elk River. Couldn't get his picture 'cause I was gone... so I'll have to take his word for it. Don't know if I'll go along with his comment, however, that it lost a half-pound from evaporation on his way to town.

Talked to Floyd Chase at McNair Hardware on Monday... and he didn't fare quite as well. Matter of fact he didn't come close. He rolled out of the sack early that morning to have time to do a little fishing in the Sixes on his way to work, he told me... and from then on things got worse. He's apparently one of them type who has just a bit of a hard time getting fully awake that time of day. He did manage to get dressed and round up his gear o.k. He even remembered to remove his eggs from the refer and take 'em with him. When he got to the river it was still dark so he waited until it was just starting to break day... and began to rig up. He was still battin' 1,000... Right up until he dipped his hand into that carton of eggs... and came up with two fingers of his wife's favorite jam. I haven't checked back with him, but he made the statement that come evening time Monday... the food was gonna be REMOVED from that ol' refer.

In the "things you learn at chamber of commerce meetings department" Did you know that that dear sweet lady of pioneer stock Synera Lindberg once sailed as a cabin boy out of Astoria? You'll have to get all the exciting details direct, I didn't get the whole story.

Oregon's massive Litter Campaign has won further national acclaim. Keep America Beautiful, Inc., has awarded the fair State a big first prize in a nation-wide contest in litter-prevention. Texas and Michigan were named runners-up. How about that! The Oregon State Highway Division gets the credit.

Counting today, there's only ten short shopping days until Christmas. Which reminds me, I hear that the former jolly white-whiskered gift giver has changed his familiar cry of Ho! Ho! Ho!... to Owe! Owe! Owe!

While we're making remarks about the Yule Season... I'd like to remind you of some confusing schedules coming up. Next week we'll be publishing the Annual Greetings issue. Up to there everything's still routine. The next week, however, we have to print on Monday, Christmas Eve day, the 24th. But... the papers will not be mailed until Thursday, which is our regular mailing day. And that issue will carry the New Years' Greetings. Now the deadline for that issue (Dec. 27) is gonna have to be on Friday, December 21, at 5 p.m. And that's without fail.

We're gonna try to contact everybody that's in business hereabouts by this coming Saturday, December 15, for their greeting cards. But don't hesitate to call us if you're in the least doubt that you may be missed. It's sure possible... what with everything going against us at this point.

And a final reminder... the elementary and upper elementary Christmas Concerts will be held at the high school next Wednesday night at 7:30.

**Free Movie Is Saturday**

A Thief In The Night, a new color film will be shown at the Curry County Fairgrounds Bldg. on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. A Thief In The Night is a mighty motion picture about Bible prophecy. It shows what can happen when Jesus Christ returns. This exciting story centers around Patty, an average girl caught up in living for the present, with little concern about the future. What happens when this thinking finally catches up with her provides an action packed, unforgettable drama. The fast moving pace includes a young man confronted by a deadly Asian cobra, a young girl's daring escape from jail, and a take-over by "The Imperium" that regards all

who are not properly identified as enemies of the system. Filmed on location in Iowa, this picture portrays with devastating reality the Bible prediction, "There will be no place to hide." One does not merely view this film he experiences it. Every thinking person will seriously consider its impact.

**Services Slated**

Memorial services for Fred Roe, Port Orford, who died Dec. 7 at the Veterans Hospital in Portland will be held at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 14, at the Port Orford Community Church. Rev. Andy Baxter will officiate.



**TO THE EDITOR**

We'd like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone in the community who is concerned about the times and events in which we are living, to make a real effort to attend the show at the fairgrounds in Gold Beach this Saturday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. of the film, "A Thief in the Night." It is an exceptionally well done motion picture with an important message... one we believe no one can afford to miss. There is no admission charge.

Mr. and Mrs. Walt Schroeder  
 Mr. and Mrs. Buck Curtis  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hull

**Free Legal Aid On Tap**

Ms. Sandra Diedrich of Bandon, Chairperson of the Southwestern Oregon Community Action Council, and Roger Gould, representing the Legal Aid Committee of the Coos County Bar Association, announced this week the opening of a full time Legal Aid office, funded by a grant from the Community Action Council.

"The Council has been striving for many years to obtain legal services for the poor in Southwestern Oregon," said Ms. Diedrich. "Often the poor have been unable to exercise all of their rights under the law, now they will be afforded effective, competent legal services."

Gould stated that in the past, members of the bar have donated their services on a part time basis, but because of the grant a full time office has been opened in North Bend and a part time office will soon open in Gold Beach. According to Gould, the program has been incorporated as Coos-Curry Counties Legal Aid, Inc. Legal aid is staffed by a full-time Attorney-Director, Allen Drescher, a para-legal, Mary Rey, and a part-time receptionist, Secretary, Debby Amela.

Legal assistance will be provided only for non-criminal matters that are not fee-generating. According to Mr. Gould, fee-generating cases are those likely to produce enough money to permit the hiring of a private attorney. Persons who have an annual income of not more than \$250 for an individual PLUS \$50 for each dependent may qualify for the legal assistance program.

A Legal Aid office has been established at the South Western Oregon Community College Annex, 1481 Airport Way, North Bend. A second office will open Dec. 13 in the Gold Beach City Hall. Clients may arrange for appointments by calling 756-3176 in North Bend or 247-6743 in Gold Beach.

**Need Vehicle For License**

If you have moved to Oregon this year and your out-of-state license plates will soon be expiring, the Oregon Motor Vehicles Division reminds you that you must bring your vehicle to a field office when you apply for your Oregon title and registration.

Oregon law requires the division to inspect the vehicle identification number of all vehicles bearing out-of-state license plates before an Oregon title can be issued.

There is a \$5 fee to inspect the vehicle identification number. The law applies to all types of vehicles except campers and snowmobiles.

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**'SEMI-RATIONING GASOLINE' - A WORKABLE PLAN**

No one among us is pleased at the thought of our not having enough gasoline to permit us to drive our cars where and when we wish. We're irked at both the oil companies and at the government planners for the fact that there wasn't some clear indication given us of this possibility even before the Arab oil squeeze. But the fact is that the nation faces an acute oil shortage, and it's estimated that we'll have to cut gasoline consumption by 25% over this winter. If we are to meet this goal, it's clear we're going to have to face more stringent measures than those that have been announced so far.

Mandatory allocation is now on the immediate horizon, but even combined with the reduction of speed limits and the banning of Sunday retail sales of gas, it isn't likely to be adequate to achieve the kind of massive reduction in consumption that we need.

The two most frequently discussed possibilities for the future are: one, increasing the federal gasoline tax to force people to cut down on gasoline consumption; and, two, implementing a rationing system. Both have serious disadvantages.

Perhaps the most obvious disadvantage of an increase in the federal gasoline tax is that it would work a particular hardship on the poor whose jobs may well depend on gasoline. Pleasure driving could become a pastime reserved strictly for the wealthy.

Moreover, economists have warned that a significant increase in the gasoline tax could have a depressive effect on the economy and lead to higher unemployment.

A straight gasoline rationing system poses its own problems. It would require a huge administrative bureaucracy that would be costly as well as unwieldy. And experience from World War II tells us that rationing is hardly ever fair and leads to "black marketing."

With these very significant problems in mind, what is the answer? A system of "semi-rationing", now under consideration by the Administration, seems to make a good deal of sense. Semi-rationing would combine aspects of rationing and of taxation, hopefully minimizing the weaknesses of each approach on its own.

Under semi-rationing a substantial federal tax would be placed on all gasoline. At the same time each person would be given a ration of gas stamps for a certain weekly allotment of gasoline. Those stamps could either be used to pay the tax at the time the basic allotment is purchased or they could be redeemed or sold for cash. Any person purchasing more than the basic allotment would pay full price therefor, including the tax.

The hardship on low-income persons would be much less than if the tax on gas were increased with no rationing. Since people could still buy gas without stamps, there would be very little profit in black marketing. Since the additional cost would be to pay a tax, the oil companies would not profit. Finally, the amount of money taken out of the economy would be less than a straight increase in the gasoline tax, reducing the likelihood of a recession.

One thing is clear. The problem is not going to disappear. The Administration should move firmly and swiftly, and I have urged them to do exactly that.

**Vet Pensions To Increase**

Increased benefits will be reflected in February Veterans Administration pension checks for nearly 36,000 disabled Oregon veterans and survivors of deceased Oregon veterans. Portland VA Regional Office Director, Donna M. Arndt said today.

A cost-of-living increase in these VA benefits is authorized by a law signed by the President Dec. 6. The law is effective Jan. 1, 1974.

Mrs. Arndt said the increase will average 10 percent for veterans and widows on VA pension rolls and parents drawing dependency and indemnity compensation. Increased pension payments also will go to children of veterans.

Pensions are paid by the VA on the basis of need to veterans permanently and totally disabled from nonservice causes and to widows and children of veterans who died of nonservice-connected disabilities.

DIC payments are made to widows, unmarried children under 18, and certain parents of veterans and servicemen

who died of service-connected disabilities. The new law increased DIC rates only for parents. Mrs. Arndt noted.

Among other highlights of the new law: --Maximum pension payable to veterans without dependents increased from \$20 to \$50 monthly, if hospitalized more than two months.

--Pension for veterans with no dependents and incomes of not more than \$300 annually increased from \$130 to \$143 monthly.

--Pension for veterans with one dependent and incomes of not more than \$500 annually increased from \$140 to \$154 monthly.

--Widows with no dependents and incomes of not more than \$300 annually increased from \$87 to \$96 monthly.

--Death pension rates for children increased from \$42 monthly plus \$17 monthly for each additional child, to \$44 monthly plus \$18 monthly for each additional child.

--Authorized lump sum payment of \$25,000 to certain veterans discharged from the



McNAIR HARDWARE manager Floyd Chase shows new items in area of store that is being remodeled to display home entertainment items, including RCA television and Panasonic record players, tape decks and recording equipment.

**Joins Gift Sending Plan**

A Port Orford area merchant is part of a new nationwide gift-giving system that makes it possible to have a gift delivered almost anywhere in the country within hours.

The system is operated by GiftAmerica, a subsidiary of the Western Union Corporation. Deliveries are made through the network of 5,500 GiftAmerica dealers across the nation, and purchases can be charged to most major credit cards.

Gifts, which are on display at GiftAmerica stores, range in price from \$15 to \$45. The local dealer relays all orders to GiftAmerica's computerized service center in St. Louis, Mo., which in turn, contacts the dealer nearest the recipient's home. This dealer signs the special occasion card, wraps the gift and delivers it.

Customers who can't visit a dealer may call a toll-free number ---800-342-577 ---to order from GiftAmerica directly.

The gift line is displayed at all participating local dealers. The Port Orford-area GiftAmerica dealer is Port Orford Drug.

Army as a result of an incident in Brownsville, Tex. Aug. 13, 1906, or \$10,000 to their unmarried widows.

Additional information on pension benefits may be obtained by calling or visiting the VA Regional Office, 426 SW Stark St., Portland.

**Citizen Group Being Formed**

L. B. Day, chairman of the Land Conservation and Development Commission announced that the Commission will soon form the State Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee, required by Senate Bill 100, to assist the Commission in obtaining widespread citizen involvement in all phases of the planning process.

The Committee will be responsible for recommending to the Commission a program that promotes and enhances public participation in the development of state-wide planning goals and guidelines. The Committee must also review the proposed citizen involvement programs of local government submitted by the counties and the Columbia Region Association of Governments, and recommend to the Commission whether or not the proposed program adequately provides for public involvement in the planning process.

The Commission will appoint a committee of 9-11 members broadly representative of the geographic areas of the state and of interests relating to land use and land use decisions. The members will serve for a one-year term, and may be reappointed for subsequent terms.

The Commission is asking for suggestions of individuals who would be willing to serve on this committee. Suggestions are needed before the Commission's Dec. 13 meeting, when they hope to make the

committee appointments. Recommendations may be sent to L. B. Day, Chairman, Land Conservation and Development Commission, 240 Cottage St., S. E., Salem, Ore. 97310.

The Commission is also interested in any suggestions regarding citizen involvement programs. Day urged that anyone who has recommendations for citizen involvement send them to the Commission.

**New Paintings**

The new art exhibit at Zion Lutheran Church is a mixed show of paintings by Mabel Molther, an active member of the Coquille Valley Art Association.

Mrs. Molther has been painting for ten years, studying under Ruth Lennom, Pernal Duff, E. John Robinson, Vickie McKean Smith, Maggie Karl and Fred Gordon.

**Christian Science Society**

315 Hillcrest—Gold Beach  
 Sunday Service 10 a.m.  
 Sunday School 9 a.m.  
 Wednesday Service 8 p.m.  
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