

Mrs. Harry Smith Relates Trip To Puerto Rico

Mrs. Harry Z. Smith, now of Cave Junction, but once resident of Harbor, vacationing with her husband in Puerto Rico, wrote the following letter, which is of interest to her many friends:

"Roosevelt Roads, P. R., Jan. 10. Dear Friends: Our son's home overlooks the ocean much the same as yours does, so we have been reminded of you many times. It is on the eastern-most tip of Puerto Rico, called Point Puerca, as it resembles a pig's head in shape. We continue to be fascinated by the colorful changes of the tropic seas. Close by are Culebra and Vieques Islands and in the far distance we see St. Thoms. We have given up flying to St. Thomas as we are told on every hand that the charm of the island has been lost since it's become a millionaire divorce capital.

"We took plenty of time for the trip to New Orleans where we stored our car to sail for Puerto Rico. One of the most interesting sights along the way was 'White Sands National Monument'—miles and piles of pure gypsum sands creating an illusion of snow in the desert. The date harvest was on at Indio where we visited friends and we became 'date milkshake' addicts.

"Harry thoroughly enjoyed the long trip through Texas. We visited again with friends there and as an extra treat heard the 'Messiah' superbly done by the Southern Methodist University choral union, accompanied by the Dallas Symphony. That made up a little for our missing the same at U. of O. where our daughter sings in the choral union.

"I was fascinated by the many familiar plants in the Louisiana swamps, magnolias, sweet-gum, palmettos, iris, etc., even if it wasn't blooming season.

"There are many interesting plants in bloom here now and the leaves of many plants are as colorful as uowers of others. We found two species of orchids in bloom in El Yungue forest, the only U. S. forest outside continental U. S. The palm and tree ferns covered slopes were most picturesque (we hope our 35mm kodak does them justice) Harry and Harry Jr. were more interested in picking wild bananas and rain didn't stom 'em. It rains every day there but the next few minutes the sun shines and everything is lovely.

San Juan has its decided contrasts of extreme poverty and wealth. Color lines are not too closely drawn it seems. There are many beautiful homes old and new with the charm of Spanish architecture and no one can escape looking at the ultra mod-

ern Cante-Hilton hotel. As good tourists we couldn't miss seeing the old Spanish forts, Cristobal and Morro Castle, dating from the 16th and 17th centuries.

"Through our daughter-in-law we met interesting old families and enjoyed seeing their beautiful homes. Almost all furniture is solid mahogany, the modern pieces coming from the Dominican Republic and Haiti, P. R. Mahogany has mostly been cut, though this El Yunke Preserve is helping to renew its importance.

"Good oranges and bananas can be had for 1c apiece, and large pineapples for 12c to 18c each. Papayas are in season, too, though rather tasteless. We like very much a traditional Puerto Rican dish, pasteles, which resembles tamales, using plantain instead of corn meal and wrapped in bana leaves."

"We enjoyed the trip over by boat so much we have decided to go back the same way instead of flying. We leave here the 21st and plan to be home the middle of February. By that time, I'll be more than anxious to see my garden and how it fared during the snowy winter, I understand we are having — and more important still, to see our new granddaughter who arrived on the fourth of January." With best wishes for 1950. Harry & Effie Smith."

LOCAL NEWS

Ben Turner has returned home from San Francisco where he recently underwent an operation to have a piece of dire removed from his leg, where it had been imbedded for the past 42 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wallin received a cable from their daughter, Charlotte, from Capetown, Africa, that she had gotten that far all right. She has about 1000 miles more travel to the north to Gwelo, Southern Rhodesia, before she reaches her destination.

Bob Mead was the first veteran in this area, reported to have received his dividend check.

Along Azalea Row

Once upon a time a man who thought as he worked, observed his mule's tracks with great interest. There was a reason for this. He had plowed and planted his wheat. Disaster struck. The drought and searing winds ruined his crop. Only where the mule had trod the wheat grew up. Thereafter when he planted, he dragged his field and by pressing the soil down, retained more of the moisture. This is a common practice now. This little tale and others of individuals like him is heartening after reading a book like "Our Plundered Planet."

I was about to give you a report of Mrs. Chester Maris' review at the last meeting of Azalea Club, but why should I when

you can read it for yourself? The book is timely and interesting and may be obtained at Chetco Community Library.

The subject is man's conduct with nature, particularly in regard to soil erosion and cut over timber lands. With New York City in the midst of a serious water shortage due to years of apathy and indifference, with dust storms blowing again in the mid-west, and the ground water in California rapidly depleted, perhaps we are our own worst enemies. Should we view with any alarm? No, indeed not! Inform ourselves, think while we work, and find our particular place in the scheme of things and work constructively.

Farmers and ranchers of Oregon are becoming increasingly alert to new methods of farming and conservation practices according to J. H. Christ, Pacific coast regional conservator of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service. "The growing movement of farmers to conserve the state's soil and water resources is a good sign that a part of Oregon soils are in safe keeping for future generations," Christ said.

By mid-year Oregon had 27 organized soil conservation districts and six additional communities have received district status putting approximately 2,500,000 more acres under district banner. The movement to put Oregon's farmlands in line for needed conservation work has spread to include one-twelfth of the state's land area and one-sixth of the ranches. Large lumber companies like Weyerhaeuser now maintain forestry schools for their employees. People individually as well as the agricultural colleges and government and state bureaus are increasingly aware of conservation as a needed practice. Bringing conservation down to the garden catalog level, we are trying not to order too much this year.

Not more than we can plant or need, however, there is a wonderful new tomato out which will grow in cool foggy summer weather and so should be perfect for planting along the ocean. Tomato No. 52, it is called. Disease resistant and wilt and blight practically unknown. We marked

down the new petunias "Fire Chief" as a must. A deep rich red which looks especially beautiful with white petunias. In the rose line Sutter's Gold, Capistrano, Mission Bells and Fashion

are the four rose winners. Did you know you can cut gladioli bulbs and increase them in that way? So our horticulture chairman, Mrs. Walt Wollam has told us.—B. Miller.

SPECIAL FOR THE WEEK

Beginning Thursday, Jan. 26, Dress Shirts finished for 2 for 35c (Reg. 25c).

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1937 Plymouth coupe. In good shap, \$200. Box 213, City. 48tf

For Sale: Potatoes, 3c pound, any quantity. See Arch Bingham, Hwy 1001, Rivers End. 47-2*

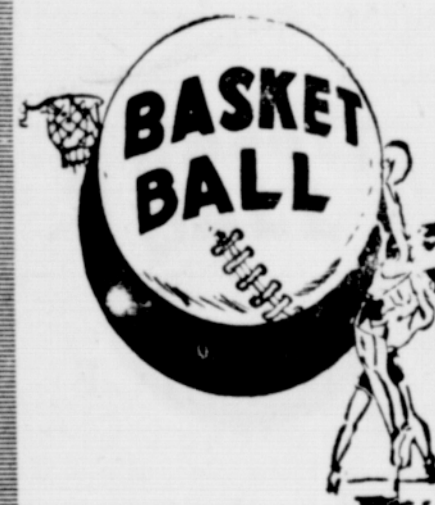
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First Game

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

High School Gymnasium, 7 p. m.

These are two of the strongest teams from Crescent City league, and should give the Ramrods plenty of competition.. Ramrods are out for revenge Thursday night after losing two games to McNamara-Peepe, of Crescent City, the star-studded gang.

SENIOR CLASS DANCE

Sponsored by the P.-T. A.

CHETCO GRANGE HALL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

Dancing 9 to 1 Everyone Invited