

Going From Bad to Verse

By Bernice Swanson

The rain is pouring all around, it falls on field and tree,
I slowed the car as I drew near "Our Brookings by the Sea"
Such friendly thoughts are mine, today, as into town I drive.
I note how Chetco Boulevard looks like a Big Bee-Hive.
The cars are milling all around and it is nearly dark.
All trying in a frantic way to find a place to park.
And now I reflect, "it's quite a pity
Since we have Parking Meters in our Fair City"
Why some folks think it's such a crime
To put in 5c or even a dime.
But they'll crowd and get their fenders bent
Just to save that extra cent
Which we should consider only a privilege
To help support our thriving village.
They'll wait until the thing expires
Then run pell-mell like reporting a fire
And slither in with trembling jaw
Just one second ahead of the law.
They don't seem to know they can always depend
On the local Policeman to be their best friend.
Oh well, you say, as your thoughts unfurled
It takes all kinds to make a world.
Whoops, there's a meter with plenty of time
So you make a U-Turn to save you a dime.
You skid through the slush and come to a halt
You got a small dent but it wasn't your fault.
Who does that guy think he is anyhow?
He should never drive anything but a plow.
I've just as much right to park in that space!
Wow! did you see the look on his face!
It's getting late and you've errands galore
It's a good thing you parked by the drug and dime store.
The Post Office is packed it will never fail
The whole blamed town is getting their mail.
You meet everyone that you ever knew
And there isn't a single thing you can do
But stop and pass the time of day.
You can't be rude, it doesn't pay.
"Why, I haven't seen you in ages!" she squealed
(It was year before last in some lily field)
You don't mind saying "It's getting late"
The nerve of her saying I've put on weight.
"She's no string bean," you murmur with lack of affection
As young daughter tugs you in the opposite direction.
You vow you won't take her to town any more
If she doesn't quit coaxing you to the Dime Store.
You hurry back to Moore's for a spool of thread
And then up to Dimmick's for a loaf of bread.
You dash past Chad's but you've still time to think
"Golly, how much coffee do those men drink."
You run to the Drug Store, on needles and pins



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You've just enough money for vitamins.
This living is getting to be no joke
The day after payday and you're already broke.
Poor Pa insists the expenses must taper
All he gets out of life is his daily paper.
You sail blithly out with your arms pled high,
Your mind on your dinner when you jump sky high!
There on the windshield is a neat yellow slip
For overtime parking, you let out a yip.
You crumble it up to cram in your purse
Things are going from bad to worse.
"What a lousy system, a dirty trick,
It's high time someone put in a kick.
Why, a defenseless woman don't stand a chance
Regardless of the circumstance.
All the while it's been raining, your hair's like a mop
You'd like to get your hands on that cop.
There's nothing that leaves you so full of fight
Why you could shoot that man on sight.
Why don't they stick around so you could explain
How you'd things to do and weren't to blame.
On a Cop's meagre salary, he'd be in a pickle,
If for each stop, it cost him a nickle.
You slam the door with a tearful frown
Step on the gas and get out of town,
And you swear as you drive through the streets so sloppy
You'll park down where Daddy parks his jalopy.

Children's Party At St. Timothy's Church

All children of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church are invited to a Christmas party to be held from 3 to 5 P.M. on Saturday, December 19th at the VFW Hall. A dress rehearsal for the Christmas program will precede the party and all children are asked to be at the hall by 2 P.M. sharp. The Christmas program will be given during the morning service, Sunday, December 20th.

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CATHOLICS TO HAVE MIDNIGHT MASS

Christmas services at Star of the Sea Catholic church will consist of high mass starting at midnight Christmas eve. Traditional carols and the music for the mass will be furnished by the adult choir under the direction of Mrs. Violet Schiewe.

There will be no further services during the daylight hours.

Masses are scheduled for Gold Beach at 8 A.M. and at Port Orford at 10 A.M. Christmas morning.

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