

BROOKINGS-HARBOR PILOT

Entered as second-class matter, at the postoffice at Brookings, Oregon, March 7, 1946, under the Act of March 3, 1879

MINNA AKERS, Owner and Publisher

WILLIAM G. PHELPS, EDITOR

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
One Year in advance (in Curry County)\$3.00
One Year, in advance (outside Curry County)\$3.50

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Shall District 17 Withdraw?

The voters of School District 17C will ballot next Monday on whether or not this district should withdraw from the County Rural School District.

On the surface, it may not appear to be a very important issue. Actually, it is, both in the matter of finances and in the control of our schools.

Under the present plan, Schools in Curry County are administered by a five-man board chosen from the county at large. One of them may or may not be a resident of this district.

Among the functions of this group is one calling for them to apportion tax receipts for the county schools among the county schools. To do so, they often find it necessary to cut the budget which the individual districts have submitted. When that happens, the individual district has to return to its own voters to make up the difference.

Last year, for example, the County School Board cut District 17C's budget by \$14,351. But even worse for local taxpayers was the fact that they had payed into the county-wide fund \$27,538.00 more than they received, and were still short the \$14,000 which had been cut from the local district's budget.

The amount which District 17 pays into the fund over its receipts is hard to figure, because it will vary from year to year. School board members are sure it will average at least \$20,000 per year, and with last year as an example, that seems to be modest.

But more important than money is the quality of our schools, and the County Rural School District has long been abused in Oregon. Dr. Holy's well-known report on Oregon education says: "In many instances the rural board has accepted the least adequate provision within the county as standard, and this has tended to bring all the districts down to this lowest level." This is, we fear, true also of Curry County.

Whatever we decide, we must do it now. State law provides that we must vote on the question within 90 days of the census, or remain within the Rural District forever. If we fail to vote for withdrawal, we cannot vote again at a later time. We go out now or not at all.

And we cannot see that we have a single thing to gain by remaining within the County Rural School District. By withdrawing, we will make large financial savings, but more important than that, we will have regained control of our schools here at home. On every count, we are certain that we should vote for withdrawal.

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**FOR
WHAT
IT'S
WORTH**
By
**CLIFFORD P.
ROWE**

Of late years as Christmas approaches, I find myself, strangely enough, looking forward wistfully to the time when I shall be a grandfather.

This newly developing attitude on my part is, I believe, due to the fact in my opinion Christmas day without the wee tots around is as depressing as I imagine it would be for an American to be alone in Stalingrad on the Fourth of July.

My youngsters are dignified teen-agers now which means that this Christmas morning will be devoid of the screeches and squeals of genuine delight over the newly unwrapped doll which cries and wets. Neither will there be in evidence the boyish exuberance as an ambitious lad tries boring holes in the dining room table with one of his new carpentering tools.

Each year I miss more the sloppy kisses and the day-long "thank you's" which, in the past, always followed the morning distribution of the gifts left by Santa. Selfishly perhaps, I am also missing the fun I once had in assembling the train tracks, helping in the first construction undertaking with the new erector set, and acting as baby sitter for the daughter's latest addition to the doll family.

Of course, we still have Christmas. But all the gifts will be so depressingly sensible. Worse yet, everyone will be expecting them. Thus all the delightful element of surprise will be smothered by the certainty that no one will be forgotten, regardless of how good or bad he has been the preceeding year. The very fact that the Christmas dinner will be considered of equal importance in the day's activities is an indication in itself of the manner in which the festivities have deteriorated.

That is why I can see the advantage of someday being a grandfather. Then once more the Christmas tree will come alive and the day will once again demonstrate that "it is more blessed to give than to receive".

**Grange Party
Saturday Eve**

The Chetco Grange No. 765 will hold their Christmas party Friday, Dec. 18, at 8 p.m. All Grangers and their friends are invited. Gifts are to be exchanged, and adults are asked to bring a gift not less than 50 cents in value. Parents are asked to bring a gift for their own children and marked with the child's name.

A Christmas program with Santa and all the trimmings is planned.

Anyone having a Christmas piece or song to contribute to the program will be welcome.

LOOKING FOR FISH

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Thompson and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sequin of Salem, spent Monday fishing the Chetco and the Winchuck. They reported beautiful rivers but no fish except for one "flounder or something" Ray snagged off the rocks at Mill Beach.

**SAY MERRY CHRISTMAS
WITH FISHING GEAR FROM
GALLAGHER'S TACKLE SHOP**

For Gifts See—Yeltons

LETTER TO EDITOR

For my friends and pals in the Plywood from Scottie in Barnes hospital, Vancouver, Ward 7.

Well, Boys, I guess I'm once more in the driver's seat. After 1½ months, the Doc thinks I can come home for Christmas, so all get ready for some kidding. I hear some of the boys are sliding around on knots and getting relief. That's not what I used to call it. Ask Ed Ravekes what it's called.

This sure is some swell place. The nurses young and pretty foxy (ha ha). The feeds are fine. There are over 600 patients in all kind of shapes. Our doctor is one of the seven best in the U. S. What made mine so tough is the mistakes the doc made in 1945, so this time it called for a full sized job, and at my age it was about all the old cuss could take. But with a lot of kicking, and loud talk, it seems as if I'll be back to raise the devil with some of you. Especially that long legged guy who you call Andy, or the Big Shot. I'd like to have a round with him today. So would you. Well it will wait, Andy Boy, until then.

So this is to all you fellows at the Plywood and Sawmill, and don't forget the Engine Room. Good luck to all, A Happy Christmas and New Year, and old Scottie will soon be seeing you.

F. E. (Scottie) BLACHLY.

While I hold no brief for J. McCarthy and his ilk I non-the-less take note of a statement in your editorial on "The Issue in 1954" to it: "Because we hate and Fear communism we must..."

forget that it is not the only evil in the world"—Come, come now, Mr. Editor; since when has communism become important enough to fear? (Hell bombs and "G" gas notwithstanding).

If we must fear someone let us at least choose someone our equals or better. At any rate all that I've been able to learn about Ivan to date is this:—(a) After World War II a great deal of trouble was caused by the communists because they lived in underground cells, they came out once every year, on May Day, to see if they cast a shadow, they always did.

(b) The communists owe their origin to Karl, oldest of the Marx Brothers, who described the rest of the world in a book called Das Kaput-all. Although no one has ever read it, it is widely discussed.

(c) Communists go around with clenched fists and thus are terribly hard to shake hands with.

So, for my money, Mr. Editor, I'll still regard Ivan with simple humorous contempt.

A. DEPHILLIPS.

**Straley-Hahn
Wed Sunday**

Alta Hahn of Grants Pass, Ore. and Lee Straley of Harbor were united in marriage Sunday, Dec. 13, 1953 by Charles Schaal.

The couple were attended by Mr. and Mrs. Percy Evans and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Morrison. Following the wedding the party had dinner at the Smorghbord in Crescent City.

The Straleys will make their home on Highway 101 in South Harbor.

Flowers

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