

On the Reef

By BILL PHELPS

Santa Claus went up the Chetco yesterday on his way to the house he almost forgot to visit.

His pack was as big as ever, or perhaps a little larger, and his girth was just about the same as has been previously reported. But he was riding a jeep instead of a sleigh, and in the face he bore a strong resemblance to Deputy Sheriff Wes Smith. In the backend, beside the pack he carried, was a steelhead rod, since Santa believes in combining pleasure with pleasure.

His destination was a home on the Chetco, which Wes had discovered a few days earlier. In it were a family with a ten year old boy. They were isolated up the river—no work, no money, no food and no Christmas.

But there will be Christmas, thanks to Wes and to the people of this area who heard about the family from him. In the jeep behind him was food and clothing and toys; enough to make a Christmas for any family.

There was an apple box full of fruit and groceries from the Dimmick brothers—oranges and apples, coffee and milk and sugar. There was another box of groceries—ten dollars worth ordered by Dr. Durden of the Community Church, and filled by Dimmicks'—and Wes says it was the largest ten dollars worth he ever saw: there were potatoes and carrots from Archie McVay, and boxes of canned fruit and vegetables and salmon from Cedar Lane canneries, with toys tucked in here and there from Faye and Rex Hayes. There were two boxes from the Community Baptist Church filled with groceries; there were new shoes for the boy donated anonymously, and clothing and candy for him from the Arrell's at Chetco Drug. And, finally, there was a turkey from Larry Moore, up the Chetco.

And awaiting a future trip by Wes were groceries from Hiway Market and Hanscam's — to make sure that Christmas doesn't end too soon.

It probably happens at other places — but nowhere else do people respond so generously and so swiftly as they do in Brookings. There'll be a real Christmas in the home on the Chetco that Santa almost forgot.

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Holiday Season Shines Over Homes and Stores Here

Brookings, Harbor and the surrounding area awaited Christmas today, and a holiday glow was in the air from Cape Ferrello to Smith River. Christmas lights glowed from the shrubbery and from the windows all along the highway and through the streets.

Last minute shoppers were still on the streets, though the stores were scheduled to close at six this evening, and some were closing earlier. But in most homes the families were drawing together, expectantly, to await the coming of the most important man in the world—Santa Claus.

In Brookings, last minute festivities were high-lighted by the Community Christmas Tree, erected by the Volunteer Firemen, where children were to congregate tonight at seven.

Local homes and stores were gay with Christmas decorations. In Brookings, a number of stores had outstanding decorations: The flood-lighted tree at Ostenberg's, with Santa and his reindeer riding just outside the store; the hand-carved Austrian Creche at

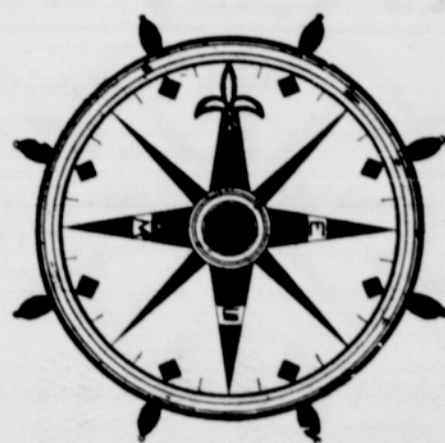
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Nowhere A Finer Climate — Nowhere A Finer Community

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PRICE ON NEWSSTANDS—TEN CENTS

Thursday, December 24, 1953



Voters Approve Withdrawal

DISTRICT 17 BECOMES FIRST CLASS DISTRICT

School District 17 became an independent first-class school district Monday, as voters approved withdrawal from the County Rural School District by a vote of 103 to 1.

By so doing, the voters set into operation a chain of events which will affect both the local district and the county at large.

First and foremost, the local district will now be administered, beginning with the next school year, entirely by its local school board, which will increase to five members. The next election will choose three additional members, one to replace Chairman Harold Crump, and two additional.

Financing provisions for the district will also change, since the budget for the local district will now be prepared by a local committee and approved by this district's school board, instead of being submitted to the county school board for revision, as was formerly done.

Withdrawal of the district will also affect the remainder of the county, since funds from the Brookings district will no longer be pooled and redivided in the county. Thus the county budget may have to be reappraised after the Brookings withdrawal.

One other effect will be to transfer the county school superintendent's office from an appointive one to an elective one. An election will be held for that post at the time the Brookings withdrawal becomes effective.

The Christmas Story

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one to his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.—Luke II, 1-20

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east of Jerusalem,

Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.—St. Matthew II, 1-2.

Santa Claus At Tree Tonight

Santa Claus will make his last public appearance in Brookings tonight at 7 o'clock before going to work on the stockings this Christmas Eve, when he'll be present at the Community Tree, erected by the volunteer firemen.

The children of the Community will be on hand to gather around Santa with last minute instructions for the trip down the chimney.

For the firemen, the tree marks the carrying on of a tradition that first began in 1934, the year that they were formed. Only in a couple of war-time years has the community tree been omitted.

Kerr's; the revolving tree at Gould's; the silvery, bow-tied one at Art Knox's; the Gingerbread House at Phillip's, and the lovely tree at Hendrick's; and many others.