

**On the Reef**

By BILL PHELPS

I glanced up from my typewriter today, and happened to see 1953 on his way out. For a discarded year he didn't look too bad. There were a few scars and bruises visible here and there, but he looked pretty jaunty, considering the fact that he had only one day more to live.

"I claim I haven't done too badly," he said, complacently, as he settled back on the curb. "You can look back through the books and you can find a lot of years that you can say worse things about than you can me."

"The farmers don't think much of you," I replied.

"Well, that's true," he admitted. "Neither do the Brooklyn Dodgers nor the democrats. But I always say you can't please everybody."

"And there's a few things I'm downright proud of. Take Korea, for instance. It's been quite awhile since there was a year that could report a truce, even as uneasy a truce as this one is. I didn't do bad there."

"Well, that's right," I admitted. "Anything else you're proud of?"

"Quite a bit," he replied complacently. "Business is still up. We stopped a war and didn't start a depression, and lots of people said we couldn't do it."

"And Oregon beat Southern Cal in football," he continued. "Doggone few years that can say that. Why, up at Eugene they're even thinking about making it 1953 permanently."

"You didn't do so well by the Brookings Beavers," I reminded him.

"True," he admitted. "Pete Lesmeister kicked a couple of times because of that. But I promised him a couple of pitchers for next year. Can't promise much to Art Guthrie, though. He ain't speaking to me anymore."

"Well, you can't please everybody," I comforted him.

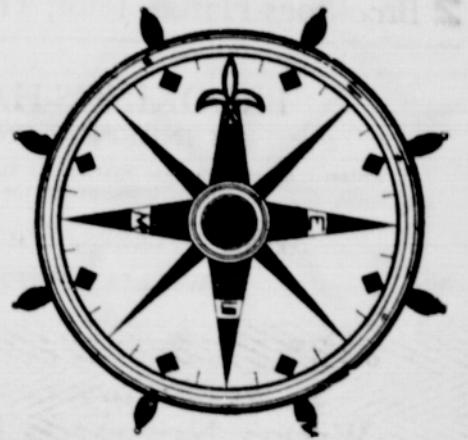
"That's right," he agreed. "And I pleased quite a few. Look around you. See the people here in Brookings? See those new businesses along main street? See the new buildings? Can't say I haven't done all right by this town."

"And, finally," he went on, "I don't want to hear any complaints from you. Just in case you've forgotten, I'm the year that brought you to this town."

He got up, and started down the road. And I felt very sad to see him go. Because he's right... he did all right, by me, bringing me here.

# Brookings-Harbor Pilot

**Nowhere A Finer Climate - Nowhere A Finer Community**



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BROOKINGS, CURRY COUNTY, OREGON  
PRICE ON NEWSSTANDS—TEN CENTS

Thursday, December 31, 1953

## OLD YEAR GOOD FOR BROOKINGS

Thursday night marks the end of 1953, and local people generally have decided that for a decrepit old year he hasn't done too badly.

While nationally 1953 may be known as the year that saw a downturn in prosperity, little of the downturn showed up here. For Brookings, 1953 was a year of continued growth.

Statistics released late in December showed Curry County as Oregon's fastest growing county, with a 38 per cent increase in population since the 1950 census, largest by far in the state. And the southern end of the county seemed to be getting more than its share of the increase.

Generally, logging and lumbering held up well through the year, despite plywood price slumps which have already bounced upward. Oregon's lumbering counties generally seemed to come through the year well.

Lily growers here reported small crops and better prices, and the two together seemed to give a little better return than they have in the past few years.

Tourist travel through 1953 was down along the coast, the only noticeable bump in local economy. The upturn was believed to be due to construction on Highway 101 as well as improvements on other routes, and local businessmen seemed to feel that tourist travel would improve in proportion to the improvements in highways.

1953 brought lots to Brookings. A number of new businesses were established during the year, and population of the city was estimated to be up around 15 per cent during the past year.

### LIEUTENANT HERE

Lt. Ruth O'Holleran, USMC, flew from Camp Pendleton in southern California where she is stationed, to spend Christmas with her family, the J. M. O'Hollerans.

## Traffic Hints

Police Chief Bud Cross this week issued a special plea to everyone to drive carefully over the New Year's holiday. "We need you all around here," Bud said, "so drive carefully, so you'll be here for 1954."

And Bud also congratulated the community on its spotless record over the Christmas days. Not a wreck marked the holiday period here.

## BURNS FATAL TO MRS. WILSON

Mrs. Harriett Wilson, 83, of Brookings died Wednesday morning from burns and shock suffered the previous day.

Mrs. Wilson was burned Tuesday morning when her clothes caught fire after she had backed into a stove. She was treated at home by Doctor Paul Ronniger, but died the following morning from the effects of the burns and shock.

Mrs. Wilson was the mother of Cliff Wilson of this city. A complete obituary will follow.

## Lucky 7 Club Repairs Bike

An 11 year old Brookings girl was riding her bicycle again this week — thanks to the Lucky 7 Club.

Naomi Sanders is the young lady who had her bicycle stolen and stripped not long ago. The thieves took off wheels, handlebars, accessories, etc. and abandoned the remains.

This week the Lucky 7 Club returned Naomi's bicycle to her—completely rebuilt. Now she's riding again, and she's a very thankful young lady.

## Jacket Makers To Meet Thursday

The Chetco Home Extension Unit held their regular meeting December 23, at the home of Florence Davis, with 14 present. There was a gift exchange, followed by refreshments.

Those members of the unit who are making woolen jackets are reminded that there will be an all-day meeting at the Grange Hall on Thursday, Jan. 7, starting at 10:30. Members are to bring a sack lunch. It will be followed by meetings January 14 and 21.

The regular meeting of the unit is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 20, with cake-decorating the order of the day. It will be an all-day meeting, with a pot-luck lunch.

## PTA To Meet

The Parent-Teachers Association will meet Thursday, Jan. 7 at the school, according to President Mrs. Ellen Arrell.

Subject of the meeting is recreation. The second grade will serve refreshments.

## LOCAL LEADERS SEE CONTINUED PROSPERITY AND GROWTH IN 1954 FOR BROOKINGS-HARBOR AREA

### New Year's Eve Dances Scheduled

A quiet New Year's Eve seems to be in prospect locally, with most people planning few activities that night.

Two dances were scheduled locally. At the Harbor Grange Hall, the Chetco Grange is holding a New Year's Eve dance. And at Smith River the American Legion Post is planning a New Year's Eve ball.

A number of private organizations, such as the Eagles were also planning on holding celebrations for their members. And numerous groups of friends were planning to congregate and see the Old Year out.

### Rotarians Hold Dinner For Wives

Members of the Brookings-Harbor Rotary Club entertained their wives and other guests at a dinner Monday night at the Cliff House. Over 100 attended the dinner, which is an annual affair.

Principal speaker for the evening was Luther Tisdale, who discoursed on various types of humor, with examples.

Other entertainment was provided by Freddy Fox, who sang two tenor solos and by members of the Barbershoppers who sang. Roy Brown was master of ceremonies.

### Santa Busy Around Here

Christmas activities were giving way this week to New Year's celebrations, and the children were settling down to a fairly normal routine.

With Christmas week over, it was evident that Santa Claus had been the busiest man in town. Locally he made three public appearances, with quite a few more private ones.

High spot of his Brookings stay was the Community tree in front of the Central building, where he passed out candy to local children, with the aid of the Volunteer Firemen.

He made two other appearances here, visiting Tots to Teens and Freeman's Market on Christmas Eve, to talk to children in the two stores. And he spent Christmas night trying to fulfill his promises.

### Boy Injured In Wringer

Eight year old Mike Upmeyer was treated by Dr. Ronniger on Wednesday for injuries sustained when he caught his hand in a wringer. Several stitches were necessary.

With Brookings and Harbor on the threshold of a New Year, local business men seemed pretty unanimous in looking forward to a bright year.

And, they seemed to feel that this area had not suffered appreciably from the mild recession that seems to have worried other parts of the state and nation.

Local forecasts ranged from predictions of continued good business to even better for the year ahead.

With plywood and lumber prices steadying and raising at the end of the year, there was hope for a prosperous year in the lumbering industries.

Ken Osburn, office manager for Brookings Plywood, prophesied increased building in the nation during 1954, with a healthy effect on local lumbering businesses. He expects, he said, increased incentive toward construction, with more mortgage money available.

Such a policy, he said, should increase sales of building materials. At year end, plywood prices were raising slightly, and demand was holding fairly firm, although the big jump in orders was expected after inventory-taking time the first of the year.

Estes L. Morton, president of the Oregon State Bank, also forecast a prosperous year ahead, and said he expected Brookings to continue its steady growth. Bank business for the past year, he said, surpassed all expectations, and there was no indication of any downturn to come.

Mr. Morton said, also, that businesses here should continue to grow during the coming year. His organization plans to build a new building to house the bank in 1954, and other building plans are being readied in the city for the coming year.

With most business men reporting, it seemed to boil down to this: Business in 1953 here was good, and what little slowness there was seemed to bother this area less than most. And all forecasts say that business here should remain good through the coming year.

Fr. Ernest Bartlam who has been at the Chetco Inn, for some time, is leaving Tuesday morning for an indefinite stay in Eugene.

### Lucky-7 Dance New Year's Eve

Members of the Lucky-7 club are sponsoring a dance for all teen-agers in Brookings, to be held at the VFW hall on New Year's Eve. Refreshments will be served by the Lucky-Seventettes.

The date in an advertisement for the dance inside the paper is in error. The correct date is New Year's Eve, December 31.



*to all of you  
from all of us*

The Staff of the Brookings-Harbor Pilot extend greetings for the New Year, with the sincere hope that it will be a happy and most prosperous year for all of you

MRS. MINNA AKERS

BILL PHELPS      PAUL L. PETERSON  
DORIS PHELPS      W. C. BROOKS