

# Brookings-Harbor Pilot CHRISTMAS EDITION

## 1955

### CHRISTMAS STORY

#### SANTA'S FIRST VISIT TO HARBOR

When Santa Claus made his first community-wide visit to Harbor thirty-five years ago, the area was sparsely populated so that he could easily visit all the families with children on Christmas Eve.

There is a heart-warming story back of Santa's first appearance there as this project was financed and activated by three, then young, bachelors, Happy Hoffeldt, Milton and Ernest Foster, all of whom worked for the old Brookings Mill.

For weeks ahead of Christmas a tomato can at Happy's cabin, which is where the Milton Foster home is now, received all the change these three received. With it they bought candy, nuts and oranges to fill the sacks that Santa Claus handed out to every child on Christmas eve.

One can imagine the fun these three had when they tied a couple of pillows around Happy's midriff, over which he wore a long bathrobe and a Santa mask, loaded Ernest's Dodge touring car with the bags of Christmas goodies and started out on their rounds. They would drive near a home, then Santa would take his huge bag, the bottom filled with crumpled paper and the top with the treats, then go up to the house and knock. When the children saw Santa in person they were speechless with wide-eyed wonder and delight. The parents were also mystified as the whole project was a deep secret. Among the homes visited were the Fletcher Gardner, who lived at that time where Archie McVay now lives; Revis Costelloe, Sam McClung, Howard Walton, John and Tommy Van Pelt, Lester Lucas, Coleman Cooley, Elmer Lind, William Cooley, Johnny White, Jim Fielder, George Heiberger and Tom Ray; and even the Indian huts along the river weren't forgotten.

When Santa made his trip to the Fletcher Gardner home, he had to go over a narrow plank walk about four feet above the swamp. Going back to the car, his robe caught on one of the uprights and he fell four feet into a foot of water. Try as he could, his stomach was in the way of getting back on the walk. So Santa had to dismantle his rummy, put the pillows up on the walk, crawl up himself and then put it back in place. The fact that at several of the homes visited, Santa had been invited to take a little drink wouldn't have anything to do with him missing the walk of course.

The three men didn't let the secret out and the whole community was interested in finding out who was back of the project. They repeated the visit by Santa the next year also, but this year they were aided by Milton's sister and Ernest's mother and sister, Mrs. San Foster and Mrs. Emory Wallace who filled the bags for them. Santa Claus also found that parents had hidden presents outside for the children, and they met him at the door and asked him to bring in the presents and give them to the children, and to light the Christmas tree.

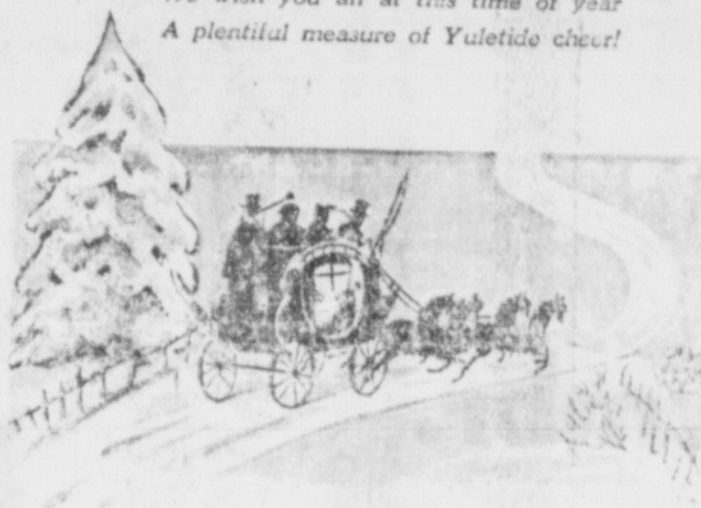
At one home Santa Claus asked the father how many children he had. The father said "nine." Immediately one of the children spoke up "No, Daddy, don't you remember, there are ten of us now."

The next year it spread to the whole community, as Happy had gone to Sawyers Bar on the Salmon River mining. Until the early 30's Santa made trips almost every year through the territory, leaving happy surprised children, and grown-ups with a happy, warm Christmas feeling.

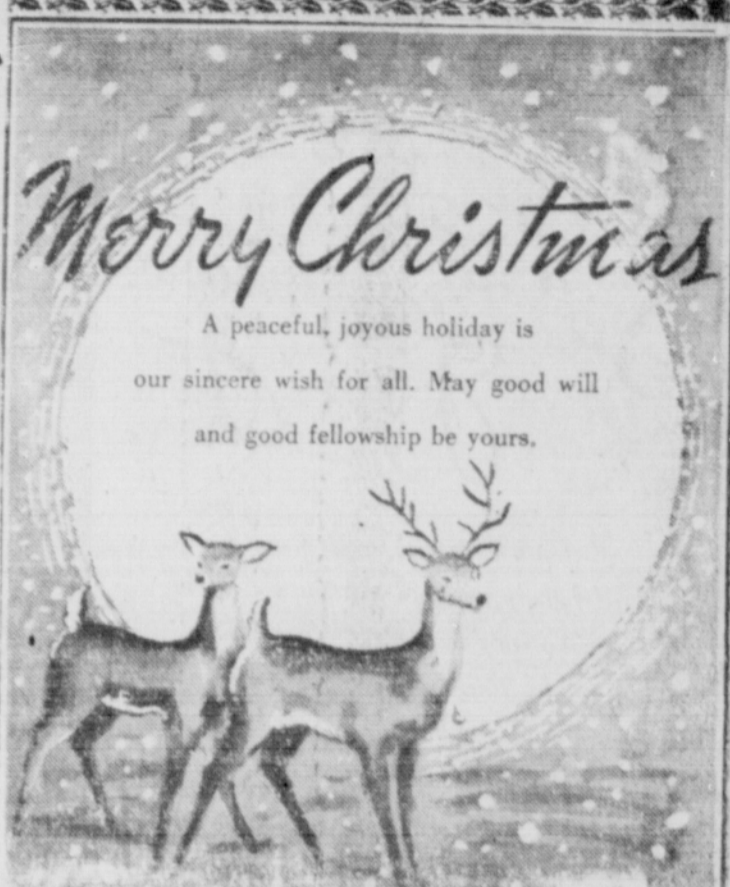


### MERRY CHRISTMAS

The time for joy, the time for peace;  
The time for pleasures that never cease.  
We wish you all at this time of year  
A plentiful measure of Yuletide cheer!



PAUL RONNIGER — SAM GIBSON  
Mrs. Alice Putnam — Mrs. Mary McCourt  
Mrs. Vernoa Ragland



### Merry Christmas

A peaceful, joyous holiday is our sincere wish for all. May good will and good fellowship be yours.

FRANK'S PHARMACY



### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Our hearts are filled with the warmest wishes for the merriest Christmas you ever enjoyed.

VERN'S PASTRY SHOPPE  
Vern Helen Carolyn

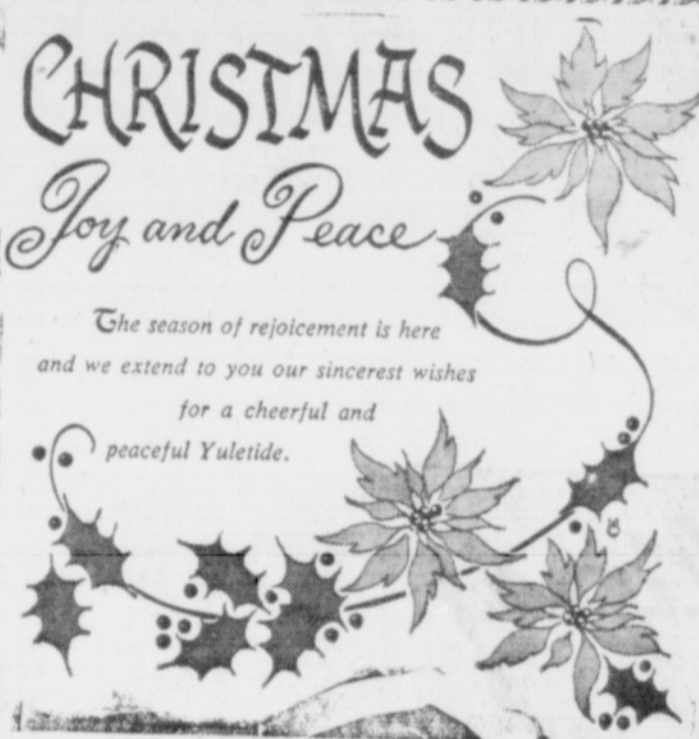


Hail to the New Year

May all of its pages be filled with news of joy and prosperity for all our good friends.

DON BINGMAN

Phone 3744 — The Oregonian



### CHRISTMAS Joy and Peace

The season of rejoicement is here and we extend to you our sincerest wishes for a cheerful and peaceful Yuletide.

VIRGINIA MINCER — DAN STYERS  
MINCER'S JEWELRY



May the Christmas Spirit glow in your heart and Good Fortune smile brightly upon you through all the days of the New Year.

PAR STORE



### Merry Christmas

DIXIE GADBERRY — ELMA MITCHELL  
MODE O' DAY



# Greetings

A peaceful, joyous holiday is our sincere wish for all. May good will and good fellowship be yours.

CHARLIE and PEARL

## YOUNGS' 5 & 10