

Mt. Scott Herald

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J. SANGER FOX, Editor.
J. ALLEN DUNBAR, Associate

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Out Of The Mud By Christmas.

We shall always contend that nature has been unusually kind to the Mt. Scott district in providing such a fine, gravelly subsoil that our drainage problem has been comparatively insignificant. However, with each succeeding winter it grows in importance, the traffic is heavier, our ruts become deeper and as our efforts toward real civilization (?) as witnessed in our up-to-date cities become more nearly realized we find a growing antipathy to MUD. Too bad. Most of us started the mud-puddle, mud-pie route, most of us splashed around all winter in mud up to our high shoe tops while we slopped the hogs and palled the cow—and thrived on it. However, time changes, and we with it, and the time has come to relieve our community from the stigma of being "stuck in the mud."

"Out of the mud by Christmas." We sincerely wish this were possible, but we can at least start something.

City Commissioner Barbur has three suggestions to offer. The first is of course the best, the installation of six foot sidewalks and curbs and the grading and macadamizing of our side streets. This program would cost the property owners approximately \$55 a 50 ft. lot for the sidewalks and a \$1.75 a running foot for a 36 ft. macadam street, plus the cost of grading or filling where necessary. Many may feel this is more than they can stand at present. The second suggestion is a three-foot cement sidewalk, the other three feet and curb to be added later on. This would cost approximately \$25 a lot. The third suggestion surely is within the reach of all. The city is willing to improve the streets, fill up the bad holes, do a little levelling and a small amount of grading free providing the property owners supply the bank gravel or crushed rock. We have a lively vision of the difference that would be made to, say, Woodstock avenue, 63rd avenue and 65th avenue if the property owners chipped in and bought a quantity of gravel and the city filled up the holes and levelled it up a bit. How about it? Are we wide enough awake?

Red Cross Christmas Cheer.

The people of the United States are approaching the Christmas holidays under conditions this country never has seen before; and, moreover, it is probable that this year we shall not experience our most sorrowful Christmas while this world war rages.

With the thought of the nation dwelling largely on the infinite suffering abroad, on the certainty that our own flesh and blood will soon be enduring its full share of that suffering, and on the absence from home of hundreds of thousands of dear ones, Christmas, 1917, will be a war Christmas.

Into this somber outlook the Red Cross is seeking to bring something of cheer. In a campaign lasting from December 16 till Christmas Eve it will ask for 10,000,000 to become "Red Cross Christmas" recruits, that they may enable the Red Cross to lighten the burden our Army and Navy and those of our allies are called upon to bear.

This cooperation with the Red Cross is real service of which we may all be proud. And that this service, when rendered by one, may be known to his neighbor, the Red Cross will urge each old and each new member to display

at his home a Red Cross service flag on which each red cross stands for a member.

The hundreds of thousands of these flags already being shown by old members will swell into millions before Christmas, each flag and each little cross bearing testimony that some one's Christmas has been made happier for our own boys and happier for the soldiers of our allies.

Let us all help to make this a Red Cross Christmas—which is another way of saying: Let us make it the happiest Christmas possible with the war clouds hanging low.

TEN MILLION NEW MEMBERS

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which can be used as Christmas gifts; 50,000 enrollment booths will be open from the start to the finish of the drive in public places.

National associations, patriotic societies, and federations of churches have been asked to cooperate. Ministers have been requested to preach Red Cross Christmas sermons; heads of colleges and schools are expected to arouse the interest of students. Various phases of the drive will follow each other in quick succession from December 17 until the chimes on Christmas Eve ring the end of the campaign.

A particularly noteworthy feature of the campaign will be the placing of transparent Red Cross service flags in the windows of homes throughout the country. The display of this flag bearing the Red Cross emblem, will mean that a person in that home is a Red Cross member. Space will be provided on the white field of the flag for additional emblems to indicate the number of members of the household who have joined the Red Cross.

At 7:30 o'clock on the night before Christmas it is proposed that a lighted candle shall be placed behind the flag in the window of every Red Cross home. The candles are to burn until 9 o'clock, and at half-hour intervals during the evening church bells are to be rung to lend impressiveness to the Red Cross ceremony. During the same hours groups of Red Cross workers in every community will march through different neighborhoods singing carols in further acclaim of the spirit of the Red Cross Christmas.

It was a peculiarly happy thought that gave expression to the idea of making this a "Red Cross Christmas." It will be America's first Christmas in this way. It will be a Christmas of serious purpose, when the minds of every one will be turned to the war, to our soldiers in France and in training camps; waiting orders to cross the sea, and to our sailors and marines.

USE HOMEMADE CORN MEAL.

Any family in town or country can have the best of corn meal by grinding it at home in a hand gristmill. The city man can buy corn by the bushel at a grain store. He can grind it coarse or fine, to suit the taste of the family, and in quantities to last a day or a week or longer. Most people will agree that this meal containing the germ is very palatable and compares well in this respect with that ordinarily purchased ready ground. Prices of hand mills of substantial make run from \$2.50 to \$5. A small mill can be had for as little as \$1.50, though this probably would prove too tedious to use, except for small quantities.

A dish of mush and milk has made the greater part of many a supper on the farm, and children thrive on it, though they may rebel at cleaning the kettle and the "pudding spoon" afterwards, if the old-time methods of cooking it are followed. It is a simple dish to make—just 3 1/2 cups of water and a teaspoon of salt to every cup of meal. The water can be put in cold and the vessel heated gradually. A double boiler is very convenient in cooking corn-meal mush, as well as all other cereals, and is easier to clean. The great secret of good mush is long, slow cooking—the longer the better. A fireless cooker, in which the cooking can go on all day or all night, is very useful for this purpose.

Corn-meal mush can be used in many other ways besides as a breakfast or supper dish. Fried mush, mush with fruit, and mush with cheese are in the list of recipes. Fish cakes with corn meal are good, and corn meal and meat of different kinds may be cooked together, "scrapple" being a favorite in some parts of the country.

Corn bread and corn griddle cakes are made in many ways, all good. Bread may be made of wheat flour and corn meal, half-and-half. Puddings, and even doughnuts and cakes are made with corn-meal as the basis.

RURAL ITEMS

Happy Valley.

Too late for last week.
C. F. Zinser and family spent Thanksgiving at Harmony with David Kanne. Mr. Wm. Odem and wife left Wednesday of last week for McMinnville and Sheridan to spend Thanksgiving with Mrs. Odem's mother. They will be gone ten days.

Mrs. G. S. Lenon is spending a week in Seattle with her sister.

There were no services in the church last Sunday, Mr. Hornschuch being sick.

H. C. Ulrich and wife entertained all of their children and grand children on Thanksgiving. There were six children and nine grand children home on that occasion.

Bellrose-Gilbert.

Mrs. C. H. Bateman of Bellrose recently returned from Lansing, Mich., where she has been visiting relatives for the past nine months. She was a welcome visitor to the Herald office this week.

We are glad to report that Mr. Desarte, who has been very ill with pneumonia is much improved at this writing.

The regular monthly meeting of the Parent-Teachers Association will be held at the district school house on Friday afternoon of this week. A short program will be rendered by the pupils of the primary room.

Lattia Shotwell of Forest Grove entered school here on Monday. She is making her home with Mr. and Mrs. Wright Davis.

About fifty pupils of this school attended the Red Cross Bazaar in Portland on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Cowgill and family of Portland have taken up their residence on the Gibson place.

Miss Lena Johnson of Sellwood was a pleasant caller in this community Sunday.

A very interesting and entertaining program will be given by the pupils of District No. 45 on Friday evening, Dec. 21. All are invited.

Mr. Reidy is attending court this month.

Mrs. L. A. Farnsworth has been quite ill, but is reported much better.

On Saturday evening, Dec. 15, the many friends of Mrs. C. H. Bateman and Mrs. Thos. Bateman will call to welcome them back to their Bellrose home.

The last meeting of the Lents Grange was attended by the following members and visitors: R. Henderson, Stella Henderson (Lodge Musician), Mrs. Sutfins, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Bartell, Mr. and Mrs. Calkins, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert, Mr. and Mrs. Furey, and Mrs. Crawford. Five candidates received first and second degree, and an excellent program rounded out a very congenial meeting.

Mrs. Alfred Blatchford, nee Blanch Lenox, paid a visit to her parents on Lenox Avenue Dec. 8 to 10. She was accompanied by her charming baby daughter.

Mrs. J. Gale goes to Sacramento, Calif. on Wednesday, Dec. 12, to enjoy a month's visit. Best wishes for a pleasant journey.

Mrs. Shueholm of Foster road cut her hand while carving a 140 pound porker on the 10th inst. Dr. Nelson of Lents attended it. Speedy recovery is hoped for.

J. J. Huber is building a garage.

Mrs. Hogarth and Mrs. Kirkham have lately organized a Red Cross Society, with an initial membership of fourteen. Wednesday of each week will be Red Cross Day.

H. P. Bush, who recently bought the H. E. Mitchell home on Lenox Avenue, near Ramapo Station, calls his place "Bush Farm." At present he is building a garage. The "Bush Farmers" have the good will and wishes of all their new neighbors.

D. Trout, White Leghorn, specialist, carried a big percentage of prizes at the late Poultry Show.

Many friends express regret that they did not know of the death of J. W. Van Blaricum until after the funeral was held, and reported in the Mt. Scott Herald. Mrs. C. Van Blaricum was confined to her bed from nervous prostration for several days after the funeral of her father-in-law.

A new choir composed of little girls of the neighborhood under the direction of Miss Minnie Davis and Mrs. Streck surprised the pastor and people at Bennett Chapel on Nov. 25. The children sang beautifully, and are a help and pleasure to all who attend the services.

A fast basket-ball game was played at the local school auditorium between the Gilbert boys and the Christian Brothers' Business College team. The score stood 25 to 17 in favor of the visitors.

Revel services are announced to commence at Bennett Chapel on the first Sunday of the new year. Are we, as members of the community, willing to give our loyal service to it in the name of Him who gave His life for us? The services are to be conducted by Captain C. O. Branson, of Gresham, who bears an excellent record as a man and an evangelical worker. His wife will assist.

... CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS ...

In these days when every person is practicing economy there is nothing so appropriate for xmas presents as something useful and that will give one the most comfort for the least money. We quote the following for your consideration.

Blankets from \$1.25 to \$9.50, Pillows and Sofa Pillows Handsome Cretones for bags and draperies 38c and 95c Beautiful Table Linens at 60c, 75c and \$1.00. Hock and Turkish Towels, or by the yard Hosiery for Men, Women and Children at 10c to \$1.00 Dress Goods, Plaids and Serges at 45c, 75c and \$1.00 Men's, Women's and Children's Underwear Men's, Women's and Children's Shoes at a saving of from \$1.00 to \$2.00 a pair

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