

OLD SANTA TO DRIVE  
DOWNTOWN'S ROULETTES

Rich and Poor, Old and Young,  
to Share Yuletide Joys.

FESTIVE SPIRIT ASSUMED

Postoffice and Stores Report Record Christmas Business; Cheer to Be Sent Broadcast.

SOME OF THE HOLIDAY EVENTS WHICH WILL CHEER UP THE POOR.

- Wednesday. Tree and entertainment by Volunteers of America at Larabee day nursery. Program for poor children, Salvation Army hall No. 1 in the Everyman's club; movies and lectures. Thursday. Elks' tree, municipal auditorium, 11 A. M. Tommy Swivel's turkey dinner for children of pensioned widows. Main dining room of Chamber of Commerce, 2 P. M. Dinner for girls at Louise home given by Hotel Men's association, to be followed by program. Annual dinner for homeless men, Portland Commons. All-day entertainment at Albertina Kerr nursery. Christmas concert, Men's resort in the evening. Entertainment for ex-servicemen, Everyman's club, 8 P. M.

Pessimists may wall about the long, cold winter; civic organizations may groan about the unemployed; club-women may hammer at the high cost of living, and the weather man may cover the state with snow and sleet, but they can't down Santa Claus. Portland's children, the poor and the rich, are inevitably and well-destined to enjoy one of the biggest gift Christmases in the history of the city. In fact, there is no excuse for any Portland child passing an unhappy Yuletide unless Santa is deliberately leaving him on his list as punishment for letting the baby fall downstairs or stealing the precious pound of cube sugar off the top shelf of the pantry.

City Assumes Festive Air. While the snow storm prevented the usual Christmas tree merchants, holly and mistletoe vendors from getting their wares on the streets early, holiday greens began to put in their appearance the day after yesterday, and the town is assuming a festive air.

"Boy, page a dray," seems to be the general sentiment of the late shoppers as they frantically clutch at slippery parcels while waiting for street cars. The purchaser who has delayed his Christmas marketing until the last minute is paying the price, facing depleted stocks and enormous crowds.

This is the biggest Christmas shopping season we have ever had, declared the superintendent of one of the city's largest department stores. "I have never seen such a rush for toys, and it is my firm conviction that every toy stock in the city will about run out by Christmas. Santa Claus indulging in expensive things for the toys. We find construction and electrical toys, airplane sets, and equipment and a new chemistry educational outfit the most popular."

Much Furniture Bought. The same superintendent remarked upon the large amount of expensive furniture being purchased for gifts. "We can't seem to find things costly enough for some of the shoppers in this line. Checks coming into our hands from neighborhoods not generally regarded as wealthy are for unusually large sums. Of course, this is far from being true in every department. The furniture stores are handling fine things as well as ever had before. Books are going well this season and we have sold a large number of merchandise books, as well as clothing, household equipment and standard merchandise of good quality."

Christmas Business Record. Some of the annual troubles of the rush season are worrying the stores. Deliveries are slowing up and complaints are coming in concerning loss of goods. House police staffs have been doubled and have run down the usual quota of shoplifters. Santa Claus headquarters in the various stores have been attracting eager groups of youngsters.

At the postoffice staffs of some of the departments have been practically doubled and the government employees are handling many requests for these. Little difficulty has been experienced in handling the postpaid packages, as it would seem that the public has become educated to the ways of the postal service since sending gifts to France.

So far as France is concerned, that country has forgotten the Christmas American soldiers nor have the Oregon men forgotten their overseas hosts, and quantities of packages are being exchanged with the European country.

To Enjoy Elks Tree. Greatest importance in Christmas festivities this year will be the tree and entertainment in the auditorium for 2500 pensioned children in charge of the "Big Brothers" of Portland Elks lodge. To avoid duplication the committee has secured names of the tots from school principals, parent-teacher associations and accredited welfare agencies. Tickets are being distributed through these organizations and no one will be permitted to enter except soldiers of the corps.

Children from the Elks' day nursery, Children's home and other institutions will be brought to the auditorium, which is to begin at 11 A. M. Thursday.

Visiting Committee Named. So that boys and girls who are invalids or who are ill, or who are unable to come to the auditorium will not be

SOME REASONS WHY EVEN RIP VAN WINKLE WOULD KNOW WHAT SEASON OF THE YEAR IT IS WHEN PORTLAND STREETS REFLECT SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS.



Top—The mistletoe vendor wanders who's going to be the lucky one this time. Middle—This Salvation Army band is occupying a strategic position and is collecting pennies from the crowds passing in and out of one of the main department stores. Lower—Even grandma has a shopping list. This chap's motto is "Pull it to Santa." No matter whether the holly berries are blackened or there are none at all, dad's going to see to it that there's a wreath in the window.

forgot, the Elks have appointed a visiting committee to bring cheer to girls. Each small guest is to receive a basket containing a mammoth orange, two big Spitzenburg apples, one-half pound of candy in a holly box, Noah's Ark cookies, one-half pound nuts, a candy cane, one-half pound molasses chews and a few noisemakers. The children will then be passed on to the toy tables, where gifts will be selected according to the age and needs of each boy and girl. Mayor Baker and City School Superintendent Grout will make brief talks.

Pennies Are Collected. The public is not invited to the affair, but a few persons will probably be let into the gallery, especially in cases where they have had to accompany children too young to come alone. No outside aid is being asked in preparing the festivities which will make up the largest enterprise of the kind ever launched by the Elks.

Streets this week are resounding to the tinkle of bells as letters, signed by Volunteers of America or Salvation Army folk, to collect the pennies and clothing and baskets of food, as well as Christmas cards, are being sent to many homes not cared for by other organizations.

Volunteers to Aid Families. This year the Volunteers of America have 200 families to supply with clothing and baskets of food, as well as some 200 children who have been brought to the Larabee day nursery during the year. Next Wednesday these tots will enjoy a treat and entertainment at their playroom.

A youngster, four-year-old Homer, is hoping that Santa Claus will bring him a home, as he is staying at the Commons, because there is no other

place to go. His father died last year of influenza and his mother, though working, was unable to care for her small son. He was given over to an aunt, who brought him to the mission. A 14-year-old lad, known as "Little Edgar" at the same institution, is looking for a bit of cheer. His mother has been in the county poor farm the past two years and the father was attempting to bring up his three children alone. Two were taken from him, but he kept Edgar, who lived at the mission. At last the father got enough money ahead so that he could take the boy to live with him, but no sooner had they settled down in a room than fire destroyed the building and all their possessions and the doors of the Commons once more opened for the child.

Many Depend on Charity. Between 300 and 400 families in the care of the public welfare bureau must depend upon charity for their Christmas. During November this agency handled more families in one month than in any other 30-day period in the year. Four years ago the principal burden is the care of disabled and unemployed persons, widows not entitled to pensions because they were never naturalized, divorced and deserted women. In one instance the bureau has charge of a family of nine children, all between the ages of one month and 13 years. The father is ill in a Portland hospital.

Old Folk Remembered. Unemployed men on Burnside and others who frequent the men's resort will enjoy a concert and feast on Christmas night. Special musical programs are also being given the earlier part of the week by members of the First Presbyterian church. County commissioners will see to it that no one is forgotten at Multnomah farm and other old peoples' homes will be similarly cared for.

Christmas decorations predominate in the primary rooms of the public schools and it is probable that the smaller pupils will have programs before the holiday vacation begins on Wednesday. Churches, too, will hold many observances and all Sunday schools of Oregon will make a Christmas cheer clearing house. In this way donations will be stretched over as large a territory as possible.

Particular care is being taken to avoid duplication of the public welfare agencies have instituted what virtually amounts to a Christmas cheer clearing house. In this way donations will be stretched over as large a territory as possible.

Mothers Welcome, Too. Tommy Swivel, who for several years has been adding the hearts of poor children of Portland with his annual Christmas banquet, has not forgotten his little friends this season.

Truth to tell, he is even going to have their mothers as his guests and is preparing to dine 400 folks at 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon in the main dining room at the chamber of commerce. Names of the children are secured each year by Mr. Swivel from the pension bureau, and he plays "daddy" to all the fatherless youngsters under this board's supervision. A variety of entertainment will be provided and the fun will last until dark.

Fun to Be Ready. Turkey dinner will be served; then the boys and girls will be permitted to work off the effect on a merry-go-round, shoot-the-chutes and play with a mechanical boat and a complete electric train. Music is to be furnished by the Artisans' band and by an organ-grinder, who is to accompany the merry-go-round. Each guest will receive a bag of nuts and candy and some of the California fruits donated by Frank C. Riggs.

Legislators Agree on Policy. Mr. Dennis, Mr. Graham, Mr. Stewart and other members of the legislature held an informal conference over the road situation in Portland yesterday and agreed on the policy outlined. The state highway commissioner, R. A. Booth and E. E. Kiddle, refrained from requesting the lawmakers for any assistance. Mr. Dennis states that before the legislature convenes at Salem January 13, as many of the members as possible will be consulted and their views considered with the desire that by the time the session is called to order the proposed bond bill will be ready for introduction and sent to the printer.

This bond bill will become effective only if the people at the May primaries vote to increase the state indebtedness. The roads and highways committee, says Representative W. B. Dennis, will submit the bill to the legislature at the time of the election. The bill will increase the state indebtedness to 4 per cent for road purposes only.

Provided the people favor the amendment and the legislature passes the new bonding act, the state highway commission can go ahead and complete the paving of the two main arteries of traffic the coming summer. This will then leave \$5,000,000 of the government and Bean-Barrett funds to expend on other roads throughout the state.

Without a substantial sum of money, such as came only from the Columbia and Pacific highways and to continue development of the state road program, a bill will be offered at the special session of the legislature authorizing the issuance of \$5,000,000 of bonds. The measure will be offered by the roads and highways committee of the house.

This bond bill will be contingent on the adoption by the people of a proposed amendment to the state constitution, which amendment will authorize increasing the indebtedness of the state from 2 to 4 per cent. It was originally planned to initiate this proposed amendment, the preliminary work having been performed by Representative James S. Stewart, but by having the legislature refer the measure to the people and call a special election on the day of the primaries, quick action can be obtained if the people approve the amendment the \$5,000,000 bond issue will be available.

Highways Need Money. The highway commission has definitely announced that it is out of money and no more paving contracts can be let. This leaves the Pacific coast states with a number of unpaved roads. The best hope that the commission holds out for the state is that it will pass favorably on the right of the commission to issue additional bonds under the present act. If the legislature at its special session in January to provide additional funds.

Commission Not Blamed. It is recognized that the shortage of funds to complete the state road system as laid down by the legislature is due to no fault of the commission, but to the insistent demands from every part of the state for building wider roads, better class of roads and higher grade bridges than was at first contemplated. The increased cost of labor and materials.

Unless additional funds are provided by the special session, all further extension of road paving must stop until after the regular session of the legislature in 1921. The amount of more than a year in road construction. Representative L. M. Graham, Forest Grove, who wrote the original 1900,000 bonding act of the 1915 session, which was introduced by the roads and highways committee of the house, is now at work on the preparation of a new bill, which will provide authority to the commission to issue a sufficient amount of additional bonds to complete the paving of the Pacific and Columbia highways. This bill, which will be introduced by the roads and highways committee, will stipulate a bond issue of \$5,000,000. The exact sum has not yet been determined, but Mr. Graham stated yesterday that this was the figure which he has tentatively adopted. He is in consultation with other members of the committee and members of the commission.

Bill Depends on Election. This bond bill will become effective only if the people at the May primaries vote to increase the state indebtedness. The roads and highways committee, says Representative W. B. Dennis, will submit the bill to the legislature at the time of the election. The bill will increase the state indebtedness to 4 per cent for road purposes only.

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J. KRAEMER, 432 Chamber of Commerce Building.

WASHINGTON STATE COLLEGE. Dec. 20.—(Special)—It was made public today that members of the faculty of the state college want increased pay for their services and are ready to inaugurate drastic action to gain their demands. Some of the more insistent members have urged affiliation with the American Federation of Labor and one professor, who has been with the college for five years, stated, that unless the board of regents granted a substantial increase, strike action could be expected before the close of the school year.

No positive statement of their plans has been made. A recent inquiry into the cost of living, conducted by an instructor of the department of economics, revealed the fact that fully 70 per cent of the instructors are unable to meet their monthly household bills. No action exists in the faculty and the movement is one of friendly interest and co-operation.

It has been necessary for the regents to grant higher salaries to recent additions to the faculty than are received by some of the veteran members, creating a situation which is not relished by the instructors who have been here for several years.

FATHER KIDNAPS CHILD

Courtroom Officials Pursue Man Who Tried to Ignore Decree. ABERDEEN, Wash., Dec. 20.—(Special)—During the trial of the divorce case of Anna Sandgren versus Fred Sandgren, both of Aberdeen, Sandgren grabbed their little daughter Dorothy and fled from the courtroom at Montesano, pursued by the officers. Sandgren got into a motor car with the child and was not overtaken until the car reached Aberdeen. Sandgren's action followed an announcement of the judge that he would award custody of the child to the mother.

The father and child were returned to Montesano. Phone your want ads to the Oregonian, Main 7079, A. 6675.

RANCHER IS FOUND DEAD

J. C. Howarth of Dec Flat Believed to Have Taken Poison. HOOD RIVER, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special)—J. C. Howarth, age 68, Dec Flat rancher and an invalid, was found dead last night by his nephew, Fred Filling, who lived with him. It is thought that Mr. Howarth committed suicide by taking strychnine. The nephew rushed to summon a physician but on his return, the older man was dead. Coroner Anderson has left to investigate the case.

PORTLAND COUPLE CELEBRATE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.



Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Sedgwick. Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Sedgwick celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary November 21 with a surprise party at their home, when members of Gordon's Grand and G. A. R. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Mrs. Brophy, president of the corps, presented the couple with a gold-handled umbrella. Mr. Sedgwick was born May 21, 1844, at Waterford, Pa., and emigrated to the United States navy July, 1862, on the steamship Michigan. He served in the Mississippi squadron until November, 1864. On November 24, 1869, he married Josephine Little at Galesburg, Mich. They have four children, three of whom are now living. They are: Miss Blanche Sedgwick of Omaha, Mrs. Bess Orchard of Los Angeles and Lewis Sedgwick of Casper, Wyo. Mr. and Mrs. Sedgwick resided in Pennsylvania until 1874, then spent two years in Michigan, moving to Nebraska in 1874. They lived in Omaha from 1882 until 1912, when they moved to 1198 Kerby street, Portland.