

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
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The Register-Guard's policy is to present news and information in its news pages of all news and statements on news. On this page the editors of The Register-Guard offer their opinions on events of the day and matters of importance to the community, endeavoring to be candid but fair and helpful in the development of constructive community policy.

Our Community Christmas

Unless the Weather Man is exceptionally unkind, the time for the second annual Community Christmas ceremony in Eugene will be next Thursday evening at 8 p.m. The place will be in the "plaza" at the Southern Pacific depot around the big tree which conveys Eugene's greetings to all travelers.

It will be a brief (30 minutes) program, as suggested by the Lane County Lookouts, but it will be impressive, expressing those deep feelings of gratitude and good will which we all share at this season. The program can be briefed:

1. Opening Christmas hymn, by the male chorus of the Order of the Moose, under direction of Hal Young.
2. Lighting of the tree and the great cross at the top of Skinner Butte which will blaze the message of Christmas.
3. Reading from St. Luke of the Story of the First Christmas, one of the most beautiful in all literature.
4. Mass singing of familiar Christmas carols by everybody, with the male choir leading.

Joe Richards' committee has been working with the Lookouts and with Mr. Young and his singers to perfect all details. Glen Dotson will have the "plaza" wired for sound so that the voices of the lead singers will carry as far as 5th avenue. Spaces will be reserved so that the cars bringing Lookouts can be as close to the tree as possible.

The time is set to allow the Cascade and the Beaver to clear the depot in advance of the ceremonies—if they are on time, but in any case Police Chief L. L. Pittenger has made arrangements so that traffic bound to or from trains can be handled through 4th avenue as a by-pass. And, if the trains should happen to be lingering in Eugene what a memorable sight the travelers will see!

It was the Lookouts—those people who see more than most of us because they do not get about as much as we do—who suggested the first observance last year at the end of the war. In spite of the mechanical difficulties which marred the "Parade of Carolers," the thousands who lined Willamette street gave proof of the public's feelings.

This time the mechanical difficulties will be surmounted. It is not practical to parade, but the singing will be HEARD. Some day—when Century Fund completes the acquisition of the parklands in the Amazon—there can be a permanent Christmas tree, a growing one, planted for the purpose at a place around which people can assemble.

Today, the small opening at the depot seems to be about the only practicable spot (the courthouse blocks give no vistas), but the tree at the depot has its advantages as well as its disadvantages. There we greet the passers-by. We know that hundreds of families will mark Thursday evening as "a date." The Cross, according to Mr. Richards will be 50 feet high. There have been plenty of problems getting it built and erected and wired in, but it will be "something."

And the singing of Eugene has been "something" for many, many years. There are other plans for the Carolers, but those will be announced later. The Lookouts have set us on the path to what will become a notable Christmas tradition.

Leon Blum At French Helm

Although Leon Blum, the new French premier, personally, commands respect throughout the world, it may be doubted if his appointment at this time will bring order out of the chaos in French politics. Indeed, at 74, M. Blum accepts the post "under protest," and only because somebody must be found to give some shape to French affairs which are "at crisis."

Blum classifies as a Socialist, but in France that designation can mean almost anything. Perhaps he should be described as a "moderate Socialist," meaning that he is not a Communist, nor does he adhere to any of the more radical leftist doctrines. It will be his job to pull together out of the inconclusive results of the last national election of Deputies some kind of temporary working majority. He has Communists, Popular Re-

publicans, the Republican Union and a variety of other factions to work with.

It was during the bloody Spanish civil war that Mr. Blum served his last "hitch" as premier of France. During that period he was conspicuous mainly for indecision, or what appeared to be indecision, at this distance. He made it plain that the sympathy of his administration and of a large part of the French people was with the Spanish people who were fighting Franco, but he could never bring out any constructive aid for them, even in the diplomatic field. He went out of office, respected, but rated as ineffectual.

It is useless now to speculate that a strong man at the head of French government might have changed the course of events. Deladier coming up from the conservative side was even more ineffectual. The Nazis swept over a France that was unprepared either physically or morally, and M. Blum disappeared from that shameful scene.

The problems of France today are those of reconstruction, but they are not essentially different from those of the pre-war. The repair of physical war damage is the smallest part of the job. France is a democracy which has been unable to concentrate on any vital democratic ideal, and the result is a hopeless split into factions ranging from reactionary to revolutionary at both ends of the range.

Mr. Blum's appointment may allay the fears of those who have dreaded a Communist regime. But it is a stopgap appointment. Blum does not capture the imagination and he is not likely to succeed where De Gaulle has failed.

WASHINGTON LETTER BY PETER EDSON Register-Guard Washington Correspondent

Bilbo's Senatorial Chance

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—(NEA)—When the new Congress convenes and the time comes to protest the seating of Mississippi Senator-elect Theodore G. Bilbo, the Senate will be in an unusual state of organization and will have to go through an unusual parliamentary proceeding.

Each of the 36 senators elected last month will have to march up the aisle and be sworn in. Even the senators who were re-elected—like Bilbo—will have to be sworn in. From the moment the Senate is called to order until they take the oath, these new and re-elected senators aren't senators.

They will be called to take the oath in alphabetical order. First man on the list is Gov. Raymond E. Baldwin of Connecticut. Second man is Bilbo.

At that particular moment, the only senators who can protest the seating of Bilbo and the only senators who can vote on the question will be brand-new Senator Baldwin and the 60 hold-over senators who did not have to run for re-election on the 5th of November.

Democrats Hold the Balance
Of the members of the Senate War Investigating Committee who have been hot on Bilbo's trail, Senator Mead of New York won't be able to protest, because he wasn't a candidate for re-election. Senators Brewster of Maine and Kilgore of West Virginia won't be able to protest or vote, because they will not yet have been sworn in. Senator Ferguson of Michigan will be able to protest, because he is a hold-over.

A quorum of the Senate at this time will be not a majority of the 96-member Senate, but a majority of the 60 hold-over senators plus Senator Baldwin. The other 35 senators-elect—34 and Bilbo—will be standing by.

Incidentally, the reason 36 senators were elected in November instead of the usual one-third of the Senate, or 32 members, is that four senators who had died or resigned. But these four take the oath right with the others, in alphabetical order.

A check-up on the political complexion of the 60 hold-overs indicates an extremely close contest, if the vote to deny Bilbo his seat follows party lines. Thirty-two are Democrats and 28 are Republicans. Counting Senator Baldwin, the Republicans will number 29. A shift of two Democratic votes could unseat Bilbo, 31 to 30, since a simple majority decides the issue.

The political dopest must then look over the list of 32 Democratic hold-overs to see if any might be inclined to vote against Bilbo, and who would vote to let him take his seat.

Sixteen of the senators are conservative Southern Democrats who could be expected to vote to let Bilbo take the oath. Eight are what might be called Northern and Western conservative Democrats. How they would vote is anybody's guess.

The Odds Are Against Bilbo
But the remaining eight are what used to be known as New Deal senators, and they might be against Bilbo. Three are Southerners—Fulbright of Arkansas, Hill of Georgia, Pepper of Florida. The other five in the group are Murray of Montana, Downey of California, Lucas of Illinois, Taylor of Idaho and Wagner of New York. From this group, it looks on paper as if the anti-Bilbo forces could get enough votes to keep "The Man" out.

Of course, some Republicans might figure it would be smart politics to let Bilbo take his seat so as to embarrass the Democrats. That's a rather long shot, however, so the 29 Republicans may be counted on to vote solidly against Bilbo.

If the combined Republican and Democratic forces don't stop Bilbo at this particular parliamentary moment when senators step up to be sworn in, the chances of depriving him of his seat in the Senate after later full-dress investigation will be much slimmer.

For after all the senators are sworn in, a two-thirds vote is required to oust a man from his seat. The full Senate of 96 members will be divided 51 Republicans to 45 Democrats. Since it would take 62 votes to unseat Bilbo by a two-thirds majority, the Republicans would have to pick up at least 11 Democratic votes to turn the trick. And that might be tough.

before he was rescued from the burning, sinking fishing schooner off Yaquina Bay Wednesday.

His two crewmen were also saved by Ivor Anquell, whose fishing craft, the Boris, was crossing out at the time an engine-room explosion and resultant flames doomed the Alaska-bound vessel.

Philip Bowden, skipper of the Etta May, a 54-foot, two-masted schooner, was hospitalized at Newport. Also rescued were crewmen Russell Wheeler, Portland, and George Schanck, Toledo, Ore. They were uninjured.

A full cargo of gasoline for the Alaska run was caught in the flames and thwarted efforts of two coast guard vessels to save the Etta May.

A Biblical shekel of silver was worth about 50 cents.

Clarence F. Hyde—628 Williamette St., has money for real estate loans, large or small.

Schooner's Crew Saved Off Newport

NEWPORT—(U.P.)—The skipper of the Etta May was recovering in a Newport hospital Thursday from severe burns suffered

SEATTLE (U.P.)—Expanding production in Douglas Fir sawmills of Washington and Oregon has boosted the 1946 lumber output to nearly 100,000,000 board feet over that for an equal period in 1945. H. V. Simpson, executive vice president of the West Coast Lumbermen's Assn., said Friday.

He disclosed that up to Dec. 1 a total of 5,543,868,000 board feet of lumber had been produced in the two states.

SORE THROAT OF COLDS
Modern-type, medicated vapors start at once to relieve sore throat, help quiet coughing of colds. Try placing a little PENETRO on the tongue.

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SOCIETY, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS By ANN CONNELL

Methodist Choir To Present Famous Mass by Gounod

The St. Cecilia Mass (Gounod) will be presented by the choir and soloists of First Methodist Church Sunday evening at eight o'clock. The concert will be directed by Glenn Griffith, who will accompany the group.

Soloists are Miss Eleanor Culver, soprano; Miss Peggie McClure, contralto; James Kays, tenor and Wayne Sherwood, bass. The program will be as follows: Kyrie, the soloists and the choir; Gloria, Eleanor Culver, James Kays, Wayne Sherwood and the choir; Credo, Eleanor Culver, James Kays, Wayne Sherwood and the choir; Sanctus, James Kays and the choir; Benedictus, Eleanor Culver and the choir; Agnus Dei, James Kays and the choir. For the offertory hymn, the "Pastoral Symphony" from the "Messiah" by Handel will be used. The recessional will be the "Christmas Carol Fantasy."

WHITEAKER P-TA GROUP MEETS

Whiteaker P-TA met Wednesday at two-thirty in the afternoon at the schoolhouse. Mrs. A. E. Barker, president, announced the appointment of Mrs. F. H. Hirt as secretary for the remainder of the year to succeed Mrs. Harvey St. John, resigned.

A record number of three hundred and thirteen members was reported by the membership chairman, Mrs. H. W. Whitney.

The program included carols by the fifth grade and a group of songs by the fourth grade's Brownie Scouts.

Mrs. Caspar Wood, Bible study instructor, talked on "Religious Education in the Schools," explaining the program carried out in the city schools. She also narrated a Christmas story.

Refreshments were served by fifth grade mothers with Mrs. W. E. Forster in charge.

Book Review

"Beyond the Garden Gate" by Sophus Keith Winther; Macmillan Co., Dec. '46; \$2.75.

This "modern" novel, in the sense of its frank dealing with morals and customs, is laid in the town of Eugene, Oregon. Its leading character is a student at the University of Oregon. He is mixed up in the lives of two girls, an independent woman student from Portland, who lives on Fairmount Boulevard, and a rural girl who lives out on the Elmira road.

The author attended the University of Oregon, but something over 20 years ago, as he received his Ph.D. degree at the University of Washington in 1927 and has been teaching English in that university since that time. Some of the passages of abstract thought in the volume hint at the doctorate, but the over-all effect of the story itself is a little amateurish, although this is his fourth novel.

Eugene readers will find the book of interest because of its familiar locale. Trips up the McKenzie River, walks on Franklin boulevard, views of Spencer Butte and other such homely touches have appeal. There is a chapter dealing with the beauty of the valley and the Lane County Fair at Eugene, which all Eugeneans will find well worth reading time. Indeed, many will find reading entertainment and even things to like about the book, but others will be slightly repulsed. There is a flavor of bitterness over his whole view of campus life, which sets one wondering about the author's own college experience. He does not approve of Greek Letter Houses. His indictment of them, however, seems superficial and not quite a true picture. Two characters in the book ring true, Tom and Elizabeth Bailey, parents of the hero, Forrest Bailey. They are wholly likable, parents trying to allow their children to grow in a minimum of restrictive musts and don'ts, a maximum of understanding and sympathy.

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CHRISTMAS PARTY HELD BY ALUMNAE

Zeta Tau Alpha alumnae held their December meeting and Christmas party at the home of Mrs. V. R. Milam this week with Miss Lovina Wilson as assistant hostess.

A favorite Christmas story was read by Miss Wilson, games were played and gifts were exchanged. Mrs. John Burkin, who has returned to Eugene to live, was welcomed back by the group.

Members attending were: Mrs. R. W. Leighton, Mrs. Lola Hamilton, Miss Alice Gerot, Mrs. M. L. Turnbull, Mrs. R. V. Dawe, Mrs. D. D. Hempy, Mrs. J. E. Burkin, Mrs. George Todd, Mrs. Harry W. Titus, Mrs. R. V. Thompson, Mrs. Paul Livesay, Mrs. Ralph Hector, Mrs. W. A. Erickson, Miss Wilson and Mrs. Milam.

The January meeting will be held at Mrs. Turnbull's home, Mrs. Hector assisting her.

Family Gathers For Birthday

The seventieth birthday of P. A. Beaman, Raymond, Wash., drew twenty-five members of his family to a reunion at the E. G. Cleveland home in Springfield recently.

Mr. Beaman, who came to Oregon in 1878 when only two years old, was raised in Park Place, Ore., later living in Elkton, Grants Pass and Harrisburg. His wife accompanied him to Springfield.

Those attending the reunion included: Mr. and Mrs. James Fouts, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brown, all of Eugene; Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Beasley, Miss Marie Owings, Leroy Owings, Miss Bonnie Johnson and Victor Beaman, all of Springfield; Mrs. C. J. Alexander, Mrs. Nora Lytle, and Mrs. Barbara Millett, all of Portland; Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Fouts, Sunnyside, Wash.; Mr. and Mrs. Chester Beaman, Elkton; Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Beaman, Roseburg; Elmer Engle, The Dalles; William Beaman and Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Beaman, St. Helens, Ore.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

A Christmas bazaar will be held at the Producers' Public Market Saturday, by the Delta Zeta alumnae members. Fancywork, holly, cookies, cakes, jellies, etc., will be sold. All members having contributions may leave them with Mrs. Adrian Vaaler, 610 Fifth Avenue West, or at the market booth. Mrs. S. H. Seashore is in charge of the bazaar.

Grand Officer Attends Chapter

Attending the Wednesday evening meeting of Blue River Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, was Mrs. Harry Bartow, grand representative of the grand jurisdiction of the state of New Hampshire. Election of officers was held at the meeting, which was preceded by a potluck dinner.

The chapter will meet Friday evening (tonight), for a special communication for initiation. Members of McKenzie River Lodge are invited to attend the program which will follow the meeting.

The next meeting will be January 8 with installation of officers.

OFFICERS ELECTED BY USVW GROUP

Officers were elected at a recent meeting of the auxiliary to United Spanish War Veterans.

Elected were Mrs. Collin McKenzie, president; Mrs. Phoebe Flynn, vice-president; Mrs. E. L. Parker, chaplain; Mrs. Henry Cadore, patriotic instructor; Mrs. Archie Steele, historian; Mrs. Fred Schweitering, conductor; Mrs. Margaret Sinclair, assistant conductor; Mrs. B. H. Strobel, guard; Mrs. D. H. Mitchell, assistant guard.

There will be no social meeting this month, but '88 Inner Circle will meet Monday at two o'clock with Mrs. R. C. Faust for a Christmas party and gift exchange.

DINNER EVENT SET FOR SUNDAY

Auxiliary to the Order of Railway Conductors will have a Christmas dinner for members and families Sunday at six o'clock at Knights of Pythias Hall. Mrs. R. A. Rankin, Mrs. A. L. Carter

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and Mrs. R. R. Chase will be in charge of dinner.

Entertainment and a gift exchange will follow, with each member bringing a gift for each of her family attending. Gifts should be marked for women or men.

Mrs. J. W. Bowman, Mrs. L. E. McMahan and Mrs. H. A. West will decorate, and Mrs. W. O. Cordon and Mrs. J. E. West will direct entertainment.

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GOD'S WORD	
24. And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.	
25. And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgement to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.	
Acts 24:24, 25	

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