

How'd Christmas Trees Get Their Start? Credit Bunyan

(Editor's Note: Where did Christmas trees get their start? The author of the following dispatch believes it all started with Paul Bunyan. Author James Stevens has written many books on the legendary logger and in the following story tells how Bunyan got the first Christmas tree to cheer up Peewee Purdy, who broke his leg—three feet below the knee.)

By JAMES STEVENS
(Written for the United Press)

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 20 (UP)—Got your tree up yet? If you haven't, you'd better be thinking about getting one. But then if you have one—that's fine. Paul would be happy. Maybe you wondered as you placed the lights just so and hung the tinsel—not too much and not too little—just where the Christmas tree custom got its start.



Why, with Paul, of course—Paul Bunyan, that is. During the past few weeks, farmers and lumbermen in the Douglas fir region of western Washington and Oregon have been harvesting and shipping Christmas trees—not because there's money in it—ah, no! But because Paul Bunyan started it all and the farmers and lumbermen don't know how to quit.

Now Paul was the first logger, of course. He started the lumber industry, but first of all he invented Christmas trees.

The idea came to him when Peewee Purdee broke his leg. Peewee was the runt of Paul Bunyan's logging crew—the littlest logger of them all. Early in November, the runt broke his leg—three feet below the knee.

Well, Paul hoped to cheer Peewee up for Christmas as Peewee had a sad Thanksgiving. He thought about it, worried over it—even thumped his head about it. And the noise was so loud that part of the western mountains shivered to dust and made the deserts.

But it helped. He came up with the Christmas tree idea.

At that time, there was no standing timber in America yet. It was all traveling timber. Paul Bunyan's loggers had to ride out after the trees and shoot them or rope them to make them into logs.

Paul Bunyan saw he'd have to work out his Christmas idea with the little trees. He couldn't hope to teach the old trees new tricks as standing still—instead of running on their roots.

Now, there was a bunch of young trees that had just been weaned around Paul Bunyan's camp. First he made friends with them.

Then Paul Bunyan took his loggers from their work of riding after wild trees with ropes and guns, and he put them to cutting out bright paper bells and stars and little silver raindrops.

It took a lot of argument to convince the loggers that cutting out paper bells, and stars and little silver raindrops was what they wanted to do. But Paul was the most powerful arguer in the woods, and eventually he succeeded.

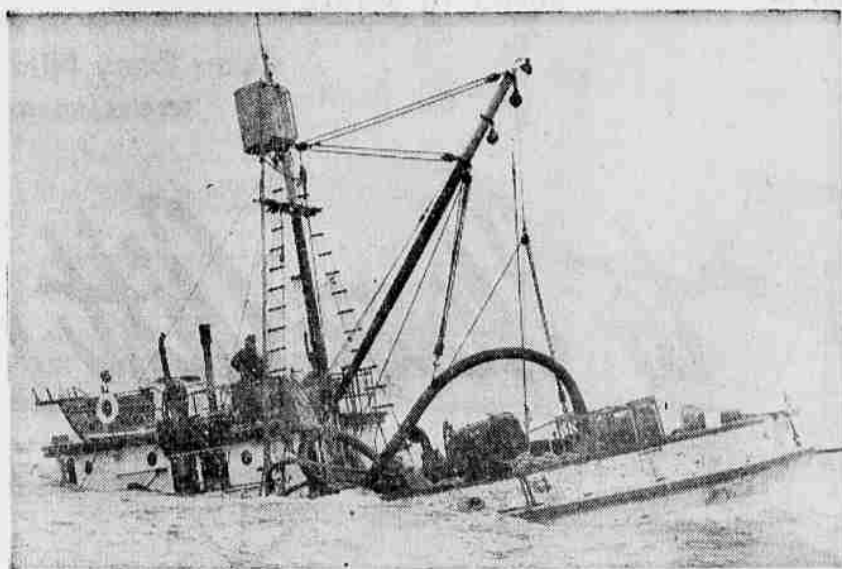
In the week before Christmas the loggers decorated all the little trees that were willing to stand still. On Christmas eve more newly-weaned trees than you could shake a stick at glittered in beauty as the sun sank low and crystals of evening frost sparkled in the snow.

A windless twilight fell. It was just right for the men of the woods to light candles on all the young tamed trees.

And so there they shone—the first Christmas trees of America. The wild trees came from all around and stood and watched, envying the Christmas trees. It was wonderful. Many of them decided to turn into standing timber then—in the hope of being picked for Christmas trees some fine winter day next year.

Now, in the great forest state of Washington, about two million Christmas trees are harvested every winter for America. The are mainly a farm crop. They grow best on poor land, for they need to grow slowly, with branches close together.

Lumbermen cut Christmas trees from young forests on their tree farms. They select spots



Sub-Normal—No this isn't a submarine rising out of San Francisco bay. It's the purse seiner King Phillip being towed to an Oakland, Calif., dry dock after she went aground off Monterey, Calif. She was partially refloated with empty barrels in her hold. (Acme Telephoto)

Dog-Sledder to Be Lonely Christmas Without Wife

White Horse, Y. T., Dec. 20 (UP)—Ceil Moore sent season's greetings to all from the far north country today as he rested here on his cross-continent trek by dog-sled from Fairbanks, Alaska, to his home in Lewiston Me.

The young engineer has covered 600 miles of the long, lonely journey. He arrived here Sunday, dirty, tired, cold and hungry.

He said the hardest part of the trip was almost over. "The dogs had to be put in condition and they are now in fine shape. I sure do miss my wife and son," he said. "It's going to be a lonely Christmas on the trail without her. I'd like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year from way up here in this fairland of ice and snow."

Moore hopes to make Dawson Creek, Y. T., 900 miles from here, by January 15. "I'll make much better time from now on."

To date, Moore said, he has seen wolves, mountain sheep, coyotes, foxes, game birds, moose and caribou.

"I shot a willow grouse out of a tree but the dogs and sled got there before me, so—no grouse for lunch.

"The dogs had a merry time of it and sure got tangled up in the harness. They fought over the bird until only the feathers were left.

"We had a long hard pull over Boutellor Summit (3280 feet), which is the highest point between Fairbanks and White Horse that we've had to climb. "Terrific winds on Klunne lake made it almost impossible for the dogs to stay on their feet."

The temperature was 43 degrees below zero when Moore arrived here.

"The nights are long and terribly cold. Daylight lasts from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Some valleys won't see the sun up here now for about six or eight weeks.

"The sun just gets over the horizon a little ways now."

Moore said once his dogs started to chase a coyote and where the stands are too thick, and Christmas trees are cut as thinnings—improving the lumbermen's young treefarm forests.

You can be sure that most Christmas trees on the market are good—good for happy home life in the season of cheer—and good for the forests.

The Christmas tree is a magic wand that makes productive large areas of land which once were thought to be total waste.

Keizer School Notes

By DARLENE AUSTIN

The Christmas program will be given in the auditorium Wednesday, December 21, and Thursday, December 22. The primary grades are singing songs and having a rhythm band. The intermediate grades are having a play called "Christmas in Many Lands." The upper grades' program will be "A Savior Is Born."

Each room has a tree and is planning a party on Friday, December 23. There will be an exchange of gifts.

At noon basketball games are being played between different rooms.

The fourth, fifth and sixth 4-H club girls had a party in the school auditorium on Friday. There were eight clubs participating.

The first submarine for the U.S. navy was built by John Philip Holland nearly 50 years ago.

HOUSING NEEDS OUTLINED

More Rental Units Planned For 'Forgotten Man' Group

Washington, Dec. 20 (AP)—A broad program to step up construction of homes costing \$8500 to \$10,000 was reported today to have clinched a high place on President Truman's legislative list for congress next session.

An official of the Federal Housing administration said the nation's middle-income families are now among those most in need of housing.

"We'd like to see more rental units for this same 'forgotten man' group," he told a reporter.

He noted that home-building has proceeded at a record pace this year, with the result that the demand for dwellings which cost more than \$12,000 has largely been met.

But Americans in the middle-income brackets—especially non-veterans—have not yet been adequately provided for, he said.

The purpose of any new legislation would be to make more liberal the present federal guarantees on home-building loans—with the emphasis placed on private construction.

The new program would thus conform closely to legislation introduced during the last session of congress by Senator Sparkman (D-Ala.).

Sparkman recently advised the administration to go slow in extending its civil rights program to the housing field if it wants to get home-building measures through congress.

He referred to a new regulation denying FHA and veterans administration loan guarantees in cases where restrictive covenants are filed in court after February 15. Such covenants are intended to block the sale of homes to members of minority groups.

Sparkman indicated that new housing legislation needs the votes of many southern lawmakers opposed to the president's civil rights program.

Council Greet New Members

Mt. Angel—State officers and members of the Knights of Columbus from all parts of the valley, in great numbers were present for the initiation of 32 new members, six for Albany council, and 26 for Mt. Angel council, in the auditorium, Mt. Angel, Sunday afternoon, with Edward Bell, Stayton, past state deputy, and Francis Coughlin of Eugene conferring the major degrees. Mt. Angel Council members conferring the two first degrees were Fred J. Schwab, grand knight; John Gaffke, deputy grand knight; Joseph Brockhaus, chancellor; W. D. Harris, secretary, and Richard Foltz, warden.

New members for Mt. Angel Council include Eugene Brinkman, Leroy Jaeger, Joseph Ehli, Edward Kahut, Paul Dieker, Alex Erwert, Edward Schiedler, Walter Poepping, Leo Smisek, Lawrence Traeger, Peter Rusek, Maurice Hammer, Joseph C. Wagner, Thomas Whited, George Sherman, Paul Buchheit, Milton Buchheit, Justin Bradley, Samuel Fennimore, Elmer Esh, Francis Spies, Richard Grassman, Adam Wert, W. A. Verboort, Ernest Walker, Ralph Bauer. Those initiated for Albany Council were Cletus O'Bochen, Forest M. Pool, Morris Cochenour, Julian Carrizales, Ralph Chambers and James Noeck.

The initiation banquet was held at 6 o'clock in the St. Mary's dining hall, with over 300 covers placed for the Knights and their ladies, when more place settings were made. W. Douglas Harris was the toastmaster for the program which followed. The welcome address was given by the grand knight of Mt. Angel council, Andrew Schmidt (Andy). Reverend Damian Jentges, pastor of St. Mary's parish, asked the blessing. Sylvester J. Smith of St. Paul state deputy gave a "Message to New Members"; Al Dieker of Mt. Angel, district deputy, spoke on membership activities; Edward J. Bell introduced distinguished visitors, and the Rev. James Koessler, general manager of the Benedictine Press, gave the principal address.

Solo selections were given by Miss Lucy VanCleaf with her sisters, Miss Ann VanCleaf as accompanist, and Ambrose Smith of Woodburn, with Miss Helen Keber playing the accompaniment, also for "God Bless America," sung by the audience. Members of Court Marion, Catholic Daughters of America, prepared and served the banquet with Val Eberle, Carl Mucken and Joseph Schmidt assisting.

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Blue Lake Packers Output Over \$5,000,000 for Year

Fruits and vegetables valued at more than \$5,000,000 were packed during the current year by Blue Lake Packers of West Salem, O. E. Snider, general manager, reported at the annual meeting of the cooperative at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall Monday.

Over 200 growers and their wives were present for the all-day meeting, and the turkey dinner served at noon.

R. L. Hardman of Sunset Farms, Independence, was elected to the board. Chester Mulkey of McMinnville was reelected. Following the meeting, board members re-elected Ammon Grice of route 8, Salem, president, and Mulkey vice president. John Bollinger of Salem, newly elected manager of the Farmers Union Co-op, led the singing and Joyce Bollinger furnished several musical numbers.

The outstanding feature of the past year's operation, Snider told the members, were the abnormal yields in tons per acre of both beans and corn. Average bean yield jumped from 6½ tons to 8½ tons, and average corn yield from 2¾ tons to 4¾ tons. Blue Lake beans are still being sold on eastern seaboard markets, despite several increases in the freight rate. They are able to compete with eastern beans because of their high quality, Snider said.

Final returns on 1949 pools will not be made until the close of the fiscal year, March 31, next.

Illustrating his talk with blackboard charts, Junior Eckley, the co-op's chief accountant, told how the total number of cases packed had grown from 888,778 in 1946 to 1,373,166 in 1949. The pack of frozen foods has nearly doubled. The plant now has a net value, after depreciation, of \$1,595,000.

Plans for 1950 include construction of an additional warehouse, replacement of a boiler at a cost of \$22,500; and reconstruction of facilities for handling beans and corn. The beet pack during the past season passed the 2000 ton mark.

Representatives from a number of northwest co-ops were introduced. Walter Bailey of Columbia Fruit Growers, and Allan Phillips of The Dalles Cherry Growers were there; and Art Ketchum headed a group from the Lewis-Clark Co-op of Lewiston, Idaho.

Ammon Grice acted as chairman of the meeting.

Verdict Favors Hayes Albany — Members of Linn county circuit court jury awarded a \$1235 judgment in favor of the plaintiff in the case of L. E. Hayes vs. H. L. Maloney, et al, doing business as Maloney & Chambers. Hayes had brought suit charging breach of a logging contract.

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New Christmas 'Look'

Portland, Ore., Dec. 20 (UP)—Portland's new Equitable building put on a Christmas "look" last night when lights were left on in certain windows to form two huge white crosses.



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