

# OSEA Presses For More Pay

The board of directors of the Oregon State Employees association met in Salem this week-end and voted to move vigorously for salary increases for state employes.

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stand in comparison with jobs in industry." He said the board believes salary adjustments on the basis of a survey would go far toward reducing personnel turnover. The board approved a medical and hospital service plan. Details will be announced to members throughout the state as soon as the contract is signed. The board commended state officials, department heads and members of the legislature for efforts toward improvement of conditions surrounding state employes, and pledged continued endeavors by the association to improve the efficiency of the state service. Relative to reports that some departments have failed to install safety devices required by labor law the board ordered an investigation before any action is taken. Some matters concerning the state retirement program was discussed. After further study they will be presented to the legislative interim committee now studying the whole retirement system.

# SALEM LIGHTED FIRST OUTDOOR TREE



The Salem Cherrians lighted this, the world's first outdoor Christmas tree on the lawn of the old courthouse 40 years ago this Christmas eve.

# Salem Cherrians Lighted First Outdoor Yule Tree

Do the citizens of Salem know that it has been just 40 years ago this coming Christmas Eve that the Salem Cherrians illuminated the first live outdoor Christmas tree in the world and started the outdoor illumination of trees and shrubbery, as well as arranging Nativity scenes about the homes in Salem, which is spreading all over the world? Do they know that the city of Denver, Colo., think they were the first to have a live outdoor Christmas tree. Denver's story goes something like this—

At Christmas time 1918 (five years after the illumination of the Cherrian tree) 10-year-old David Sturgeon lay very ill in Denver. His father lit a small tree in his sick room, but little David noticed an evergreen growing on the front lawn and said, "Oh Daddy please put some lights on that tree too. It would look wonderful." His father, who operated an electrical business, strung the tree with lights. David lay there smiling as he watched the lights sparkle. The towns-people talked about the tree and many came by the Sturgeon home to admire the tree which Denverites proudly believe was the first illuminated living tree in the country. Two years later, little David was dead. But the dying boy's wish was perpetuated by his friends and neighbors who illuminated their trees outdoors, house by house and block by block the same way the idea spread in Salem five years before.

Another story from San Francisco, eight years after the Denver tree, making it 1926, that another little boy was ill at Christmas time, but he could not see the family tree. This little fellow had a thoughtful neighbor living across the street who painted some full sized light bulbs and with them illuminated an evergreen tree on his lawn, which the little boy could see. This kindly neighbor was Clarence F. "Sandy" Pratt.

It attracted as much attention as Denver's tree. However, not like Denver's little boy, this little fellow in San Francisco was well by the next New Year's eve. "Sandy" Pratt was impressed with making a little boy happy that he resolved to spend the rest of his life persuading others, not only to light living trees, but to plant them. Today, "Sandy" Pratt has thousands of living monuments that were planted during his lifetime. It is such a tragedy that Salem seems to see fit to uproot its historic trees that have a story to tell. The enormous black walnut tree on Church street between Court and Chemeketa was uprooted to make way for the automobile parking lot. A picture of this tree now hangs in the Hall of Tree Fame in Washington, D.C. The Dr. Richardson tree, the Cedar of Lebanon which was one of the many trees and shrubs around his home on Chemeketa and Church street. It was uprooted to make way for an automobile business.

# Programs by Local Schools

Parrish junior high school will present its Christmas program for parents and interested townpeople at 7:30 Tuesday night in the Parrish auditorium.

Included in the program will be selections by the Parrish 80 piece band directed by Karl Thelen; carols by music groups under the direction of Mrs. Vern Suko who will also provide musical background for living picture.

The nativity scenes, portrayed by Parrish pupils, will be under the direction of Mrs. Paul Rowell, Miss Margaret Simms and Robert Voigt. Assisting with the staging and lighting are Parrish teachers—Dee Green, William Noland and Charles Chapman.

There will be no admission charge. Additional Christmas programs this week include: Monday—8 p.m. Senior high auditorium; 7:30 p.m. Hayesville and Swegle. Tuesday—1:15 p.m. Bush; 2-3 p.m. open house, McKinley; 2 p.m. Roberts; 4 p.m. Faculty tea, senior high; 7:30 p.m. Hayesville; Richmond, Rose-dale; Lincoln-Zena at Zena; 8 p.m. Auburn. Wednesday—10 a.m. Highland; 1 p.m. Homecoming assembly, senior high; 8 p.m. Halls Ferry.

**FRENCH BEAT OFF AMBUSH**  
Hanol, Indochina (P)—A French army spokesman announced that French and Vietnamese troops beat off an ambush today by Vietminh soldiers in the Red river Delta, killing 13 of the communist rebels and capturing 49.

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## East Salem

East Salem—Thursday, Auburn Woman's club held their Christmas meeting at the Community hall. Hostesses for the dinner hour were Mrs. Henry Hanson and Mrs. Ed Wiggins. Present were Mrs. Arlo McLain, Mrs. Jack Scorgie, Mrs. Cornelius Feskens, Mrs. Harry Eckstein, Mrs. Charles O. Gilling, Mrs. M. D. Brumfield, Mrs. Calvin Durkee, Mrs. George Starr, Mrs. S. W. Burris, Mrs. Virgil Birtell, Mrs. Stuart Johns, Mrs. C. C. Robinson, who became a new member, Mrs. Paul Gilmer, a guest, and the hostesses.

Wednesday the annual children's party for mothers and children of the Monroe Ave. Sewing club members was held at the Stuart Johns home on Monroe Ave. Each child received a gift and candy. Mothers exchanged gifts with secret pals, who were later revealed.

Attending were Mrs. Donald Townsend, Steven and Jim; Mrs. Paul Gilmer, Paula Jean and Lee Ann; Mrs. Melvin Shaw, Melvin and Carol; Mrs. Glenn Moody, Glenda Lee, Larry and Dennis; Mrs. Ray Fisher and Melissa; Mrs. John and grandchildren, Fred, Dorothy and Keith Miller; Mrs. Donald Rollodson, Donald and Dotty, Rae Ann Maske and Mrs. Townsend's mother, Mrs. James Kincaid from Neuman, Ill., and the hostess.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Olson were surprised by about 50 friends and neighbors with a

## housewarming party Saturday night at their new home on Kennedy Lane.

Merry Minglers club held a Christmas party Thursday at the home of Mrs. R. Gordon Scott on Silverton Rd. Attending were Mrs. Ernest Butler, Mrs. Ernest Barker, Mrs. Wade Carter, Mrs. Covill Case, Mrs. Clyde Colwell, Mrs. Albert Fabry, Mrs. Robert Fromm, Mrs. E. A. Jackson, Mrs. Anna Jess, Mrs. Leonard Malm, Mrs. Harvey Paag, Mrs. Carl Snyder, Mrs. Henry Sprick, Mrs. J. I. Wagers, Mrs. W. B. Whittington, Mrs. Allen McCain, Mrs. Scott. The first January meeting will be with Mrs. Main.

Merry-Go-Round club members held their Christmas party in the home of Mrs. Russell Grouffitt on Hollywood Dr. Games were played, gifts exchanged and each one brought samples of their favorite cookies, and the recipes for exchange after sampling. Mrs. Harold Holler received the door prize. Mrs. Paul Barham assisted the hostess in serving. Others present were Mrs. J. P. Robinette, Mrs. David Karn, Mrs. Kenneth Sides, Mrs. Keith LaDue, Mrs. Edward Curtis, Mrs. Sam Rehfeld, Mrs. W. J. Buck, Mrs. Melvin LaDue, and a guest, Mrs. Lansing. The January meeting will be with Mrs. Buck.

The December meeting of the Garden Road Neighborhood club was held at the home of Mrs. Mary Swingle with Mrs. Julia Jennings as assistant hostess for a luncheon. The season's special decorations were used throughout the home and gifts of secret friends were under a large lighted tree. Present were Mrs. Frank Rickert, Mrs. Paul Lynch, Mrs. Earl Wood, Mrs. Richard T. Wicklander, Mrs. A. R. Tartar, Mrs. Jess Hatch, Mrs. A. C. Schafer, Mrs. Ralph Werner and the hostesses.

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## Christmas Story in Pantomime at Bush

The Bush fourth grade, taught by Mrs. Grace Stenback, gave the play "Peace to Earth" late last week. It portrayed the Christmas story in pantomime with the use of the choir in singing carols. Pupils taking part: Donna Helton, Tommy Cleary, Donna Domes, Warren Brown, Terry Boman, Kenneth Kleinsmith, Leonard Keen, Thomas Vanderhoff, Eddie Withrow, Raymond McDougal and Roy Barley. Members of the choir were Twilla Johnson, Cheryl Fleishman, Susan McDonald, Beverly Cannon, Gary Finseth, Denton Nelson, Alick Adair, Timmy Ryser, Barbara Mickenham, John Clouse, Maria McVay, Rick Lewis, Charles Heltzel, Margaret Mallorie, Gayle Hensey, Lanny Cox, Keith Salter and Mary Prine.

**PRATUM PROGRAM**  
Pratum — The Methodist Sunday school will present a program at the church at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20.

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