

TWO CHRISTMAS SEASONS



This Noble fir has seen two Christmas seasons as a Christmas tree, first being used in 1952 as a green tree and again in 1953 as a modernistic tree in white and silver. Pictured with the tree is Drew Michaels of Eola Drive, who saved the tree over from the first year and is now putting it away to save for the 1954 Christmas season.

PO Exams at Marion Dated

An examination for postmaster at Marion, Oregon, which pays \$3264 a year, under revised and more exacting eligibility requirements agreed upon by the U. S. civil service commission and the post office department will be open for receipts of applications until February 2, the commission announced today.

All previously existing postmaster examinations for first, second- and third-class post offices and lists of eligibles were cancelled at the time higher standards of eligibility were prescribed for the filling of more than 1,700 vacant positions throughout the country.

The commission is taking all possible steps through special publicity to civic and other community organizations to encourage well qualified persons to apply for the examination.

Competitors for the postmaster vacancy at Marion must show that they can deal with the public agreeably and effectively and that they are reliable citizens who would command the respect and confidence of patrons at the post office. They must also show that their background will enable them to maintain simple records of accounts or that it has given them a knowledge of postal procedures.

Applicants must take a written test. Those who pass will be assigned final ratings on the basis of this test and on their experience, ability, and character. There is a one-year residence requirement and applicants must be at least 21 years of age and must not have passed their 63rd birthday.

Complete information about the examination requirements and instructions for filing applications may be obtained at the Marion post office for which this examination is being announced. Application forms must be received in the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington 25, D. C., not later than the closing date.

Mink, Fox Growers Bring New Business to Liberty

LIBERTY—Mink ranching is a growing industry in the Liberty area. Four thousand seven hundred forty mink and 28 foxes were pelted this year by four mink ranchers.

"Mutations" are the most popular, not only because they bring a more lucrative price on the market, but the manufacturers are very happy over the diversified coloring and tones in the mutations. Varieties raised in the Liberty area are the silver blues or platinum, royal pastels, starlights, and aleutian blues, and sapphires.

Stewart pastels and the topaz are the two newest varieties and are very much sought after.

The Stewart pastel is a light coffee color and the topaz which is an off shoot of the Stewart pastel is still lighter in color.

To develop these unusual shades, the local mink grower has made an extensive study in genetics. When one mink of a litter shows an unusual shade the rancher seeks a mate of about the same color to continue the rare mutation shade. Only a few of the standard ranch mink are still being pelted in the Liberty area. Although the standard mink are still popular and the fur is a soft warm dark brown, the prices of the pelts do not make

the raising of the standard mink so attractive as the raising of the mutations.

Females produce about four young a year and these little animals bite very readily. Although she is a very good eater, the female usually never weighs more than one and a half pounds. They eat a balanced diet and the food must be exceptionally clean and fresh. Sickness in the mink business is very costly.

C. W. Stacey on Boone Road, owner of the Stacey Fur Farm, pelted 2500 mink and 28 foxes this fall. He was a sweepstakes

winner in the Oregon State Fur Show in McMinnville last November.

Chet Ronne on Boone Road raises mink more for a hobby. He pelted 90 mink this year. Last summer he added a cold storage house and a new shed that will house 120 females. He has increased his breeding stock this year and plans to add another housing shed next summer.

The Mountain View Fur Farm

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on Cunningham Lane, owned by R. D. Gibson, pelted 750 mink this year and he is increasing his breeding stock for this coming year.

The Ronne Fur Ranch on Boone Road is owned by Harvey Ronne. Fourteen hundred mink were pelted at his ranch this fall. He has raised many prize mink this past year. Winning about 18

ribbons in the Oregon State Fur Show at McMinnville in November. He placed with five entries in the live animal show at the Civil Auditorium in Seattle last week. Many Oregon fur farmers from various parts of the state made entries in the show.

These fur ranchers live within a mile radius of Liberty.

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One Christmas Tree Repeats Yearly Service

By MARGARET MAGEE

Most Christmas trees, used in homes and business firms during the past holiday season, have now gone up in smoke.

This is not the case of one used by Drew Michaels in decorating the department he heads for one of the local business firms.

Michaels, who himself has a Christmas tree farm, is putting the tree away for another Christmas season, and this is an old story for the tree, for Christmas, 1953, was the second season it had been used.

The tree, a Noble fir, originally came from the Black Rock area in early December of 1952. That year red balls

and red bows decorated the tree.

As an experiment Michaels put the tree away in his pump house at his home three miles west of Salem. Come the past Christmas season the tree was removed and transformed into a modernistic Christmas tree.

Needles on the tree remained firmly attached, but the tree had dried out completely and lost its green luster, turning a brownish color. A couple of coats of white four-hour enamel were sprayed on the tree and while the last coat was still tacky it was covered with white rayon flocking.

A light dusting of silver completed the modern effect and the tree returned to the department that Michaels heads for its second Christmas season taking its place under a red spotlight.

Forestry department personnel, who watched Michaels' experiment, confirmed the fact that Noble firs, which normally grow at an elevation of 2,000 feet or higher can be held over a year and the needles remain on the tree. They had only one warning note — remember that such a tree is very dry and should not be placed too near a fire or heat of any kind.

Mrs. Huff and Beyer in Lead

With a 62.5 per cent score, Mrs. Donald Huff and M. A. Beyer of Mt. Angel, took the lead in the first of the seven-week series just started by the Salem Elks Duplicate Bridge club.

Closely following were Mrs. Rupert L. Park and Ray Ward, Mrs. Sam Ramp and John Pugh of Shedd, and Mrs. R. H. Tokrud and Lloyd Jones. With 80 players participating, 20 high point winners will be selected to represent the Salem club at the American Contract Bridge League regional meet in Portland on February 18-22.

Other teams receiving points in the opening tournaments include Mrs. Charles Newsom and Walter M. Cline, Mrs. Donald Duncan and Mrs. Arthur W. Binegar, Arthur L. Lewis and Elmer O. Berg, Sam Ramp and Ellis H. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Frasier, Mrs. Ward Graham and Mrs. Dewey Howell, Mrs. C. B. Benton and Mrs. Harry Wiedmer, and Mrs. Leona Taylor and Mrs. Harold R. Muhs.

In the junior section, Carl Charnholm and Roy Tokrud, and Mrs. W. D. Albright and Mrs. Wally Wilson were winners, while in second place were Mrs. C. Charnholm and Wally Wilson, and Mr. and Mrs. Fred McLaughrey.

High score in the mid-week tournament at the Woman's club were Mrs. A. W. Binegar and Mrs. R. L. Parks. Next came Mrs. D. Howell and Mrs. C. B. Benton, Mrs. M. D. Parker and Mrs. E. E. Roth, and Mrs. C. L. Newsom and Mrs. Lloyd Jones.

Annual election of a committee to handle the tournaments of the Elks Duplicate Bridge club will be held Monday evening, January 18. Preparations for nominations and voting are being made by Chairman Walter M. Cline.

Welfare Board Takes Offers

The Marion County Public Welfare office is accepting proposals for the lease of space for the agency's quarters to be located in Salem for occupancy not later than May 15, 1954.

Proposals should be submitted in writing to the Marion County Welfare department, room 110, old high school building, Salem by 5 p. m., Monday, January 18.

The building to be considered shall be of new office type construction or an existing building suitable for renovation to office use.

Preference will be given to structures adjacent to or within the area of several blocks of the new Marion county court house. Street level is necessary with adjoining parking space for 10 cars. Convenience to the general public is also a consideration.

The minimum requirement is 5000 square feet of useable office space. Partitioning should conform approximately as follows: reception area, 300 square feet; two intake offices, 200 square feet; three interviewing rooms, 150 feet; clerical area, 550 feet; stenographic area, 500 feet; case workers area, 2000 feet; dictation room, 100 feet; supervisors area 400 feet; administrator's office, 150 feet; conference room, 650 feet; kitchenette, 150 feet.

Sketch plans are available at the welfare department.

Negotiations conducted late last summer for new quarters were terminated at the request of the state department. The State Public Welfare Commission will enter into a five year lease with the new landlord.

ROSEDALE MEETING
ROSEDALE—The Rosedale Parents club will hold its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, at the school house. Dr. A. Weston Niemela will speak on "Mental Health of Children."

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Grid Changes Are Proposed

Recommendation that two "legs" of the one-way grid system be removed will be made by Mayor Al Loucks to the city council Monday night.

The legs are those one-block extensions of one-way traffic beyond the border streets of the grid intended to make easier entrance into or exit from the grid. For example, Ferry street is the south border of the grid, but Church and Cottage continue as one-way streets an additional block to Trade. These extensions have proved troublesome because of additional traffic thrown on Trade where there is also railroad traffic, and because of difficulty in handling funeral corteges at the Clough-Barrick mortuary. So the mayor will recommend that these two one-way blocks be eliminated.

Another recommendation of the mayor will be the installation of a traffic light at Capitol and Chemeketa intersection.

Bennett and Hatfield Will Address Club

The Salem High PTA will meet Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock with Dr. Thomas Bennett and Dean Mark Hatfield as speakers. Both are faculty members at Willamette university.

The topic will be "Responsibility of the home in a world of crisis." Bennett, head of the philosophy department, will talk on the religious angle, while Hatfield, dean of students at Willamette, will discuss from the civic or political side.

Hostesses for the meeting are Mrs. Floyd McClellan, chairman; Mrs. E. A. Carleton, Mrs. James Bishop, and Mrs. Paul W. Harvey, Jr.

Salvation Army Guest Speaker

Special services are in progress at the Salvation Army with Weston Trucker as the guest evangelist. These services will continue through Thursday evening of next week, January 14.

Weston Trucker has recently spent several months in the Orient with the Youth for Christ program there.

A Bible study class is conducted at 7 p.m. and the services at 8 p.m. each evening. Mr. Trucker will also be speaking at all the services on Sunday.



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