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MILLIONS OF CHRISTMAS TREES CUT ANNUALLY

Equals Number Used in England, Scotland and Wales Combined—In the United States the Variety of Trees Used Varies With the Locality.

The United States uses annually between four and five million Christmas trees, according to the estimate of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture. This equals approximately the combined consumption of England, Scotland and Wales is about 25 per cent. greater than that of Germany. The Christmas tree bears the same fruit the country over, but the variety of the tree itself varies according to locality. The fir is undoubtedly the Christmas tree par excellence, on account of its long, horizontal, spreading, spriggy branches, and deep-green, fragrant foliage which persists longer than that of any other evergreen.

Very commonly the question is raised as to whether the cutting and use of these trees for Christmas purposes is not a great waste, and whether steps should not be taken to discourage or prohibit it. In the opinion of department officials the custom is so old, so well grounded, and so venerated, that even if it were economically somewhat indefensible, these aspects will and should continue to outweigh economic considerations. It is denied, however, that pure economic considerations would lead to the abandonment of the Christmas tree custom. Trees are for use, they argue, and there is no other use to which they could be put that would contribute so much to the joy of mankind as their use by children on this one great holiday of the year. Further, particularly in the Northeastern States, a large proportion of the Christmas trees are cut from pasture lands on which they are encroaching or from land which could be cleared up in the ordinary course of farm improvements. The trees would be cut in any event. A market for them gives the owners some return for their labor if nothing more. It is true that in the vicinity of large cities the Christmas tree supply is sometimes secured in such a way as to be destructive of young growth. This, of course, should be discouraged.

That the use of Christmas trees is perfectly compatible, however, with the welfare of the forest is fully proved by the practice in the European forests. The cutting of small trees for Christmas is not there considered in the least as a menace to the forest, but as a means for improving the forest and a source of revenue, and is therefore constantly encouraged. It is not by denying ourselves the wholesome pleasure of having a bit of nature in our homes, forest officials say, that we shall preserve our forests, but by learning how to use them wisely and properly. The following rules are laid down by the Forest Service for the woodland owner who wishes to improve a rather dense stand of evergreens and market the good trees for Christmas purposes:

- (1) Find a market for Christmas trees of the species which are growing on your land.
- (2) Go through the woodland carefully, pick out and mark the most vigorous specimens of trees. These should be allowed to remain to form the mature stand of timber.
- (3) Mark for removal the trees which are crowding these better specimens.
- (4) Cut as many of these inferior trees as there is a suitable market for. Cut them carefully to avoid damage to the remaining trees.
- (5) Remove them carefully from the area and market them in accordance with instructions from the buyer to avoid any cause for dispute.

C. H. Howard came home this week from Southern California, where he went earlier in the fall to run a stage line between San Diego and Tia Juana. Mr. Howard was formerly from that country, but asthma drove him out and for a number of years he had been living in Ashland where he was entirely free from that trouble. He decided he would try it once more, and if he could get by this winter he would remain, but after only about three weeks in that sea level country his old affection returned, and was so bad he was compelled to leave. "I could make good money there with my auto stage," Mr. Howard stated, "but money is not everything when one's health is at stake, so I guess it is Ashland for me."

Mrs. O. H. Johnson is numbered among the sick of Ashland at her home on North Main street.

MAIL YOUR XMAS PARCELS EARLY

E. J. Kaiser, Ashland Postmaster, Has Submitted Following Schedule Which Will Aid Christmas Shoppers in Mailing Their Christmas Parcels.

This year Christmas occurs on Saturday and it behooves the public to add one day earlier than usual to their Christmas shipments in order that no delays can place their Christmas presents in some post office on Sunday and thus postpone the joy of their friends.

Postmaster E. J. Kaiser has submitted the following schedule for Ashland patrons as one that would insure parcels arriving on time. "Do not open until Christmas" can be written on the address side.

Address to points in states east of Chicago and in Southern states; mail not later than December 16.

Address to points in North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Texas, Louisiana; mail not later than December 16.

Address to points in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho, Arizona; mail not later than December 17.

Address to Southern California, Washington, Utah, Nevada; mail not later than December 18.

Address to points in California north of San Francisco, Northern and Eastern Oregon; mail not later than December 19.

Address to Ashland and adjacent towns; mail not later than December 22.

WOMEN DISAPPOINT OUR LADY ASTOR, M. P.

LONDON.—(By Mail to United Press.)—Lady Astor is disappointed in women.

And she told them so in a speech which she made to masses of them at the opening of the Englishwoman's Exhibition.

"I am glad that the days of the clinging, dependent woman are over," she said. "When I was a child I used to read about heroines who fainted at the sight of a rat and wondered if I would grow up like that."

However, while admitting that women have outgrown these puerilities, she deplored their lack of logic in the matter of dress.

"This is a testing time for women," she continued, "but when I walk down Bond street and see the way they dress, I think they have been tested and have failed. What should we think if men changed the length of their trousers every year?" she asked.

Lady Astor appealed to the women to dress more sensibly, as men do.

C. C. DIRECTORS DISCUSS SUMMER PREPAREDNESS

Plan Early for Caring for Summer Travel—S. P. Official Encourages Ashland—E. V. Carter Reports on Educational Conference.

The directors of the Chamber of Commerce met at Pioneer hall Tuesday noon for the regular weekly meeting. Various matters of interest were discussed, among others the preparation at an early date, for caring for next summer's vacation and tourist travel. This subject will be considered at a general public forum meeting in the near future.

I. T. Sparks, district freight and passenger agent of the Southern Pacific line, was a guest of the hour and gave an interesting talk of the development of the southwest and stated that after a number of years spent in this development work in that section, he had been rewarded by being transferred to Southern Oregon, which to him seemed a very desirable change and that Ashland seemed like a bit of Heaven. That there were thousands of people in the Imperial valley and Arizona and California who would be only too glad to find such a spot as Ashland for their summer vacation, and urged that steps be taken to get in touch with such people.

E. V. Carter gave an interesting report of the Educational Conference held last week in Portland at which he was a delegate from the Ashland Chamber of Commerce, and stated that the sentiment of all the educational forces of the state seemed to stress the fact that more normal schools were a necessity for Oregon and that a move in this direction would be taken at the opportune time.

UNIONIZE INDIA, IS PLAN OF BRITISH LABORITES

By Webb Miller. (United Press Staff Correspondent.) LONDON.—(By Mail)—A gigantic labor union is being organized in India by leaders who frankly state that they will attempt to use the strike weapon to obtain political independence for India. Ben Spoor, British labor Member of Parliament, who is going to India in the dual role of emissary of the English Labor Party and as a delegate to the India National Congress, which met at Nagpur, December 15, is very optimistic about the spread of unionism in the land of the Rajah.

"The Labor Federation of India is a two-bladed sword with which the Indian workers can sever the ties of British rule and decanonize slavery at the same stroke," declared Spoor to the United Press. "The Federation will speedily enroll millions of workers, as all that is necessary is to organize the different castes, which are themselves really iron bound unions, simply awaiting leadership."

"The strike is a new weapon in Indian hands, but they are beginning to feel its power, which accounts for the epidemic of strikes now breaking over India. I have no doubt but that India will see the growth of the biggest centralized union in the world within the next year or two and it is natural that direct action should follow along the lines of a struggle for political freedom. The British Labor Party is in closest accord with the aims of the Indian labor movement and I am empowered to extend them our fraternal greetings and promise of assistance."

The National Indian Congress, one of the biggest political organizations in the world, with a membership of over seven millions pledged to work for India's freedom, has pledged its resources to aid the laborites, according to Secretary Bilzard, of the British Committee of the Congress.

"The fact that some of our members are in the capitalist class will not prevent us extending co-operation to the Indian labor movement," he said. "We expect the Labor Federation of India to become our most effective ally. We have backed Gandhi and his non-violent non-co-operation, and naturally this is a slow way of arousing the national consciousness. India is unquestionably in the mood for a radical organization to assume leadership."

Post Elects Officers.

Burnside Post G. A. R., at its regular meeting Saturday afternoon, elected the following officers to preside during the coming year: Post Commander, Comrade Noble; senior vice, A. C. Spencer; junior vice, Ed White; officer of the day, Charles Ganiere; quartermaster, Comrade Brush; chaplain, C. W. Bennett; inside guard, Comrade Palmer.

THE DALLES TO MAKE BRICK.

THE DALLES, Dec. 14.—Concrete brick and tiles are to be turned out of a factory it is planned to open here shortly and which will be known as The Dalles Shops Pressed Brick Co. The output will be particularly designed for material for residences and public buildings.

CHILDREN'S FARM HOME FUND PAID IN VERY SLOWLY

Many More Solicitors Needed by Ashland to Complete Campaign—That Payments May Be Made Up to June 1st Not Generally Known—Slowness of Program Due To Disinterest is Belief of Many.

The general opinion of the committee in charge today is that many more solicitors could be used. V. O. N. Smith will meet all who are interested in assisting in the campaign and provide them with proper material and information.

Many Ashland citizens, uninformed as to the details of the Children's Farm home, have consequently delayed subscriptions to the fund. Subscribers should not lose sight of the fact that payments are acceptable up to June 1st. Blanks are being distributed for that purpose.

Location for the home has not yet been made, contrary to a false report published a few weeks ago. Selection of the site will be made by the nineteen corporation trustees. Two of these trustees reside in Ashland. It is not known when the trustees will meet to decide this matter—but they are determined that only such land will be purchased as is worth the price asked by the owner and paid by this corporation, and only such land will be purchased as is suitable for the several needs of the institution, including fertility, drainage, accessibility and susceptibility to cultivation.

WILL DRILL FOR CARBONIC ACID GAS

Harry Silver, manager of the Pompadour Mineral Springs company, has a crew of workmen engaged in putting down test wells at the company's plant for carbonic acid gas, which the company expects to develop extensively. Mr. Silver has the drilling machine installed and preparations for development on a large scale will be carried on as soon as weather permits. Drilling has virtually started, but owing to the rainy weather, the out of door work has been greatly hampered. A series of wells will be sunk in the vicinity of the geyser spring until sufficient carbonic acid gas is discovered in paying quantities.

HAD CHECK ARTISTS RETURNED TO CITY

Sheriff C. E. Terrill and Deputy Sheriff J. J. McMahan arrived in Ashland this morning on train No. 14, bringing with them the two men, Murphy and Moran, charged with passing fraudulent checks to Ashland merchants. The men were arrested in Sacramento, and, according to the officers, confessed the charge. The men were taken before Justice Gowdy on arriving in the city. They waived an examination and were later taken to Jacksonville by the officers. They were recognized by some of their victims while they were in the city this morning.

WYANT FAMILY RETURNS; MAKE FUTURE HOME HERE

L. H. Wyant, wife and family, who have been living in Seattle where Mr. Wyant was employed in the navy yards during the war, returned home yesterday and will settle in their home in Ashland. They were accompanied by Mrs. Wyant's father, L. H. Settles, who has been living with them since his wife died a year ago. It took five days to make the trip and the motorists found some bad stretches of road between here and Seattle, notably in Washington and the other side of Grants Pass. Mr. and Mrs. Wyant are very glad to get back to Ashland, they state.

Elect Officers For Red Cross

At the annual Red Cross meeting held yesterday at the Pioneer hall, reports were handed in by the campaign and other committees. Mrs. Alice Peil reported nearly \$1200 as the result of the campaign for membership and the probability of a few more yet to come in. Officers for the ensuing year were elected, comprising: Rev. P. K. Hammond, chairman; Mrs. J. M. Wagner and Mrs. Alice Peil as vice-chairmen; Mrs. A. H. Praest, secretary; G. G. Eubanks, treasurer, with Mesdames S. McNair, F. S. Engle, J. E. Thornton, W. L. Maxey and Mr. Thos. H. Simpson as assistant members of the executive committee. Much has been done during the past year in the Home Relief Work and an appropriation was voted to assist in paying for a Red Cross nurse to assist the county nurse in caring for the children of our schools.

PRIZES AWARDED ON ESSAY CONTEST AT WINTER FAIR

Pupils of Public Schools Contest in Writing on Milk as Food Value to Children—City and Rural Students Compete.

The essay contest in the public schools, which was a part of the Winter Fair, resulted as follows on the subject, "Why Children Should Drink Milk Every Day":

City Schools. First, Fourth and Fifth Grades: First Prize—Katherine Phipps, 5th grade, Junior High.

Rural Schools. First prize—Ore Nelson, 5th grade, Lone Pine school.

City Schools. First prize—Genevieve Hobbs, 8th grade, Junior High.

Rural Schools. First prize—Hazel Howard, 7th grade, Neil Creek.

City Schools. Second prize—Harry Walker, 6th grade, Lone Pine.

Rural Schools. Third prize—Bernice Kincaid, 6th grade, Neil Creek.

IN THE JEWELRY STORE BEFORE AND AFTER WEDDING BELLS

By Harold D. Jacobs.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—There is no business that furnishes a better opportunity to study human psychology than that of selling jewelry according to William Barthman, who for many years has had a shop in Maiden Lane, the diamond center of America.

"One can invariably forecast the married life of a couple by their attitude when they come in to buy the engagement ring," he said today. "It is easy to tell which will dominate after the wedding ceremony. His actions during the purchase. He makes the selection and fixes the price, you may depend upon it that she will make most of the decisions after they are married and vice versa. It is also possible to tell whether she will be thrifty or a spendthrift."

Barthman cited an instance of a young couple who came in to buy a diamond solitaire. The youth very delicately let his sweetheart understand that he did not feel able to pay more than \$400 or \$500. But every ring she decided upon was valued at \$1,200 to \$1,500. They finally compromised on one costing about \$900, about twice what he had intended to pay.

"And if I had been that young man I would have been tempted to call it off right there," the grey-haired jeweler declared.

Barthman was asked how the average young man determines the size of the engagement ring.

"Well, a few of them bring their fiances right in to try it on," he replied. "Some obtain from us a cardboard arrangement to fix the size. Other knot a string about her finger or try one of the rings she already has on one of their fingers. But the great majority just guess at it—and usually guess wrong. Most of those who guess select a ring too large, probably assuming that they will be on the safe side when it comes to readjusting it. But it is just as easy to make a ring larger as it is to make it smaller."

What does the average young man buy his sweetheart in, in the way of jewelry, and what does the average married man buy his wife?

Barthman said that gold or silver meshbags are the most popular gift during the courtship period, with gold bracelets and pearl opera glasses running a close second. After marriage, the woman usually demands a pearl necklace or a diamond and platinum bracelet, and gets it.

Gifts for children are generally in the form of a ring, bracelet or pin. When women make gifts for men they generally select a scarf pin or a gold fountain pen.

"It is interesting to watch the development of a young couple's courtship and marriage," Barthman said. "A young man will come in and buy some small present, such as a brooch, costing \$15 or \$20. A few months later he will make a little more expensive gift. Then, as birthdays and Christmas arrive, he increases the value of his gifts until finally the engagement ring is bought. Next is the wedding ring. After this there is a cessation of three or four years. They are spending all their money furnishing a home and making a start. If he is successful in business, this period will be followed by one of far more expensive presents."

Barthman said the expected slump in jewelry sales, looked for long ago, had not yet become apparent.

ASHLAND MILL WAS FIRST IN VALLEY

Pioneer Tells of Construction of Old Flour Mills in Southern Oregon—Delivery Wagons Attacked by Indians and Drivers Killed.

O. A. Stearns, one of the pioneers of Southern Oregon, settles the query regarding the first grist mill built in the upper Rogue River Valley. Mr. Stearns has personal recollections of the building of these old mills, and in the following communication tells an interesting story of the early industries of the valley:

"In a recent issue of your paper appeared an article recording the razing of the old Eagle mill by its present owner, in which you quote the 'old pioneers' as being in doubt as to whether the 'Eagle' or 'Ashland' flouring mills was first erected.

"The 'Ashland' mill was erected in 1854-55 in time to grind the harvest of '55, as the writer well remembers the competition between the farmers of the nearby section to get the first grist ground at that mill. My father was among the first to take wheat to that mill and I can remember distinctly the color and flavor of the biscuits made from the first home grown wheat.

"Prior to that time we were compelled to use flour ground in Chile, South America, which was shipped by vessel to Scottsburg and packed across the mountains from there by mule train. The price of the flour to the consumer was \$13 per hundred and as the flour was not protected while in transit across the mountains where there was almost continual rain, the flour was wet and sometimes mouldy as far as half an inch or more all around the sacks, which enabled them to stand alone when the flour was removed.

"There was quite a heavy shipment of flour from the Ashland Mill to the outlying mining camps.

"In September of that year four ox teams loaded with flour from that mill were ambushed by Indians just this side of the summit of the Siskiyou mountains, and two of the drivers of the foremost wagons were killed, the oxen shot and the wagons with their contents nearly all destroyed. Casey Fields and John Cunningham were the men killed.

"Harrison R. Outman escaped by running up and over the mountain, never stopping until he reached the mining camp of 'Cottonwood,' near where now is Hornbrook. Daniel Britton, the fourth man, who was proverbially slow, was out of sight behind the other wagons when, hearing the firing, he left his team standing and ran up towards where the firing was. He saw the Indians in their work of destruction, and without being discovered, turned and ran down the mountain to the Mountain House (Barron's) and gave the alarm.

"A party of volunteers was soon raised, who tracked the Indians around by way of Dead Indian Prairie, down Butte creek to the Indian reservation, near Table Rock. Here they were attacked and many killed, precipitating the Rogue River War of 1855.

"A large fallen fir tree with the branches set up along the body, near the last hill on the upward climb to the summit of the Siskiyou, was the place of ambush for the Indians in that attack and was plainly visible from the old road for several years after the toll road over the mountains was completed several years after.

"The Phoenix grist mill, built in 1855 was the second mill finished, and the Eagle mill was constructed by John and Toby Thomas, soon after, and in connection with their mill they also built and operated a distillery for several years.

Honored Former Teacher.

A handsomely appointed dinner party was given at the Hotel Austin last evening in honor of Mrs. E. E. Eric, a teacher in the Junior High school, who has resigned from her position and will leave shortly for her home in Vancouver, B. C. Sixteen with the honor guest sat down to a course dinner served by the hotel attendants at six o'clock. Following the dinner the company enjoyed a theatre party at the Vining. Those who composed the party were Mrs. Eric, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Briscoe, Misses Reed, Ohio, Blume, Beaver, Spencer, Ross, Voryz, Troutman, Bruner, Wattenbarger, Miller, Carver and Mr. Wilson.

Officers for the coming year were elected at the last meeting of the Woman's Relief Corps, resulting as follows: President, Mrs. Lulu Howard; senior vice president, Mrs. Cora; junior vice president, Mrs. James Lowe; secretary, Mrs. Peters; treasurer, Mrs. Jennie Hammond; chaplain, Mrs. Mathes; conductor, Mrs. Moss; guard, Mrs. White. A fine social time followed the business meeting and election of officers.

TOURIST SEASON NOT CLOSED OVER PACIFIC HIGHWAY

Old-Time Residents View With Interest Journeying Over the Mountains in Dead of Winter—No Closed Season for Touring.

A regular caravan of tourists from the north passed through Ashland this forenoon on their way to points in Southern California for the winter. The caravan was composed of ten automobile loads of people, and they were equipped with all the paraphernalia of camping. Last night, they claimed, they camped out of doors, and were not at all uncomfortable, although that was perhaps the coldest night of the season in Southern Oregon. A string of seven Fords also passed through Saturday, going south.

To old time residents of Ashland and the Rogue River valley, the sight of tourists going over the mountains every day into California is one that is particularly strange, as this was a journey few attempted to undertake unless under great necessity. Then the trip was usually made by horseback, as to drive over the mountain roads in winter was simply out of the question. Now tourists go over the mountain roads every day, apparently thinking no more of the journey than they do in midsummer.

According to statements of those who have come from the south the only difficulty that confronts them on the road is north of Dunsuir and up the mountains on the California side. After they reach Oregon their troubles are at an end, as the state keeps a man stationed on the highway, who sees the road is opened whenever a snow storm hits the summit. With the fine paved highway the journey on the Oregon side is a delight, even in winter.

Tourists from the north claim the road north of Grants Pass presents the greatest obstacle in traveling at the present time. This stretch of road is not yet paved, and without doubt is hard to undertake with automobiles. That they can make the trip without serious drawbacks is evidenced by the sight of automobiles passing through every day, and the sight of tourists making a trip over the Pacific highway north or south in the dead of winter is really a great feature to those who remember the heart-breaking journeys of former years.

WINTER FAIR WAS FINANCIAL SUCCESS

At the luncheon of the directors of the Ashland Chamber of Commerce today noon at the Hotel Austin, Will G. Steele of Eugene was a guest and made a report of his recent visit to Denver, where he went as a delegate to the Park-to-Park convention, which was recently held in that city. Mr. Steele said, was a most enthusiastic meeting and one that will bear fruit for the coast country. One of the prominent members of the convention, in a speech on auto camps, alluded to Ashland's camp, of which he said there was only one other in the whole country which he had visited that could compare with it.

Mr. Steele also discussed the matter of the small appropriation allotted to Crater Lake, and suggested that Southern Oregon should unite in demanding the increase of more favorable action.

A report on the recent Winter Fair was made at this luncheon today, which showed it was a financial success. Over 1000 paid admissions were taken in at the Saturday night carnival of the fair, amounting to \$254.60. Of those attending 850 were adults, with upwards of 200 children. A surplus in the treasury, to be applied to the fair for next season.

BANK OFFICIALS PLEAD NOT GUILTY

W. H. Johnson, president of the defunct Jacksonville bank, F. D. Hines, former vice president, and Mrs. Myrtle Blakeley, county treasurer, were arraigned in the circuit court Saturday and entered pleas of not guilty to the indictments. The court had previously overruled defendants' plea to quash the indictments. These proceedings were purely a legal formality, and the case will be tried at the February term of court. What promises to be the longest session in the history of Jackson county will take place at this time.

HAWAIIAN SUGAR SELLS WHOLESALF AT 8 1/2 @ 9

(By the United Press) SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 14.—The wholesale price of granulated cane sugar was cut from 9 to 8 1/2 cents a pound, the California-Hawaiian Sugar company announced today.