

THE CHRISTMAS BACKLOG

BY FRANK H. SWEET



"Omp! Omp, Pomp! Pomp!" The call went through the quarters, through the shadowy live oaks beyond, under draped branches the ground was dim even at midday, and on into the express swamp to a black pool over which a black boy was crouching. As the call came to him, mellowed by distance, he raised his head a little and chuckled, then resumed his work, which was the driving of a large plug into the end of an immense log submerged in the water.

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seventh day. Even the greenest, most cross grained log of black oak wouldn't be apt to burn that long behind a good fire. It struck me the log might have been soaking in water for some time. Do you think your log will burn a week, Pomp?"

"Why—er—yes, massa, I spects it will," Pomp confessed, "an—'n' mebbe a little more. But you s'yd las' year dat you liked it an' 'jyed it mech as you will."

"So I did, Pomp, and I hope the log will burn its full week, and I shall not ask any of you to do a hand turn of work except the necessary chores until it burns out. But I hope on the Monday after the holidays you will be ready to strike that railroad work heartily. What do the boys think of it?"

"'Bout you dig in us out to dig on de new railroad, massa? Well, I reckon dey favors it a heap, Massa Ben Cudder, on de rubber plantation, gwine hire out 500 han's to de railroad boss."

"So I hear. But that will take every man, woman and child on his plantation who is strong enough to lift a shovel. I don't quite like that. I shall only hire out the able-bodied men for whom I have no work on the plantation just now, and none of them need go against his will. I think we can muster about 300, Pomp, and I want you all to feel it will be party for your own interest. Half the money I receive from the railroad will be used in rebuilding the cabins at the quarters. I hope you will be able to make your log burn out its full week and that you will be ready for the contract work the following Monday. This contract means—" He stopped abruptly and turned away, apparently forgetful of his threat to look Pomp in the harness room.

But Pomp had no intention of benefiting by the omission. As he went chucking toward the room his thoughts were on the absurdity of the log burning out in one week. "If he'd done said 'bout two Mondays ahead he'd come closer," he muttered gleefully. "Jes' a week ain' make no dif'rence 'bout de railroad work, an' 'ob co'se dem cabins is plenty good for we all to sleep in."

Five evenings later most of the negroes were gathered at the big house, picking their banjos, singing, laughing and joking themselves on the good things that were spread out lavishly for them. Many were in the living room, in which was the huge fireplace, with its back-log, not yet a quarter burned. From time to time the negroes looked at it wonderingly and made comments and spoke the name of Pomp with added respect. Colonel Belknap, too, glanced frequently at the log, but in his glances were trouble and apprehension.

It was an open Christmas, and the great blaze in the fireplace made it necessary to throw wide the doors and windows. Among the negroes who lingered about the open doorway was a slim, furtive eyed fellow, a visitor from the Cudder plantation.

"Look heah, you story teller," began Pomp, but the fellow cutted. "It's all de news," he declared. "I hear Massa Cudder say an' hissef, if your log burns an' you s'yd up sure, an' case he s'yd he take nobody dat he railroad boss s'yd Monday, an' your big ain' start in 'till Monday, an' you till dat log burn out. He, he! You do mighty good job for Massa Cudder, Pomp, when you s'yd dat log. You gib him all de railroad work. Your massa!"

His sentence was suddenly cut short, for Pomp had him by the shoulders and sent him spinning down the steps. "Dat Cudder dose see' him here to spy round," muttered Pomp. "De'ya's safe dat mean. I s'yd it in de fellow's eyes."

Pomp went straight to Colonel Belknap, who was standing by a window, looking gloomily out at the darkness. "You like for we all to start on de railroad work Monday, massa?" he asked in a low voice.

"Can't do it, Pomp," a little drearly. "The boys want to assent till the log burns out, and that is good for another week at least."

"I d'know 'bout dat, massa," Pomp whispered confidentially. "You see, logs like dat fust an' fust till dey's warm 'n' dry de way t'rough, den dey jes' flare up quick like powder. I spects dat log gwine burn out 'fore Monday."

That night after the whole house was asleep, Pomp raised a window and stepped into the living room softly. An hour was spent at the fireplace, where the great log smoldered dully. Twice Pomp went to the window and came back with his arms full. Then he stole out, closing the window noiselessly behind him. An hour later there was a great roaring and crackling in the great fireplace as to waken several of the house servants and bring them to Colonel Belknap into the room. The fireplace was a lurid mass of roaring flames.

"Well, well!" Colonel Belknap ejaculated at length, with a long breath. "Pomp was right about its starting up like powder. But why?"

Monday morning 300 stalwart negroes filed away from the Belknap plantation toward the new railroad where work was to begin. But it was not until the work was completed and all the gloom gone from Colonel Belknap's face that one day he caught Pomp by himself and collared him.

"The Blind Historian." William Hicking Prescott, who was born at Salem, Mass., on the 4th of May, 1796, was the son of a prosperous lawyer, entered Harvard college in 1811 and graduated in 1814. Early in his college career he had his left eye blinded by a piece of bread playfully thrown at him by a fellow student, and the other eye soon became sympathetically affected. He traveled in England, France and Italy and then devoted himself to severe study, but it was not till the beginning of 1829 that he found the work of his life within the range of Spanish history. Fortunately his means were ample, so that he was able to procure the services of assistants and to live amid conditions of comfort. By constant habit he gained the power of carrying a great deal in his memory, and after he had revolved the whole of a chapter in his mind he quickly transferred it to paper by means of his stylus and an ingenious writing case especially constructed for the blind. He published his "History of Ferdinand and Isabella" in 1838, which carried his name across the ocean to the old world. This was followed by his "History of the Conquest of Mexico" in 1843, and of "Peru" in 1847. These gave him a great reputation.

A Frutitarian Diet. A frutitarian diet consists of the fruits of trees (apples, oranges, bananas and olives), the fruits of bushes (like currants and raspberries), the fruits of plants (like strawberries and melon, lentils and beans and cucumbers), the fruits of grasses (like wheat and barley and maize and oats), the fruits of nut trees (from filbert to cocoanut), together with some earthy fruits (like potatoes), and a modicum of vegetables and salads. To these may be added butter, milk, honey and cheese, although their production is not so free from risk of contamination and animal infection as is the case with the products of the vegetable kingdom and the world of fruits. Grown under healthy conditions, with diseased specimens easy to detect and remove, it is far more possible to live healthily and well upon the products of the slaughter house.

Reduced Round Trip Excursion Rates to Pacific Coast in 1907. During the summer season of 1907, reduced round trip excursion rates will be in effect from the East to the Pacific Coast, Montana, British Columbia and Arizona points.

Rates from Chicago via direct lines to North Pacific Coast points will be \$75, and from Missouri river common points (Council Bluffs to Kansas City inclusive) also St. Paul and Minneapolis, rates will be \$60, St. Louis \$69 and Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo \$50. Rates to Spokane and points effected will be \$5 less than to the coast. Rates one way via California will be \$13.50 higher than those above mentioned. Tickets will be on sale daily, June 1st to September 15, 1907, with final return limit of October 31, 1907.

Account of Twenty-third International Christian Endeavor Convention at Seattle, Wash., July 16th to 15th, 1907. Convention of Baptist Young People's Union, Spokane, Wash., July 4th to 7th, 1907; Grand Lodge Independent Order of Good Templars, Seattle, Wash., July 10th to 22nd, 1907, rate of one lowest normal first class limited fare for round trip for direct routing with \$12.50 additional one way through California, has been named to North Pacific Coast points and Spokane from Chicago, St. Louis, Missouri River and Colorado points. Sale dates of Colorado points, June 20th to July 12th, 1907, west, June 21st to July 13th, 1907, final return limit September 15th, 1907.

Account of Mystic Shrine Convention, Los Angeles, May 9th to 11th, 1907, and Conference of German Baptist Brethren, Los Angeles or Long Beach, Calif., May 16th to 23rd, 1907, and National Eclectic Medical Association, Long Beach, Calif., May 18th to 23rd, 1907, one lowest first class fare for the round trip has been authorized to Los Angeles and San Francisco with \$12.50 additional for tickets routed one way via Portland Sale dates, Mystic Shrine and German Baptists, April 25th to May 19th, 1907; final return limit July 31st, 1907, and for the M. E. M. association, sales dates June 8th to 15th, with final return limit August 21st, 1907.

Wm. McMURRAY, G. P. A., O. R. & N. and S. P. Rys. New Cure for Epilepsy. J. B. Waterman, of Watertown, O., Rural free delivery, writes: "My daughter, afflicted for years with epilepsy, was cured by Dr. King's New Life Pills. She has not had an attack for over two years." Best body cleansers and life giving tonic pills on earth. 25c at all drug stores.

A Monster Musical Instrument. The most gigantic harp ever constructed, as far as the record goes, was that made by Veritan, the provost of Burkl, near Basel, Switzerland, in 1787. That was a long while ago, but the fame of M. Veritan's gigantic harp was such that it is still occasionally mentioned by writers on the rare and wonderful, just as the sea serpent, bloody rain, live mastodons, etc., are. M. Veritan's colossal musical instrument was 320 feet in length, and, at that account, was constructed in an open lot instead of in a harp factory. It was most simple in construction, consisting of fifteen wires strung tightly between two poles. These wires were of different sizes, the largest being one-sixth of an inch in diameter and the smallest one-twelfth of an inch. They were stretched north and south and inclined in such a manner as to form an angle of from twenty to thirty degrees with the horizon. This queer instrument was not intended as an exaggerated toy, but was constructed for the express purpose of foretelling changes in the weather, which were calculated by Professor Veritan according to the different tones the instrument made when the wind was blowing through it.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS

SUMMONS.
In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for Washington County.
JOHN W. KEAS, Plaintiff,
vs.
MARY O. MARION and WILLIAM MARION, her husband, HENRY N. KEYES, and JOSEPH A. KEYES and ETNA KEYES, his wife, Defendants.
To Mary O. Marion, William Marion, Joseph A. Keyes and Etna Keyes, defendants above named:
IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON,
You are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled Court and suit within six weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons, to-wit: On or before the 12th day of January 1907; and if you fail to answer, for want thereof the plaintiff will apply to the Court for a judgment and decree as prayed for in said complaint, to-wit:

1. That the defendants herein may be required to set forth the nature of their claims in and to the following described real estate, lying and being in the County of Washington and State of Oregon, to-wit:
Beginning at a point on the Section line 15 chains North of the Southeast corner of Section 21 in Township 1 South, of Range 1 West of the Willamette Meridian, and running thence West 20 chains; thence North 25 chains; thence East 10 chains; thence South 10 chains; thence East 10 chains; and thence South 15 chains to the place of beginning, containing 40 acres, and that all of the same be sold to the highest bidder for cash.
2. That by said decree it be declared and adjudged that the said defendants and each and every of them have no estate or interest whatever in or to said lands or premises and that the title of plaintiff thereto is good and valid; and
3. That the said defendants and each and every of them be forever enjoined and debarred from asserting any claim whatever in or to said land or premises adverse to plaintiff and that the plaintiff may have such other and further relief as to the Court may seem meet and equitable in the premises.

This summons, by an order of the Honorable the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, made in open Court at Hillsboro, Oregon, on the 26th day of November, 1906, is served upon you by the publication thereof for a period of six consecutive and successive weeks immediately prior to the 12th day of January, 1907, in the "Hillsboro Independent," a newspaper of general circulation, printed weekly at Hillsboro, in said County. The date of the first publication of this summons is November 30, 1906.
OSCAR HAYTER, Attorney for Plaintiff.

PROPOSALS FOR BIDS

For Toll Roads.
In the matter of the application for the leasing of County Road No. 218 and known as the Wilson River Road.
Now at this time comes this matter on for hearing upon the petition of John McClaran and John Heiser asking that this Court lease the following described road to-wit: Commencing at the south west corner of the O. Parsons D. L. C. No. 50 T. 1. N. 8. W. in Washington County, Oregon, and running thence in a westerly direction to the Wilson River road to the Tillamook County line, for the purpose of making said road a toll road and it appearing to the Court that there is little or no local labor along the line of said road, and that it is impossible for said road to be kept in proper condition for travel by local labor along the line of said road and that it is for the best interests of the said County of Washington and for the people living along the line of the said road and for every person interested therein for said road to be leased for a toll road. That said road is a public County road. That it is expedient and lawful under the provisions of section 987 of R. C. and C. and no other laws and statutes of the State of Oregon, that said road be leased.

It is therefore ordered and adjudged that the road described as follows to-wit: Commencing at the Southwest corner of the O. Parsons, D. L. C. No. 50 T. 1. N. 8. W. in Washington County, Oregon, and running thence in a westerly direction to the Wilson River road to the Tillamook County line, be leased for the purposes of keeping the same open and in repair and improved for a period of 10 years with the right in consideration thereof to collect and receive tolls for travel thereon in the manner provided by law. That there shall be placed upon said road one toll gate that the grade of the road shall be kept the same that it now is and the materials used in the repair or construction of the road or any part thereof shall be as is now used in such places. It is further ordered and adjudged that the Clerk of this Court be and hereby is ordered to cause this order to be published in a weekly newspaper of general circulation within this County and State for a period of four weeks, and in like manner to publish a notice to the effect that sealed bids will be received at the Clerk's office within Washington County, Oregon, for the leasing of said road, until Wednesday the 2nd day of January 1907, until the hour of 10 o'clock A. M. of said date.

Now therefore, in pursuance of the foregoing order of the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Washington County, made by said Court on the 27th day of November, 1906, and entered in the records thereof:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received at the office of the County Clerk of said Washington County, Oregon, in Hillsboro, said County and State, on Wednesday the second day of January 1907, until the hour of 10 o'clock A. M. of said day, for leasing of a County road for the purpose of making it a toll road, which said road is described as follows, to-wit:
Commencing at the south-west corner of the O. Parsons, D. L. C. No. 50, T. 1. N. 8. W. Will Mer. and running thence in a westerly direction following the Wilson river road to the Tillamook County line. Bidders must state the amount of toll to be charged.
No bids will be considered unless accompanied

T. P. GOODIN, CONTRACTOR AND BUILDER
I am prepared to furnish plans and estimates on any kind of a building in Washington County. Phone 28x4, or address
R. F. D. 1. T. P. GOODIN, Hillsboro, Or.

Ammunition and Gun Supplies
Has that umbrella of yours a broken rib, handle, or any other of the numerous ailments it is subject to? Bring it to me and I will fix it for you. I have a complete line of ammunition and gun supplies. Guns cleaned and repaired on short notice. All work guaranteed satisfactory.
R. Lee SEARS, Successor to Bennett

by an undertaking, executed by two or more sureties, in the sum of two thousand dollars, to be void upon the condition that the holder, if the lease is awarded to him, will within ten days thereafter enter into the contract for keeping above described road and give the undertaking to secure the performance thereof as provided by law.
The right to reject any and all bids reserved.
Hillsboro, Oregon, November 27th, 1906.
E. J. GOULDMAN, County Clerk.

Guardian Sale of Real Estate.
Notice is hereby given that by virtue of an order of sale duly made and entered by the County Court of Washington County, Oregon, on November 14th, 1906, directing me to sell the herein described real estate, I will, on Wednesday, January 2, 1907, at the hour of 10 o'clock A. M. at the South door of the Court House in Hillsboro, Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash in hand, all the right, title and interest of Everett Dillaboy and Louis Dillaboy, minors, in and to the following described real estate, to-wit:
Part of the S. W. 1/4 of the N. W. 1/4 of Sec 25, T. 1. S. R. 2. W. W. M., in Washington County, Oregon, bounded by beginning 5.09 chs. N. from the quarter section corner between sections 25 & 26, T. 1. S. R. 2. W. W. M., and running thence N. on section line 14.25 chs. thence S. 87 deg. 08' E. in the center of County Road, 8.37 chs., thence N. 88 deg. 10' E. 5.89 chs., thence S. 14.02 chs., thence W. 14.25 chs., to the place of beginning, containing 19.94 acres, more or less.
I will also convey my dower right in said lands for a reasonable consideration.
Dated at Hillsboro, Oregon, this November 30, 1906.
EMMA DILLABOY, Guardian of Everett Dillaboy and Louis Dillaboy, minors.
G. A. LANE and BENTON BOWMAN, Attorneys for Guardian.

Proclamation.
Whereas, on the 26th day of October, 1906, an initiative petition was filed in the office of the City recorder of Hillsboro, Oregon, for the proposed amendment of subdivision 57, of section 5 of the act incorporating the city of Hillsboro, Oregon, filed in the office of the Secretary of State February 29, 1905, as amended by an act approved February 6, 1895, and as amended by an act approved February 6, 1899, and as further amended by an act filed in the office of the Secretary of State on January 27, 1905; and
Whereas said proposed amendment authorizes the City Council of Hillsboro, Oregon, to grant telephons, telegraph and railroad franchises upon the streets of Hillsboro, Oregon; and
Whereas said petition is in due form as required by Ordinance No. 256 of the City of Hillsboro, Oregon, and was duly submitted to a vote of the legal voters of Hillsboro, Oregon, at the annual election held in said City on December 5, 1906, and the City Recorder having officially canvassed said votes and certified the result to me and it appearing that said proposed amendment received 23 affirmative votes and 15 negative votes and that the total number of votes cast at said election was 38;
Now therefore, I, R. F. Cornelius, as Mayor of the City of Hillsboro, Oregon, do hereby make and issue this proclamation to the people of the City of Hillsboro, Oregon, and do hereby announce and declare that said petition and amendment received an affirmative majority of all effective votes cast at said election and that said amendment shall take effect and be in full force next from and after the 14th day of December, 1906.
Done at Hillsboro, Oregon, this December 4, 1906.
R. F. CORNELIUS, Mayor of Hillsboro, Oregon.
Attest: H. T. BAGLEY, Recorder.

Proclamation.
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Whereas said proposed amendment authorizes the City Council of Hillsboro, Oregon, to purchase a park for a sum not to exceed \$200, and to maintain the same and levy a special tax therefor, and create a fund known as the "Park Fund"; and
Whereas said petition was in due form as required by Ordinance No. 256 of the City of Hillsboro, Oregon, and was duly submitted to a vote of the legal voters of Hillsboro, Oregon, at the annual election held in said City on December 5, 1906, and the City Recorder having officially canvassed said votes and certified the result to me and it appearing that said proposed amendment received 18 affirmative votes and 47 negative votes and the total number of votes cast at said election was 65;
Now therefore, I, R. F. Cornelius, as Mayor of the City of Hillsboro, Oregon, do hereby make and issue this proclamation to the people of the City of Hillsboro, Oregon, and do hereby announce and declare that said petition and amendment received an affirmative majority of all effective votes cast at said election and that said amendment shall take effect and be in full force next from and after the 14th day of December, 1906.
Done at Hillsboro, Oregon, this December 4, 1906.
R. F. CORNELIUS, Mayor of Hillsboro, Oregon.
Attest: H. T. BAGLEY, Recorder.

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Done at Hillsboro, Oregon, this December 4, 1906.
R. F. CORNELIUS, Mayor of Hillsboro, Oregon.
Attest: H. T. BAGLEY, Recorder.

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BOTH PHONES.