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THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

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A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Author of "Home Folks" Series
Expresses Sentinel's Holiday Viewpoint

The Sentinel's Christmas article this year is one sent by a special writer, whose "Home Folks" contributions have been over the pen name of Elizabeth Gormley.

"While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around."

About three hundred years ago Nathan Tate, an Irish youth, wrote this beautiful Christmas Carol set to music by Handel. Space will not permit the other five verses. Sing them all this Christmas. They are picturesque and full of promise.

Is it not significant that a star guided the wise men to Christ? Looking up, they saw the star and followed it. Is that not what we need today?—The will to look up, the faith to follow. They would not have found the Christ, nor could they have experienced the glory of that night had they not walked far and sought Him, following the star. We can experience the same joy this Christmas if we follow the star and seek Him.

I wonder if we have not been a bit confused over Christmas—Christ's birthday. It is a day to remind us of God's great gift to the world. But we have been so busy—busy buying and tying gifts, worrying, setting tables with gleaming silver, rushing; pushing the children aside, preparing for what—why for Christmas! The mass of Christ. We forgot to enter the quiet church and meditate on the wondrous gift God sent us. Forgot to thank God for the gift. Forgot to accept the gift! Even forgot to sing the glorious age-old carols telling of His birth. We were so busy—busy doing what—celebrating Christ's birthday, exchanging gifts, partaking of great dinners, racing in shining cars! We forgot it was Christ's birthday and so the day ended and we had not found the Joy.

Christmas is the most festive day of the year and I am glad. I am glad for the big trees aglow with brilliant lights in big homes, I am glad for the little trees in little homes, for shiny green wreaths on doors, for glowing candles in windows, for stores radiantly inviting in toys and gifts, for streets sparkling in lights. This all tells me this is a Christian land—a land where people knew Christ.

"What do you want for Christmas," I asked an elderly man I chatted with the other day. "Nothing, nothing at all," he quickly answered. But I well knew that he wanted love and cheer. True, he had everything money could buy.

We all want gifts at Christmas. Don't cease wanting, for when you cease wanting you cease living. First we wanted dolls and sleds; then our youth demanded—furs, perfumes, roadsters and silver slippers.

I want much today. I want Peace—not only for our Americas, but for the whole world. I want a toy and love for every child today. A child enjoys a toy. He needs love. I want warmth and cheer for those no longer young.

Are you without happiness this Christmas? Have you lost hope? Are you poor so that you are denied the joy of giving? Come with me, let us look up at the stars. Let us get away from the world, its noise, its bustle, its artificialities. Let us find comfort in the stars. The Hand that placed those silver jewels in the sky has a plan for every life. Just as surely as He placed the beautiful star over the little manger to guide the wise men, so surely has He placed the stars tonight to guide us—and perhaps if we wait in the quietness we, too, shall hear the Angels sing! May your Christmas be joyful.

Elizabeth Gormley.

Bandon Schools Receive \$5,117
Supt. H. H. Hartley, of the Bandon schools, announces \$5,117.75 was received by that district in contributions from various sources, which would be sufficient to run the schools through January. If the legislature fails to make a grant, when it meets next month, the probability is that the schools cannot finish the year.

Of the \$3800 contributed in Coos county, Coquille's donation was over \$1100.

A Merry Christmas to All

The Sentinel Wishes All Its Readers and Friends a Very Merry Christmas



Postoffice Business 50 Percent Larger Than Ever Before

The Coquille postoffice was swamped this week and although additional help was employed it was necessary on Wednesday to close the receiving windows for a couple of hours to enable the clerks to handle the 106 sacks of incoming parcels post, so that the packages being mailed would not get mixed with those just arriving.

Eighty sacks were dispatched on Monday, it requiring two trips of the mail truck to transport the parcels post to the train at Marshfield.

No exact record for the week was kept by the clerks—they were too busy—but Postmaster Hawkins states that the mail handled for this Christmas season is 50 per cent greater than it ever was before.

Those who may have complained at the slowness this week did not realize the tremendous amount of mail which the employees handled each day. They put in long hours, too, not finishing the cleaning up until 11 o'clock Monday and Tuesday nights and after nine o'clock Wednesday night.

Dr. Leslie Dies at Marshfield

Dr. Geo. W. Leslie, Marshfield postmaster since last March, passed away Wednesday afternoon at one o'clock at his home opposite the new postoffice there. He had been ill with the flu for the past two weeks, and threatened with pneumonia. He was in the neighborhood of 60 years of age.

Funeral arrangements are waiting word from his mother, who resides in the east.

Dr. Leslie was the most affable of gentlemen, a consistent believer in democratic principles and whose years of faithful service as head of the democratic central committee was rewarded with his appointment as postmaster last spring.

Dr. Leslie was for 30 years a practicing osteopath in Marshfield, having graduated from the Kirksville, Mo. school of Osteopathy in 1902. He had never married.

In lodge affiliations he was active as an Elk and Mason.

Alda Sloan and Harriet Danielson are home from Seattle Bible School for the holidays.

Truck Turned Over, Driver Lives

One of those miraculous escapes from death in a truck wreck occurred to Harold Everett Evans, of Myrtle Point, at about nine o'clock this morning. He drives a logging truck for Albee & McDonald and had a pile of seven logs aboard.

On one of the curves a short distance beyond the Smith plant the logs shifted, rolling the car over the grade and down into the field. The truck landed upright, but one of the heavy logs had mashed the cab almost flat.

When Evans was extricated from the cab he was able to climb up the bank and was brought to the Coquille Hospital by a passing truck. He was considerably scratched and complained of pain in his chest but Dr. Gillis could find no broken bones.

Street Lights Not Yet Ready

Due to the rain which impeded the work and the failure of certain parts to arrive on time, the new lighting system was not ready to be turned on Christmas eve, but it will not be long now until they are ready.

Coquille has had a very attractive holiday appearance the past week, the streets being lined with small fir trees, fir bough streamers across the streets, and the many beautiful Christmas windows shown down town.

A drive around the city, after lights are turned on, shows that there are more home decorations this year than there were last, and all of them most attractive.

Many Beautiful Decorations

The Christmas decoration committee of the Chamber of Commerce was instructed at Tuesday noon's session of the board of directors to secure three non-residents to judge the home and business house Christmas decorations and to award the \$10 first prize and \$5 second prize in each of the two classifications. As was the case last year the identity of the judges will not be revealed.

More County Warrants Called

County Treasurer Chas. Stauff has called all county general fund warrants, issued prior to Jan. 1, 1932, for payment next Monday, Dec. 28. The total of principal and interest included in the call is \$28,000.

CHRISTMAS A FORM

That first still Christmas, when upon the hay

The infant Christ was cradled, safe and warm

As in a palace, is a long-gone day. The precious birthday grows into a form

Of glitter—sparkle—color. Empty? yes,

So have I seen, upon my baby's bed From which the child was lifted, clear impress

Of tiny body and of drowsy head.

An empty form, and yet the form was made

By God's own Son, new-born into a world

That knew Him not: and where that Child was laid

As other babes, eyes shut and fists tight curled,

Is now a nest deserted: with the arts

Of hand and mind we honor Him in vain

Unless we have Him, living, in our hearts,

And lay Him, living, in this form again.

Frances Holmstrom

State Surveyor Hurt by Car

H. R. Minto, one of the state highway surveying crew, was brought to the Coquille Hospital the first of the week, suffering with a broken right ankle, cut on the forehead and many bruises. He was checking a car between Coquille and Marshfield on the highway when Samuel Hull, of Port Orford, came around a curve. The latter slammed on his brakes but skidded into Minto whose back was toward Hull's car.

Christmas Carols Christmas Eve

There will be a program of Christmas music by a group from the Coquille Choral Club singing over the public address system of the Gano Funeral Home Thursday evening from 9 to 10 o'clock. Everyone invited to listen in.

Next Friday Also Holiday

The Sentinel is put in the mail on Thursday this week so that the force may enjoy an uninterrupted Christmas. The same procedure will be followed next week, Friday being New Year's.

Christmas Tree Program Sunday Filled Building

The committee handling the Community Christmas tree program at the Community Building last Sunday afternoon had sacked 563 sacks of candy which was none too much for the crowd of youngsters which filled the building, although some of them may have secured two sacks.

When Lloyd Claver, as Santa Claus' personal representative, invited the youngsters to come and get it, the rush almost tore down the stage.

The singing of Christmas carols, led by Rev. W. Raymond Wilder, with Mrs. M. O. Hawkins at the piano, and the Christmas talk by Earl F. Downing, pastor of the Church of Christ, were interesting, but the youngsters were so anxious to see St. Nick that they really did not get much out of the program.

In numbers attending, in effort by the committee and those participating, the Christmas party was a great success.

New Street Makes 38 Lots Available for Use

A bull dozer was making splendid progress, until the rain became too heavy, in clearing Fairview avenue, in Coquille Heights addition to Coquille. The street is 50 feet wide, the ditches have all been filled, so that for its two blocks length south from Riverton avenue, and a block west from Hoover street, it is a level grade.

This street opens 38 lots of the addition as sites for homes and S. M. Nosler, who owns 35 of them, is putting them on the market. The street has not been gravelled but Mr. Nosler intends having that done as the lots begin to sell.

Another improvement leading from Coquille Heights will be the fill to be made to replace the wooden bridge just back of the Wm. Ulett place. That is the connection between Riverton avenue and the Myrtle Point highway and affords the shortest route to the business section from Knowlton or Coquille Heights.

Those 38 lots—the other three belong to Dr. M. Earl Wilson—are wonderful building sites with a view of all the Coquille valley to the west.

A Merry Christmas to All

GEORGE O. LEACH

Coquille Loses a Good Citizen in His Passing—Funeral Held Monday

Geo. O. Leach, 68 years, five months and 21 days of age, passed away at his home on West Second street last Saturday morning at 9:30 o'clock after an illness which had kept him confined to his bed for the past month. His health had been poor for the past year or more.

Funeral services at the Schroeder Bros. Mortuaries, at 2 p. m. on Monday were conducted by Rev. W. Raymond Wilder. The speaker used as a text for his talk the fourteenth verse of the fourth chapter of St. James: "For what is your life? It is even a vapour which appeareth for a little time and then vanished away." Like life, vapour may be used for noble and beneficial purposes, as is steam in driving machinery, or it may be a destructive force in the world as when used as a poison gas in warfare.

Interment was in the old Odd Fellows cemetery.

George Orville Leach was born June 28, 1868, in Quincy, Illinois, and came to Coquille when 20 years of age. Three years later, on the anniversary of his birth, he was united in marriage to Miss Callie O. Wickham, in Coquille.

Two children were born to them, Tracy A. and John Leach, both of whom with their mother survive. He is also survived by a sister, Mrs. Elsie Holloway, of Roseburg, and a grandson, George Tracy Leach, of Coquille.

Mr. Leach was bookkeeper by training and for 23 years served Coos county as head of the tax department. Although an ardent democrat so efficient was he that he served by appointment under sheriffs of both political parties.

George Leach was a most kindly man, and he was universally admired for his many sterling qualities.

He was an actor of unusual ability and had he devoted his talents to a stage career would undoubtedly have made a name for himself, known across the United States. As it was he was a prime mover and participant in all the amateur productions given in Coquille for upwards of half a century and the character portrayed was usually in keeping with his own, one which his audience loved.

Mr. Leach was one of the most active members of the Coquille Odd Fellows lodge for a great many years and here again his talents were used and appreciated in initiatory ceremonies.

George Leach was a good man and his friends were legion.

Dairymen Urged to Test

The county court at its session on Monday decided not to put into effect the state law dealing with Bang's disease control until mid-year. At the present time, and until at least July, the federal law with its \$25 payment for slaughter of abortion reactor cattle will be in operation in Coos county and dairymen are urged to have the test made while the federal law is in operation. The state law provides no payment to the owner for cattle condemned and slaughtered.

The law provides that where cattle are infected and not killed there must be at least a six-foot strip between the lot in which they are kept and any other field. In other words the owner of infected cattle must build another fence six feet from a line fence in order to protect his neighbor's cattle from the infection.

Legion's New Year's Dance

The Coquille American Legion's annual New Year's Eve ball will be given in the Community Building on Thursday evening of next week, Dec. 31. It will be a nice way to dance the new year in. The Legion is making arrangements for lots of horns, caps, confetti and serpentine, and will make it one of the outstanding dances of the holidays. Herman Anderson's orchestra will furnish the music. Admission, ladies 25c, gentlemen 45c.

City Sells More Property

The city marshal sold 15 pieces of Coquille property on which improvement assessment payments were considerably delinquent, Monday morning. Two lots sold to private parties, brought \$28.50 and \$6.08. The city bid in the rest on which the city's liens total \$1,617.

The Coquille schools closed Wednesday afternoon for the holidays and will reopen on Monday, Jan. 4.