

The Christmas light that shines in our window is to illumine the path back home—of those you love, fighting for Victory this Christmas time.



O. K. RUBBER WELDERS



**SLATERS
VARIETY
STORE**

THIS STORE which for a great many years has supplied the families of this community with neighborly things, wishes every family an unusually happy 1943 Christmas season.



A WREATH IN THE WINDOW

a star in the sky, and happiness in the heart. That the Christmas season of 1943 may be truly memorable for you and yours is the earnest wish of



CHRISTMAS CHEER 1943

F. R. BULL



AMONG the things for which our boys are fighting is the right to celebrate Christmas in the traditional American way. It is with particular pride in our country's accomplishment in this direction and with firm faith for the future that we send you now our heartiest Christmas wishes.

CITY CLEANERS
Phone 103L

Mrs. Sayre Tells Of Experiences

The following, copied from the Eastern Oregon Review, of La Grande, tells what Miss Geneva Sayre, of that city, a sister of Jos. Sayre of Coquille, told the reporter when she was interviewed about her experiences as a prisoner in Japan. She was one of the repatriated U. S. citizens who arrived in New York Harbor recently aboard the Gripsholm:

"United States has declared war on Japan," "Have you known this all the time?"—that is the way the Jap guards greeted Miss Geneva Sayre and her companions on the morning of December 8, 1941, which would be December 7, 1941 here. Immediately the missionaries were held as Jap prisoners, though left in their own general surroundings. Later they were moved to concentration camps.

And it was not until four months later, or near the end of April, that these Americans learned about the treacheries at Pearl Harbor and of the events which caused the United States to declare war on Japan. And this was the way the La Grande girl found out. Immediately after war was declared, the American embassy started the publication of a small news sheet, a mimeographed affair which was circulated to all Americans in free China. Honan province where Miss Sayre was, was half in free China and half was occupied territory. In some way a copy of this reached the Americans who were in occupied territory and at the time were under the surveillance of Jap guards. Waiting until after guards were asleep at night, then stuffing all the cracks which might allow light through, the American women read the bulletins and then burned them as fast as they were read.

On Feb. 22, the sheet contained an account of President Roosevelt's Washington's birthday address, which was short-waved and which gave the reasons back of the declaration of war, the attack, the loss of men and ships. The news was included in the paper, which was two months reaching Miss Sayre, and that was when they first knew what it was all about—late April, 1942.

Any interview with the recent repatriates would be inadequate. Through the coming months and years bits of information and experiences will continue to sift through. Furthermore, there must never be a word said, Miss Sayre insisted, which would in any way jeopardize the other 1800 Americans who are still being held in the internment camps. "How were you chosen to be repatriated?" she was asked. All Americans, Canadians, etc., were grouped under 21 different classifications. Names were selected from these lists—she believes her name and that of her companion were chosen by the Japs. When the first Gripsholm trip was made, Miss Sayre's name was included but her companion was very ill and unable to travel. Such information was sent to the Japs and while nothing was ever heard from it, others who were coming back had been gone five days before Miss Sayre knew of it. "However," she said, "if you are chosen now, you have to come."

Miss Sayre was interned at Wei Hsien, in the Shantung province—an old mission compound of the Presbyterian church, consisting of 18 acres, and earlier the seat of Cheloo university where medical doctors were trained.

The food was terrible, and there was little of it, "we were hungry all the time," was her only comment. There were 1800 people in her kitchen. Soup, which was made of anything you had, was made in big cauldrons which held 12 large buckets full of water, each, five of these to each kitchen. Bread was made of sweet potato flour, and the missionary made her own.

However, food conditions in Japan were worse than in the concentration camp, she said. Rationing was most severe; a servant would go and stand in line for hours and perhaps be handed only a carrot. A piece of meat, the smallest imaginable, per week. This rationing was going on even before Pearl Harbor, she said.

Of course, these American missionaries knew about food shortages before. Miss Sayre said that the famine which was going on right now in the province in which she worked in China was the worst known in 60 years.

"Are you glad to be away?" For it will be remembered that the La Grande woman returned to China five years ago, when conditions were very uncertain. "Yes," I am, especially when I know the condition of things. There we knew nothing of what was going on—nothing about the tide of the great war—our radios had been taken away and we had no way of communicating with the outside world. Things are bound to be increasingly hard, and I am glad to be home."

All the internees suffered great loss

County Employees' Christmas Party

Winning the war is one thing, and winning the peace and preparing the post-war program is quite another, according to Circuit Judge Dal M. King, main speaker at the fourth annual Christmas party sponsored by, and given for, the employees of the court house and given at the Episcopal Guild hall in Coquille Friday night. The ordinary citizen—the employe, the farmer, the local merchant, the man in the street—is the one to whom officials in Washington are looking today for guidance in the maintenance of the democratic form of government in this country, said Judge King, and it is they who must think through the post-war problems and make their opinions heard.

The largest gathering of county employes, their mates, friends and guests, ever to attend the traditional party partook of the turkey dinner and engaged in the singing of Christmas carols. Ninety-five were seated around the long tables.

County Judge L. D. Felsheim made the opening remarks and acted as toastmaster for the evening. The theme of his remarks was the motto for the occasion: "Efficiency through cooperation and good-will." By working together, regardless of political or personal differences, maximum service can be given the public, and in doing so, all will be giving their utmost in the war effort by preserving the home-front, Felsheim said.

Other speakers during the evening included County Commissioners Lars P. Peterson and P. W. Culver, Mrs. L. D. Felsheim and Mrs. Georgiana Vaughan. Group singing was directed by Ellis Selander, with piano accompaniment by Mrs. Ellis Selander.

of weight, from lack of food and lack of vitamins in the food which was given. The trip home was a wonderful opportunity for regaining much that was lost. The company on the Gripsholm, Miss Sayre said, were almost entirely old people and missionaries. There were 16 stretcher cases taken on to the boat.

Insurance Specialist, F. R. Bull.



BEST WISHES FOR A CHRISTMAS FILLED WITH JOY!

MOUNTAIN STATES POWER COMPANY
"A Self-Supporting, Tax-Paying, Private Enterprise"



"OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE"

sums up, in two words, the achievements of our armed forces. We, too, strive for outstanding performance in every item of service. We thank you most cordially for your good will and patronage and wish you the Season's Greetings.

SHELL SERVICE

Coquille, Oregon



FROM WHENCE DID THESE GLAD TIDINGS COME? NOT FROM ATHENS, NOR YET FROM ROME, AT THAT TIME THE HEART OF WORLD POWER. THEY CAME OUT OF A LITTLE COUNTRY, PALESTINE. ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND FORTY-THREE YEARS LATER THE GLAD TIDINGS RING OUT AGAIN. NEED WE SAY THAT WE WISH YOU THE FULL JOYOUSNESS OF THIS HOLY SEASON?

PACIFIC FEED & SEED CO.



WE PAUSE, on the Eve of Christmas, 1943, to contemplate how much we owe the perennial character of our customers. With gratitude and pride we scan the list. Some of these customers have been with us for more than a quarter of a century.

To these old customers, to new ones, and to potential ones every member of this organization now joins in wishing "Merry Christmas."

Coquille Laundry Co.

SEND IT TO THE LAUNDRY