

The Old Timer's Report...

BY EDGAR McDANIEL
Dean of Southwestern
Oregon Editors

ALL VISITORS TO points in Pennsylvania are intrigued by the ever present six-point stars and filagree-life decorations to be found on the sides a gables of the barns owned by the Pennsylvania Dutch. This class of farmers are thrifty, enterprising and foremost in their line of endeavor. Many of the farms are real showplaces for visitors and they welcome all comers. Since they offer nothing to the visitor, those who do stop are made to feel quite welcome.

But to get back to the hex signs, which many greeting card manufacturers make use of particularly for the Christmas trade, the hex means nothing more than an appropriate adornment.

According to Dr. Milton E. Flower, professor of history and painting at Dickinson College, Pa., the decorations have no superstitious meaning. It has long been the general accepted opinion the hex signs were placed on the barns to ward off the doing of evil spirits. That is purely a fallacy and it has been prominent and foremost as a general broadside explanation, promulgated by those who had no other explanation to offer. Dr. Flower says the word "hexe" has to do with witches, but the designs employed have no "hex" significance and are simply a continuation of a decorative practice the Germans and Swiss have and which the early German settlers brought to America.

The R. W. Cummings, Inc., of Lancaster, Pa., published an illustrated booklet describing the "hex signs" in detail. Here, too, it is pointed out the signs mean nothing more nor were they intended to be more than a method of decorating the barns, that nothing else quite compares.

In Somerset county the farmers are Amish, or plain people and do not go in for decorations on their barns or houses. Their buildings are simply plain and they live quite the same.

Another writer refers to finding a few districts in which live people who not only paint hex signs on their barns but have a remote belief in the existence of witches. In one county there is a place which the people have named HEXEBERG, and it is alleged, but not found in history, two old women cast evil spirits or spells upon all who would attempt to make that community their home.

As the signs are neatly done in color they never fail to attract attention of visitors. The average person who has never given the matter a thought, is intrigued, and is quite ready to accept any explanation, and when he is told the signs keep evil spirits away, he readily agrees it is a good thing. To "hex" with a more liberal view.

HOW WOULD YOU like to pay a 9c tax on each gallon of gas you buy? That is one of the new laws recently enacted in Louisiana, the elected Earl K. Long, governor. No other state exacts a similar amount on gas. A simple scratch of the pen by the new governor made effective six new laws that increase the daily tax cost to \$190,000. That is a clean jump of 50 per cent. The retail sales tax is boosted from one to two per cent, including new items formerly exempt. Beer drinkers must pay tax of two and one-half cents a bottle. The governor promised much, and to make good he must see to it the legislature enacts laws to provide the revenue. Oregonians may well be contented here, and while taxes are too high, we are sitting pretty as compared to the people of Louisiana.

A WORTH WHILE GIFT to any newspaper man is his inherent ability to choose wisely when selecting reporters. An interesting incident was reported from Philadelphia which reveals not only the ability to choose, but to choose wisely. Norman Thomas, who has repeatedly been nominated by the Socialist party for President, is covering the Republican convention, not in the capacity of a Socialist, but that of a hard hitting reporter. Pinned down to facts Mr. Thomas stated openly and without equivocation he represented a syndicate of newspaper owners, headed by Palmer Hoyt, editor of the Denver-Post. Hoyt, you will recall is a died-in-the-wool republican and was editor of the Portland Oregonian many years. The

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LAURA EMILY RUBLE, Rotary Club

Thomas column should make interesting reading, and nobody knows that better than does Mr. Hoyt. It's another case of politics making strange bedfellows.

LESS THAN 2500 WORDS were required to phrase the Republican platform, a new record, we are told. Chairman Lodge declares the document is carefully written, every subject is covered, and is noted for its lack of high sounding words. The preamble covers the platform in about 300 words, which is about as many as the average newspaper will care to use.

POLICE IN A STATE meet at Astoria enjoyed a very profitable session, press reports state. One of the stressed issues was for more police, but city and state, will be needed to give the Knox law better enforcement.

Mainly About People

In Town Friday—Otto Heckel of Langlois was in town on Friday. Mr. Heckel had just returned from con-

vention of the department of Oregon United Spanish War Veterans held at Newport. Mr. Heckel was elected department vice commander for Oregon. In August Mr. Heckel will attend the 50th anniversary convention to be held in Washington, D. C. On July 5, Mr. Heckel is scheduled to broadcast from radio station KOOS speaking on "Patriotism and Post War Conditions."

Will Spend Holiday in Eastern Oregon—Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Barton will leave on Friday to spend the holiday week-end with relatives in Eastern Oregon. They will visit in Bend and in Heppner.

Returns Home—Mrs. Michael McCarthy returned on Saturday from California. In Oakland she attended the marriage of her son, Jack, and she visited her daughter in Los Altos, as well as seeing Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Francisco.

From Ashland—Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Merrick of Ashland spent the week-end visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hal Roberts.

Visit Relatives—Mr. and Mrs. Muri Pettit were Sunday visitors to Coos Bay where they visited Mr. Pettit's sister, Mrs. John Davis.

Renew Acquaintances—Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Wiggins of Portsmouth, Vir-

ginia, left Monday after spending ten days in Coquille visiting relatives and friends. Mr. Wiggins is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Wiggins of Coquille and a brother of Mrs. Frank De Costa. A chief warrant officer in the navy, Mr. Wiggins will now be stationed at San Diego.

Back From California—Mr. and Mrs. Jack Schroeder, Howard Hancock, Orville Morris and Clarence Bean returned on Friday from a vacation spent in California and Mexico. They visited Tia Juana, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco.

On Business Trip—Dick Barklow left Tuesday on a business trip to Medford.

Visit In North Bend—Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Stem spent Sunday in North Bend. They visited the confectionery operated by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Buckles and Mr. and Mrs. Dick Buckles, formerly of Coquille.

Return From Vacation—Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bailey have returned from a two-week vacation spent at Medford and Roseburg. They found the fishing excellent at Fish Lake near Medford.

Leave Saturday—Mr. and Mrs. Donald Johnson and Donna Lee leave on Saturday to spend two weeks vacationing in California.

On Business Trip—Mr. and Mrs. Harry Johnson spent the week-end in Portland attending to business matters.

Returns To Coquille—Mrs. Earl Schroeder returned Sunday from Portland where she has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. Frank Maupin, who is in hospital there.

Shops In Coquille—Mrs. Elton Schroeder of Myrtle Point shopped in Coquille on Monday.

Spend Sunday At Powers—Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bowen and family and Mr. and Mrs. William Jones of Coos Bay spent Sunday at Powers.

Spends Week-End in Portland—Mrs. Evan Albom spent the week-end in Portland.

Return From Walla Walla—Mr. and Mrs. Frank Thrift returned Sunday from a two-week vacation which took

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them to Walla Walla* Dayton and Pomeroy, Washington, and to Portland. In Walla Walla they attended a family re-union held on Mrs. Thrift's mother's 80th birthday.

To Spend Week-End At Agness—Miss Beverly Davis and Miss May Gauntlett are leaving to spend the Fourth of July week-end at Agness visiting Miss Davis' mother, Mrs. A. M. Davis.

Fly To Portland—Dr. and Mrs. E. C. Hamilton and family flew to Portland over the week-end.

Visitor From Portland—Bruce Holt of Portland spent the week-end in Coquille a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Rackleff.

Coos Bay Visitors—Mrs. Clarence Barton and Mrs. George McClellan were visitors to Coos Bay on Monday.

JOHN M. LUCAS & FAMILY

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Boys' Whipcord Jimmies 1.50

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Women's Mercerized Anklets 20c
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Men's Part Wool Dress Slacks 5.00

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