

These Things We Note

by Giles L. French

Tomorrow the children will be happy with new presents, elders will chant the ritual, "Merry Christmas" and "Same to you" if second in the exchange.

There will be more generosity evident in this part of the world than usual, more forgiveness.

There has always been a celebration among men as the sun turned toward the north again. It fortunately coincides with the Christmas and both bring hope, hope for longer days, hope for a fuller life.

It is a time of merriment even in lands where the giving of presents is not so common as in America. It recognizes man's desire for immortality, for everlasting life and although the immediate time may be dreary there is always hope that the future will be bright.

Food has a part in the Christmas tradition. The English had to have pudding as the American has to have goose or other roasted fowl. There the Yule log was a part of the celebration and here it is the evergreen tree. These are some of the externals that exemplify the spirit.

So a Merry Christmas to everyone, a really merry, lighthearted one strengthened by faith in eventual goodness.

Choirleaders are going to sing some Christmas carols before Christmas. If they can sing at all, and who cannot sing a little—they will sound fine on a winter's night.

Not only do our wisest sayings come from the ancients but also many of our best known lies. Plutarch, who was a Greek in the days when to be a Greek was equal to being an American these days, told the story about cold so intense that when a man spoke the words froze and were heard the next summer when it thawed. Perhaps he had heard it around some Grecian bath house or winery and it probably wasn't new then. It is a good lie, though.

He also told of the Roman who had divorced his wife and was being chided by his friends who remarked that she had been chaste, fair and fruitful. Then the Roman held out his shoe, which was new and well made saying, "None of you can tell where it pinches me."

All of which is merely to show that old is an adjective descriptive only of time.

George Herbert said "a good mother equaled a hundred school teachers."

LIFE has an excellent editorial about the death of four famous Americans: Charles Beard, Charles Evans Hughes, Governor Crox and Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt. They were important Americans because they stood as individuals, not afraid to be wrong and not afraid to go ahead when they felt they were right. They were just strong people in the good old American tradition with minds of their own made up which precluded the necessity of their making up to any one else.

CHILD HEALTH CONFERENCE TO BE HELD JANUARY 31

The Waco - Sherman county health department held a clinic and a Child Health conference, December 20 in which one was x-rayed and nine were immunized. On January 31, another Child Health conference will be held in Waco and Moro.

For those in Waco, contact Mrs. A. H. McIntyre and those in Moro should contact Mrs. Elizabeth Rose.

James Brown, county road master has gone to Los Angeles to spend the Christmas season with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Belshe plan to leave for the coast to spend the holiday with Mrs. Belshe's father.

Mr. and Mrs. Art Sorber of St. Helens are guests of Mrs. J. F. Noonan, spending the holiday here.

City of Wasco Sells Bond Issue Services Tuesday For Mrs. Ruggles

The City of Wasco sold its advertised \$15,000 in general obligation bonds last week at a price of \$100.35 plus accrued interest. Interest rate was 3 1/2 percent and the United States National Bank the purchaser.

Other bids were received from the First National Bank and Blythe & Company.

Sale of these bonds permits the city of Wasco to pay for the new well dug last summer in order to repair the water system. The new well has promise of furnishing much more water than needed.

Bonds will be paid off in \$1,000 amounts beginning in 1953.

Wheat Traders Don't Know Answers

Wheat markets were unsettled during the week ended November 24, while feed-grains, with the exception of barley and milo, made further slight gains at most markets, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. The embargo on shipments to ports resulting from the Longshoremen's strike, the closing of lake navigation and the announcement rescinding the plan to turn exports under the Marshall Plan back to private traders were the principal disturbing influences in the wheat market. Winter wheat prices made slight gains but spring wheat dropped 2 to 4 cents per bushel - corn advanced to the loan level in the central western markets as arrivals became less burdensome. Light receipts were the strengthening influence in oats prices. Barley was somewhat weaker from pressure of low quality offerings. Grain sorghums were in plentiful supply and declined slightly. Flaxseed held at the support price of \$6.00 per bushel at Minneapolis. Soybeans advanced about 6 cents per bushel with the crushers competing for the limited quantities growers were willing to sell.

Mrs. Lloyd Grimes has returned to Portland. She has been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Nish. Mr. Grimes is assisting in building the new home of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Belshe.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, 2 p. m. in the Moro Community church for Mrs. Lucy S. Ruggles, 93, of Moro who died in Portland Friday night.

Mrs. Ruggles was born in Michigan and had lived in this area for 86 years. She was a member of the Order of Eastern Star, Sherman chapter, Grass Valley.

The Ruggles family, together with the Rutledges and Vintins come to Moro in 1883 in the fall and the three families of them spent the winter in the Barnum house now occupied by the Shers. Only a part of it was built at that time. In the spring they settled in the part of the county now known as the Rutledge community and the Phil Ruggles land is now occupied by Harold Eakin.

After a few years the family moved to the John Day where the children grew up with horses and cattle. When Mr. Ruggles died Mrs. Ruggles, thrown on her own resources, went to school again and started a new life teaching school. Children at Grass Valley and Buckley knew her as the motherly soul who banished their first school day fears.

Retirement from school teaching still found her active and she has lived in Moro, keeping her own house ever since or until she was to Portland for the winter. She was Mother Ruggles to hundreds, a sort of mother emerita to the whole community, keeping an eye on its customs and morals with intent to aid, not punish.

Survivors include three sons, J. N. Ruggles of Grass Valley, Walter A. Ruggles of Wasco and S. Ruggles of Stayton; four daughters, Mrs. Sara Rasmussen of Pendleton, Mrs. Eva Landry of Moro, Mrs. Lois Olds of Yuba City, Calif., and Mrs. Lou Brown, 14 grandchildren and 34 great grandchildren.

Calaway & Son mortuary had charge of the service.

A Drivers License Examiner will be on duty in Moro Thursday, December 30, 1948, at the Courthouse between the hours of 10 a. m. and 3 p. m., according to an announcement received from the Secretary of State's office.

Persons wishing licenses or permits to drive are asked to get in touch with the examiner well ahead of the scheduled closing hour in order to assure completion of the application with a minimum of delay.

After the installation work was over, the group quickly set up tables which were laid, and soon 65 people present were partaking of a grand pot luck dinner. Mr. and Mrs. Lantz left as soon as dinner was over as Lantz had grange members to install that evening at Prineville.

A gayly decorated Christmas tree in the traditional Yule spirit adorned the house of Mrs. Claude Coats when she was hostess for the Community sewing club Wednesday afternoon. On account of the road conditions not too many were present. The members enjoyed a gift exchange during the afternoon. The hostess served a "school lunch", consisting of miscellaneous flavored soda pop, ice cream cones and cookies which were enjoyed by the members.

George Fox, master was in the chair when Rufus grange met Thursday night for its last meeting of the year.

R. T. Dingle reported that he had built a stage for the Christmas program, an dixed lights to use on it. This grange has never had a permanent stage and a makeshift one was always put up for the different programs. The Christmas program will be Thursday night, and there will be treats for everybody.

A song, "Joy To The World" was sung by the grange, opening

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Legion Slates Arlington Meet

Arlington will be the center of American Legion activities of the Fifth district of the American Legion on Saturday afternoon and evening, January 13th, reports District Commander A. W. "Al" Gust of Maupin.

This will be the first opportunity that the members of the eastern section of the district will have of having such a meeting so near their own community and a record crowd is expected.

Third Time May Be Lucky: Moro's Bonds

Opening of bonds for the City of Moro will be done on January 18. This being the third time these bonds have been advertised the council hopes it will be the last.

Trouble arose when Blythe & Co., high bidder, informed Carrell Bennett, city recorder, that the city could not pick a low bidder over a high one and must either reject all bids or take the high one. This was found to be true and the First National Bank could not buy the bonds and neither could Blythe & Co., after their bid had been rejected and the down payment returned.

The council met Saturday and decided to readvertise and open the bids after five o'clock January 18—and hope that all the possible mistakes have been made.

about folks you do know or would enjoy knowing

The lecturer's hour. The Lecturer, R. T. Dingle also read "The Grange Christmas Greeting". After the meeting 18 members enjoyed a pot luck dinner.

Mrs. Basil Bains who has been visiting since last Thursday at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Fields, has returned to her home in Portland. Mrs. Bains is recovering from a leg injury sustained on the night of Thanksgiving when she and her husband and her mother were all hit by a car, while they were crossing a street at an intersection in Portland. The other members of the party were only slightly injured, but Mrs. Bains' injuries are still serious and very painful.

Mr. and Mrs. George Smith of Richmond, Oregon have been visiting since last Friday with friends and relatives in this community. Mr. Smith returned home Monday, but Mrs. Smith remained in visiting her brother, R. T. Dingle and wife and her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Fields.

Mrs. Dewey Thomas and new son, Ronald Kent have been staying at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Driddle in The Dalles while the doctor was finding some formula to agree with the baby.

The small son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Meyer was in the hospital last week suffering from the flu. The young folks are arriving daily to spend Christmas at the home of their parents, already arrived are the Misses Eleanor and Dolores Fox, Donna Smith and Catherine Boise from their respective colleges. Billy McDonald came by airplane from San Diego to Portland Monday afternoon, and was to come by stage the rest of the way as there is only a morning plane to The Dalles. Billy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. McDonald and has been in boot camp there. After vacation he will attend a submarine school

Percy Thompson Buried Monday

Percy James Thompson, 54, died in a hospital in The Dalles Thursday night after a brief illness. Funeral services were held in Moro Monday afternoon with the American Legion in charge.

Mr. Thompson was born near Moro in November 1892 and had lived in Sherman county nearly all his life, being a mechanic and repair man and truck driver until he became ill with diabetes some years ago which caused his retirement from hard work. For the past few years he had been manager of the state liquor store.

He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. James O. Thompson, and served in World War I in France. His wife died several years ago.

Surviving are two aunts, Mrs. Charles Bulard of Moro and Mrs. Harriet Nish of The Dalles and three uncles, Andrew of Moro, Owen of Pomona, and Bert of Pasadena, Calif., George McDonald of The Dalles is a cousin and Mrs. Virginia Reynolds, nee Murray, of Hood River, is a niece.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Woods were in Moro Tuesday to visit his sister, Mrs. L. V. Moore. They were on their way to Vancouver to attend their daughter, Ellabelle's wedding. She is a teacher in the school there.

Mrs. Collis Moore and son, David drove to Portland Wednesday to bring Mr. Moore home for the holidays. He will have to return later for further treatment on his knee.

Mrs. Tom Moore began work Monday at the Courthouse where she will replace Mrs. Marie Hoskinson as deputy clerk. Mrs. Hoskinson will take over the county Assessors office January 3.

in the east. Stacy Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Wilson is expected to arrive by train Thursday from an eastern air base where he has been stationed for some time.

George Fox Jr. who was out of school all week was taken to The Dalles hospital Friday where he was found to have a bone infection in his lower jaw bone causing his teeth to loosen up. Treatment given has improved George, 12, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Fox.

Mrs. Fay Brackett is still on the sick list, and continues to be with her folks, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Langford in The Dalles.

John Mathieson was sick with the flu last week. There seems to be numerous colds going around and every day finds some of the school children out of school with colds.

Mrs. Jim Butler and two daughters are staying for awhile at the home of Mrs. Butler's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albee Wilson.

Lafe Barnett has been spending some time with his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Benton Barnett.

Mrs. Hattie Ireland arrived several weeks ago from Chicago, to spend some time at the home of her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bartholemew.

After a short visit, she expects to go on to California to see relatives, and then return here again for awhile.

The Rufus Nazarene church put on their annual Christmas program Monday night.

The Rufus school district has built a new pump house beside the Rufus school house. Leland Medier was appointed by the County School Superintendent, to serve as director for the Rufus school district to take the place of Jewel Herin who moved away this year.

Local Men In Legion Initiation

Eight new members were elected to membership in the newly reactivated 40 et 8 Vulture of the Mid Columbia located in The Dalles. The charter members decided at their meeting at The Dalles hotel last night to have one more meeting when at least twenty more new members will be elected into the organization before they are initiated which will be on Wednesday, January 12th.

One of the activities of the 40 et 8 is to secure members for the American Legion and this young Vulture went on record through its membership as having signed up 341 Legionnaires for the year 1949. Their aim is to secure at least 500 members.

The new members elected to membership are as follows: Norman E. Fields, Moro; Vance D. Manser, The Dalles; Luther W. Davis, Kent; Kenneth Young, Moro; Rodney Cooper, The Dalles; Charles MacGregor, The Dalles; John L. Woodworth, The Dalles; Emil A. Maurer, Antelope.

1948 Wheat Crop Big Story for Sherman County

The 1948 wheat crop was the biggest story for Sherman county in the year now ending. Perhaps it has a connection with the weather which was the biggest story of 1947. The one may have caused the other.

Weather has played a part in the stories of 1948 but the product of that weather is of greater importance.

Sherman county's wheat crop was estimated near the end of the harvest at 4,500,000 bushels, the largest on record. Actually it was probably somewhat larger than that because more was kept on farms than usual. This was true because storage conditions were not very good, because more was needed for stock feed and because there was enough to sell without scraping the bottom of the bin.

Valuation of the crop was in excess of \$9,000,000 and it alone brought some \$4,500 per capita to the county assuring Sherman Countians of one of the highest spendable incomes of any county in the United States. Other crops, wages, profits, etc., were probably over \$2,000,000.

Crops have been good since 1940 with as end of them expected each year. The 1948 crop was the best of all. Little seeding had been done in late September when, as the fair and Midco sale ended, the heavens opened in a water-spout that soaked the whole county. October's rains were also heavy and November finished soaking the soil.

The spring and summer were satisfactory and the big crop resulted. Good rains this fall have made prospects about as good as last year and the 1949 crop may also be good. There are some farmers who do not feel that the 1948 crop was the best they could do.

Lt. Jg. Walter Eslinger and wife and two boys from Ocean-side, California, are visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Eslinger at the Moro hotel.

Mr. and Mrs. Giles French left Saturday for San Diego, California to spend the holiday with their son-in-law and daughter, Lt. and Mrs. Wm. Frees and two grandchildren.

Mrs. Darwin Van Glider is assisting in the postoffice during the Christmas rush.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hoskinson and son, Bob, drove to Portland Sunday. Monday Mr. Hoskinson was operated on at the Portland Sanitarium. Reports are that he is getting along nicely.

Kelly Wilson of Eugene, is visiting his mother, Mrs. Dorris Wilson and sister over the holidays.

Mrs. Grace Smith, mother of Mrs. Ernest Woods is coming to spend Christmas with her.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Heater were callers at the Journal office Wednesday, giving an address change for their paper being sent to Corvallis, Oregon.

Outstand'g News Of Past Year Presented

The outstanding news events of the past year are herewith recapitulated in the Sherman County Journal's Holiday issues.

Jan. 2—Rufus Grangers aided Glen Thompson's rehabilitate his place, damaged in a cloudburst.

Jan. 9—Carroll Howe talked to patrons of Sherman County schools. Group petitions started for school vote.

Jan. 16—Rufus gets big rain.

Jan. 23—Rural conference planned. Thief gets \$95 from court-house.

Jan. 30—Six committees report on conference studies, giving information about county business and social life.

Feb. 6—Special school election set for April 17. Snow blocks roads.

Feb. 13—Mercury drops to six above.

Feb. 20—Merle Becket leaves for Heppner, Bennett promoted. Run-off damages roads, fields.

Feb. 27—New seed treatment shown. Kent station sold.

March 5—New elevator to be built at Kent. Hartley house burns at Kent.

March 12—Highway association formed. Wheat League opposes tax spending.

March 19—Ed Bell tells Sherman County club about wheat commission at Kent meeting. Snow lays on south end of county.

March 26—Highway hearing held in The Dalles. Argument made about schools by Clyde Beard.

April 2—Rural School Board calls budget election. Power company plans better connected service.

April 9—Highway association meets at Bend. Walter Snyder talks to club about school needs.

April 16—Rural school budget calls for \$245,904. Citizens have say about coming school election.

April 32—Sherman County club hears that hospital possible. The County unit beaten 456 to 412.

April 30—City council asks bond election May 21. REA ends construction in county.

May 7—Rufus entertains County club with road meeting. School consolidation talked at Grass Valley by board members.

May 14—County budget kept within six percent limit. Wasco baseball team takes third straight game, beating Condon.

May 21—High school graduate classes. Moisture five inches over normal.

May 28—Peace officers meet here in district conclave. Election returns follow general trend.

June 4—The Dalles Wheat league stock show postponed because of high water in Columbia. Rufus homes, farms damaged.

June 11—Leslie Scott talks about pioneers to pioneers. Orchard damage at Rufus growing.

June 18—Moisture for crop year exceeds famous 1916 year.

June 25—Sherman Riders and visitors perform on rainy arena. Floyd Root and W. L. May are chosen to Rural School Board, Non-High board.

(Continued Next Week)

Womens' Club Meets At Grass Valley

The Women's Community club met at the home of Mrs. Earl Olds Thursday afternoon with 15 members and guests present. Miss Mary Verhoef, county health nurse was the speaker. The Women's club will sponsor the health clinic for pre-school children. Mrs. Frank Bayer entertained with a guessing game with Mrs. Glenn Perry winning the prize. This was followed by an exchange of handkerchiefs and refreshments were served by the hostess. The next meeting of the club will be held at the home of Mr. B. C. Baumgartner on Thursday, January 6.

BURIAL SERVICES HELD FOR CECIL WOMAN

Burial services were held Wednesday for Mrs. Lole L. Remington who died in a hospital at The Dalles Sunday. Burial was in the Odd Fellows cemetery at Grass Valley.

Mrs. Remington was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., and had lived at Cecil, Ore., for many years. Her husband, two sons, two sisters survive her.