

There Will Always Be Christmas Trees

WASHINGTON, D. C. (Special)—Fifty years ago a President of the United States banned the use of Christmas trees in the White House because he thought the practice of cutting young evergreens was wasteful.

That order, issued by Theodore Roosevelt, went unchallenged until two of his young sons were caught in the act of smuggling a Christmas tree into the Executive Mansion. To escape their father's presidential wrath they appealed to America's first professional forester and Theodore Roosevelt's good friend, Gifford Pinchot, to intercede for them.

Pinchot did, pointing out that proper cutting of small evergreens for Christmas use is not harmful and frequently actually helps a forest.

That advice, good enough 50 years ago to lift a White House ban and convince a strong-minded president, is echoed this year by no less an authority than the American Forest Products Industries.

"Don't worry about the plight of the poor Christmas tree," says this wood-industry sponsored organization, "it's as replaceable as the Thanksgiving turkey and just as indispensable to the American scene."

Nearly half of the 21 million evergreens that make up America's 1949 Christmas tree harvest were farm produced. Nearly nine-tenths of the entire crop was cut on privately owned timberland. To augment this domestic Christmas tree harvest, about five million evergreens are imported annually, most of them from Canada.

Besides bringing a fragrant freshness of the forest into two out of every three American homes this December, the three-month Christmas tree harvest pours an estimated 50 million dollars into the Nation's economic bloodstream.

Most American Christmas trees are thinned from natural growth forests. An original stand of from five to ten thousand trees per acre will actually mature only a few hundred sawlog-size trees. Most of the small evergreens, selectively cut for Christmas sale, would sooner or later have been eliminated by Nature in the life and death struggle for forest space.

When it comes to selecting a Christmas tree, most Americans have as many individual likes and dislikes as they have in motor cars or hats. Color, limb strength, shape, compactness, fragrance, an



These spruce trees from Northern Minnesota's second growth forests will bring Christmas cheer into homes all over America. This scene typifies the holiday forest harvest just completed. (Halvorson Trees, Photo)

ability to retain needles and, of course, price are factors.

Best seller on the Christmas tree market today is the balsam fir, a product of New England and Northeastern United States. About six and one-half million of these are sold in an average year. Douglas firs, products of the Pacific Coast, are the second most popular. Black spruce, red cedar and white spruce follow in that order. Together these make up 83 percent of all Christmas trees sold in the United States. Scotch pine, Southern pine, red spruce, Virginia pine, white fir, Norway spruce, hemlock, cypress, juniper and Englemann spruce also are marketed in commercial quantities.

Historians disagree over how and when this Christmas tree business started in America. Home-sock Hessian soldiers, brought over from Germany by the British to fight George Washington's Continental Army, probably introduced the custom.

Another German, the sixteenth century religious leader Martin Luther, generally is credited with originating the custom of decorating Christmas trees with lights. Noting how snowflakes on the boughs of evergreen trees reflected moonlight, Martin Luther determined to capture the same effect in his home by placing lighted candles on the tree. The idea spread through the centuries.

This Christmas eve, just as they have since 1923, people will gather around an evergreen tree on the White House lawn to participate in a tree lighting ceremony dedicated by the President and broadcast nationally.

Forestry-wise the United States has traveled a full circle since Theodore Roosevelt's day. Christmas trees, like sawlogs and pulpwood, have become a crop in America. This country's forests, if protected and wisely managed, can produce both wood and Christmas trees in quantities sufficient to meet present as well as future needs.

Medler, Mrs. Lois Steward, Mrs. Sam Brock, Mrs. Leo Watkins, Mrs. Sadie Rich, Mrs. Herbert Church, Mrs. Trace Fields and Mrs. Alta Smith.

There was a card party at the Rufus grange hall Friday night. Not too many were out, but it was enjoyed by those present. Winning high score at cards were Sam Brock and Mrs. Curt Tom. Mr. and Mrs. George Fox were awarded the booby prizes. Hostesses were Mr. and Mrs. Harland McDonald and Mr. and Mrs. Andy Engberg. Supper consisting of sandwiches, salad and coffee was served at the close. The next card party will be December 30 and the hostesses will be Mr. and Mrs. Sam Brock and Mr. and Mrs. George Fox.

The officers and musician in the Rufus grange drill team all met at the grange hall Thursday night to practice the drill for the state conference which will be December 14 at Rufus.

The Wasco boys played a game of basket ball with the Rufus boys Tuesday night. The first part of the game Rufus was 6 points in the lead, but were not able to hold it. The final score was 47 points for Wasco and 39 points for Rufus. The Rufus high school girls' volleyball team is getting off to a good start. When they played Wasco Tuesday night, they were victorious by a score of 77 points to Wasco's 33 points.

George Fox Jr. has entered the Optimist subscription contest for the Rufus territory.

The days he past week have been clear but cold. Mostly there has been frosty nights.

The engagement of Miss Nell Coats and Harold Melzer has been announced, but no date set for the wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. George Fox of Rufus were dinner guests Tuesday night at the home of Mrs. A. B. Potter and daughter Mayme Moorehouse. Other guests present were Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. Ormand Hilderbrand and Mr. and Mrs. Walt Bruckert, all of Klondike.

The teachers of Sherman county had their meeting Wednesday night at Rufus when the Rufus teachers were hosts. Refreshments were served at the close of the meeting.

The Rufus grange Christmas program will be December 23

which will be on a Friday.

The Rufus school has set Thursday night December 22 as the night for their Christmas program. The grade school children are planning plays and working on them now. On Friday the children will have their Christmas party and school will be let out at noon.

There was a rural school board meeting at Moro Wednesday which George Fox, a member of the board, attended.

On the hill at Rufus Monday morning, the ground had a slim spreading of snow. The wind which came during the morning soon melted it, as did the sprinkles of rain which also fell.

Jersey skirts with big pockets permanently pleated to go with that Jersey blouse.

GRETA, The Dalles

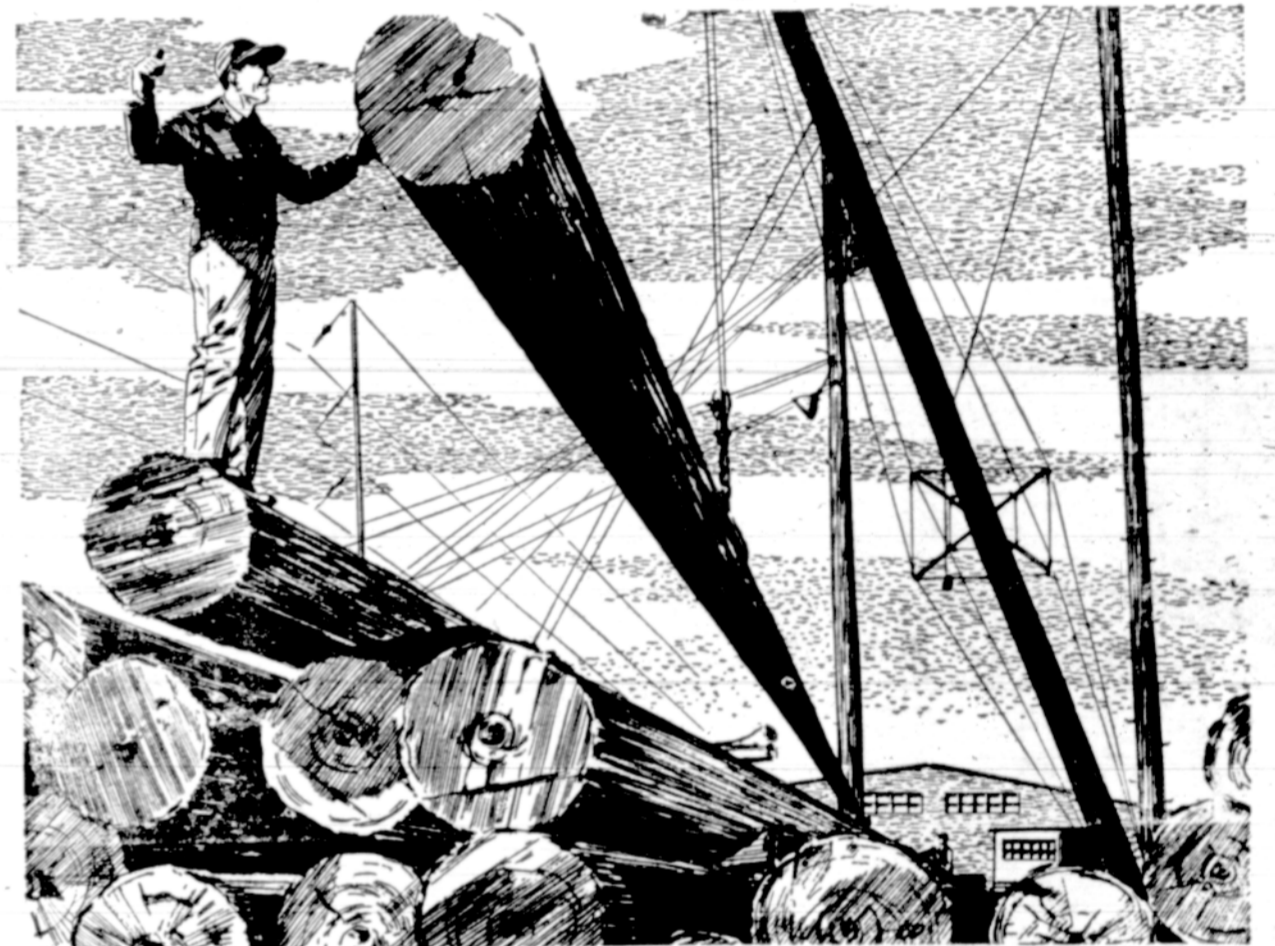
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Rufus Sewing Club To Miss Meeting

By Mrs. George Fox

The Community Sewing club met Wednesday afternoon at the country home of Mrs. Chet Coats. It was the club's Christmas party and there was an exchange of gifts among the adults and the children present. The club decided not to meet the next meeting date on account of it coming just after New Years, but to wait until the third Wednesday of January. The members all brought some used clothing to donate with the new quilt which the club made this fall, to the welfare center in The Dalles. The club has taken in a new member, Mrs. Elton Medler who lives at Emigrant Springs. The hostess served pineapple upside down cake and coffee at the afternoon present for the afternoon were Mrs. Don Macnab, Mrs. Leland Medler, Mrs. Gordon Reid, Mrs. George Fox, Mrs. Dewey Thomas, Mrs. Kenneth Fridley, Mrs. Elton Medler and the hostess Mrs. Coats.

The Home Economics club met for their December meeting at the home of Mrs. Alta Smith with Mrs. George Fox as co-hostess. A dessert luncheon was served upon card tables which had gay Christmas table cloths and napkins to match. Mrs. Harland McDonald, vice-chairman opened the business meeting. A letter was read from the state hospital in regards to what to send the patients there. Fifty gifts which were attractively wrapped were donated by members, and made to send away to Salem. A box of get well cards was purchased so the club could send them to ill members. It was decided that as long as the amount of the firtex needed to fix the grange kitchen and hallway had been estimated for the club to buy this amount as it would be the end of this year's grange improvement project. Mrs. Joe Morris, past chairman of the club installed the new chairman, Mrs. Trace Fields, for 1950. Mrs. Fields then presided for the rest of the meeting. Mrs. Morris was assisted by Mrs. Harland McDonald in installing Mrs. Fields. Mrs. Sadie Rich had charge of the program. The members all participated in several games. Mrs. Leo Watkins gave the reading, "The Night After Christmas". Mrs. Sadie Rich gave a reading on a man who aspired to be Santa Claus. Mrs. Trace

Fields gave a reading of Christ-noon together were Mrs. Andy mas. The roll call was answered Engberg, Mrs. Walt, Morris, by members telling of their fa-Mrs. Harland McDonald, Mrs. vorite Christmas stories or ex-Atlee Wilson, Mrs. Joe Morris, periences. Enjoying the after-Mrs. George Fox, Mrs. Grace

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