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Giles L. French Editor
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CALENDARS

This is a time of year of taking down and putting up calendars and of noting the pretty pictures thereon. Telling the time carries a heavy burden of advertising these days and it seems odd that so useful thing as a calendar should be so ornate. We remember, back in the depression, that the giving of calendars was in abeyance and we printed a calendar for each month as it came along. Plain, they were, although they hung on kitchen walls as proudly as the most ornate modern ones. They were big enough so the housewife could mark down the number of eggs gathered, the date for the red cow's calving and such similar information as is often written on calendars. A more fortunate economy has supplanted our bare portrayal of the days of the month with the scenic grandeur of railroads the beauties of rural life and some attempts at humor that never stand the test of time.

It is a time for one to be sad if he is the sad type or his digestion is imperfect. He might note the speedy passage of time and reflect how little is left for him on this earth. A different philosophy—or breakfast—might cause him to be thankful that he had lived so much of his life already and had so little a ways to go before the long and indefinite rest.

There are always those who are glad to see the end of the year and such can snatch calendars off the walls and put up new with enjoyment. But years are good and bad as we make them, most often, and he who has gotten into the habit of having bad years will probably continue.

Whether it was good or bad, whether it brought sadness or enjoyment, 1952 is ended, except for a few exuberant hours in celebration and expectation, some have learned to laugh again this year, and some to weep. The next year will be the same.

THE CLOWN IN POLITICS

Here at the Christmas season, when it is undoubtedly inappropriate, we have a compulsion to write about the clown in American politics.

The term clown must be an inclusive term, inclusive in that it must encompass several sorts of political candidates. Among them would certainly be those who use as campaign material their obscure beginnings, and include those who have profited—in earlier times—by birth in a log cabin; it would include the sizeable number who pose as very common persons and run because they are just plain Joe; it would also include those who are more definitely clowns, like Pappy O'Daniel of Texas, Huey Long and that character who sang ballads to win his election as a senator from Idaho—what was his name?

This does not mean that no good men were born in log cabins, Lincoln was, but it does mean that those who run for office and use their common background as a major reason for their election. Neither does it mean that a man may not sing and be suitable for public office; it does mean that singing should not be a reason for his election.

It is true that it is to a certain degree in the American tradition that any man can hold any office. We over emphasize so-called democracy in expressing that idea. We have held to the notion that any man is able to hold any office. It is not true that any man can fill any office successfully.

Government in America is a complex affair. It requires a great deal of background, an ability to think, an aptitude for research, the fortitude to make and hold to decisions, a sense of public service and a sincere desire to serve the majority of the people instead of a vocal or powerful minority.

We maintain that candidates should not be elected because they are good old Joe. Good old

Joe has brought us poor government more often than good. We are, in fact, hopefully awaiting the date when we can be rid of a good old Joe.

Perhaps as long as voters continue uncritical of the abilities of political candidates the present condition will continue. Voters like a man with the common touch and are inclined to vote for him whether he has any other qualities or not. They like the surface abilities, the pleasing antics of the clown. A clown needs not be critical, nor constructive, nor even to make sense. All he needs to be is pleasing—and perhaps funny.

Some words of Henry Vanduyke come to mind to the effect that such a man or idea was neither good, nor bad, but merely popular. The clown is merely popular.

We need to elect men who stand for something. We need candidates who boldly stand on public affairs and where there are two such candidates the voters may make their choice. That is the way decisions should be made in a democracy. When candidates are chosen on popularity, on humble forebears, on the common touch, they are not chosen because they have the greatest ability to perform the duties of their office best.

It may be assumed that as our democracy achieves age there will be more critical judgment of candidates and the eventual elimination from office of those who are common and the substitution of those who are qualified.

OF METHODS

Whether the troubles of the county court are a source of worry or amusement to citizens of the county they are important because of the effect they may have on county government in the immediate future.

It is not always possible to discern the real cause of serious disagreements. In this case they may spring from personalities, mutual dislikes, or disagreements on principle. We make no attempt to fathom that question. Neither are easily settled.

Disagreements on policy or method can usually be resolved satisfactorily in time.

One of the reasons why the county court is in difficulties is because there is, and long has been, too little regard for the strictly legal way of transacting county business. Rules of parliamentary procedure are not followed, minutes are not kept fully and decisions are made by tacit agreement, not by actual voting. Decisions are also made between a majority of members outside court meetings.

All the above are a convenient way of doing business, public or private, as long as everything goes alright and no disputes arise. But since no one knows when disputes will arise it is better and much safer to adhere to the strictly legal way of transacting county business.

It is important that court members have a knowledge in the methods of conducting public business as well as knowledge of county government, its powers and limitations.

Just as well have a white Christmas as a cold one.

YOUR HISTORY SCRAPBOOK

By Dr. Dan E. Clark, professor Emeritus of History, University of Oregon.

No. 1 Question: WHAT WAS THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME OREGON?

The first known use of the name Oregon, with a different spelling, was in a petition presented to the British government in 1765 by Major Robert Rogers, who will be recognized as the leading character in Kenneth Roberts' novel NORTHWEST PASSAGE. Rogers was a colonial military officer who sought permission to lead an expedition westward from the Mississippi to the river "called by the Indians Ouragon". In 1772 he presented another petition in which the spelling "Ourigan" was used. Associated with Major Rogers was Jonathan Carver, who in 1778 published a book of travels in which he referred to the "Oregon or River of the West". This was the first appearance of the name in print. Where Rogers got the name is uncertain, but it probably was used by the Indians of the upper Mississippi region. There have been several ingenious conjectures that the name was derived from various Spanish words, but none of these suggestions has any support. The name Oregon was not applied to the river after it was named the Columbia by Robert Gray in 1792, but it was given to the country drained by the river and later to the Territory, and State of Oregon. It was popularized by Bryant in THANATOPSIS, published 1817, when he wrote the well-known lines: "Where rolls the Oregon and hears no sound save his own dashing."

Next week question: WHAT ERRONEOUS BELIEF STIMULATED EARLY EXPLORATION OF THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST?

Clip and paste in your history scrapbook. (If you have a question you would like answered, about Oregon or Northwest history, mail it to Dr. Dan E. Clark care of this newspaper.)

Wasco News

The WSCS held its annual bazaar and dinner recently. Mrs. George Harris had charge of the fancy work booth, Miss Vivian Trowce worked at the white elephant table, Mrs. Art Smith and Mrs. Albert Kaseberg were in the candy booth and Mrs. Harley Dutton and Mrs. Anna Lee at the farm booth. Under Mrs. G. A. Sargent's direction ham and turkey dinners were served to over 100 people. A number of out of town people were present. One of the extra attractions was a small pig which got out several times during the dinner hours. Movie pictures were shown by Raymond Van Gilder to the children. The Girl Scouts helped serve.

The Women's society of the Christian church met at the home of Mrs. G. A. Sargent, Wednesday, December 17 for its regular meeting. Mrs. Vleda Van Gaasbeck, president, led the usual opening and after the minutes were read and approved, reports were given by the bazaar committees who reported a very successful day. After all Electric Wire, Barney's, G. V.

expenses were paid there was a fire siren. The volunteer fire-profit of \$340. They said this was the biggest crowd in attendance for several years. Gifts were collected for the Methodist's old peoples home in Salem. Mrs. George Harris and Mrs. Harry Van Gilder served refreshments at the close of the meeting.

Mrs. Sam Brock was hostess to the Tillicum club Thursday, December 18 at her home. Members present were Mrs. Norma Everett, Mrs. W. A. Nisbet, Mrs. Anna Lee, Mrs. Lee Dehler, Mrs. L. L. Funk, Mrs. Geo. Harris, Mrs. Art Smith, Mrs. Harry Van Gilder, Mrs. James Maddox, Mrs. Trace Fields, and one guest, Mrs. Paul Patrick. High score was won by Mrs. Everett and low by Mrs. Lee. The next meeting Jan. 15 will be at Mrs. Funk's home, the 25th anniversary of the club. Mrs. Sam Brock is the only remaining charter member.

The Thursday bridge club met with Mrs. Al Dormaier, December 18 for its regular meeting and Christmas gift exchange. Members present were Mesdames David Richelderfer, Pete Macnab, Dewey Thomas, Robert Bish, John Foss, and guests were Mrs. Elton Medler, Mrs. Harry Adams and Mrs. George Macnab. Prizes went to Mrs. Pete Macnab high, Mrs. Thomas second high and Mrs. Bish consolation. The next meeting will be January 15 at Mrs. Pete Macnab's home.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Nelson and son, Garth, are spending the holidays at their home in Salem. Dr. and Mrs. Felitz of The Dalles were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Sargent recently.

Dr. and Mrs. Charles L. Gray and daughter, Cheryl of Echo, arrived Saturday evening to spend the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Johnson.

The school Christmas program was successfully put on Thursday evening with most of the students taking parts. Afterwards Santa distributed treats to all the children.

Chuck Wallace and John Buck have received their call to the service and will leave January 28. Joe Yocum has been to Portland for his check up and passed it.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Melzer of Dayton will be here for several days visiting their sons.

Gordon Buck is home for the holidays from his school at Boise, Idaho.

Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Sargent and Miss Vivian Trowce left Tuesday for Corvallis and will visit with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Neville and family until after New Years.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hines are in The Dalles at the home of their son, Howard Hines. Lee Hines is quite ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Kjelhorn and son, Dale of The Dalles were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Arlet Rhinehart and family.

Mrs. Josie Lamborn of The Dalles and Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Guy of Portland are expected to arrive Wednesday for Christmas. They and the Al Dormaier will be dinner guests of the Gaylord Guys Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Esselstyn and family stopped to visit Wasco friends while on their way to Pendleton from his teaching job at Rogue River.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Dormaier and family of Spokane spent several days recently as house guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dormaier.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Van Gaasbeck and family of Blalock were Sunday dinner guests of his mother, Mrs. Vleda Gaasbeck. She accompanied them to their home to remain until after New Years day.

Joe Drinkard drove to Dufur Sunday to pick up Mrs. Sylvia Hibel and bring her over until after Christmas.

The town people were rudely awakened about mid night recently when a short started the

Smith Callaway CHAPEL

Funeral Advisors and directors LEONARD R. SMITH Phone The Dalles 3135

Eureka Lodge No. 121 A.F. & A.M. Meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings each month. Visiting members cordially invited to meet with us Clyde Gilmore, W.M.

H. D. Pinkerton, Secretary Bethlehem Chapter No. 78. O.E.S. Meets every second and fourth Thursday in each month; visiting members invited. Moro, Oregon. Bonnie May, W.M.

Gwen Ross, Secretary Moro Lodge No. 113 I.O.O.F. Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in I.O.O.F. hall. Transient and visiting brothers are cordially invited. Floyd Lane, N.G. Leo Watkins, Secretary

Lupine Rebekah Lodge No. 116 Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Visiting members welcome. Josephine Gentry, N.G. Helen Martin, Sec.

Want Ads

WANTED: Man with car to call on farmers in Sherman county.



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FOR SALE: Tamarack fence posts 6 ft. 25c & 6 1/2 ft. 27c; good gravel road. See or Write Homer Davis, Lone rock, Oregon. 6-9c

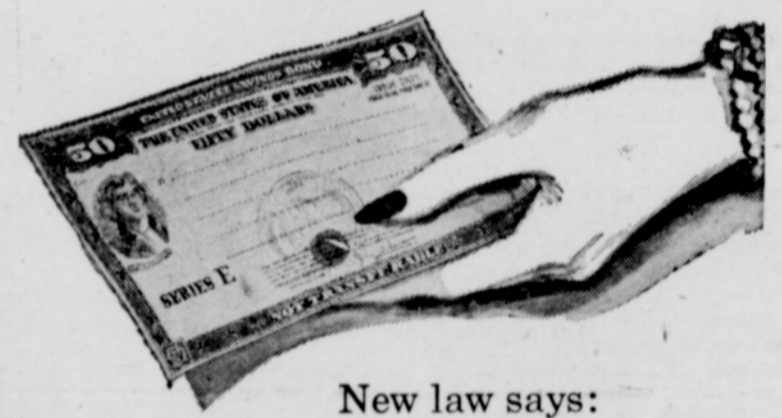
WANTED: Man with car to service 800 family Watkins Route. Above average earnings for right man. If you have car and good local references, write for information to The J. R. Watkins Co., 137 Dexter Ave., Seattle 9, Washington. 6-11c

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed in the County Court of the State of Oregon for Sherman County her Final Report and Account as Administratrix of the estate of Kenneth W. Blau, deceased, and that Saturday, January 17, 1953, at ten o'clock A. M. of said day, at the County Courthouse, at Moro, Oregon, has been fixed by the Court as the time and place for hearing of objections to said Final Report and Account and the settlement of said estate. Margaret Blau Attorney for Administratrix

Pre-Holiday SALE of Lovely Dresses starts Dec. 8 20 percent off Beautiful Christmas Gifts - Costume Jewelry Hose - Handkerchiefs - Everything in Ladies' Apparel - Christmas Shop Here GAY SHOP WASCO, OREGON

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