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Giles L. French Editor  
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RESOLUTIONS

If it weren't for the press and radio trying to find something to write about at year's end the making and breaking of resolutions would be a small problem as one year closes and another begins.

If a citizen feels that some of his habits are getting a little too over powering and need moderation he can decide to curtail them at any time. Waiting until the start of a new year would be nonsense. He might not feel the same by then.

In other words we think it puts too great a burden on the first of the year to assume that it is the only proper day for the start of reformation. We have heard it said that the occasional excesses of the holiday season make January first a day when the spirit is more receptive to reformation than other days. The flesh is sometimes craving reform as well according to some accounts.

The first of the year might better be a day of planning for a better year.

THE PLEASURES OF SLAVERY

The seeming lack of interest in liberty except among the Asians and other nationals which civilized man often considers untrained and ignorant causes us to examine, however, without conviction, the benefits that might accrue from slavery.

Many of the material things of the earth may be the fortune of slaves. They were treated well in some cases and one dependent on slaves found it economically beneficial to feed his slaves well. Horsemen knew the same facts. There were times when slaves were permitted a ration of liquor and there were holidays on which they could seek their own recreation.

A slave didn't have to be responsible about many things. The demand for his services was such that he was seldom imprisoned. In fact, for those who consider the material things of life as of the greatest importance the life of a slave has its points.

It was the conscience of the free, not the action of the slave, that ended the practice. The growth of all-embracing governments in recent times indicates to observers of mankind that he prefers security to freedom.

If all a man has to do on this earth is to obtain food and shelter and procreate himself the life of a slave would be ideal inasmuch as it would turn the responsibility of most of these over to the big boss. It may be that private ownership of slaves would be considered out of style in this day and age and public ownership would be better. Russia has (we hear) a system akin to that now and the urge to turn responsibilities to the government could bring it on every place within a few years. Of course, it would be necessary to find a different word than slaves, but that would be no trouble.

The proposal, we know, will be ridiculed by many who would embrace it gleefully if proposed as an extension of social security. The free of spirit are so weak in numbers and so subdued in utterances they would hardly be able to oppose it with hope of success. Give it some thought.

WE DON'T BELIEVE IT

This is the time of year when economists and politicians of the party of the "ins", industrialists, labor leaders in hopes for bigger pay and optimists in general point to the coming year as one certain to bring greater prosperity than ever to the nation.

All sorts of figures are concocted and brought out to make up the body of the proof. It always reminds us of the time we were told by a banker about the stability of his bank and its certainty of weathering the financial storms then abrewing. We published it as good news. Almost before that paper had been used to wrap the garbage the bank was closed. A neighboring paper published a rosy account of a bank's liquidity the very day before it closed.

Economics and politics may have found a way for the human race to own all the gadgets, drive new cars, own new homes on 35 hours a week; economics and politics may have found a way to evade a burdensome debt and keep on spending without let up. The stock market may always rise, prices remain high, work be easy, money be likewise, optimists to be ever right. But, for us, we'll wait until next winter to see if it was all true and then believe it.

We hope all of them are correct because it is a fine thing to believe and experience. Nevertheless this great unanimity doesn't impress us. We've seen something like it before.

WATER CODE BILL

It is extremely doubtful that the legislature will accept the proposed set of laws to establish a water resources board with the same sweeping powers now in the bill. That some sort of a law will pass for some state authority over water is a foregone conclusion, but it might better be an authority with advisory powers instead of so many unlimited ones.

The bills came from a state committee that went around asking citizens in meetings about their use of water. The governor was a party to the passage of the bill authorizing the board. Purpose was to get some sort of coordination in the use of water in the state. This includes surface water which is used for irrigation, for fish, for stock and underground water which has not been explored to any extent.

The new board would have authority over all kinds of water and would, in the present bills, have power to upset vested water rights under certain conditions. It could control minimum flows of streams, a power that could be used to protect fish instead of farmers.

Any bill giving the state more control and establishing a larger bureaucracy should be suspect by a legislature which is a body of persons representing the people. Legislators might better protect the people from government instead of extending government control. Therefore when any rights are taken from the people the benefits must be very certain, very great and very popular.

It is entirely possible that a board with authority to obtain information about the state's water and to study the uses therefore would be sufficient for the present time. When there was more knowledge about water, surface and underground, proper action for its control could be taken. To turn so necessary a resource over to an appointed board is a long step which we are sure the legislature, if wise, will be reluctant to do.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

It is pleasant to have friends wish one a happy new year and friendly to wish others the same bit of good will. As a general greeting it cannot be beaten and anyone can take it for what we want it to mean.

Probably no one knows what it takes to make him happy. Some would like to eat without restraint, some want to lose several pounds, some want to do both. Everyone wants health, even those who enjoy poor health. There are those who long to travel and those who, having traveled, want to stay home.

A few would like to be elected to office and others hope they are never nominated for any office, however small; some would like to be invited to places where no one thinks of asking them. We know of a person who would dearly love to taste champagne; another wonders if lobster is as good as it is expensive.

All the suppressed desires of mentally inventive humans could bring happiness if realized. Once in a while we find a person who wishes he had an education, but seldom do they have the ambition to get it. Maybe they would be happy if they were trying.

All of which leads us to the inevitable conclusion that happiness is not something that anyone can give another except for fleeting moments. It must come from oneself. So when you wish another happy new year it is to wish that his conduct for the next 365 days is such that it brings him pleasure.

For 1955 we hope the process continues toward making one political party stand for government and the other stand for people; those who want more government and those who want less.

It used to be said that a person would do the same thing the whole year he did on New Year's day, but that was before many had to sober up on that day.

A. B. Robertson To Speak To PCA

A. B. Robertson, vice president of the Production Credit Corporation of Spokane, will be the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Mid-Columbia Production Credit Association at the civic auditorium in The Dalles, January 8.

J. Merton Stein, association secretary-treasurer, said Mr. Robertson's talk will follow the annual business session during which two directors will be elected and the association will celebrate membership ownership. Walter A. Bailey, association president, will hand Mr. Robertson a check for \$5,000.00 in payment of the last block of government stock in the PCA's capital structure.

Registration is scheduled to start at 11 a. m. and there will be a dinner at noon. Entertainment will be provided by a string instrument group under the direction of Glenn Betschart from The Dalles High school, during the dinner hour.

Mr. Stein said there would be a discussion period. The terms of directors Paul Davenport of Goldendale, Washington, and Riddell Lage of Hood River, Oregon, expire on December 31. An election will be held to fill these vacancies. Holdover directors include Mr. Bailey of The Dalles, Carol Sayrs, Moro and Edward L. Bates, Condon.

Veterans May Get Government Land

Twentyone farms will be released in the Columbia Basin with a 45-day preference to veterans, in the first release of land in that project scheduled for 1955. Vere A. McCarthy, department of Veterans' Affairs service officer, warns that for preference, veterans must file their applications with the Bureau of Reclamation at Ephrata, Washington before 2:00 p. m. on January 31, 1955.

The farms are located in the gently rolling countryside adjacent to the town of Othello, Wn., 130 miles southwest from Spokane and in the heart of the Col-

umbia Basin reclamation project. Minimum qualifications for applicants in addition to having been honorably separated from active military service in the armed forces since September 16, 1940, are as follows: at least two years of farm experience; good physical condition which will permit personal participation in normal farm work; assets worth at least \$4,500 in excess of liabilities; and a record of good moral conduct, including a bona fide intent to engage in farming as an occupation.

Applications for veterans who wish to participate in the drawing may be obtained at the Salem and Portland offices of the department of Veterans' Affairs and from county service officers.

Tax Payment Time Not Too Confusing

Many farmers in Oregon are still confused regarding deadlines for their final tax returns, reports Manning Becker, farm management specialist at OSC.

Becker says this is the schedule: Farmers should file their return and pay the tax on or before January 31, 1955. Or, they should file an estimate and pay this amount by January 15, 1955, then file their return and pay the balance due by April 15.

If the farmer's business year doesn't start January 1, he may file his return and pay the tax on or before the last day of the first month of the succeeding taxable year. As an alternative, he may file an estimate within 15 days and a return within 3 1/2 months after the end of his business year.

The revision of the law—one of many passed by the last session of Congress—extending the old January 31 date to February 15, becomes effective for tax years beginning December 31, 1954, explains Becker.

For further information regarding farmers' income tax, the specialist suggests checking with local internal revenue offices.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Clodfelter and son, Wendell, spent Christmas in Hood River at the home of their son in law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Marsh.

LaVerne Porter Dead From Heart Attack

LaVerne Porter, 58, native Sherman countians died at his home near Hermiston last Sunday of a sudden heart attack. Funeral services were held Tuesday with interment at Stanfield. Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Van Gilder and Glen and Raymond Van Gilder attended from Wasco.

The deceased was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Dell Porter and lived at Wasco until about 20 years ago when he moved to Salem and later to Hermiston. Surviving is his wife, Rachael, three sons and two daughters.

Rufus Personals

Mrs. George Fox The children of Rufus school are enjoying a vacation this week away from their studies at school. Vacation started at noon Friday. That was after each room had a party and gift exchange.

Thursday night school at Rufus put on their Christmas program. Neal Eaton was announcer and welcomed the crowd. Mrs. Marie Elliot accompanied on the piano the lower grade children rhythm band when they played "Jingle Bells". Then the intermediate room children gave two choral readings: "The Night Before Christmas" and "I Heard the Bells on Christmas". The lower grade students sang "Thirty Two Feet and Eight Little Tails", accompanied by Mrs. William O'Brien at the piano. Douglas Medler, Barbara Bishop and Mary Griggs were characters in the play, "Telling A Story".

The lower grades sang a number of Christmas carols accompanied by Mrs. William O'Brien. The 7th grade were in a play called "The Holly Hangs High". Taking part were Steven Belloni, Nadine Grant, Bobby Byrd, Stephanie Elliot and Patricia O'Brien. The high school glee club sang "Jolly Old St. Nicholas" and "Joy To The World", accompanied and directed by Mrs. Constance Wright at the piano.

The 8th grade gave the play "A Christmas Promise". The charac-

ters in this play were Sheila Adanson, Shirleen Craig, Vincent Belloni, David Reid and Charles Griggs.

Stephanie Elliot played an accordion solo "Silent Night" accompanied on the piano by Carolyn Tom. Then Stephanie broke out with "Santa Claus is Coming To Town", as the jolly old fellow appeared in his colorful attire and sack full of bags of candy for all the children as they eagerly gathered around him.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Buce and children spent Christmas eve in Mosier with Tom's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Kerr. Christmas the Buces were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Weatherford at Olex.

Howard Steward who just returned from the United States service in Japan is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Steward.

Mrs. Leonard Jordan postmaster at Rufus reported the office handled more mail December 13 than ever before. Even more, said Mrs. Jordan, than when the army engineer soldiers were stationed in Rufus at Christmas of 1944.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS All persons having claims against the Estate of Charles J. Bullard, deceased, are hereby notified to present them, with the proper vouchers and duly verified, to the undersigned, the duly appointed, qualified and acting Executrix of the Estate of Charles J. Bullard, deceased, at the office of T. Lester Johnson, attorney at law, Moro, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice, to-wit: December 24, 1954. Lucetta Adlard Executrix

T. Lester Johnson Attorney for Executrix 8-11c

CALL FOR BIDS

Bids will be received until January 10, 1955 at 8 p. m. by School District No. 23, Grass Valley, Oregon, for insulation of the school house ceiling with a four inch blanket of approved insulation material and install ventilation louvers. For further information see a board member. The board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Eva Cantrall, Clerk

Bethlehem Chapter No. 75. O.E.S. Meets every second and fourth Thursday in each month; visiting members invited. Moro, Oregon. Betty Christianson, W.M.

Elsie Jones, Secretary Kureka 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. Howard Ross, W. M.

H. B. Pinkerton, Secretary

Lupine Rebekah Lodge No. 116 Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 8 p. m. ball. Transient and visiting brothers are cordially invited.

Althea Burnet N. G.

Jelen Martin, Sec.

Moro Lodge No. 113 I.O.O.F. Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in I.O.O.F. ball. Transient and visiting brothers are cordially invited.

C. O. Burnet, N.G.

Leo Watkins, Secretary

And at that time the soldiers were a couple of thousand strong. Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Morris and their relatives gathered Saturday at the Rufus grange hall for their Christmas dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. John Belloni and family were guests Christmas day of their son and daughter in law, Mr. and Mrs. John Belloni Jr. in Arlington.

Mrs. Sarah Giannonatti had dinner on Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Don Macenab.

Gayle Eaton of San Diego, Calif., was home for the holidays with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Eaton.

Mr. and Mrs. James Fox were dinner guests on Christmas at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Huck.

The Rufus Church of the Nazarene put on its Christmas program at the church Wednesday night.

WANT ADS

FOR SALE: Southern Wasco county wheat and stock ranch, 2900 A.; over 500 A. cultivated; 206 A. wheat allotment. Joe Morelli, Phone, Shaniko Hotel. 9-10p

FOR SALE: Good irrigated pasture, hay and livestock lay-out, various sizes from 40 acres up to 240 acres; also a 3000 acre good grass land lay-out. Call or write W. H. MORRISON, Realtor, P. O. Box 781, Phone 475, Pendleton, Oregon. 8-9c

LOST: Red purse December 2, in Moro. Contains nurse's pins, army discharge button, other personal articles. Reward. Aline Savage, Moro Hotel. 9p

YOUR SAVINGS needed to earn over 5% to keep even with the pace of higher living costs the past 10 years.

Most likely than not, the trend of prices, living costs and taxes will be upward in coming years. Common stocks and mutual funds, legal investments for churches, colleges and savings banks, offer MANY benefits in planning for financial security. Why not look over the facts right away?

Write or call or phone JOSEPH W. DODD, Tygh Valley, Ore. Eastern Oregon Mgr., Wm. J. Collins & Co. Complete investment service, U. S. and Canada. Tax exempt school bonds, nationwide. 8c 17n

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405 E. 2nd St.  
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Phone 5362 The Dalles, Ore.

YOUR "LUCKY" GUEST COLUMNIST  
FROM THE  
**SIDELINES**  
By HAL LAMAN  
Executive Sports Editor  
Oregon Journal

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Hal Laman, executive sports editor of the Post-Lexington Journal, has covered the Pacific Northwest sports scene since 1930, with four years time off as an Air Force pilot in World War II. Besides covering Pacific Coast Conference football and basketball games, he writes a widely-read column "Inside Out". If and when Pacific Coast Conference fathers approve a coast-wide basketball schedule, merging Northern and Southern divisions into a nine-team conference, look for a faster brand of basketball.

Coaches now are faced with the prospect of playing each opponent four times, which means that on the third and fourth times around the coaches—and most particularly the latterly the players—know almost to the inch how a certain rival reacts to a certain situation. Result No. 1—Players are able to throw up better defenses because they are well informed on each rival's capabilities.

Result No. 2—Coaches, realizing this situation, often spend much time the week before the series in getting ready to stop the pet shot of Joe Whoolis. In fact, there have been instances of carrying this defense to the ridiculous. One such example occurred in an Oregon-Oregon State game last season.

Slats Gill's towering Beavers, with T. J. Swede Halbrook in the post, were using a zone defense against the smaller, quicker Webfoots. They steadfastly refused to come out to meet the Oregon guards, so Captain Barney Holland parked the ball on his hip and froze for four full minutes.

Not a man stirred during this time and the only movement was Captain Holland moving the ball occasionally from hip to hip. The fans—in the Duck's home court—thought it was hilarious. It was—but it wasn't basketball.

The proposed nine-team conference will mean two game series. Watch for the new television program of highlights in the world of sports, entitled Lucky Lager Sport Time, which will be shown weekly on television stations throughout the west. The sports roundup is gathered by a corps of cameramen on assignment to film the world's top sports events each week.

and it is a pretty safe bet that no coach will go into one of these twin bills with the idea of backing into a win on defense. Sure, defense tactics are an integral part of the game, but the scoreboard still tells the winner at the end of the game—the team with the most points.

And to get 'em, coaches are going to have to concentrate more and more on offensive patterns and worry a little less about how fast a rival player X can move from point A to B. All this should prove a little more desirable to the guy in the stands. He pulls out his dough to see somebody throw the ball through the basket. Most cute defensive maneuvers are lost on him anyway. He doesn't see 'em.

Another development of conference wide basketball may well be the reduction of foul calls, simply because players will be busier getting baskets and won't have quite as much opportunity to keep badgering a guy until the whistle blows.

But all this is in the future. Right now, northern division teams are opening another season at this time around, it looks as if a three-team race is in the making. Gill's big Beavers—intact from last season—still must be rated the team to beat, but a young Washington team, which improved furiously in last season's closing weeks, and Oregon's Webfoots, with Jim (Big Bear) Loscutoff back in town after a two-year layoff, are distinct threats.

Gill had an anxious few weeks during the summer when Halbrook came up with inadequate grades in the spring term and then subsequently dropped out of summer school. But Halbrook pulled his grades together during fall term, although he won't be eligible until January 1.

The Huskies will introduce seven-foot Gary Nelson to college fans this season, but they'll be relying on the pop-shooting of Karl Voegtlin, a sophomore 5'5 1/2 of last season. Bill Borchert of the Oreagons would like to have everyone think that his team is just filling out the schedule, but the wiser observers of northern division basketball are making sure he doesn't get away with it.

So as usual, a madcap race is in prospect for basketball fans in the Northwest, with a couple of guys competing who loom as big as the fabled tall firs of the mountainsides.

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