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Musings

By an Innocent Bystander

Again it is Christmas time. Again we rush to the stores for last minute shopping. We worry and fume to get presents for those we love or for those who remembered us last year. And a lot of this Christmas present rage is all poppycock. Of course it is all right to give presents if one is able and cares to do so, but this paying debts to someone we don't care a whoop for just because that person gave us some thing last year seems awfully foolish.

It has seemed to us that the Spirit of Christmas has almost been lost in the modern commercializing of the season. With all the rush let us not forget that the day we are celebrating is after all the birthday of the Christ. How much better off this world would be if we all paid more attention to the living up to the old-fashioned Golden Rule and less to the paying of "Christmas debts."

If our readers will recall, we said some time ago that if our city council would really get at the work of looking into the matter of our water system we were more than glad to stand by and wish them God-speed. We have no desire to stand in their way nor to make their work one bit harder than it naturally is. Instead, this paper stands ready to help in any way possible. And we are more than glad to report that they are really hard at work on the matter and doing all that is possible at this time to get the whole thing fixed up right.

When it comes to so grave a matter as the increasing the already heavy tax load or the bonded indebtedness of our city, there are many things to be considered which the ordinary layman never thinks about. There is the matter of figuring just what the money is going to be used for. A definite plan of operation must be decided upon. Then estimates must be prepared as to the probable cost of the project. This means the hiring of an engineer to check the plan and draw up the estimate. Also there is the legal side to be considered. Just how far can the city go? And lastly comes the question of whether the assessed valuation of the city will warrant the issuing of more bonds and whether such bonds would be saleable if placed on the market.

All these things take time and if the city is not to get into hot water they must be settled and settled right before any move to actually start operations is made. And this writer is reliably informed that the water committee and the finance committee of the council, with the help and advice of the mayor, are busily engaged in making these investigations regarding the securing of Medford water and also the replacing of the worn-out mains now in use throughout the city. Anyone who will stop to think will agree that the old mains MUST be replaced before it would be common sense to turn Medford water, with its increased pressure, into the system. If we ever get that water, it is going to metered out to us on the main line and it would be the height of folly to try to handle it with the present distributing system.

We have been wondering whether it would be good taste for us to say anything about Earl Fehl. This paper has criticized his actions while in office and after his release from prison and we do not agree with many of his ideas, but now that the court has taken the advice of seven reputable physicians and alienists and has sent him to the state hospital in an endeavor to save his mind from a more complete breakdown we want to say that we feel that this was the wise and proper thing to do. The writer feels nothing but pity for the man and his delusions. And we sincerely hope that his mind can and will soon be restored and that Earl will return to the bosom of his family and again become an honored citizen of this valley.

And now, on behalf of the entire staff of this paper we wish you all a Merry, Merry Christmas.

Cecil Gastenbein left Tuesday morning for his home in Salem. Cecil has been attending school here and he does not expect to return here after the holidays.

POINTERS SWAMP KERBY HOOPSTERS IN SPEEDY GAME

The 1937 county champs opened their conference season last Friday evening with a decisive win over Kerby.

The Pointers displayed the same air-tight zone defense that brought them the championship last year, the score at half-time being 19 to 4. The second half furthered the walk-away of the Pointers as they rolled up 12 more points to Kerby's 7. The final score was 31 to 11.

Kerby, Josephine County Champs of last year, came into the northern division of the Jackson County League because of the lack of opponents in her own territory. The Josephine County boys were much smaller than the Pointers, which fact was a contributing factor to the defeat.

In a preliminary game, the Pointer seconds defeated Kerby seconds 34 to 6. With three six footers in line up the Pointers easily defeated the smaller Kerby boys.

The line ups for varsity game:
Myers 4 F Hill 2
Webster 9 F Brooks 2
Hood 4 C Prentice 5
P. O'Connor 8 G Shumacher
B. O'Connor 2 G Thenerkaupf
Subs.—Central Point: R. Pinkham, James 4, Williams, Beebe, Holland. Kerby: Bergman, Gove.

Seniors, Alumni Hold Annual Dinner Dance

The annual Senior-Alumni banquet is to be held at the Grange Hall, Wednesday, December 29. Sponsored by the Alumni, the purpose of the banquet is to acquaint the graduating class with the alumni association.

A new wrinkle at this year's dinner will be tried. It will be a "no speech" evening.

A turkey dinner will be served by the grange ladies.

Miss Roberta Hamilton, the well-liked accordionist who played before the high school recently, will play during the banquet. Following the dinner, Whipple's five-piece dance orchestra will play.

Jewett To Attend State School Meet

H. P. Jewett will go to Portland during the holidays to attend the annual meeting of the Oregon State Teachers' Association.

This meeting is held every year during the Christmas vacation, hundreds of teachers being present there as delegates from all over the state.

Matters of vital interest to the teaching profession are discussed at this convention. Speakers nationally and internationally known are on the program.

Mr. Jewett will also attend the meeting of the state athletic association which will be opened with a banquet at the Heathman Hotel Thursday evening, December 30th. Mr. Jewett is the official representative from district 14, which is made up of all "B" class schools in five southern Oregon counties.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Territt will spend Christmas with their son and family in Medford. Mr. Territt who has been very ill is improving.

Mrs. Darrel Palmer is spending the holiday season with relatives and helping her father in Jones Grocery. Mr. Roy Jones will be away next week visiting friends and relatives in California.

Mrs. John Townsend of Astoria is visiting her parents over the holidays. Mr. Townsend will join her next Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Leonard and little daughter Alice and Ellen Howard are visiting Mrs. Leonard's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eicher over the holidays.

New Mat Service

The American has just contracted for a new mat service which will add much to the attractiveness of the ads in the paper this way and will be a benefit both to our advertisers and readers.

Local Youth, 17, Falls to Death Off Table Rock

Once more what started out to be a pleasant bicycle outing and hike to the hills turned out to be grim tragedy Saturday afternoon when James Gregg Hult, 17-year-old freshman in the local high school, fell to his death from the top of Table Rock.

Hult plunged off the highest point of the historic landmark, falling down a 100-ft. sheer cliff and landing on huge rocks at the base.

His body was terribly crushed, one side of his head being caved in and his body battered and mangled. His death was instantaneous.

The accident occurred about 12:30 p. m. when young Hult, with his companion, Robert Gordon Burns, 14, of Route 1 and also a freshman at local high school, were rolling rocks over the precipice and watching them crash to the ground far below.

The Burns youth told the investigating state police officer that Hult was attempting to roll an especially large rock over the edge when the tragedy happened. Young Burns said that Hult was pulling on the boulder with his back to the edge of the cliff when suddenly the rock became dislodged. Hult lost his balance, Burns related to the state policeman, and tumbled backwards over the bluff, while standing on a narrow ledge about three feet from the top of the cliff.

At that point, the cliff slopes for about 100 feet before ending in the final sheer drop. The peak is located on the east side of the mountain above the Evans Creek road, which runs parallel to the side of the bluff.

The two boys left home about 10:30 Saturday morning and rode their wheels to the foot of the mountain. There they left them and climbed to the top of the huge rock. They amused themselves throwing rocks down the cliff.

Hult, in an endeavor to loosen a large rock near the edge, lost his balance and fell, striking once about 30 feet down and then falling directly onto the jagged rocks below.

Following the accident, Burns said he ran and stumbled back down the path to where Hult was lying. See-

ing his friend was dead, Burns then ran down the mountain-side and to the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Brennessoltz on the Evans Creek road directly below the scene of the tragedy, a distance of about one-half mile. Mrs. Brennessoltz then took her automobile and drove to a telephone, where she notified state police and the coroner's office.

Young Hult's grandfather, James R. Gregg of Central Point, with whom he lived, was waiting at the foot of the mountain when the boy was placed in the Perl ambulance. He was brokenhearted. Young Burns was so saddened by the tragedy that only late last night was he able to give a coherent description of the accident.

Young Hult was brought to the Evans Creek road from the base of the cliff only with extreme difficulty. Bill Duggan, Francis Russell, Russ and Don Wheeler, all of Sams Valley, and Deputy Coroner Brown carried the boy from the cliff down the mountain-side for about a half-mile to the spot where Russel had left his tractor, with a small trailer attached. There Hult was placed in the trailer and taken the remainder of the way to the highway, where he was placed in the Perl ambulance and removed to Medford.

James Gregg Hult was born in Roseburg August 11, 1920 and had lived with his family in Central Point since 1922. His father died about two months ago. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Lucy Skeeters of Hill, Calif., one half-brother, Perry Skeeters, also of Hill, his grandfather, James D. Gregg of this city, with whom he was living at this time of his death, and his great-grandmother Mrs. Clara D. W. Gregg.

Funeral services were held from the Conger funeral parlors Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, with Rev. C. A. Phillips officiating. Interment was in the Medford I. O. O. F. cemetery.

James Hult was well liked by all who knew him. His teachers and classmates all speak well of him and his death has saddened the entire community.

The town basketball team had their first practice Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Mosher will entertain at a family dinner Christmas day the following guests, Mrs. Mosher's father Mr. Layton, who recently returned from California and brothers Albert and George and families and also Mr. Mosher's father and mother.

Mrs. Pierce, president of the local P.T.A. and Mrs. Gebhard attended the Christmas party held at the home of Mrs. J. K. Hoey, county

P.T.A. president, in Medford last Thursday. A number of P.T.A. workers attended from Ashland, Jacksonville, Oak Grove, Elk Creek, Bellview, Eagle Point, Lone Pine, Central Point and Medford schools. During the business meeting the fact was mentioned that Jackson school, Medford, had made a gain of 154 percent which gives it the second biggest gain the state, College Crest in Lane county leading by 514 percent gain.

Mervyn Gleason will spend the holidays with his family.

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Church of Christ to Present Program Thursday Evening

The program, as announced last week, will be given on Thursday, 7:30 P.M. and will consist of an "Old Fashioned" Christmas program given by the children; Acrostics, readings, carols. This program will be given by Miss Lyle Gregory's Department of the Sunday School. And at 8:10 Carl Hoyer's class, the Young People, will give a play, "Is Christmas Here Again?" and the singing which intersperses the program will be under direction of Mrs. Mae Richardson's Class. The whole program will close at 9:00 P.M. and we invite you to come and enjoy an evening of fun and Christmas Spirit with us. We also wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 1938.

Grange Installs Officers for Year

Installation of the newly-elected officers of Central Point Grange took place Friday night with Mrs. Eula Foley as installing officer. A large crowd witnessed the beautiful ceremony. This Grange was organized in 1928, with John Anderson as worthy master, and an interesting feature of the installation was that every past master was present.

Mr. Anderson served in that capacity until 1931. The others are, consecutively, Messrs. Arden Tyrrell, Arnold Bohnert, Warren Patterson, Victor Bursell, William Foley, Edward Vincent and Leonard Freeman, the present master.

Attendance is increasing since the busy season is over.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Anderson a boy weighing nine pounds and six ounces at Community hospital Wednesday morning, December 15.

Mr. Tom Vella and bookkeeper from Sonoma, California, who have spent several days here looking after business interests of the Sonoma Valley cheese factory No. 3 returned to their home Wednesday.

So what?—

Many men owe the grandeur of their lives to their tremendous difficulties.—Anon.

The Golden Link class being somewhat peeved on not being allowed to march up after their Christmas candy like the other classes. Guess Mr. Hoyer thought they all had rheumatism and passed the Christmas candy to them.

Mr. W. A. Gates with a twinkle in his eyes telling how many boxes of carpet tacks they would need to hold the covers on the children's bread baskets, after the banquet today.

A number of readers have sent the American to some friends for Christmas gift that will last the whole year and be new every week.

Sequel to the Goose story—After all forgetting to take the ad out of the paper a party calling from Medford and wanting to talk to Mr. Powell and being informed where he could get him in Medford. Calling Medford and getting the wrong Powell and the following conversation took place. "Is this Mr. Powell?" "Yes." "I like to know about those geese." "What geese?" "Those you have for sale." "I haven't any geese." "I mean those you advertised in the Central Point American." "I never had any geese, haven't any geese and what is more I never expect to have any geese." Bang went the receiver on the hook.

Tuesday was the shortest day in the year and considering the temperature it could have of been just half as short and we would not have felt bad.

Mr. Moore of the Nip & Sip saying that he "Bike he was getting to be an old resident. Someone asked him where a party was and he was able to direct him to their home. It happened to be Dr. Goldsberry they were inquiring for.

Mr. Marshall and Mr. Simmonds are the same party. Don't get them confused and think they are brothers. Mr. Marshall Simmonds is a partner in Faber's Grocery Store and Market.

GATES TO SERVE BIG FEED TO 1000 POOR CHILDREN

At least 1000 unprivileged children of Jackson county will be served a bounteous turkey dinner as a Christmas offering today by Gates & Lydiard at the Elks temple in Medford. Blessing will be asked and the story of the little Christ child told by the Rev. Ernest Bartlam, rector of the St. Mark's Episcopal church. Father Bartlam has the happy gift of telling his stories to suit his audience. So no doubt the boys and girls at the banquet will enjoy the old, but ever new story of the little babe born in a manger in Bethlehem. Carols will be sung and the children will be delighted with the new accordion band which will play gay Christmas numbers while the dinner is being served.

Mrs. Lillian Roberts of the Red Cross prepared a list of the children, assisted by school teachers and others and it is thought that no needy child in the county will be left out.

Mr. Gates has spared no effort to make this an event long to be remembered by the children. Last year a member of our staff heard one little girl say that she knew now what olives were, for she had had some at the Christmas banquet.

And one of the ladies in the Gates & Lydiard office was overheard mentioning to Mr. Gates that Angel Food cake would cut to better advantage and make more pieces than chocolate layer cake. Mr. Gates replied that the children preferred the chocolate cake, with lots of chocolate. He said he believed that most children considered angel food cake a sort of bread and for her to tell the baker to make plenty of chocolate cake for the occasion.

500 bottles of milk, 600 pounds of turkey, 250 pounds of potatoes, 24 gallons of canned peas, 200 loaves of bread to make the dressing, olives, celery, radishes, 1200 Parker House rolls, ice cream and everything the small child likes will be served. Each child will be given a pound sack of candy as they leave the hall. Mothers with children too small to eat by themselves will be served with dinner for herself and child.

The American Legion auxiliary here has volunteered to take charge of the service and others have again offered to assist. P. C. Bigham will once more act as maitre d'hotel. The volunteer workers have become so efficient in their work that the group of 500 little diners can be completely served in less than 15 minutes.

The dining room and tables will be appropriately decorated for a Christmas party. A big Christmas tree will aid in creating the genuine Yuletide spirit. And presiding over all will be jolly Santa Claus!

FIRST GRADE NEWS

33 children are here. Ann and Monte are out. Ann went to California. She will come back after Christmas. Christmas is coming very soon.

It will be here in five days.

We have a pretty tree. It has pretty balls on it. We love the Christmas tree. We are very happy now.

Lester has a new dog.

It is a little dog. It is brown and white.

Some snow fell this morning. Santa is on his way.

The Churches

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Clifton A. Phillips,
Pastor

Bible School 10:00 A.M. Roland Hoyer, Supt.
Communion and Preaching 11:00 A.M. Subject: "An Empty Vessel, 1938. What Shall We Put Into It?"
Children's Church 11:00 A.M. Mrs. Phillips, Pastor.

Senior Intermediate and Junior Christian Endeavor 8:30 P.M.
Evangelistic Service 7:30 P.M. Subject, "A Year, A Month, A Day, An Hour, A Minute and A Second."

Prayer and Bible Study Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Devotional Leader A. M. Tyrrell.

Come! Prepare for 1938 with prayer and consideration to God.