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Musings

By the Editor

Again it is Christmas time—the season of good will and happiness, when the bells ring out "peace on earth, good will to men." But somehow, this year Christmas seems different than usual. There is no "peace on earth," very little "good will to men." Thousands of homes will have empty chairs at the Christmas feast—some never to be filled. But for the sake of the boys still fighting to preserve the freedom that is America we must not let down. We must go right on doing the best we can to be ready for the time when our loved ones shall return and peace shall once more come upon the earth. God grant it may come soon.

We had hoped that Christmas this year would see our armies on the western front victorious—that at least so far as Germany is concerned, the war would be over. But tonight it appears that the struggle is getting fiercer. Whether it is a final burst of desperation or whether it merely goes to show that the German army is much tougher than we had been led to believe, we know not. But in spite of the setback in Holland we feel sure of ultimate victory. But one thing is sure, America must not let down in her production of the munitions. Men engaged in war industries must stick to their jobs—or be forever ashamed to meet the boys when they come home.

So let's all resolve to go on as best we may with the job in hand and in the words of Lincoln in his second inaugural go forward "With malice toward none; with charity for all, let us go on in the work we are in—to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who has borne the battle and for his widow and orphans, and to do all to secure a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

So this year it is our hope and prayer that we all will carry on for more than a few short days with the real spirit of the Christ whose birthday we are celebrating. Love for our fellowmen, gentleness, kindness, charity—these are the things this old world needs today. If every mother's son and daughter would strive to live up to the Great Commandment given to us by the Son of God himself—"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart and thy whole mind and thy whole spirit, and thy neighbor as thyself"—how much better place to live in the world would be. Shall we not try it, just for a change?

And now we want to wish all our readers, wherever they may be, real joy and happiness at this Christmas time and express to you our hope for a happy, peaceful New Year.

PARTY ENJOYED—

A number of Central Point folks enjoyed a Christmas party at the Luther Hart home on the Applegate. Those attending from Central Point were Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Powell, Mr. and Mrs. John Powell and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Smith. About twenty were present. Mrs. Chester Kamberg and small daughter were present. Chester Kamberg is in the army stationed in Texas. A big dinner was served with two big turkeys besides all the other trimming that go with it. All report a jolly time.

NOTICE

To all who have boys in any branch of the U.S. Service and their names have not been added to the honor roll are requested to hand them in at once to the American Legion. All plans are being made to fill in the names.

Several Names Left Off Bond Ad by Mistake

In checking over our last week's paper we find in the page ad of the sixth war loan drive, names of several sponsors of the ad were inadvertently left out: Anderson's Thrift market, Central Point Hatchery, Central Point market and Weidon—Plumbing and Heating. This was purely an oversight as all four firms are always ready to back any community enterprise and support in every way the war effort. All four parties had asked to have their names on the ad as sponsors. We are sorry.

OYSTER FEED IS ENJOYED BY MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

The men's Bible class of the Church of Christ held an organization party and oyster feed in the church parlors Friday evening. A fine program was enjoyed during the evening.

The evening's festivities began with a male quartet, consisting of E. Gilbert Cays, first tenor; Ray Burns, second tenor; J. Vincent, baritone and A. P. Powell, basso. Pianist for the evening was Carroll W. Powell, of Eagle Point. The quartet was down on the program for a later appearance, but on account of the fact that Bobby Vincent was leaving early the next morning to return to duty in the Navy, Mr. Vincent asked that both songs be given early so that he might spend the evening with his son.

Following the two numbers by the quartet everyone took their places at the long tables, where the committee had provided oyster stew, sandwiches, roast elk meat, etc., followed by huge pieces of apple pie with ice cream. When all had eaten all they could possibly hold a group picture was taken by Mr. Scott Darby.

On returning to the other room moving pictures showing scenes in the heart of Brazil were shown by Ernest Scott. The pictures were taken by Mr. Scott's daughter, Mrs. Mildred Swain, who is working with her husband in rubber production work for the government at Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil. Next on the program was a mouth harp-guitar duet by Pvt. Oscar Flipper and Scott Darby. The last number on the program was a reading by A. E. Powell, "The 'Sperience of de Rehberned Quacko Strong," which brought down the house.

At the close of the program Mr. Cays announced that the purpose of the gathering was to perfect a complete organization and asked for nominations for president. Carl Hovor and Roy Kelly were nominated. After the two candidates had left the room a ballot was taken, with the result that Carl Hovor was declared elected. The new president at once took charge of the meeting. Roy Kelly was elected vice president and Jim Cornutt, secretary. The meeting closed with a brief but challenging address by Mr. Delbert Daniels, minister of the First Christian church in Medford.

There were about thirty-five men present for the occasion. On account of a contest which is now going on between the two ladies classes and the men's class, the men of the Bible School are working hard to bring up the number of the weekly attendance so as to win the contest.

ON BUYING TRIP—

Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Hatch are flying south to San Francisco right after Christmas on a buying trip. The upholstery shop will be closed during their absence. Mr. Hatch has been in business in the valley for 27 years and is widely known. He reports that he has 15,000 dollars worth of material on hand and will buy new material for the spring trade. He has a high ranking priority for all materials in his line.

Mrs. Mary Fern from Grants Pass, who was here to inspect the local corps last Saturday, was a guest for lunch at the Gleason home and also a guest at the Edw. Jones home after corps while waiting for the bus.

WESTSIDE SCHOOL—

The Christmas program for the Westside School was held Thursday evening at 8 P.M.: Opening, "I Heard the Bell on Christmas Day," entire school; Recitation, "Christmas in Polka Dot Town," Mary Ann Birdseye; "We are the Little Workers," composed of five girls and five boys; "A Christmas Time Meeting," Jane Elmhurst; "White Christmas," chorus composed of Betty Johnson, D'ann Beck, Arline Stearns, Shirley Waylor; "White Shepherds Watch Their Flocks by Night," Elaine Leach; Fold Dance—"Little Red Handkerchief," Girl Scouts; "Prompt Delivery,"—Play composed of seven girls and two boys and Pageant, "The Birthday of the King," entire school. The Christmas party was held in the afternoon with exchange of gifts. Mrs. Grant of Central Point is a teacher in the West Side school.

Christmas Pageant At Church of Christ

A beautiful Christmas pageant will be presented at the evening service of the Church of Christ Christmas Eve beginning at 8:00 o'clock. The various characters of the pageant will be represented by members of the local congregation. Mrs. Joy Bigham, Mrs. Dorothy Williams, and Mrs. Edyth Bohner are directing the pageant. The public is cordially invited to attend.

The service previously advertised for this hour will not be presented.

A Christmas program will be presented by the boys and girls of the Bible school at 10:00 a.m. At the morning worship service, the minister will speak on the subject, "Why Celebrate Christmas?" and the chorus choir will sing the anthem, "O Night of Glory."

Sgt. Coleman Adds To Laurels in Italy

Sgt. MacDonald Coleman, Central Point soldier with the 5th army in Italy, has added to his laurels since publication of his last exploits, according to a dispatch from the 5th army.

Sgt. Coleman and a small group of doughboys, the article said, recently killed 16 Germans and captured 15 in a fierce battle for a strongpoint in northern Italy.

The group, members of the 88th "Blue Devil" division of Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's 5th army, were attempting to set up and maintain a road block. Discovering a German-held house, the doughboys attacked. After a skirmish they captured the strongpoint and rounded up 15 prisoners.

The Germans counter-attacked and were repulsed. The enemy, however, had the house surrounded, making it impossible for the Yanks to withdraw.

The "Blue Devils" killed 16 Krauts in the fierce fight which followed. The enemy fired several weapons and one Nazi crawled within close range of the building and fired a rocket launcher, setting the house on fire. Under cover of smoke and confusion the Yanks slipped back to their lines.

Sgt. Coleman, who serves with the 349th "krautkiller" regiment, is the son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Cassman of Central Point and husband of Lavonne Cassman Coleman, also of Central Point.

FREE MOVIE—

The annual children's Christmas matinee sponsored by the George A. Hunt theatres and the Medford Mail Tribune will be held at the Craterian theater at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 23. It was announced Wednesday. All kiddies in southern Oregon are invited to attend the show free of charge.

Main feature on the program will be "Buffalo Bill" in technicolor film, with added short features.

JUDGE COLEMAN ILL—

County Judge J. B. Coleman was taken suddenly ill at the courthouse Wednesday morning with a heart attack. Dr. Merkel was called and gave him a treatment to relieve the terrible pain. He was later taken to his home, where he is confined to his bed.

George Seavey left Tuesday for his home in Elma, Washington after a few days visit with his nephew and niece, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Owers and family.

MASONIC LODGE HOLDS ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Election and installation of officers of Central Point Lodge A.F. & A.M., No. 135 was held Dec. 20, 1944. The following new officers were installed: Ray Briggs, Master; Ronald Axtell, Senior warden; Irwin Howe, Junior warden; J. E. Vincent, Secretary; Gene Shelton, Treasurer; L. C. Scott, Chaplain; Lloyd Hamlin, Senior Deacon; Lloyd Morris, Junior Deacon; Clarence Coon, Senior Steward; C. W. Abbott, Junior Steward; Westley France, Tyler and Merritt Swinz, Marshall. L. C. Scott was installing officer and Orville Hamilton, installing Marshall.

An oyster supper was served.

Letters From Our Boys in Service

Dec. 3, New Guinea

Dear Folks:

Don't know how long we will be in New Guinea.

Here is plenty of work to do and we seem to be getting the jobs done O.K. and some ahead of schedule. It makes a fellow feel good inside to see a ship he has worked on pull out, the long hours are forgotten when you see her steam away.

This is the first day some of us have had to ourselves and 4 of my buddies and I took a little spin in one of our motor boats. We saw some natives fishing, they paddle out in a canoe and have spears with bamboo handles about 15 to 20 feet long and all of a sudden they job the spear in the water and come up with a fish.

We looked up a Jap dump, there were plenty wrecked Jap planes and other equipment and the planes were not made of bamboo and paper. We saw a group of natives and had a laugh, they were dressed in G.I. shorts, others with nothing but shirts on, some had on civilian hats and in other words it was a circus.

We are up at 6 and at 6:45 we have our bunks removed from the upper deck and ready for breakfast which consists of scrambled eggs, bacon, powdered milk, cereal, coffee, if you can drink it. At 7:30 we start our days work, my job mostly is trouble shooting on our ship and ones we repair. It takes about 20 minutes for your clothes to get wet with honest sweat and they stay that way.

Noon chow is a good meal, meat, potatoes, vegetables, fruit and fruit juice to drink. At one we hit the ball again until 4:45. Supper is about the same as dinner plus a pill. After supper you work until midnight, then you are ready for bed.

Love, Roger Lawrence.

OFFICIALS—

A district meeting of the state association of county judges and commissioners was held at the courthouse Wednesday. This district is composed of five counties—Coos, Curry, Douglas, Josephine and Jackson. A number of members of the legislature which will convene in January also attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was the discussion of proposed legislation in which the counties are especially interested. About twenty-five officials were in attendance. The out-of-town officials and legislators were guests of the Jackson County court at a noon luncheon at the Hotel Holland.

Mr. and Mrs. Newton, who are living at Prospect, recently came from Nebraska. They have seven children, five of them attend school.

Children of Federated Church Gives Program

The Christmas program to be presented Friday evening at 7:30 by the Federated Sunday School will include the ever interesting little recitations and songs from the Primary and Beginner's Department of the Sunday School under the direction of Miss Maxine Ayres and Mrs. Ruby Munshaw.

A forty-five minutes pageant portraying the Birth of Christ, including the Shepherd story and the visit of the Wise Men will be presented by the Intermediate Department. The cast includes Mary and Joseph, the Innkeepers, Gabriel the arch-angel, The Angel Choir, Shepherds, and the Primary Chorus group, the Three Wise men, King Herald, the Chief scribe junior reader, and a nationality group.

Supporting the cast are: Mrs. Ruth Clark, pianist; Mrs. Bette Parrish and Mrs. Clark, soloists; Delores Cox, violin; Rollie Clark, trumpet; Mrs. Ruby Munshaw, lighting; Mrs. Oliver Mann, stage manager and director; and Mrs. Vivian Lawton, reader and co-director; with others assisting with the costumes, etc.

Everyone is cordially welcome. The hour will close with the presentation of treats to everyone present.

INSPECTION HELD—

The W.R.C. held their inspection Saturday. Mrs. Mary Fern of Grants Pass was inspector. After the meeting refreshments were served of sandwiches, salad and a big chocolate cake and coffee. Mrs. Iva Copinger, Mrs. Nora Hansen and Mrs. Helena McDowell served the refreshments. A present was presented to Mrs. Fern by the local corps and the Grants Pass corps sent Mrs. Dora Jones a present in appreciation of her inspection of the corps for them.

BABY GIRL ARRIVES—

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Dean Wilson a baby daughter, Elaine Annette weighing a little over 7 lbs. Mr. Wilson is a senior in the Central Point high school and working before and after school. The Wilsons make their home in Medford.

NOTICE

The Navy Mothers' club will meet with Mrs. Ruby Brown Wednesday, December 27. This will be an afternoon meeting.

PROMOTED—

Harold T. Pierce, Ph. M. I/c has been promoted to chief Phac. M. He is now in the south Pacific. His wife Iris Pierce and small daughter, Suzi, reside in Medford.

So what?—

All the candy man, has been making candy canes to gladden the hearts of the children at this Christmas.

L. Swartz saying it didn't make any difference to weather man what he had to say about the weather.

Mrs. Betta Pankey being polyantha to Marie Richardson and putting her pictures in the wrong Christmas card.

In the unusual delivery of milk bottles last week, Edith Hunt played the good Samaritan and picked them up or the poor flustered delivery woman.

At a recent party of the Golden Link Class, Mrs. Mary Catey claimed Mrs. J. B. Carr's husband and car, and wouldn't give them up, until Mrs. Carr called her attention to the paint on the wheel of the car.

A certain fair young lady of the telephone force hoping to see milk shakes in this column. If we could only have them here, there would be no shortages of readers.

W. Warner saying he had had lots of business dealings with the Jews, and had never been beaten out of a penny by one—but it was a different story, when it comes to the Gentiles.

Who ever heard of an oyster supper with a big platter of roast elk sandwiches, apple pie and ice cream.

Joe Mann fixing up his flash light so as to have it to get a Christmas turkey with.

Mrs. Kight saying her husband, Vernon, got a chance to buy an electric train for their small son, only really it was bought for the daddy.

INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING IS EXPLAINED

The revised rates for withholding income tax from wages, provided by the Individual Income Tax Act of 1944, apply to all wages paid by an employer to his employees on and after January 1, 1945, regardless of when the wages are earned, J. W. Maloney, Collector of Internal Revenue, explained today.

Under the new law, for example, any wages earned in December, but not paid to the employee until January 1 or later, are subject to the new withholding rates.

On the average, about the same amount of tax will be withheld under the new rates as was withheld under the old rates. However, since the rates were revised to adjust each employee's withholding more closely to his annual income tax, in individual cases the withholding may be either more or less than before.

Collector Maloney further explained that the Withholding Receipt, Form W-2 (Rev.), for 1944 to be given by employers to all employees by January 31, 1945 must show all wages actually paid during 1944, together with the amount of income tax withheld during the calendar year.

If any wages earned in December are not paid to the employee until January 1, or later, such wages must not be included on the 1944 Withholding Receipt, he said. Inasmuch as practically all wage earners who may use these Receipts as their 1944 returns file returns on the basis of income received during the year, inclusion in the Receipt of any wages not actually paid in 1944 would result in incorrect returns.

PARENTS OF SERVICEMEN—

The Morning Service News, Sunday at the Federated church will be dedicated to the parents of loved-ones in the service. It is hoped that all parents and relatives of service men and women will attend the 11 o'clock worship service. Prayer will be offered for those who are fighting for the freedom of our beloved country. The pastor will speak on the appropriate theme: "A Star in God's Window." Special music is planned. The public is cordially invited to the fellowship of this special service.

MERRY CHRISTMAS—

We wish to take this means of saying thank you for the lovely Christmas cards we have received. It does mean a lot to receive them but owing to various reasons, shortage of time, paper, transportation, etc. we are not sending cards to any of our friends that we see often and can exchange greetings with. To our relatives and friends who live, where we do not see them, we are sending cards and trying to enclose a letter—with some it is the only contact we have during the year. Then our friends, who are shut-ins and we can not find time to see them as often as we would like. We admit when we receive a card from a friend, it cheers us up; makes us feel like grabbing a card and saying Merry Christmas right straight back at them. So we extend to you the age old greeting of "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year," through the American.

Virginia E. Powell

War Bonds Will Finish Them

By Ferd Johnson
Chicago Tribune—New York News Syndicate, Inc.



Joe Krupp
And Companion
Are Invited to Be Guests of
The American
and
Craterian Theatre
To See Their Choice of
The Following
CRATERIAN THEATRE
PROGRAMS:
—Ends Saturday Nite!—
SUN—MON—TUES
Eddie Bracken—Ella Raines
"HAIL THE CONQUERING
HERO"
WEDNESDAY—4 Big Days
John Wayne—Ella Raines in
"TALL IN THE SADDLE"
Please Call at The American Office
For Your Guest Tickets
If office closed, call across
street at telephone office for
ticket.