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Great Grandmothers First Christmas Tree—1869

IDA WATTS BURNS

A story—in verse—of Beaverton's first Christmas tree, was received this week by the Enterprise from Mrs. Ida Watts Burns, former resident of Beaverton. It was written by her for her great granddaughter, and was of so much interest that the paper secured a copy of it. The poem follows:

You have asked me, dear Fern,
For a poem
Of Christmas and Christmas trees;
I'll tell of the first I remember,
A story of long, long ago.

In it as in most of Life's stories,
The tears and the laughter will
mingle;
(And you never could call it a poem
Just a rhyme, or a sort of a jingle.)

And 'twill not be the tale of a
Christmas
Like the ones you have known, with
their store
Of so many gifts you can't count
them,
And candies and goodies galore.

For in pioneer days life was simple,
And gifts were simple and few;
But I doubt if today's children ever
Know the thrills that we children
knew.

I recall first a big blazing fire
In a fireplace made of rough stones,
And me in my little chair listening
To a neighbor boy sing in loud tones.

Of Santa Claus up on the housetop,
With his reindeer and bag full of toys
For good little children—but only
A whip for the bad girls and boys.

I trembled lest someone had told him
Of the times when I naughty had
been;
Such as wiping my hands on the
towel
Before I had washed them quite
clean;
Or forgetting to say "please" or
"thank you"

As good little girls always shout;
Or sticking my fingers in icing
On cake that so temptingly stood.

The next I remember my father
Said—"Come, it is time we should go"
So we all climbed in a big wagon
And started out over the snow.

Old Queen and old Prince were our
horses,
And they pulled us right gaily along
To a "church in the willow-ood"—
Ames Chapel—
Filled with people and laughter and
song.

Oh I scarce could believe what I saw
there,
Such a wonderful, wonderful sight!
'Twas the first Christmas tree I re-
member,
All aglow with candles so bright.

The long strings of popcorn and
and "rose-hips",
And gay paper chains everywhere,
Made the tree such a marvel of
beauty
I was speechless and only could
stare.

There was singing I know, and my
father
Told of the first Christmas night;
But I didn't hear much of the
program,
The tree was too lovely a sight.

It was daytime, but over the windows
Hung blankets to keep out the light,
And foot Santa Claus into thinking
That here in the church it was night,
And it worked—Santa came, bells
a-jingle.

Such a jolly old fellow was he!
He chuckled the girls' chins, and pull-
ed the boys' ears,
While everyone shouted in glee.

He had gifts for each of the children
And he gave me a doll—Now I knew
That head—'twas the head of my old
"China" doll,
And the dress was my yellow dress,
too.

But that old doll had long since lost
its stuffing,
And its arms and legs hung sadly
lank;
So I welcomed this new dolly gladly,
Nor forgot good old Santa to thank.

I had loved that bedraggled old dolly,
But one day it couldn't be found
Though it searched everywhere, and
my mother
Had helped me to look all around.

Now I wondered how Santa had
found it,
And made it so nice once again,
And mother said kind Mrs. Santa
Had done all the sewing for him.

And then Santa gave me some candy
Real "store" candy sticks, red and
white;

And on those days to get real store
candy,
Was a rare and a treasured delight.

And that is the last I remember,
Perhaps I fell fast asleep—
For the next I recall it was morning,
And I sprang out of bed with a leap.

To see if I'd only been dreaming,
And Santa had not come at all
To bring me the sticks of store candy
Nor give me a new China doll.

But there were the doll and the
candy
So he really had been there, you see—
And that, my dear Fern, is the story
Of great-grandmother's first Christ-
mas tree.

But it isn't quite all of my story;
There is still one thing more I must
tell
Though the telling's decidedly gory—
'Tis the terrible fate that befell

My dolly—'Twas this way,
(Oh, the thought of it still gives a
pain!)
When kind Mrs. Santa found dolly
And made her all over again.

She didn't have any sawdust for
stuffing
So she used the first thing to be had,
And stuffed it with bran from the
horses.

Of our big, fat, white porker, instead,
Oh, the dreadful fate of poor dolly!
I forgot her one day in the yard,
And that pig ate her up—or rather
Ate her bran to be turned into lard.

Should I live to be quite a full hun-
dred
I'll never, no never forget,
The horrible sight of that porker
Running away with my pet.

That pig had the helpless bran body
Firmly grasped in its great ugly
snout;
Dolly's head looked at me so
appealing,
As her arms and legs dangled about.

How I screamed! Everybody came
running
And rescued as much as they could;
There was nothing left of the bran
body,
So once more the poor doll was
"assembled,"
And made good as ever again;
But this time my mother was wiser,
And stuffed it with sawdust, not
bran.

Although this was Mrs. Burns first
Christmas tree, it was also Beaver-
ton's first one and was arranged by
Mrs. Mary Flinn wife of the M. E.
pastor, with John Stott as Santa
Claus. Mrs. Burns says there are
still some who were there and
who shared with her the pleasant
memories of this Christmas day 1869.
She knows of two—Mrs. Ziona Pan-
low Wilmot and her brother Henry C.
Watts. There are no doubt others,
wouldn't it be interesting to know
just how many?

Go To Church On Sunday

BEAVERTON CHURCHES
NAZARENE CHURCH
W. P. KEEBAUGH, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 a. m.
Preaching Service 11 a. m.
Young Peoples 6:30 p. m.
Evangelistic service 7:30 p. m.

METHODIST CHURCH
Albert S. Hisey, D. D., Minister
9:45 a. m. Sunday School,
11 a. m. Preaching service.
Sunday, Dec. 27, Saint John's Day
The Beaverton Lodge No. 190 A.
F. & A. M. will be guests at the
morning worship hour, 11 a. m.
Sunday School 9:45 a. m. Mrs.
Ruth Pace, general supt., Mrs. Mary
Gordon, supt. primary dept., Mrs. J.
V. Chandler, supt. beginners dept.
Visitors always welcome.
W. S. C. S. meets Thursday.
All day meeting.

ST. CECELIA CHURCH
Masses 8:30 and 10:30 a. m.

BETHEL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Wiliard B. Hall, Minister
9:45 a. m. Church School,
11 a. m. Worship.
6:30 p. m. Pilgrim Fellowship.

WEST HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
SW Canyon Rd. near Sylvan
Werner J. Fritz, Minister
Sunday after Christmas
Sunday School 9:45 a. m.
Morning service 11 a. m. Sermon:
A New Year of Grace.

WEST SLOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
SW Gabel Lane
Rev. H. A. Armitage, Pastor
11 a. m. Topic—The Turn of the
Year.
6:30 p. m. Youth meeting.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
G. W. Springer, Pastor
Morning worship and preaching
service 9:45. Topic: The Son of Man.
Following the sermon the Lord's sup-
per will be observed.
Bible School class 11 a. m.
Christian Endeavor 6:30 p. m.
Evening worship service 7:30 p. m.
Topic—The First and Great Com-
mandment.
Midweek Bible study and prayer
service Wednesday, 8 p. m. Topic
The Christian Home Revitalized.

Beaverton Man Graduates From Officers' Class

Harold A. Woodworth, 28, son of Dr. and Mrs. Hallock W. Woodworth of the Beaverton area, has graduated with honors from the infantry school, Fort Benning, Ga., where he ranked high among the six highest rated candidates in a class of 225 men and with the other five top-ranking men was retained at the school as an instructor.

Woodworth volunteered in May at Centralia, and was sent to Fort Lewis where he was selected as an officer candidate and sent to Camp Roberts, Cal., for basic training. From there he went to the school at Fort Benning.

Woodworth's sister, Mrs. Walter E. Naylor, Astoria, soon will graduate from the naval reserve training school at Smith college and will be commissioned an ensign in the WAVES. A younger brother, Dick, is a private first class in the marine reserve and is attending Oregon State college while awaiting call to active duty as an officer candidate.

Mrs. Woodworth went to Georgia to attend her husband's graduation. They will make their home at Opelika, near the fort.

Crash Proves Fatal to Aloha Man

Death of Marvin C. Riley, 28, Aloha, injured December 12 when his car failed to take a turn on SW Canyon road, one mile west of the Washington county line, was reported Sunday by the coroner's office.

Riley died at St. Vincent's hospital where he was taken suffering left leg and jaw fractures.

BOYS AT ST. MARY'S GET MACKINAW

Seventeen boys of the St. Mary's home at Beaverton will have a warm Christmas this year. Henry Shalkoff, the manager of the Portland Outdoor store, SW 3rd avenue and Oak street, turned over 17 mackinaws to Captain of Detectives Keegan for distribution to needy boys. Keegan in turn delivered them to the home.

Mrs. Harry Alexander is ill in a Portland hospital.

The Beaverton Kiwanis club at a recent meeting elected Dewey D. Drorbaugh as president; Lem W. Short, vice-president; Hal W. Inman, was the past president of the club. Jay Gibson is the new treasurer, E. H. Masters, secretary, and the board of directors are: J. L. McKeel, A. D. George, G. C. Carr, Felix Sorberts, Dayton F. Peck, O. D. Youngquist and G. L. Pace.

Letter Recieved From Army Man

Dear Friends:
Glad to hear from you folks and to know that things are going OK back in the home town.

A month ago, I was selected with 20 others in upper class to instruct during last 4 weeks, due to shortage of officer teachers. I taught four classes a day with 50 in each class; the first week, I taught Military Sanitation, First Aid and Hygiene; the second week I taught Defense against Chemical Attack; the third week I taught refresher course in Mathematics; and last week, I taught Organization of the Army and Army Air Forces.

I shall be graduated tomorrow and an enclosing announcement of graduation and commissioning as 2nd Lieutenant. Have my uniform assembled and all ready to jump into after the ceremony. Expect to leave here the next morning.

The war has enabled me to see the country. Three months in Texas was plenty and I was glad to leave, but I have enjoyed the climate and beauty of Miami Beach. Everything is green with pine trees, flowering hibiscus, and cocconut palms everywhere. Most of the fall has been like Oregon June weather. Today was a little too warm and we have been perspiring a good deal, but generally it is just nice and sunny without too much heat. Summers are humid, hot and unbearable (as I found out the first 10 days here), but the fall and winter is just fine. I have been enjoying the beach and ocean swimming several times each week. For the last month I have taken my tri-weekly callisthenics with the officers who instruct, and we have had some fine volley-ball games in one of the parks adjacent to the ocean.

There are hundreds of large hotels in this area and most of them have been taken over by the government to house O.C.S. and O.T.S. students, or men in the Basic Training center. The military center is growing larger and larger, for this is an ideal spot in which to train soldiers. Lincoln Road, the main street, is lined with the finest stores and shops I ever have seen, and I imagine Miami Beach really is something special during normal seasons, with a lot of wealthy vacationists. Each beach hotel has its large swimming pool. Two of the largest hotels have been taken over by the Air Forces and converted into headquarters office buildings.

Yours,
THURLOW WEED

Another group of men will leave Saturday, December 26, at 2:30 p. m. Beaverton for Fort Lewis. Included are: Veron R. Sprecher, Earl E. Dreyer, George J. Sloomans, Leo J. Elsen, Thomas H. Wright, Donald L. Bailey, Howard C. Gentzkow, George W. Wilson, Norris A. Olson and Edward Van Horn.

R. L. Carroll of Beaverton, was the first person in this area to be arrested for violation of the dimout ordinance as passed by the city council. According to officers he was arrested only after repeated warnings and pleaded not guilty and asked for a trial. This was held Tuesday, December 22 at 10 a. m. in the city hall. Recorder Doty acted as judge and attorney Patterson represented the city. After a trial he was found guilty and fined \$15, according to records of the court.

NOTICE OF SALE OF PROPERTY FOR DELINQUENT ASSESSMENTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT by action of the Town Council of the Town of Beaverton declaring the assessments herein listed as delinquent, and by virtue of a duly prepared and certified statement of delinquent assessments on the property herein described, and by virtue of the provisions of O.C.L.A. 95-2901 to 95-2910 and the Ordinances of the Town of Beaverton, commanding me to make sale of the property herein described to foreclose the delinquent assessments thereon, I will at the hour of ten o'clock a. m. on the 28th day of December, 1942, at the Town Hall located at First and Main Streets in Beaverton, Oregon, proceed to sell at public auction to the first bidder offering to purchase said property for the amount set opposite the description, which is the amount of the unpaid liens and assessments thereon together with interest to December 1, 1942, and for the additional sum of interest to the date of the sale and the cost of advertising and sale thereof. The property to be sold the owner as shown by the city records, and the amount of the liens thereon with interest to December 1, 1942, for which said property will be sold, being as follows, to-wit:

Description
The North 195.75 feet of the South Half of Block B of the original Town of Beaverton.

Owner
Mrs. George W. Bridwell, Amity, Ore.

Amount
\$520.39

Said sale will be subject to redemption as prescribed by O.C.L.A. Section 95-2901 et. seq.

Dated This 27th day of November, 1942.

R. C. DOTY
Recorder of the Town of Beaverton
Date of first issue Nov. 27th, 1942.
Date of last issue Dec. 25, 1942.

Local News Notes

Mildred Ann Rosebraugh of Aloha, died December 19. She was the wife of Frank V., mother of Ensign V. H. U. S. Navy; Walter A. Milwaukie, Oregon; sister of Mrs. H. L. Lyold, Alliance, Ohio; Mrs. E. M. Davis, Portland; Mrs. Earl Kenworthy, Seattle, Wash.; Mrs. Wm. Gilmore, Portland, Oregon. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 22, by the Eastern Star. Mrs. Rosebraugh was past worthy matron. W. E. Pegg was in charge of arrangements.

A. M. Jannsen is leaving Sunday Dec. 27, for a forced vacation due to his health. He will spend some time in Los Angeles, then to Douglas, Arizona, for a visit with his son Edward, who is in the air corps.

A Christmas day morning service, combined with a childrens program will be given at 10:30 a. m. at the West Hills Lutheran church, at SW Canyon road, near Sylvan.

Thurlow Weed, a Volunteer Officer Candidate, has received his commission as Second Lieutenant.

Receiving felicitations on the birth of a baby daughter Jacqueline L., born December 6 are Mr. and Mrs. Percy M. Roberson.

Word has been received here that William Schlottman, son of Mrs. Emma Schlottman, who recently joined the army air corps, is stationed at Shepherd Field, Texas.

The proud parents of a baby boy Raymond Joel, born December 2 are Mr. and Mrs. Clifford York.

Miss Eloise Patterson, sister of Mrs. G. C. Osborne, is home on a 30-day furlough. She is serving as an army nurse and is stationed in Denver.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis E. Freeman are the parents of a daughter Marjorie E., born December 3.

Mr. and Mrs. George C. Corder of Beaverton, are the parents of a baby son Charles J., born December 10.

News has been received here that Mr. and Mrs. Russell Mills, formerly of Beaverton, are the parents of a baby son, Louis Russell.

Mr. Mills was a former Beaverton high school teacher, and is now in the army air corps.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Walton have completed and moved in their new home in the Bertha-Beaverton highway near Lake Road.

Receiving congratulations on the birth of a baby daughter Mildred L., born December 6 are Mr. and Mrs. Clarence J. Bowe.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Weaver are the proud parents of a son, Laurence E., born December 8.

Mrs. Derle Perkins, Mrs. Nelson Walker, Mrs. John Dobbins and Mrs. Bert Wilson, all of the Beaverton Grange, attended the installation of officers and Christmas party of the Tigard Grange Thursday, December 17.

Bob Shively has been home on a 110 day furlough from camp.

James Holboke has received a Christmas card from his brother Francis who is now in Egypt.

The Hillsboro Womens' Business and Professional club held their annual Christmas dinner and party in the chamber of commerce room last Friday evening. The committee under the leadership of Miss Corrine Pennington served a delicious dinner.

Each guests gift was used as a place card at the table. The tables were beautifully decorated and dinner was eaten by candle light. The pupils of the Barnes school presented a play and Edith Colvins Evans of Pacific university sang. Those attending from Beaverton were Miss Merle De- from Beaverton were Miss Merle De- from Beaverton were Miss Merle De-

The Eastern Star will install its officers for the ensuing term Friday evening, December 27.

Last Saturday evening at the Masonic Temple, Mrs. Ellis, worthy matron, and Virgil Meyers, worthy patron, gave a party to the installing officers, the courtesy girls, and the committee members and their husbands. The evening was spent in playing courtwhiz. Mrs. Allen Scott won the ladies prize and Harry Ellis the men's prize. Mrs. Ellis presented a lovely gift to each of her officers, who in return presented Mrs. Ellis with a beautiful table cloth.

Delicious refreshments were served. The tables formed in a V with a Christmas tree in the middle. Pine cones and needles were used in decoration.

The Friendly Circle met last Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Harry Wright Jr., for pot luck dinner and Christmas party. There were 13 ladies and four children present. There was an exchange of gifts and an enjoyable time was had by all.

The Beaverton Garden club met last Friday at the home of Mrs. W. E. McCoskey and trimmed a tree for the soldiers in Barnes hospital. Wreaths were also made and sent to the Portland air base.

Mrs. Amy Gibson entertained the Cheerio club last Friday with a desert luncheon and Christmas party. The room was beautiful with a Christmas tree and decorations. Guests were Mrs. Charles Spreelv and Mrs. Carrin Leonard.

The Nazarene church of Beaverton had its annual Christmas program last Sunday. A play entitled Sharing Christmas Together, was presented by the intermediate girls class. There were recitations by the younger children and special music was offered. Christmas bags of candy and fruit were given to the children at the close of the program.

Babson Talks On Markets

Wilmington, Dela., Dec. 25—In the year that has passed since Pearl Harbor we have seen the lowest volume of stock market trading since 1914. It amounted to only 108,863,000 shares. This is 22% under the corresponding period of a year ago. During the past year rail averages went up about 63% while industrials were down approximately 7.8%. And this during a period when London, Berlin and Amsterdam moved consistently upward under a heavy volume of buying.

Some Explanation

It, therefore, may not be possible to obtain many good stocks during the coming twelve months at prices which have prevailed during the past twelve months. A preponderance of bad news, Government financing tax uncertainties the normal shocks and mental stagnation of war have all had their effects on the stock market. Even though the belief has been current, that in view of inflation, equities are better to hold than cash, there has been but little buying for hedging.

Lack of ready cash by well-to-do investors has also helped to slow down market activity. Except in a real stock market boom, such as in 1928 and 1929, the public has never participated much in the purchase of listed securities. Usually this group get in during the last few months of a sustained rise. They contribute little and prices, insurance companies and institutions—formerly heavy buyers of securities—are now obliged to use their available funds for income taxes and the purchase of government bonds. Hence, these groups are no longer an important factor in the stock market.

Business and Dividends

For nearly all types of business represented by New York Stock Exchange issues, volume has been at record heights. Amusement, copper, steel, utility, rubber, airplane, and mail order companies have all enjoyed an extremely heavy gross business. Furthermore, in spite of allowance for high excess corporation taxes, dividends have been generous with many companies declaring year-end extras. However, aggregate dividends for 1942 will not be as large as they were in 1941. Unlike the case in recent past years, a fair share of regular dividends and most of the extra dividends will not go back into the market for the purchase of additional shares.

In all probability many companies have passed, or are passing their peak volume of business for the war period. Necessary capacities for war production are nearly, if not entirely, reached. If and when some critical materials are released or higher priorities are available to certain concerns, as in the case of rail equipment companies, they may do better in 1943. This can also be true of companies selling equipment to municipalities. Dividends, too, may have passed the honeymoon stage. While they may continue generous in individual instances, the total for 1943 may not rise above that of this year. I am, however, generally bullish on the prices of good stocks.

War and Peace Stocks

At the recent Annual Business Conference in Babson Park, Massachusetts, I made the statement that stocks which suffered most during the war would prosper most after the war. These include most of the so-called "peace issues." From now on we shall probably face a wave of peace rumors. Peace stocks will rise and fall with them. Of these I will treat further in my Annual Review. If it turns out to be a long war there is probably still some gravity in the war stocks. But investors and management alike are worried over the re-negotiation of contracts. Until this question is definitely settled it will have a bearish influence.

Opportunities Ahead

To balance unforeseen losses, the investor is justified in seeking at times speculative profits. Income alone from securities will rarely compensate for declining profits caused by events beyond the control of the cautious investors or outside the scope of ordinary commonsense buying. Hence, the wide awake investors must be continuously on the lookout for special opportunities through which to maintain his principal. "Special situations", however, require careful study and selections should carefully be made. By these I do not mean the entirely new fields of manufacturing and promotion which some "smart" salesman may come around with as an "after the war certainty."

New uses for old products, new techniques in production, the creation of synthetics and the chances for investment in thoroughly deflated situations may offer the best opportunities for profits. Real estate equities unhampered by mortgages are a case in point. Of this latter, I hope some week to write in detail. Yes, for the imaginative and courageous investors there are many opportunities to turn losses into profits. I care not for the circumstances. Even under the worst conditions someone is always making money.

