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Keep Christmas Merry

All of us, at this season of the year, give free rein to a holiday spirit, reliving past experiences in our celebration of a present Christmas season. The custom of house decoration with trees and tinsel is accepted and observed generally.

There is a timely word of warning, however, that serious tragedy lurks among the traditional observance and pointing out the importance of making the season safe is the advice of the National Board of Fire Underwriters. For Fire can be an unwelcome visitor to any house which is dangerously gay with inflammable knick knacks.

Some people realize that the time-honored Christmas tree is one of the most inflammable objects ever to gain a respected place in most homes of the nation. But, for those who do not recognize this fact, there are rules which should be followed to remove the threat of unlooked-for disaster.

A Christmas tree, brought from the outside into a warm living room and decked with lights and flimsy gadgets, might well be an invitation to a roaring blaze that can bring death and property loss in a matter of minutes.

In the first place, the tree is filled with pitch and resin. If ignited by faulty electric lights or by any other means, it will take, on the average, two minutes to burn with shriveling intensity.

In a choice of a tree, pick a small one, instead of a large one. There will be no sacrifice of beauty and the hazard will be lessened. And keep the tree outdoors until a few days before Christmas, when it should be brought in and set up.

If there is a cool part of the house, there is where the tree should be placed. And when needles start falling, it is time to take down the tree and discard it.

As to decoration, never use inflammable gobs of cotton or paper decorations, either on the tree or around its base. Carefully inspect cords and discard any that seem weak. A good rule is to watch for the cardboard tag which identifies the cord as "passed by fire underwriters".

Candles, of course, have long been discarded. But there might be isolated instances where an "old fashioned urge" might be felt to substitute them for the safer electric lights. Such an inclination should not be followed.

Do not leave tree lights burning with no one in the house. Inspect needles near the lights and when any have turned brown, change location of the lights. Do not set up an electric train around the base of the tree, as occasional sparks are enough to touch off a fire.

These are some of the important rules for guidance at the holiday season. Add to them the all important ingredient of thoughtfulness, and awareness of the danger that is present.

Observe these rules and keep Christmas merry... for all.

Ry. Postal Clerk Says 3rd Class Mail No Saving

Editor, Beaverton Enterprise
Beaverton, Oregon.

On behalf of the Railway Postal Clerks of Oregon, may I thank you for your editorial "Insurance for Sentiment" in the December 10 issue of the Enterprise.

We, as well as other postal employees' groups have for years tried to eliminate the unsealed Christmas card from the mails and we appreciate any support of the press.

The odd-sized and unsealed cards cannot be readily distributed as they are too large for a standard letter box, or too small to stay in a package of letters.

The smaller ones slip inside the unsealed flap of the larger ones and go astray thru no fault of the postal employee. As they are sent at a time when postal facilities are taxed to the maximum, all time spent in handling these misfits only serves to delay the first class and Christmas parcel post mails.

The belief that the 1¢ cent service is cheaper is erroneous. In addition to the reduced class of service, and high percentage of "dead letter" mail in this type of mailing, we would like to point out that such mails are actually costly to the public.

All third class matter is handled at a loss by the post office department, and Christmas cards make up the larger bulk of such matter and account for more of the loss due to their odd size and poor addressing, etc.

This loss in handling is paid by the public in the form of taxation, and will this year amount to some \$130,000,000 on third class mails alone.

This is roughly \$1 for every man woman and child in the U. S. So the public is in reality paying the additional postage on these mails, but paying it at the income tax window instead of the local stamp window.

This is a disservice to your local post office, as their classification is based on their sales of stamps and services, and the reduced revenues from the use of 1¢ cent stamps instead of 3cents, may prevent the local office from reaching a first class status and result in poorer service, lower salaries to local men, etc., and no saving whatsoever to the public.

Assuring you that the postal employees appreciate the publicity given to our problems, I remain, Sincerely yours,
Chas. D. Sherwin,
Chairman Committee on Legislation and Publicity.
Box 353, Beaverton.

Pedestrian Protection

DEATH
AFTER
DARK



Danger is on the night shift! Three times as many pedestrians are killed during hours of darkness even though there are fewer cars operating. Drivers just don't see pedestrians at night soon enough! What's worse is that the pedestrian believes he is visible even in dark clothing. He isn't! As a result he's hit. Wearing or carrying white and crossing cautiously prevent such accidents.

ELSEWHERE IN OREGON

Events As Chronicled by
Our Contemporaries in
Northwest Communities

DEATH BY BLUNDER

A new slant on the Chinese situation has been presented to La Grande, through a letter received from the daughter of former long time residents. The full story has been compiled in a copyright article of the New York Times, written by that publication's China correspondent.

According to the correspondence, related in the EASTERN OREGON REVIEW, the La Grande girl traveled 500 miles unescorted through Communist and Nationalist-held territory, without any trouble or molestation. Purpose of the trip was to urge all missionaries who had left the Honan area to return and resume normal activity.

The Communists, says the Review, gave full assurance of protection and good will toward all missionaries who wished to return to vacated posts. This report is said to be in accord with others that the Reds had adopted a new policy of "moderation" toward the teachers of Christianity. Bible classes are permitted but some modification of civics classes in mission schools is insisted upon.

Explanation of the killing of three missionaries in the area has been explained away as a "blunder" with the ringleader already executed. Honan officials still remark a resentment toward American foreign policy but hold nothing against American individuals provided they did not help Chiang Kai Shek's war efforts.

CZECH'S OPPRESSED

From another part of the world picture, a story of harsh oppression by the Soviets is brought to light in St. Helens, by a letter of thanks that slipped through the Iron Curtain to paint a word picture of life in Czechoslovakia.

No names were used in the account published by the SENTINEL MIST because of the punishment which might be involved should details be brought to the attention of the Soviet overlords.

The lot of farmers is hardest, the letter points out. Everything that is raised must be counted and estimated, even before it is harvested. When the estimate is too generous, everything raised must be turned over to the co-op with nothing left for the farmer's work or his use. If this amount falls below the total set, the farmer will face fine or imprisonment.

A mother goose equals 16 lbs. of meat. If you don't turn in this amount, the fine is \$30 or 4 days in jail. On a piece of land given over to potatoes, the yield is estimated at 44 one hundred pound sacks. Of this amount, 20 sacks must be saved for spring seed and 30 sacks turned in. As the letter states, this takes a very good head to figure how to come out.

All milk must be turned into the co-op. A farmer gets 1/8 pound of butter for each member in his family and 1/2 quart of milk per day, per person. If the cow goes dry, you're out of luck and out of milk and butter.

Labor in factories have a better time of it. They have more money and also get a ration allowance. With the money, there is a chance to use the black market. Clothing, however, is almost impossible to get.

WASSAIL PARTY
The traditional cry of "Wassail" in the spirit of Merrie Olde England, resounded in Forest Grove, this year, due to the traditions of Pacific University in staging the annual party.

As previewed by the NEWS TIMES, the party got underway at 8 p.m. and promised singing, dancing and feasting in an atmosphere of evergreen bows and flickering candlelight.

Townpeople, students and faculty members take part.

BIG LAND SWAP

In the dim days of history, land swaps were common and gave rise to a fabulous legend of fast land dealings. In Gresham, however, a big land swap commands attention. But there is not much of a fast deal to the story.

Three groups, relates the OUTLOOK, have agreed among themselves to give and take on property lines, in order to square up city boundaries.

A veteran's memorial building committee has land fronting on Power Boulevard which is bisected by a Portland city water main which prevents building upon its easement. To get the necessary depth, it is swapping its highway frontage property to the city in exchange for a straight-line boundary.

It has taken no little time and effort to work out the problem. But, at last reports, clear sailing is indicated.

SHUTTERBUG CLINIC

Newly formed Oregon City photo club is starting out with determination right from the start.

After a preliminary get-together, writes the BANNER COURIER, the shutterbugs decided on a clinical demonstration on portrait lighting, with a model on hand to provide the necessary subject matter.

Future plans, starting the first of the new year, will include similar meetings at two-week intervals. All phases of photography will be covered with camera fans wholeheartedly welcome to take part.

The club's scope even takes in those with box cameras.

LUSTY INFANT

News of Odd Fellow and Rebekah lodge members gets new treatment, as the result of a venture recently started, which seeks to bring together news of the organizations by monthly issue.

Published under the name of OREGON ODD FELLOW AND REBEKAH, the paper is at present of tabloid size and crammed from margin to margin with news of lodges throughout the state.

Issue number 2 has been put in the mail, representing the effort for December. Response, according to the men responsible for this major improvement in lodge news, has been gratifying and growing every week.

YEAR ROUND BASIS

Vacationing and playgrounds in on a year 'round basis, at Newport, judging receipt of a special Vacation News supplement.

For twenty pages, the NEWPORT NEWS extolls its resources of beaches and recreational means. Pictures give some idea of the beauty to be observed.

It seems that high tides, crashing rollers pounding against rocks and frothing up to the beach are attracting sightseers, while beachcombers find good hunting too, among trophies of the sea so cast up.

The publication announces a plan to publish the vacation supplement every month until May.

U. S. NAVY RECOMMENDS

If announced recommendations of the U. S. Navy mean anything, Hillsboro has a good chance of landing a naval air reserve base.

Such information was told to the local Chamber of Commerce, reports the ARGUS, by an assistant director of the 13th naval district air reserve.

Inspections by officers from the 13th naval district and from Washington, D. C. as well have been made to determine the usefulness of the location and facilities.

Decision on the matter is expected within 30 days.

The being of grace must go before the increase of it; for there is no growth without life, and no building without a foundation.

Angel Tells Her

SENT FROM HEAVEN—The angel Gabriel was sent from heaven to tell the Virgin Mary that she was to become a mother and bear a Son. And how can a virgin become a mother? So asks Mary. Gabriel answers that God the Holy Spirit shall come upon her and the power of the Highest shall overshadow her—Wherefore that Holy offspring to be born of you shall be called THE SON OF GOD. See Lk. 1:35.

FROM ALL ETERNITY—Forever and ever, Christ the Son had equality with God the Father. But now Christ strips Himself of His glory and steps down to take human birth and become God's Servant. Being proved truly human. He stooped to die for us. At that, God gave Him a name that is supreme above every name, that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, of beings in heaven, beings on earth and beings in the underworld.—See Bible, Phil. 2:6-10.

ALL TO SAVE YOU—For God so loved you that he gave his Only-Born Son that if you should believe on Him, you should not perish but have eternal life.—John 3:16.

He who believes on the Son has eternal life. He that believes not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him. See John 3:36.

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