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If Ever Such A Time

It is the coming week-end, by a tradition almost 2,000 years old, that the people of the world make special remembrance of the birth of Christ and the beginning of a Christian civilization.

More important than considerations as to whether or not it was on December 25 that Christ was born is the fact that one day near the year's end is set aside for His observance.

In this modern age, celebration of the event has developed many confusing facets. On the one hand, there is the outward rejoicing. Santa Claus. Gaily bedecked Christmas tree. Gifts. Gay parties.

On the other hand, and it somehow seems more vital, is the spiritual rejoicing. The "God Bless You and a Merry Christmas". The hushed voices in a holy cantata. The little, unheralded gestures that might bring light and happiness into the hearts of others.

In Dickens' Christmas Carol, this latter spirit is notably portrayed. The Christmas verities come to life so vividly as to explain why, in many homes, reading of the story is a traditional rite for Christmas Eve.

One of the time-honored sentiments is the wish, "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men". As a slogan of the season, it was long employed, though its use, today, is somewhat limited. But for a personal theme, it is a wish that is as timely as the sun.

With the world in a state of nervous tension; with one ideology challenging another; with man divided against man and nations making faces at other nations, this is a time to prayerfully wish for "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men"—if there were ever such a time!

A New Responsibility

With the looming date of January 1, 1949, set out as the proper deadline for preparation by district school boards of budget estimates, again attention is directed to the matter of education, and its costs today.

Along with practically everything, the costs of schooling has increased significantly over the last ten years. Particularly is this felt in the Tualatin Valley, where the influx of more people and the growth of the school census has left no alternative but to enlarge facilities by addition to present buildings or cutright new construction.

Cost of materials is up. Labor price is higher. Added to these trends is the fact that the people are becoming aware of the need for improving the standard of education within the state.

The value of a school system is only reflected in the quality of the students it graduates. It is to this end that taxation of the general public is justified. For in the hands of the young rests the destiny of the future.

Any attempt to intensify education, bringing in the benefits of modern training and instructional aids, cannot be expected as a matter of course. Teachers, for instance, who devote one or two years for better training beyond minimum professional requirements are better equipped to educate the young generation. But by any formula of balances, extra training justifies increased pay, just as the increased preparation derives more complete teaching ability.

There seems no alternative to higher school taxes, by these facts. Responsibility, of course, rests with elected school board members to exercise economy and good judgement. But there can be no denying the importance of a properly equipped and substantially endowed public school system.

By the will of the majority, at the recent November 2 election, property qualification has been removed as a restriction to voting in school elections. Since, through income taxes and hidden taxation, everyone in the state contributes to school program financing, now everyone will have a right to vote on the program.

By this participation, it becomes increasingly important for all citizens of the state to take an active interest in plans and proposals for schools, upon which they will be eligible to vote.

School budgets are matters of local, district-wide importance. Constant watchfulness must be exercised that, in the name of defensible economy, progressive items of expense are not deleted to make way for less desirable expenditures.

Budget considerations, which now come up for a general vote, will occupy every school district in the near future. To meet a new responsibility, the public should prepare.

ELSEWHERE IN OREGON

Events As Chronicled by
Our Contemporaries in
Northwest Communities

TELEVISION DELIVERY

Expectation of an operating television station in Portland by the middle of next Spring has brought to Gresham a new merchandising effort, the demonstration and sale of video receiving sets.

One receiver is already at hand, says the OUTLOOK, and creating some stir of interest. Difficulties in its demonstration, however, stem from the fact that no such broadcast is as yet emanating from Portland and the topographical barriers between here and Seattle, where telecasts are being made, prevent any reception at all.

Television waves, it is explained, are similar to light waves. They will retract but will not bend. A receiving set located behind a hill or in back of a large building will receive refracted waves, but substantial mountain ranges are too much to surmount. In ideal conditions, an accidental program might slip through, but an enthusiastic endorsement of the video means will require consistent reception.

Gresham, however, is cited as particularly well situated to receive telecasts. The few hills between there and Portland are said to be insignificant as far as disrupting reception.

One headache, however, is the lack of technicians to install and service sets, something which occupies more than passing attention by radio dealers and distributors.

FLOOD REMINDER

Potent reminder has been given people in the Oregon City area of the devastating Columbia river flood of last May and June.

As related by the BANNER COURIER, the "January freshet" that hit the area about a month earlier than usual caused a minimum of damage but some farm lands south and north of Oregon City were under the overflowing waters of the Willamette river.

The flood waters reached a crest of 14.5 feet at the West Linn locks, 2.5 feet below the flood crest of last January, on December 15. Since then, the waters have been receding steadily.

A project to replace gates on lock No. 1 at West Linn has been temporarily abandoned because of the high water. Huge 30 foot gates will be installed when the lower basin level drops from its present 30 foot mark to about 16 feet. The water level at Portland, too, must drop enough to permit movement of a dredge under low bridges there.

DIRECTORY BEEF

The latest beef directed toward the West Coast telephone company gives voice to protests of Hillsboro business circles over the discontinuance of a county-wide telephone directory.

The company's plan is for publication of Beaverton, Forest Grove and Hillsboro area directories and classified business directories in two of the three books will completely exclude and discriminate against the county seat, the ARGUS reports.

The company replies to the protests by declaring that publication of directories is not mandatory upon the company but rather a service given its customers on a cooperative basis. Company manager relates the reason for the change is that Beaverton required two supplementary directories during the past year, so many numbers being changed as to require a separate directory. Now Forest Grove numbers are being changed.

The Hillsboro and Forest Grove directories may be combined, he added, but the Beaverton issue has already been published. Possibility of a county-wide directory next year is being considered.

TWELVE MONTH TRIAL

Parking meters will be given a twelve month trial in the city of St. Helens, according to decision by the city council.

As told by the SENTINEL MIST not a single objection was voiced on the matter, despite the fact that for two straight meetings interested citizens had jammed the Council chambers. In fact, strong arguments in behalf of the proposition were recorded.

Representative of one parking meter company was present and displayed the manually operated model which the Council favored over the more-easily-put-out-of-order automatic type. At the conclusion of his demonstration, the representative sought an immediate contract. This was deferred until other companies had a chance to present a meters sales talk.

Survey of the town shows need of 280 meters to start with. Cost of installation was set at \$73.50, to be paid for each month by 50% of receipts. When paid for, the meters would belong to the city and all collection would go into the municipal coffers.

TEST OF THE TASTE

An interesting bit of research at the Eastern Oregon College of Education, at La Grande, might well have proved that the taste mechanisms do not always function correctly.

According to the EASTERN OREGON REVIEW, students in a chemistry class discovered how easily the taste of real, honest-to-goodness butter might be confused with that of the more widely used oleomargarine.

Twelve out of the seventeen who made the test utterly failed to tell the difference. Of those who did distinguish between the two, all admitted that even though their answers were right, they had actually guessed to win.

Commercial aspect of the research was nil. No brand names of either products tested were released.

OYSTER CLOISTER

Stubborn plea was recently made at Newport for the continuation of an oyster cloister, which is threatened by an outside firm wishing to encroach upon the privilege and rights of 7 original oystermen and their descendants at Yaquina Bay.

As outlined in the NEWS, one of the privileged seven came to town from nearby Oysterville to oppose concessions to a firm which once shipped the famous Yaquina oysters out of the Bay. The company, it is indicated, plans to appeal to the state legislature for a return of permission to do business. The legislature so deprived the company, after prolonged hearings, in the 1947 session.

The present law gives custody and development rights to the original oystermen and descendants for 14 tracks of oysterland.

EARLY NEW YEAR'S NOTE

The influence of New Year's Day, when the tendency to make resolutions comes with the "turning of a new leaf", is showing up early, in Forest Grove.

The new City Council, as the NEWS TIMES tells it, heard the Mayor outline some suggestions for a better city government, at his recent inaugural.

One of the bits of municipal advice was to the effect that the city maintain and keep up its city-owned property to the same standards as it expects of private property owners. He also pointed out an idea of having all full and part-time workers of the city get together with the council in order for mutual acquaintanceship.

Additions to city limits were stressed as important matters to accomplish before 1950, in order that the city receive full credit for population increases in the federal census to be taken then. Such figures are used for apportionment of several funds, such as the city's share in state gasoline revenue.

Negotiations with West Coast telephone company on a franchise agreement were cited as assignments to face the Council at the start of the new year. Street improvement, street lighting, a new fire hall and improvement in water supply, development of a police reserve and some means of indicating a welcome to visitors were also listed.

GETTING ON OK

Edward Coyne who underwent an appendectomy at Jones Hospital is home and getting along nicely.

ENROUTE TO ENGLAND

Mrs. Basil Waters of Oak Ave. and baby daughter left Thanksgiving day for England to visit her parents for three months.

VACATION TRIP

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Barnes have returned from a trip to Boise, Idaho, Salt Lake and back by way of San Francisco.

World Ruler Born

Bethlehem—And who is this Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger? He is none other than Christ, the World Ruler who is yet to be. But first look back and see Him as Creator. Whatever is, God willed and Christ created—even to the whole universe—John 1:12. God willed that man be created free to sin or not as he might choose. Man chose sin and so was lost to God.

Miracle—As a father years after a lost son, so God years after us, sinning, sunken and lost as we are. But to all who receive Christ as having died for them, God gives the miracle of new birth into eternal life. When the roll-call of the saved is filled, Christ is to descend from heaven and raise up into bodies of glory the saved. His own who have passed on and His then living.

World Ruler—Deeper and deeper into sin sinks the world. At last God is to pour out his wrath—"and except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved.—Mt. 24:22. Christ is then to return as World Ruler. He will dash the nations in pieces as a potter's vessel and rule them with a rod of iron. After a millennium, He raises the lost dead for Judgment. May you answer to God's love and believe in Christ who Saves—Keeps—Satisfies.

Stan Taylor

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This space paid for by a Seattle family

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the present in
the holiday
season and
we're happy
to add our
greetings
to the rest.

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May the true joys and blessings of that first Yuletide be yours today—
'Peace on Earth
Good Will Toward Men.'

1948

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Hear ye! hear
Hear ye! hear
ye! A Merry
Christmas and
a Happy New
Year to one
and all.

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We send our warmest greetings for a very happy Yuletide holiday and a prosperous, healthy New Year to you.

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TERESI FOOD CENTER
Haskell Center



May the ship bearing the golden treasure of health and happiness sail your way this Yuletide season.

**CARLSON'S
GARAGE**
Aloha Oregon



The old message of "Peace on earth; good will to men" echoes again over the entire Christian world in this happy holiday season. Harking back to the spirit of the first Christmas, we wish for you all the joys and blessings of the season.

**HAROLD GREGORY
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