



A Merry Christmas To All

THIS AND THAT

(By OLD TIMER)

To the Editor:

At this Christmas season what is more appropriate than to echo the toast of Tiny Tim—"God bless us everyone."

While gifts will not be as plentiful this year there will be something for everyone—something to express good wishes which have always been the foundation of the Christmas spirit in the American home.

This year is a special Christmas year, for every heart will be filled with the special hope that before the next Christmas all the world will have received the most precious gift of all—the gift of "peace on earth and good will toward men."

That fellow Schickelgruber will likely forego hanging up his sock this Christmas. Dangling there over the fireplace it will remind him too much of the Kharkov brand of neckwear.

Uncle Zeke opines that the Japs will fight the last half of this war on their home grounds. But, unlike a baseball team, they won't find that fact a bit to their advantage.

Street lighting is supposed to have originated in Paris about 1700 when the police ordered every householder to keep a lamp burning in a street window from dark to dawn.

With revolt stirring in his captured countries and his armies getting whipped on all fronts, it would be understandable if Hitler jumps every time the phone rings.

Before nations bury the hatchet after this war, they should see to it that the handle is not sticking out of the ground.

Fame and fortune awaits the man who can devise some plan to convert Ashland's pestiferous canines into synthetic rubber.

A leopard doesn't change his spots, and neither, we regret, does a Christmas tie.

No-strike pledges are honored more in the breach than the observance.

Don't forget to hang up your sock Christmas Eve.

IN THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Make Christmas Seals—the Seals that fight tuberculosis—a part of your Christmas giving. Send no gift, card or letter this year without

The Seal That Saves Lives



Buy and Use Christmas Seals

Miss Genevieve McGee returned to her duties as a WAC in Portland Tuesday after visiting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. O. McGee.

A. F. CLAWSON and Companion Are Invited to Be Guests of the SOUTHERN OREGON MINER to see

at the VARSITY THEATRE (Friday and Saturday)

"THE SKY'S THE LIMIT"

or (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday)

"STAR SPANGLED RHYTHM"

Please call at the Miner Office for Your Guest Tickets

Ashland USO Holds Christmas Service

A very picturesque service at the Ashland USO, the hanging of the greens, was entered into by a large number of soldiers and civilians who filled the main room of the club, Sunday afternoon, December 19.

Facing the audience was a large Christmas tree decorated by children of the Ashland schools. Tall candles burned in pandelabra on the stage, and others were set in windows ready for the candle-lighting ceremony.

The program consisted of an address by the Rev. G. W. Bruce and music by Sue Parkinson, Frances Aikens, Carolyn Rose, Sgt. Robert Carlson, and was followed by the candle lighting and tree-decking ceremony. Pvt. Joseph P. Husbeck read the ritual, and the congregation joined in singing carols.

In the bustle of hanging the greens, one enterprising GI who had discovered that mistletoe hung above the door, took a strong position in the doorway and exacted a toll of all who passed, gallantly saluting senior as well as junior hostesses.

Altogether the afternoon's program was imbued with a spirit of true Christmas, reverence, good will and fun. Director Bayonne Glenn, who had given much time to completing arrangements, was congratulated on the success of the event.

TALENT NEWS

The aged father of Mrs. Cal Reeves passed away at the home of his daughter. Her father had recently arrived here from his home in Michigan to spend the winter here.

The Talent Grange met December 2 with Master Floyd Lacy in the chair. It was decided to have a Christmas party gift exchange and program at the next meeting Thursday, December 16. Officers for the coming year are: Master, Floyd Lacy; overseer, Elton Petri; lecturer, Margaret Hamilton; chaplain, Margaret Mathes; secretary, George Hartley; steward, Harry Hamilton; assistant steward, Steve Lunac; gatekeeper, Frank Reed; Ceres, Mabel Robison; Pomona, Ethel Lacy; Flora, Anna Lunac, and lady assistant, Alva Newman.

The Home Economic Club met at the home of Mrs. Tom Bell Tuesday, December 16. This was the Christmas exchange of gifts and revealing for Pollyannas.

Mrs. Frank Goddard left Sunday morning for San Francisco to meet his wife, who spent several months there with her sister, Mrs. Goddard will return home with her husband.

Andrew McMahan of Denver, Colo., visited his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew McMahan, the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. George Gleims are the parents of a baby boy weighing seven pounds and six ounces born at the Community Hospital in Ashland Friday morning. Mr. Gleims was inducted into the Army last week.

The Community Club met Wednesday afternoon at the City Hall and held their annual Christmas party.

Mrs. John Murphy of Eugene arrived in Talent Sunday morning to be with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew McMahan. Mr. McMahan is ill at his home.

Miss Betty Combest of Orchard, Wash., is visiting relatives and friends here in Talent.

Miss Virginia Holbrook of San Francisco arrived here Sunday morning and is visiting her mother, Mrs. Melissa Cameron, and other relatives.

Tiny Combest of the Seabees, who spent a short furlough here with his mother and other relatives, left Sunday morning for San Francisco, where he is stationed for the present.

Mrs. Alice O'Byrne, who has been teaching school in Northern California, has returned to Ashland and Talent and will remain in the valley until the first of March, when she will resume her work.

Buy bonds now



for that Merry Christmas that is to come

A Message From the Chamber of Commerce

The following is a letter sent to the members of the Ashland Chamber of Commerce which should be of interest to all active citizens:

"Just a bit of a note to call your attention to a short-term course offered by the Southern Oregon College of Education to be given during the winter term beginning about January 1 and dealing with post-war problems as they may affect our state and particularly our own locality. The class will meet at the library once a week in the evening (for about 90 minutes) lasting for 11 or 12 weeks.

"There are several reasons why I believe it is most important that every business house, professional and governmental office in this city be represented in this class. If you ever sawed wood with a bucksaw, you know you can get double value out of that wood pile. Twenty-one men (every one of them busy men) have already signed asking for this course.

"In a few days, a card will be sent to each of those interested asking him to designate a first, second and third choice of evenings. If, therefore, you care to participate in this class, please call this office, No. 5541, as soon as possible.

"Remember this course is being offered at the request of Ashland men, for what we believe to be the good of Ashland, and with the conviction that post-war planning must begin at home.

Very truly yours,
"ASHLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE."

MRS. NELLE J. SUGG

Funeral services were held at the Litwiller Funeral Home Saturday afternoon for Mrs. Nelle Jane Sugg, who passed away last Thursday. The Rev. Mr. C. E. McCall officiated. Interment was made in the I.O.O.F. addition to Mt. View Cemetery.

Mrs. Sugg was born, July 12, 1880 at Woodman, Wisconsin. She had been a resident of Ashland for 24 years.

Survivors include her husband, John H. Sugg and two children, Clay Sugg and Mrs. Jane Anderson of Medford.

Accordion Musicale At Ashland USO

Students of Mrs. Eve Prentice and Mrs. Glenn Clymer will present a program at the Ashland USO Club Sunday afternoon, December 26, at 4:30. Mrs. Clymer gives free accordion band instruction at the Ashland USO Club every Saturday morning for her students, and gives private accordion lessons all day Saturday following the band practice. Both she and Mrs. Prentice are working hard on this musicale and expect their students to give a fine performance, which the community is invited to hear. The musicians will be in special dress for the occasion, the older girls in formals and the little folks in satin band suits.

Cpl. Gene Natsky will be a guest artist playing with the group. The program follows:
Dark Eyes.....Maxine Powell
Sleigh Bell Polka, Joanne Blunkall
Accordiana.....Carol Davis
Popular Songs and Christmas
Carols—Maxine Powell, Joanne Blunkall, Ariene Young, Carol Davis.

Come Back to Sorrento—
Cpl. Gene Natsky
Brave Cowboy.....Glen Ingle
Roses.....Vida Childers
Silent Night, Barbara Jean Clymer
La Spangola.....Barbara Ragsdale
Band Numbers — Sarine Humm,
Goodnight Ladies and Blue Bird,
Two Guitars, Lady River, Carolina in the Morning—
Mrs. Glenn Clymer

The Palace will be closed until Monday, December 27th.

YOU CAN HELP

Prevent a wartime rise in tuberculosis in our country by buying Christmas Seals today. They fight tuberculosis.



Buy and Use Christmas Seals

Christmas Customs COLUMBIA RIVER Based on Tradition TAKES ITS TOLL

by Charles Fritze

The exact date of the birth of Jesus Christ, or even the year, is not known. The annual observance on Christmas Day is in commemoration of the event rather than as the anniversary of its actual occurrence.

December 25 was fixed as the date for Christmas by Pope Julius I, about the year 340. Before that, it was observed conjointly with the feast of the Epiphany each year on January 6.

The Christmas tree, now an almost universal symbol, is derived from the Egyptian use of a palm branch of 12 shoots to signify the complete year, a custom that prevailed long before the Christian era. The present significance of the Yuletide tree is said by some authorities to have originated in Germany.

The use of evergreen decorations, particularly mistletoe, has been observed since the time of the Scythians, an order of priest-craft of the ancient Britons who claimed to possess curative powers and held mystic rites with the mistletoe in the deep forests under the light of the moon. The mistletoe which grew on an oak was in particular esteem for magical properties. Traces of the ancient regard for the mistletoe still remain in old English customs, such as the Christmas practice of kissing under a sprig of mistletoe, which has extended to America. Incidentally, the mistletoe is the state emblem of Oklahoma.

Patron saint of children, merchants and mariners in Russia, Greece and Naples, Santa Claus can trace his origin to this spirit, St. Nicholas, in whose honor feast days have been held for centuries. A San Claus day was formerly observed by New York Dutch settlers and later combined with Christmas.

Credit for the creation of the original Christmas card is given, by some, to Sir Henry Cole, who, in 1846, suggested the idea to J. C. Horsley of London. One thousand cards, printed by lithography and colored by hand, were published. It was in 1860 that the cards first became a major problem for delivery.

Each holiday season the familiar words of the tuneful Christmas Carol ring out all over the country. The origin of these songs is both interesting and colorful. While some of them were composed here in America, others were written and set to music in other parts of the world.

The main body of the emigrants stopped at Fort Walla Walla for a brief rest. There they debated whether to continue with the wagons or take to the river in boats.

Dr. Whitman, and Archibald McKinley, who was in charge of the fort, advised the emigrants to leave their cattle and proceed by water. Opinion was divided, the majority deciding on the land route.

Included in the wagon party were the Fords, the Keyzers and the Waldos, who struck out along the south bank of the Columbia. The Umatilla was forded without trouble. The shore line of the Columbia was followed for several miles to where high bluffs rose from the water's edge. The undaunted emigrants took to the hills. Further down the Columbia, the John Day River delayed them further, but the men cut down the high banks.

Indians along the river had a playful habit of stealing horses at night, then "finding" them the next day in return for an old shirt. This enterprise flourished as long as the supply of shirts held out.

Those who chose the river route experienced no trouble until they reached the rapids between Celilo Falls and The Dalles. On this section of the river one of the boats containing Alexander McClellan, aged 70, Wm. Parker, aged 21, Wm. Duke, aged 21, Elisha Applegate aged 11, Warren Applegate aged 11, and Edward Applegate, aged 9, overturned. Duke, who was unable to swim, grasped a featherbed to which he clung until picked up. Elisha saved himself by swimming, and also assisted Parker. McClellan was drowned attempting to save Edward, who went down with the gallant old man. Warren Applegate was also drowned. None of the bodies were recovered, for Old Man River took heavy toll.

Ed. Note—This is one in a series of stories commemorating the Old Oregon Trail Centennial.

OLD CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

The custom of exchanging gifts and enjoying merry times during the winter holidays springs from heathen antiquity. During gay celebrations the Romans gave gifts. This custom was continued during the approach of Christianity, but the heathen significance was dropped and the gifts became known as Christmas presents.

BOYS HARVEST TREES — URGE FIREPROOFING



The Junior Forest Wardens and Green Guards of the "Keep Green" programs in Washington and Oregon are organized for forest fire prevention, but in 1943 the end of the fire season did not halt their good work. Here two Snoqualmie Valley Junior Forest Wardens are shown demonstrating good forest practice in the harvest of Christmas trees to a Seattle Boy Scout. The boy with the ax is trimming the trunk. Every twig is picked up and moved to a spot where the trimmings will not remain a fire hazard to the junior forest.

To guard against Christmas tree fires, say the boys of the forest, stand your tree in crock or pail of water or wet sand to keep moisture in the leaves. Ammonium sulphate, a cheap chemical—a garden fertilizer—may be added to the water, in the ratio of one pound to every four pounds of tree weight, to increase fireproofing. It is best to cut two inches—slantwise—off the stem of the tree before standing it in container. Keep in temperature of from 50 to 60 degrees during period before tree is set up for decorating. Such simple precautions may prevent Christmas tree fires in your home.