

THE HEPPNERIAN

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THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS.

(By MARJORIE CLARK.)
 I wonder how many of us when we hear the name "Christmas" think of it with the right spirit? I wonder how many of us think of the word "Christmas" meaning the day on which Christ's nativity is observed—or do we merely think of many gifts, steaming turkey, and blazing plum pudding? The date of December the twenty-fifth has been accepted throughout the world as the date of the Christ-child's birth. However, this is not authentic for many historians say that this date is the rainy season in Palestine and that it would be very unlikely that the shepherds would be watching their flocks in the fields at night. The choice of December the twenty-fifth is probably due to the wish to replace pagan orgies and feasts with Christian festivals. As the famous Roman saturnal, the widespread feast of the Great Mother, and the great Yule feast all came at this time, it is believed that Christianity turned these feasts of the winter colic, the time when the days begin to increase, and light to triumph over darkness, into a feast of our Saviour, the light of the world. The church also sought to expel many deep-rooted heathen customs by adding its own representations of Christ's life. From these efforts originated our numerous Christmas carols and so-called "manger songs." So, today our Christmas has come down to us thru the church and it is observed throughout the world.

Naturally, every country has certain customs and manners in which they celebrate their Christmas. In Germany, on Christmas Eve, the whole family attends a simple church service. The only lights used are candles held by worshippers—making a very impressive scene.

In Serbia and Bulgaria a quaint ceremony is performed by the head of the house. On Christmas morning, a man, carrying a sack of corn, sprinkles some of the doornet and says, "Christ is born," to which others reply, "He is born indeed." Wishes are then made for good health and a plentiful harvest.

In Norway and Sweden, the "Jul-fred," or the peace of Christmas, is publicly proclaimed. Early in the morning the children go to church; later their parents attend. After a day of feasting, the family group gathers before a roaring fire for an old-fashioned telling of stories.

And in Merrie England, Merrie Christmas took its firmest root. In 878, Alfred, holding a Christmas revelry, allowed the enemy to cut his army to pieces and send him a fugitive. Christmas in England did not mean just one day of sport, but usually lasted ten or twelve days. A good example of a United States Christmas is found in the Southern States where it is the noisiest, jolliest day of the year. In the days of slavery, it was a practice to burn a Yule log. As the slaves were allowed holidays as long as the log burned, they spent some time in selecting the toughest, greenest oak log available. Occasionally, they would even soak it diligently in a neighboring stream. Southern plantation mansions were decorated with holly, green boughs, and mistletoe, and such a dinner they would prepare! Southern tables fairly outdid themselves to make this the greatest eating event of the year. Perhaps their cheerfulness was due to their ancestors, the Cavaliers, a light-hearted, pleasure-loving people, who brought over with them many customs which the Puritans called frivolous and wicked.

Therefore, on Christmas, let us think of the true meaning of the word, and, like the Southerners and their gay Cavalier ancestors, remember that "Tis more blessed to give than to receive."

Last Saturday the executive committee of the Upper Columbia Athletic league met at Arlington to consider the protest that had been filed by Wasco High against the awarding of football championship to Arlington. After considerable deliberation the committee decided to award no championship at all, but at the same time they refused to sustain Wasco's claim on the ground that Wasco is not a member of the league. Those attending the meeting were Superintendents Skeen of Ione, Mulky of Arlington, Johnston of Lexington and Burgess of Heppner.

Louis LeTrace: "What date is it?"
 Miss Murray: "That is not important, answer these questions."
 Louis: "But I want to get something right."

Monday afternoon, at the regular assembly period, Mr. Johnson presented to the student body the point system. The purpose, plan and details are outlined below. With the inauguration of this plan it is believed that a more pronounced enthusiasm for successful attainments in all things pursued by the classes will result in a more unified and strengthened student body.

A common weakness often found in students of bodies is the poorly directed efforts of the individuals and of the classes towards a definite goal. In this competitive-cooperative plan each individual and class has quite definite aims to pursue, and the degree of successful attainment will receive meritorious recognition.

The students, and the various classes are extremely interested in the project and it is almost certain that many good results will follow from its adoption.

The plan is as follows:
 A. Purpose—To promote initiative, enthusiasm and a spirit of activity within each individual; to develop greater cooperation, interest, and loyalty within each of the four classes, and to incite and encourage friendly spirit of competition between them, which will all contribute to the growth of a bigger and better Heppner High school.

B. Plan—1. Points will be awarded each class for their relative participation and success in each of the projects or units listed below, 12 points being given to the class doing the best in each project or challenge, and each of the other classes receiving points in proportion to their relative merits as compared with the class considered to have done the best in each respective attempt or unit of the plan.

2. Judging of the relative degree of success of the classes in each unit is to be done by the high school faculty in conjunction with the class advisors, the high school principal, and the superintendent of schools.

3. The class which at the close of the school year of 1926-1927, can total up the most points to their credit will be deemed the most valuable class to the school as shown by the interest, cooperative spirit, loyalty and unflinching integrity of the individuals of the class, and of the class as a whole to the school. Second place will be conceded to the class having the second highest number of points and so on for the third and fourth places. Near the close of the year, the points will be added and the winning class determined. Shortly following this the winning class will be the guests of honor at an all high school picnic to be held on a date approved by the school and the student council, at which time a half holiday will be given—the three losing classes being sponsors. The class placing fourth will furnish refreshments (and plenty of them) the class placing third will furnish a means of transportation, and the class placing second will furnish the program for amusement such as games, etc.

C. 1. -acts and Units upon Which Scoring will Take Place:

1. Class stunts for the "big parade" preceding the Lexington football game. (Points already given.)
2. Class programs to be given in the assembly—the same number to be given by all classes, and in rotation in the following order: seniors, juniors, sophomores and freshmen.
3. Loyalty of members to their class and interest and cooperation in their class activities.
4. Loyalty of individuals and of the class to the school, and boosting spirit and general interest in and for Heppner High—both in and out of school.
5. Activity of members of the classes in the various school organizations.
6. Participation in all branches of high school athletics by the members of each class.
7. Sportsmanship attitude in all activities, including all functions within the school, athletic or debating contests with other schools, etc.
8. Interest and appreciation in all assemblies, programs, etc.
9. Interclass contests, including debates, athletics, etc.
10. Grade averages of each class for the entire year.

Thursday afternoon a program was presented by the high school students given with the true Christmas spirit—the spirit of peace and good will.

The traditional Christmas tree, presided over by the jolly Santa was a successful affair as it has always been since the custom was originated. An account of limited space only the parents were invited. A pantomime given by a cast of six members of the Booster club followed the presentation of the gifts.

Each grade with the exception of the eighth will have a tree and program to celebrate Christmas. On Thursday the presents will be given out and the programs held.

Instead of having their tree at the school house the eighth grade will have a candy pull and Christmas tree on Wednesday night.

The boys of the different classes played their annual series of interclass basketball games last Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Tuesday evening the seniors and sophomores, and the juniors and freshmen mixed with the seniors winning by a score of 37 to 1 and the juniors with a score of 22 to 0.

To determine the holders of first, second, third and fourth places the winning teams and the losing teams of both games played on Wednesday evening. The seniors won over the juniors 3 to 0 and the frosh over the sophs 6 to 0. This gave the seniors first place, juniors second, freshmen third and sophomores last.

Before the games were played it was decided that the losing team would have to treat the other three, and with that understanding in mind the teams showed more determination to win.

The lineups were: Seniors—Paul Hisler, C. Bill Bucknum, F. Gene Doherty, F. Merle Becket, G. Earl Ayers and Marvin Gammell alternating at standing-guard position. Juniors—Steve Thompson, C. John Parker, F. Kenneth Oviatt, G. Onex Parker, F. Robert Turner, G. Harold Erwin, F. Freshmen—Howard Evans, C. Louis LeTrace, G. Cornett Green, G. James Monahan, F. Rodrick Thomson, F. Lawrence Case, G. Sophomores—Clarence Hayes, C. Harlan Devin, F. Terrel Bengé, G. Maurice Edmundson, G. Clair Cox, F. Gerald Swaggart, G.

Along with the snow this last week came a desire to execute a long-wished for plan. For several days the juniors and seniors planned on a sleighing party and finally they decided to put their plans to action. So, on Thursday everyone in the senior class met at the schoolhouse with sleds, and the juniors met at Edna Vaughn's home, ready to start for the Erwin home. A big sled sled was secured for the juniors, who trailed behind Hager's truck. The seniors were trailed on sleds back of Earl Ayers's car. After arriving at Erwin's the evening was largely spent in coasting down the snow covered hills. Refreshments of cookies and hot chocolate were served.

Not to be outdone by the upperclassmen, the sophomores decided to have a sleighing party of their own on the Bengé hill. They met at the postoffice, and some trailed to the hill, while others walked. A large bon fire was built at the top of the hill, and the intention of the class was to roast weinies out there, but upperclassmen were too abundant, so the sophs took their eats to Bengé's basement and partook of them there. After eating their fill of goodies they went back to the hill and spent the remainder of the evening in sleighing down the hill.

The Heppner teachers with the exception of Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Dix will leave Heppner Thursday and Friday for their various homes where they will spend their vacations. Miss Miller will go to The Dalles; Miss Peterson to La Grande; Miss Wright to Portland; Miss Murray to Corvallis and Eugene; Miss Nelson to Beaverton; Miss Fredrickson to Stanfield; Miss Wilson to Los Angeles; Miss Thorpe to Gresham and Portland; Miss Case to Portland; Mr. Smith and family to Spokane, and Mr. Burgess, accompanied by Mrs. Burgess, to Portland. Mr. Burgess will attend the Oregon State Teachers association meeting which meets in Portland the 28th, 29th and 30th. He is on the committee of credentials for that organization.

Court has started in the civics class. Last week the city officers were elected. This week a statement came out that a councilman had taken a bribe from Tom Wells to make him fire chief. The attorneys for the defense are Louise Thomson, Marjorie Clark, and Reta Crawford. The witnesses for the city are Orrin Bisbee, Joy Erwin and Ethel Moore. City Attorney Becket swore in the jury Tuesday which consisted of Mae Groshens, Marvin Wightman, Edna Vaughn, Gene Doherty, Hazel McLeod and Marjorie French. The trial started Wednesday and was carried over until Thursday when the jury will give its decision.

A new cement floor will be installed in the boiler room during the holidays. Mr. Bucknum has contracted for the job. This piece of work has long been needed as the room has never had a floor. When the builders handed over the building, they had neglected to put in the floor. The lack of a floor made it very unhandy as the coal dust mingles with the dirt on the floor.

Through the kindness of Mr. M. D. Clark the school was presented with a series of historical calendars which will be placed in the various rooms during the holidays. These calendars represent the signing of the Declaration of Independence and those who were instrumental in the signing of the document.

almost nobody coming. She could hear the organ playing. Mass had begun. She would have hurried home but her feet were numb with the cold.



Slipped into a seat of the large church.

Besides, she thought, she really ought to go in and say a little prayer for her mother.

She opened the huge door of the cathedral, slipped quietly into a seat of the large church and prayed fervently for her mother and little sisters; prayed, too, that she might, somehow, be able to buy them a cake for Christmas!

The heat of the church after the intense cold outside made her drowsy. She went fast to sleep and let her head fall heavily against the shoulder of a man sitting next to her.

The man was an American. He was at first annoyed when he saw the little towseled head with its dirty cap against his coat sleeve, but on second glance at the pathetic little figure he was overcome with genuine emotion. "Poor little devil," he thought, "wonder what's been your short history and what will it be in the future." He saw in her dirty little hands the strings of medals and the box of holy cards she had been trying to sell. He reached into his pocket, pulled out two crisp 1,000-franc notes, folded them carefully and placed them on top of the cards.

Almost everyone had left the church when Juliette awakened. Mass was over; all the candles on the altar had been extinguished, the lights of the church were being put out, Juliette rubbed her eyes drowsily and with a start counted her medals to see that no one had taken any while she slept. They were all quite safe. She next turned to her box of cards and her eyes became two large moons. "Two thousand francs, two thousand francs!" She couldn't believe it. It was a miracle! Hadn't she prayed for money to buy her people a Christmas gift? She knelt down again, said a fervent prayer in thanksgiving; then gathered all her things together and ran quickly from the church—past the confiserie shop. It was closed, of course, but the white cake was still in the window. Tomorrow morning she would go there early and buy it—buy every good thing in the shop. And still there would be enough left to buy them all clothes in the after-Christmas sales. She leaped joyously in the air. She did not feel cold now.

"Merry Christmas," she called to an old lady who passed her. "Merry Christmas to the whole world!" (© 1926, Western Newspaper Union.)

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Helping Santa Claus
—Assistants Needed
 HER children had had such a jolly Christmas. Their joy and delight had been a joy and delight to see. But that Christmas afternoon she heard of a story that saddened her. A little girl and a little boy had gathered a tree from the woods and had left it for Santa Claus to trim.

Eagerly Christmas morning they had gone down stairs to see the tree, but it was just as they had left it. Santa Claus had not come, and they had followed all the rules they had been told about calling up the chimney to him.

Their family were both poor and lacking in imagination. Struggle and ill health had driven any lurking imagination from them.

So she went that evening, her arms laden with tree decorations and odds and ends of candles and toys and asked if she might trim the tree. The next morning the children were told that Santa Claus had not forgotten them—he had had to dash over to the next town to do so much that he had been delayed. Santa Claus needs his assistants, and no job in the world is much more fun than that of being an assistant to Santa Claus.—Mary Graham Bonner. (© 1926, Western Newspaper Union.)

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W. P. Prophet

Her CHRISTMAS PRAYER

MARION R. REAGAN

IT WAS cold along the Seine that Christmas Eve. There was a thin rain, half snow, and a nasty, penetrating wind coming up from the river that sent chills trembling down one's neck.

Little Juliette Caret blew her breath against her hands to warm them and pulled her ragged little coat more tightly about her. She was the sole support of a family of four—this little, shivering tot, who stood always before the door of Notre Dame selling holy cards and medals to people as they passed