

### Lexington News

**By Delpha Jones**  
Mrs. Bertha Hunt and Mrs. Alex Hunt were hostesses to a farewell party honoring Eugene Wardwell who has left for service in the Coast Guard. Cards were enjoyed by the high school and faculty, and refreshments were served. Others attending the party besides those mentioned were Max Breeding, Marvin Way, and Larry Groves.

Diana Schoonover accompanied by her brother and father visited Sunday at the June Cooper home. Mrs. Cooper is the mother of Diana.

The Lutheran Ladies Aid met at the Collison home in Hepner last week. Election of officers was held at this time with Mrs. Alex Hunt elected president; Mrs. Irvin Rauch, vice president and Pauline Matheny, secretary-treasurer. Lovely refreshments were served. The next meeting will be at the Alex Hunt home in Lexington.

Let's don't forget the church Christmas program to be held Dec. 18th at 7:30 p. m.

Let's not forget the reception held for the George Allyn's celebrating their 60th anniversary. This will be held at the I. O. O. F. hall from 2-4 Sunday afternoon Dec. 18.

The fire department answered the call to the Ray Papineau

home on Tuesday morning where a fire had been discovered between the walls. Some damage was done, but due to the quick work of the fire department the fire was soon put out.

Dinner guests on Tuesday night at the R. W. McMillan home were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Forrester.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. McMillan and John Spence were visitors Sunday at the Fred Bristow home in Cove, called there by the illness of Mrs. Bristow.

Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Breeding enjoyed their Christmas dinner on Saturday evening a few days early, as their son Max, who is home from the U. S. Navy will be returning to overseas duty on Christmas. Those present were: a daughter Mrs. Floyd Smith and infant daughter of Hepner, Mrs. Don Grant, another daughter and family from Yamhill, and another daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Dennis and son Jay of Lebanon, and sons Max and Paul.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Barak and family have gone to Texas where they will spend the winter.

Deanne Angell is a patient in Pioneer Memorial hospital in Hepner. She is the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Angell.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Darnielle and children of The Dalles visited at the home of Mrs. Darnielle's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Newt O'Hara one day last week.

The Thespians have received play books and will soon start work on another play to be given in February.

Let's not forget the school program on Dec. 22.

Miss Jewell Boone and Mrs. Lawrence Brent were Portland visitors over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Hunt are the proud parents of a son Gary Dean born at Mid-Columbia hospital one day last week. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Key of Hepner and Bertha

### WASHINGTON AND "SMALL BUSINESS"

By C. WILSON HARDER

Operation by armed forces of general merchandise stores, known as Post Exchanges, and foods stores, known as Commissaries, has long been debated.

Defense Department claims although stores operate at no cost to government, they sell for less than nearby private enterprises because of buying economies, efficiency, other reasons.

However, report of Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government, better known as Hoover Commission, disputes these long standing arguments.

The report states, "Post Exchanges are intended to be completely self-sustaining, but in reality they are not. Their ability to sell at lower prices and still accumulate profits results primarily from the indirect subsidy given post exchanges."

The commission notes there are 450 post exchanges with 19,780 civilian employees in U. S. and doing annual business of \$470 million. Abroad 2,700 post exchanges, employing 49,935 civilians do annual business of \$540 million. Thus post exchange system equals some of biggest U. S. retailing enterprises.

Hoover report, also finds salaries and allowances of 1,300 military personnel in post exchanges operations are not charged to overhead.

Situation is more aggravated in operation of grocery stores, or commissaries. In U. S. 199 commissaries do annual business of \$185 million. Of 7,411 employees, over half, 4,084, are military.

Report notes commissaries not only sell military people, but also some civilian employees at markups ranging from 3 1/2% to 5%. Yet Hoover Commission states to cover cost of military personnel employed in commissaries, depreciation, other costs, a mark-up from 10 to 14% would be necessary.

Report takes cognizance of fact cheaply sold merchandise is one of so-called "fringe benefits" supposed to induce men to remain in the armed forces. Yet even with these "fringe benefits" and with highest pay in world, armed forces constantly complain about losing men. For example, a corporal, not a very high rank, with wife and two children can draw over \$300 per month. Yet 49% of all families in the U. S. have incomes of less than \$4000 per year.

In addition, subsidized service owned retail operations, cut considerable swath in potential volume of privately operated tax paying retailers. There is strong question of fairness in expecting retailers to bear brunt of providing "fringe benefits" to armed forces, if such are necessary.

There is also a strong psychological factor. With thousands of impressionable young men with no business experience taken into services every month, difference in prices at armed forces stores as compared with those elsewhere cannot help being noticed; could lead to conclusion more abundant life should include socialized business. This problem does not confront Russian High Command.

At very least, to offset this silent propaganda for socialism, post exchanges and commissaries should be required to display large signs, to print on all sales slips wording such as this, "These prices are only possible because U. S. taxpayers pay part of price of everything sold here."



C. W. Harder

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Hunt of Lexington. He weighed 7 lbs. 5 ozs.  
The Lexington high school student body is preparing a play "Aaron Slick from Punkin Crick" to be given soon. The cast is as follows: Aaron Slick, Donald Hunt; Wilbur Merridew, Dexter Miles; Clarence Green, Hugo Leyva; Mrs. Rosy Berry, Inez O'Neil; Gladys May Merridew, Pat Steagall; The Girl in Red, Maureen Groves; Little Sis Riggs, Sue Laney.

### Monument News

**By Martha Matteson**  
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Matteson are announcing the coming marriage of their daughter, Jessie Ellen, to Harry W. Scott of Long Creek, son of Mr. and Mrs. Orvall Scott of Vale, Oregon.

Tony Hutchison and Ben Spain drove through Pendleton Wednesday on their way to Portland.

Mrs. Tony Hutchison and Jessie Matteson drove to Fossil Monday on business.

Mrs. Ray Ward and children drove down from Long Creek and visited at the Kingman home for lunch; Mrs. Kingman drove them up to the Bob Holmes ranch Friday. They visited Margaret Holmes and Jessie Matteson who are working at the ranch.

John Erhardt was in John Day Saturday on garage business.

Maynard Hamilton and Lee Slocum drove to Hepner Saturday on business and Christmas shopping.

Chuck Van Detta accompanied Harold Lippert to Portland with a load of stock.

Jessie Matteson accompanied Mrs. Tony Hutchison to Pendleton Tuesday morning where they spent two days shopping and visiting.

Bob Holmes and Andy Beardsley spent two days in Pendleton on business.

Mrs. Delmer Settle and son of

Long Creek were in town Thursday calling on Bill and Lula Settle, Mattesons and Kingmans.

Stanley Musgrave and Rhoe Bleakman were busy delivering dressed hogs around town here Friday.

Ben Spain and Tony Hutchison returned from Portland Saturday night.

The M. M. M. club will hold its annual Christmas meeting in the grange hall Thursday, December 15. There will be a potluck at noon, a short business meeting then games and an exchange of gifts.

The Legion auxiliary will hold their Christmas meeting at the grange hall Saturday night, December 17.

### Hepner High School SCOOP

**By Nancy Anderson**  
The high school Christmas party will be Thursday Dec. 22. Names have been drawn and gifts will be exchanged at that time. Also, a 30 minute program is planned with Christmas carols and entertainment.

Friday, Dec. 16, at 1:30 college representatives from three state schools will interview the seniors and answer questions concerning enrollment in state colleges. Parents with seniors in school who might have questions are invited to attend.

The Hehisch sent papers to the Columbia Scholastic Press and the National Scholastic Press to be evaluated.

The FFA boys are selling Christmas trees again this year. They are on sale in the lot next to Hepner Auto Parts.

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Robbins and Eddie Brosnan attended the FFA banquet in Pendleton Dec. 13.

Eddie Brosnan has completed his contract with the Sears sheep chain and the contract has been transferred to the La Grande chapter.

**From where I sit ... by Joe Marsh**

**New Light on an Old Subject**

Mr. Evans from the Lighting Company gave an interesting talk at the Community Hall last night — on how farmers can cut electric bills. For those who missed it, here's a short recap.

Don't try to light up the cobwebs in the rafters. Use a reflector and a smaller bulb will probably do the job. Too many farmers use naked bulbs that waste 50% of the light.

Try using moveable projector bulbs that beam light the way a searchlight does. A couple of these "spots" will often give you better illumination than a gang of juice-wasting overhead lamps.

From where I sit, it's amazing how often we misuse the things we have ... like electricity. We also make a mistake if we misuse our right of personal choice — about which candidate to vote for, say, or whether beer or coffee makes the ideal mealtime drink — by trying to force our opinions on others. Respect for the other fellow's point of view should be our "guiding light."

*Joe Marsh*

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The shop boys have been busy working on their projects. Bob Stevens has completed making a 4 wheel trailer, Tom Wilson has finished overhauling the engine of his car and Eddie Brosnan is making a stock rack and bed for his new truck.

The shop boys also plan to collect and repair old and damaged toys for the needy boys and girls of Hepner and Morrow county.

Mr. J. W. Popham, chairman of the speech committee, announced that plans are on the way for the

speech festival at Lexington on March 6.

**4-H Club News**  
**THE COOKERETTES**  
The Cookerettes 4-H club met at the home of Mrs. Markham Baker December 10 at 1:30. Mrs. Baker started the meeting by showing us how to measure liquids and dry ingredients. Our president then called the meeting to order. The usual order of

business was followed. After the meeting, we played games. Dalene McDonald won a prize. Mrs. Baker and Martine served lovely refreshments of hot chocolate, jello and cookies. Before we left, Mrs. Baker gave each girl in cooking I a set of measuring spoons, and each girl in cooking II a spatula. The next meeting will be held at the home of Dolores Emert, January 14 at 1:30. Dianna Pettyjohn, reporter

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