# Holidays Provide Occasions For Many Family Gatherings

Thanksgiving was observed by many family groups in the area with traditional dinners and visiting. It provided an opportunity for many to come home from distances, to be with relatives and friends, and others to travel to holiday gatherings. For many it was a day just to stay home, get a good rest and prepare for the busy days ahead.

Thanksgiving guests at the Donald Robinson home were Mrs. Robinson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. N. Kirk of Hermiston. From Pendleton were Dr. and Mrs. J. Broun and family, making it a complete family gathering. Also Mrs. Kirk's sister, Mrs. Letha Archer of Heppner, and Gene Ferguson. Immediately after dinner Robinson and Ferguson left for the mountains to finish out a few days elk hunting. The first snow in this area provided enough so that Kirk and Kyle Robinson made a couple of snowmen to greet the guests. Michael and Nicholas Broun returned to school in the Portland area at the end of the week.

The holidays provided an opportunity for a family reunion on Thanksgiving at the country home of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Ruhl near Lexington. Enjoying the day together were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gray of Dexter, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Ruhl and Dana of Klamath Falls, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Gray, Tawnie and Treve of Corvallis, Mrs. Gene Gray and Florence of Hermiston, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Davis, Carey and Martha of Pendleton, Joe Zobrowski and son of Clackamas, Mrs. Otto Ruhl and Norman, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Gray, Susan and Arlene, Mr. and Mrs. Merritt Gray and David, all of Heppner, and the hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Ruhl.

The Paul Brown home was the scene of youth activity over the week-end. Accompanying their son Chris home from OSU were his roommate at Poling Hall, Jim Paul of Los Angeles, Calif., and Frank Williams of Medford. Coming for a week-end of elk hunting was Frank's father, Howard G. Williams and son Roger of Medford. The group returned to the valley on Sunday.

Traveling from Payette, Idaho, to spend Thanksgiving holidays at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Turner and family were Ken's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Runnion, Jr., and family. Enjoying the turkey dinner on Thursday with them was Ken's mother, Mrs. Nora Turner.

Mr. and Mrs. Clell Rea returned on Monday from a Thanksgiving vacation in the valley. Accompanied by Mrs. Rea's mother, Mrs. Tuda Swanson of Ione, they traveled to Milwaukie where they enjoyed a visit with Mrs. Rea's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lundell.

Holiday guests at the home of Mrs. Lucy Peterson were her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Ployhar and two daughters of Spokane, Wn. They also visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Moe, before leaving for their home Sunday. On Thanksgiving Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hudson were hosts to a family dinner that included the Darrel Ployhar family, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ployhar and family, Mrs. Bertha Wells, Mr. and Mrs. Moe, Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Hudson, and Mrs. Peterson.

The C. J. D. Bauman home was the scene of a family holiday dinner on Thanksgiving that included the presence of their son, Carl, home from studies at the University of Oregon; Mrs. Bauman's mother, Mrs. Lee Cantwell, who is a patient at Pioneer Memorial hospital, and Mrs. Nina Snyder.

Mrs. Martha Van Scholack traveled to Hermiston to spend the holiday with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Van Scholack and family. Their son, George, joined them for the day from his work at the bank in Condon.

The holidays provided an opportunity for Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Gonty and four children of Seattle, Wn., to travel here to spend a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Gonty. They returned to Seattle on Saturday, where he is employed on the police force.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Perrott and daughters Leslie and Susan of Portland arrived Saturday for a delayed Thanksgiving with Mrs. Perrott's mother, Mrs. Millie Doolittle. They enjoyed the week-end together.

Among those traveling to Portland for Thanksgiving holidays was Mrs. Mattie Green, who visited her two daughters and their families, Mr. and Mrs. Omer McCaleb and Mr. and Mrs. Lance Lundblad. She accompanied Dr. and Mrs. A. D. McMurdo to Hinkle station where they boarded the train for Portland. The McMurdos attended a family reunion with their sons and families, the Scott McMurdos of Corvallis, the Ted McMurdos of Portland and Dr. Bernard McMurdo of Burlingame, Calif.

Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Robinson and family entertained out-of-town guests over the week-end. Robinson's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Lundberg were here from Tacoma, Wn., where he is a Pacific Lutheran student and she is a teacher in the Tacoma schools.

Mr. and Mrs. Doug Drake and family were hosts for Thanksgiving dinner. Visiting them for the day were Mr. and Mrs. Paul Warren and four children and Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Drake. Mike Warren was also present while home from his studies at Brigham Young University in Salt Lake City.

**Coming last Wednesday for a** Thanksgiving visit with their parents were Mr. and Mrs. Roger Connor and three children, John, Marietta and Carrie of Forest Grove. They visited with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carey Hastings, and had Thanksgiving dinner at the Frank Connor home. The Hastings and Mrs. Margaret Rippee were also guests at the dinner. The Connors had expected to return Friday, but Roger became ill with the flu and they remained until Sunday.

**The Rev. and Mrs. Earl Sow**ard went to Boise, Idaho last Wednesday to spend Thanksgiving with their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Soward. On the return trip they went to Halfway to visit Rev. Soward's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Laird, and spent Friday night with them before returning Saturday. They reported six inches of snow at Halfway.

## TO THE EDITOR. . .

To the Editor:

As a continuous property taxpayer in Morrow County for 28 years, I would like to submit a news item of November 18 in the Oregonian which I believe is worth reprinting. It deals with a subject which we, as farmers, are vitally interested in.

The economy of business in our county and state is in many ways in direct proportion to the net farm income.

I do not agree with Charles Mack "that a lower valuation of farmland would be of no benefit to several Oregon counties because of lack of other properties to which they could be shifted." I believe we would be better off in having a lower assessed value and perhaps, a higher millage for several good reasons. Possibly a sales tax to offset property tax and our present net income tax could take up the slack.

The following is the aforementioned news item:

Farmers pay a property tax which averaged 26 per cent of their net income, an official of the Farm Bureau Federation told the state Tax Study Commission Wednesday.

Lou Norris, legislative representative of the Farm Bureau, said this "is a disproportionate share of property taxes." Other people, he said, pay an average of about 4 per cent of income for property taxes.

He said the Farm Bureau hopes to make a court test of a new law passed by this year's Legislature. The law was intended to encourage assessors to take the income-producing capacity of a farm into account when they assess it.

Assessing now is done mostly by comprising sales of comparable farms to determine market value. Norris said the Tax Commission and assessors apparently have not changed their methods of assessment despite the new law.

Charles Mack, chairman of the state Tax Commission, said assessors are handicapped by trying to determine if a purchaser genuinely intends to use the land for farm purposes, or to hold it for speculation.

He said farm land values have been driven up by non-agricultural use of land; a strong demand to enlarge farms, more available credit, and expectations of a continued rise in land values.

Mack said one of the major non-farm uses is for highways — a freeway takes 40 acres a mile, for instance.

Besides that, he said, a lower volume of farmland "would be of no benefit to several Oregon counties because of the lack of other properties to which they could be shifted."

Representatives of other farm organizations appeared before the committee to say that rising property taxes are the major factor for increased production costs for the farmer.

Sincerely,
Norman Nelson,

## Jack Casteel Dies In Stayton Hospital

Jack Casteel, 54, who had lived in Heppner for a time while attending high school, died in Santiam Memorial hospital, Stayton, Saturday, November 20, after a brief illness. He was a resident of the Union Hill community near Sublimity for many years.

Casteel entered the hospital Friday, November 19, and died the following day from pneumonia and complications. He was a logging truck driver and had lived all his life in Oregon.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Virginia Casteel; two daughters, Susan and Janice, living at home; a stepson, Clifford Fletcher, living in Illinois; his mother, Mrs. Vera Casteel, of Sublimity; and brothers, Lowell, Delmer and Glen Casteel, all of Portland.

Services were November 23 at 2 p.m. in the Weddle chapel in Stayton and burial was in Union Hill cemetery.

## Jacksons Announce Opening of Cafe

Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Jackson of Ione have taken over the operation of the former D and E Cafe in Lexington, and plan to have it open to the public beginning Monday, December 6, according to an announcement by the new owners this week. It will be known as "Johnnie's Cafe," and regular hours will be from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The new management has been busy cleaning and redecorating the interior of the cafe, which has been closed since October 14. "We will specialize in clean, wholesome food in pleasant atmosphere," they state.

On opening day, free coffee and doughnuts will be served the adults who stop in to join them in their opening, and will also have free ice cream cones for the children.

## Kemper Snow, 65, Dies of Attack; Services Today

Memorial services were held today (Thursday) for Kemper Claude Snow, 65, a resident of Morrow county for 32 years. Death on Monday, November 29, was attributed to a heart attack, suffered only a few days after he had returned to the Justus Ranch near Heppner. He had been semi-retired the past two years.

Services were held at 10:00 a.m. at the First Methodist church, Heppner, with Al Boschee, minister of the Christian church, officiating. Interment followed in the Heppner Masonic cemetery, with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston in charge of the arrangements.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Monte Snow, he was born April 10, 1900, in Galax, Virginia. He came to Oregon when he was 18 years of age and started work on the Justus Ranch. Since 1950 he has lived in the Hermiston and Stanfield areas.

Survivors include his widow, Mary Elinor, Heppner; two sons, Claude of Spokane, Wn., and Bill of Ione. Also three brothers, Herman, Brady and Garnett, all of Galax, Va., four sisters, Callie Collins, Josie Kegley, Ruby Barker and Vera Morris, all of Galax, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

## Serious Illnesses Put Men in Hospital

Dewey Britt is showing improvement in Pioneer Memorial hospital where he was admitted Sunday, November 28, with a serious illness. He will remain in the hospital for medical care for an indefinite period.

Also responding from a serious condition is Newt O'Harra of Lexington. He was admitted Thanksgiving Day after suffering what appeared to be a light stroke. He will also be confined for some time.


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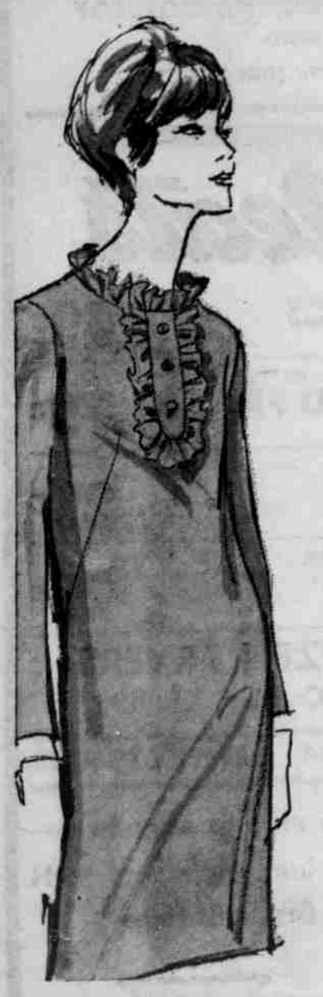

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