

Hardman — Keep that Ghost Look

Morrow County is gaining considerable fame from publicity that Hardman receives. More and more tourists are coming to see Hardman, a "Ghost town". Hardman was publicized this fall in Sunset Magazine along with other ghost towns but the picture of Hardman's IOOF was full page and in color. Very recently we received a letter from Eugene with an enclosure from a special section of the Eugene Register-Guard also featuring Hardman.

Alla Stevens
Alla Stevens who lived at Hardman says the hall was built before she can remember. In its day, the porch went clear across the front. The addition on the left of the building houses the kitchen.

Mistletoe Lodge No. 25 and the IOOF Lodge were very active with meeting rooms above the store on the first floor of the huge hall.

The grocery store Profflet & Brannon sold shoes to bolts, as well as groceries. When the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Profflet moved to Heppner and started a store very close to where MLLadies is.

Some of the older lodge members couldn't climb the stairs any more so the first floor was remodeled. Members were so proud of their new hardwood floor that Alla says they allowed no dances that first year until the newness wore off.

She thinks it was Tom Collier who laid the floor which starts from a square in the center of the room and the next boards were laid with perfectly beveled corners around the four sides of the square.

Dances Were Something

She recalls the Hardman dances when they danced until daylight and it was time to go home and do the chores. The musical Leathers family played for the dances. Juanita Leathers (now Carmichael) played the piano, Vernie the horn and Ivan the violin. Kids slept on benches around the stove, Scott Brown and his brother-in-law Bernie Trivett played there for a lot of dances. Jim Stevens played his harmonica and piano for the dances. He was killed in World War II.

Church and funerals were held in the hall.

Still Used
The old IOOF hall needs a new roof but it is still being used. Electricity is kept in the building. Every year the Leathers family has a summer all-day picnic for family and friends.

Etta Parker
Etta Parker is another one who recalls with great pleasure her early experiences at Hardman. Her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Levi Shaner came to Morrow County in 1876 when they settled on Willow Creek and later at Hardman.

Hardman was a thriving stage stop between Arlington and the John Day country. A hotel housed the passengers and a big livery stable the horses. John Howell, Tommy and Pirl Howell's father ran the livery stable near the hall. There was a flour mill at Hardman. Her grandfather worked in the woods.

Her grandfather and her mother, before she was married, instituted the Rebekah Lodge at home. Before 1900 the trip to home meant an overnight stop at Eightmile. Her father, S. P. Devin, was instrumental in starting the IOOF Lodge in Heppner. It was through the lodge work that her father and mother met.

She, too, recalls the dances, the community Christmas tree, and other community gatherings at the hall which served as a Community Center.

Hardman is a complete surprise to people first driving over Highway 207. Here on top

of the world they see a big handful of beautifully bleached gray houses. If one is hoping for a hot cup of coffee, hopes are blasted with a sign on the store building "Closed". Post offices dotted the country liberally in those days and Hardman is said to have received its post office in 1881 with Dave Hardman as its first postmaster. The school is gone but the bell still hangs from a frame in the center of town. It served as a fire warning signal until the State Forestry guard station on the outskirts of town took over fire protection duties. The modern mobile home serving as Forestry Headquarters looks quite out of place with the old buildings.

If Morrow County wanted to make a mint of money, they'd rejuvenate Hardman to look like it was in the olden days. Give stage coach rides around the area, serve homestyle cooked meals on red and white checked table cloths, re-enact a gun battle down Main St., sell "knick-knacks-made-in-Japan" in western back-grounds, but would ruin Hardman for what it is today, a lovely ghost town.

Area Students Get BMCC Honors

Blue Mountain Community College, Pendleton, has just published the fall term honors. The Honor Roll is for those with a grade point average of 3.50 or above; the Dean's List is for those with 3.00 to 3.50.

Honor Roll
On the Honor Roll are two from Boardman, Jerry Downey and Ben J. Riekkola.

Dean's List
On the Dean's List are three from Irrigon: Terri D. White, Thomas D. Stewart and Alice E. Chappell; Lillian S. Melby of Heppner, Jeri D. Snow of Ione and Roy R. Peterson of Monument.

Too Late To Classify

CARD OF THANKS
I would like to express my sincere thanks to all my friends for the cards, letters and flowers received while I was in the hospital.

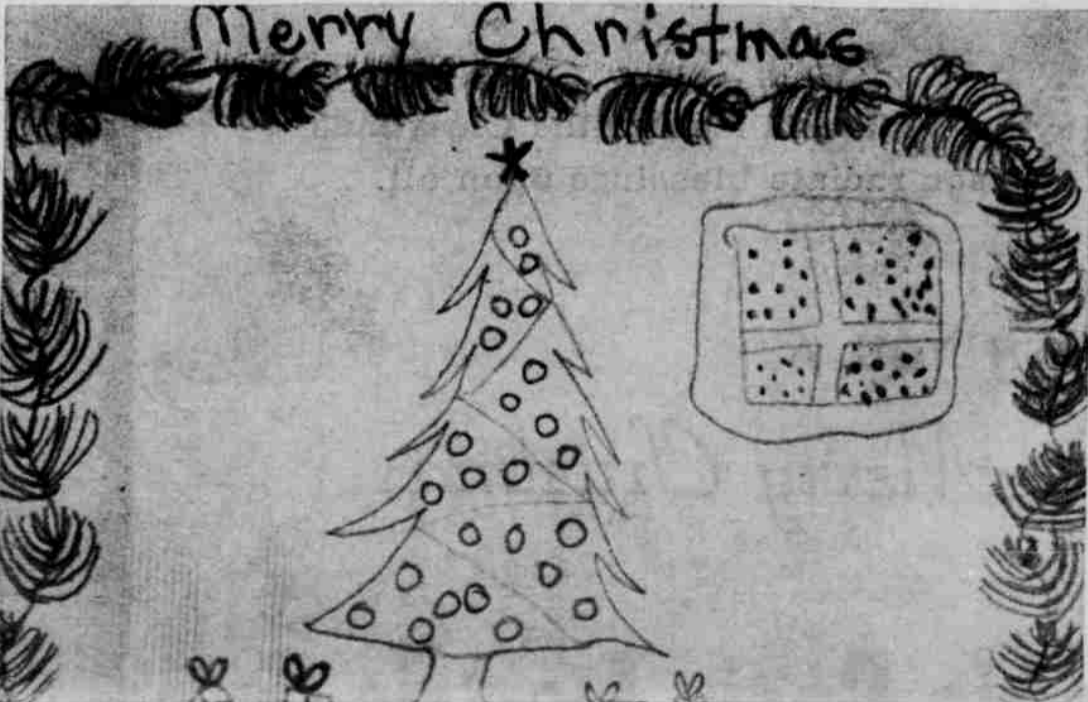
Mrs. Phoebe Hayes
(Mrs. Walter Hayes)
51p



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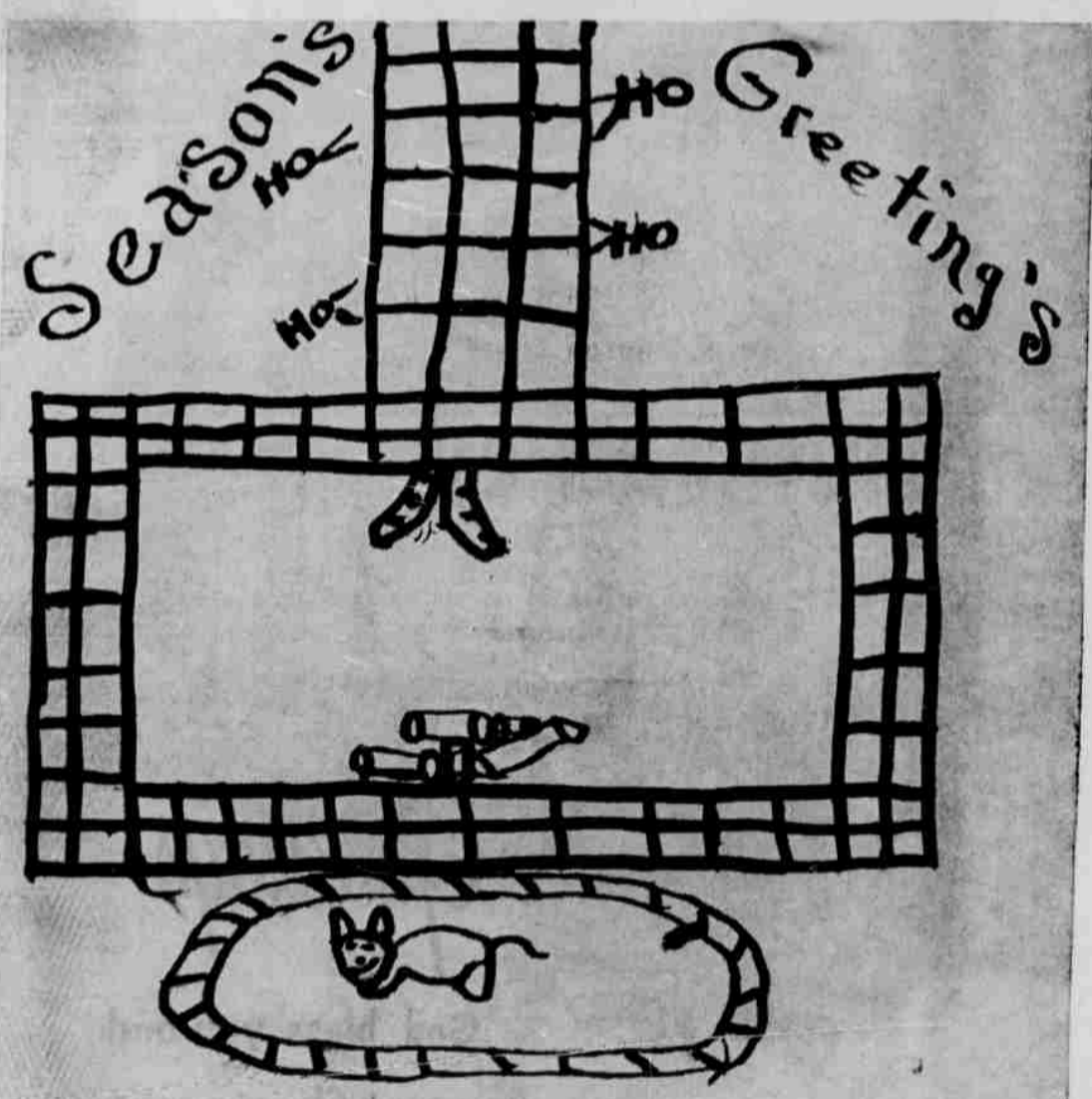


IT MAY HAVE been a gray day on the outside but Christmasy sounds and activity made things gay in the Nursing Home Monday evening after school. A cluster of youths from All Saints' Episcopal Church sang Christmas carols and then decorated a tree in the dining room. A number of the women came to listen and to watch the young carolers. Accompanying them were Mrs. Jerry Bunch, Mrs. Allen Hughes, Mrs. John Gochbauer who is the choir director and Father Dan Thompson.



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