

AROUND ABOUT

with Justine Weatherford

This year Heppner's Main Street has had two Christmas trees. The first one looked pretty starved. It caused Randall Peterson to remark that "Those persons who have complained in the past about the annual city trees near the corner of Main and Willow being traffic hazards might, perhaps, be happy with that tall, skinny specimen which couldn't be accused of blocking anyone's view."

Then a lovely, just-right tree replaced the poor, starved specimen, and if you happened to observe it early last week you saw it most perfectly decorated by Winter's master decorator. It was so beautiful as it stood whitened with new snow.

St. Patrick's Parish Hall has been kept plenty busy lately. Maybe the good Catholic folks are conserving heat energy by heating the hall with the presence of lots of warm bodies. The Artifactory workers and patrons kept it warm on a recent Friday and Saturday. Last Saturday's Cowbelles programs and then the well-attended Farm and City Banquet heated it; then Sunday the Parish Family Christmas Party and program kept it warm.

It is hoped that some folks from Morrow County got to Pendleton to see the classic Nutcracker Ballet which was performed by the Mid-Columbia Regional Ballet Company of Richland.

The very important role of the Snow King was danced by Jeff Fastabend, the great-grandson of Heppner's Ola Ruggles. He is the son of Connie Ruggles Fastabend, daughter of the Charles Ruggles. Jeff has appeared with the ballet company for some time in various localities in Washington and Oregon. He is a good athlete and chose strenuous ballet dancing over playing high school football.

It happened to be lucky to have lunch with Oscar Peterson and his sister Emma last week, just before they traveled to Pendleton where Miss Peterson was due to board a plane for Philadelphia. She is going back into a special retirement home near there where she lived before she came here for the last five years to stay with members of her pioneer Swedish family.

She will be especially missed by the Lutheran congregations and by the senior citizens group. Those who wish to write to her should use this address: 801 Marion Square Road, Gladwyne, Pa. 19035.

It is pleasing to learn that Robanai Riddle, the Bob Riddle's daughter, has been awarded a nursing scholarship at BMCC. She gained hospital experience here.

I am having a stretch of staying in town now. Last weekend I spent many hours sifting through and re-reading the many lovely Christmas greetings and then the expressions of sympathy that came last year at the time of my husband Bill's death...exactly one year ago today.

The beautiful thoughts that so many folks sent, the lovely flowers, the generous memorial gifts were almost overwhelming and so very thoughtful and so helpful to me, then and now, as I feel his loss so keenly. I tried to burn some of these mementoes, but found it so hard to dispose of them as they point out the great kindness of members of this community.

As usual, when this old, book-loving, English teacher feels blue, she reaches for her books of poetry which can lift her above troubles. If the paper will permit my using the space, I want to share two short bits of writing I enjoyed finding and reading again, which basically express similar thinking.

First, Edwin Markham's "A Creed"

There is a destiny that makes us brothers
None goes his way alone:
All that we send into the lives of others
Comes back into our own.

I care not what his temples or his creeds,
One thing holds firm and fast—
That into his fateful heap of days and deeds
The soul of man is cast.

Each year the Bookworms Club has a program of poetry readings by members at its December Christmas party. I have a very difficult time choosing one selection or several short poems to read. Most of the readings are Christmas related. The one I selected for this week's gathering at Lorena Jones' home is a four-verse, romantic, pre-Victorian poem "The Mistletoe Bough" by Thomas Baynes Bayley.

I know that all the other Bookworms always share some delightful poetry. What a wonderful evening we have!

Now I am gradually getting some cards and letters mailed to faraway friends. Surely want to get at household decorations soon—and so much else.

Isn't it lovely to see the colored outside and in-house lights showing up all over. This cold season of warmth and love has, unfortunately, such short days which pass so swiftly.

All Saints' Episcopal lists events for Christmas season

All Saints' Episcopal Church is collecting non-perishable food items for Christmas season distribution to the area's needy.

The church will hold a parish Christmas party following morning worship services on Dec. 31. This Saturday, Dec. 16, members of the parish will travel into the mountains to cut Christmas trees and greens for seasonal decorations. The group plans

to leave from the church at 10 a.m. and return early in the afternoon.

Several parish members will be taking part in the Christmas Cantata musical program, to be held Dec. 20 in Heppner Christian Church. The ecumenical Christmas program will feature the talents of choir members from several Heppner churches.

Special Christmas Eve services at All Saints will include

Rite II of the Choral Eucharist at 8 p.m., and Rite I of the Choral Eucharist at 11 p.m.

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Legion post sets

Dec. 17 for Yule party

Heppner American Legion and Auxiliary Post No. 87 will hold their annual Christmas party at the Legion Hall Sunday, Dec. 17, at 4 p.m.

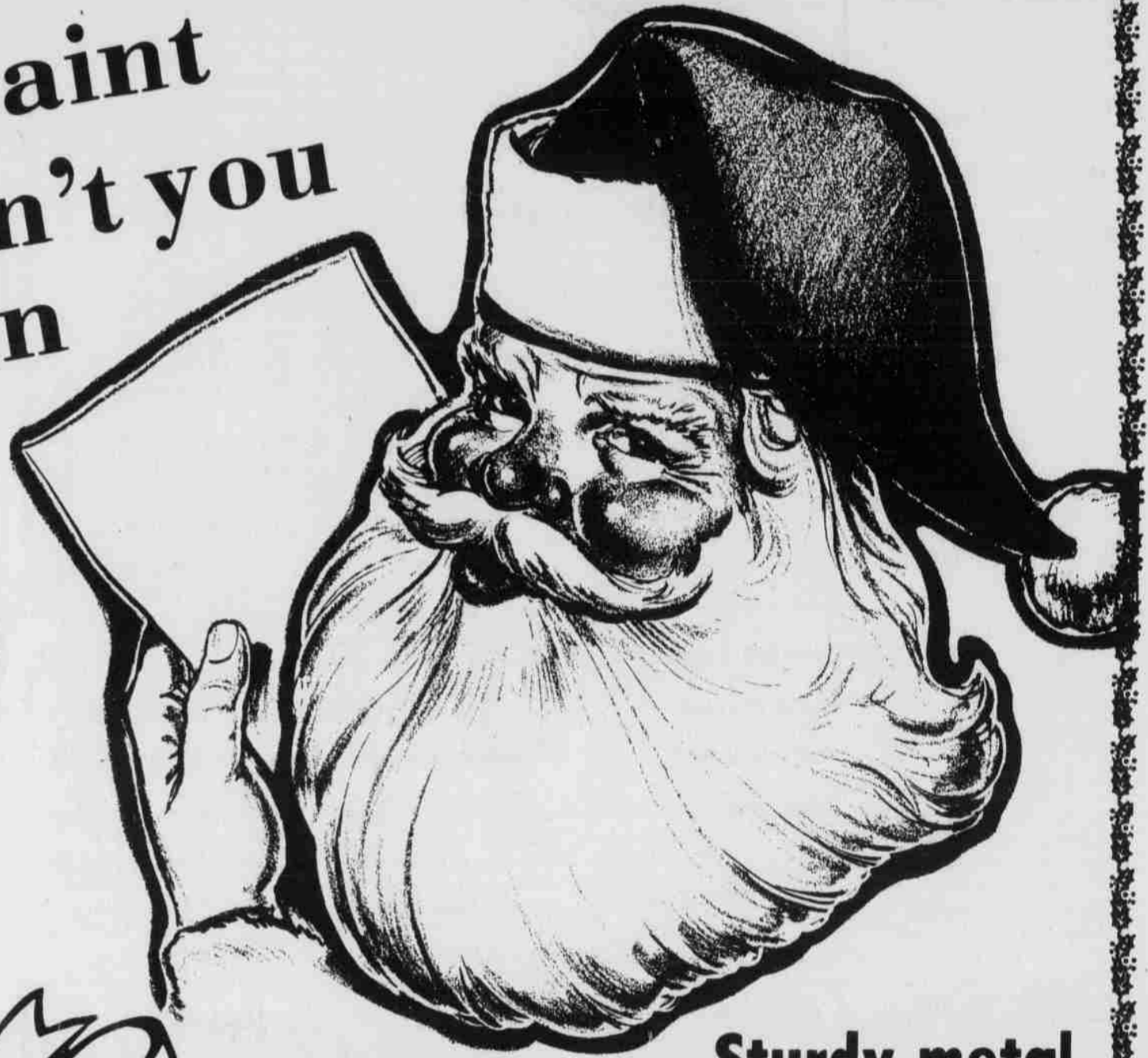
All members are invited to attend and asked to bring finger foods.

Archie & Diana Ball's Housewarming
Friends & Family invited to "A Drop In"

Dec. 15-Friday 7-10 p.m.
There Will Be A Money Tree
Refreshments Served

Jolly Ol' Saint Nick...won't you lend us an ear

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Dec. 31 Dewayne

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Main Street, Heppner