

AROUND ABOUT

with Justine Weatherford

Oh little town of Heppner how bright we see thee lie. You never look lovelier than on a crisp winter night before Christmas when lights of all colors sparkle from every angle.

An evening's drive about showed me those familiar displays I've enjoyed for years like the large moving figures in front of the Glen Ward home on upper Chase Street and the lovely inanimate tableau on Amanda Duvall's Court Street hillside. Also most impressive are the three wise trees that show for miles from the yard of the Larry Mill's residence.

Lights are everywhere, on the east side of town the Allen Nistad home really sparkles up high on the hill, and lower there are many bright spots like the very gay tree that is decked from the ground up on north Court Street. Over on the west hill I saw homes with lights bordering their roofs—like the Cal Sherman home and several of the newer homes nearby. Other homes about town and out in the surrounding area are dressed with lights to match the great decorations that have been installed along Main Street.

Some folks say that this scene looks its best with snow reflecting the lights. I agree that snow enhances the Christmas picture, but now that I am expecting travelers from afar and may even try to travel myself—I am thinking that bare streets look pretty enough. Maybe I am just showing my age?

It has been pleasing to have several groups of carolers performing their harmonies along our street—and we expect there may be a few more before next Monday.

By now most of the Christmas cards have been written and mailed, and how nice it is to receive greetings from friends in every mail. Most of the Christmas trees are decorated and so many shine through windows of homes. Many packages are being wrapped and the distribution of holiday treats has begun.

I have no idea how the Ministerial Association's collaboration with the Neighborhood Center's annual food drive fared at your church—but I was so pleased to see several sizeable boxes of canned and package goods at my church last Sunday morning. It was also so pleasing to have the larger than usual attendance and the livelier than usual singing of the lovely Christmas hymns.

Today, Dec. 21 is the day of the winter solstice which means that winter has officially begun. The sun is at its lowest point in our skies and we will have less daylight than on any other day of the year. Tomorrow we will have a bit longer day. Several weeks ago I visited with Gene Cole who was saying how he looks forward to Dec. 22 when the days start getting longer, and we know that spring is on its way.

Isn't it exciting to have such a fine musical production as last night's Christmas cantata presented here? Tuesday and Wednesday's public school program also added to holiday joys.

By this time quite a few Heppner folks are temporarily headquartered in warmer climates. Perhaps some of you have heard from ex-mayor Conley and ex-school counselor Vi Lanham who are basking in the sunshine of Hemet, California. The Leslie Babbs are again at home at Apache Junction, and Jasper and Lila Myers are also in Arizona. I hear that the O.W. Cutsforths are off to visit son Gene Heliker at Phoenix and then take a leisurely look about south of the Mexican border. Other fortunate friends will wend their ways southward soon as many consider January and early February ideal months to leave Heppner behind.

I don't know how you feel about President Carter's before-Christmas announcement that this country is "normalizing" its relationships with mainland China. I think it is great that we are going to act normally with between one-fifth and one-fourth of the world's population, the more than 800 million Chinese that we so long tried to pretend just didn't exist.

I visited on Taiwan quite a while back and enjoyed my few days there. I was puzzled then to think how that small island could be called China and how the little clique of military persons there could pretend to govern the many millions of Chinese with whom they were not even communicating.

The many current TV specials are delightful family entertainment for millions at this time of the year. I know I have missed some super shows—this is an occupational handicap because I try to be closing the laundrymat each night around nine o'clock. I did manage to view most of the excellent ABC film "The Nativity" last Sunday evening.

Since I have been on a sort of poetry kick since before last week's Bookworm poetry party, I am going to close this column with one of the many beloved Christmas poems. These words were written in the middle of the last century by Jesiah G. Holland. Many of you may have sung them to music composed by Karl P. Harrington.

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a king!

There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,
For the Virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.
Ay the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a king!

In the light of that star lie the ages imppearled;
And that song from afar has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing
In the homes of the nations that Jesus is King!

We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song
That comes down through the night from the heavenly throng.
Ay we shout to the lovely evangel they bring,
And we greet in His cradle our Savior and King!

Lutheran Christmas services set for Hope, Valby churches

Christmas Eve services have been scheduled for Valby and Hope Lutheran churches. The children of the congregation will lead services during a 9 a.m. gathering at Valby Lutheran Church on Dec. 24. A candlelight service with carols and communion will follow at Valby starting at 6 p.m.

Hope Lutheran's Christmas Eve morning service will start at 11 a.m., with the children of parishioners leading ceremonies. The evening service, complete with candles and carols, will start at 11 p.m. The parish caroling program begins Friday, Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m. from the parsonage.



The Heppner High School Mixed Chorus—led by vocal instructor Kitty Mooberry—was one of several school groups that entertained a full house during the Heppner Schools' Christmas Program Tuesday night in the HHS gym. Grades 5-12 performed instrumental and vocal selections. Accompanying the Mixed Chorus is Jim Ackley, band instructor.

Pioneer Memorial Auxiliary elects new slate of officers

The charter members of the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Auxiliary recently elected their first slate of officers for the coming year. Sandy Murray was named president; Martha King is serving as vice president; Carly Drake is secretary and

John Canaday is treasurer. Justine Weatherford was asked to take care of publicity and public relations. This new county-wide organization expects to meet about three or four times each year. The annual dues have been set at \$2. It is planned

that there will be a membership drive soon after the first of the year so any persons interested in assisting the hospital should be ready to affiliate. One of the group's first supportive projects has been to do the Christmas decorating at the hospital this month.

Sue Duncan re-elected Art Society president

The Morrow County Art Society held its annual Christmas party and business meeting Dec. 13 at the West of Willow, with 15 members present. Sue Duncan was re-elected president, with Shirley McNary named vice president

and Pauline Matheny elected secretary-treasurer. Future workshops were discussed and Terry Cutsforth was welcomed as a new member. Club members agreed to hold no meetings in January.

Georgena McDaniels to wed Richard Scott

Mr. and Mrs. Carl McDaniels of Heppner announce the engagement of their daughter, Georgena, of Salem, to Richard L. Scott, also of Salem. Scott is the son of Mrs. Marie Brown of Portland. The couple plans a Spring wedding.

Senior Citizen News

By Justine Weatherford

Several seniors are helping at the Neighborhood Center these last few days before Christmas with the preparation of boxes that will be distributed to those families in the county whose need has been made known.

Next week there will not be a senior meal at Irrigon, however, the lone and Heppner mealsites will serve meals on their regular schedule.

On Tuesday, Dec. 26, in Heppner, the menu will be meat balls and spaghetti, tossed green salad, carrot, apple and raisin salad, French bread, plain or garlic, and pineapple upside down cake with topping.

On Wednesday, December 27, at lone and Heppner diners will be offered stew with vegetables, pear and cheese salad, biscuits and jelly and chocolate pudding with topping.

These folks more than 55 years old who may have some chance to do holiday traveling around the area might like to visit senior centers and join the local seniors for meals. The following list includes only part of the centers nearby with the time of their meals and the name and address of the local coordinator of each mealsite.

At Arlington, meals are served on Tuesday noon at the Masonic Hall, Luke Wetherall.

1025 N. 1st St. is the coordinator. In Condon, seniors gather for lunch on Thursday noons in the Memorial Hall under the guidance of Wilma Bentley, P.O. Box 24, Mayville.

At Fossil, lunch is each Wednesday noon at the Wheeler County Fairgrounds, Dolores Wimer, P.O. Box 115, Fossil, is the coordinator. The seniors in and around Spray come to the Grange Hall for lunch on Thursday noons with Clara Strecker as their leader. The seniors of Mitchell have lunch together on Thursday

noon at the Community Building. Clarence Boehke, P.O. Box 115 serves as coordinator. In John Day, the usual meal is Monday noon. This takes place in the large Senior Center Building near the Elks Club. Elsa Boyer and Martha Mascall supervise activities at that center.

At each center diners are asked to contribute toward the cost of the meal. Visitors are welcome and encouraged to visit the various mealsites. More sites will be listed in this column next week.



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Son is born to Weebers

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Weeber, Eugene, announce the birth of their son, Adam Paul, 7 lbs., 14 oz., born Dec. 5.

Grandparents are Bill Snow, lone; Virginia Croff, Incline

village, Ore., and Mr. and Mrs. O.R. Weeber, Okemos, Mich.

Great grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Smith, lone, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Weeber, Bradenton, Fla.

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<p>Yams..... 29¢ lb.</p>	<p>Sweet Potatoes 39¢ lb.</p>
<p>Miniature Marshmallows <small>10 1/2-oz Pkg</small> 45¢</p>	<p>Potatoes 79¢</p>
<p><small>10-lb. Bag</small></p>	<p>Dry Onions 15¢ lb.</p>

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