

Around About

By Justine Weatherford

How the tempo quickens as the Christmas world hurries toward Dec. 25. A good number of lodge parties, club parties, Cow-Belle and Cattlemen meetings and the Farm and City banquet kept people here extra busy last week. This week there are school programs, church programs and more group and private parties.

One small group, the Bookworms, who held their Christmas meeting last Thursday at the Jim Thomson home, had a most delightful surprise. Leta Humphrey Thomas, who was an active member of the club for many years, sent each one in the group a silver spoon from her wonderful collection. Her long-time friend, Sadie Parrish, handed out the lovely spoons which Leta had collected from many different places.

Each woman there was surprised and delighted with fond memories of Leta and her very active life here in Heppner. Several remarked "Now this is just a typical, very nice, generous and thoughtful gesture like Leta has often made."

Last weekend a steady parade of shapely young trees came out of Morrow's beautiful, snow-covered forests on the tops of cars and on the backs of pickups. By Sunday night many of them were decorated and lighted and twinkling through home windows.

Last year Amanda Duvall really thought that the large nativity scene, that has so significantly decorated her hillside yard since it was painted for her by Lois Winchester, would not ever be put in place again. She said it was such a big job to erect it, and she just didn't think that she could expect John Ledbetter and his helpers to struggle with it one more year.

Now Amanda has been pleasantly surprised because John came to her volunteering to see that the large figures and the lighting is arranged again this week. Our community just wasn't going to seem the same without that lovely Christmas display.

Last week some citizens were so grateful to see how quickly the town fire department responded to a call for help on Jones Street. One neighbor there told me that it only took a few minutes for help to arrive. Those of us who live on Gilmore Street, the main approach to the hospital, think that the crews that are so quick to spread gravel when snow or ice might cause traffic problems, need to be praised, too.

It is so good to have Kay Anderson writing an account of some of the recent travel adventures she and husband Frank have had. Their "Himalayan Nature Tour" really makes an interesting story, and I am sure that other readers, too, are looking forward to the next three parts she promises.

Kay's first installment ended with a statement that Frank and the other tiger hunters "returned covered with leeches. I was glad I hadn't gone." Perhaps the natives of Tiger Haven don't realize that they have something there that they might market along with their tiger dude ranch.

I just read a fascinating little account about the return of the leech to modern medical practice. The Dec. 14 "Time Magazine" (p. 100) tells that New York doctors are now happy to import leeches from France at \$3 per leech to use to relieve blood congestion and give damaged blood vessels time to grow.

The article states "Leeches have long been associated with archaic medical practices, like bloodletting to cure everything from gout to mental illness. Lately, however, the unlovable little creatures have been having a minor revival. At New York's Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center doctors are using them effectively to help save reattached fingers."

What an odd coincidence—after not reading anything about leeches for many years, I suddenly find them referred to in this newspaper and in "Time Magazine" almost simultaneously. This made me want to dig up a few facts about these little bloodsucking worms. What strange creatures they are—yet they may really be helpful to mankind.

"A leech's body is made up of a series of ringlike segments and has a disk-like sucker at each end. Leeches may be from 3/4 inch to eight inches long and can stretch or shorten their bodies. They are black, red, or brown and may have stripes or spots. They have clusters of light-sensitive cells called "eyes" near their front end. A leech contains both male and female reproductive organs. Leeches live in damp places such as jungles, or in the shallow water of streams."

Well, that may be more than you ever wanted to know about leeches—but since the medical world now finds them critical to the success of replant surgery, some more of us may meet them personally and might come to appreciate them.

If the Indian jungle dwellers would just read "Time Magazine" they might learn about a new, profitable sale item.

Ione Garden Club holds Xmas meeting

Ione Garden Club met for a Christmas meeting December 9 at the home of Pat Pettyjohn with Ruth McCabe as co-hostess. Annetta Padberg was a guest. Officers of Blue Mountain No. 10 attending were District Director Connie Teleson, Assistant Director Elaine Belts and Secretary-Treasurer Virginia Grogan. Highlights of recent trips were related by Delta Huber, Loree Hubbard and Helen Marlin. Foreign Christmas traditions were answered by each member for roll call as she received her gift. Each

member brought a plate of cookies for exchange.

Teleson told the group about the District Flower Arranging Class that is held monthly with the next meeting to be held Jan. 25 at the home of Elaine Belts in Pendleton. If interested in attending, contact a Garden Club member.

Jean Nelson announced that the 12th Night Burning of the Greens will be held on January 6 at Rietmann's Lot. Everyone is asked to bring their tree or have it ready for pick-up prior to that time.



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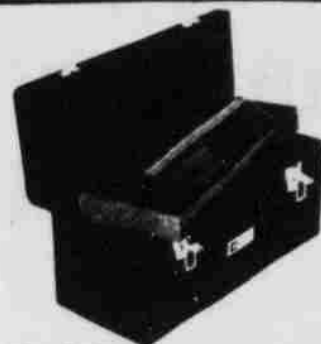


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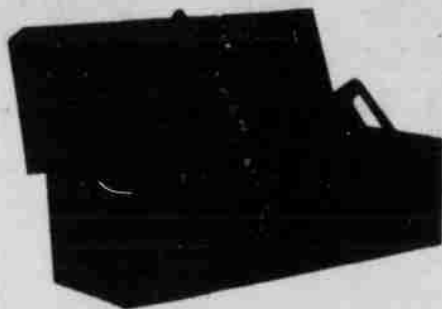


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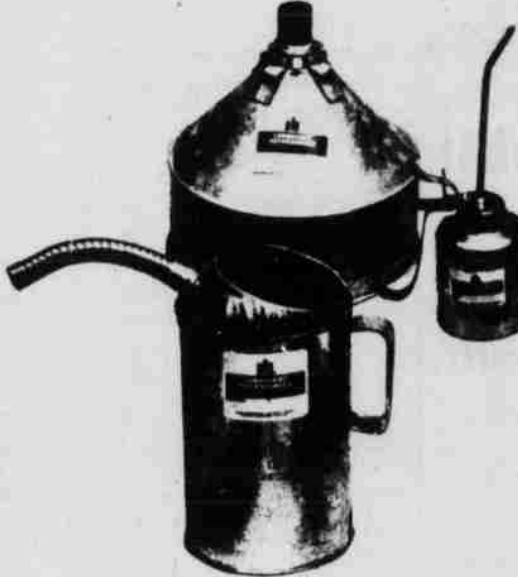
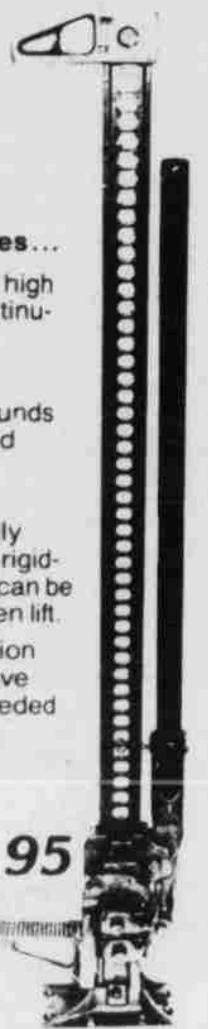
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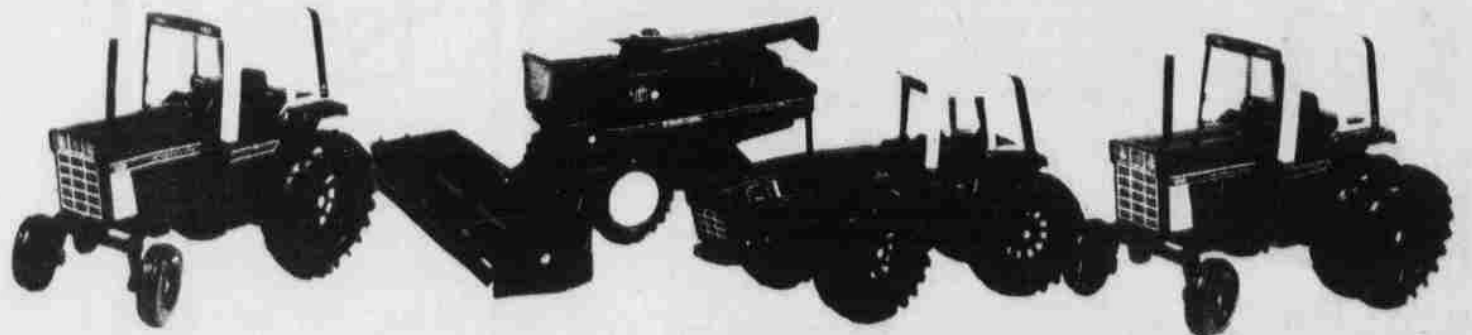
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