

Close to home Mary Ann Cerullo

December 25 is passed and gone. Christmas is over...? There are some who are hauling in the outdoor decorations and throwing out the tree. Those after Christmas sales are smearing the newspapers and according to modern tradition, the feast day is over and the hangover now begins.

But did anyone stop to think back on what Christmas truly is?

Christmas or "Christ's Mass" is the feast day celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. The date of December 25 (among other reasons) was almost certainly chosen for its nearness to the Epiphany, which is January 6.

Christmas, believe it or not, was not observed until around 200 A.D. and didn't become truly popular until the Middle Ages.

It was the Epiphany which was the important day for early Christians. Epiphany, also called Twelfth Day, Little Christmas, or the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, commemorates three events, according to the Bible; the visit of the Wise Men (Matthew 2), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1), and the miracle at Cana (John 2).

It was Epiphany which was more ancient than Christmas and technically more important. It is the twelfth day of the Christmastide, the climax of the season.

So, I for one, am still enjoying my holiday decorations which are still hanging both in and out of the house. And from now until the day after January 6 I would still like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Irrigon news
Francis Rose Wilson • 922-3352

The senior citizens of the Irrigon meal site, as a convenience to those in wheel chairs, added a cement ramp to the building of the old Assembly of God Church where dinners are held.

Usually 45 to 50 people attend the dinners, held each Monday at 4:30 p.m. but for the Christmas dinner held Dec. 21, 70 seniors attended.

Earl Cramer played the violin and several Christmas carols were sung by all with Zepha Warner playing the piano.

The St. Patrick's Altar Society of the Irrigon Catholic

Church served the meal and provided dessert. The five community churches rotate in serving and clean-up duties.

The Irrigon Home Extension Club held a rummage sale on Dec. 11 and 12 at the old Assembly of God Church.

They cleared over \$600 and designated the funds to the senior citizens' building fund.

IRS gives advice on preparing tax returns

With the new year fast approaching, Oregonians are advised to begin collecting the information they will need to prepare their Federal income tax returns. According to T. Blair Evans, Internal Revenue District Director for Oregon, it's never too early to begin gathering receipts and other records.

Accurate records, Evans explained, are necessary for the preparation of a correct return and remind taxpayers of possible overlooked deductions. In the event of an examination, the records are necessary to substantiate itemized deductions and other amounts claimed on the return. For easy reference, Evans advised that records be sorted into the categories which appear on the tax return.

Itemized deductions are not limited to amounts paid by check, Evans explained. Interest payments on loans and mortgages, payroll deductions, and credit card charges may also be deductible. Medical insurance premiums, charitable contributions, business expenses, withheld taxes, union dues and finance charges are easily overlooked.

Taxpayers should be aware, Evans continued, that supporting evidence is important for any item claimed on a tax return. Records should also be kept, he added, for any item that might appear on a future return, as in the case of

a sale of property. Both cancelled checks and bills should be kept when possible.

Taxpayers should not attach receipts or cancelled checks to their tax returns, Evans pointed out, but should retain them for a minimum of three years after the tax return is due.



The biggest known snowflakes in the world fell in Montana in 1887; they measured 15 inches in diameter and were eight inches thick.



Few people realize that the asparagus is a member of the lily family. If allowed to grow, the asparagus tips would throw out tall stalks and crown them with six-petaled flowers, the trademark of the lily.



Which is the most frequently landed upon space in Monopoly? The title goes to Illinois Avenue.

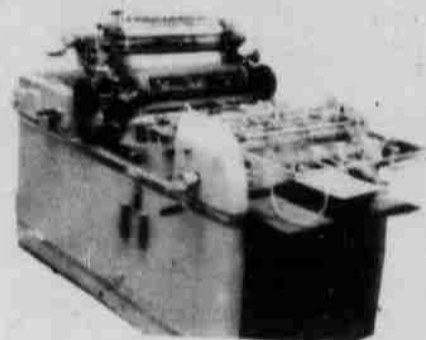
Due to recent illnesses and time in the hospital we find it impossible to send out our usual holiday greetings.

We therefore use this method to extend to all our friends in Morrow County and the Northwest, a very sincere wish for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Garnet and Peggy Barratt

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The first films with synchronized sound accompaniment, to be successfully shown to a paying audience, were presented at three temporary cinemas, during the Paris Exposition, between April 15 and October 31, 1900.



Greetings

May this year bring you sincere harmony, peace and happiness!

Bob & Babe Harris

Far Western
Real Estate



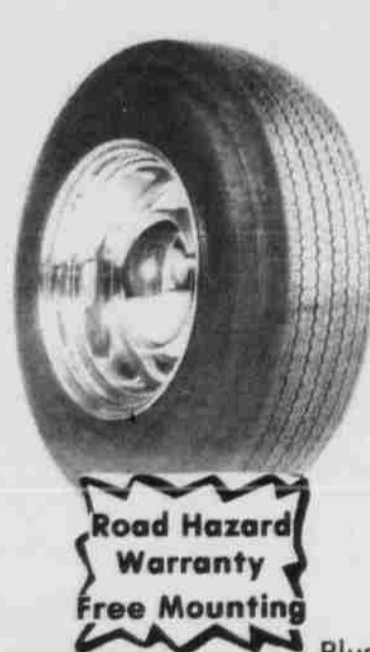
Happy New Year!

THINK BEFORE YOU DRINK
If You're Driving This New Year's Eve!

Ron McDonald 676-9921
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E78x14	25.15	.37
F78x14	26.60	.39
G78x14	27.90	.40
B78x15	21.60	.35
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G78x15	28.30	.43
H78x15	30.45	.48
L78x15	33.05	.50

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B78x13	25.30	.40
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C78x14	27.20	.40
E78x14	29.10	.49
F78x14	31.00	.52
G78x14	33.80	.55
H78x14	34.25	.58
F78x15	30.95	.55
G78x15	34.10	.57
H78x15	34.65	.62
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205x14	43.80	.45
215x14	46.05	.46
165x15	33.20	.34
205x15	44.70	.46
215x15	47.35	.49
225x15	48.70	.50
235x15	50.75	.51

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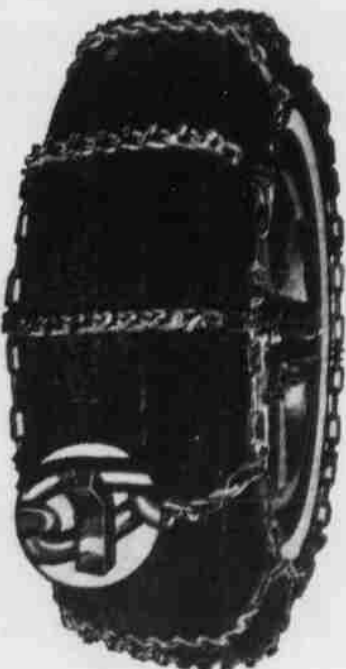
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