

Singing Xmas tree?

Through an effort by Heppner merchants, Christmas music downtown is making people a little merrier this holiday season.

A stereo system has been set up in Case Furniture, and two speakers placed in the town's Christmas tree in front of the store.

The holiday music is one way Heppner's merchants are wishing everyone "Merry Christmas."

MERRY CHRISTMAS
 Hope your holidays beat the band!
 Thanks all.



GONTY'S

Joy and PEACE

May all our friends and neighbors savor the quiet contentment of Christmas spent with those they love.

S&J Market
 Scott & Jeannie

The poem, "A Little Crippled Christmas Tree, was written in one evening in December 1979 after returning home from our annual "perfect tree search."

The idea came from an actual tree on the lot which we passed by several times during our search.

The poem is, therefore, some truth and a lot of imagination.

G. H. Pierson

A LITTLE CRIPPLED CHRISTMAS TREE

We were late getting started
 Things more important to do
 And it kept getting pushed to the back.
 When we finally decided
 A tree must be picked
 We discovered a sorrowful lack.

We stopped in mid trim
 To see who had spoken
 But we were all alone
 The voice that we heard
 Seemed distant and sad
 And had a woody tone.

We walked onto the lot
 Hopes high for a prize.
 And a perfect tree to see
 We looked long and hard
 Searched through row after row
 For the beauty that just had to be.

Now what could that be
 The sound was so strange
 Like none we'd ever heard
 We looked at each other
 Were we both hearing things?
 That seemed so absurd.

The story was told
 That the tree season was bad
 Perfection hard to find.
 We searched and we searched.
 All had something wrong.
 Was there no other kind?

So back to our trimming
 The most beautiful tree
 There had ever been
 Then all of a sudden
 Much louder, the voice,
 Yes, We heard it again.

Then back to the start
 And over again
 The search began anew
 With all these trees
 Waiting for trim
 What were we to do?

And then we knew
 What we had been hearing
 It was a sad and hopeful plea.
 It was the voice of loneliness
 Saying to us
 Why didn't you pick me?

Off all by itself
 With a look so sad
 Lay a small crippled Christmas tree
 Its branches were thin
 And it couldn't stand straight
 A pitiful sight to see.

We both ran for the car
 Please don't be too late
 And back to the tree lot we went
 We dashed for the spot
 Where the crippled tree lay
 So broken, battered and bent.

We turned away at the sight
 For it was not for us
 The poor thing had no style.
 Our search started again
 For we knew very soon
 We'd find one to make us smile.

With great tenderness
 And a feeling of joy
 We took it back to our spot.
 We really had found
 A wonderful tree
 That we could love a lot.

Very shortly we did
 Standing full, straight and tall
 We'd found the perfect one
 How lucky we felt
 To find such a tree
 Decorating would be much fun.

It now stands so proudly
 And lights up our home
 Showing us beauty and grace.
 We're so glad we listened
 To the strange voice we heard
 And helped our tree find its place.

Home we went all aglow
 Anxious to trim
 And give the season a start.
 The tree was set up
 In our favorite spot
 And we started the real fun part.

Things take strange turns
 As we saw this season—
 And the way things should be.
 For we looked long and hard
 And found happiness in
 A Little Crippled Christmas Tree.

Out came all the lights
 The balls and the bells
 As we began trimming our choice
 But we didn't get far
 Before things seemed strange
 And we heard a sad little voice.

G. H. Pierson
 1979

Chamber of Commerce elects 4 board members

The Heppner-Morrow Chamber of Commerce elected four board members at its Tuesday meeting.

Elected were: Harley Sager of First Interstate Bank, Heppner branch; Jim Hayes, Farmers Insurance, Heppner; David Sykes of Heppner Gazette-Times; and Christie Lovgren of Western Heritage Savings and Loan, Heppner.

The four new members will elect officers of the Chamber for 1983 at its next meeting, Tuesday, Dec. 28.

Local news bits

Many favorable comments are being heard about the music along Heppner's Main Street. Does it come from the beautiful Christmas tree? Who is responsible? (See related story).

The congregation of St. Patrick's Catholic Church mourns the death of their priest, the Rev. John O'Brien, who died December 16 in Ireland.

Two ladies have spent countless hours doing miles of sewing at the Heppner Neighborhood Center this year.

They are Adelle LaTrace and Eleanor Gonty. Together they have made 75 lap robes and day quilts for adults and over 100 pretty doll quilts. These were made from scraps of material donated to the center.

The Heppner City Police are to be praised for assisting with the distribution of the Christmas boxes of food and gifts donated by citizens and assembled by the volunteers at the Neighborhood Center.

Bowling News

Spartimers December 14

Team	Won	Lost
Coast to Coast	39	-21
Les Schwab	34	-26
M.C.G.G.	33	-27
Peterson's	32½	-27½
Gardner's	30	-30
Sears	24½	-35½
V & G Tavern	24	-36
Central Market	23	-37

Splits converted: Betty Christman 3-7; and Jackie Allstott 5-7.
 High game: Betty Christman - 200.
 High series: LoRayne Bowman - 562.

Thursday Night Ladies December 16

Team	Won	Lost
B.P.O.E.	38	-18
Cole's	38	-18
M & R	33½	-22½
B & C Repair	31	-25
Bucknum's	25½	-30½
Kinzua	20	-36
C.B.E.C.	19	-27
Ray Boyce Is.	19	-37

Splits converted: Betty Aldrich 5-9-10; and Donna Fetsch 3-6-7.
 High game: Martha Doherty - 214.
 High series: Martha Doherty - 534.

Koffee Kup Keglers December 18

Team	Won	Lost
The Pytts	36½	-23½
No-Pin Hitters	34½	-25½
M.C.G.G. No. 2	34	-26
Three Holers	32	-28
Hi Hos	29½	-30½
Gutter Dusters	29	-31
The Dregs	24½	-35½
NewComers	20	-40

High Game: Linda Schultz and Judy Rickert - 189.
 High series: Judy Rickert - 520.
 Splits: Glenna Rollis 2-5-7; Lucille Massey 4-5-7; Beverly Steagall 4-5-10; and Zoe Watts 1-2-4-10.

Dime A Dozen December 19

Team	Won	Lost
No. Seven	37	-19
No. Three	35	-21
No. Five	32	-24
No. Two	29	-27
No. One	26	-30
No. Six	24	-32
No. Four	21	-35
No. Eight	20	-36

Splits: Dorothy Wilson 5-10; and Gene Doherty 5-7.
 High game: Judy Rickert - 199 and Dave Denton - 194.
 High series: Billie Doherty - 505 and Ray Massey - 502.
 High team game: No. Four - 810.
 High team series: No. Four - 2185.

Winter Concert draws big audience in Heppner Friday night



Fifth through 12th grade Heppner band and chorus students performed for a large audience Friday night during a Winter Concert at the high school.



Operation permits expire Dec. 31

The Oregon Department of Forestry is taking this opportunity to remind all operators that 1982 Notification of Operation permits will expire at midnight December 31, 1982.

Those who plan to conduct the following types of operations in 1983, Oregon Law Chapter ORS 527.670 requires that a permit for: harvesting of forest crops (including falling, bucking, decking, and hauling); road construction or

improvement within the operation area described, and treatment of slashing; road construction or reconstruction of existing roads; site preparation; application of chemicals (insecticides, herbicides, etc.); clearing forest land for change to non-forest use; treatment of slashing after completion of operation; and pre-commercial thinning.

In addition to the above requirements, Oregon Law Chapter ORS 477.625 requires

a permit for power driven machinery for those intending to use fire in any form, or power driven machinery in connection with any of the above operations and in connection with mining operations.

For more information, or for questions, please call the Oregon State Forestry Department office in John Day at 575-1139, or the Oregon State Forestry Department office in Fossil at 763-2575.

Kinzua Corporation

Joy Peace
 Peace Joy
 Joy Peace
 Peace Joy

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Hanging our holiday stocking for Santa, and wishing you the best Christmas ever!

PETTYJOHN OIL

Merry Christmas

We hope it's the very best ever for you.

Swanson Insurance
 Jim & Monica

This is the season which brings to mind our most cherished associations and friendships. Our best wishes to everyone.

Christmas Greetings

The Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES
 Dave, April, Patti, Eileen, MaryAnn, Sandy, Delpha, Justine, Glenn, Craig, Ashley, Wayne & Jon.