

## CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

By PAULINE FARREL

CHRISTMAS, just one word, and yet in that one word there is a world-wide meaning and significance. Everywhere, for all time, Christmas has been, to people of varying creeds, a day of varying emotions. It is a day of gladness or one of bitterness. It is a day on which happy memories become glorified or hard thoughts sting like acid in an open wound. It is a day that banishes half-way measures—a day that may easily lift one to the heights of happiness—and just as easily plunge one to the depths of misery.

For those who do not feel it at all, for those whose feelings are indifferent, something in life has gone wrong.

Christmas is what we make it. To many, it is the day of greatest happiness. Those who recognize the opportunities it offers of taking a little bit of joy to the lonely, sick and poor, know that Christmas is the best day in the year—and there is no question in their mind as to why they do the very same things Christmas after Christmas. They know definitely why they hang stockings for the kiddies, light Christmas trees, decorate their homes, and spend endless hours in surging, struggling, Christmas crowds to secure a tiny token for some friend. Certainly, they know the joy of Christmas Day is only for those who lose themselves in remembering others.

In the National Magazine, some time ago, there appeared an article by Anna Farguhar, in which she said:—

"Santa Claus totters under his pack, wearing a long, old face these days. Probably in his youth he had no idea of growing old or departing this life. Nowadays, he creeps down the chimney stealthily as if somewhat ashamed of his mission, like a polar burglar, and his eight tiny reindeer make small clatter on the lawn, for many of their joy-bells have been lost. When Santa lays a finger aside his nose reflectively in our times, he exclaims, without a bit of jolly shake below the waist, 'Degenerates! Degenerates! Has my world come to such a pass that people wish to pay me for my presents? Can it be that little children are so surfeited with toys that they stop to ask how much they cost before accepting them? There was little Willie, last year, who said to his mamma, when he first saw the beautiful woolly dog, 'What's it got inside? Candy or money? Don't want a dog unless it's got somethin' inside!'"

And undoubtedly, there are many ready to agree with Miss Farguhar that the true Christmas spirit is withering. But again we repeat, Christmas is what we—as individuals—make it.

Nothing in life is without alloy—even Christmas must have its flaws. There are some few people to whom Christmas is a day of giving and taking—of expectancy, disappointment and pain; a day, in fact, of great worry, distress, sorrow and ill-will. To those people, Christmas is merely a day on which to pay social debts. Those are the people whom you hear say that the modern Christmas is losing its spirit and meaning—and that it is now viciously commercialized by dollar-mad business men.

Gifts in themselves are of little value—they are symbols of something else—and behind the gift is the sentiment that is the real significance of Christmas. It is the spirit of love and good-fellowship—of peace and good-will.

Believe in Christmas yourself and make it what it should be, rather than leave it to others to make it what you would like it to be. Make a spirited and determined effort this Christmas to brighten this world and its homes, and bring to an actual reality the greatest message ever heard—that message of hope and possibility—PEACE on EARTH—GOODWILL toward men.

Peace and goodwill—not for a day, or for a year—but for all time. Give the spirit of Christmas a permanent place in your homes and in your hearts that it may grow so strong that nothing can destroy it.

A Merry, Merry Christmas to you. The best we could wish for any one of you is a true and warm understanding of Christmas.

## Springdale on Columbia Highway Is Busy, Growing Settlement

(By Mrs. Mary Northway)

About 250 people are in the small town of Springdale and vicinity. There are several nice dairy ranches around and smaller farms that raise such products as potatoes, cabbage and cauliflower, and also some poultry ranches.

Two general merchandise stores supply the needs of the people. Geo. H. Atkinson and A. J. Groce both carry a generous supply of groceries and dry goods. A third store, that of C. E. Vest, carries groceries and fresh meats.

The Springdale hotel and the restaurant are managed by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Rogers. They report a very gratifying business from tourists.

Springdale also has a camp ground here, with good spring water and a large stone stove.

Two large garages supply the needs in their line. Parsons & Northway's garage, includes also a well equipped general blacksmith shop. Salzman Bros. have an up-to-date garage, and machine shop.

A pool hall, barber shop, and lunch room are managed by Mr. Woods.

The Plymouth Brothers have a gospel hall here.

We have a 2-room schoolhouse with a full basement and all modern equipment, which will accommodate 75 pupils. The school board has just completed a mod-

ern basement with a stove, tables and benches for use in serving hot lunches for the pupils.

The Pacific Woodmen Life association, which now has 50 or more members, has purchased a piece of property from the Henry Christenson estate, on which they will build a large lodge hall as soon as the weather permits.

The Ladies of the Woodmen circle have organized and have several members. They have been holding their meetings in Mrs. Cecil Pounder's home until the hall is completed.

The county road workers widened the road by cutting away the bank in front of the Canzler residence.

### Ed. Osburn Still Finds Horses to Shoe

Garages have multiplied and blacksmith shops have become rather scarce during the past dozen or more years. A blacksmith shop was one of the first business places opened in Gresham even before it could be called a crossroads.

For many years Ed Osburn's shop in Gresham has been the favorite shoeing shop in eastern Multnomah county and from time to time Mr. Osburn has added other lines and up-to-date equipment. He is prepared to handle anything in repair work in metal and wood.

## Corbett Is Lively Locality With Schools and Stores

(By Mrs. Clara E. Smith)

Corbett, at the gateway to the Columbia gorge, is by water 40 miles from Portland and by rail about 20 miles. From this point on to The Dalles is some of the most picturesque scenery to be found in the United States.

Corbett was named in honor of the late Senator Corbett when the late W. H. Reed was instrumental in establishing a postoffice here, where he was the first postmaster. Mr. Reed came here in the early 80's and homesteaded what is now known as Reed's Island. Here Mr. and Mrs. Reed and family lived until forced to leave the island by the flood of 1894, when they purchased land from E. D. Chamberlain and erected a store building which was used for general merchandise and the postoffice.

The sons of Mr. and Mrs. Reed are engaged, extensively in the fishing business here. The Royal chinook are taken in large numbers from the world-famous Columbia river, and as this is the first place east of Portland where the road reaches the river, many people from the city drive out in summer to buy this the most palatable of all fish.

Reeds Island is becoming famous as a summer playground, the wide sandy beach makes a wonderful place for bathing.

Corbett on the highway, a mile from Corbett station on the Columbia, has become famous for its cauliflower and bulb raising.

Ward Evans' cannery is known far and near as the place where the yellow bantam sweet corn is

canned and shipped by the case up and down the coast and to eastern points.

As an educational center Corbett is on the map as having one of the finest grade and high schools in the state and as fine a corps of teachers as is found in the city schools. Four-fifths of the students finishing high go on to higher institutions of learning.

New buildings are being erected along the highway, and from the high school building to the vista house it is beginning to look very much like "Main Street."

Mr. Arneson has built a basement under his entire store building and added living rooms to the north of his store.

Harry Rickert has erected a store building.

Mrs. Elizabeth Morgan has enlarged and remodeled her dwelling, making it a very modern house.

The new home occupied by Mr. and Mrs. P. Van Hee, erected by the latter's father of Portland, is a modern new dwelling.

George Chamberlain has built several new cabins in his auto camp ground, which meets every requirement of the law and, nestled among the trees, it resembles a pretty picnic ground.

Frank Bell has a bungalow nearly completed and Mrs. Cowing has two buildings nearly finished, one adjoining Wayfarer Inn and the other a few feet from it. Mrs. Cowing expects to make a modern and up-to-date tourist camp ground at this place on the nationally known Columbia highway.

### Barber Has Also Apartment House

W. J. Todd came to Gresham eight years ago and engaged in the tonsorial business. He now has a three-chair, well-equipped shop with every convenience for his patrons. The place, which is located in the First State bank building, is also the agency for the National laundry.

Mr. and Mrs. Todd have charge of the rooms on the second floor of the same building in which the barber shop is located, and the comfortable and convenient apartments are usually spoken for well in advance.

### Five Cities Rank High.

Interesting comparisons are advanced in a statement just issued by the National Industrial Conference board, which cites tax rates in several of the principal cities of the country with direct reference to municipal ownership of utilities. The fact that the people of Oregon have only recently voted on a state wide measure involving the broad principle of government operation lends particular interest to the figures issued by this board. With a given index number of 100 per cent as the average of the United States with respect to living costs, it is stated officially that five cities are the most expensive in the country to live in at present, and their ratings follow:

San Francisco, 112; Cleveland, 113.4; Jacksonville, 115.6; Detroit, 118.1; Seattle, 123.8. All of these cities have been pointed to as examples of successful operation of utilities, and San Francisco, which has the highest rating of all of them, owns a street railway system along with the famous Hetchy-Hetchy water power development.

The reading public is familiar with the experiences of Seattle and Detroit with their municipality operated street railway systems, wherein promises of low rate fares before purchase of the systems not only have not been fulfilled, but fares actually have been increased and taxes have mounted. On the other hand in thirteen other large cities of the United States where the operation of electric, gas, street railway and telephone utilities is a function of regulated private companies, living expenditures run below the average for the United States, with percentages ranging from 98.8 to as low as 84.8, according to the Oregon Public Utility bureau.

### Sanitary Market Model Meat Shop

The Sanitary Market, on Main street, Geo. Dietl, proprietor, is all that its name implies and besides being a model of cleanliness is always stocked with the best in the various lines of fresh and cured meats. A refrigeration plant keeps the meats always sweet and fresh. The service is prompt and courteous. Mrs. Dietl regularly assists at the counter and there are one or two other helpers.

### Mrs. Paul Vedder Is Beauty Specialist

Mrs. Paul Vedder, a specialist in marcelling and curling, who conducted a shop in her home for two or three years, secured a chair in the Gresham Beauty Shoppe early in the fall, where she meets her many patrons. She has had several years' experience in her lines, is courteous and businesslike.

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