

FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

By LUELLA KINGSLEY.

TINY, mysterious packages, on an eight-inch tall Christmas tree—an absurdly gay spot for the informal Christmas dinner—either for the family group or for guests—for grown-ups and kiddies. All will enjoy the amusing gifts it holds.

And if there is no group, and no traditional Christmas dinner, a little tree helps make the day festive—and makes a bright and comforting companion for a sick child or a lonely person.

An imitation evergreen about eight inches high can be obtained at a candy and Christmas favor shop, or at the novelty counter in a larger store. Trees with tiny candles are more effective, but of course, must be lighted with care, and the little flames blown out before a package is taken from the tree.

If the base of the tree is attached to a small box, fill the box with heavy nuts or candy. Streamers of tinsel thread or silver paper make sparkling decorations for the branches. "Snow" and a silver shower may be bought anywhere where Christmas decorations are sold, but strips cut from tinsel, not necessarily new, or colored paper, do very well and cost next to nothing.

If the tree is not in a holder, place it in a box for convenient handling. The heavier packages on the lower branches, on opposite sides, of the tree will balance it.

Wrap everything. Cut small squares from colored wrapping paper, or bright colored scratch pad. Tie these with colored string, knitting silk, tinsel thread, or bits of narrow ribbon. The brighter and gayer the colors, the better, but, if one has time to work out color schemes, here are two suggestions.

Packages wrapped in blue or pink or white paper, and tied with silver or gold thread, the white packages with pink and blue thread, or string. The blue and pink packages with the tinsel thread, or packages wrapped with red, white, or green tissue paper and tied with tinsel or red ribbon.

Tiny "poppers" may be imitated by rolling some small objects in tissue paper, frilling the ends and tying in two places with the gift twine.

Eatables should be wrapped in wax paper—then in colored paper. In tying all packages leave enough string to loop over branches of tree and tie firmly.

In selecting gifts miniature size and light weight are important. Some suggestions follow for presents for an inexpensive tree. Five cents worth of peanuts or animal crackers would supply many trees. Animal crackers, etc., can be wrapped two together. Large nuts may be wrapped in silver or colored paper—making bright spots on the tree. A handkerchief may be folded as small as a postage stamp. Everything on the list may be obtained at a five and ten cent store, an art shop, or a candy and favor shop. Crackers and nuts of course may be obtained from the grocer.

Tiny calendars, colored thimbles, art gum, beads for stringing, beauty pins, lingerie clasps, invisible hairpins, needles, paper, clips, elastic bands, water flowers, tiny wooden tops, tiny scissors, dolls and dolls' accessories—these are just a few of the things which may be placed on the tree.

This same plan, of course, may be elaborated upon as much as one wishes. Instead of the artificial tree, a real tree, in a very, very small size may be used. And gifts of more value may take the place of the amusing, inexpensive gifts outlined above.

And where there are no kiddies—or where Santa overlooks bringing the kiddies a tree—the tiny miniature one will be doubly appreciated.

Troutdale Has Year of Building and General Business Prosperity

(By Mrs. Mary Parsons)

The Troutdale city hall is now finished and with the added improvements is one of the best halls of its kind in eastern Multnomah. A buffet kitchen and dining room was added to the first unit of the building which was started a few years ago but not finished. A ladies' rest room and a gentlemen's room with smoking quarters were added, as was a check room. The interior of the building was entirely finished and footlights and a rolling curtain were installed. Troutdale residents are proud of the building and are using it to good advantage for their community affairs.

The council will soon begin work on the street in front of the hall and expects to improve other streets during the year.

Troutdale's new school building is a very attractive one and is well planned. It cost about \$29,000 and was much needed. The patrons of the district are appreciative and are enjoying showing it to visitors. The children are proud of it and at the dedication ceremonies recited a pledge to take care of the building and its contents.

Early in the year Mayor Laura Harlow circulated a petition and presented it to the county commissioners, asking them to build a sidewalk beginning at the city hall and continuing around the dangerous corner where the highway leads to the Sandy river bridge, as pedestrians in order to comply with the laws for foot travelers must necessarily walk on the highway proper in making this curve the request was granted and the county put in a graveled walk at the corner and later finished what is known as a pedestrian way for foot travelers on the south side of the bridge at Troutdale. The dyer river bridge at Troutdale. The bridge is narrow and when auto travel is heavy, as it always is in summer and during the smelt run, there is no room for foot passengers and this walk will be a great convenience as well as a safer way for those who walk.

The new residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. McGinnis was built during the spring and is very attractive. It stands next to the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Spence, who are parents of Mrs. McGinnis.

The O. W. R. & N. railway built and addition to its packing shed at Troutdale, and the Northwestern Ice & Storage company has built a storage room for the purpose of caring for all perishable fruits and vegetables shipped from here.

This fall many carloads of celery and cauliflower were shipped and in the spring the first shipment of head lettuce from Troutdale will begin.

Mrs. Frances Fox put up a fine

garage building on her piece of property facing the Columbia highway on Dora street for Richard Knarr, who has the agency for the Chevrolet car and up-to-date garage and shop equipment, and is doing a good business. This building adds much to the appearance of the town.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Norton, who own and run "Columbia Villa" near the east end of the Sandy river bridge, have made very noticeable changes in their grounds. They have remodeled the house and are enjoying a good business. It is an attractive place and is recommended as a good place to eat luncheon or dinner.

The Troutdale postoffice outgrew the new building put up since the fire and has had to take over new quarters. The new store building next to the office was pressed into service and now houses the rural routes department.

J. R. Knarr purchased the old school building from the district. During the year he has built a warehouse for cement, plaster and other building material. He also enlarged his sand and gravel bunkers and has done a big business the past year in those lines. He expects to build a garage to house his trucks in the near future.

Troutdale State bank has enjoyed the most prosperous year of its existence. Geo. Ports has been added to the working force as teller, H. E. Boyd is cashier and Mrs. Boyd, assistant cashier.



TODD'S Barber Shop

We wish to thank our friends and patrons for their past favors and wish them.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Pickle Industry Faces Slump as Result of Over-production

Although the Oregon Pickle & Canning company has not experienced a year of flattering success during 1926, its officials are holding steady in the belief that the year of 1927 will see a loosening up in marketing conditions of the firm's products.

Probably every pickle manufacturer in the United States is now and has been for the year past loaded up to capacity with pickles of all sizes which has caused an unparalleled slump in the market. This condition has been brought about by over production.

In 1925 the largest acreage ever planted in the history of the cucumber business was harvested. Speaking of local conditions, the manager of the pickle plant reduced the plantings for 1926 from 700 to 475 acres, but through a more liberal use of fertilizer the production for 1926 was not reduced. The factory here at Gresham now has the same pickles on hand which it had in its tanks a year ago. December, however, is always a trying month in any line of commercialism, and the firm has orders booked to move after the first of the year.

With the market depression starting the officials in the face, they continued to pay the grower the same price for the 1926 crop as that of 1925. With the sale price to the grower high, with finished commodities at a standstill and the entire United States suffering from over production, it is little wonder that the situation is regarded as grave. Up until the past year the demand has always been strong for fancy bottling pickles, but about a year ago the market underwent a change and the prohibitive high price on small stock now has a tendency to cause a move toward the larger pickles.

The tonnage of cucumbers among Gresham growers amounted to 1100 tons the past season, and in addition to that the local plant handled 135 tons of cauliflower which has been utilized in the manufacture of chow chow and mixed pickles. This was a great aid to cauliflower growers whose market was paralyzed this year by over production and unfavorable weather.

There are still nearly 20 persons employed at the plant at Gresham. It is the policy of the manager to keep business moving along as briskly as possible, as long as possible, and to that end he

has been having salt stock sorted into the various sizes in which they are sold with a view to having them ready for the manufacturer when needed. This is done by taking the cucumbers out of the tank, sorting them and replacing them.

The Oregon Pickle & Canning company was organized in 1921 and the same year began enlarging its building. The premises have been added to several times, and a year ago the latest addition, 50x200 feet in size, was put up. The original manufacturing capacity has been tripled. At first there were but 27 tanks, but this number has been increased until now there are 90 tanks with an average capacity of 15 tons each. They are eight feet deep and 11 feet in diameter.

The company operates a second pickle plant at Monitor, Oregon, in a building 64x260 feet in size, containing 57 tanks. A third receiving station which had been established at Molalla was forced to be abandoned on account of untoward marketing conditions.

The Gresham management anticipates a sufficient move during the coming year to permit of the planting of the same acreage as for 1926. J. L. Stafford is manager of the Gresham plant, John Lovegren is foreman, R. H. Luethe bookkeeper and Miss Grace Stilger, office assistant.

Bjur Electric Store Handles Much Work

Everything in the line of electrical contracting and repairing can be ably taken care of by Arthur Bjur, licensed electrician, who in April of this year purchased the supplies belonging to the late F. L. Mack, by whom he was employed for four years.

Mr. Bjur came to his shop well qualified to handle large contracts and a number of important ones have come his way—the Fox Brothers' store at Troutdale, the new Brown building, Walter Metzger's Buick agency, the county fair building and the Dowsett building which is nearing completion.

Mr. Bjur had charge of the power installation for the Eastman Lumber company and the Columbia Brick works.

While contracting occupies a large part of Mr. Bjur's time, at-

tention is paid to details of the shop where Edison Mazda lamps, radios, electrical fixtures and appliances are on hand.

The ground where the Bjur shop is located is owned by the local telephone company, and it is current report that a new building for this concern will rise early in the spring. Mr. Bjur has been promised a lease on his present location through the winter months.

Two extra men are employed around the shop, Charley Keller and George Lewis.

First State Bank Makes Fine Growth

The First State bank, of which A. Meyers is the president, was established in 1905. It was the first bank to operate in Oregon under the name of a "First State" bank after the law became operative regarding state institutions of banking.

Business was first transacted in a little one-story building on the same corner where the bank now stands. Operations began the same year for a permanent structure and this was added to on the north side in 1909, and a second story was added. In 1912 the building occupied by the postoffice was added.

The First State bank, whose slogan is, "A strong bank," has an ample working capital amounting to near \$70,000. The capital, surplus and reserve fund total over \$59,000 and the undivided profits amount to over \$10,000. Deposits at the present time are \$690,000 and the total resources, \$768,000. There has been an increase of capital three times since the organization of the bank.

The stock of the bank is held by a limited number and there are no further shares of stock for sale. The board of directors is composed of A. Meyers, Theodore Brugger and C. J. Lundquist. The late W. W. Cotton was an active member in the organization of the First State bank.

The personnel of the office force at the bank is made up of C. J. Lundquist who is the cashier; Roy Gibbs, assistant cashier; Miss Pearl Ruegg, bookkeeper; Miss Marie Blom, clerk; Miss Rosella Engelhart, private secretary.

Thorne Represents Reliable Insurance

B. W. Thorne, who was formerly connected with the A. W. Metzger company, has been actively engaged in business in Gresham for the past five and a half years as a successful dealer in insurance, real estate and loans. He is located in a corner of the Palmquist building

on Main street which has been conveniently fitted up for his use.

One of the popular fire insurance companies represented by Mr. Thorne as an underwriter is the Oregon Fire Relief association which was organized at McMinnville in 1895 and is a real Oregon institution.

Mr. Thorne reports a satisfactory year in real estate and insurance. He is ably assisted in his routine office work by his wife.

Mr. Thorne is a member of the city council.

Window Cleaning.

For expert window cleaning see S. Tajima, or leave orders with J. Ross Brown, Gresham, phone 2501.

Take a tip—try the Want Ads.

I wish you all a VERY MERRY XMAS and a Happy Prosperous NEW YEAR



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A gift box of cigars or cigarettes.
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Especially desirable for giving

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In several finishes, depending upon the price you wish to pay.



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Arthur Bjur

Licensed Electrician

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Gresham



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We wish to thank all our friends and patrons for their support during the past year and wish them a Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous New Year.