

## A Load of Christmas

By Frank Herbert Sweet  
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HOLCOMB did things in a peculiar way—a peculiarly nice way, though. It affected his Christmas gifts, his business, even his friendships. But then he was a bachelor of fifty. Then, too, everybody loved him, which is a very peculiar thing about a successful business man with competition, you'll admit.

This year Holcomb was very busy, and his Christmas gifts—general gifts, you know—hadn't even occurred to him until two days before the day.

He was passing through a new street between a restaurant and his office, when he saw a small shop with windows crammed with toys—nothing but toys. At this season, nearly the middle of the afternoon, a toy shop ought to be crowded with customers.

This shop was closed. On the steps stood a small, anxious looking man, and a big one dangling a large key. It looked like a store key.

Seemed peculiar. So Holcomb went to the steps.

"Life to look at the toys," he began. "Can't you see?" boomed the big man. "This chap can't pay a bill, so I've taken it. Auction day after tomorrow, I'm sheriff."

"Meaning," said Holcomb, "that if the bill is paid, the store belongs to this man again? How much?"

"Of course—and \$200."

"What's it all worth?" to the little man.

"About \$50 if sold at auction," dejectedly. "I picked a bum street. No business."

"What did you pay or agree to pay?"

"\$500."

"What will you sell for?"

"Can't sell until—" nodding toward the sheriff.

Holcomb counted out \$200, and passed it to the sheriff.

"Good-by," he said. "Now what do you ask?" to the small man.

"I'd rather like \$300, but will be glad to accept half that."

Holcomb counted out the \$300.

"Give me the key," to the sheriff.

"Thank you. Now where can I find two men to move the toys?"

"I'll be one," beamed the man out of business. "I know about toys. And I can get another man from the next building."

"Do so, and I'll bring round my car from the next corner."

Inside of an hour the shop was stripped and the house filled. Then Holcomb took the most country of all the country roads, stopping at every house that showed signs of children.

"Hello-o," he would call to any small boy or girl he happened to see; "got some stuff for your house. Please take it in for me. I'm in a hurry. Give you a quarter."

He had provided a pocket heavy with loose quarters.

There were about three hours of daylight. When the daylight was gone the car was empty. He was glad of the darkness, for he had to go back by the same road.

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## COMMUNITY CLUB LUNCHEON TUESDAY

LUNCHEON SERVED BY METHODIST LADIES

### The Inclement Weather Keeps Some Away. Club Votes to Endorse Kindergarten Bill.

Owing to the inclement weather, the Community Club luncheon held on Tuesday, December 16, was not as well attended as usual. The ladies' aid of the Methodist church served an excellent luncheon in the basement of the church.

The club voted to endorse the kindergarten bill to be voted upon at the next meeting of the legislature. The Red Cross seals will be handled by the club this year. Mrs. Warner and Miss Mayhew being appointed as a committee to take charge of them. The Junior Camp Fire girls will make the sales.

Miss Ethel Smock, Red Cross secretary of Umatilla county, attended the meeting and gave an interesting talk on Red Cross work in its national aspect, speaking of the social service work, nursery, life saving and relief in case of disasters. She told of the importance of the national headquarters in the local work. Many times headquarters must advance money to the various chapters or the work could not be continued throughout the year. People generally do not understand this and often complain of the fact that part of the money raised by our drives must be sent in to headquarters.

The meeting was concluded by two numbers by the Girls Glee Club which was greatly enjoyed. Those who attended the luncheon forgot the stormy weather outside and felt well repaid for the effort they had made to get there.

### More Taxes for The Motorist

An economically unsound proposal has been made in California for an increase in the tax on gasoline, and there are reports that similar suggestions have been made in other Pacific coast states. The gasoline tax, originating on the Pacific coast five years ago, has proved quite contagious and is now in effect in 35 states. Its alleged popularity is largely due to its apparent ease of collection, brought about by saddling the work and expense upon oil companies, and to a feeling that motorists who use roads should pay for them, even though this in reality means that a decided minority of the people are made to pay for public improvements which are of unquestionable value and benefit to the whole people.

The proposed taxes will place a new burden upon an already heavily taxed motorist and upon motor vehicle operation, which is calculated to have a bad effect upon the automobile industry. Motor cars are now taxed in many ways and each additional tax increases sales resistance, something to which the motor car dealers of the state should give attention. The motorist's list of taxes is formidable. First there is a Federal excise tax on the purchase of a pleasure car, or 3 per cent on a commercial car. There is also a Federal excise tax on parts and accessories. If the car is a vehicle for hire, there is a \$10.00 Federal occupational tax on vehicles carrying seven passengers or less, and \$20 if it carries more than seven. In California there is a state registration fee of \$3.00 on all cars, while commercial cars are taxed up to \$50 additional, depending on weight and character of tires. There is in California a two-cent gasoline tax which estimates show amounts to an average of \$10 a year for passenger cars and \$20 for trucks. Every car owner also pays a personal property tax on assessed valuation.

There are still more considerations of importance to the public, but the opposition of the Standard Oil company to the proposed measure is based on the elementary principle that it is wrong to tax a part of the people for the benefit of the whole.—Standard Oil Bulletin

### WINTER SHORT COURSES ANNOUNCED AT O. A. C.

Winter short courses covering 11 subjects in five departments, of the school of agriculture have just been announced by A. B. Corley, dean of the school. Six courses will be given by the farm mechanics department similar to those which have in the past proved most popular. A poultry short course will be given this year for the first time, while two dairying courses will also be given. Another class in land classification and appraisal will be conducted this year and the fourth annual canners school will be held.

## The High School Mirror

Devoted to the Interest and Development of the Hermiston Schools  
Vol. 4. No. 1

The girls' and boys' games played on Friday gave fair promise of a peppy basketball season. The boys put up a good fight against the Legion men gaining a final score of 18 to 15 in their favor. The girls a good game against the town team and the score at the end was 39 to 4 in their favor, but the odds were against the opposing team for they had but little practice. The game with Boardman on Tuesday showed a lot of pep on both sides, but the local boys won with a score of 26 to 19 in their favor. One other practice game is scheduled for this week with Echo on Thursday, and the first game of the season is to be played with Pine City on Friday.

A new plan has been formed to increase the size and yelling power of the rooting section at the basketball games. All boys who promised to be at every game of the season were asked to give their names on Tuesday, thus becoming members of the yelling team. Practices are to be held before each game, and it is hoped that the teams will feel by the effort at least if not the actual yelling that the school is behind them.

The Girls' Glee Club made their third successful public appearance on Tuesday when they sang for the Community club. Two selections were given consisting of "The Composer and the Street Band," by Brahms, and "Nearest and Dearest" by Caracolo.

For the regular Forum meeting on Wednesday night another initiation is planned. New members to be initiated are Lowell Stockard, Sherlock Stockard and Thomas Lenhart.

Cold weather has its bad effects for on Tuesday, the first really cold day, about half the school came in late and nearly frozen.

Edna—"Why did you put Don out of the game?"  
Gralapp—"For holding."  
Edna—"Oh, that's just like him."  
Miss Sestack—"Take this sentence. Let the book be taken out of the lot. What mood?"  
Gerald McKenzie—"The cow."

### REPORT FROM THREE RIVERS ASSOCIATION RECEIVED HERE

28,000 Boxes of Asparagus is Marketed Netting \$1.44 Per Box.

In a letter to Jens Skovbo from County Agent Bension containing a synopsis of a report of the Three Rivers Growers Association, of Yakima, the report stated the association had marketed 28,000 boxes of asparagus during the past season which netted \$1.44 per box to the grower. The Hermiston association has a selling agreement with the Three Rivers Association to handle the supply from this project until such time as they may produce in carload lots. Most of the local asparagus will not be ready for market until a year from his spring as the plantings are but one year old.

### Christmas Program at Minnehaha

The students of Minnehaha school are preparing a program that will be rendered Tuesday evening, December 23. The public is invited to attend. There will be a treat for all.

### Catholic Rectory Moved

The Catholic rectory in this city has been moved upon the lots adjoining the church on the east. A full basement is being put under the building.

Miss Lila McMillan is acting as librarian during the absence of Mrs. Brownson, who is taking a vacation.

### ECHO WILL HAVE BIG RABBIT DRIVE

A monster rabbit drive by which farmers west of Ech expect to get rid of thousands of jackrabbits that are doing considerable damage, has been planned for Sunday, December 28. Sportsmen's organization, thru-out the county have been asked to take part in the drive. No guns will be allowed on the grounds. A huge corral will be built and a long line of men with clubs will drive the rabbits in to the corral where they will be killed. The farmers will furnish a big feed at the noon hour for those who participate.

The hour for meeting in Echo for those who come from a distance is set at 9 o'clock and the place is Carl Gilbert's barber shop. The drive will be made in the Harris-canyon.

The Baptist Ladies Aid will hold a Xmas cook food sale and home made candies Dec. 20 in the afternoon, consisting of fruit cakes, Xmas pudding, mince pies and other good things. The sale will be held at Sappers' Inc.

H. J. Bean has traded his 23 acre tract in the Columbia district to Cecil Warner. Mr. Bean received land in the vicinity of Lexington for the farm here. Mr. Warner who is a resident of Lexington, will take possession at once. Mr. Hough, principal of Columbia school, is at present occupying the house.

## MRS. PETERSON DIES SUNDAY

Mrs. Arthur Peterson died at her home on Gladys in this city last Sunday evening. Mr. Peterson has been employed by the Shotwell construction company for the past four or five years and had recently moved his family to this city.

Mrs. Peterson leaves a family of six children. One of the youngest was taken to the hospital in rentleto the first part of the week suffering with pneumonia. Mrs. Petersons body will be shipped to her old home, Glasgow, Kansas.

### FROM THE STORK'S DAIRY

A boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Partlow, of Boardman the first of the week.  
A boy to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur A. Laird of the Stanfield district on the 11th.  
A boy to Mr. and Mrs. George Challis on the 17th.  
A boy to Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Paulsen at the Hayden maternity home in this city on the 14th.

### Dogs Need Frequent Release From Chain

The following humane appeal made by a correspondent in the Dog World shows pointedly how dogs are the victims of a cruel practice; how their dispositions may be spoiled, and their lives rendered unnatural and unhappy:

"May I plead through your columns for the better treatment of dogs who are continually chained, sometimes for weeks and months, without being liberated from their imprisonment? The other day a man stated in a police court that his dog had not been on the chain for twelve months; from its puppyhood, it had been fastened up without an hour of liberty."

"As a lover of dogs I hold that every dog is entitled to regular exercise, and that it is unjustifiable cruelty to imprison a dog for life. Such treatment makes a dog hopeless and miserable; he becomes dejected and often savage, and his health suffers seriously."

"A young dog can be trained to be a guard without chaining, and the best watchdogs are those which are not chained. Chains are a heritage of bygone days and should be abolished."

The best way to keep a dog that needs restraint is to put him in a yard with a high fence. If this is not practicable, fasten a wire across any yard; on this put an iron ring which, when attached by a cord to the dog's collar, will allow him to run backward and forward the full length of the wire. The yard should have shade as well as sunshine, to protect the dog from too great heat of the sun.

Make your dog your companion and friend. Treat him kindly and he will respond.

It is cruel to tie a dog under a wagon or allow him to follow an automobile or bicycle. Let him ride with you.

## Christmas Time

By THOMAS A. CLARK  
Dean of Men, University of Illinois  
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ALL the illusions of childhood, I gave up with most reluctance those that clustered around Christmas.

The old saint who climbed down the chimney into the fireplace in our sitting room and filled our stockings on Christmas Eve was as real to me as Moses or George Washington or my grandfather or any other person of whom I had heard but whom I had never personally met. He is to me real today when I am in reminiscence moods, perhaps because I have always wanted him to be real. Long after I recognized all the subtleties which were being practiced on me as a child at Christmas time, I never admitted them even to myself, for I was quite willing to submit to the deceptions; I was made happy by all the ceremonies and surprises.

I have never in all my life been away from home at Christmas time; I hope I never shall be. Christmas joys are for me the most delightful; Christmas memories, the most precious. Everything about our holiday preparations at home was of the simplest



character, but the season was full of possibilities and surprises. The dinner lacked the conventional roast turkey. Instead there was a roast goose or a huge joint of roast beef (following the English custom with which my mother was familiar) with suet dumplings and gravy. There was always, too, a loaf of spiced bread and plum pudding with a delightful sauce of drawn butter, and there was mince pie followed with nuts and raisins and other goodies.

Just as "home" always suggests to me sugar cookies, hot from the oven, with mother warning me not to eat so many as to make myself sick, so Christmas invariably brings to my mind the thought of raisins. They were in the spiced bread which mother made, the plum pudding was congested with them, I found them always on Christmas morning in my stocking with other good things to eat, and there was regularly on Christmas day a dish of them on the table to be eaten after dinner. It was not altogether what we had to eat that gave Christmas such a high place in my regard, though that helped materially, no doubt. It was the mystery, the anticipation, the preparation and the surprise of it all; the gathering together of all the family, the games, the roaring fire in the fireplace, and the general hilarity and good will prevailing that made Christmas for me the best loved of all the holidays of the entire year.

"We are rather outgrowing Christ-

mas," a friend said to me a few days ago. "I don't believe it is ever going to be for any one again just as it used to be."

I suppose not; though there are some events connected with the celebration of Christmas, there is the real Christmas which I am sure I shall never outgrow. If I should hang up my stocking by the fireplace now, I feel just as sure as I ever did that old Saint Nick would get in some way before morning and fill it as he used to do when I was a child. My faith in Christmas has never waned, and my need for it. I practice economy badly at any time, but with the greatest difficulty at Christmas time, and especially since the prices of my own particular varieties of frankincense and myrrh have been so affected by the economic conditions. It is what is in our hearts that makes Christmas real. The song of



the angels is in the air if the Christmas spirit is in our hearts, Christmas is as great a reality as it ever was, if we will make it so, and for us all the angels are again proclaiming as they did that night in Palestine, centuries ago, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

I shall hang up my stocking at Christmas Eve, there will be raisins in it in the morning. I have faith that the old Christmas joys will be mine once more.



## Merry Christmas to All



### A RED-LETTER SHOW OPENING

On Friday evening and Saturday matinee and night at the Rivolt theatre, Pendleton, Cecil B. DeMille's gorgeous spectacular photo-drama, "The Ten Commandments" will be presented for the first time in that city. The fame of this unusual cinema production, gained through its presentation last season in five of the largest American cities, has preceded it and a large advance sale indicates that it will be as largely patronized in Pendleton as elsewhere. The showing of the picture, accompanied by Dr. Riessfeld's special score played by a touring orchestra of twenty men, will be given twice daily, at 2:15 and 8:15 during the engagement. "The Ten Commandments" will not be presented at any other theatre here during the present season.

The story of "Ten Commandments" written by Jeanie Macpherson brings into sharp contrast the gorgeous pomp and pageantry of ancient Egypt at the time of the Exodus and the complex civilization of today. The first part of the picture is a superb revelation of the pilgrimage of the Children of Israel from the Land of Bondage; the safe passage of the Israelites through the divided waters of the Red sea, and their orgies in worship of the golden calf, whilst Moses, on the heights of Sinai, receives from Jehovah the code of laws for the righteous government of mankind. The second part of the film drama concerns present day problems due to the general disregard of these fundamental laws. The scenes are laid in San Francisco, and here is unfolded a love story thrilling in its episodes and infinitely appealing in its pathos and understanding.

The chief roles in "The Ten Commandments" are played by Theodore Roberts, Rod La Rocque, Richard Dix, James Neill, Robert Edeson,

Charles De Roche, Lawson Butt, Taylor, Edythe Chapman, Julia Payne, Clarence Burton and Agnes Ayres. The picture is a Paramount production and is presented by A. Zukor and Jesse L. Lasky.

### Co-Operative Canneries May Form Sales Agency

Five cooperative canneries in the Willamette valley have joined in a request to C. J. Hurd, extension specialist in marketing and R. H. Kipp, representing the Portland Chamber of Commerce, that they prepare a written marketing agreement whereby their output through a central sales agency similar to that formed by the prune associations.

The new movement which is in line with recommendations made at the agricultural economic conference last winter is expected, if put in practice, to go far toward stabilizing the market for the cooperatives and insure an orderly disposal of their products. Expansion of the canning industry of Oregon is expected to be along cooperative lines, as by this means the farmers provide themselves with an outlet for their products.

### Buildings on Bohn Ranch Sold

The buildings on the old Gerald Bohn ranch east of Hermiston have been sold. They consisted of a six room house and numerous outbuildings. According to reports Willard Felthouse purchased the house and will move it to his ranch. The remainder of the buildings were sold to various buyers.

In days gone by the Bohn ranch was set out as an orchard by an eastern syndicate and consisted of 160 acres. The system of irrigation put into vogue proved costly. The heavy freeze of several years ago worked havoc with the trees. It is stated that as much as \$40,000 was spent upon the project.

Hermiston Boy Pledged to College Fraternity  
A dispatch to The Herald from Corvallis states Herbert Haneline, a well known Hermiston boy who is attending Oregon Agricultural college, has been pledged to the Sigma Pi fraternity.