



★From Greenland's icy mountains to India's coral strand the age-old celebration of Christmas is in progress. In this season of universal good will we welcome the opportunity to thank you for that measure of confidence you have shown in us during 1943 and other years. We will do our utmost to continue to deserve it.

Umatilla Electric Cooperative

tainment committee. Miss Lorna Gabriel is ill.
Mrs. Mabel Richards returned Sunday from Portland where she went for medical care.
Jack Rice returned Monday to the naval training base at Farragut, Idaho. His mother Grayce Rice entertained with a Christmas party before he left.
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Taylor went to Portland over the week end to visit their daughter Josephine and family.
Mrs. W. D. Gudgel visited her son Douglas in Pendleton over the week end and all planned their Christmas day with her son who lives in Walls Walla.
C. Tillory made a trip to Pomeroy the first part of the week with a load of hives and honey.

Caesar Practical; First to Hint of Gifts He Wanted

As soon as man became sufficiently civilized to devise himself some sort of a calendar, the festival of the New Year assumed importance and was designated as the proper time for gaiety, hospitality, and gift-giving.

This spirit of gift-giving presumably continued upon a haphazard path until Julius Caesar hit upon the brilliant idea of "hinting" as to the amount of money or specific "gift" he expected to receive from such and such a person.

The conquering Romans carried the custom of "ordering" precise gifts with them when they invaded the British Isles. Centuries later, the kings and queens of England, who were not as wealthy as they were reported to be, revived the custom of Caesar's day. On one New Year's day, the money and value of presents received by Henry VIII amounted to nearly 800 pounds—or about \$4,000. Queen Elizabeth used the same method upon her favorites and courtiers, thereby replenishing her wardrobe with petticoats, mantles, gowns, and silk stockings, to say nothing of the bracelets, necklaces, and caskets of precious stones commandeered in like manner.

In modern America, Christmas is the gift-givingest day of all, but every child who writes a letter to Santa Claus and every fair lady who conspicuously mentions the name of her favorite perfume is perpetuating a New Year's custom invented by Julius Caesar and effectively used by medieval royalty.

Winter Solstice Period of Many Ancient Rituals

Christmas is celebrated in honor of the Saviour's nativity, and while there are no records to prove that December 25th is the precise date, historians, astronomers, and research authorities have substantiated the fact that the event must have occurred during the time of the Winter Solstice.

The Winter Solstice, when the sun swings toward the earth once more, has been celebrated as a festival of some sort by the various peoples of the earth since, and even prior to, the recording of history.

Symbolic Palm Tree.

In ancient Egypt, the palm tree, known to put forth one shoot each month, completed its cycle of twelve during this period and was symbolic of the year's fruitful harvests and accomplishments.

The mystic rites of the Druids centered around the cutting of the Mistletoe whose branches, when cut and distributed by the Arch-Druid, traditionally bestowed blessings of nature and divine favor upon the receiver.

In the Scandinavian countries, fires were kindled in defiance of the Frost King, and families, gathered about the warmth, spent the long evenings telling weird tales involving Valkyrie and Werewolves—as well as anticipating to what distant ports their ships would sail when no longer ice-bound. The time was also sacred to Thor, and the Yule logs, great chunks of the Thunder Oak, blazed upon the hearths amid feasting and fellowship.

Honoring Saturnus.

Two Roman holidays—Brumalia and Juvenilia—were combined into one great festival in honor of Saturnus—Saturnalia. It was a period of general celebration lasting from what would correspond to our December 18th on through the Calends of January. Processions and gift-giving were in order, the courts were adjourned and no criminals were convicted, while convention was abandoned, equality reigning among slaves and free men.

The earliest Christians solemnized the Mass of Christ, whence the word "Christmas," during Saturnalia, many of the faithful suffering persecution and martyrdom as a result. After Constantine recognized Christianity in the Fourth century, the celebration of Christmas became an established custom.

Indeed, Christmas is celebrated in honor of the Babe born in Bethlehem. And the Lord, in His Wisdom, understands that the traditions preserved from ancient customs and peoples are in keeping with the angelic enunciation of His Birth: "Fear not; for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

NOTICE OF HEARING FINAL ACCOUNT

Notice is hereby given that Robert C. Geer as administrator of the estate of Ira W. Geer, deceased, has filed his final account in said estate in the County Court of the State of Oregon for Umatilla County, and said court has fixed Monday, the 7th day of February, 1944, at two o'clock p. m. of said day, as the time for hearing of objections to said final account and the settlement thereof. On or before said day any person interested in said

state may file objections to said final account or to any item thereof and contest the same.
Dated December 23, 1943.

Robert C. Geer, Administrator.
W. J. Warner and A. S. Cooley, Attorneys for Administrator.
(Dec. 23-Jan. 20)



More than a half a century ago Robert Barry Coffin wrote:

"I have ships that went to sea
"More than fifty years ago;
"None have yet come back to me,
"But keep sailing to and fro."

We don't want that to happen to you, kind friend. This year A.D. 1944 is the year we want your ship to come in.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Jack's Cafe

Mr. and Mrs. M. V. Hart

STANFIELD NEWS

By Mrs. Rose Hedrick

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Townsend and two small daughters left this week for Mrs. Townsend's home at Home-dale, Idaho, to reside while Mr. Townsend is called into the army.

Jack Lawrence and son Melvin of Portland are here looking after their home.

Loren Hughes and Gilbert Smith Junior drove to the mountains Sunday to bring back Christmas trees.

Mrs. Walter Isackson is here to spend Christmas with her sisters and father.

Mrs. Ernest Greathouse entertained at her home last Friday evening at a three-course dinner the co-workers of the west area of the U. O. D. Afterwards they enjoyed their Christmas tree and exchange of gifts and then games were played. Those present were Nora Holiman, Zelma Culver, Jane Anderson, Luella Corey,

Mamie Belt, Ida Holdin, Irene Moncrief and the hostess.

Appointive officers that were installed December 16 by H. R. Wessell were Chaplin Frank Sloan, Senior Deacon, Harry McCormick, Junior Deacon, Roy Duncan, Senior Steward, John Heckman, Tiller James Owens, as well as the elected officers.

Mrs. Neva LeTrace left Monday to attend the installation of officers in her Eastern Star chapter at Heppner of which her sister, Mrs. Emma Evans is worthy matron. She will then go to Portland to visit relatives and friends during Christmas tide.

The Ladies Aid will enjoy a Christmas tree and party at the home of their president, Mrs. Roy Duncan. Mrs. Rose Hedrick is assistant hostess on Thursday afternoon.

The Rebekahs enjoyed their Christmas party at the home of Mrs. Geo. Elliott on Monday night with an exchange of gifts. Neva Hedrick, Mary Rhea and Frankie Lane were the en-



THE STAGE COACH has given place to the streamliner. The electric light has snuffed out the soft-beamed candle. Tinkling sleigh bells are drowned in the roar of motor horns. But who will say that Christmas has lost its charm? With Christmas at hand we renew our pledge of devotion to ideals of honest dealing, and express our appreciation of your friendship for us during 1943.

"HEAP ON MORE WOOD, THE WIND IS CHILL;
BUT LET IT WHISTLE AS IT WILL,
WE'LL KEEP OUR MERRY CHRISTMAS STILL!"



Rohrman Motor Co.

A. F. Rohrman, Owner



AS one hands down a good name, Christmas each year hands down its traditions, and all are good. It has been a tradition here to regard the good will of our customers as our most precious asset. In this holiday season of 1943 we extend to you, not as a customer alone, but as a friend, our very best wishes for a . . . Merry Christmas.

Oregon Hardware & Implement Co.