

## Fire Underwriters Advise On Safety at Christmas

Fires across the nation on the night of the Christmas celebration have killed 23 persons, most of them children, and the loss of property is estimated at \$10,000,000.

All but 10 of the fire victims were children, mostly between the ages of 5 and 10.

That was last year. Will it happen again this year?

And the saddest thing is that such tragedies often occur around the Christmas holidays—sometimes even around the Christmas tree itself—at the happiest time of the year.

The reason the tree burns so fiercely and so rapidly is because it is filled with pitch and resin—among the most combustible substances known.

What can you do about the tree?

First of all, the National Board of Fire Underwriters suggests that you select a small one. There will be 30,000,000 on the market. Some 4,000,000 Christmas trees reach retail outlets in New York State alone.

It's best to keep the tree outdoors until a few days before setting it up. During that time occasionally throw water over it. This will keep it moist, fresh.

When you bring the tree in-

## Potpourri

Some times this column just writes itself. And again we gnaw our finger nails for an hour or more and fill the waste basket with crumpled wads of copy paper. This time was one of those times when we wished for talent and ability to say the things which need to be said.

For instance, we would like to tell the story of the efforts of one Medford woman for world peace. This young woman, deeply religious and yearning to do something useful for mankind, has been very troubled at recent events. So, after a great deal of thought and prayer, she wrote two letters.

One was to Soviet Premier Nicolai Bulganin, the other to President Gamal Nasser of Egypt. In the letters, written in a friendly and humble spirit, she reminded the two leaders that the whole world is watching them, and judging their nations by their actions rather than their words. She begged them to rely on the United Nations as a means of settling world problems, rather than by war and aggression, and wrote to Premier Bulganin that "Only through working patiently together in such an organization can we come to see that mankind is not nationalistic to the point of being warlike and unnecessarily aggressive." She closed each letter with sincere good wishes for the welfare of the people of those nations.

It is news when a Medford housewife writes a letter to men like Bulganin and Nasser. But this woman, naturally somewhat retiring by nature, shrank from having her project publicized for fear her friends and neighbors might not understand, would even jeer at her efforts.

We do not laugh or jeer at her attempt to promote brotherhood and peace. We salute her. And we will not be the one to say that her efforts will go for nothing.

Another Medford woman, one who practices her Christian beliefs and who also has a deep feeling of brotherhood, came in Friday to ask for space concerning the observance of Human Rights day December 10. She too works earnestly for peace, and believes that only when all human beings have their God-given rights and freedoms will the world have peace.

Although many of us are weary of "special days", this one does have a high and worthwhile purpose, and again we wish that for something this important, we could find words of power and effect.

Human Rights day was established by the Human Rights commission of the United Nations. Rene Cassin, president of the commission, recently reviewed for the National Council of Church Women the work of the commission and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which the group prepared during the chairmanship of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.

President Cassin said that the declaration rests "on four columns," the "freedom and the material security of the individual, the individual's relationship with the outside world, his freedoms in respect to civil and religious rights and his economic, social and cultural rights."

In the same issue Mrs. Cynthia Wedel, president of the National Council, repeats the words of Laurens van der Post in his "The Dark Eye in Africa." Mrs. Wedel, an Episcopalian of national note, spoke for a meeting of St. Mark's women here a year ago. The author described how the retiring governor-general of the new Indonesia wondered why the people of that country were dissatisfied with Dutch colonial rule, even though it had been good rule, and was told by Van der Post "it is because you've never had the right look in the eye when you spoke to them." The author then concluded "It may sound inadequate but just think... of the light that is in the eye of a human being when he looks at another human being he loves and respects as an equal. Then remember the look in the eye of the average European when he is in contact with a 'lesser breed without the law' and you will understand what I mean. The difference between the two, I believe, is the explosive that has blown the Europeans out of one country after another during our time."

Thursday brought an 11-page on both sides letter from the young travelers en route to a new Army assignment in New York City. It was mostly filled with a blow-by-blow account of car troubles, but also noted that "Texans on the whole are the most

## Women's Fellowship Announces Meeting

Women's Fellowship of First Baptist church will meet Tuesday, December 11, for a dessert luncheon, followed by a business and missionary meeting. The luncheon is at 1 p.m. It is the last Fellowship meeting for this year.

Devotional for the meeting will be presented by Mrs. M. A. Putney; the Christmas program will be given by Mrs. Myrtle Wilson. Hostesses are Mrs. James Neeley and Mrs. M. L. Daily. The social committee will be

friendly and sympathetic people we've met." The writer, the distaff half of the family, also wrote that "Arkansas has the worst roads and Oklahoma is right behind it. Tennessee and southern California have the best roads so far. Except for the dust in Texas, the weather has been beautiful. We crossed the Mississippi at Memphis Sunday. The Columbia is more impressive."

"Everyone from Texas says 'Come back and see us' instead of good bye or thank you. Downtown intersections in Knoxville have sign posts reading 'No Horn'. Eastern towns and cities are generally more difficult to drive through than those in the west. They aren't planned as well."

"Segregation is most apparent so far as concerns rest rooms and waiting rooms. Motels get cheaper as you come east. Each cabin in the motel in Amarillo that we stayed in is designated by a different cattle brand."

It's probably a bit silly, but two women have a wonderful time reminiscing. Potpourri and Mrs. Eugene DeVoe discovered during a Red Cross tea given by Mrs. Al Littrell Wednesday that we both had attended Washington State college at the same time and that the sorority houses in which we lived were across the street from one another. So we chattered excitedly about school friends and what had happened to whom in the long years since we were both coeds.

Mrs. O. A. Eden received guests looking perfectly stunning in a black dress and small white fur hat. Mrs. Roy Stanley also looked smart in a black dress with a multiple string of pearls supplying a touch of white. The hostess also wore black, but her contrasting color was a frivolous black felt apron covered with glittering red sequins.

Party food is one of Mrs. L's talents. We could have eaten at least a dozen of the toothsome little morsels called "melting moments" or something like that. They are tiny balls of shortbread filled with a mixture of rum and chocolate. Simply yummy.

Two women called the society department on different days last week to ask the deadline for submitting engagement stories. Both were extremely worried. Both thought it was required by law that an engagement be printed before a church wedding could be held, and that a specified amount of time must elapse between the announcement and the marriage ceremony. Interesting, but entirely untrue, at least in Oregon.

Randolph Gabrielson, in the Tribune news room on business, watched while Peg Hutchinson produced a sewing kit from her purse and neatly sewed a button on the coat of another caller. "Do you also darn socks?" he inquired politely. "Not while the customers wait," came the reply. O.S.

Sunday, December 9, 1956

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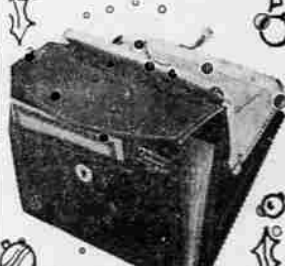
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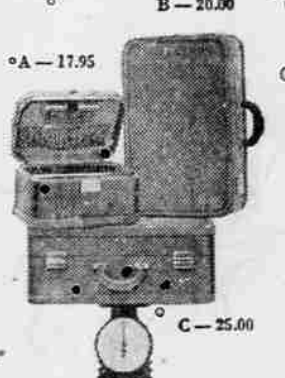


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