

# Cutting of Tree Is Christmas Tradition

By Olive Starcher

The Christmas season is filled with traditional observances, and for many Rogue valley families one of the most enjoyable is the annual cutting of a Christmas tree. Southern Oregon's beautiful forests are within easy driving distance and provide shapely trees of many varieties.

Forestry officials aid the householders by supplying information on where trees may be cut and which varieties are best for Christmas trees or to supply boughs for decorations. Rogue River National Forest service men caution families to cut trees at least 500 feet away from highways, campgrounds or picnic spots, and only where there is another tree within 15 feet. They suggest either Douglas, white or silver fir, or incense cedar, and warn that of the pines, only lodgepole should be cut. Lodgepole may be identified easily because it has only two needles in a cluster. Permission to cut is granted without charge to those using the trees for private purposes.

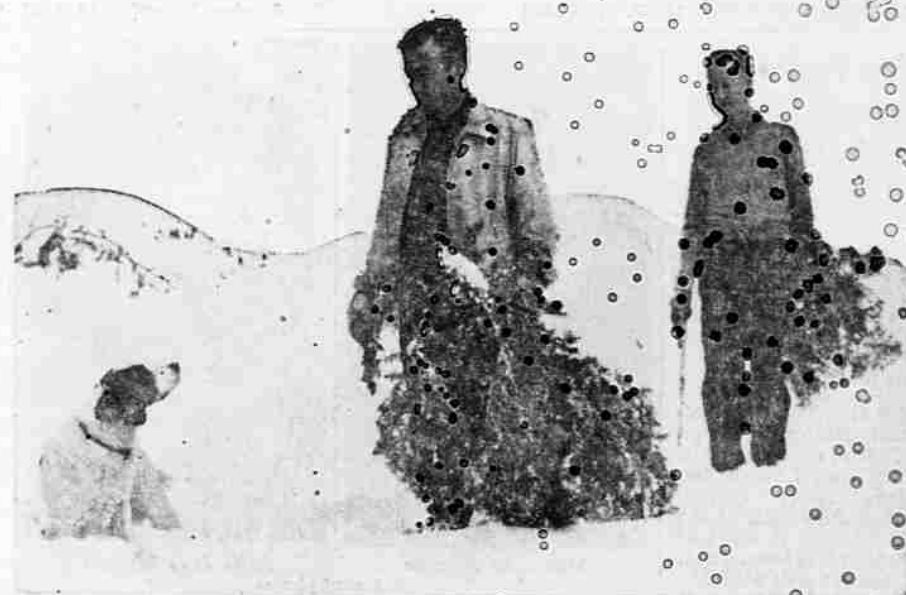
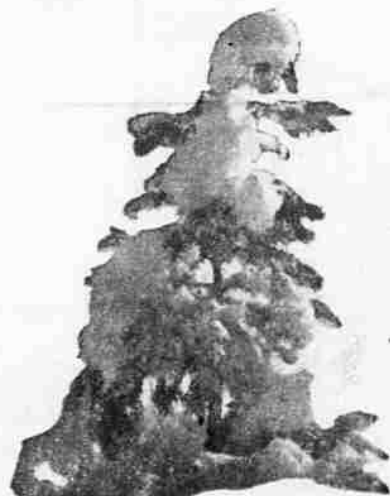
Families often make the tree-cutting excursion into a winter sports holiday. Mother packs a lunch, and the kids take along their skis, snowshoes and sleds to play in the snow.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rickman, 1150 Chestnut avenue, were in a group of friends which traveled into the forest above Union creek last Sunday to cut a Christmas tree for the coming holiday. They examine a white fir, deciding if it is the right size and shape.



With the Rickmans were Mr. and Mrs. John Morgan and three-year-old Calvin, 1117 Murray street, and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Dungey and daughter, Mary Pat, 4, of 1301 Winchester street, Medford. Mr. Morgan, ready with the saw, waits for the approval of his wife and the Dungeys before starting to work.



Hal Todd (center) and Eddie Simmons spent last Sunday in the Thousand Springs area near Union Creek. After a bit of skiing, the sportsmen cut two fir trees. Mr. Todd's Brittany spaniel, Bret, which accompanied the sportsmen, enjoyed running in the snow and had to be coaxed into pausing long enough for the picture.



Jerry Selleck (at left) and Doug Farnsworth, together with Charles Svitak and Miss Susan Stephenson, Crater High school junior, were in a neighborhood group of 10 which made a trip into the Union Creek area last Sunday. Young Svitak, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Kaufman, is home on leave from his station at Castle Air Force base, Merced, Calif.



The Tribune photographer, Robert Vroman, his wife and their three children combined tree cutting, fun in the snow and picture taking. The children are Susan, standing beside her mother; Sally and her twin brother, Jimmy, who took along a hatchet to cut boughs.



Dr. Ralph E. Hibbs (at left) and Robert E. Schott took their families and other neighborhood children on a snow party and tree-cutting trip last Sunday. David Schott stands by his father, Steve Hibbs and "Cracker" Jack Jr. Enders are in the car and by the car are Carolyn Schott, Jack (Ralph Jr.) and Jill Hibbs and Vickie Enders. Ralph Schott (far right) here from Joplin, Mo., to visit his brother, Robert, left Saturday morning for his home.



Two Shady Cove families were among those who were out last Sunday to play in the snow and cut Christmas greenery. Eldon Grove (at left) holds the silver fir tree he has selected while his small son, Mark, 5, Mrs. Grove and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Nutt look on with approval. The equipment which they took along included a pair of snowshoes, and thermos bottles filled with hot coffee helped to combat the chill of the mountain air.