

Oklahoma Commission Provides Merry Christmas for Orphans

Oklahoma City — State highway department trucks play the part of Santa's reindeer in Oklahoma, the only state that has made it official business to see that its orphans are remembered on Christmas.

That goal is accomplished through the work of the Santa Claus Commission, created 20 years ago by the legislature to make sure no orphan in a state or privately operated institution would be left out on Christmas morning.

Each of the 2,500 orphans is assured of a gift he or she has asked for, as well as the traditional candy, fruit and nuts.

Behind the unique project is a bustling, child-loving woman, Mrs. Jessie Fountain. She's commonly known as "Mrs. Santa Claus." As executive secretary of the commission, it's her job to do the shopping for the orphans.

Letters to Santa
The legislature gives her \$2,500 to spend, and the remaining \$5,000 necessary to finance the project comes from contributions.

Members of the commission put up much of the money. By design, they are all wealthy men who consider it a privilege to

serve on the commission.

The present commissioners are Forrest F. Harper, an Oklahoma City oilman who has served since the 1940's; L. B. Simmons, another oilman from Duncan; and the newest member, Sam E. Avey, sportsman-philanthropist from Tulsa, who replaced the late W. G. Skelly, oil company president.

The orphans begin writing letters to Santa early in the fall. They are given a list of more than 250 types of gifts from which they select three in order of preference. If the child expresses a wish for an item not on the list, Mrs. Fountain does her best to find it.

This year the choices have run to rock 'n' roll records and model airplanes and boats, she said. Surprisingly enough, there wasn't a flurry of demand for space toys.

Delivered By Trucks
Mrs. Fountain gets plenty of amusing requests, along with some pathetic ones. One boy listed a box of chocolates for each of his three choices. Another wanted a radio amateur's handbook and a bottle of shaving lotion.

Girls still like dolls, Mrs.

Fountain said, but many ask for material to make clothing and can-can petticoats.

Mrs. Fountain said she starts in to work the day after Christmas to line up merchandise for the following year. By early autumn, she is in full stride.

All packages are wrapped in bright paper and ribbon and are ready to go by Dec. 17. They are taken to the 24 institutions in state highway department trucks and the gifts are placed under Christmas trees.

On Christmas morning, a Santa Claus hands out the presents, each bearing a card with a child's name.

Mrs. Fountain said the list of orphans is growing shorter through the years, "possibly because of better times," but she doesn't believe the Santa Claus Commission will ever be dissolved.

"As long as I'm around and able to do the job we'll keep on giving the orphans a nice Christmas," she said.

\$50,000 Damage Suit Filed in Court Here

Oliver R. McNeel Eagle Point, is seeking \$50,000 in general damages and \$387.87 special damages from Roger D. Clement and Robert Arthur Engle as the result of a traffic accident on May 20, 1956, according to a complaint filed in circuit court.

McNeel was driving a pickup truck south on Highway 62 near the intersection with Biddle rd. when his truck and one owned by Clement and driven by Engle collided.

McNeel alleges in his complaint that he was seriously injured as the result of the accident. The special damages cover the eight days he was unable to work and medical and hospital expenses, according to the complaint.

He alleges further in his complaint that Engle was careless, reckless and negligent in failing to keep the truck under proper control, failing to maintain a proper lookout, failing to give a turn signal and not having a proper signalling device on the truck.

GOLD HILL

Trees Donated For Park

By MRS. CLYDE KELL
Gold Hill—Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Boye presented a gift of 32 small evergreen trees for the new Gold Hill city park, which is a project of the Gold Hill Lion's club. The trees were planted last Tuesday, Dec. 17, by several members of the local Lion's club, Bill Hittle and Bill Ferguson, both long-time residents of Gold Hill, assisted the Lion's club with the transplanting.

The Gold Hill fire department was called to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Delos Walker last Tuesday evening shortly after 6 p.m., when a clothes dryer ignited. The dryer and smoldering clothes were carried outdoors. Walker is an active member of the Gold Hill fire department.

Boy Scout Explorer Post No. 43 was recently reorganized. The scouts were put into crews according to their individual interests. Among these groups were archery, rifle and mechanics, according to senior crew leader Willard Waterhouse.

On Dec. 18, a class was given on rifle safety, sighting and proper shooting positions. The instructors for these classes were Chuck Soizer, Robert Schmidt, the Explorer advisor, and Willard Waterhouse.

Assistant scoutmaster of troop No. 43 and Jack Jones directed a class in archery on Dec. 11. After the class the scouts remained to practice shooting on a range, which was recently constructed in the scout hall.

Mr. and Mrs. Gurnie Noah Jr. of Arcata, Calif., announced the birth of their third son, Ray Michael on Dec. 8. The baby weighed 8 pounds and 11½ ounces. Mrs. Noah is the former Frances Price. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. William Price, Gold Hill.

Mrs. Price has recently returned home from Arcata where she spent some time in the Noah home caring for the family. The Noah's four year old son, Kenneth, had received a fractured skull in a fall from the drain-board at his parents home.

He has returned home from the hospital and is making satisfactory recovery, according to relatives here.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Reeves and her brother, Charlie Price, spent last week end in Arcata visiting with Mrs. Reeves brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Gurnie Noah Jr. Mrs. Price came home with them.

Mrs. Mabel Newnham has returned to her home following several weeks spent in a Medford hospital and several weeks in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Brown. She had received injuries in an automobile accident about two months ago.

Mrs. Newnham was a dinner guest in the home of Mrs. Lorraine Becker on Sunday, Dec. 15.

Several parties have been given in this area during the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. William Duggan were hosts to a slumber party Friday, Dec. 13, at their home in Sams valley to honor their daughter, Dixie on her 12th birthday. Guests included seven of Dixie's classmates from the sixth grade at St. Mary's school in Medford. They were Millicent Conners, Julie Miller, Judy Dunlevy, Faye Lewis, Mary Hochstatter and Martha Merriman, all residents of Medford, and Cathy Zapell of Talent.

A surprise birthday party honoring Jerry Tepovac on his 21st birthday was held at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Tepovac Saturday evening, Dec. 14. His birthday was Dec. 13.

Those present for the occasion were Miss LaVena Hardin, Miss Judy Deckleman, Miss Lee Chamberlain, Miss Netti Ragle, Buddy Davis, and Frankie Hardin all of Rogue River and Harry Robinson from Grants Pass. Attending from Gold Hill were Miss Jeanie Governor, and Jerry's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. George Triller and two sons, Mike and George.

The cake for the affair was baked by his mother, Mrs. Tepovac and especially decorated for the occasion by a friend, Mrs. Leonard Kell, also of Gold Hill.

A no-hostess Christmas party was given at the home of Mrs. Thomas (Roby) Robinson Monday, Dec. 16, when several of her friends and relatives gathered for an afternoon's visit and to exchange gifts. Those present were Mrs. Roy Centers, Mrs. Hannah Routh, Mrs. Louise Robinson, Mrs. Amy Ross, Mrs. James Swindler and son Garry, Mrs. James Keyes and son, Larry, Mrs. Anne Payne and son Chipper, Mrs. Richard Strauss and two youngsters Dickie and Kimbra, Mrs. Carl Routh, Mrs. Robinson and her daughter, Robin.

Mrs. Paul Molloy was hostess last Monday evening, Dec. 16, for the annual Christmas party of the Amethyst Rebekah Friendship club.

Prior to the party a routine business meeting was conducted by Mrs. Donald Morrow, president. At this time officers for the ensuing year were nominated. They are Mrs. Robert McDaniels, president; Mrs. Harry

Quinn, vice president; Mrs. Alfred Bailey, treasurer and Mrs. Paul Molloy, secretary.

Mrs. Delos Walker was awarded the hostess gift and Mrs. Howard Burnette received the white elephant at this meeting. Mrs. Morrow was presented a gift from the club in recognition of the service she has given the group the past year as president. She attended every meeting since taking office.

Following the business session a gift exchange was held and Mrs. Molloy played the organ and sang several Christmas songs.

Mrs. Molloy used the traditional holiday decorations for the occasion. A nativity scene which she had created from various colored felt was hung above the fireplace. Place cards were made of felt, in keeping with the Christmas theme. A lighted tree decorated one corner of the room, near the refreshment tables. Refreshments served by the hostess were also decorated in the Yuletide theme with each dessert topped with a holly leaf and red marichino cherry.

The next meeting of the club will be held at the home of Mrs. Delos Walker, on Monday, Jan. 20.

Nearly 400 people attended the Christmas program which was held in the Hanby school gymnasium Thursday evening, Dec. 19, according to Principal Gilbert Mack.

About 200 youngsters from the Patrick and Hanby schools participated in the program.

The Patrick first grade presented a choral reading as the opening number of the program, which was followed by a piano solo by Sandra Gannon and another choral reading by the second and third grades of the school. A choir made up of second and third grade youngsters sang six songs. Soloist for this group was Nancy McCoy, a third grade student. Douglas McMahan was reader for the Christmas story portion of the program.

A pageant was presented by the students of the Hanby school. Singing was provided by the fourth and fifth grade students and several different choral groups, which have recently been organized under the direction of Mrs. Elbow Mae Gail. They are the harmonettes, singers, singing twelve, and sixth, seventh, and eighth grades classes. A speaking choir was made up of fourth, fifth and sixth grade students.

Vocal soloists for this group from the Hanby school were Patty Boye and Gregory Applin. Music director was Mrs. Gail and the pianist was Mrs. Ivy Doherty.

Mrs. Ida Von Buskirk was the program chairman. On the planning committee were Mrs. Marie Brannock, Mrs. Elbow Mae Gail, Mrs. Wilda Franks, Mrs. Mildred Black, Mrs. Vera Steele and Mrs. Von Buskirk. Those in charge of publicity were Mrs. Shirley Anderson, Gilbert Mack and Mrs. Ivy Doherty, school pianist. The lighting and stage committee was made up of Dean Roberts, Al Beman, Russ Carr, Claude Morgan and Charlie Foote and in charge of the costumes for the program were Mrs. Audree Beaman, Mrs. Barbara Charles, Mrs. Barbara Toner, Mrs. Cora McDonald, and Mrs. Marie Johnson.

At the close of the program Santa Claus appeared with treats for the children.

A large lighted tree trimmed with tinsel decorated the gym for the occasion and an arrangement of evergreen was used for the stage decorations. A gold star shown through the greenery which covered the entire background of the stage.

Mrs. Elwin Wilson and Mrs. Lester Wakeman were in charge of furnishing and trimming the Christmas tree. Many mothers spent several days working at the school this past week to prepare costumes for the Christmas program.

Program cover designs were created by Mark Moehle, Ogden Kellogg, Tommy Davis, and Toni Morrow. Youngsters of the two schools were treated to a turkey dinner on Thursday, Dec. 19. Several mothers assisted Mrs. Frances Thorne and Mrs. Edith Thompson with the serving on that date. Room parties were held in each class room on Friday, Dec. 20, and school was dismissed one hour early. Classes will resume on Thursday, Jan. 2, 1958.

Mrs. Mabel Davis planned to leave Sunday, Dec. 22, for Ontario, where she will spend Christmas in the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Bennett and family.

Ralph Cupp will leave Dec. 22 for Orville, Calif., to spend the Christmas holidays with his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Williams.

Mr. and Mrs. William S. Dickinson of Gold Hill will be guests on Christmas day for the traditional dinner at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Stemberge and daughter, Debbie of Medford. Other guests that day will include Mr. and Mrs. Bill Stern-



HOFFA HUGGED—Teamster Union president-elect James R. Hoffa (front) is hugged by an unidentified well-wisher outside New York's Federal Court after his wire-tap trial ended in a hung jury.

Two Damage Suits Filed in Court

Damage suits involving two children have been filed in Jackson county circuit court by their guardians, Mrs. Jonyalynne Lewellen, Ashland.

In the first, Mrs. Lewellen is seeking \$60,000 general damages from Davis Reno Offutt, owner of Ross Motel, Central Point, on behalf of Kathleen Lewellen, three years old.

According to the complaint, Offutt "drove into" the Lewellen girl on Aug. 10 when she was in the back yard of the motel. The youngster received serious and permanent injuries as a result of the accident, the complaint alleges.

Mrs. Lewellen charges the defendant, Offutt, knew youngsters played in the area and failed to keep a proper lookout.

The second complaint is filed on behalf of Saunders R. Russell, 14, by her guardian, Mrs. Lewellen. She is seeking \$20,000 damages from the management of Rogue Valley Drive-In theater, as the result of an accident occurring on May 20, 1956.

Saunders Russell injured her foot when it was caught in the mechanism of a merry-go-round on the theater property, according to the complaint.

Mrs. Lewellen alleges further that the management was negligent in not having an attendant to supervise the children on the merry-go-round, failing to shield the inner bars and support of the play device.

and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Booth, all of Medford.

Officials of the Gold Hill Odd Fellows lodge No. 129 have announced that there will be no meeting this Tuesday, Dec. 24, because of the Christmas eve, falling on that date.

New York — Michael Schaap, 83, former president and chairman of the board of Bloomingdale Brothers, Inc., department store, fell to his death Monday from a twelfth floor suite at the Hotel Chatham.

Hillsboro To Get Research Laboratory

Portland — Georgia Pacific Corporation announced at its general offices here today that it will establish central research laboratory facilities for the 21 major operations at Hillsboro, Ore., 14 miles west of Portland.

James L. Buckley, vice president in charge of development and research, said the new facility would begin to function Jan. 1 in a laboratory building leased from Aluminum Company of America.

Buckley said "the Hillsboro laboratory will be the focal point of research for our manufacturing plants on the West Coast, in the South and East, under the guidance of Dr. Robert W. Hess, director of research."

The existing testing and quality control laboratory at Olympia, Wash., will continue to function as formerly and will supplement the central laboratory at Hillsboro, Buckley said.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

FIRE	SP 2-2333
POLICE	SP 3-3636
MONEY	SP 3-5308

PACIFIC INDUSTRIAL
16 S. CENTRAL

DARDANELLE

Christmas Special DINNERS

Choice of Entrees:

- Roast Turkey with Dressing
- Baked Ham with Rum Sauce
- Prime Rib,
- Choice Eastern Beef
- Large Jumbo Fried Prawns

Highway 99 At Gold Hill Overpass

OPEN from 1 P.M. Christmas Day

DANCE

CHRISTMAS NIGHT — Dec. 25

OASIS

BALLROOM, EAGLE POINT

COUNTRY DANCE

The Melody Boys

Singing and Playing the Best in Country Music

Hall decorated for Yuletide Festivities

Admission 90c Per Person

Plenty of Free Parking Space

SING WITH BING

On radio tonight: As much a part of Christmas as the holly, the tree—as old St. Nick himself: Bing Crosby sings the carols all America loves best. At 9:00 PM, 1230 on your dial. The CBS Radio Network **KYJC**
Your Mail Tribune Station

PIONEER TAVERN & CAFE

Central Point

WISHING YOU ALL A Merry Christmas

We Will Be Open Christmas Day

Serving Christmas Dinner Cocktails

Season's Greetings

from the men and women of your gas company

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