

Regional News

Correspondents: Upper Applegate Valley—Maude Ziegler; Lower Applegate Valley—Jeanette Head; Butte Falls—Mary Jo Harris; Central Point—Doreen Armstrong; Eagle Point—Dottie Harrison; Gold Hill—Sara Valley—Mary Keli; Grandview—Lone Pine—Dot Simmons; Happy Camp—Hazel Davis; Betty Reedy; Hornbrook—Katherine Chapman; Illinois Valley—Katherine Scott; Jacksonville—Bette Hoskins; McLeod—Caroline Harding; Murphy—Mrs. R. J. Millemann; Prospect—Velda Barr; Shady Cove—Evelyn Watson; Table Rock—R. E. Nealon; Tiller—Drew—Viola Rogers; Williams—Ann Katzenbach; Yreka—Doris Robinson.

Murphy School Children Celebrating Christmas With Old Spanish Customs

By JOAN MILLEMANN
Murphy Correspondent
Murphy—The fifth grade at Murphy school resembles a miniature United Nations in these last hectic days before Christmas as it prepares to celebrate the holiday on an international scale.

The children have been assigned the task of looking up how Christmas is celebrated in many foreign countries and making reports to their classmates. However, over and above these many accounts, the main theme for the class's Christmas is a Spanish one. For these students are among the luckier ones in the nation today in that they have been able, under the teaching of Mrs. Frances Gutierrez, to begin the study of the Spanish language while still in elementary school.

What started as an experiment at the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade levels several years ago, has now been widened as a program until this year Spanish is taught as a subject from the fourth grade up and it is hoped to be able to include all grades eventually. Since Mrs. Gutierrez is the fifth grade teacher, it is in her class that Christmas is being celebrated as it would be in Spain, complete to the "pinata" rather than the Christmas tree. The pinata is a hollow paper mache figure, which the children of the class are making, which will be filled

with small candies and trinkets. Then on the last day of school when all the classes are having their Christmas parties, the pinata will be hung above the heads of the children who will dance around it singing Spanish songs and will finally all have the privilege of breaking it, thus distributing all the candies among the children clustered beneath it.

Decorated Jars
These pinatas, in countries of Spanish origin consist of fragile earthenware jars decorated to look like a bird, fish or doll which are shattered by the children who are blindfolded, given a club and three chances to break them. However, the children in Murphy school are making theirs in a less expensive, equally effective manner. Wads of newspaper are compressed until the desired figure is obtained (this year's class is making their pinata in the shape of a snowman). This figure is then covered by strips of paper moistened with paste which is allowed to harden. When it is thoroughly dry and hard, it is carefully opened down the sides with a knife, the inside wads of paper are removed, and the openings are closed with more of the wet paper strips, thus making a hollow figure which is filled with candy or trinkets before the final sealing.

All during the process of making the figure and pre-

paring for the celebration, the children are learning new Spanish words which apply to the occasion, and the final procedure, the breaking of the pinata, and the ceremony accompanying it, is conducted entirely in Spanish. One couldn't conceive of a more fascinating way to learn while having fun and in this era, when educators are stressing the value of learning foreign languages as early as possible for greater flexibility, these children in Murphy are indeed lucky.

Schools To Have Christmas Dinner Sponsored by PTA

Gold Hill—A free Christmas dinner will be prepared for pupils of Patrick and Hanby Elementary schools of District 6. The meal will consist of turkey and all the trimmings. It will be served during the lunch period, Thursday, Dec. 22. The dinner is sponsored by the Gold Hill Parent-Teacher association.

Final arrangements for the dinner and other Christmas projects of the unit were made during a session of the executive board last week. Mrs. Jerry Herrington, president, presided.

Committees to prepare and serve the dinner were named. They include Mrs. Paul Thompson, Mrs. Kenneth Fluck, and Mrs. Arthur Boye who will work with school cook Mrs. Frances Throner at Patrick cafeteria. Mrs. Lester Wakeman, Mrs. Paul Malloy, and Mrs. C. Norman Gail will assist Mrs. Edith Thompson, school cook at Hanby cafeteria.

The board took action to eliminate party refreshments this year at class room Christmas parties slated for Friday afternoon, Dec. 23. Officials of the unit and Gilbert Mack, principal of the Gold Hill schools, report that this will curtail work and expense for room-mothers and others who assist them.

Christmas Treats
In place of refreshments, students of Hanby Elementary school will be given P.T.A. Christmas treats on Friday. Patrick pupils and other little folks will be presented P.T.A. treats when Santa Claus makes his appearance immediately after the Patrick Christmas program, Tuesday afternoon.

Hanby students will present their Christmas program Thursday evening, Dec. 22 at 7:30.

A large tree in the multipurpose room will be decorated for the two programs by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Herrington, Mrs. Lester Parker, Mrs. J. N. McKibben, and Mrs. Lewis Neilson.

Mrs. Ronald Kalista, Mrs. H. S. Deuel, Mrs. Clayton Netzel and Mrs. Donald Meister volunteered to make new choir capes.

Mrs. Netzel, membership chairman stated that there are now 80 members in the local P.T.A. She is still accepting membership fees. The goal is 100.

"Lights on for Education" will be the topic for the January session of the P.T.A. Dr. Elmo Stephenson will be guest speaker on the fifth of the month instead of the regular meeting date.

Personally Speaking

By JOHN STAFFORD

For the last few years religious leaders and devoted citizens have been concerned about a problem arising at this time of year. In an age when some are placing the value of the dollar at the top of their priority list, Christmas poses a prime example of what these religious leaders and interested citizens are confronted with.

"Keeping Christ in Christmas" becomes submerged in the hustle and bustle of this happy season. Too many times the purpose behind elaborate Christmas decorations and seasonal merry making is buried. Christmas signifies a great event in Christian history. The coming of Christ was a happy event for the world. Christians were humble when the great event occurred.

In the space age are we still humble? Are we keeping Christ in Christmas?

A few days ago we discovered an article published by United Press International which gives advice on keeping the holidays holy. It merits special attention. The article follows.

Washington - (UPI) - What can an ordinary American family do to "Keep Christ in Christmas"?

Here are eight simple, practical suggestions from the Methodist magazine Together:

-Attend the services in your church.
-Give gifts to those outside your circle of family and to friends who cannot repay you in kind. Break the habit of gift swapping.

-Write a note of appreciation to someone who, during the year, did some outstanding public work in an unselfish manner, or whose words or deeds were an inspiration to you. Written words are especially appreciated.

-Phone or call on some lonely person and wish him a Merry Christmas. You may be his only caller the whole season.

-Send a cash gift through a church or charitable channel to needy people overseas. You will be helping people who will never know their benefactor. Remember, when you give alms, give them in secret, and "your Father who sees in secret will reward you."
-Invite someone to eat Christmas dinner with you - a foreign student perhaps, who cannot pay you in kind.
-Provide your minister with a cash gift for someone in need, specifying that he not reveal your name.

-Get down on your knees and thank God that you are living in a land so blessed with riches that it is possible for you to be on the giving instead of the receiving end!

Last Thursday the Staffords ventured out to chop down the annual Christmas tree. After obtaining a Christmas tree permit from Harold Thomas, Ashland forest service ranger, we started to the cutting area on the Ashland loop road.

That we got lost and ended up back in Ashland twice is insignificant. Although it must be admitted that this writer was ready to start chopping down the first pine tree that came into sight when we entered the fair city a second time.

Finding the forest service cutting area was a breeze when stacked against enduring the wife's indecision in finding just the "right" tree. We tried to explain that perfect Christmas trees just don't grow. However, our efforts were in vain. She continued skipping merrily through the woods examining every tree in sight. We trudged along after her.

The only thing that saved her poor husband was darkness. We started walking back to the car empty handed. Then about 100 yards from the family auto she spotted what was destined to stand in our livingroom. With all the lights, ornaments and tinsel, I must admit that she did find a "perfect" Christmas tree.

The King ranch includes more than one million acres of land, making it the largest privately-owned domain in the United States. It celebrated its 100th birthday in 1953.

A stack of letter-size paper, three stories high, placed beside each of the 175 million persons in the United States would illustrate the amount of paper consumed annually in this country.

About 45 million Americans go to and from their jobs daily in automobiles. About 19 million other Americans ride motor vehicles to school, to shops, and for other activities.

Eagle Point Holds First Jury Trial

Eagle Point - A historical event took place in the Eagle Point Grange hall Monday morning.

For the first time a jury trial was held in Eagle Point. The trial followed an ordinance passed by the city council earlier this year providing for trials by jury. The city won its case against Richard R. Holzhauser, 37, Eagle Point, for an alleged traffic violation. Holzhauser pleaded not guilty to a charge of violation of basic rule. He was accused of driving 50 miles-per-hour in a 25 mile speed zone.

The court convened at 10:30 a.m. Six jurors were selected. Judge William Rice, jr., Medford, presided. City Attorney Gregg Hornecker represented Eagle Point with Ronald Ricketts representing the defendant.

After the six jurors had been sworn in by Rice, Hornecker instructed the jurors to be completely impartial to both sides and listen to all arguments before reaching a verdict.

Robert C. Moore, arresting police officer, was the first prosecution witness. Moore said he clocked Holzhauser going 50 miles-per-hour for about two blocks in the city Nov. 5. A radar clocking device was used, Moore said. Moore said the radar had been tested twice that day, so was

in apparent good working order. Oran Chastain, city marshal, was the second prosecution witness. Chastain said that in addition to daily testing of the radar, it is checked professionally by engineers every three or four months and has never been found to be more than one-mile-per-hour inaccurate.

Holzhauser's attorney asked that the testimony of Chastain and Moore be stricken from the record. Neither of them were radar experts and an expert technician would be required to prove the radar device's accuracy, the attorney said.

Judge Rice ruled against the motion, stating that a technician's knowledge was not necessary to know how to operate the radar.

Moves For Acquittal
Ricketts then moved for a motion for acquittal without a jury trial since an expert's opinion was not available to prove the radar was working at the time Moore apprehended Holzhauser. Rice denied the motion.

After Holzhauser testified

in his own behalf, the attorneys presented their closing arguments and Rice charged the jury with rendering a verdict. After a 45 minute deliberation they returned a verdict of guilty.

Holzhauser paid a \$30 fine plus \$18 in court costs following Eagle Point's first jury trial.

ANNUAL PROGRAM
Lone Pine - The Lone Pine school will present their annual Christmas program Thursday, Dec. 22 at 8 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Following the program, Santa Claus will have treats for the primary, intermediate and pre-school children.

Hanby School Presenting Christmas Music Program

Gold Hill - The Hanby Elementary school of District 6 will present its annual Christmas program Thursday night, Dec. 22 at 7:30. Gilbert Mack, principal of the Gold Hill schools, wishes to remind everyone that this program will be given in the new multipurpose room at Patrick Elementary school. He said that the acoustics in this room are excellent and everyone attending will be assured that they can hear with ease and comfort.

The Hanby and Patrick Elementary school band will present three numbers.

The Martian Space Men set the theme as they try to find out about this phenomenon called Christmas. They view the commercial aspect, the goodness of man, and finally the true picture of God's gift to man, a Saviour.

The Hanby school band and chorus will provide the musical background with favorite Christmas selections such as the Drummer Boy, Twelve Days of Christmas, O, Holy Night, and other favorite nativity selections.

The seventh grade will provide the cast composing the background scenes. The two men from Mars will be played by Bruce Downing and Billy Shoemaker. The narrator is Duane Fields, and the Christmas story will be read by Kirby Koopman, an eighth grader.

Co-directors are Lynn Bernston and Mrs. Beth Ness. Marvin Throne is in charge of music arrangements. Allen Hill and Deane Roberts are in charge of the lighting. Assisting them is Dickie Ross of the eighth grade. Special footlights and spots were made by the custodial staff composed of Al Beman, Charlie Foote and Sherman Kiger.

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Christmas Greetings

As the sound of Christmas music fills the air, may the wonder of the Christmas story fill your heart anew, bringing you all the joys of this happiest of all days.

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