

The North Santiam's Mill City Enterprise

Lyons, Mehama, Elkhorn, Mill City, Gates, Mongold, Detroit and Idanha

VOLUME V, NUMBER 1

MILL CITY, OREGON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1949

\$2.00 A YEAR, 5 CENTS A COPY

Looking Up and Down the Canyon

By CHARLES WOLVERTON

Those farmers down in Fern Ridge really keep a man up in the air. One longs for the peace and quiet of the big city, where one goes to work in the morning, comes back in the afternoon, and retreats into the security and tranquility of his apartment with no other disturbances than the scream of subway train wheels, the tooting of horns and the whine of an occasional siren.

Outwardly it's quieter here, but the disturbances created by the stalwart men from Fern Ridge and Coon Hollow, quiet fellows though they be, have all the clamor of revolution.

These fellows get you all worked up. First they scratch out a bit of brush, plant strawberries, and then reap, on mountain land, the best of crops in the Northwest, or the nation.

So then they sell you on strawberries. So you've made up your mind that, between editions, you're going to convert a patch of brush of your own, and become a strawberry tycoon.

So, about the time you're ready to launch a career and reap wealth and glory from the little red beauties of the crawling vine, and grow three tons to an acre, like they do, along comes one of the Coon Hollow fellows with a bright glow upon his brow, and he says: "Raspberries!"

So you reply, "Raspberries to you, too, but why should we stand here making with a Fern farmer's version of the Bronx cheer?"

Then he lets you in on his new secret. He's not saying raspberries, meaning to razz, but to point out that raspberries are just the fruit to make these hills bloom.

"OK," say I, "but you haven't given me time to put in the strawberries you were trying to sell as the crop to raise, just a few months back."

Strawberries are all right," says this red raspberry revolutionary, "but you should see what I've done with a new variety of raspberries developed by OSC."

The farmer goes his way, now having completely unsettled a would-be farmer with his new clamor. So with his strawberries already gone to weeds before they even got planted, the city rube begins to ponder the fortune about to be amassed by becoming a raspberry magnate. He prowls the brush, to locate a place where this new career can bud and bloom. Raspberries it is, raspberries it will be.

Then you know what happens. Along comes that Fern Ridge insurrectionist again. He looks you straight in the eye and says: "Blueberries!"

"Nuts," you remark. "You mean filberts?"

"No, I don't mean filberts, I mean NUTS! and razzberries to blueberries!"

"You wouldn't be saying that if you knew, my friend, what blueberries would do on land like this."

He is off again. Blueberries, it appears, are the best fruit crop of all for the Canyon.

"What's wrong with your strawberries? What's happened to your raspberries?"

"Nothing at all. Teyre both doing fine."

He goes on. Blueberries are the ideal crop because:

The market demand has never been filled. They have averaged in price 39 cents a pound for the past five or more years. You can grow from eight to 12 tons to an acre. The deer do not bother them, like strawberries, because the leaves are bitter. You harvest just once, and little or no cultivation is required. And so on.

So now, when my strawberry field has never emerged from the primeval woods, my raspberries are giving me the razz and I'm a frustrated agriculturist, a blue light is shining before my eyes. Round blue berries, big, says the emissary from the fern glades, as the end of your thumb.

Blueberries it now shall be, or until he comes back, with new tales of fortunes to be made in fragrant garlic fields, or who knows, perhaps bananas.

All nonsense aside, the truth is

Slight Pickup Registered by Lumber Trade

The lumber industry picture was a bit brighter this week with the reopening of the Mt. Jefferson Co. mill in Lyons, and reports that other mills would be at work soon.

Frank's mill would have reopened this week but for the cold weather. Operations in Idanha are scheduled to resume as soon as weather permits.

Logging remained at a standstill, but shut-downs were due to weather, mainly.

The Mt. Jefferson Box and Veneer plant in Lyons has been dismantled and the machinery sent to Portland.

There were no reports on possible reopening of the Mill City Manufacturing Co.

The Mill City Planing and Processing Co. is continuing on a short week basis.

Frozen millponds accounted for a part of the delay in resuming production, although the continued low price of certain grades of lumber is a factor.

Mrs. Shuey OES Matron

Annual installation of officers for Marilyn Chapter, No. 145, Order of the Easter Star, was held at the hall Monday evening with Rex Hartley, worthy grand patron of the Grand Chapter of Oregon, as installing officer. Assisting him were Esther Hartley, grand marshal of the grand chapter, who acted as installing marshal; Mildred Allen, installing chaplain; and Doris Sheythe, installing organist. All were escorted and introduced by Leora Stevens, after which Dorothy Shuey presented them with flowers.

Officers of last year, led by the associate matron, Fern Shuey, presented a candle-light degree honoring Alice Rupp, outgoing matron, and W. B. Shuey, retiring patron, at the close of which gifts were presented to those honored by the officers.

A group of Rainbow Girls, Pauline Mason, Paula Van Buskirk, Marlene Verbeck and Lela Kelly, accompanied by Doris Sheythe, dedicated the song, "Star of the East," to the retiring matron and presented a gift.

Installed and assuming their new stations were:

Worthy matron, Fern Shuey; worthy patron, Wilson Stevens; associate matron, Marguerite McCoy; associate patron, Laurence Walworth; conductress, Lois Scott; associate conductress, Hallie Toman; secretary, Edith Mason; treasurer, Mary Tuers; chaplain, Vivian Walworth; marshal, Alice Rupp; organist, Maxine Hill; Adah, Laurel Johnson; Electa, Edith Randall; warder, Rachel Olmstead; and sentinel, Floyd Johnson.

Two solos were sung by Doris Sheythe, accompanied by Maxine Hill.

A floral degree was presented to the new patron and patron. Alice Rupp received a past worthy matron pin.

A new gavel was given to the worthy matron.

ARTIST VISITS PARENTS

Byron Randall, a leading water color artist, recently spent a week in Elkhorn with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Randall at the Elkhorn Guest Ranch.

Mr. Randall, who was accompanied by his daughter Gail, had just returned from the islands where he had a series of pictures. He has had his studio in San Francisco for the past eight years.

That an unsurpassed, although undeveloped, fruit land lies between Mehama and Niagara, now a mass of tangle and second growth. The old-timers knew it. Witness the orchards they planted, now unkept, but still bearing heavy crops — for the deer and bear to feast upon.

Strawberries, raspberries, blueberries! Take your choice. There's proof enough already that the Canyon is meant for them — and other fruits — and they are meant for the Canyon.

BETSY KRIEVER HEADS YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The Presbyterian Fellowship held election of officers Sunday. The following were elected:

President, Betsy Kriever; vice president, Lyle Fleetwood; secretary, Dennis Marttala; treasurer, Jimmy Baltimore; scribe, Rosalie Bassett; pianist, Alice Smith; assistant pianist, Lela Mel Kelly; sergeant at arms, Bob Baltimore; adviser, Mrs. Clayton Baltimore; assistant adviser, Lela Kelly; and song leader, Dr. Ferguson.

Canyon PTAs To Meet Here

A joint meeting of Detroit, Lyons and Mill City Parent-Teachers Assns. will be held here Jan. 12 with teenage problems as the subject. The local organization is sponsoring the meeting.

A roundtable discussion of teenagers will be led by Mrs. Margaret Feeley, with Glen Shelton, Mrs. Bob Featherstone and Kirk Wirick, of Lyons, and two parents from the Detroit PTA participating.

A short stage skit will be presented.

Recreation, money, and home situations will be discussed, and all present will be asked for comments and suggestions.

Miss Carmen Stafford will play a few numbers on the accordion before the members adjourn for refreshments. All parents and members of the community interested in the welfare of youth are invited to attend.

J. B. Gordon of Idanha and Mrs. Oti White of Detroit will be speakers at the roundtable.

WEDDING DANCE PLANNED

Miss Laura Schmid, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Schmid, Aumsville, and Leo Basl, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Basl of Coon Hollow, will be married Saturday.

There will be a big, free wedding dance in the evening at Grange Hall between Mehama and Lyons. All are invited.

SADDLE CLUB HAS BUSY YULE

The Riders of the Santiam have completed a busy holiday schedule.

Besides their Christmas party they had a Christmas dance Dec. 25. The orchestra was the Cascade Lumberjacks.

New Year's eve another dance at Jordan Hall was given, with music by the Portland Sunset Serenaders. Fred Gnuschke, past president, and Wanda O'Brien, past secretary-treasurer, were presented plaques.

The next club dance will be at Jordan Hall Jan. 15. Larry and his Cascade Riders will be their orchestra for the coming year.

A business meeting was held on Tuesday at the Lazy Maple Ranch.

THE OLD TROUBLE TRAIL

Well, sirs, I'd been rambling pleasantly, seeing Christmas cheer along the road and hauling up only to swap stories. Then I got up one morning so bright and early I had time to read the funnies.

You know how funnies go, of course. In one sequence a hospital for crippled children was burning down. In another a harpy was robbing a 14-year-old boy. And in another the dialogue was running something like this:

Son: Pa, you old reactionary, you, I've got onto you. Now I savvy, Pa, you are ruinin' them forests with yer old-style loggin' ways. I aim ter stop yer, pa, s'elp me, I aim ter stop yer!"

Pa: Looky, Bertram, don't forget who it is who buys yer beans. So don't yer try to tell me how to cut timber, yer misbegotten snipe—if I do say so as shouldn't. We'll go right on and log just like we always hev, by the old "S&S"

Son: Pa, I'm gittin' out from under yer thump right now. I aim to fight yer WASTEFUL and DEVASTATING WAYS! I'm goin to lick and reform yer, pa! And before I'm through ye'll be plantin' trees!"

Pa: Like *S!& I will!"

Fires Drop To Record Low in 1948

Chief Arlo Tuers of the Mill City Volunteer Fire Dept. reported today that the district had completed 1948 with 20 fires, and losses were very light. He was crossing his fingers that 1949 would prove as trouble-free.

Of the 20 alarms during the past 12 months, on was a false alarm; five were called without blowing the siren; seven were flue fires; on sawdust fire; one an overheated lamp; two overheated oil stoves; two from sparks from burners; a fire at the old city dump; one bad roof fire; two where overheated flues caused a fire; and one from an overheated stove pipe.

"I would like very much to have the siren blown in all cases," he requested, "so that all firemen can be on hand."

Rockets, Wolf Pack to Play

A double header, the American Legion Teenagers vs. the Mill City high school Timberwolves, and the Rockets, town team, vs. the regular Legion of Salem, will be played on the local basketball floor Saturday night.

The Santiam league got its send-off this week with a jamboree at Sublimity. All four teams in the circuit were on hand: Sublimity, Turner, Mill City and Aumsville.

In the tournament, Aumsville beat the Rockets 21-17; the Mill City five won over Sublimity, 34-10.

On the local squad are Joe Lalack, Gale Carey, Ronnie Johnson, Leland Manning, Don Casey, Jim Hennebeck, Joe Boyle, C. Darrou.

The schedule:

Jan. 10: Mill City at Aumsville, Turner at Sublimity.

Jan. 13: Sublimity at Mill City; Aumsville at Turner.

Jan. 17: Aumsville at Sublimity; Turner at Mill City.

Jan. 24: Sublimity at Turner; Mill City vs. Aumsville at Mill City.

Jan. 27: Turner at Aumsville; Mill City at Sublimity.

Jan. 31: Sublimity at Aumsville; Mill City at Turner.

Feb. 3: Mill City at Aumsville; Turner at Sublimity.

Feb. 7: Aumsville at Turner; Sublimity at Mill City.

Feb. 10: Aumsville at Sublimity; Turner at Mill City.

Pete Catherwood and Clarence Spry went over to the Byron Davis cabin in Alsea Monday.

Dam Basin Clearing Scheduled in Spring

Col. Walsh Says Big Cliff Dam On Current Building Program

Bids for clearing the reservoir area of the Detroit dam will be invited in the spring, Col. O. E. Walsh, District Army engineer, said in Portland last week.

Col. Walsh expressed the hope that logging and lumber firms in the Canyon area would bid on the clearing job and that the work would be done by men drawn from nearby communities.

A second announcement of equal importance was made, in an interview with the Enterprise, by the colonel. He said that Big Cliff dam, an 87-foot hydro electric producer planned for later construction on a site about three miles below the Detroit project, was now on the current list of undertakings of the Army Engineers Corps, and would be built at the same time the bigger dam is.

Up to now, Bigg Cliff dam had been in the "third phase of the vast \$400,000,000 Willamette Valley Project — scheduled on the Engineers' blueprints for construction long after the big dams at Dorena, Meridian and Detroit were under way. The rescheduling of the smaller dam under current construction adds \$20,000,000 to the \$60,000,000 estimated for the Detroit dam, in federal projects for the North Santiam Canyon.

Reservoir Clearing Job.

Col. Walsh said that, in order to give smaller logging contractors a chance to bid on clearing the Detroit dam reservoir, a total of about 12 square miles in area, the Engineers planned to divide the region into a number of plots. In this way, it would give most logging outfits here the chance to have a direct contract with the government, rather than be required, as subcontractors, to share a large part of the proceeds of the work with a big contractor.

Col. Walsh said the Engineers had not yet decided how they will proceed with the call for bids. On the one hand they are considering the possible sale first of all timber in the reservoir area to prospective buyers, after which logging the clearing would be undertaken. The alternative is offering the bids with clearing and logging grouped together.

At Meridian dam the logs were sold first, then the clearing contracts were invited.

Local loggers are of the opinion that a proposition to sell the timber separately and then clear the site won't work because the logs are few and far between and too expensive to get out. They believe, however, that some timber could be salvaged during the clearing operation.

Col. Walsh pointed out that the Army in Portland has a central lumber purchasing office in Portland and buys for the Army, the Navy and the Atomic Energy commission. He suggested that certain low grade salvage lumber from the reservoir timber might be used for construction incidental to the loading of ships, crating and other Army uses.

Stumps May Be Left

Col. Walsh said the specifications for clearing the reservoir require the stumps to be cut within one and one-half feet of the ground. All brush is to be removed.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Welch of Corvallis were Sunday dinner guests of the Lee Bassetts. She is a sister of Mrs. Bassett.

James Cooke spent the week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Cooke, after a ski trip to Camp Pioneer with the Scouts.

Miss Daisy Hendricson had Christmas dinner with the Arthur Krieviers.

About eighty members of the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs enjoyed a turkey dinner New Year's eve, the turkeys being furnished by the Odd Fellows.

A mock wedding was put on by both lodges and there were acordion solos and duets. Mrs. Frances Merrill sang, and there was group singing. After the program cards were played. In charge of the dinner were Mrs. Blanche Syverson and Mrs. Eva Duffy.

to be cleared away and burned as well as fallen and dead timber. His requirements are considerable at variance with reports current in the Canyon, which had it that all stumps had to be grubbed out and burned and the ground cleaned as "with a garden rake."

Col. Walsh remarked that he hoped the job would be done by local firms and labor. It was pointed out that if this were done it might not be necessary for the Engineers to provide housing for hundreds of a local workers, and that if done by experienced logger outfits, used to the terrain, the accident rate would be cut down.

Here in the Canyon, several logging concerns were working out the details of forming a corporation to bid on the clearing work.

The corporation, if completed, is intended to pool several firms and qualify for bidding.

Work generally on the highway, the Bonneville line clearing and elsewhere was being resumed this week here after shutdown during the year end. The American Federation of Labor will station a representative at Niagara to answer inquiries on employment at the dam.

Throughout the past month, since Col. Walsh called for bids on the Detroit dam for submission Jan. 4, representatives of contractors from all over the United States have been looking over the job. Inasmuch as there are fewer projects in the country than for years, it is believed that the project will attract more than the normal number of bidders.

Previous announcements set the opening of bids at about Feb. 25.

Right-of-Way Contract Let

An \$82,700 contract to clear 14.7 miles of right of way for a 230-kv line between Lyons and Lebanon has been awarded to Paul Helmich, Seattle, by the Bonneville Administration. This is part of the same line which connects the Bonneville grid to the Detroit damsite, where a substation will be built to serve the contractor of the dam.

Towers and other installations are being unloaded at various points between Lyons and the damsite.

MORAVEC GIVEN FRANCHISE

Tony Moravec, Fern Ridge berry grower, has been given the franchise for sale of blueberry plants adapted to this climate by the Verybest Co. in Gate, Wash.

Mr. Moravec has an experimental patch on his farm in conjunction with Oregon State College experiment station.

Byron Davis has taken moving pictures of Mill City folks to send to Mr. and Mrs. Ted Dorothy, former residents who now live in Montana.

Joe Podrabsky suffered a heart attack when he was rushing to a fire at the home of his father. He is confined to his home again.

Mrs. Charles Sullivan underwent a gallstone operation last Thursday in Salem and is reported doing nicely.

Mrs. L. E. Stiffler, mother of Lowell Stiffler, was operated upon for gall stones Tuesday morning and is convalescing in the same room and the same hospital with Mrs. Sullivan.

Miss Hope Baney, high school teacher, spent the holidays at her home in Yamhill.

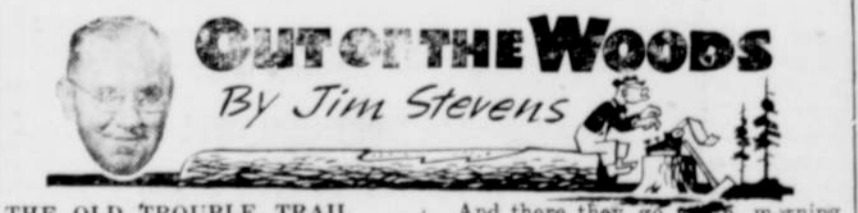
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Cruson and family had dinner with the Bob Mathers in Salem last week.

Mrs. Allan Neff of Forest Grove is visiting her sister, Mrs. John Montgomery. The Montgomerys were in Albany and at the coast for the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. Shields Remine were at the beach over the New Year's holiday.

The Lee Bassetts had a supper New Year's eve at the Earl Bassetts.

Dick Turpin is back, on the job again. The enforced vacation he took looks well on him.



And there they go again, morning after morning, on the old trouble trail. New Gimmick This is a new gimmick for the funnies, as we who are professionals of the writing game put it—the plot sequence on a fight between father and son about harvesting lovely, clean trees for ugly and filthy money. It is old stuff in the zction magazines, of course, and in novels and movies. Usually the tree-lovin' offspring of the tree-devastatin' lumberman is a lady and the hero is a forest ranger in choke-bore pants. But the plot is new to the funnies and they give it a curious twist. In the one hat is making my morning paper so exciting the main here is a pipe-smoking "conservationist" who gets his living in the woods by taking photographs for a hunting magazine, "Wild Death." This conservationist leads a lumberman's son to see the evil of his pa's ways. The son and the photographer are rivals for the affections of a girl who is the daughter of another conservationist. In the rivalry they remain pals. You can see how the old lumberman is boxed in by conservation and love both. (Continued on Back Page) ...