Herald and News

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BILLBOARD

By BILL JENKINS

On yesterday's front page we carried an announcement that starting next week we would run only good news on page one.

That will be the policy of the paper for the week preceding Christmas. Our gift as a newspaper to a long suffering public that has had a year of bad news on that page behind it.

Seems like any more when you pick up a paper the headlines scream of nothing but gloomy war fears, fires driving people from their homes, ships sinking in the night, planes crashing into hillsides, floods, disasters and the ever - present political bickering and petty backbiting that seems to keep our elected officials so busy.

We finally figured out that it would be a welcome change for the readers of this paper if they could pick up their paper, for one week at least, and read of man's humanness and kindliness instead of his inhumanity to his fellow man. That it would be a pleasant change to read of the joyous Christmas doings in our community, of the good that others have done in order that their neighbors and families might be happier.

We don't want it thought that we are going to leave out the news. That's our business. The way we earn a living and in which we serve you, the reading public. Holding a mirror up to the happenings of the day and trying to give you an unbiased and truthful account of what went on in the community, the state, the nation and the world.

But we don't have to have the mirror in the front room.

If you like the idea let us know. I think this is the first time a newspaper has ever tried such a move. Whether it is what you want or not we don't know. But if you'll let us know we'll know what to do in future years.

At any rate, we'll do everything we can to make this a merry Christmas for everyone.

More word from the Fort Klamath pigeon. He has succumbed to the cold and now roosts with the white pullets. He has also lost his leg band somewhere along the line, but he has become gentled down enough that he will occasionally eat out of Myrtle Wimer's hand.

We are reminded by Frank Braman, a devoted pigeon man himself, that this bird belongs to Walter Bliss, out Henley way, but it looks like Walter has been too busy to go out and pick him up.

Looks like the pigeon will have his Christmas with the chickens.

Frank also mentions in his latest letter to us that the pride and joy of the pigeon fanciers around town now is Cecil Matt's new pigeon loft, made of pumice brick, 000 of 'em, and lovingly constructed by Matt himself.

Frank says that Cecil is almost ready to take the bandages off his fingers and is about ready to stand up straight again after all the rigors of building the loft. Those bricks can be rough on a guy when he starts slinging them around.

We'll have to go out and take a look at the new outfit.

HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — Sidewalk reflections of a Pavement Plato:

If a grinning, skinny old man wearing a neatly clipped grey mustache, a pink shirt, and a stylish charcoal black suit climbs down your chimney on Christmas Eve, don't shoot him or phone for the police.

He may be Santa Claus!

Christmas has gone so modernistic that, sooner or later, someone is going to start a movement to take away old Santa's beard, put him on a diet and turn him into a fashion plate.

But do we want that? Would it really improve Santa Claus to make him look like one of those neat, crisp fellows in the Men of Distinction ads?

The great value of Santa Claus has been that he makes no effort to keep up with the times, and has remained jolly and changeless and old-fashioned for centuries—a symbol of selfless kindness.

It is a mistake to try to modernize great traditions, and Christmas is a great tradition. But in recent years it has been getting more and more arty and, perhaps less and less hearty.

Take the Christmas tree itself. Any person of middle age can recall the shared joy of a time when decorating the Christmas tree was a matter of family pride. Everybody took part—dad, mom, and the kids.

Practically all the ornaments were home-made. Remember the thrill of threading popcorn and cranberries to rope the green tree with strands of white and red? Remember cutting long slivers of tinfoil from cigarette wrappers hoarded for months? And remember the moment of ecstasy when dad, standing on a stepladder, carefully fastened the cardboard star, covered with tinfoil, to the very top of the tree?

Probably in thousands of homes this simple family ritual still goes on unchanged, except that most of the ornaments now are bought at the ten-cent store.

But in many other homes the Christmas tree has become so arty, so tortured out of shape, it is unrecognizable. You go into a guy's home and ask him what he's doing with a clothes rack in his living room, and he replied indignantly:

"What do you mean—clothes rack? That's our Christmas tree."

To make one of these modernistic Christmas trees, the last thing in the world you want is an actual tree. First you need a course in expressionism in the nearest art school. Then you take a stuffed moose head, and lay a piece of bone-white driftwood across its widespread antlers. Next you tear apart an old matress, then attach the coils of springs to the antlers with a pair of pliers.

Man, you've got something—the most up-to-date Christmas tree on the block, even if you have to explain to the neighbors what it is.

The same situation holds true with Christmas cards. There was a time when you could pick up a Christmas card and tell what it was by how it looked and the message printed on it. If you can do that today, the card is regarded as a flop.

I just opened an envelope on my desk a moment ago. It held a card showing a clown seated on an old soda fountain chair and bore this message: "Oh merriment." I assume this is a Christmas card, and not an invitation to the circus, merely because this is December and the circus isn't in town.

Well, maybe I'm just getting to be a middle-aged fogy. But don't most of us look back to a time when Christmas, always a season of the flowering spirit, had more of heart than art in it? Let's make the modernists keep their paws off Santa Claus. He's perfect as he is.

Payment Ordered For Refuge Land

PORTLAND (AP)—Federal Judge James A. Fee Thursday ordered the distribution of $101,000 to owners of 3,474 acres of land taken over by the government for the Malheur Wild Life Refuge years ago.

Judge Fee set the compensation last summer, but distribution had been held up by technicalities. The case had been in the courts 19 years. A federal attorney said the money would go to about 25 persons.

They'll Do It Every Time — By Jimmy Hatlo

ALONG NATURE'S TRAIL by KEN McLEOD

In the field of ornithology there exists a great gulf between the amateur and the professional, in fact, this is true in the case of all problems of wildlife. The amateur's opinion is held in disdain by many who hold a university degree in the subject. The continual clashes of biologists and sportsmen in the field of wildlife management is certainly an outstanding example. The so-called "expert" because some university once gave him a degree is quite frequently so impressed with his own knowledge that all other people are merely dwellers in the ages dark. Back in the old days when vigorous battles were being fought over the Interstate Deer Herd I listened to a young biologist get up before a meeting of Foresters and say: "Gentlemen. There is no problem here — we know all the answers."

In our interest in bird life it is an assured fact that the field-glass amateur need not apologize to the professional. To the Tryo the studies of the professionals in the field of advanced ornithology appear to be as dull and pointless as their activity appears to be to some biologists in return — the amateur and biologist can at least agree that the other fellow is "nuts!"

Nevertheless the activities of the amateur and the professional do blend, one with another. There is no reason why the bird watcher who carries out a methodical listing of the bird life he encounters should attempt to justify his hobby on scientific grounds any more than should the sportsman. The bird-watcher, however, inevitably adds something to our knowledge of birds that the sportsman fails to do for game. To the rank and file of field-glass observers we owe much of what is known about the sweep and movement of migration, of invasions, distribution, extension of range and periodic increases and declines in populations.

But the game of merely listing birds pays smaller dividends the longer it is played. Rare birds no longer seem rare when you have seen them a dozen times and the time comes when you wonder if the bird is as rare as others tell you they are. This is one penalty a watcher must confront who stays close to his own territory and does not carry his hobby further afield.

It used to take a lifetime to learn to identify all the birds; now it can be done in several years. That does not mean that the pleasure of watching birds stops when you can no longer add new birds to your list. Some expert field men, like John Baker, plunge into the field of conservation work; he is now president of the National Audubon Society. Others, like Allan Cruickshank, transfer their interests from seeing new birds to photographing them. Cruickshank has seen almost everything there is to see in the field of birds. Now he has set out to photograph all the 650 North American species. He is already past the 400 mark.

Some eventually settle down to study a favorite bird. They try to find out everything they can about it. It gives them pleasure to feel that they know more about that species than any other living person. The numbers of amateurs who are specialists in certain aspects of bird life is truly amazing. In a way, the amatuer is in a better position than the professional to add to our knowledge of the living bird. The museum specialist is condemned to a life of inhaling paradichlorobenzene fumes from trays of bird skins while he works out problems in classification. The university professor teaches, and becomes an arm-chair specialist, while his students, working for degrees get out into the field and do the creative work. Wildlife management experts get out into the field much more than any other group but their work is limited to game species which in turn appears to limit their horizon of interest — if you can't shoot it, it isn't worth one's attention.

Here in the Klamath Basin, the Nature Society, was created for the purpose that those who have an interest in birds, or animals, or flowers could have the opportunity to exchange points of view and compare notes with others who are interested in similar fields. At times the Society can provide a group activity like the Christmas Bird Count which will be held this year on December 26. Such activities the Society believes can act as a springboard for beginners to get started in the field of watching birds.

If you are a thoughtful person you will probably graduate from Christmas Counts to taking censuses of breeding - birds, and from there perhaps move on to life histories, or studies of song, territory or whatever strikes your fancy. The exact requirements of many birds — their ecology — is still not well known. Nor do we know much about changing environments being created by man's occupation of the land — plant succession, and just what happens to birds when the plants change. The vistas of bird study stretch far out to the horizon.

QUICKIES By Ken Reynolds

". . . I sold all your last year's presents with a Herald & News want Ad - to buy your Christmas presents this year!"

Thornton Asks Probe Records

PORTLAND (AP) — Atty. Gen. Robert Y. Thornton opened his investigation of the State Liquor Control Commission Thursday, and at once asked to see a report of an earlier investigation made for the governor.

That investigation, conducted by Howard Bobbitt and Robert F. Maguire, Portland attorneys, led to 30-day suspensions for two commission officials for accepting gifts from liquor interests.

Lester Ireland, commission chairman, told Thornton the commission had received only an incomplete report. Thornton then went into a conference with the commissioners behind closed doors.

Thornton earlier refused to approve a bill submitted by Bobbitt for the investigation. Thornton said that he had not approved hiring him, and that the commission should have asked him, as the state's legal official, to conduct the investigation instead of hiring private help.

Demo Concedes Defeat In N.J.

TRENTON, N. J. (AP) — Democratic Rep. Charles R. Howell has conceded defeat in New Jersey's close U.S. Senate race, six weeks after election day and following a month-long recount.

Howell announced late Thursday he was abandoning the recount, which had failed to narrow the margin of 3,370 votes by which he trailed Republican Clifford P. Case in the first official election returns.

SAM DAWSON

NEW YORK (AP)—The Christmas bonus—that noble business institution enjoyed by many fortunate workers — is booming this year. More firms are sharing the business pickup with their employes.

The Christmas office party, on the other hand, is in a recession. A number of firms have dropped that form of social mayhem. And some others have decided to have a company picnic next summer instead.

Bonus announcements are coming fast these days. Some store chains are distributing money to their employes across the country. The Great Atlantic & Pacific food chain is divvying up more than two million dollars. Grand Union is passing out one week's salary as a Christmas gift. J.C. Penney is giving two weeks' extra pay.

Wall Street is being extra generous this yuletide. Employes of the New York Stock Exchange and of the American Stock Exchange are getting three weeks' salary.

Brokerage houses have been flourishing since the public started buying and selling stocks at the fastest clip in recent years. And, fat with commissions, the firms are handing out bonuses with a free hand—some paying out more than ever before in their history. Some lucky employes are getting up to five months' extra pay this Christmas. One big brokerage house is paying out one fourth of its year's profits in gifts to its workers.

Some banks in this area are also remembering employes. Money gifts are averaging around 5 per cent of the bank employe's yearly stipend.

Industrial corporations around the country are being generous—especially those that the recession left untouched, or those who made their readjustment early.

It's quite a different picture from a year ago, when bonuses were shrinking even faster than the Federal Reserve Board's industrial production index. This Christmas the bonus seemed to be based about as much on expectations of a good year ahead as on the pickup in business in recent weeks.

A nationwide survey of more than 1,000 companies by the National Foremen's Institute shows that 4 per cent fewer are holding office parties this year. More than half won't have them. Eight per cent, however, are giving either extra time off or extra pay for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

And around half of them are handing out Christmas cash bonuses to their employes. Some who aren't handing out money are passing out merchandise, turkeys or hams.

The drift away from the office party apparently can be traced to that institution's tendency to breed unhappy aftermaths, as celebrated in cartoons and radio comedian's skits, as well as to the suspicion the party is linked to the rise in traffic accidents at this time of year.

TELLING THE EDITOR

BY-PASS

As I feel that the reasons for the opposition to the West Side By-pass have not been fully reported by your paper, I request that you publish the following reasons for the objection:

1. That the plan totally ignores the fact that the truck service facilities and warehouses are more accessible from the East Side route;

2. That the West Side route calls for exorbitant costs in the sum of four and one-half million dollars to construct, which is far in excess of the East Side route, for which a portion of the right of way already has been paid for and which will be lost in the event this route is abandoned;

3. That the proposed West Side route runs through one of the most thickly populated and oldest sections of the city of Klamath Falls, the boulevard which has been landscaped and improved.

4. That the proposed West Side route entails the construction of an underpass at Main Street and a clover leaf approach connecting the by-pass with Main Street, together with a bridge crossing a portion of Lake Ewauna, which if closed for any reason would completely stop traffic west and south from the city of Klamath Falls, and in the time of any disaster would prevent evacuation in that direction and also any military or evacuation movement from that route;

5. That the plan further entails the necessity of construction of an expensive over-pass across California Avenue, Oregon Avenue and the railroad, which if closed would also result in similar conditions;

6. That the construction of the proposed West Side By-Pass would necessitate the moving of in excess of 35 families, which would materially affect established businesses located within the city limits of Klamath Falls, as approximately 80 per cent of these families would undoubtedly move to the suburban area.

I feel that the newspaper should perform a public service by printing for the people of Klamath Falls, a map of the proposed route so that the people may be properly informed of the injustice of establishing this route.

Some people even think that the highway will be constructed along the east bank of Link River, which is not the case.

Rose Poole

River Dredging Bid Submitted

PORTLAND (AP) A low bid of $71,380 was submitted to Army Engineers Thursday for dredging the Florence and North Fork shoals in the Siuslaw River to a depth of 12 feet for a distance of 6,000 feet.

The Umpqua River Navigation Co., Reedsport, submitted the bid. There were four other bidders. The government estimate was $82,560.

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