Pioneers Lacked Yuletide Religious Significance

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.

SALEM (AP) — Christmas in Oregon 100 or more years ago was celebrated with lots of whiskey, dancing and rich food for those who could afford it. But for those who couldn't, it was a pretty bleak affair.

The Oregon Council of Churches is sponsoring a move to "Put Christ Back in Christmas."

But in pioneer Oregon, the religious significance of Christmas was almost forgotten.

After reading in the Oregon State Library many accounts of Christmas observances, it appears the big whiskey barrel was the central point.

The first Christmas in the Pacific Northwest was celebrated in 1791 by the crew of the "Columbia," Capt. Robert Gray's ship, at Nootka Sound, on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The ship's officers and Indian chiefs had a dinner of wild fowl on the ship.

The Columbia's officers and men spent Christmas night drinking toasts to their wives and sweethearts, who were separated from their men by a continent.

The next Christmas celebration was just 150 years ago, and it was an unhappy affair.

Lewis & Clark's Expedition had reached the coast on Nov. 14, 1805, and camped a few miles south of Astoria. On Christmas there was a gun salute at dawn. The smokers were given gifts of tobacco, and the non-smokers got handkerchiefs.

Let's let Capt. William Clark tell the rest of the story from his journal:

"The day proved Showerey wet and disagreeable. We would have spent this day the nativity of Christ in feasting, had we anything to raise our Sperits or even gratify our appetites. Our Dinner consisted of pore Elk, so much Spoiled that we ate it thro' mear necessity. Some Spoiled pounded fish and a few roots."

But from then on, the Christmas parties were livelier.

In the 1830's, at the Hudson's Bay post at Fort Vancouver, the Christmas celebration lasted a week. The workers got free whiskey, and spent the whole week drinking and dancing. Christmas dinner included geese, swans, ducks, quail and plum duff.

Sometimes there would be a ship anchored off Fort Vancouver, and the sailors would liven the celebrations. The sailors gambled, caroused, and "made sheep's eyes at the fair damsels," one account says.

Another interesting Christmas was in 1843, when the expedition of John C. Fremont was camped by a lake in Lake County. He gave brandy, coffee and sugar to each of his men.

William V. Wells came to Oregon for Harper's Magazine in 1855, and wrote an article, "Wild Life in Oregon." He was particularly impressed by one phase of wild life, which was a Christmas party in Coos Bay.

Deacon L--- gave the party. Everybody in Coos County was there.

"Oceans of whisky, hills of venison and beef, no end of pies and 'sech like'," Wells wrote. "For two days and nights the festivities continued; and after all the dancing, riding, drinking, singing and laughing, there were buxom forms and brilliant eyes that dared us to another breakdown."

Wells, who had seen most of the world, called the party the greatest event of his life, being even greater than the siege of Sebastopol. He said the girls at the party were the fairest on earth.

Parties like that were the usual thing in Oregon Territory.

But there were exceptions.

The Thomas Kincaid family's first Christmas in Eugene in 1853 was different. They had just built their log cabin after crossing the plains, and had only flour, potatoes, a little dried fruit, a small quantity of brown sugar and some bacon. They had no money.

But they were thankful for their Christmas dinner. Kincaid shot a grouse, and his wife made some little cakes. The small daughter got a home-made doll, and the boy got a cane.

On Christmas night, Kincaid read the Christmas story from the Bible, and then he told them what it meant.

Good will, he said, is only kindness. A person never should say an unkind word nor make a cutting or sarcastic remark. And always help a fellow man carry his burden.

This account was written by Leonore Gale Barette, Kincaid's granddaughter, who comments it was a glorious Christmas.

The Kincaids felt they had the greatest gift of all in their safe arrival in Oregon. They had arrived only 75 days before Christmas.

From about that time on, Christmas did have more meaning.

WEED ELEMENTART "A" TEAM, champions of the Dunsmuir Recreation Basketball tournament, posed for Lucile Gaynor's camera. Team members, from left, are: Chester Harris, Jon Scribner, Peter Baldo, Alvin Andreghetto, Douglas Blankenship, Eugene Stokes, Bob Zalunardo, Frank Demarco, Curtis Jones and Woodrow Smith. This is the first time in history the Weed cubs have won the championship.

Neighbor Spots Lost Sleigh

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — George Locher's open sleigh has been found.

Locher told sheriff's deputies Saturday that his 60-year-old sleigh a high-runner two-horse model, had been stolen.

A neighbor told Locher today she had spotted the sleigh only a block from where he had left it, tipped over but not damaged.

Locher, who had promised a free ride to the finder and his family, said they'd soon be dashing through the snow.

DOUBLE DEATHS

PORTSMOUTH, Ohio (AP)—Mrs. Helen Rowe Cooper, 58, died yesterday of heart attack. Her husband, Maurice, 59, died the day before of a heart attack.

McINTYRE
TRAVEL SERVICE
Your Experienced Agent
WILLARD HOTEL
Phone 3088

Couple Waive Pre-Hearing

PORTLAND (UP) — William Clarence Peddicord, 38, and Mrs. Joyce Keller, 28, have been bound over to a Multnomah County Grand Jury accused of the bombing of Meier and Frank Company store here last April.

The two waived preliminary hearing before Municipal Judge J. J. Quillan yesterday. Judge Quillan reduced bail from $75,000 to $25,000 on each of the accused.

Peddicord, an unemployed blind chemist, has admitted the bomb-extortion plan against the department store firm and has implicated Mrs. Keller, his sister-in-law. He said she served as his "eyes."

ATTENTION HOME CRAFTSMEN!

HOWIE DUZZIT Says--

There's a pleasant surprise for every "Do-It-Yourself" fan at our store.

Yes, it's a brand new useful guide of tips and ideas for handyman (and women, too) all combined in a useful, attractive calendar you can hang up in your home for quick and accurate reference.

We invite you to come in and get your "How To Do It" calendar at our store now. It's free!

McCollum LUMBER
Corner So. 6th & East Main
Ph. 8167

TOY CLEARANCE
HALF PRICE
A few fair traded items excepted!
FREE Parking — Budget Terms
As little as 1.25 a week
GOODYEAR SERVICE STORE
11th & Klamath Ph. 8141

Down go Prices

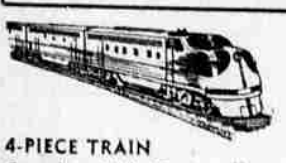
TOYS!

PLUS DOUBLE BROWN STAMPS
Thursday - Friday Saturday
on Everything in Our Thrift Department!

Even Santa Himself Couldn't do Better!
CHECK THESE PRICES!

"KIDDY KOOK" Aluminum Cooking Sets. Reg. 98c. 49c
Battery Operated CARS Late Model Cadillac Reg. 1.98 1.29
CHOW CHOW FEED TRAIN Makes your child want to eat! Reg. 79c 49c
Reg. 1.39 MUSICAL TOPS Big 8" Size Rubber Suction cup tip. Stands at any speed 79c
MARBLES Get an extra bag for marble games bag 5c

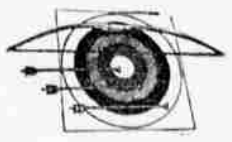
For those of you who have been asking we have received another shipment of
66c FRICTION TOYS
Battery Operated



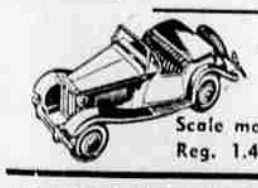
4-piece Wind up MECHANICAL TRAIN
4-PIECE TRAIN Complete With Track. 79c

American Plastic Sticks Ride-'em Horse Reg. 1.98 1.49
Stick Lifelike plastic head. Reg. 2.98 1.49

BOW and ARROW SETS
Genuine Hickory bow, 3-rubber tipped arrows, Target. Reg. 2.29 1.29



Smaller Size 66c



Famous SPORT CARS Friction Operated
Scale models by Hubley Reg. 1.49 79c

Nationally Advertised at Double These Prices!
STAINLESS STEEL ECKO WARE
Heavy Weight Stainless, Copper Bottoms
4½ Qt. Pan $3.98 7" Open Skillet $1.98

Battery Operated 4-Motor Bomber
Wheels and props turn. Reg. 3.98 B-50 Model 2.49

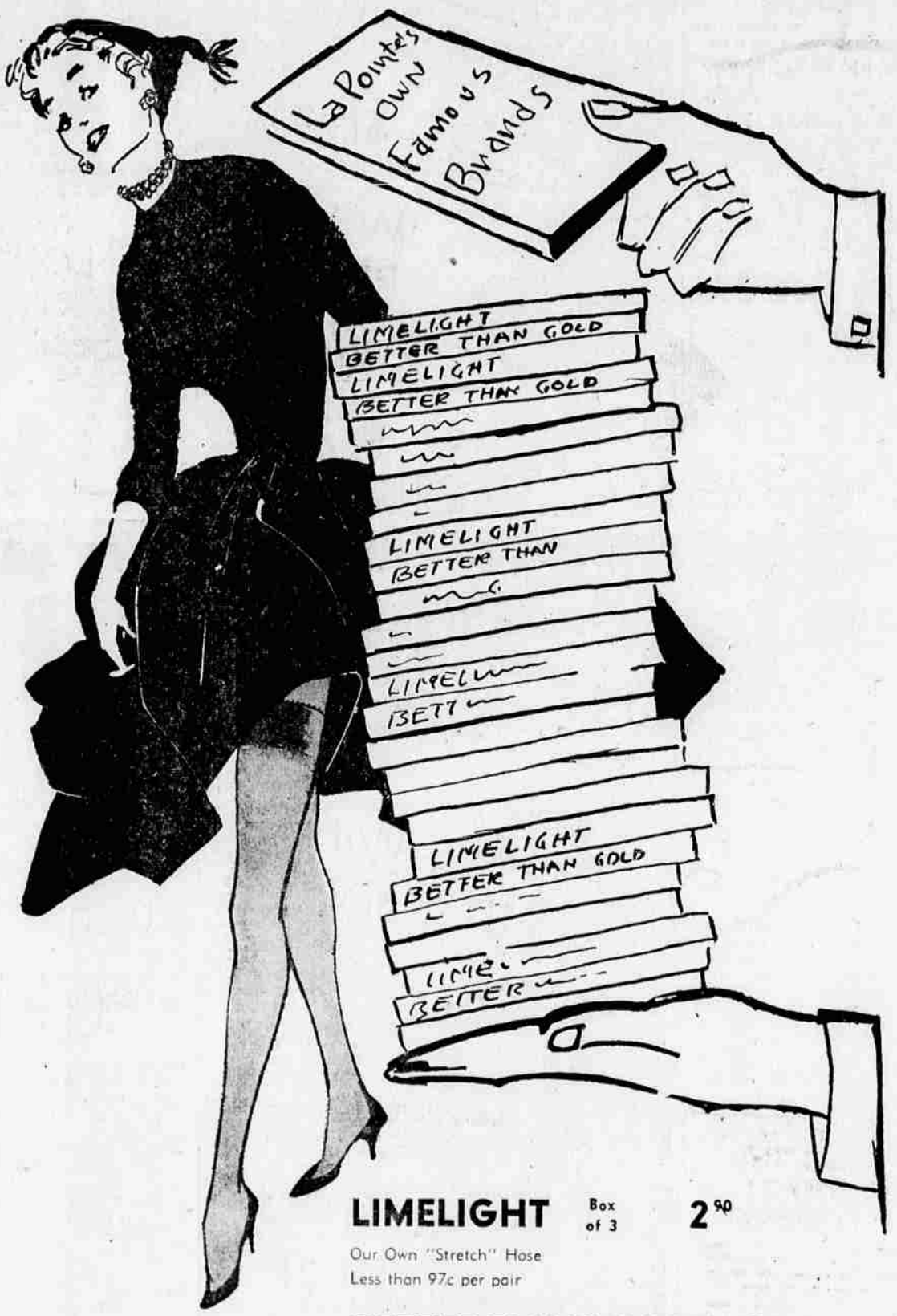
Reg. 25c Christmas Cotton 10c
ANGEL HAIR 5c
Reg. 25c GIFT TIE 15c

Plush Toy Assortment
Musical and Non-Musical. Bringing musical toys below $2 cost. While they last 1/3 off

HOLIDAY CALIFORNIA POTTERY
20-Piece sets—Reg. 7.95. Rich colors, modern styling. Special 4.95
OPEN NIGHTS 'Till 9 p.m.

BASKETBALL SETS
3-Pc. Set—Hoop, Net and Regulation Size ball. Reg. 6.95 $4.95
Heavy Duty TRICYCLES
10-inch Wheel. Reg. 13.95 While they last! 7.95

BIGY MARKET
PARK EASY AND PAY LESS
4710 So. 6th Phone 6875



LIMELIGHT Box of 3 2.90
Our Own "Stretch" Hose
Less than 97c per pair

BETTER THAN GOLD Box of 3 2.35
60 Gauge - 15 Denier - Dark Seam
Less than 79c per pair

La Pointe's
IT'S A WONDERFUL STORE

Tuck in a LaPointe's Gift Certificate