

In The
Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

On this 1955 Christmas Eve, when these words are written, my thoughts run back to an old house in the Mississippi valley. This old house, incidentally, was built of solid black walnut lumber. Its front door was fabricated of two slabs of walnut, each two and a half inches thick and two and a half feet wide.

It was put together with wrought iron nails and in the occasional spells of biting weather in the winter the heads of these nails on the inside would be coated over with frost. Inquiring tongues applied to these frosted nail heads would freeze tight, with ensuing great excitement on the part of all concerned — especially the owner of the tongue.

Extravagant, you say?

No, it was mere adaptation of local materials to local needs. There was no native pine timber. But the creek bottoms were heavily grown with huge black walnut trees. The early builders simply used what they had at hand.

They sawed the trees into walnut lumber.

Times have changed. In these modern days, for example, only the Aga Khan could afford a solid black walnut house.

It is of this change in times that I'd like to write today.

In this old house one Christmas morning, a youngster arose early — as youngsters are prone to do on Christmas morning. He had hung up his stockings the night before. He had done so in high hope. He knew what he wanted. But, to him in those days, the thing he wanted was a fabulous thing — too wonderful to be really possible, everything (the state of the economy and all) considered.

But hope wouldn't die in his heart. So he spent a fairly sleepless night waiting for the joy that Christmas morning might bring.

Let's cut the story short.

Eventually the living room door was opened. His eager eyes found the stocking, hanging there before the fire.

And —

Joy of joys —

There it was.

What was it?

It was a wooden gun, cleverly equipped with heavy rubber bands that functioned like a crossbow, but without the awkwardness of the bow. It thus simulated a REAL gun, and it would shoot a blunt, heavy-headed arrow a surprising distance with surprising accuracy. Subsequent testing proved that it would stun a flicker on the side of a tree.

It had cost a DOLLAR — a whole room silver dollar. There were no paper dollars then. Candy canes and a vast abundance of peppermint sticks together with sorghum molasses boiled down to a thick and gummy syrup, that was all.

But it was wonderful.

It fulfilled all the boy's Christmas hopes.

Pretty slim, you say?

Well, it would be in these days. But those days were different.

In those days corn — the staple crop of the region — was selling for eight cents a bushel. It took 12 bushels of corn to buy that wooden toy. Twelve bushels of corn was nearly half a wagonload. And the corn had been planted and tended with mule-power and shuckered by hand. Hogs were selling for three cents a pound. Eggs brought five cents per dozen in trade at the store. And so on.

In terms of human effort, you see, that toy gun had cost quite a lot. Anyway, it made a wonderful Christmas and everybody was happy and thankful and overflowing with Christmas spirit. Santa Claus had been generous indeed.

Quite different from today?

True enough. One of the Christmas problems of today is WHAT SHALL I GET HIM — or her? — or she — HAS EVERYTHING ALREADY.

That's the way it is now.

Shall we be cynical?

Shall we say that all this abundance is BAD?

Shall we grumble sourly about this SATIATED modern world?

NO!!!

Let's be happy about it — and thankful for it.

This ECONOMY OF PLENTY — which makes it difficult to buy Christmas gifts that will be really appreciated because nearly everybody has nearly everything — is the final and wonderful flowering of the American way of life.

Let's say Merry Christmas! — and MEAN it.

Rilea Asks
Armory Bids

Approval to advertise for bids for the construction of a two unit National Guard armory at Shasta Way and Washburn Avenue in Klamath Falls has been granted, announced Maj. Gen. Thomas E. Rilea, Oregon adjutant general Saturday.

This announcement culminates the efforts that have been extended by the military department and the civic groups of Klamath Falls to provide a home for the two anti-aircraft artillery batteries stationed here.

The armory has been designed by Morrison and Howard Klamath Falls architects, and will provide a modern building with some 21,000 square feet of floor space. The cost of the building is expected to be about \$175,000.

Gen. Rilea further announced that the date for the bid opening has been set for 10:30 a.m. January 25, 1956 with construction to begin approximately March 1, 1956.



9 o'clock Special
IT'S ALMOST HERE, (meaning Christmas, of course) said Bill Griffith, 707 Roseway Drive, Saturday morning when the 9 o'clock photographer came by. Griffith works at Leo's Camera Shop, 836 Main Street.

Christians The World Over
Hold Variety Of Xmas Rites

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Christians, wherever they are in a troubled world, turned their thoughts Saturday to the little town of Bethlehem as Christmas observances again emphasized age-old hopes for peace and good will.

In Arab-held Bethlehem, within sight of the closely guarded Jordan-Israeli demarcation line, everything was ready for the traditional Christmas Eve pilgrimage and midnight church services. Despite the lifting of a curfew after five days of political rioting in Jordan, the atmosphere continued more nervous than usual.

Fewer visitors than usual.

Crater Skiing
Reported Good

For the sports enthusiast skiing is expected to be good today at Crater Lake National Park, 60 miles north of Klamath Falls, and in the Warner Valley area near Lakeview, 140 miles to the east.

Snow followed last week's rain in the Lakeview area and the ski tow at the Warner Valley ski area will operate all week between Christmas and New Year's, weather permitting. The warming hut will be open during the time the tow operates.

Five inches of new snow in Crater Lake National Park brought the snow depth to 49 inches, compared with 20 on this date last year. The unusually heavy snow pack indicates storage water will be adequate in the spring, the park rangers stated.

Crescent Timber
Hearings Planned

PORTLAND, Ore. — Sen. Neuberger (D-Ore.) and Saturday hearings will be resumed January 19th on the controversial Al Sereus timber and mining case.

The hearing before the Senate Interior subcommittee will be held in Washington, D. C. Neuberger is a member of the subcommittee.

In announcing resumption of the hearings the senator commented: "A few leading Oregon Republicans are frantically trying to compare Al Sereus with a proposed sale of sub-alpine timber near Crescent Lake. This comparison is a compliment to the Democrats. At Al Sereus, the government was never paid for the timber. At Crescent Lake, the sale would be by competitive bid with the government receiving the maximum price offered."

No Paper

There will be no issue of the Herald and News on Monday, December 26, because of the Christmas holiday season. Publication will be resumed Tuesday afternoon.



GRAND PRIZE WINNER in the Klamath County Junior Chamber of Commerce Christmas lighting contest this year was Felix Peace, 2331 Garden Avenue, for his lawn scene. Peace, left, is accepting the trophy from Sam Ritchey, right, manager of the California Oregon Power Co., who presents the trophy and \$25 each year to the grand prize winner. Judy, second from left, and Sally Jo, look on as their father accepts the trophy from Ritchey.

Stranded Toketee Falls Families
Escape; Normal Christmas Seen

Herald and News

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1955
Price Ten Cents—42 Pages Telephone 4111 No. 3361U.S. Troupe
Sings Carols
In Moscow

LENINGRAD (UP)—The American company of "Porgy and Bess" Saturday sang Christmas carols over a Soviet radio. It was the first time since the 1917 revolution that such songs have been broadcast in the Soviet Union.

The Americans were forgetting the sub-zero cold this Christmas Eve in the warmth of their reception in the Soviet's second largest city.

Leninград has gone wild over the members of the first American troupe to ever visit the Soviet Union. And the Americans almost unanimously agree that this is the most enthusiastic reception they have enjoyed in their years of globe-trotting.

The Americans, even before they have presented the George Gershwin production, are a "solid hit." Russians look on in delight and admiration as they jitters in the restaurant of the Astoria, the plush hotel in Leningrad.

"They all look like Paul Robeson," is an often-heard comment. "It's fantastic," said Anatole Heller, manager.

There were scenes of extraordinary emotion today when the actors and actresses visited the radio studio to tape record Christmas Eve messages to be broadcast to the United States.

Green, on behalf of the entire company, broadcast a message to President Eisenhower. He wished the American president a Merry Christmas and good health "because we all need you."

Then the entire company joined in singing "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World."

"Porgy and Bess" is scheduled to open a 12-show run here on Dec. 26. The troupe then will continue to Moscow where 10 performances are scheduled.

Lumber Firm
Presents Party

WEED — More than 1,000 children and their parents attended the seventh annual Long-Bell Lumber Company Christmas party held Tuesday night in the Weed Hippodrome.

A welcome and holiday greeting was given by John Manile, general manager of the lumber company's Weed division, after which he introduced the Christmas party chairman, Jack Collins, and Jack Kersey, master of ceremonies.

One thousand Christmas stockings were presented to the youngsters, 12 years old and younger, by Santa Claus, through the courtesy of Long-Bell. Christmas carols concluded the program.

Volunteers of the Weed Fire Department were on duty to aid local police in directing the heavy traffic. No accident marred the event.

Herald And News On TV Show

This issue of the Herald and News, the final day of the Christmas week of only good or Christian news on page one, will be read on Today's Show, NBC TV News, on Monday morning on the National Broadcasting Company's network.

The New York office of NBC telephoned the Herald and News, requesting that a copy of this issue be sent by air to New York and one to Hollywood where the show will originate on Bill Kothran's show.

This is the second year the Herald and News has given its readers the Christmas gift of only good news on the front page of their daily paper. No local, national or international news has been omitted, but accounts of crime, war and disaster have been relegated to the inside pages of the paper.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL
Frank Jenkins, Publisher
Bill Jenkins, Managing Editor

President, Family Celebrate
Old-Fashioned Christmas

WASHINGTON (UP)—Christmas carols, as sung by their grand-children, will start President and Mrs. Eisenhower on their way tonight to a cheerful, old-fashioned family celebration at the White House.

The three children of Maj. John Eisenhower, the President's son, have been practicing for days the

Cardsharp
Turns Priest

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (UP)—Red Cook used to spend his Sundays gambling in his honky-tonk at Phenix City.

Now he devotes the Sabbath, and each weekday as well, spreading the gospel of Christ among fellow inmates at Kilby Prison. The one-time racketeer is assistant to the prison chaplain and a devout religious worker.

Cook was the first of the Phenix City gamblers sent to prison during the vice cleanup that followed the murder of crime fighter A. L. Patterson in 1954.

He was sentenced to life imprisonment for a nightclub killing that had gone unprosecuted four years until National Guard troops took over law enforcement in the vice-ridden city after Patterson's death.

Cook had killed a taxicab driver, John Mancini, in the gambler's notorious 601 Club on a Sunday night in August 1950 but a grand jury refused to indict him.

National Guardsmen four years later reopened the investigation and Cook was the first defendant called to trial after another grand jury returned more than 700 indictments in the vice purge.

"We never even thought about gambling being wrong at Phenix City," the 42-year-old convict recalled in his office at the Kilby chapel.

Readers To Get
Whiff Of Whisky

MARKS, Miss. (UP)—Readers of the Quitman County Democrat will get a whiff of holiday "spirits" in the Christmas edition of the newspaper even though the state is legally dry.

Editor Henry Burns mixed a caldon of bourbon with the printing ink when the edition was run off and fired an employee "soul" each copy with a bourbon-filled spray-gun as it rolled off the press.

Annual Rotary Club
Dance Announced

The annual Rotary Club dance for college students home on vacation, and servicemen on leave, will be held at the Willard Hotel, Wednesday with dancing from 9 p.m. to 12:30.

Tom Walters Jr. is chairman of this big annual event and the Sing Helms trio will play for the dancing. The dance will be informal.

State License
Examiner On Duty

The Oregon State drivers license examiner will be on duty in Chilodun at the city hall December 27 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The examiner will be on duty in Klamath Falls only on December 28 and the morning of the 30th during next week, announced Ray Clark, local examiner.

Weather

FORECAST—Klamath Falls and vicinity: Partly cloudy through Sunday with a high of 38. High yesterday 38. Low last night 22.

Loggers, Power Firms
Clear 40-Mile Road

Some 300 persons, including 109 women and 70 children, marooned by storms at Toketee Falls last week, were assured a happy Christmas through the combined efforts of California-Oregon Power Company, Morrison Knudsen Company, Inc., independent logging operators and others who were successful in digging through some 40 miles of snow drifts to punch through a road.

This little community in the North Umpqua area just north of Klamath County consisted of per-

Letter Still
Thrills Woman

NORTH CHATHAM, N.Y. (UP)—Virginia, the girl who asked the editor of her favorite newspaper whether there was a Santa Claus, is spending a quiet Christmas with her six grandchildren.

And though she now is 66 and principal of a New York City school, Mrs. Virginia O'Hanlan Douglas still feels a rosy glow when she thinks of the answer the New York Sun editorial writer gave her so long ago.

"Yes, Virginia," he wrote, "there is a Santa Claus. . . he lives as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist. . ."

Her grandson, James Harris Temple, now is 16. The five granddaughters range in age from 8 to 14. All six love to hear her tell the story at Christmas time.

Mrs. Douglas has spent the holidays for many years with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Temple, in this community near Albany. Their daughters are Katherine, 14; Mary, 13; Virginia, 11; Laura, 8; and Susan, 6.

In an interview, Mrs. Douglas said that in all the years she had been teaching children she never had brought up the letter she wrote to the Sun when she was eight years old.

"I always feel a little shy," she confessed. "But the children have talked to me about it and I tell them of course."

Some of her pupils have heard her on the radio or seen her on television in recent years.

"My friends tell me I'm getting as famous as Davy Crockett," she remarked.



SHOOTING HOURS

OREGON

December 26
OPEN 7:05 CLOSE 4:40
December 27
OPEN 7:05 CLOSE 4:41

CALIFORNIA

December 26
OPEN 7:03 CLOSE 4:39
December 27
OPEN 7:03 CLOSE 4:39

German Kinder
Receive Candy

FRANKFURT, Germany (UP)—"A smile on a kid's face is the same in any language."

One GI summed it up that way Saturday as American servicemen from the Atlantic to the Iron Curtain took time out from their Christmas celebrations to brighten the holiday for thousands of orphans, needy children and refugees. Virtually every U. S. unit stationed in Europe gave a party for children or help of some kind to the poor.

In Germany, where the bulk of the 300,000 U. S. servicemen on the continent are stationed, the Army estimated 70,000 German children were entertained at pre-Christmas festivities.

One of the warmest gestures was "Operation Candy Drop" along a section of the Iron Curtain. The 14th Armored Regiment sent out motorized Santa Claus patrols to tour West German villages bordering the Communist frontier and deliver candy to children. As the patrols entered each village, the GI Santa called the kids to him by loudspeaker.

Elsewhere, Santa arrived by jeep, by "sleds" built over jeeps and by helicopter. One outfit in Germany dropped toys to children by small parachutes.



A FOUR LETTER DEALER AWARD was won for the fifth time in 1955 by the Balaiger Motor Co., Main and Esplanade, from the Ford Motor Co. The veteran Ford dealer firm won the award from the Ford Motor Co. for sound finances, efficient management, competitive spirit and completely modern facilities. Attending the presentation of the award recently were Eton E. (Mike) Balaiger, assistant manager and sales manager, left, S. W. Miller, of the Ford Motor Company's San Jose District sales office; E. H. Balaiger, president of the Balaiger Motor Company and Vern Moore, general manager of the firm.