



Stores Report Xmas Splurge

NEW YORK (AP) — Business peered into its Christmas stocking this week, and had reason to be grateful. Santa had been kind, on a record spurge of Christmas buying that jammed downtown stores and suburban shopping centers with eager customers.

The Federal Reserve Board's latest report on department store sales told part of the story: For the week ended Dec. 17, department store business across the nation was running a full six per cent higher than the record-smashing volume of a year ago. This week, trade observers said, was even better.

Dun & Bradstreet said consumer spending in December would hit an all-time high of 19 billion dollars for a gain of six per cent over December 1954.

The latest reports on general business also made good Christmas reading. They showed: production of steel, crude oil and electric power at all-time peaks; the long-depressed coal industry taking a new lease on life, per share earnings of American Telephone and Telegraph Co. heading for their highest level in 27 years.

One of the surprises of the week was the Ford stock registration. Filing of the registration statement — a preliminary to the actual offering of the mammoth stock issue next month — showed that the public will get a crack at 10,200,000 shares, or about 50 per cent more than had been expected.

Guesses as to the probable market value of the new stock were a dime a dozen, but most of them fell somewhere between \$50 and \$70 a share (at \$65 a share, the sale would return 663 millions to the Ford Foundation for reinvestment).

Whatever the price, one thing seemed sure: The first public offering of Ford Motor Co. stock would be a sellout.

Floods Delay News Delivery

SEATTLE (AP) — The delivery of news to the Pacific Northwest by the three major wire services was disrupted for more than three hours early Saturday when floodwaters washed through a small Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. relay station near Chico, Calif.

The leased wires of The Associated Press, International News Service and United Press went out at 1:25 a.m. Partial service was restored at 4:30 a.m. but full service was not restored until 6:30 a.m.

PT&T said the floodwaters also knocked out its coaxial cable between California and the Pacific Northwest, cutting off network television to Oregon and Washington.

The Chico relay station was on one of four PT&T routes serving the Pacific Northwest. The other major route, through Northern Idaho, was in trouble the company said and crews were prevented from working on it by weather conditions.

The two remaining routes, PT&T said, were minor routes through Central Washington to Denver and Salt Lake City.

With the loss of one major route and the partial loss of the second, the company said, its service to and from the Pacific Northwest was cut to 10 to 15 per cent of capacity.

The company said it had no idea how long it would be before the damage could be repaired.

Dairymen Plan Thursday Meet

EUGENE (AP) — Dairymen will meet here next Thursday to discuss formation of an Oregon branch of the American Dairy Association.

Dairymen of the state have been contributing \$20,000 to \$24,000 per year to the association for advertising and promotion work, said of the Oregon Dairy Products Commission.

The money comes from a 1-cent-a-pound levy on butterfat produced in the months of May and June.

Lay said that proposals have been made that Oregon's share of the budget be raised by a state organization which would seek voluntary contributions. This would leave all the money raised by the butterfat levy for advertising and production work in Oregon, he said.

Local English Visitor Sees First Porcupines

PORT ROCK — One of the 10 young people who came this year to the United States to participate in the International Federation of Young Farmers Clubs exchange

a still moonlit night and saw her first wild deer. She is the second IFYC member to live five months or longer in Lake County.

She told some of her impressions to Helen Parks, Herald and News reporter for this area.

"After the orientation program in Washington and seeing President Eisenhower, I went first to Illinois where I stayed with three farming families. The climate there was hot and humid — very different from my own country. I live 15 miles from Lands End, the most westerly point of England. Cornwall County is surrounded on three sides by sea, so that our climate is essentially very mild with 50 inches of rain a year per annum and summer temperatures rarely above 65 degrees and no freezing winter weather. We have crops all year around and usually harvest two or three off the same ground each year.

"We in Cornwall, because our climate is so mild, specialize in early flowers and vegetables. We grow daffodils, anemones and polyanthus for marketing and we usually have the daffodils on the markets by early January. The part of the country is subject to sudden and severe gales and rainstorms, so we pick the daffodils whilst they are still tightly closed buds and let them open overnight in a warm room so that we can bunch and pack them the next morning.

"Early potatoes, cauliflower and cabbage are grown in large quantities in Cornwall and are taken either by road or rail 300 miles to London or even farther to the large cities in Northern England. In Illinois the two important crops, corn and soy beans, were both new to me.

"In England we refer to the small grains such as wheat, oats and barley, as corn and we call the American corn 'maize.' Our climate is not hot enough to ripen maize and we have to import it as cattle food. I had never eaten corn on the cob or popcorn before and by the time I left Illinois after six weeks, you really could call me 'corn-fed.'

"My first stop in Oregon was at Hermiston where I stayed with Barbara Larson who was an IFYC to England last year and stayed with me 10 days. New crops I saw were peaches, watermelon and squash. All citrus fruits, melons and most peaches have to be imported into England with the result that they are very expensive to buy.

"From Hermiston I went to the state fair in Salem. What is called



JOAN ROGERS

with America's National 4-H Club Foundation was Joan Rogers of Cornwall, England.

Her visit at the Bud Parks cattle ranch near Fort Rock brought her face to face with the first snake and first porcupines she ever saw. She heard her first coyote howl on

Rising Rivers Cut Newsprint

OREGON CITY (AP) — Rising Willamette River waters have cut production at this community's two paper making plants and Portland's two newspapers were threatened with a newsprint shortage.

A company spokesman said the huge Crown Zellerbach Corp. plant at West Linn might be shut down for as much as 10 days.

Season's Greetings

from
Bob Woods

Carl's
Superior
Market



MERRILL PHARMACY



The DAIRY STORE

George and Darryl—Props.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Warm enough to melt a snowman in a flash are our wishes for your happiness, this holiday season. May its joys long remain among your most dearly cherished memories.



PAUL'S USED CARS

24-HOUR
TOWING SERVICE
Phone 2481
Merrill

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The season's
here with joy and
cheer...to
last throughout the
coming year!
Best wishes to all!

Merrill
CITY
CLEANERS



May 1956 bring
you health, happiness
and the fulfillment
of your most
cherished dreams.



Columbia Utilities
and
Calif.-Oregon
Telephone Co.

a fair here is called a show in England and what Americans call a carnival, we call a fair.

"From the state fair I came to stay with the Parks family on a cattle ranch, yet another new experience.

"Unlike my own, this country is very new, having been settled only some 50 years. My own home is about 300 years old, but that isn't considered very old in England. Like all the other houses, it is built of stone, mostly granite, and some of the walls are nearly four feet thick. I had never seen a permanent wood house before I came to the United States and I think the modern furnishing and electrical equipment just wonderful.

"In my own home we don't have the main electricity supply yet and charge our own by a diesel engine to provide lights. We cook on a slow combustion stove that burns anthracite. It is very clean and easy to look after. Cream enameled with a black top, our Aga has to be fueled twice a day, early morning and late at night, and never goes out. It has four ovens with different temperatures, roasting, baking, simmering and warming ovens and three plates on top. We heat the other rooms in winter with open fires burning coal and wood. Having no washing machine, we wash by hand.

"The people here have done their utmost to make me feel at home and I'm very grateful to all who have helped make my stay such a happy one."



MARY'S
SANDWICH
SHOP



Christmas
Blessings

May the hope, the
peace and the love
that is Christmas
remain with you
and your dear ones
forever and ever.

St. Augustine's
Church



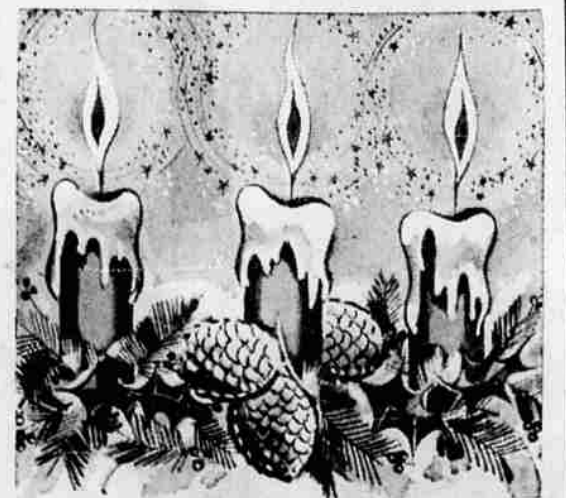
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With happy memories of many pleasant friendships, we extend our sincerest wishes for a joyous Christmas to all.

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R. Walker—Dist. R. Merrilees—Manager



Merrill Lumber Co.