

## Paisley Range Project Nearly Complete

LAKEVIEW — The Paisley range improvement project started last spring by the Bureau of Land Management under the Accelerated Public Works program is almost completed, according to a report from George Lea, district manager for the BLM.

About 29 miles of fencing in the Sheep Rock area is all that remains to be done. Completed is approximately 14,000 acres of sagebrush eradication by spraying; 13,600 acres of range seeding; 33 miles of fencing; five wells; and 15 waterholes. It is expected that, after two years, stockmen will be able to return to full utilization of grazing on this area. However, in the area served by the new waterholes, the additional grazing area should be available next season.

The federal funds made available for this work amounted to \$163,000. At Paisley Flat, 5,000 acres have been reseeded, enclosed, and subdivided into pastures by 15 miles of fence. Three of the five new wells are located there. At Coleman Flat, seeding of 7,000 acres is finished and has been enclosed and subdivided by 17 miles of fence. There are two new wells. Seeding of 3,000 acres has been done at Poverty Basin.

The 15 new reservoirs will store livestock water so that a large area of native grass, formerly unused because of lack of stock water, can be grazed.

### Plans Program

MALIN—The Malin Elementary School will present its annual Christmas program on Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m.

On Dec. 20, a full length motion picture will be shown to the students as entertainment for the school Christmas party. There will be a 50-cent gift exchange.

Malin High School has scheduled its Christmas program on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 8 p.m.

'tis the season to be merry!

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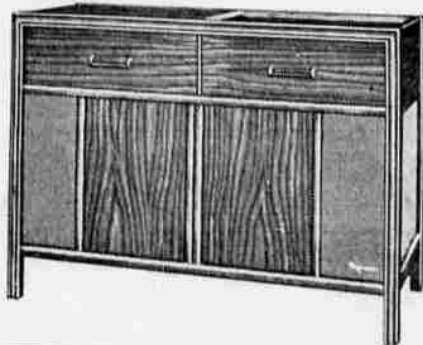
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## East Side . . . West Side All Around the Town

By Joe Caraher

When a Santa Claus failed to make an appearance in the middle of a shopping center somewhere here on the West Coast because he misguidedly parachuted into the ocean instead of hitting a target in the village square, it reminded us of how times have changed.

Ol' Santa, we once were told, was just a nice, poly-poly, bewhiskered fellow who lived at the North Pole and was handy with tools. He spent all year long making things for kids who had minded their p's and q's. Then on the eve of Christmas he would saddle up the reindeer and circle the globe. By late Christmas morn his chores would have been ended and he would be back at the N.P. giving Mrs. Santa all the details of his earth-girdling mission.

It didn't sound very logical when good ol' Mom told us this story. But in recent years, in this new era of space, John Glenn and others have whistled around Mother Earth faster than the widely heralded junket turned in annually by the man in the red suit and silky white beard.

You wonder sometimes why we couldn't leave the myth of Santa Claus as it was. In our constant efforts to improve or "progress" we find it necessary to alter the story about S.C.'s mode of transportation. In some places he arrives by fire engine with the sirens screaming. This does not appeal to the little people at all. In fact it nearly scares them to death and they immediately get the idea that Santa is a jerk. In other places, where they are trying to drum up a little Christmas trade—and who isn't—Santa flies over in a helicopter. This isn't a bad approach because it's understandable—with the cost of reindeer hay being what it is these days—that Santa Claus might turn to this more modern type of transport. But even though we experienced playing Santa Claus on one of these helicopter trips—skimming over the top of a city and waving to the kids—we think this is pretty much for the birds.

Our point is that sometimes you get to thinking that the modern image of Mr. Santa is just so-so. At our house Santa was mostly a figment of the imagination. He was pictured in kids' books and the newspaper ads and maybe he would show up in a department store window. If, on a shopping tour in town with Mom, we'd spot another man in a red suit shortly after we'd seen the one and only, the lady of the house would say something to the effect, "Santa is a busy fellow. He really gets around."

At our place the living room would be sealed off several days before Christmas. A sheet was put up on the french doors between living and dining room. This area of the house then became strictly off limits to the small fry. At that time Mom would go to work and decorate the tree and hang up the socks. In view of our not having a fireplace, it was understood Santa would use the front door. Then on Dec. 24 we waited, in wide-eyed expectation. Suddenly, about the time we'd given up on his arrival Christmas eve, there would be the dog-gondest racket and commotion. Up onto the porch stomped this furtive figure. There'd be a few "ho ho's" and then he'd be gone. It turned out later that all the noise was caused by Dad rattling a shovel in a coal scuttle as he ran up the steps. But the image of Santa's arrival was complete.

Mom would quickly announce—as if we didn't know—that the ol' fella had been at the house and that now we were free to crash the living room barrier. There would be the tree, a thing of beauty, a coaster, blocks; maybe a tinker toy and a boy's book about wild animals. In later years it might be a new ball glove that caught our eye when we first tried to absorb the whole Christmas Eve scene in one fell swoop.

Well, those were the days a long time ago. In our opinion Christmas is nothing like it used to be. But then nothing else is either. That's because we get older. To the kid of six today, the whole thing may be just as wonderful as ever.

Of course all of this is the fluff of Christmas. The important issue; the actual crux of the subject is: Do we appreciate the real meaning of Christmas as much as we did in days of yore?

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## Welfare Rolls, State Institutions Affected By Austerity Program

(Editors Note: It's relatively easy to bow to the voters' wishes and order budget cuts, but what happens to the people in state institutions, and the thousands who are on the welfare rolls?)

By ZAN STARK

United Press International SALEM (UPI) — "I shall not be a party to any action which would move aged and sick and infirm people into the streets of our state," Gov. Mark Hatfield said as he ordered austerity cuts after the Oct. 15 tax referendum.

"We have an obligation to the aged, infirm and to welfare recipients...we will make cuts where we can make them with the least harm resulting," the governor explained.

The \$49.8 million Board of Control budget for the state's hospitals, detention homes and prisons was trimmed \$2.9 million.

State funds totaling \$1.6 million were stripped from the welfare budget. Because matching funds were involved, the total welfare cuts came to more than \$4 million.

There are about 10,000 state wards in Board of Control institutions. They still eat, need medicine, hospital care, clothing—or in the case of confinement institutions, guarding and supervision.

The state can exercise some control over the populations of some of its institutions. Hospitals can refuse admittance, or can release patients early.

But the state has a constitutional duty to provide detention for prisoners, and cannot control the rapidly expanding population at Oregon State Penitentiary and Oregon Correctional Institute.

Staff cuts were made. Mental hospitals and institutions for the retarded institutions laid off 24 workers, and left 27 vacancies unfilled.

Patient care could suffer. Nobody can yet guess how much. The Public Welfare Department is fearful that the mental institutions and hospitals will release patients that welfare will have to place in nursing homes.

The average welfare caseload in Oregon is about 63,700 persons. This includes everything from minor grants in aid, to support of dependent children, to aid to the elderly and to full time nursing home care.

The Welfare Department already was in budget trouble before the Oct. 15 referendum. Medical, drug costs and certain types of aid were running way over budget. The austerity cuts added to the problem. Hospitals and doctors have

been on a pro-rata payment system for years. Drug payments were added to the pro-rate system last month when the bills far exceeded the money available. Some druggists refused to go along with the system.

As part of the austerity cuts, the \$5 increase in nursing home rates, 10 per cent increase in physicians allotment, and 4 per cent increase in hospital allotment—approved earlier this year—were wiped out.


The clothing allowance for nursing home patients and aged persons was cut 25 per cent. Membership in the state's medical aid to the aged program was frozen at 7,500. When the enrollment exceeds 7,500, benefits will be slashed.



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