

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1963

Mistletoe Picked, Packaged, Peddled, As Cub Scouts Secure Operating Funds

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(Text and Photos)

Den mothers have their moments of trials and triumphs with a band of happy, boisterous Cub Scouts, but Cub Scout fathers come in for their share of tribulations, also.

Such an event is the mistletoe gathering time that rolls around the early part of December.

A few years ago some thoughtless Cub Scout committee member came up from nowhere with the suggestion that the pack sell mistletoe as a money-making project.

The idea was embraced wholeheartedly, and the sobering afterthought was where to find and how to secure the mistletoe.

This year marked this member as a veteran of the mistletoe brigade and entitled me to an extra helping of mercurchrome as a service award. However, being an old hand at these types of campaigns gives one some privilege and I automatically converted this into the "on-the-ground" privilege.

To the non-mistletoers this may sound senseless, but to those who now have weathered the campaign it has great meaning.

The first several sorties of this type, I tried my hand at climbing trees, scraping shins, getting caught in branches and falling out of trees, but not this year. I had a privileged "on-the-ground" status.

While others inched and climbed and sawed and hoped, I handled the ground chores, such as calling up precautions about getting out on thin limbs for fat men, and tossing up such dropped items as saws while collecting mistletoe that rained down.

Our party was five adults and

four youths. Armed with saws, ropes and inexperience, we took off early on Sunday, Dec. 8, for the mistletoe country.

We arrived in good shape, spotted our target, and headed for the hills.

From a distance, mistletoe hunting looks easy because it seems to hang within easy reaching in the trees, but

surprising as it sounds, those trees grow as one approaches them and when you get there, they are 20 feet above the ground and always out on the end of the thinnest limbs.

I promptly manned the ground observation post, and the others "not so experienced" headed into the upper branches. After a lengthy skirmish,

many anxious moments and considerable scratches and bruises later, we had a pickup load and were on our way home.

At this point, we turned the job back to the den mothers with an expressive sigh of having done our bit for the cause. Cub Scouts packaged the mis-

tletoe and then were off on their sales campaign to friends and relations.

Each year, the project turns out to be one of the most effective money making projects for the Roosevelt School Cub Scout Pack 3. It's an excellent example of youth at work (fathers, too) earning their own funds to finance their own operations.



OUT ON A LIMB — Frank Sikes, 844 Eldorado, chairman of Cub Scout Pack 3, spots a nest of mistletoe out on the end of a long, long limb. With saw in hand he inches out onto the branch. This was one of many careful, hazardous trips for Frank as a party of adults and Cub Scouts collected mistletoe for their annual sales project.

A parasitic growth, mistletoe has become an accepted Christmas greenery. The custom of using mistletoe goes back to early times when the European species was held to be sacred by the Druids and the Germans, and was credited with magical properties by the Celts.



MISTLETOE ADVENTURE — Cub Scout members of Roosevelt Pack 3 and fathers comprise this mistletoe hunting expedition that traversed the Green Springs to find the proper greenery. From right, Marvin Reed (back to camera); Jay Dent, Jimmy DeNault (in front); Frank Sikes, Wes Hunt, Tom Reed, Robert Wynne and Peter Sikes. Neither the DeNault or Sikes youth are Cub Scouts, but aided in the project.



OFF ON THE HUNT — The mistletoe hunting party heads off down the road toward a distant group of trees where the mistletoe can be seen hanging in the upper

branches. Childhood tree-climbing experience came in handy for the mistletoe seekers.



READY FOR PACKAGING — Mark Drew, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Drew, 1991 Van Ness Avenue, examines one branch of mistletoe. A member of the Cub Scout den of Mrs. Wes Hunt, 1860 Manzanita, Mark aided in the packaging and the selling.



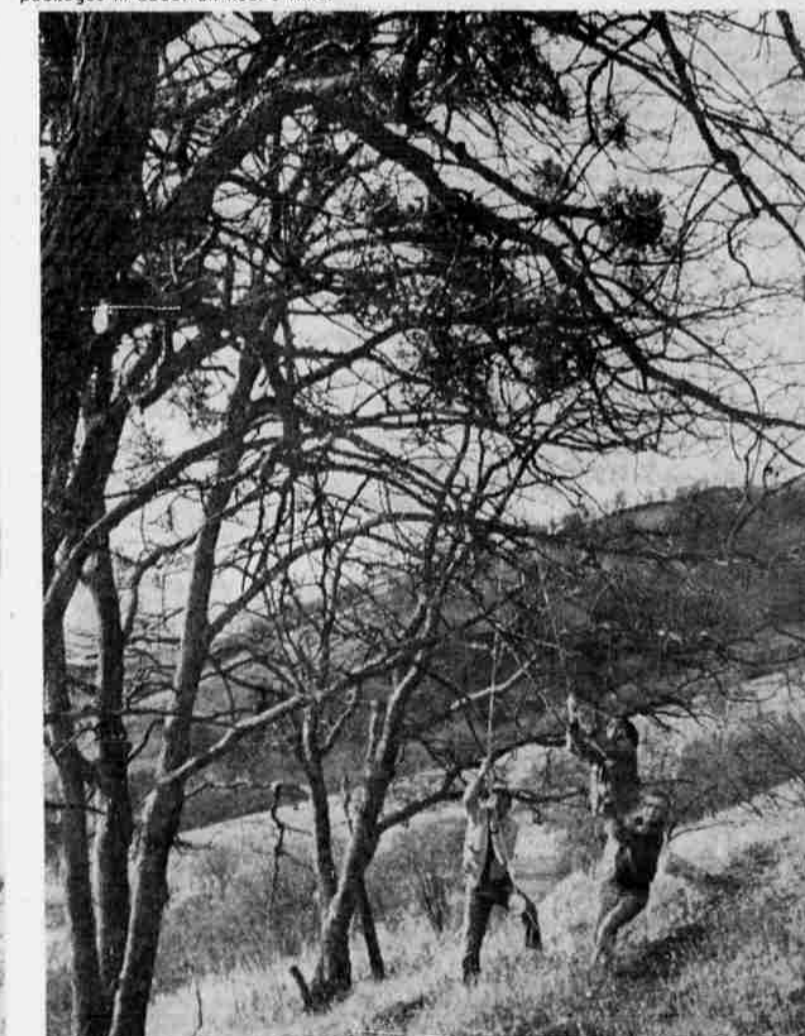
DOING THE PACKAGING — These Cub Scouts of the den of Mrs. Wes Hunt, 1860 Manzanita, are busy packaging the mistletoe for the sales drive. Left to right, Mark Dent, Robert Wynne, Jeff Thomas, Joe Martin, Brad Hunt, John Hosley (back of head visible); John Hanson and Mark Drew. The assembly line method produced 80 packages in about an hour's time.



INTO THE WILD BLUE YONDER — Wes Hunt, 1860 Manzanita, works his way carefully up the thinning branches to a bunch of mistletoe. The greenery is most easily spotted just below the snow line where trees have shed their leaves and only the mistletoe remains. The denuded trees are silhouetted against a background of mountains with snow covered peaks.



GATHERING IT UP — After the painful sortie into the branches has produced a pile of mistletoe, it must be gathered up and carried to the pickup. Here, Jimmy DeNault, left, and Peter Sikes, gather it up. Neither boy is a Cub Scout, but lent a hand in the expedition anyway. Peter is a former member of the Roosevelt School Cub Pack 3 and is a son of the Pack chairman. DeNault is the son of Mr. and Mrs. O. A. DeNault.



NON-CLIMBERS AT WORK — Those who worked from the ground up had to rely on other methods to secure the mistletoe from the tops of the trees. This is one method which is not recommended. It utilizes a rope and rocks to bring the tip down within reach but the rewards were small from this method, even though considerably less risky.