

Their Christmas and an Odd Tree

One Surprise Package That Brought Joy to Entire Family.

By GERTRUDE WALTON



IT IS plain to see that for this Christmas there will be no tree—I mean one that isn't made from a basket or a table—no real tree.

Any kind of a Santa Claus, as well as trees, would die in this terrible place. It would be more bearable if James were home.



As she looked out over the treeless, snow-covered prairies of her northern ranch home, eighteen miles from town, where the season's drought had robbed them of garden and grain, her sighs rose to an excited exclamation which brought twelve-year-old Clara from an adjoining room to hear the secret her mother revealed.

"Let us be a tree—and a Santa Claus, too. You may be Santa Claus and I will be a tree laden with packages which you may take from me and give to the boys at the sheep-herders' wagon tomorrow.

Father and Lester will be gone to town all day and we will visit the boys and present them with a tree and Santa Claus for Christmas Eve," Mrs. Lee laughed.

Mrs. Lee sang all the next morning at her baking, after she had tucked her husband and ten-year-old Lester in the sled for their long drive. In the afternoon, with a basket on her arm and some small packages fastened over her coat, so she would represent a tree, Mrs. Lee and Clara started to the wagon to carry Christmas to the sheep-herders.

While Mrs. Lee put the wagon in order, Clara tacked up bits of Christmas color she had clipped from magazines or had designed from paper. On the way home Mrs. Lee and Clara planned to have their Christmas packages fastened over Mr. Lee, who would serve as a tree, while Lester, as Santa Claus, would distribute the gifts.

Upon arriving home they were surprised to find Mr. Lee and Lester, who had expected to be away until dark. There was greater surprise when they found the chores done and supper ready.

"Let us have our tree and Santa Claus first," Mr. Lee said, when he heard of the plan of a "man-tree" and a boy-Santa Claus. Of course, everyone was willing. So the packages, some of which had been brought that day from town, were being fastened over Mr. Lee as the tree, when he said, mischievously winking at Lester, "Please don't forget the large package I just brought for all of you. It is in the closet."

Mrs. Lee and Clara ran excitedly to the closet when a package—a tall boy—seized them both in his arms. Through smothered joy-cries of "James! When did you come?" Mr. Lee explained that on a previous visit to town he had received word that James was coming home for Christmas. He kept the secret as a happy surprise from Mrs. Lee and Clara. Upon pretense of getting some gifts for the children, he and Lester had planned the trip to town after James, who was now hungry and ready for supper.

"May I serve as your tree this year, with branches, I hope, strong enough to hold all the trust and confidence you place in me, as well as to hold any packages of love and service the real Santa Claus allows me to carry to his children everywhere? Again I hope that I may be a worthy Santa Claus—His Santa Claus—to distribute His peace and good will," James said as he learned of the afternoon visit to the sheep-herders' wagon.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

In the future the Bank of Vernonia will be open the second and fourth Saturday evenings of each month from 6:30 to 8 p. m. The bank will not be open evenings on the Saturday when there is no pay day at the mill. Bank of Vernonia.—Adv. 191

There's one thing about prohibition, it soaks the rich.

LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

NOTICE OF FINAL ACCOUNT In the County Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Columbia.

In the matter of the estate of PETE SAARI, deceased. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, as administrator of the estate of Pete Saari, deceased, has filed his final account in the County Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Columbia, and that Monday, the 28th day of December, 1925, at the hour of 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, and the courtroom of said court in the Court House of Columbia county, in St. Helens, Oregon, has been appointed by said court as the time and place for the hearing of objections thereto, and the settlement thereof.

Dated and first published, November 27th, 1925. Date of last publication, December, 25th, 1925.

C. L. BATEMAN, Administrator. Lester Sheeley, Vernonia, Oregon, Attorney for Administrator. 165

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Columbia.

In the matter of the estate of IDA M. ALLEN, deceased. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the undersigned has been appointed administrator of the estate of Ida M. Allen, deceased, by Hon. John Phillip, Judge of the County Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Columbia, and has qualified. All persons having claims against the said estate are hereby notified to present the same, duly verified as by law required, to the undersigned at the law office of Lester Sheeley, in the City of Vernonia, Oregon, within six months from date hereof.

HARRY N. ALLEN, Administrator. Lester Sheeley, attorney for administrator. Dated and first published, December 11th, 1925.

Last publication, January 8th, 1926.

NOTICE.

Any persons under 18 years old who attend the dances and other public entertainments, on which keep them out at a later hour than 9 o'clock p. m. must be accompanied by their parents or legal guardian. This applies especially to Saturday nights.

W. J. KELLY, City Marshal. 164

DIPPING INTO SCIENCE

Eskimos

Eskimos, habitants of the North Polar regions, are thought to be the primitive American race related to the Indians. Although of several different groups, geographically, all speak the same language. They are said never to wash. They eat a steady diet of fat and oil, the meat usually being uncooked. Fewer than 30,000 are now alive, and the race is apparently dying out. (© 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

DO YOU KNOW THAT—

- 1. There are no bones in ice cream
2. Out of 100 men at a masquerade dressed as toredors 100 think they look like Valentino.
3. Out of the same number 100 look like hell.
4. One week at a school of Philadelphia gives a girl a southern accent
5. Mississippi has no husband.
6. You can't bounce a snow ball.
7. If all the boxes of cigarettes sold in New York City in one day were placed on top of one another they would probably fall over.
8. If the cross-word fans were laid end to end what difference would it make how far they would reach.

What you believe in isn't so important as who you believe in.

MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR A LONG LIFE PROSPERITY GOOD HEALTH

Is my sincere wish for my friends, and this means everybody

E. E. HAYES, the SQUARESHOOTER, With the Oldest, Biggest and Best, The New York Life Insurance Company

Only 5 more shopping days until Christmas



For his own family Santa Claus chooses Gifts That Last. Just a dollar goes farther at the jewelry store than it does anywhere else, in procuring enduring usefulness and pleasure. For the jeweler deals in imperishables—in gifts that last, like the fidelity of a fine friendship, for as long as life itself.

KULLANDER'S JEWELRY STORE Expert Swiss and American Watch Repairing Done



The Origin and Operation of Skaggs Stores

The phenomenon of the human mind though of no concrete or tangible proportions, is yet sometimes a very real factor in the ordering of our daily thoughts. We perceive things not always as they are and in our misconception sometimes give vent to our illusions. Of such is the statement that chain store operation takes away individual initiative and opportunity.

Are you acquainted with the games of baseball, football, basketball, or any game that requires the unity and precision of action of a group of men? Do you recall that each is governed in action by a code of signals and game rules supplemented by the judgment and decision of a chosen leader?

Have you noticed that the strength and ability of the individual seems often enhanced, that he will drive himself to an almost superhuman effort because of the dependence and confidence of others in him and the spirit of contest?

Can you remember a single instance where a player has failed to do less than his best in these games and does the individual initiative and ability go unnoticed unclaimed and unrewarded?

But you say, "What connection does this have with the grocery business?"

Until very recent years the retail distribution of foods was looked upon as being rather low in the ranks of even the common vocations the remuneration small and the opportunity for individual recognition, growth and expansion practically nil. Therefore, and quite properly, bright sons were coached by interested parents, if not into the ranks of the professions, at least into banking, manufacturing, wholesaling, etc., but today we find the business of multiple store operation assuming a forward rank in our commercial enterprises. Why?

The reason is plain. Mass interest and impetus have been applied.

A wonderful new game has been fashioned, which meets a common personal need and helps solve a national problem. It embodies a spirit of contest, promotes a desire to excel, takes hold upon the imagination develops ingenuity and is, without most wholesome and conducive of bigger individual and collective results.

The personnel of Skaggs stores are playing this new game, playing it by the code of ethics and rules of honor which fabricate the structure of this institution and, not unlike the national games of sport, each player is imbued with the spirit of industry and fairness, reflected by his associates. Each is guided by signals, there are coaches and captains and substitutes and where once the boundaries of individual opportunity were established, there is now opportunity as limitless as the imagination and personal sense of fair-mindedness and equity.

It is this knowledge, this inter-alliance of faith and dependence which make our more than 300 stores so truly UNITED.

Next Week—"How and Why Mass Effort Properly Harnessed to Productive Policies Can and Does Excel in Accomplishment."

These prices good from now until Christmas

Shop Early and get the best in Vegetables

- Oranges—Large, sweet and juicy—\$1.23
43c—3 dozen
Oranges—Medium size, 33c—3 doz 89c for
LAYER FIGS—5 pound boxes 89c
RAISINS—4 pound packages 43c
CURRANTS—"Youngs Best" per package 25c
SUGAR—Pure Cane, 100 pounds—\$1.73
\$6.23—25 pounds
CRANBERRIES—2 pounds for 38c
CATSUP—2 bottles for 49c
PINEAPPLE—large tins in Syrup, 3 for \$1.00
OLIVES—large tins ripe olives 28c
OLIVES—bottles stuffed—6 oz, 33c; 8 oz. 38c
CORN—Xmas tree, Minnesota Crosby 2 tins, 45c; per dozen tins \$2.59
PEAS—"Brentwood" tender and sweet, 2 tins 39c; per doz. tins \$2.25
SORGUM MOLASSES—No. 2 1/2 tins 43c
SYRUP—"Skaggs" Cane and Maple 2 1/2-lbs. 53c; 5-lbs. 93; 10-lbs. \$1.83

MEAT DEPARTMENT

Choice Cuts at Reasonable Prices

- Sirloin and T-Bone Steaks, pound 25c
Round Steak pound 22c
Oven or Pot Roasts pound 15c
Good Lean Pork Roasts, pound 23c
Armours Hams, half or whole, lb. 28c
Fine Sugar Cured Bacon, pound 38c
Nice Lean Bacon Backs, pound 38c
Boneless Rolled Picnic Shoulders, lb. 32c
Shortening, fine for baking or frying, 2-lb. 38c

Order your Christmas Turkey now. Our Prices are always right.