Loss of Dog Mourned by Old Man ...

The old dog is gone and he has left a void, a vacancy that never can be filled. The old man is puzzled by the ultimate schemeof things and wonders why one should form such a strong attachment only to have it taken away when there seems to be no reason, no compensation, when the grief poignant and memory so perisitent. Perhaps it is the enate longing for love that is in all of us and the old dog gave so fully and unstinted of his affections, striving always to please and asking so little in return, a pat on his head or a word of approval with the brown eyes of him searching your face for the answer to the words he could not understand-or did he?

One sometimes wonders if he did not understand the workings of nature better than we. Before he left he seemed to be trying

Public

Auction

Every Saturday

Afternoon - 2:00

also farm sales.

to say goodbye by licking a hand and trying to tell us that everything would be all right bye and bye.

When the mailman came, the old man went out for the mail. This morning he carried in the paper himself. Always before it was the old dog who carried in the paper and laid it beside the old mans' chair. Then he lay down beside it as was his privilege and right, for was he not one of the family? Always, as he unfolded the paper, the old man reached down a hand to stroke the sleek head or tweak a silken ear; then the old dog would rest his head on his paws and sleep while the old man read. Sometimes his sleep was serene. Other times he dreamed. He would twitch and his paws would scratch on the floor and he sometimes whimpered in his slumbers.

One wondered what adventures he found in dreamland. Was he chasing the cottontail rabbit that always escaped under the evergreen blackberry bush? But he never really wanted to catch

All Safeway

Stores will be

Closed

him-it was all just a game. Or was he herding back a recalcitrant hen that had escaped from the chicken run, or was he following the call of his forebears on the trails of high adventuresone wonders?

This morning, as he unfolded the paper, the old man absently reached down his hand to caress the head that was not there. Then he remembered and glanced across at Ma to see if she had noticed. With her head bent over her knitting, she pretended not to have seen, but if you had looked closely, you would have seen her brush a furtive tear from her cheek. The old man knew she did not want the old dog to go; he knew she had prayed that he might stay.

The old man put down his paper and started on his daily walk to the lower pasture. As he passed the old fir tree where the pine squirrel lived, the squirrel promptly ran out on a limb and chattered a defiance as usual, but there was no answering bark. He seemed puzzled, he scolded louder than before, his little tail vibrating with the vigor of his endeavors. He even ran down the trunk of the tree to where there were the marks

bark, then he scurried up the tree and was still. When he came to the blackberry bush the cottontail rabbit scurried under the briars, but when no dark, barking form followed he came out again and sat up, his nose twitching as he looked inquiringly around. There are others the old man ruminated who miss

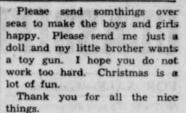
him. On his way back he stopped and picked up a stick beside the path; it was one that he used to toss into the brush for the old dog to retrieve and, when he had found it, he would bring the stick and lay it at his feet for him to throw out again. The marks of his teeth were still on it and, as the old man agzed at it, there came a flood of memories. There came a tenseness, a tightness in his throat and, somehow, his glasses seemed a bit

foggy. When he reached the house THE EAGLE, VERNONIA, ORE. THURSDAY, DEC. 22, 1949 9

Child's Letter to Santa Proves Unusual

Children like to write letters to Santa, but they don't always think of others when they do so, as did Judith Strong, Washington school second grader. Her letter attracted attention over others written here this year because she asked that Santa be sure to make other children happy by remembering them. Judith said in her letter: "Dear Santa,

time but maybe-bye and bye The old man went in and closed the door very gently behind him. He still held the stick in his hand.



Marry Christmas Judith Strong"

LOG SCALE BOOKS • Scribener's • 1948 Columbia River

• Only 50c • From 12 to 80 Feet VERNONIA EAGLE

Phy. 35c

Pte. 39c

Butter

Meadow Wood

њ. 73°

Flour Kitchen 10-18 93e 10-18 \$2.05

Kitchen Craft Flour 50-16 \$3.99

Gifts for the Smoker!

Famous Cigarettes, ctn 1.45 Prince 1-1b. 89c

Grade

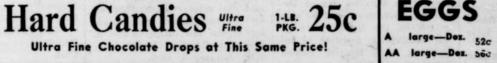
'4'

large-Dez. 52c



Nestle's Morsels Statis 12-35c Jell-Well Gelatins pkg. 5c Milk Chocolate Farmington 1.1. 39c

Canned Pumpkin 3/25c No. 21/2 Cans, Moonbeam Brand. For Beautiful Golden Pies!



of the old dog's claws on the around these SAFEWAY VALUES Cranberry Sauce 2 cans 29c Ocean Spray-Your Choice-Jellied or Whole Berries Mince Meat Borden's 28-02. 35c For Delicious Mince Meat Pies That Can't Be Beat Cake Flour Softesilk Cinch Cake Mix

1-16. Jar 330 No. 303 15c 12-oz. 19c No. 303 10c 29c 1-1b. 29c 2-16. 69c Six Flavors to Choose From. Buy Several Packs!

us forever. He's coming again this year, with a full nack. So sweep out your chimney and get ready for the jolly visitor, who has had special orders from us to bless your home with a very Merry Christmas. ××

Pebble Creek Dairy



Whipping Cream Pin 54c

Fresh Milk

2/39c

