

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 scheme of 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 persistent. 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

to say goodbye by licking a hand and trying to tell us that everything would be all right by 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 man's 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

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 adventures—one 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 of the old dog's claws on the

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 gazed 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 he opened the screen door to the back porch and, as always before, he stepped back and held the door open but, when no dark form bounded in. He remembered and looked around as if to see if anyone had noticed. Those old habits will be hard to overcome—it will take a long, long

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.

Please send somethings over seas to make the boys and girls happy. Please send me just a doll and my little brother wants a toy gun. I hope you do not work too hard. Christmas is a lot of fun.
Thank you for all the nice things.

Marry Christmas
Judith Strong"

LOG SCALE BOOKS

- Scribner's
 - 1948 Columbia River
 - Only 50c
 - From 12 to 80 Feet
- VERNONIA EAGLE**



Greetings and Best Wishes at Christmas.

H. H. Sturdevant

Public Auction

Every Saturday Afternoon - 2:00

Next to Hy Van Hotel

Let us do your selling for you Furniture, farm machinery and also farm sales.

Jim Loftis, Auctioneer
Dick Loftis, Clerk

Christmas Cheer

★ Years may come and years may go but Santa Claus is with us forever. He's coming again this year, with a full sack. 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.

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Pebble Creek Dairy

Youth and old age will be served with a Merry Christmas this year

Mr. and Mrs. Harry French

Garbage Disposal

The Vernonia Eagle
Marvin Kamholz,
Editor and Publisher
Melvin Schwab, Linotype Operator

Official Newspaper of Vernonia, Oregon

Entered as second class mail matter, August 4, 1922 at the post office in Vernonia, Oregon, under the act of March 3, 1879.

Subscription price, \$2.50 yearly.

All Safeway Stores will be Closed Sun. and Mon. Dec. 25 & 26!

Plan a Merry Christmas around these **SAFEWAY VALUES**

Don't Forget . . . Mrs. Wright's Special Bread for Stuffing!
1-lb. Loaf 14c | 1 1/2-lb. Loaf 20c

FRUIT COCKTAIL

Hostess Delight No. 2 1/2 Can	29c	Libby's No. 303's	19c
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Glace Fruits	1-lb. Jar	33c
Fancy Corn Del Monte Cream Style	No. 303 can	15c
Niblets Corn Whole Kernel	12-oz. can	19c
Libby's Pumpkin	No. 303 can	10c
Ritz Crackers	1-lb. pkg.	29c
Crackers Tea Timers	1-lb. pkg.	29c
Cheese Food Fireside	2-lb. loaf	69c
Sunnybank Margarine	1-lb. pkg.	30c

Cranberry Sauce 2 cans 29c

Ocean Spray—Your Choice—Jellied or Whole Berries

MIXED NUTS

A large variety of Nuts you like. 1-lb. pkg. 29c

Mince Meat Borden's 28-OZ. JAR 35c

For Delicious Mince Meat Pies That Can't Be Beat

Bleached Raisins Blondie	1-lb. pkg.	19c
Dromedary Dates Fitted	7 1/2-oz. pkg.	19c
Cake Flour Softasilk	pkg.	35c
Cinch Cake Mix	pkg.	39c
Nestle's Morsels Semi-Sweet	6-oz. pkg.	2-35c
Milk Chocolate Farmington Block	1-lb.	39c
Flour Kitchen Craft	10-lb. sack	93c
	25-lb. sack	\$2.05
Kitchen Craft Flour	50-lb. sack	\$3.99

Fancy Canned Peas

Del Monte No. 303 can	15c	Sugar Belle	2 cans 25c
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Canned Pumpkin 3/25c

No. 2 1/2 Cans, Moonbeam Brand. For Beautiful Golden Pies!

Hard Candies Ultra Fine 1-LB. 25c

Ultra Fine Chocolate Drops at This Same Price!

Gifts for the Smoker!

Famous Cigarettes, ctn	\$1.45	Prince 1-lb. Albert can	89c
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EGGS	Butter
A large—Doz. 52c	Meadow Wood Grade 'A' lb. 73c
AA large—Doz. 56c	

Cherub Milk Evap., tall can	12c
Whipping Cream Plat	54c
Fresh Milk	2/39c
Nob Hill Whole Bean Coffee	2-lb. bag \$1.35
Airway Whole Bean Coffee	2-lb. bag \$1.29
Edwards Coffee	2-lb. can \$1.45

TURKEYS

Ready to Stuff and Roast!

When you buy a Safeway Christmas Turkey — you pay only for the part that will roast just right. Price is based on the oven-ready weight.

Grade A Hens	Grade A Toms
lb. 65c	lb. 55c

You're Sure of the finest—with a Safeway Turkey

FRESH-PRODUCE VALUES!

Sweet—Seedless **NAVEL ORANGES!**

Per Lb	8c	Half Crate	\$2.19	Full Crate	\$4.19
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Crisp Celery	LB.	8c
Sweet Potatoes	2-LB.	25c
Southern Yams	2-LB.	23c
Cranberries Eastern Late Harvest	LB.	23c
Squash, Marblehead or Hubbard	LB.	5c

Crisp-Luscious Apples

Red Delicious	9 1/2c	Half Box	\$1.69
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FRESH DATES, 3-lb. pkg. 75c
 GRAPEFRUIT, white, 8-lb. bag 49c
 GRAPES, Red Emperors 2-lb. 27c
 D'ANJOU PEARS lb. 9c
 AVOCADOS-CALAVOS lb. 49c
 BROCCOLI, fresh, bright lb. 13c
 CAULIFLOWER, solid lb. 14c
 CELERY HEARTS lb. 12c
 CRISP LETTUCE lb. 15c
 POTATOES, U.S. No. 1 10-lb. 49c
 BRUSSELS SPROUTS 10-oz. 19c
 RIPE TOMATOES 14-oz. bx 25c

Other "Pan-Ready" Features!

Ducks Ready to stuff	lb. 69c	Fancy Fryers Disjointed	lb. 69c
Rabbits For Frying	lb. 69c	Roasters Ready to Stuff	lb. 69c
		Fricassee Fowl	per lb. 65c

Skinned HAMS

Famous brands HALF OR WHOLE lb. 49c

Fresh Oysters File for your Dressing	pint	59c
Pure Pork Sausage Country style	lb.	45c
Pure Ground Beef Nice 'n' lean	lb.	35c
Skinless Wieners Specially priced	lb.	39c
Assorted Luncheon Meats	per lb.	49c

Ready to Eat CANNED HAMS Cudahy or Hormel A perfect Gift! 4 1/4-lb. can \$5.95

Buy **CHRISTMAS SEALS**

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Prices in this ad are effective through Saturday, Dec. 23. We reserve the right to limit quantities. No sales to dealers.