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JAMES EARL LADD, President

Church Plans Anniversary Fete Sunday

On December 23 the First Christian Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary. To commemorate the event Sunday, James Earl Ladd Jr.,—some of one of the early Evangelists, under whose ministry 102 people joined the church—will give the message. His father James E. Ladd Sr. aided in the growth of the church during the 1930's. Ladd Jr. is president of Puget Sound Bible College in Seattle, Washington.

Before 1923, the church began with eight families meeting together in a home for communion. Pastor F.C. Stephens from Kelso, Washington sought help from the Portland Office of C.F. Swander, then State Secretary, to organize and set up the new church.

Soon a young evangelist, Godliep Schmidt arrived to hold a meeting in the Grange hall, with Bible school held in Washington school. At the close of the meeting, after prayer and a hymn, the church was set in order and organized by Swander and G. Schmidt. Church officers were then elected in December, 1923.

The congregation then moved to the high school on "A" Street, where 225 were present on Easter Sunday at Bible school. The next move was to the Rose theatre, next to the bridge, but it was too small. A local merchant equipped the second floor over his store for the 48 young people attending the high school Berean class. This class was the first to use the new building, with only one room partly finished and a stove in operation.

The awaited day arrived in Christmas of 1925, when the congregation was at last in their new church home which was located on 430 North Street, where the church stands today, and with Will Gressman as the first minister. He also served as a city attorney.

Shortly after meeting in their new church home several successful evangelistic meetings were held including one led by Ted Leavitt resulting in the addition of 119.

Through the fifty years since the day that the church first became a reality its history has been filled with the joys and sorrows that cover any past but on Sunday, December 23 the congregation of the First Christian Church can look back and be proud of their half-century span.

Family Visit In Manzanita

BIRKENFELD—Mr. and Mrs. Janisch of Diston, came over for a visit with her brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Beach. On Wednesday they all went to Manzanita to visit the Everett Beache's. They returned home Thursday.

Recent callers at the Francis Larson home were Mr. and Mrs. Everett Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Larson, Mrs. Herbert Rodgers and Mrs. Vick Berg.

On Monday of last week, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Malcom of Rio Dell, Calif. and Mr. and Mrs. Archie Johnson of Salem all visited at the Al Soderback home at Jewell.

Mr. and Mrs. Walt Tornblad were in Clatskanie last Friday. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Beach were in Forest Grove last Friday where they did some visiting.

Best Wishes for the Holiday



The Yuletide carols convey our sincere greetings!

ALLA'S JUNK SHOP ANTIQUES

Vernonia Eagle

THURSDAY, DEC. 20, 1973 7

Letter-perfect PRINTING

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Season's Best



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NOEL

At His Birth the Angels sang, "Peace on earth to men of good will." May this same peace, the gift of the Prince of Peace, be yours this Christmas and may it fill your life with joy!

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