

Desire for 'Old-Fashioned Christmas' Reflects Nostalgic Mood of Season

"Tis the season to be jolly." But then there are minority opinions on everything. Plenty of folks are complaining that Christmas isn't what it used to be. They say stacks of Christmas cards, frantic last-minute shopping, "Amahl and the Night Visitors" on TV and "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" on the stereo don't make a Christmas.

"We've got to get back to the old-fashioned Christmas," they cry.

But we'd better not go back too far. To put it bluntly, the Puritans were against Christmas. They labeled it a "wanton Bacchanalian feast" and spent their first Christmas on these shores pointedly rejecting joy and doing carpentry.

On the second Christmas several "lusty young men" who were

found "pitching ye barr, playing at stoole-ball and such like sports" in the public streets caught what - for from Governor Bradford, in person. So the oldest of old-fashioned American Christmases will hardly do for a precedent to be followed in 1965.

Devil Steals Christmas

By 1827, however, Christmas had evolved to the point that an Episcopalian bishop was complaining, "The devil has stolen from us . . . Christmas, the day of our spiritual redemption and converted it into a day of worldly festivity, shooting and swearing."

And by 1876 "The Youth's Companion, a popular magazine of the time, was lamenting the passing of the old-fashioned English Christmas:

"We in America have received many, if not most, of our Christmas customs from our parent country, 'merrie England,' but in England, Christmas is no longer the day of games and fine old traditional ceremonies it once was. It is rarely that the yule log is burned nowadays . . . and whereas the Christmas game, in the times of good Queen Bess, lasted for more than a month, a week is all the modern, money-making English can devote to it."

Bygone Pleasures Recalled

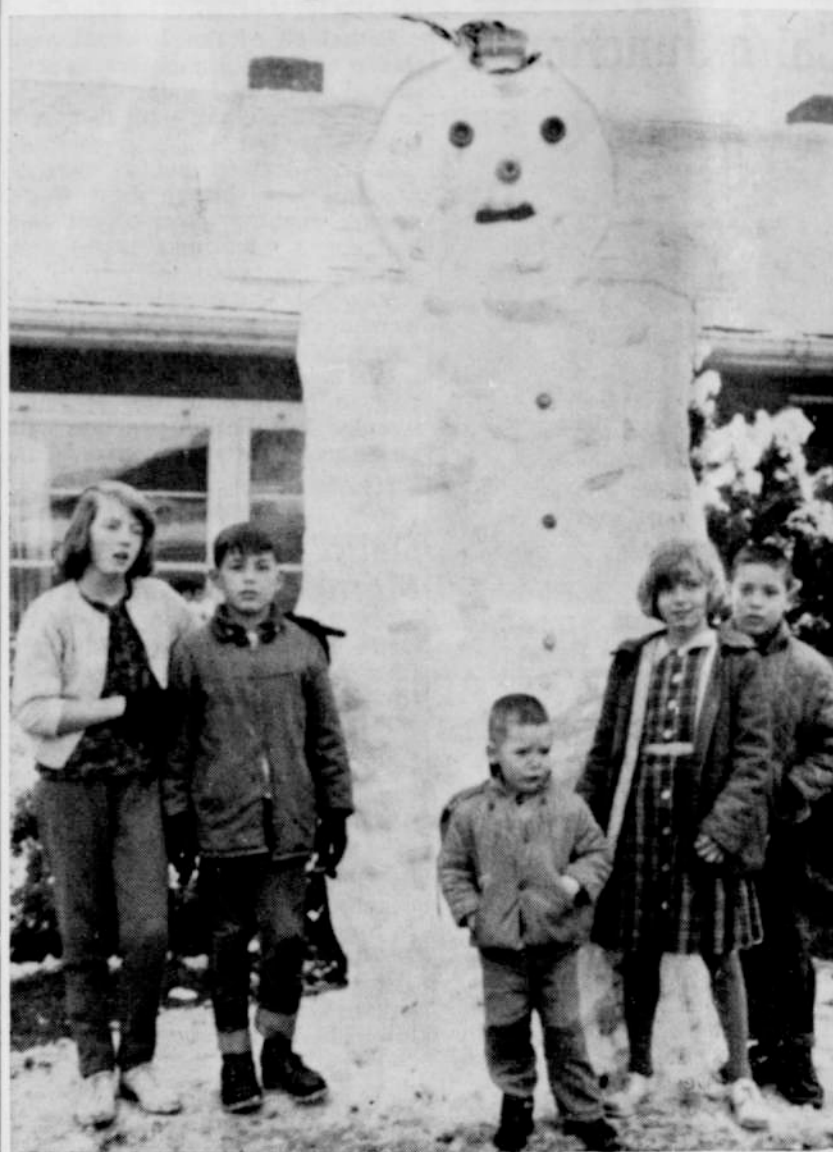
Could it be then that this perennial dissatisfaction with present customs and longing for "the old-fashioned Christmas" merely displays the power of this season to evoke nostalgic memories of happy childhood, bygone pleasures and the joys of Christmases past . . . the exchange of greetings, the singing of carols, the tree, mistletoe, the festive meal and the outdoor fun?

One last dip into the yellowed, crumbling pages of "The Youth's Companion" gives an even better reason to wish for a simple celebration of Christmas.

"It is right for us to derive all the innocent pleasure possible from the happy season, not forgetting, the while, how solemn and glorious is the event which we thus joyously commemorate, with its beautiful lesson of 'Love to our fellow man'."

—Mrs. W. E. Maze.

Nearly 10 Feet Tall!



THIS PHOTO WAS SNAPPED Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 9, on the front lawn at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Bert E. Ross after the children built the "nearly 10-foot tall snowman." The youngsters are (left to right) Patty, Steve, David, Nancy and Pat, who with the assistance of Mrs. Ross cleared most of the snow from their front lawn and that of a neighbor in order to construct their large white friend.—Staff Photo.

FARM BUREAU FURROW

By SCOTT LAMB
Information Director

AMERICAN CHRISTMAS GIFT

If all the world's 2½ billion people could be compressed into a representative community of 1000 people, we would have a community made up as follows:

Sixty would be Americans.
Eighty would be Communists.
Three hundred and seventy would be under Communist domination.

Three hundred and three would be white.

Six hundred and ninety seven would be non-white.

Three hundred would be Christians.

Most of the non-Americans would be poor, hungry, sick and ignorant; about half would be able to read or write.

The 60 Americans would grow 16 percent of all the food. They would keep 1½ percent in surplus for their own use but would give or sell 20 percent of their food production to other members of the community.

The well-fed Americans would have 12 times the electric power of the rest of the community, 21 times as much petroleum, 22 times as much coal, 50 times as much steel and 50 times as much general equipment.

Some 450 people in the community would be berating the Americans as decadent and imperialistic and would be engaged in movements calculated to destroy the American system of gaining wealth.

Even so, the Americans would be busily engaged in producing more to share with the hungry and depressed peoples of the community. Without the American know-how and hard work, there would be a disaster in the community and hundreds of people would starve and die from lack of production.

Americans do share their wealth, their know-how and Christian principles with the rest of the world. To millions of people, America performs in the finest tradition of Christmas . . . America is the Magi.

JEROME RITES CONDUCTED FOR JAMES STANLEY LOWE

Funeral services for James Stanley Lowe, 74, were conducted this week in Jerome, Idaho. Mr. Lowe succumbed Saturday, Dec. 19, at Malheur Memorial hospital.

Among survivors is a son, Dave Lowe of route 2, Parma.

Lienkaemper funeral home was in charge of local arrangements.

KOHL EXPRESSES THANKS

I take this opportunity to thank all my friends for their many messages of cheer and visitations during my recent hospital stay and while recuperating at my home. Your thoughtfulness will never be forgotten. And I wish for each and every one a Joyous Christmas and a Prosperous 1965.

—W. W. (Bill) Kohl.

Adrian News

By Mrs. G. E. Mackey

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Adams and family of Boise, Mr. and Mrs. Art Norland and family of Caldwell visited Sunday with their sister, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Ausman and family.

Wayne Sparks arrived home Saturday from OSU in Corvallis to spend the Christmas holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Long.

Mr. and Mrs. Forie Martin and Clyde Cartwright were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lennie Martin and sons.

Mr. and Mrs. K. I. Peterson attended a Christmas dinner and gift exchange Sunday in Vale for veterans of World War I.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Willis and Marsha were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Ward and family.

Tami Winn was hostess at a surprise birthday and slumber party recently at her home in honor of Becky Wenke. Sophomore class girls were guests.

IN APPRECIATION

I take this opportunity to thank Drs. K. E. Kerby and K. A. Danford, also the staff at Malheur Memorial for their many kindnesses and patience during my stay in the hospital. I also want to thank those who extended words of cheer by card, letter or visitation. I especially appreciate the many prayers offered in my behalf. I feel that I have so much for which to be thankful.

—Mrs. W. E. Maze.

Women of Two Organizations Meet For Holiday Parties in Area Homes

By Mrs. Wilson Witt

NEWELL HEIGHTS — Eleven members of AKH Home Extension unit met last Thursday at the home of Mrs. Dick Krieger for a potluck dinner and gift exchange.

Mrs. Mary Laan was in charge of the program on Holland. She showed a map of the section of that country where she grew up. She also showed pictures and told of living conditions and customs in her native country.

Using the map, she pointed out land where the Germans had opened a dike and later reclaimed. She displayed items of Holland silverware including a tablespoon used as a teaspoon on the table.

A variety of baked dishes, made from Holland recipes, were served at the dinner and were prepared by Mrs. Laan and Mrs. William Mantel.

Members of the Happy Dozen Card club held their Christmas party and gift exchange Friday afternoon at the James Phifer home with Mrs. Bill Toomb as hostess.

Guest players were Ima Bege-man, Laura Brock and Mrs. Phifer. Prize winners were Minnie Stam, Mrs. Phifer, Mrs. Brock and Mabel Piercy.

Next meeting will be Jan. 8 at the home of Mrs. Pete Vander-Oord in Nyssa.

Visit in Hammon Home

Mrs. Thelma Hammon returned recently from Bremerton, Wash., where she visited her daughter, Mrs. Stan (Kay) Parsons. She was accompanied home by Mrs. Parsons and daughter, Terri, who plan to spend a month here. Lt. Stan S. Parsons is on a cruise in the Pacific. Billy Hammon, a student at Oregon State university in Corvallis, arrived last Thursday by bus and will spend the holidays at the home of his mother.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Eason of Hometown were Sunday dinner guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Simpson. The Simpsons were Sunday evening visitors at the Bill Holdt home in Sunset Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stradley and Kathy of Big Bend were Saturday afternoon visitors in the Rollo Fenn residence.

See Overturned Auto

Mrs. Gladys Newbill and Mrs. Anna Pratt of Newell Heights attended the Delta Kappa Gamma meeting held Friday evening at the Nyssa school library. Enroute home they saw an automobile lying on its top in the road near Oregon Trail hall. Mrs. Pratt reports that they did not learn names of the occupants, but heard that no one was killed.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. McKinley were Sunday dinner guests of his brother, Mr. and Mrs. Russell McKinley and family in Boise.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Pratt and younger children and Mrs. Anna Pratt attended St. Bridget's Catholic church party for children held Sunday afternoon at the parish hall in Nyssa.

Pauline Butler, a student at Oregon College of Education at Monmouth arrived last Thursday evening by plane at the Ontario airport. She plans to spend the holidays with her mother, Mrs. Helen Butler.

STUDENTS ARRIVE HOME

Miss Tone Wahlert, a student at Gonzaga university in Spokane, and Billy Wahlert, who attends OSU in Corvallis, arrived Sunday to spend the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wahlert and family.

VISITS NYSSA PARENTS

Miss Lynn Jackson, a student at the University of Portland, is spending Christmas holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilton Jackson and family.

DEVINS HAVE DAUGHTER

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Devin are parents of a daughter born Dec. 18 at Malheur Memorial hospital. The infant weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces and has been named Ann Lea.

Why a Yuletide Tree?

Why a tree at Christmas? One early legend says that all the trees burst into bloom on the night Christ was born.

Folk tales of ancient times tell of a huge tree in a forest, lighted with many candles, some of which were straight and some bent. At the top was an Infant with a halo.

The tree was meant to represent humanity; the candles, people good and bad; and the Infant, the Baby Jesus.

Another explanation links today's Christmas tree to ancient feasts of the winter equinox, when trees were adorned with trinkets.

St. Boniface, an English missionary to Germany, is said to have told converts that the fir should be their holy tree, replacing the oak, sacred in Druid tree worship, and thus beginning the custom of a decorated fir.

Many are the legends, but one thing is certain. Nowadays Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the tree.

FROSTED AND FRINGED

Christmas cards of 1870 were frosted and fringed with heavy silk. The folder-type card, so much in evidence today, was not popular during the 19th century when single cards were more frequently seen.

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Christmas

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Joy and Peace

May your Christmas be blessed with the joy and peace of that Day, when the angels sang the glory of God whose Son lay sleeping in a manger.

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VERNON TOOMBS, Manager

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Here's Santa with our very best wishes for all.

Oregon Concrete Products
NYSSA . . . GLADE CHADWICK, Manager

Holiday Greetings

Here's wishing you a bright and merry Christmas and a Yuletide season sparkling with good cheer.

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Large and Small Animals

Come all ye faithful

Church bells ring . . . choirs of jubilant voices proclaim the glory of the Day. We too speak out to wish our friends all good things. May this Christmas season bring much happiness and great joy of spirit to you and those dear to you.

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