

THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

TED M. BRAMMER, Editor and Publisher



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Why Not Give Love 'Checks' at Christmas?

By the Rev. Murray L. Wagner

Most of us remember the heaviness which came over us in our childhood at the end of the Christmas days. Tummies were full of good things. We were tired from playing with new toys. Carols had all but ceased, and now Christmas was gone for another year.

That same spirit gets in many a church. For weeks children have rehearsed; choirs have met and sung; mothers have been sewing, ripping, and remaking old garments for youthful Wise Men and angels. Then suddenly it's over. Decorations are packed away, Christmas trees burned, and candles snuffed.

But Christmas is a spirit — the Spirit of God in Jesus Christ that can be seen in us. It should be every day and all of each day. The church should be the first to see that.

We would like to suggest some ways to make that season 12 months long.

Why not send out a new kind of Christmas check to needy people? Have them come to the service. Bring them, if need be. Choose people who are worthy of the church's attention — a widow, a crippled and worthy man, an elderly couple. They may be presented with "checks" which draw on the church's deposit of Love, perhaps a check for 50 hours of labor by men or women of the congregation. Let the recipient decide what he would need — 20 hours of painting, 10 of carpentry on porches or fences, or maybe regular garden or yardwork by some lad.

Some business mother, or full-time housewife, may be a good one to sing in the choir or teach a class, if she could have a babysitter for a couple of hours a week. Why not give her a "time check" for two hours a week, signed by the president of the youth group?

Someone who is bedfast or whose eyes are dim might be the one to have a check of 25 evenings of companionship and reading. A much overworked mother or an unwell person might appreciate "10 kitchen floor scrubbing". A poor family would be thrilled with a check for "every Sunday taxi service to church and Sunday school."

Christmas could last all year-round for the giver and receiver, if we gave checks to persons, letting them name dates to send a group of singers, or another type of program, into some home.

See how many people of your community are in hospitals, physical or mental, and send gifts or messages to all of them.

Every community will have its own special opportunities. The very poorest church can follow them without expense. You may wish to invest a few dollars to make your Christmas a twelve months' experience in bringing "Glory to God in the Highest and peace on earth."

Following up Dr. Poe's appeal for world peace last month, why not send petitions to your Congressmen, Senators, and others?

Checks paying all or part of expenses for some child to a summer camp would make a lasting investment, with care being taken to set up standards and not show favoritism.

Had you thought of giving a week's vacation to a hard-pressed mother or dad or both? Perhaps even if you could not finance such a trip, some of the congregation could volunteer to keep the children, mow the lawn, weed the garden, feed the cat, and paint the garage while they are gone.

Many churches remember their pastor in some special way at Christmas. You might give a check on some filling station to grease and change oil in his car for the next year. You may specify how often. Perhaps the young people would like to give him a check of their own. An every-Saturday car wash would give him more time to do things a pastor needs to do.

Details on such suggestions would be worked out by local officials. Maybe you are not an official, but the idea seems worthy to you. Then you should be the person to start the ball rolling before Christmas comes.

In undergirding this planning and giving, we give ourselves to the church and to Christ. No gift is worth giving, if we withhold ourselves. Let us spark the fellowship of the local congregation in a solemn giving of ourselves to the service, love, and undying loyalty to the Christ whose presence in man's heart makes every day Christmas Day.

Angels sang because God had given His Son to us, not because man had given something to the angels. Your joy this Christmas will be in the outgoing of yourself, not in the incoming presents.

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(Editor's Note — The above was brought in by the Rev. Wallace M. Prowell, pastor of the Nyssa Christian church.)

Closed Christmas

To Permit Our Employees to Spend the Day With Their Families . . .

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From 2:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 25

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A VISIT WITH SANTA CLAUS! These young men are Johnnie (on left) and Michael Wahlert, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wahlert of Nyssa. They had just told the Jolly Old Gent of their Christmas desires, and he in turn presented them with candy canes. This photo was snapped during Santa's Dec. 17 Nyssa visit, sponsored by the businessmen's promotion committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

—Journal Photo.

Area's Rural Correspondent Reports Recent Activities in Sunset Valley

By Freda Astoreca

SUNSET VALLEY — Mmes. Gabe Astoreca and Ken Lorenson were among those attending a Dec. 13 missionary circle meeting at the home of Mrs. Jack Glaze. Opening prayer was given by Jeanne Hardman, with devotions led by Clara Corfield.

After the business meeting, games were played. Punch, coffee, a variety of homemade Christmas cookies and fruit cake were served.

Mrs. Elver Nielsen visited Dec. 13 with Mmes. Wayne Robb and Gabe Astoreca. In the afternoon the Nielsens attended funeral services for Carol McClish in Boise. They visited last Thursday evening with the Clifford Nielsens at Ontario.

Mr. and Mrs. Jess Asumendi and children attended a recent Christmas program at the Cairo school house. Frank, Louie and Christine Asumendi were in the program.

Mr. and Mrs. Alva Goodell Jr. were recent evening visitors in the Jess Asumendi home. The Buster Talbot family of Harper were recent overnight guests. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Knowles were Saturday evening visitors in the Asumendi residence.

Party Held in Smith Home

Tri-Valley Extension meeting was held Friday in the Ernie Smith home. Members exchanged gifts and were served traditional Christmas refreshments.

Louise Brewer arrived home recently from Eastern Oregon college in La Grande to spend the holidays with her parents, the Homer Brewers.

Joel Price, Melvin and Wanda Wilson arrived Saturday from Corvallis to spend the holidays with their parents, the Ira Prices, Harley Wilsons and Elizabeth Peutz.

The Frank Holubs and Ira Prices were Dec. 12 evening dinner guests in the James Stephen home.

Lynn and Stacy Glenn spent a recent weekend with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schweizer in Vale.

Twelve members of the Junior Sunday school class of Owyhee Community church held their Christmas party and gift exchange Friday evening at the home of Mrs. Gabe Astoreca.

Entertains Club Group

Worthwhile club members met last Thursday in the James Langley home. Twelve members and two small guests were present for a gift exchange and holiday refreshments.

Mrs. Jack Woods was admitted to the hospital Dec. 14 and underwent minor surgery the following day. She is now at home and recovering nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Lorenson attended Dec. 10 funeral rites for Mrs. Anna Wigent in Payette.

Mr. and Mrs. Ora Newgen were recent dinner guests of the Richard Ellisons in Wilder.

Mrs. Gabe Astoreca and girls visited Dec. 10 with Mrs. Jack Knowles and girls in Nyssa.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Chapin returned home Dec. 11 from a trip to Portland where they attended a national conservation meeting for seven western states. They were overnight guests of their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Tom

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHT GRANGE PARTY

Festive Christmas decorations set the scene last Thursday evening for a turkey dinner served to approximately 65, including Oregon Trail Grangers and their guests.

A welcoming talk was given by Master Don Somers, with Lecturer Lois Boenig leading the group in singing carols, accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Ellen Jones.

To the tune of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," a gift exchange was held, musical-chair style.

VISIT FLINDERS COUPLE

Mr. and Mrs. Tren Jones and KarAnn of Moses Lake, Wash.; Mr. and Mrs. Selfrid Oquist (nee Janet Jones) of Salt Lake City were Sunday afternoon visitors in the Elwood Flinders home. The Oquists were married Dec. 16 in the Salt Lake LDS temple.

Crow. They also visited long-time friends, Mr. and Mrs. John Williams in Portland.

Mrs. Frone Stradley visited last week with the Ora Newgens. They attended the Jolly James Christmas dinner and gift exchange held last Thursday in the Big Bend hall. They visited that evening with Nora Stark in Parma.

Arcadia Club Women Prepare Gifts At Christmas Session in Bowers Home

By Mrs. George Moeller

ARCADIA—Arcadia club meeting was held Dec. 14 at the home of Mrs. Clyde Bowers with 20 members present for the Christmas party. Gifts were exchanged and secret pals revealed.

A Christmas theme was carried out and boxes of gift items were packed for needy families and residents in Malheur Memorial hospital nursing home wing.

Four children were present and also exchanged gifts. Mrs. Parley Feik received the hostess gift. Coffee and spiced punch were served.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Houston returned last week from Seattle where they visited his sister, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Morton.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Bullard and family were Sunday overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Boyack in Meridian.

DUP Women Meet

Daughters of Utah Pioneers held their Christmas party Dec. 15 at the home of Mrs. C. R. Kesler. There were 16 women present for the potluck dinner and gift exchange.

Elwin Houston and Gary of San Francisco recently visited Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Houston, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Houston of Ontario, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Sigler in Boise.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Houston visited Dec. 14 with Mrs. Beulah Pike in Weiser and with Mrs. Alice Houston in the Nyssa nursing home.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hill of Malta, Idaho, were recent visitors in the C. R. Kesler Sr. home.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Houston were Sunday evening dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Brady at Caldwell. The occasion honored Brady's birthday anniversary.

Leave for Missouri

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Stephenson have left for Willow Spring, Mo., to visit his mother. They plan to spend Christmas with a son, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Lee Stephenson and family in Little Rock.

COTTRELLS HOST DINNER; SON LEAVES FOR PANAMA

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel R. Cottrell had all their children in their home on Thanksgiving day, and dinner was served to 35 members of the family.

Among those present was their son, Capt. Russell G. Cottrell, who left for Panama on Nov. 28 in his Volkswagen. He arrived there Dec. 10 and reports that his only trouble on the 5,000-mile trip was one flat tire.

His wife and three small girls are still in Nyssa. They plan to leave by plane as soon as he finds suitable housing.

Capt. Cottrell is on a three-year assignment in Panama.

NURSING HOME PATIENTS PRESENTED USEFUL GIFTS

Malheur Memorial hospital auxiliary members met Monday afternoon to take sofa pillows, luncheon cloths and games to residents in the nursing home wing.

It is reported that the patients there appreciate having visitors and friends to talk with. Anyone wishing to visit them is welcome to do so.

Christmas 1966



From Nampa, Nyssa, Burley, Twin Falls, and from countless other communities and crossroads in Idaho, Oregon and Utah, where more than 2,500 dedicated men and women ARE the Amalgamated Sugar Company, we extend to you and your family best wishes for a joyous holiday season, and a bright, prosperous New Year.

Christmas Watchword

... for glorious gifting



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C. NAUTILUS 507, new electric \$99.50
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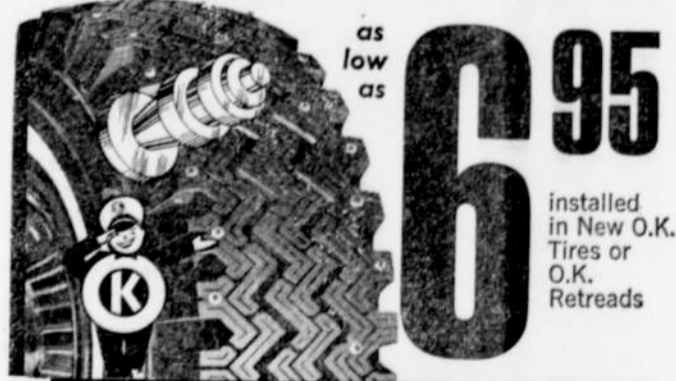
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