

BELT VALLEY TIMES

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BELT, MONTANA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1921

\$2.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

Basketball Now Holding Center of Interest In B. V. High School Athletics

With the quieting down of holiday activities, the interest of the Belt public will be revived in basketball, and especially in the progress of the Belt Valley High school team which will make a try for tournament honors in this district. There has been some changes in redistricting the state for the annual high school basketball championship, and Belt is included in the North Central district, taking in 17 high schools eligible for play. This district includes besides Belt, Great Falls, Harlem, Chinook, Big Sandy, Fort Benton, Havre, Sand Coulee, Cascade, Augusta, Choteau, Conrad, Valer, Shelby, Cutbank, Inverness and Chester.

Instead of having eight districts in the state as formerly, there are now nine districts. Sixteen teams will be invited to the state tournament at Bozeman, March 8-11. Where a satisfactory district tournament is held the tournament winner will in each case be invited to the state tournament. Winning of second place will not assure a team's attendance at the state tournament, as the seven teams that are not district winners go to Bozeman will be invited on their season's record.

The number of games that Belt will compete in during the district tournament will be largely governed by the support of the public. It will be seen that the expense will be rather heavy for those teams located on the edges of the district, as Belt is now placed. A game between Belt and Chinook, for instance, would be a rather expensive proceeding.

While the schedule for the Belt Valley High has not been completed, eight games have been arranged for, the first of the series to be played with the Choteau County High at Fort Benton January 6. On the 12th the Teton County High plays here and on the 20th Belt goes to Lewistown and on the 27th to Choteau to play the Teton County High. On February 2 the Choteau County High plays here, the 10th is an open date, and on the 17th

In the Good Old Wide Open Days

Of course they were not, yet we like to think that the good old times were better than those of the present. Those of us whose recollections cover the period when Montana was "wide open" are prone to forget the hardships, the evils and lax conventions of the earlier days of our state, and our minds only recall the romance, the adventure and the freedom of action of a commonwealth in the making. We think the pleasures and recreations of those days had the robustness sadly lacking in the diversions favored by the youth of modern times, but more than likely it is merely the tendency of those of advancing years to express the regret that vanished youth begets.

However, there is a real appeal to everybody in anything that savors of the earlier history of the west, and when last year the Belt Volunteer Fire department attempted to put on a carnival in which the amusements of pioneer days were depicted they were fairly overwhelmed with the success of the affair. They will repeat the experiment next week by giving a carnival two nights, Friday and Saturday. All the old stunts will be there and several new ones. They are prepared to entertain all who come.

Mrs. Wm. McInnis of the Rocky Ridge section, who with her younger daughters, Elsie and Evelyn, are living in Great Falls this winter, where the girls are attending the academy, are expected out today to go to their ranch home to spend the holidays.

Belt Gets Share of Honors at Falls Poultry Show

Although the annual poultry show at Great Falls ended last Thursday, the final awards were not announced until Monday. There were but few exhibitors from this section and those scored well among the thousand or more entries from all over the state and even some from neighboring states.

Mrs. J. D. O'Connell, one of the most successful breeders of poultry of this section, entered several of her choice White Wyandottes and was awarded a first on cockerel, also a fourth. Her exhibit also captured third and fifth on cocks and fourth and fifth on pullets.

Mrs. W. H. Porter of Fife took a first on dark hen in Plymouth Rock class and a fourth on dark cock. Mrs. Porter also exhibited Bronze turkeys, capturing first and third prizes on hens, second on cockerels and third on toms.

R. F. Porter of Wayne also had a Bronze turkey exhibit, getting first tom, second hen and fourth cockerel. W. H. Porter of Fife, in the Rhode Island Red exhibit, took third prize on cockerels.

the Fergus County High comes to Belt and on the 24th Belt goes to Cascade. Lewistown is the only school not in this district so far scheduled, but being old rivals were anxious for games.

The season will be opened here tomorrow night with the Raynesford team as opponents, and while the workouts have been getting some hard work under the direction of Coach D'Amour and feel they will be able to win their first game, a hard battle is expected as the Raynesford men have played together for a number of years and are veterans. A preliminary will be played at 7:45 and the public is assured they will receive their money's worth in these games.

Snowfall Welcome To Agriculturists

Ideal Arctic weather of the past week possesses some disagreeable features to those whose occupations compel them to face it, but a realization of future benefit to the agricultural interests lends cheerfulness to most everyone, regardless of present discomforts. The farmers themselves probably get more real hardships due to cold and storm than those of other occupations, but knowing that there is more moisture in the soil at the present time than has been the case for several years, they are bearing up under the chilly blasts with cheerfulness. They feel assured of ample moisture at least to give all crops a fine start in the spring. Stock is reported to be doing well in all directions and with ample hay and big straw stacks for shelter and feed they are not worrying on that score.

According to the weather records of the nearest station, Great Falls, the year 1921 has not been even an average for rainfall, but fortunately in this section the rains came at the right time of the year and a good crop resulted. The present storm has brought the moisture of the year slightly above the average of the past five years. There is undoubtedly more snow in the mountains now than there has been at this season for five years past. This at least assures plenty of moisture in the streams next season.

The earlier snowfall came on ground that was not frozen and as it melted the moisture all went into the ground, giving the deepest moisture that it has had for years. A greater part of the winter wheat in this section was sown early and got a good start and according to report was in the best of condition to insure a good crop. Some farmers are of the opinion that there is enough moisture now in the ground that was properly prepared to mature the crop next summer. That, of course is to be questioned, but it would be a dry season indeed that did not bring some rain in the growing season, so on the whole the outlook for a good crop may be said to be very favorable.

The really great film production, "Over the Hill," will come to the Pythian theatre Saturday and Sunday, December 31-January 1. Advance sale of reserved seats at theatre box office begins Thursday, December 29. Four rear rows reserved at 75c.—Adv.

Expect Brisker Demand for Coal After Holidays

A lack of orders in most of the coal mines of the district has resulted in considerable enforced idleness among the miners for the past two weeks, with a rather poor outlook for resumption before Christmas or New Years. The G. W. Merkle mine operated two days the present week, while the Brodie mine got in three days since last Friday and may possibly get in one or two more this week.

Similar conditions prevail in practically all the mines of this district and in the county. At the smaller mines handling commercial coal exclusively, the continued cold weather will probably deplete stocks of jobbers and householders and orders are not improbable for steadier work by next week.

The coal mines which are handling the supply for the railroads expect that immediately after the holidays there will be orders to keep them in operation for at least three months steadily. The expectations are based on the plans of the railroads made public last week, which include the storing of a big tonnage over all the western roads. These storage plans are said to call for a million and a half tons of Montana coal alone. The general impression that there will be an early resumption of the copper mines and smelters is a source of hopefulness also among the coal operators and miners.

Miss Amy Spiller, who is teaching in the schools of Missoula, arrived at her home here Tuesday and will spend the holidays vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alois Spiller.

Holidays Bring a Continuous Round of Pleasure

Stamina Will Be Requisite In Those Who Aim to Enjoy the Complete Programme

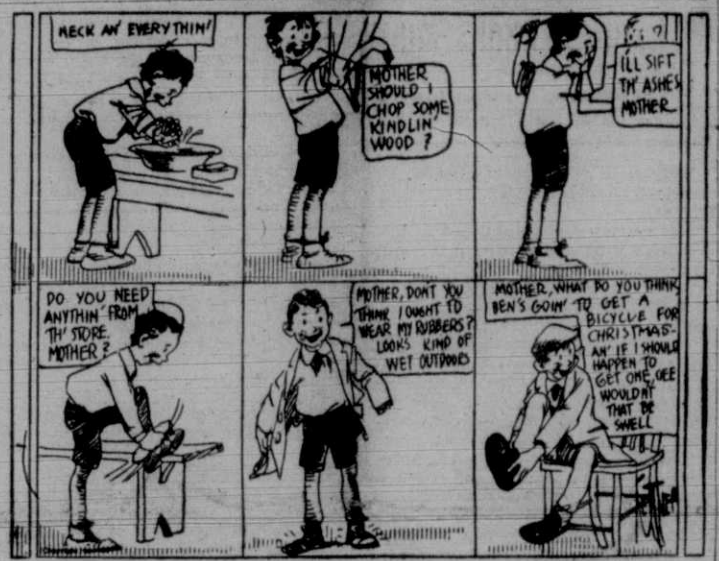
"All dolled up and no place to go" is an expression that has no application so far as Belt is concerned, for the holiday week at least. The difficulty appears to be in the decision whether it is best to include the whole program for the week or just to pick out the high spots. If one decides for the former there is no problem involved, except that of endurance, perhaps, but as for the elevated places, here is the list and you can make your own choice:

Tonight (Thursday) Christmas tree for the Sunday school of St. Mark's Catholic church in the Parish hall. Tomorrow night (Friday) Entertainment and Christmas tree at Episcopal church; ball and supper by the Gold Seal club at K. of P. hall; basketball game at auditorium, Belt vs. Raynesford. Saturday night—Program and Christmas tree at the M. E. church; high mass at midnight at St. Mark's Catholic church. Sunday—Mass at 8 and 10:30 at St. Mark's Catholic church, and evening devotions at 7:30 p. m.; special Christmas sermon at M. E. church and appropriate sermon and service at the Episcopal church at usual hours.

Monday—Legal holiday, everybody loaf. Tuesday evening—"Little Players" at auditorium. Last of Legion Lyceum course. Wednesday evening—"The Texan" at auditorium. Amateur talent of the Epworth League. Thursday—Repeat. Friday—Second annual Carnival and Jubilee of Belt Volunteer Fire department. Wide open, all wool and a yard wide. Saturday—Same, only more so.

Every night—High class moving pictures at Pythian theatre; Mexican chili at Barney's cafe and satisfying meals at the Gem; solo and rummy everywhere, and tom and jerry nowhere. If that don't make an exhaustive program for one week, we are no judge of small town activities. Personally, our will is strong for the entire list, but we have some doubt as to our physical ability to go the complete route. However, "faint heart gathers no moss," so "Let's go."

About 336 Hours to Christmas



How Many Mothers Over 50 Years of Age in this Locality?

The Times Wishes to Know and Desires to Make their Acquaintance

As a tribute to all mothers of Belt and vicinity, and more especially to those mothers who have passed the meridian of life and have experienced the poignant pain of parting from the sons and daughters who have left the home nest, and have known the sympathy that goes to them in their failures and felt the joy their successes bring, these are the mothers the Belt Valley Times especially wishes to meet and honor.

To do this in a way that will bring no embarrassment or no unpleasant publicity to these mothers, we have made arrangements with the management of the Pythian theatre to give all mothers over 50 years of age of Belt and vicinity an opportunity to be our guests at the showing of what we think is the greatest moving picture ever screened, "Over the Hill," which is to be shown at the theatre December 31 and January 1.

All that is necessary is that every mothers of Belt and vicinity over 50 years of age (and this includes moth-

er-in-laws and step-mothers too) to call at the New Drug company store between the hours of 1 and 4 o'clock, Friday afternoon, December 30, and they will be presented with a free ticket, good for a seat at the Pythian theatre at any showing of the great picture "Over the Hill." That is all there is to it—call at the drug store between the hours named and our Mr. Bemis will see that you get the ticket. We have seen the screen version of "Over the Hill" and have no hesitation in saying that it is the most gripping picture we have ever witnessed. All the joys and sorrows of a lifetime are crowded into three hours of a portrayal of the happiness, pain, misfortune, triumphs, success, misery and joy that makes up the life of a family and neighborhood such as we all know, and through it all there shines the exalted love and sacrifice of a mother whose heart goes out to all her children, both the good and the bad. The most stolid will laugh and the most hard boiled will weep.

Gem Cafe Changes Ownership

Negotiations which had been under way for several weeks were closed last Saturday, and on January 1 Oscar Johnson of Great Falls will take over the business and good will of the Gem Restaurant, which for the past two years has been owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Johnson.

The Gem is one of the first restaurants established in Belt, and was founded by the late Rudolph Alber, who in 1894 opened in the building which is now a part of the Mace lodging house on Bridge street. He conducted an eating house there for several years under the name of the Royal Cafe, moving later to the building south of the Oriental on Castner street and changing the name to the Gem. When the Roman building was built, Mr. Alber moved the Gem to its present location and operated it until a short time before his death, having sold the business to Carson & Scott of Fairfield. About two years ago Mr. and Mrs. Johnson bought the business and besides making a financial success of it, have made an enviable reputation as first class caterers. The

Gem has always been recognized as the leading restaurant of Belt. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson expect to move to Great Falls immediately after the first of the year, but have announced no definite plans as to their future permanent location.

Oscar Johnson, who succeeds in the management and ownership of the Gem, has had a wide experience in the conduct of a first class restaurant. For the past six years he has been connected with the Gerald Cafe in Great Falls, which in itself is a guarantee that the reputation of the Gem will be sustained as the leading eating house of Belt. Mr. Johnson has a family who will make their future home in Belt.

ST. MARK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Midnight mass will be celebrated at St. Mark's Catholic church Saturday night at 12 o'clock. Mass at 8 o'clock and 10:30 Sunday morning, and evening devotions at 7:30.

REV. A. J. RICHARD.

County Treasurer Andretta Announces 85 Percent of 1921 Taxes Collected

A total of \$1,622,714.68 in 1921 taxes, or 87 per cent of the amount charged to the county treasurer's office for collection, has been received by County Treasurer Fred C. Andretta, according to his November report to the board of county commissioners, which was completed last Friday. Total collections confirm the prediction made early in November by the county treasurer that he would collect at least 85 per cent of the amount on his books. His report shows a total of \$259,293.40 in the delinquent column. The amount of taxes paid to the treasurer during the month of November only, reached a total of \$1,577,784.47, the report reveals. Re-

ceipts from other sources, which includes licenses and county officers' fees, swell the total November figure to \$1,588,382.58. It cost the county \$149,705.40 to operate during the month, which leaves a December balance of \$1,590,912.69 in the hands of the county treasurer, according to the report. The expenditures include a remittance of \$4,525.09 to the state treasurer.

New balances created by the addition of tax money to the several county funds are: General \$107,701, road \$74,713, poor \$42,158, bridge \$26,143, contingent \$119,458, bond interest \$50,713, county sinking \$36,252, protest tax (county portion) \$4,328, migratory stock \$267, public health \$3,068, gopher \$1,828, special relief \$2,256, special relief sinking \$9,440, special relief bond interest \$11,960, land classification \$14,191, insect pest \$50, dependent and delinquent children \$6,249, and suspense, \$2,715. The total new balance of county funds is \$513,499.

New balances of the trust and agency funds are: General school \$191,974.00, high school \$97,683, district school \$170,989, county unit \$134,525, state fund \$107,422, state bounty fund \$742, state sinking fund (1911) \$15, state bond interest (14th session) \$7, insane asylum, tuberculosis and sanitary improvement \$3; Veterans welfare commission \$2,036, livestock commission \$487, city of Great Falls \$290,775, Great Falls special road \$1,928, city of Belt \$6,676, town of Cascade \$5,064, Cascade special improvement \$4,366, city of Neilhart, \$857, district court clerk deposit \$3,756, redemption fund \$26, estates \$10,847, protest tax (T and A portion) \$8,001, migratory stock \$308, hail insurance \$3,895, Fort Shaw irrigation \$1,006, Chestnut valley irrigation \$5,161, Chestnut valley bond interest \$202, state law enforcement \$170, state educational interest and sinking \$12,140, war defense \$12,140, Ulm irrigation \$2,938.

Appropriate Rites For Christmastide

Aside from the more frivolous diversions of the holiday time, entertainments emblematic of the deeper significance of Christmas time are being prepared by the several churches and Sunday schools of Belt, and the real Yuletide spirit will form the keynote of these affairs, which for the most part are prepared for the especial benefit of the children.

Nearly all the lower grades of the public schools have arranged Christmas programs and festivities which will take place before the closing of the schools tomorrow afternoon for the holiday vacation. Many of the rooms have prettily decorated Christmas trees and the rooms generally are suitably decorated for the occasion. Yesterday morning the children of the seventh grade entertained the High school assembly with a little Christmas playlet, which was well received.

This (Thursday) evening, the children of St. Mark's Catholic church will gather at the Parish hall, where a beautiful Christmas tree has been erected and the usual distribution of Christmas gifts will take place. The children are not to be asked to contribute to the entertainment, and the program, which is to be informal, will be by the teachers of the Sunday school and will be mainly musical.

Friday evening the Sunday school of the Episcopal church will give a program of entertainment, the children having been rehearsing their parts for some time and which promises to be both interesting and entertaining. There will also be the usual Christmas tree and distribution of gifts.

Saturday evening at the M. E. church, a rather elaborate program will be given, followed by the giving of presents from the tree, which will be placed in a prominent place in the church and appropriately decorated. It is understood that Santa Claus has accepted an invitation to be present in Belt this week and will appear in person at all these events, providing the roads from the North Pole are passable. It is expected that he will get through somehow, as we are informed he still depends upon his beautiful reindeer, in preference to the more modern automobile.

As announced elsewhere, the beautiful and impressive ceremony of high mass will be celebrated at midnight Saturday at St. Mark's Catholic church, and special services with appropriate music will be given Sunday at all the churches.

Christmas Seal Sale by Boy Scouts Closes Sat.

The sale of Christmas seals will end Saturday in Belt for the year, by the Boy Scouts making a complete canvass of the town and also by having a booth at the postoffice lobby, permission being secured for the same from Postmaster John S. Pearson. All the banks and most of the merchants are still supplied with the little seals and it is expected that the quota assigned to Belt will be practically disposed of at the end of the campaign Saturday night.

Everyone has or will be given an opportunity to make an investment in these seals, which are the main source of income for the Montana Tuberculosis association, which is doing a great work in eradicating the white plague. Deaths from tuberculosis in Montana are declining in number, according to an announcement of the state board of health. In the first months of 1921, 251 deaths occurred in the state. The department figures that if this rate is maintained for the last quarter it will mean an annual total of 340, or a rate of 61 per 100,000 of population.

The work of the State Tuberculosis association is supplemental to our own educational efforts and is of a type which in view of our varied activities and appropriations, we cannot advantageously perform. It is supported by the sale of Christmas seals, and every citizen who purchases these seals can do so with the consciousness that he is aiding in vanquishing the greatest disease enemy of mankind, said a state health worker.

Lots of Thrills in Amateur Drama

The same appeal that preserves the popularity of the "western" drama on the screen, will no doubt pack the auditorium next Wednesday and Thursday evenings, when the play, "The Texan," will be presented under the auspices of the Epworth League. It is a Texas story of war and romance and as full of thrills as might be expected from the name. Following is the cast:

Buck Sapello, Phil Dunston; Wesley Doyle, Harry Browning; Major Truesdell, Howard Graham; Capt. Hendrum, Otto Venohr; Lieut. Smith, Harold Engdahl; Trooper Murphy, Gilbert Hoyer; Swiftwing, Indian guide, Oscar Berg; Dan Inman, Lorne McConkey; Carl, Dan's nephew, Master Jas. Aiton; Mrs. Inman, Ebba Lundell; Elsie Inman, Eleanor Peters; Ethel Truesdell, Ruth Brodie; Antie Lou, a servant, Limpe Ranta.

Rev. Alexander Aiton is coaching the play, and his success in former efforts in this line is a guarantee that "The Texan" will be a satisfying entertainment.

An added attraction is the appearance of Master Henry Dotseth, boy violinist of Great Falls, who will render selections between the acts.

Chas. Lochray, who has charge of the new mine recently opened by the Pierce Coal company near Gerber, came over Sunday for a few days visit with his family here.

Belt Valley High Will Enter for State Debate

In preparation for the state contest in high school debating, the finals of which will be held in Bozeman next spring, the debaters of the Belt Valley High school are already giving much study to the matter. A schedule of elimination district contests is to be arranged, the first of which will be between Belt and Geraldine.

A great deal of interest has been shown, due largely to the important question selected by the State High School Debate League. Japanese immigration is a topic that touches this western country quite closely and one that the federal government is considering very seriously. The question stated is: "Resolved, that the federal government should enact legislation to exclude rigidly Japanese immigration from the United States." A preliminary debate will be held at the High school auditorium this afternoon for the purpose of selecting a team to debate with the Geraldine team. The following people will appear in the preliminary: Affirmative: Ella Graybeal, Pauline Zemanek, Rosia McGraw, John Vann, Reino Keto and Vilho Hauskama. Negative: Pearl Marquardt, Gladys Engdahl, Bernice Sutherland, S. A. Remington, Jr., Walter Auren and Wilton Westerley.

Basketball Belt High vs. Raynesford Friday Night

Belt High vs. Raynesford
BELT AUDITORIUM