

The Evening News

VOL. VII.

ROSEBURG, DOUGLAS COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1916.

No. 1993

DISASTROUS FIRE IN ROSEBURG TODAY

Gas Generated in Cleaning Shop Explodes Causing Big Blaze.

PROPRIETOR IS BURNED

Office of Gas Company Adjoins and Many Hundreds of Dollars Worth of Fixtures and Meters Are Destroyed.

One of the most expensive fires to occur in this city for some time happened about 12:30 today when the dry room of the Imperial Cleaning & Pressing establishment caught fire. The fire spread to the rear room of the gas plant adjoining after having blown out the brick wall in the back of the cleaning shop. Both businesses as well as George Chandler the owner of the building lost heavily.

The fire originated in an unknown manner. Mr. Spencer, one of the proprietors of the cleaning shop was working in the back room cleaning the suits which had been brought in this morning. The room was filled with the fumes of the gas, line and when the blaze started the gas which had been generated, exploded with such terrific force that it forced the brick wall of the cleaning room outward so that it is now tottering and will have to be removed. It also blew in the partition between the cleaning establishment and the gas plant, breaking nearly all the fixtures which had been stored in this place.

Mr. Spencer, who was in the room at the time was quite badly burned, but managed to escape with his life. His arms were burned deeply and his hair was singed off. He is slightly burned about the eyes, but it is not considered that his burns are serious. He was rushed immediately to the office of Dr. Shoemaker, where he was given medical attention and although he is suffering considerably it is not thought that there will be any serious results.

Before the alarm was sounded the fire truck under the guidance of Corbett Wilbur had reached the scene, only two of the firemen being present to assist him, but by the time the bell had started ringing a line of hose had been laid to the building. The value of the new fire alarm system which notifies the driver immediately of the conflagration in this manner proved that it is worth many times the cost of installation.

The firemen were unable to force their way through the front of the building on account of the dense clouds of smoke which poured out. The flames were, however, confined chiefly to the rear and the truck drove around to this part of the building where the chemical and water hoses were brought into play.

The firemen occupied a very dangerous position standing on the rear porch of the structure with the brick wall tottering above above them ready at any minute to collapse while within was a gasoline tank containing over 40 gallons of the explosive fluid confined in a small space and with the wooden part of the machine burning. The firemen, however, unflinchingly held their places and within a few minutes had the flames under control. The fire around the gasoline tank was the most stubborn as the wood was very thick and charred deeply before the blaze was completely extinguished.

The blaze worked its way into the gas plant office, but was stopped before it did any great damage. The proprietors of this business, however, are the greatest losers probably as their stock was quite badly broken as a result of the fire.

Daily Weather Report

Tonight and Saturday Fair, Warmer Saturday.
Highest temp. yesterday 61
Lowest temp. last night 46

DEUTSCHLAND ARRIVES— UNCONFIRMED.

According to a flash which went over the Western Union wires at noon today the super-submarine Deutschland had made port in safety. The report is wired to the United press in Portland for a confirmation of the flash and received the following short reply: "Nothing on Deutschland".

They carry \$10,000 or \$12,000 worth of goods on hand at all times and as this consists chiefly of expensive meters and fixtures a great part of this was injured and will have to be sent to the factory for repairs. Mr. Anderson, the local representative of the company placed the approximate loss between five and

MRS. MARSTERS AGAIN PRESIDENT OF W. C. T. U.

Now Serving Her Eighteenth Term in This Office of County Union.

OTHERS ARE SELECTED

Program 20th Annual County Convention of the W. C. T. U. is Full of Interesting Addresses and Music.

Mrs. A. C. Marsters was today elected president of the Douglas County W. C. T. U. for her 18th term. Mrs. Marsters has been a faithful worker in this organization for many years. Under her charge the Union has grown in numbers and in strength until it is now one of the largest and strongest on the coast. Mrs. Marsters has seen Roseburg grow from a city of two thousand inhabitants with fifteen saloons to a prohibition city under the local option law, and then under state wide prohibition to its present attainment. Mrs. Marsters, through her efforts as president of the W. C. T. U. has probably been more influential than any other person in the city or county in bringing about prohibition in Roseburg and in Douglas county. The other officers chosen were Mrs. I. M. Tutill, of Calapooia, vice-president; recording secretary, Mrs. Bertha Watson, of Oakland; corresponding secretary, Mrs. R. E. Hunt, of Roseburg; and treasurer, Mrs. Mary Jewett, of Gardiner.

The twentieth annual convention of the W. C. T. U. opened yesterday morning. The morning and afternoon services passed off quietly with reports of committees and officers, the appointments of committees and other routine business together with several short addresses. At night a very pleasant meeting was held at which there was a large attendance of both men and women.

The meeting was opened by a song by the congregation, followed by the invocation and scripture reading by Rev. Wm. Riley Jeffrey, Jr., of the M. E. church. In the absence of Mayor Rice, who is spending a week or ten days at Eugene, Councilman McClintock welcomed the visitors to this city. Mr. McClintock always a fluent speaker, was at his best last night and for a few minutes gave one of the wittiest and most pleasing addresses of welcome ever heard in this city. The response was made by Mrs. Mary Honninger, of C. Island.

After a musical selection, Rev. George P. Trites, of Sutherlin spoke on the subject of "Our Right to Prohibit". Mr. Trites is an excellent speaker and his address was both logical and forceful.

This morning was given over to reports of the various departments preceded by a devotional service conducted by Mrs. B. L. Eddy and followed by the election of officers. The afternoon was opened by a devotional service led by Mrs. Stella French, after which the appointed

FRENCH RECAPTURE TOWN OF FLEURY

Bloody Street Fighting Before The Germans are Ejected.

BRITISH EXTEND GAINS

Russian Forces Claim to Be Advancing Toward the Hungarian Border—Villages Are Taken.

LONDON, Aug. 18.—It has been announced that the French forces have recaptured the town of Fleury. Counter attacks attempted by the Germans were repulsed by a curtain of fire from the French. Bloody street fighting in the streets of the village took place before the Germans were finally ejected from the houses. The French forces also advanced in the neighborhood of Thiaumont and the British extended their gains northwest of Bazentin and LePott. Here they found the German trenches crowded with dead. Counter attacks made by the Germans northwest of Maurenoch were repulsed. Petronrad announced that the Russian forces are approaching the mountain summits near Koroneo in Hungary. They have captured Lysiec and Stary, southwest of Stanislaw.

Russian Attacks Repulsed.

BERLIN, Aug. 18.—It is admitted that the British forces have seized the first line German trenches south of Martinpuich, elsewhere all attacks have been repulsed. A drawn battle was fought northeast of Hardcourt. On the east front the Turks have reinforced General Bothmer and have repulsed all Russian attacks. It is stated that the German forces have advanced in the Carpathians. A delayed Vienna dispatch stated that the Austrians were advancing southeast of Bukovina. They repulsed six massed attacks northeast of Stanislaw, all of the Italian attacks are reported to have been repulsed.

MISTAKES BROTHER FOR PROWLER

Amputation Will in All Probability Be Necessary.

ST. HELENS, Aug. 18.—Chauncey Smith accidentally shot his brother, Walter, aged 14, last night at Bunker Hill, where the two boys were camping.

During the night Walter walked in his sleep and Chauncey challenged the supposed prowler and got no reply whereupon he fired in the direction of the noise.

The charge from the shot gun took effect in Walter's leg. Despite the horror of the shock Chauncey kept his nerve and bound up the arteries and rushed his brother to St. Helens for a doctor. It is probable that the leg will have to be amputated.

ESCAPED LUNATIC IS CAUGHT

Appears Rational and Denies That He is Dangerous.

PORTLAND, Aug. 18.—Patrolman Smith today arrested John Thompson, an escaped lunatic from the Salem asylum. He was placed in the county jail awaiting the arrival of officers from the institution. Thompson appeared rational and denied the report that he was a dangerous lunatic. He said that he fled from the mad house in order to see his sons. He denied that he intended to kill his wife, but said: "If I had intended to kill her I could easily have gone to Milwaukie and done so".

WILSON POSTPONES CABINET MEETING

The Railway Presidents Assume Hostile Attitude Over Night.

TO SUPPORT MANAGERS

Brotherhood Heads Asked Chief Executive to Modify Proposition Which He Put Up to Them.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—The heads of the railway brotherhoods today asked Wilson to modify to a certain extent the proposition put up to them in order that a strike might be avoided. Wilson early this morning postponed the meeting with the railway presidents until two o'clock this afternoon. He was up early preparing an appeal to them. A cabinet meeting which was scheduled for today was canceled by the president. Many of the railway presidents who have arrived in the capital are openly hostile and are determined to support their managers in their refusal to accept Wilson's proposition to them.

PEAR CROP BEING MOVED RAPIDLY

Fruit Producers Company is Shipping Car Loads Daily.

GOOD PRICES RECEIVED

Growers the In Winston District Have Good Crop and Are Getting a Top Price.

L. B. Skinner, manager of the local Fruit Producers Co., a branch of one of the largest and most responsible fruit handling concerns in the country, was in the city this morning looking after box labels for the pear crop which is being shipped at the present time.

Mr. Skinner stated that never in the history of the fruit raising industry have the prices been so good as they are at the present time. With good crops almost everywhere in the fruit raising centers the growers are receiving top notch prices for their crops. The local branch of the Fruit Producers Co., is at the present time shipping a car load of pears a day, each car having 472 boxes. These are all shipped south to Sacramento where they are hooked on to solid trains of fruit cars and shipped directly to Chicago, these trains make almost as good time as a passenger train. In speaking of the crop in the Winston district Mr. Skinner stated that a number of growers would have from 500 to 1,500 boxes and the two orchards which they have out, each one of ten acres, would have at least 8,000 boxes. Fully another week will be required before the entire crop is picked, packed and shipped.

OLD VETERAN PASSES AWAY

Was Corporal in Wisconsin Cavalry and Served Through Civil War.

Alfred L. Sherer, an old veteran of the Civil war, died this morning at the Soldiers Home after a short illness. Mr. Sherer was a corporal in company I, 4th Wisconsin cavalry and served his country faithfully during the long war. He was born in New York state in the year 1825. He was admitted to the Soldiers Home from Portland, November 21, 1908, and has been a member since that time.

WILSON PUTS VETO ON BIG ARMY BILL

Holds up Appropriations That Amount to Many Millions.

UPHOLD PRESIDENTS RIGHT

Bill is Again Introduced in the House of Representatives After Objectionable Portion is Eliminated.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—Wilson today sent a message to congress stating that he had vetoed the army appropriation bill. It is stated that he objected to the provision exempting retired officers from discipline and duty under the articles of war. Wilson declared that such exemption was unconstitutional. The message said "It is with genuine reluctance that the president returns the bill which wisely and generously provides for the national defense. The existing articles of war are undoubtedly archaic as they have not undergone revision for over a hundred years. Therefore the president more keenly regrets that he is unable to give his approval to this revision of the articles of war."

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WILSON DECLARED THAT THE OFFICERS WERE NOT MERE PENTIONERS AND UPHOLDS THE PRESIDENT'S RIGHT TO SUMMON THEM TO DUTY IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.

The veto holds up appropriations amounting to \$267,000,000 and delays the general military reorganization.

ARRESTED FOR CROSSING HOSE

Clarence Coffel and T. W. Munyan were arrested today following the fire on Jackson street charged with having driven over the fire hose with their vehicles. The new ordinance recently passed by the council prohibits crossing the fire hose with either motorcycles or automobiles as it has been found that this nearly always causes the hose to break. Mr. Munyan appeared and paid a fine of \$1.

RELATIVE OF LOCAL RESIDENTS MURDERED

Roy Pettit Former Portland Man Killed by Wife in Michigan.

JEALOUSY IS THE CAUSE

Murdered Man Was Formerly Clerk in Multnomah Hotel and Has Visited Frequently in This City.

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich., Aug. 18.—Roy Pettit, 39 years old, a hotel clerk here, was shot and killed yesterday in a downtown street by his wife, who before her marriage was Miss Eirmel Hess and who was born in Portland, Or. She has a brother, Clarence Hess, a farmer, now living near Portland. His mother is dead and it is not known where her father is.

Mrs. Pettit was crazed by jealousy. She and her husband had quarreled frequently over the husband's alleged attentions to other women. Yesterday's tragic quarrel started when Mrs. Pettit, who had followed her husband from the hotel, entered a drugstore and found him engaged in conversation with Mrs. McMurray, of Marlon, Ind., a patron of the hotel in which Pettit is a clerk.

"This man is my husband," Mrs. Pettit told Mrs. McMurray, as she seized Pettit and led him away. "Is that the woman?" she was heard to ask him, as they moved toward the street.

Pettit made no reply. Mr. and Mrs. Pettit were seen walking up and down the street for some time afterward. Mrs. Pettit was evidently much excited. Pettit seemed to be trying to quiet her.

Mrs. Pettit, without a word of warning, fumbled in her handbag a second, then drew a revolver, with which she began firing. She shot five times and every bullet took effect in the head or chest of Pettit, who was dead when help reached him.

"My husband," she said, "kept company too much with other women, so I killed him."

It was said that Mrs. Pettit had recovered somewhat and that she had indicated that she would plead temporary insanity if placed on trial. Prosecutor Kent said that information charging her with murder in the first degree would be filed at once and that the case would be pressed to trial.

Roy Pettit was well known throughout Oregon, having been employed in hotel work in several cities and having traveled extensively, especially in the southern part of the state, as publicity agent for the Multnomah hotel.

Relatives of Mr. Pettit reside in Roseburg, where he has frequently visited. He was a cousin of W. A. Pettit, city editor of the Roseburg Review, who, with his wife, left Wednesday for Ocean Park, where he is spending his vacation.