Real Prince Charming Saved University of Oregon in 1883

By Sam Frear Emerald Reporter

Hollywood movies have told with almost monotonous repetition the vestors, Villard returned to the story of a Prince Charming who United States and immediately wins the heroine's undying love came out to the west coast to by entering the scene at just the check on the dividend status of German investors in his far westproper (and last possible) mo- the railroad. In 1873 and the ern railroad. By 1889 Villard was ment to remove the conniving succeeding years he managed to back in Oregon with his standing villain and save the day for all. rise in the organizational struc-In reality, however, Prince ture of the railroad and eventu-Charmings are few and very far ally he reorganized it to link with between. It is rare when history the Central Pacific railroad in records occurrences that even re- California. motely resemble the fantasies prepared for the fairy tale, soap and California Railroad revealed opera and movie set.

But the rare exceptions do occur, and Oregon can point to its role in the career of Henry Vil- link it with the east coast. But lard, once a penniless immigrant the government had already whose life made reality of idealized success stories and who humanized the fairy tales by an ac- Northern Pacific Railroad. tual rescue.

Villard's rescue did not consist of slaying a ferocious dragon or saving a young princess from the jaws of death, but it con- ture, but in the recruitment of tained some of the same elements immigrants for the young state. -he saved the University of Oregon, when it was a young institution in a young state, from the hands of receivers by providing had riased from eastern investdesperately needed money when ors to buy the Oregon Steam it was on the verge of closing its doors.

Born in Bavaria

Germany, in 1835. Eighteen years company, the first monopoly in later, when what is now the state of Washington was carved out of the Oregon Territory, he ar- nipulations Villard managed to rived in New York with only a few dollars in his pocket and of its exclusive rights in the that would be sufficient for started out on a career that ultimately led him to millions.

His first job was with a German-American newspaper in New York City, but in five years he formed a holding company, the had risen to cover the Lincoln- Oregon and Transcontinental, to Douglas debate of 1858 for sev- handle the financial arrangeeral English language newspapers in the East. And two years later he was covering the Reident of the United States, and Gold Springs, Mont., in 1883, the Civil War.

Villard first returned to Europe in 1866 to cover the Austro-Prussian war for the New York Tribune. But he got there after the war was over and after a year's stay on the continent he went back to New York. But he was soon to return to Europe because of his health. In the next to Germany.

Germans Want Help

had with the Oregon and Cali- his fortune when the railroad ran Fairy tales, soap operas, and fornia Railroad company. Agreeing to represent the in-

His dealings with the Oregon his talents as a financier, and Villard came to Oregon, hoping to build a railroad that would granted the right to build a Columbia River route east to the

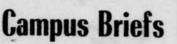
Spending most of his time in New York, Villard worked not only in raising finances to promote an Oregon railroad ven-

First Monopoly Formed He returned to Oregon in 1879 with some five million dollars he Navigation company. And to-

gether with the Oregon and California railroad, he formed the Villard was born in Bavaria, Oregon Railroad and Navigation the state.

> Through various financial masqueeze the Northern Pacific out Columbia River development of a railway to the east. In 1881 he pooled his interest in the ORNC with the Northern Pacific and ments of the merger.

Two years after taking control of the Northern Pacific Vilpublican convention that nom- lard pushed it to completion of inated Abraham Lincoln for pres- its 2000 mile eastward run. In later was a correspondent during Villard drove in the golden spike that symbolized the completion. Immediately after this, how-



• The YWCA cabinet will meet today noon at Gerlinger hall. Members who are unable of all his dreams while building to attend should contact either few years he made several trips Eileen Lindblad, executive secpresident. Canoe Fete committee chairmen will meet in the Student Union at 6:30 tonight. Budget reports must be turned in at the meeting, according to Len Calvert, finance chairman.

in some financial dealings they ever, Villard lost a good part of into financial difficulties, and he returned east again to raise more capital.

> He went back to Europe for this and he managed to interest as Director of the Northern Pacific regained. He held this position until 1893 when the railroad again went into the hands of receivers.

> **Prince Charming Arrives** It was in 1883, the year of his success with the Northern Pacific, that Villard had a chance to play his role of the Prince Charming that saved a destitute maiden. That year he received a plea for financial assistance from the Board of Regents of the University of Oregon.

> At that time the school received little support from the state government, or from the public, and it "was so embarrassed by indebtedness that it probably would have been obliged to close its door had not Mr. Villard come to its relief by paying its floating debts."

> Deady hall was the only building on the campus, crowded and over-used. And it was this sole physical asset of the University that would have been sacrificed to pay for a \$7000 indebtedness.

> But Villard paid the floating debt in response to the plea, and ditional \$50,000 to the University if the state would levy a tax maintenance of the University "on a modern scale."

> instructors, and to pay for scholarships.

literally rescued the University Far East. from bankruptcy. The University used the financier's last trip to Oregon in the summer of 1899 to express its profound gratification in "a most pleasing reception given to him at Eugene City at the State University of Oregon."

It was on this last trip that the former immigrant, journalist, editor, teacher, banker and railroad financier was able to see the fruits of his labors. In spite with the Northern Pacific, Vilstate, a growth in which he was In the Red Criss Supplemental



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debt in response to the plea, and in May of 1883 offered an ad-ditional \$50,000 to the Univer. Available Overseas

This was done and Villard's Shepher of the Red Cross per- East, the Red Cross girl must use gift was used to build a nucleus sonnel service will be on cam- her initiative and imagination in of a library, to hire additional pus today and Thursday to in- getting the job done. The "Clubterview students interested in mobile" she uses may be a conworking for the Red Cross in the verted jeep or a weapons car-It was this timely gift that United States, Europe and the rier.

> The Red Cross is recruiting young women for paid positions overseas, on the basis of worldwide mobility. They are needed to staff clubmobiles visiting service men at isolated guard posts in Korea and for fixed centers which have been established in Europe and North Africa.

> According to Karl W. Onthank, graduate placement director, emphasis is being placed on positions in the Far East.

"The assignments in Korea are lard was totally unprepared for not 'plush' jobs; they are rugged. retary, or Germaine LaMarche, the tremendous growth of the hard work," Onthank stressed.

Miss Jessica Hunter and Earl (SRAO) program in the Far

Applicants must be between 23 and 30; a college background is preferred with specialization in arts, crafts, drama, music, recreation, or allied fields. Special. recreation or entertainment skill, good health, and emotional stability are further requirements. Women with supervisory experience particularly are needed.

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On one of these Villard was approached by a group of German stockholders who wanted his assistance, as an American,

Stock Market Climbs **Record Average High**

NEW YORK (AP)-The stock market rolled up a new record steels, railroads, and chemicals.

The Associated Press average of 60 stocks was up \$1.30 at \$163.30, highest level the average has ever reached. The prev- "Skull and Dagger" petitions on ious peak was March 4 when it the third floor of the Student touched \$162.60.

Gains ran to around 4 points at the outside while losses went to between 2 and 3 points.

The railroad component of the average reached a new high since 1929 of \$133 with a gain of \$1.60. dent. The industrials were up \$1.50 while utilities gained 20 cents.

The market was not particularly broad with 1228 individual dent Union. issues traded of which 627 advanced and 360 declined. Ninetynine new highs for the year were scored, and there were 15 new lows.

Volume came to 2,779,000 shares, compared with 2,680,000 shares traded Monday.

• Helen Bersie, George Porter, Susan Walcott, Jean Paulus, high mark Tuesday with an ad- John Wells, Richard Crew and vance featured by strength in Thomas Montgomery were confined to the infirmary Tuesday for medical attention.

> • Freshmen may now get Union. A picture of the applicant must accompany the petition.

• Young Democrats will meet tonight in the Student Union at 7, according to Bob Biggs, presi-

 The Oregon Alpine club will meet tonight at 6:30 in the Stu-



in a large part responsible.

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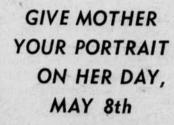
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