

# THE ST. HELENS MIST

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NO. 1

## COUNTY NEWS BRIEFLY TOLD

Locals and Personals Gathered From Nearby Communities—Scappoose Real Estate Deals—Warren Organizes Farm Bureau.

SCAPPOOSE, Ore., December 16.—Armand Duncan returned to Hoquiam, Washington, after spending three weeks at home with his father Mr. and Mrs. Lester Adams returned from Kerry on Sunday and will be here the rest of the winter. Elva Lamberson is home from Portland until after the holidays. Grandpa Lyons returned to Scappoose this week after visiting his daughter in Montana for several months. Mr. Allen and his sister, Mrs. Bullock, attended the funeral of their mother in Portland this week. Mrs. Allen died at Boise, Idaho, and was brought to Portland for burial. Stephen Simon is erecting a new blacksmith shop at Havlik corner and will soon be ready for business. Mrs. Watts, Minnie Hemminger, M. and Mrs. Charles Gerlach attended the county Sunday school convention at Rainier Saturday. They reported an enthusiastic meeting were pleased with the hospitality of the Rainier people.

Mr. and Mrs. Arch Duncan moved part of their household goods to St. Helens this week. Alma Scudder has been ill with throat trouble the past week. We have a new dentist, Dr. C. M. Ramsey of Portland, who has an office over the bank, and will be here for business Tuesday and Wednesday of each week.

A letter from Mr. J. M. Butler, Oakland, Calif., informs us Mrs. Butler is recovering from her recent operation and gaining strength rapidly. They plan to be home in another month. Mrs. Ree Hackett and baby were with her mother during her illness, and returned to Portland Sunday.

Real estate exchange this week consisted of the sale of August Schmidt place adjoining the Rickert place and that of A. Grimm, to Dana Morgan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Morgan. Mr. and Mrs. Dana Morgan plan to occupy their new home shortly, also Mrs. Rosecoe sold her 6-acre tract of improved land to Stephen Simon of St. Louis, Mo. price \$3500. The place is a desirable one with a fine bearing orchard and all kinds of small berries. Mr. and Mrs. Rosecoe are building on their property on the opposite side of the road.

Community church S. S. 10:15; morning worship 11:15; C. E. 6:45. Evening service 7:30.

The annual meeting of the Ladies Aid will be held Thursday, Dec. 23, at the home of Mrs. Floyd Grewell. All reports are to be handed in, election of officers will also take place for the ensuing year.

The annual church meeting will be held in the church Monday evening, Dec. 20th. The community program in the hall Saturday evening was the starting of social activities. There will be an other program New Year's Eve to which everyone is invited.

Council meeting was called for Tuesday night. Report of business will be later.

The following letter was received from a calf club member in Idaho, just a little girl, and her calf was part of a shipment that went to Idaho from the Sunny Bank farm. This shows the possibilities and advantages of a calf club in Columbia county. Will the boys and girls of Scappoose help make a membership of 20 members for Columbia county? The letter follows: "Dear Mr. West: I am going to let you know how well your stock shows off in Idaho. I am only one in hundreds, I suppose, but I think you would like to know any way that Fussy's Fern Dold 2nd is Idaho state champion of Jerseys under two years of age, and junior champion in club work, and state champion in the open class even over the Wakeki Jerseys under two years of age. She made me \$41.00 in prizes, like \$25 for prize over all, from American Jersey Cattle club \$8.00 for club champion and \$5.00 for Ada county. Fussy is now a very model heifer. She weighs about 550 pounds and is very sensible. She cost me about \$150.00. She is well worth it. Yours sincerely, Miss Elzabeth Gearhart."

Ray Holland of Newberg was over in a spick and span new car. Next time he should come earlier and let us all have a look at it.

Mrs. P. A. Frakes met with quite an accident and fell from the top of the stairs to the bottom. Mr. Frakes thought she was wardly injured and Mrs. McLouchin took her to Hillsboro for a thorough medical examination.

WARREN, Ore., December 16.—The farmers of Warren met last Thursday evening by call from County Agricultural Agent T. J. Phippin, Jr., and formed a county unit of the farm bureau. The different subjects to be exploited by the organization were fully explained by Agent Phippin and discussions entered into by those present. A general county meeting will be held at Rainier Jan. 10th to 15th at which time the county organization will be perfected and officers elected. The entire county will be represented and all details arranged for an aggressive campaign. Those appointed to head the different departments to be advanced in this district are soil improvement, Lulu Snider, dairy, John Farr, poultry, Ray Tarbell, horticulture, A. L. Morris, land crop improvement, P. H. Lund, boys' and girls' clubs Than Brown of Yankton.

membership, Mrs. Fred Briggs, Wm. Skuzie, C. M. Hyskell. Two pruning demonstrations will be held in the district at which experts will demonstrate the manner of tree pruning. The date has not yet been fixed. The berry industry was discussed and it is expected a number of acres will be planted to cane and strawberries. O. A. Erickson has been confined to his room for nearly a week. He is convalescing.

D. C. Loomis of Long Beach, Washington, is spending the winter with Mr. and Mrs. Porter Loomis. Hermina Berglund, who has spent the last three months in a Portland hospital has returned to her home entirely recovered from her serious illness.

The families of N. P. and P. L. Olson who have been suffering from a slight attack of smallpox are rapidly recovering.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Coblenz of Skamokawa, Wash., spent a few days last week with Miss Nina Sandstrom.

Miss Alpha Berglund of Portland was on a visit to her parents last week.

Mrs. Wm. Hammerbeck spent the week end in Portland.

The Swedish Baptist Missionary society met this week at the home of Mrs. Joseph Erickson, Jr.

The Swedish Lutheran church will hold services in English on Sunday evening.

The Dorcas society of the Swedish Lutheran church held a successful sale of household goods. Despite the inclemency of the weather about \$150.00 was realized.

The regular meeting of the grange on Saturday night was postponed owing to the storm that has raged for the last two weeks. Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Mills of Deer Island came up and spent the evening with Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Hyskell.

Bachelor Flat BACHELOR FLAT, Ore., Dec. 16.—Mrs. Carl Hollingsworth was shopping in Portland Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Janey of Portland visited on the Flat Wednesday.

Mrs. F. S. Heumann of West St. Helens was a guest of her mother, Mrs. E. Morton, Thursday.

Mr. Ward has built a new addition to his house on the Wm. Mueckle farm.

J. M. Burkhead is hauling lumber to build a garage on his place.

Mrs. Roland Masten was very much surprised last Wednesday afternoon when eight ladies walked in unexpected, bringing cakes, sandwiches, etc. The occasion was the birthday of both Mrs. Masten and Mrs. Morton.

Some very important business was transacted at the school meeting held at the school house Tuesday evening. The budget made out by the school board was readily accepted also a special tax voted for the coming year. The directors of the school board have arranged to have the 7th and 8th grades transported to the St. Helens school after the holiday vacation. This is a much needed change as the teacher has been much overworked, having about 45 pupils enrolled. Nearly every one present at the school meeting was very much in favor of a new school house. Let's all pull for a new school house completed by next September and keep our children in Dist. No. 54.

Deer Island DEER ISLAND, Ore., Dec. 16.—Mrs. Minnie Antonio English, wife of Harold English, passed away Saturday evening after a lingering illness. At the time of her death she was 21 years and two months of age. Deceased was a daughter of Mrs. John Zeitler of St. Helens and was born and raised in St. Helens where she had many warm friends. On April 13th, 1918, she was united in marriage to Harold English and with the exception of the time that she served as yeomanette in the navy and while her husband was in the navy, she has resided in Deer Island. The funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at the Deer Island grange hall, Rev. K. K. Clark of St. Helens officiating, and the interment was in the Deer Island cemetery. The pallbearers were two former navy men and four former soldiers. Deceased was one of Deer Island's popular young matrons and her death cast a gloom over the neighborhood.

The Deer Island Logging company have ceased operations for the holiday season but they have a small crew of men at work in making repairs which have been "spilled" along the track. The company has not set a definite date as to the re-opening of their camps.

James Kennedy who died at his home near Goble Saturday night, was buried in the Deer Island cemetery Monday afternoon. The funeral services at the grave were conducted by members of the Masonic lodge of St. Helens of which deceased had been a member for a number of years.

Yankton YANKTON, Ore., December 16.—Mr. and Mrs. Pete White are rejoicing over the arrival of a baby daughter at their home. John Suttle is engaged in getting out cord wood for the market. The Yankton school is arranging to give a Christmas program and a party will be provided for all.

Sturris Lamba's brothers, Joe and Pete, are here from Montana for a visit. They are former residents of the Yankton neighborhood, having been here about eight years ago.

Mr. Kev has taken a contract to haul out cordwood for Andrew Thomas. He is using a big truck and the roads are in such bad condition that he is having some trouble in getting over them.

Rev. J. S. Mowery will preach in the Yankton church next Sunday, Dec. 19th.

## ROADMASTER WILKES DEFENDS HIS WORK

Takes Grand Jury to Task for Recommendation Without Investigation—Says he Saved Taxpayers of County Many Dollars.

Roadmaster Wilkes has sent in the following letter defending his work and discussing the recommendation of the grand jury:

To the Editor of the Mist: In some quarters a move is on foot to do away with the office of roadmaster. The object of this move is not quite clear, but of this we are certain: the grand jury that made the recommendation acted without any knowledge of the facts, for they made no investigation whatever of the work that is being done in the roadmasters office and, as is usually the case, the recommendation they have made is of no value. All they could hope to accomplish would be merely to cut off the small amount of salaries to the roadmaster and his assistants and pay as much, or more to have the same work done. If, it may be, they thought that someone else would do the work for nothing, or a little cheaper than we are doing it, for it is inconceivable that anyone with a grain of common sense would harbor the idea that the projects now under contract, or to be let next year, could be carried on to completion without an engineer. In the first place market road funds will not be appropriated by the state unless they are to be expended under the direction of an engineer and in conformity with the plans of the state highway department. In the second place these contracts are always let with due regard to the amount of work that is required to be done and this can only be determined by a competent engineer. In the third place far more money can be wasted by want of care in laying lines and grades than it costs to have accurate surveys and thorough supervision; everybody who has had experience knows this.

No experienced roadbuilder would take the risk of bidding on a contract if he had no means of knowing how much work there was to be done, and no one who has the slightest conception of business sense would think of turning a contractor loose to do the work with no means of arriving at the amount he had done. The function of the engineer is to see that the work is laid out to the best advantage, that the contractor does the work that is paid for and that he gets pay for what he does. No fair-minded man wants it to be other wise, yet these results can be had only by employing some one who knows how to attain these ends, and who but an engineer can do this.

The constant aim of this office has been to keep the expense of road work down to the minimum consistent with good construction. That this has not been done in the past is no reason why it should not be done now and I have made many changes for the sole purpose of making better roads for less money than was possible if the lines were left where they were and in several instances I have made changes that in the aggregate have saved more than my whole year's salary to the taxpayers. To see how this could be done it would only be necessary to go over the roads that have been built in the past, with their endlessly recurring borrow pits and waste heaps. The first mile beyond Trenholm on the Pittsburg-St. Helens road is a 3 1/2 mile example of how thousands of dollars could have been saved by a few line shifts. On one of the contracts now under construction is a piece of this wasteful work, where, if I could have been on the job six months earlier, I could have saved at least \$500.00 and on another I could have saved over \$2000.00. Yet all this saving cannot be effected without some expense being incurred for it is impossible for any engineer to place his lines, or grades in the best place the first time through and this I suppose our economical grand jury objects to.

Or it may be that I am blamed for the bad condition of the roads this year. All who are acquainted with the facts know that I am in no way to blame, for no one could foretell the unprecedented rainfall and the scarcity and high cost of labor that has all operated to prevent work being done that we all knew was needed. The impossibility of getting a suitable field assistant has made it necessary for me to do all the field work and draughting, so that I have had no time to look after road repairing this year and the fact that my predecessor left three months of his work for me to do made it necessary for my assistant to stay with the accounting work all the time, but of course a little thing like looking after the expenditure of \$260,000.00 among ninety to one hundred different projects isn't much of a task in the eyes of our intelligent grand jury. Money has a way of looking after itself and little items of \$26.77 to \$37,623.99 overdrawn, or lost, is of no consequence in the eyes of these vigilant guardians of the public interests who think that the only way to conserve the interests of the taxpayers is to cut down the number of officers.

The fact that my office is in the best shape of any in the state, as I have been informed by an expert accountant who said that in other counties the courts were "tearing their hair" on account of the hopeless tangles into which their funds have gotten, cuts no figure with these zealous advocates of economy. Cut all the roadmaster's salary and all else will be lovely, says our penny wise grand jury.

THOS. S. WILKES, County Roadmaster.

## STATE TAX FOR COUNTY \$139,000

Is an Increase of 100 Per Cent Over Previous Year—Millage Tax Voted and Market Road Tax Partly Responsible for the Increase.

Instead of paying \$65,000 in state tax as the county court estimated in their budget, Columbia county will be called on to pay \$139,000, a slight increase of \$74,900 over the estimate of the court. This information was conveyed to County Clerk J. W. Hunt in a letter from the State Tax Commission which he received Sunday. The commission, in informing Mr. Hunt of the increase, said "the large increase over last year is chiefly due to millage taxes voted by the people and which are exempt from the six per cent constitutional limitation."

Therefore, there is nothing else for the taxpayers of Columbia county to do except to pay the tax.

The state tax as estimated for the year 1919 was \$45,000, but when the figures were received from the Tax Commission, it was found that the state wished \$64,000 from Columbia county.

The millage tax for the University of Oregon, the O. A. C. at Corvallis and the Monmouth normal school, which was given favorable support by the taxpayers at the May election, is largely responsible for the increase in the state tax. Likewise, the market road tax of one mill adds to the taxpayers' burden.

It will be necessary for the county court to increase their estimated budget of expenses, general fund, \$228,840.25 to \$298,740.25, or in other words and on account of the increase in state tax, increase their budget about 28 per cent.

## ST. HELENS TO HAVE A CHRISTMAS TREE

It is assured that every one in St. Helens will have a Christmas tree for light in the center of the Plaza is a beautiful fir tree. Bob Cole spent several days in the forests near Columbia City looking for the prettiest tree in that vicinity and when he found it, he brought it to St. Helens and it was placed in position. The tree belongs to the whole town and every one in the town, for it is the community Christmas tree. The St. Helens Lumber company furnished the tree and will have it electrically decorated. The St. Helens Chamber of Commerce, the city and public-spirited citizens have contributed an amount sufficient to provide the youngsters of the city with candy and other presents, and on Christmas eve, a prominent citizen of the town will relieve Santa Claus of part of his work, for he will assume the role of that much-appreciated individual and distribute to the kiddies the things that Santa has entrusted to his care and instructed him to deliver to the good boys and girls not only of St. Helens, but also to those of nearby communities.

Efforts are being made to have a chorus for Christmas carols and other music furnished appropriate for the Yuletide season.

## PIONEER ANSWERS FINAL CALL

James Kennedy, for forty years a resident of the Goble neighborhood, died at his residence several miles from Goble at 10 o'clock Saturday night. For several years he had been in ill health and his passing was not entirely unexpected.

Deceased was born in England in 1832. He made two trips to America and in 1850 with his wife came here to live, settling near Goble where he maintained his home. He is survived by his widow, Jane Kennedy, and one son, J. J. Kennedy.

The funeral services were held at the Redmen's hall in Goble Monday afternoon and the interment was in the Deer Island cemetery. Members of the Masonic lodge at St. Helens, of which deceased was a member, conducted the services at the grave.

## TAG DAY FOR NURSERY HOME

Mrs. Ada Wallace Unruh who is working in the interest of the New Albertina Kerr Nursery home at Portland arrived in St. Helens Wednesday night and has arranged to have a tag day Saturday. The "tagging" will be done by the students and teachers of the St. Helens school. The nursery home is for the homeless and deserted babes of Oregon and the scope of work has been so large that the old home cannot longer furnish accommodations for the babes, so it was necessary to build a new home which is now almost completed. The funds now being raised will go to help pay for the new building. There are several Columbia county children in the institution, according to Mrs. Unruh.

## FAMOUS PLAY COMING TO LIBERTY

Lovers of the silent drama will have an opportunity to see a great and popular picture Tuesday and Wednesday of next week as Manager East of the Liberty has booked the great screen play "Once to Every Woman." This is being shown at the Rivoli theatre in Portland this week and will be released Sunday. Ed Lidyard, a former resident of St. Helens, sings "Ben Bolt" as some of the picture comes on the screen and according to the theatrical news in the Portland papers, both the picture and the singer have made a distinctive hit. Mr. East has arranged with a well known soprano of St. Helens to sing "Ben Bolt"

when "Once to Every Woman" will be presented here.

By way of showing his appreciation of the liberal patronage extended the Liberty by the "kiddies" Mr. East will have a free matinee Christmas afternoon. All children 14 years of age and under will be admitted free to the matinee which will start at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and be continued to 6 o'clock p. m. Mr. East invites the children of St. Helens and surrounding communities to be present as his guests and no doubt they will be crowded houses for each performance.

## FORGE CHECKS ON LOGGING COMPANY

Paul Egmont and Henry Nelson were arrested in Seattle this week on a charge of counterfeiting. When detectives apprehended them they found several blank checks of the Milton Creek Logging company. This was reported to the Portland branch of the detective agency, and in turn the matter was reported to the Milton Creek Logging company's office in Portland. It was then learned that the men were probably the same parties who forged eight checks on the Milton Creek Logging company and secured about \$350 on the checks.

The checks were obtained in some manner as yet unknown and were made out to Henry Wilma. The amounts varied from \$26 to \$42 and hospital dues, board deduction and other items were deducted from the amount due for labor. The checks were cashed in Portland and since they were drawn on the Columbia County bank they were sent through the Portland clearing house for collection. The forged signature of H. H. Holland was so clever that the bank did not detect the forgery and their first intimation of it was when they were advised by the Portland office of the Milton Creek Logging company. The bank loses nothing by the deal as they are covered fully by insurance.

## ST. HELENS LODGES ELECT OFFICERS

At their last meeting Mizpah Chapter O. E. A. elected the following officers: Laura Butler, W. M.; N. O. Larabee, W. P.; Livie Sten, Associate M.; Lena Garriott, Conductress; Sadie Coates, Ass't. Conductress; Effie Brown, secretary and Sarah M. Oulick, treasurer. It is thought that the newly elected officers will be installed at the same time that the officers of the Masonic lodge are installed, the custom for the past few years having been to have a joint installation.

At the recent annual election held by Camp No. 10999, M. W. A., the following named officers were elected for the ensuing year: Consul, B. L. Monish; Adviser, H. I. Strong; Clerk, H. E. LaBare; Banker, W. A. Levi; Escort, W. E. Hoover; Physician, L. G. Ross; Watchman, L. W. Kitchen; Sentry, J. A. Pilling; Trustee, N. D. McCallum.

The recently elected officers of the Pythian Sisters lodge are: Effie Brown, Past Chief; Leotta Ballagh, M. E. C.; Cora Christensen, E. S.; Laura VanNatta, E. J.; Sarah M. Oulick, M. of R. & S.; May Morton, M. of F.; Lillian Shepherd, Manager.

Members of the St. Helens Chamber of Commerce, their ladies and several guests, enjoyed a nice dinner at the Orcaida hotel Friday evening. More than fifty people were present and had it not been for the downpour of rain, the attendance would have been larger. The dinner, which could not have been improved upon, was prepared and served by the ladies of the Congregation Aid Society.

After dinner was finished, President Wheeler made a short talk on the importance of what the chamber had accomplished and what could be accomplished by working together. He called on several for short talks and among those who responded were L. R. Rutherford, C. C. Cassatt, John L. Stora, C. C. Baynard, S. C. Morton, and Rev. Kimball Clark.

The annual election of officers and directors of the Chamber of Commerce will be held in the chamber's rooms on Wednesday evening, January 5th, 1921, and it is hoped that there will be a large attendance.

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEET AT DINNER

Members of the St. Helens Chamber of Commerce, their ladies and several guests, enjoyed a nice dinner at the Orcaida hotel Friday evening. More than fifty people were present and had it not been for the downpour of rain, the attendance would have been larger. The dinner, which could not have been improved upon, was prepared and served by the ladies of the Congregation Aid Society.

## Goble

The Goble school will close for the holiday season on Friday, December 17th, and open on Monday, January 3rd.

Mr. J. Buchanan is in Portland for a few weeks visit with friends and relatives.

Martin Hoven was a Portland visitor Tuesday.

The Yankton Redmen will give a big dance Saturday evening at their hall here. Everyone is invited.

Mrs. Zimmerman, a resident of this neighborhood for many years, died last Wednesday. The body was laid at rest in the Rainier cemetery.

Funeral services for James Kennedy who died at his home near here Saturday evening, were held here Monday afternoon and the body was taken to Deer Island for interment in the cemetery there.

## STORES OPEN EVERY EVENING

In order to better accommodate the holiday shoppers, the stores of St. Helens will be open evenings until Christmas Eve. A number of men and women find it inconvenient to shop during the day and by mutual agreement the merchants decided to keep their places open evenings. With Christmas almost here, it is expected that the stores will be crowded with holiday shoppers. The merchants report exceptionally good business and have made ample preparation to take care of the rush which always comes just a few days before Christmas.

## ST. HELENS BUTTER MAKES HIGH SCORE

At the Oregon State Butter and Cheese Makers Association which was held in Portland Thursday and Friday last, St. Helens best butter made a score of 95 which was gratifying to H. A. Colt, buttermaker at the creamery. Mr. Colt was appointed on the committee to re-organize the association. A banquet was served at the Portland hotel Friday night and St. Helens Best butter was served. Many butter and cheese makers attended the association meeting.

## COUNCIL ADOPTS CITY BUDGET

No Remonstrances to Budget as Prepared and it is Adopted—Council has Busy Session Monday Night—Much Business Transacted

Evidently the taxpayers of the city were satisfied with the budget of city expenses as prepared by the council, as there were only two or three taxpayers in attendance at the council meeting Monday night and very little discussion as to the budget, so it was adopted. The budget of expenses totals \$14,000.00 and is an increase of about \$1800 over the previous year. One of the items is \$1500 for sidewalks and this item was questioned by E. A. Rotger who wished to know if it was the purpose of the council to build sidewalks at the expense of the city, or if the property owner was to be relieved of the burden of building or maintaining the sidewalks in front of his property. It was explained that the item was included for repairs and also to establish a sidewalk fund, so that the superintendent of streets would have funds available for necessary work and also that the city would be protected in case of an accident. If the money was not spent, it would remain in the city treasury and lessen the levy next year, it was explained.

## Publish Property Liens

Mr. Rotger wished to know if the liens assessed against property owners for improvements done by the city on the property owners' sidewalks, when done by the marshal or by order of the council, were paid and how much remained unpaid. The amount unpaid was not available and it was suggested that when a list of the unpaid assessments and liens had been compiled that it be published, so that the people of St. Helens would know who was in debt to the city. The matter was discussed and seemed to meet with favor by the council.

A communication was received from Keeler Brothers, bond buyers, stating that they were in position to take the city's improvement bonds. The recorder was instructed to notify the firm that the bonds would be advertised and sold to the party who made the best bid.

A building permit was granted to Harold Beaver to erect a bungalow 35x41 feet on lot 14 block 25. The estimated cost of the building was given as \$3500.

The regular monthly bills were read and with several exceptions, passed. Among the bills was one from the Warren Construction company for \$1803 for the paving of the Strand street. This amount covered the city's proportion of the cost of the improvement. The property owners along the Strand will be called on to pay about \$4500 additional, but they made separate contracts with the paving company.

A petition signed by several residents of West St. Helens asked the council to build a culvert on B street so as to drain a pond which was caused by the building of the highway. The cost would be small and the work necessary, so the council ordered the petition granted.

Beginning to feel the Christmas spirit, the council appropriated \$10 as the city's part in buying supplies for the community Christmas tree.

Several matters of minor importance were taken up and disposed of before the council adjourned.

## AMERICAN LEGION MEETS MONDAY

There will be a meeting of Columbia Post No. 42, the American Legion Monday night, Dec. 20, in the county court house, and Post Commander Wm. Russell urges that all members be present as the chief order of the evening will be nomination of officers for the ensuing year. Members are also reminded that dues will be due and payable at the regular meeting on January 3rd.