

La Grande Evening Observer

VOLUME IX

LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1910

NUMBER 103

UNKNOWN MAN INCINERATED

RAILROAD EMPLOYE FINDS BODY NEAR BROOKS, RAPIDLY BEING BURNED TO CRISP BY BLAZE

MURDER THEORY POSSIBLE BUT NOT PLAUSIBLE ONE

Remains brought to La Grande—Is badly charred and burned—Probably that fellow sought refuge in the hut and while asleep fire undermined the ties placing him in and fatally injuring him.

Charred and disfigured remains of what was apparently a tramp who had sought shelter in a hut so familiar along the main line—constructed by section men of railroad ties—were extricated from a section hut near Brooks this morning by a Tel-caster helper engineer, and have been brought to La Grande today by Coroner C. T. Bacon and Undertaker D. C. Stevens of the Henry & Carr establishment. While there is a remote possibility of murder and subsequent attempt on the part of the murderer to cover a phis crime by disposing of the body in the tie hut, and igniting it later, there is hardly any plausibility in that theory. It is believed that the coroner's jury called at a late hour this afternoon, will return a verdict of accidental death. The remains are in the Henry & Carr

establishment. Meagre information reached the city this morning calling the coroner to the scene. The engineer on the helper was passing the hut when he noticed it to be afire. Alighting from his engine he attempted to extinguish the blaze and discovered to his amazement the body of a human being. The authorities were immediately notified.

When found by the coroner, the body was badly burned. One foot was burned off and a greater portion of the entire body is charred. There is a hole in the skull indicating those who advance the murder theory that he had been shot before the flames licked him. Such is not feasible, however, for had the skull been fractured before the fire reached the body, the brains would have been immediately consumed by the flames. The brains are only partly consumed and there are several other physical reasons why the hole in the skull is not that of a wound inflicted before he reached him.

The Probable Theory
Coroner Bacon unofficially advances the theory that the fellow was a tramp who sought shelter in the little hut so convenient to section men and oftentimes used by tramps as shelter places in storms. Fire is then placed within the hut and men prepared that way. The supposition is that when the man in question attempted to do the same thing, he fell asleep and the fire got beyond control at the same time. It is probable that the fire undermined the foundations of the hut, precipitating the man within the walls of the heavy ties and at the same time fracturing his skull.

Evidently L. S. Kenner.
The coroner's jury found evidence to indicate that the man's name is L. S. Kenner. A badly burned letter from his brother, L. R. Kenner, at Orion, Garfield county, Utah, does not

(Continued on Page 2.)

EIGHT TRAINS HEADED WEST

CHICAGO WHITE SOX AMONG STRANDED PASSENGERS ON OREGON SHORT LINE

RAIN TROUBLE STILL BLOCKING ALL TRAFFIC THERE

First section of congestion of trains from the east will be in La Grande about eight o'clock tonight—Several Southern Pacific trains and passengers with them

Eastern passengers, express and mail will reach La Grande for the first time in three days and nights when eight passenger trains will arrive on their way to Portland. The first will be here about 8 o'clock tonight, according to the present schedule and the other seven will follow as closely as possible, and as quickly as equipment can be supplied. The trouble at Glenns Ferry, Mountain Home, Nampa and Caldwell have all been repaired and congestion broken late today.

Elgin Still Terminus
While the trains from the West on the main line are running on time, and while there is immediate relief in sight from the East, the status of affairs on the Joseph branch is still discouraging.

Just as rapidly as the company can remedy the troubles there, service will be resumed. At first it will likely be of the transfer sort, and in about a week's time at the latest, the huge slide below Elgin will be cleared.

It is thought by local officials of the O. R. & N. that the transfers cannot be made for at least three or four days, and even that is speculative.

Chicago White Sox Coming
Among the many trains headed for La Grande this afternoon are several Southern and Union Pacific trains that have been sent via Portland on account of washouts between Ogden and San Francisco. Among the passengers on them are the Chicago White Sox seeking warmer climes for training quarters. It is not known just what section the ball tossers are coming on, but it will likely be well along in the evening before their train reaches here.

GOV'T ROAD IN GRIEF.

Employees of French government-owned road will strike

Paris, Mar. 3.—Employees of the government owned railroad are now threatening to go out on a strike today unless they receive increased pay. Engineers are the prime movers. National union employees have decided to support the engineers by a general strike.

Half of Grand Forks Burned.

Dawson, Mar. 3.—Half of Grand Forks, the famous metropolis of the Klondike, was burned. The fire started in the Grand Hotel, the once notorious dance hall and gambling resort.

Say Funds Misused.

Paris, Mar. 3.—Serious charges that relief funds in the hands of the authorities have been misdirected are contained in resolutions adopted by merchants today. Funds subscribed by the French government and foreign nations were intended for relief of the destitute. The resolutions demand an accounting for the millions subscribed.

83 OFFICIAL DEATH LIST

GREAT NORTHERN GIVES OUT REPORT THAT ALL OF THE MISSING ARE DEAD

TEAM SAVES ONE MAN FROM FATE OF OTHERS

Early in the day twenty-nine dead have been removed from wreckage of trains swept over embankment near Everett, Washington—Gracious words of suffering being told

Seattle, Mar. 3.—The Great Northern issued an announcement this morning giving the dead at Wellington as 83. All the missing are figured in the estimate as dead. The company says the list may be too low or too high.

Everett, Wash. Mar. 3.—With 39 bodies recovered at Wellington today and 34 still unaccounted for, the railroad company estimates that 73 are dead in the avalanche. Those missing must be counted as dead.

The report of a new avalanche at Wellington is denied absolutely today by railroad officials. The last courier to reach Scenic through the snow stated that the rescue work is in full swing. His message was dated at 4 o'clock this morning. The company list of passengers and employees on the wrecked train is 103. Of these 29 are positively accounted for.

The railroad is attempting to get a train through to Wellington today. It left Everett at 10 this morning with newspaper men, supplies, doctors and nurses.

Twenty-eight temporary tombs in the snow, each with the body of one lost in the avalanche and marked with a rough board dot the little flat just East of Wellington today. It will be fully a week before the line is cleared. It is impossible to bring the bodies out and the snow will prevent dissolution for days. Five undertakers and assistants left Scenic early today for Wellington.

Under Engine Five Hours

"I was under my engine for five hours. It was snowing hard and piling around my head. Twice I gave up and said 'It's all off' and then the rescuers came." This was the story of fireman F. A. Bates on the engine of the mail train, who reached here today from Wellington. He said that everything was covered with snow again and it is hard to tell how many are dead. When he left they had recovered 15 bodies.

Umatilla Falling Fast

Pendleton, Mar. 3.—The flood is receding rapidly and all danger has passed. The Umatilla fell three feet last night and is still falling.

Danger Over AT Pullman

Pullman, Mar. 3.—Traffic is still tied up but the danger is over. The river is falling.

Fifty People Starving

Seattle, Mar. 3.—The new town of Lacona on the Milwaukee road 50 miles from here near the summit of the mountains, has been cut off from the outside for two weeks by snow, and people are starving.

Colfax in Dire Danger.

Colfax, Wash., Mar. 3.—Many are missing and dozens of families are homeless, dwellings and business houses have been swept from their foundations, is the condition at Colfax today as the result of the floods. The water is now receding. Damage is estimated at \$200,000. Many persons were rescued from house tops this morning.

SEVERAL CASES SETTLED.

Many of the minor cases pending are settled out of court.

Several minor cases were settled in circuit court today before Circuit Judge Knowles. Among them were: D. McDonald v. E. L. Bryant, settled and dismissed; Rock Bros. v. B. F. Webb, and National Cash Register Company against B. F. Webb, settled and dismissed; State v. Wm. Donald v. A. L. Rice, settled and dismissed; Eastern Oregon Outfitting Company v. Julius Fisher et al., settled and dismissed; Housen Bros. v. H. B. Rankin, settled and dismissed; Adcock & Fruta v. J. L. Smith, settled and dismissed; State v. Wm. Donald, dismissed.

Saved By Dream

Scenic, Mar. 3.—Awakened 15 minutes before the Wellington slide and literally forced to dress and walk to the bunkhouse just in time to escape being hurled to death with the others is the story of Charles Andrews, an engineer of Leavenworth, told today. Andrews says he was awakened from a sound sleep at one in the morning and was unable to go back to sleep. His mental impression of impending disaster was so strong that he finally walked to the bunkhouse where other men were sleeping and sat down on the steps alone. A few minutes later came a rumble, then a roar and flying particles of snow cut off his view. When it settled, where the train had been but a few minutes before, nothing remained.

Will Use Monoplane

San Francisco, Mar. 3.—An attempt at flight in a monoplane weighing only 350 pounds, one of the lightest in the world, will be made Sunday at Richmond by Clifford O'Brien, the California inventor. The engine is only 80 pounds in weight and supplies 36 horse power.

Ranchers to Irrigate Land

Freewater, Mar. 2.—The ranchers of Pine creek and Hudson Bay are making applications for incorporation under the name of the Umatilla Irrigation company. If they succeed in getting this through it will bring a large acreage of land hitherto unused under cultivation, that is first class land for fruit and dapple orchards. It is planned to bring the water to the land by means of a high ditch and they are filing on enough water to irrigate over 800 acres of land. One of the principal promoters of the scheme in addition to the local land owners is Mr. Wintner Graham of Walla Walla.

LOCAL RIVER ICE BREAKS

LAST NIGHT SAW WILD RAMPAGE IN WHICH MASSES OF ICE WAS FLOATED DOWN THE RIVER

SINCE THIS MORNING BUT IS STILL HIGHER THAN TUESDAY

Gorge at Oro Dell breaks away last night and channel slowly being worked through the menacing gorge at Perry bridge—Stage last night is within 15 inches of record stage of the river.

While the Grande Ronde river indulged in a wild rampage last night sending great floes of ice thundering against the bridge, pier and rip rap along the course of the stream, practically all menace from floating ice has disappeared this afternoon.

This afternoon at 3 o'clock the Palmer mill reading showed that the water is six inches higher than it was at the same hour yesterday. Ice quit flowing this afternoon.

County Court Visits scene.

The County Court and Bridge Superintendent Campbell spent most of the morning up the river and report that there is little danger of more than trifling damage, for the night frosts in the mountains check the water. By tonight another voluminous amount will have reached here and the water will rise to record stage tomorrow morning.

Ice Gorge Breaking

The congestion of ice just above Oro Dell broke away last night and is being rapidly carried down the river. Some of it was thrown high and dry on the flat near the Palmer mill.

At Perry where a large gorge was formed yesterday and for a time menaced the new steel bridge, there is a gradual working away and another night of high water will tear the principal part of it away. This done, there will be a clear channel for the high water from Hillgard and unless all past stages are broken, no damage will be done.

(Continued on Page Two.)

New Coats and Wraps

Our assortment of Ladies outer garments is very Complete at this store you will be delighted with the line Silk Coats

You will find here all the popular new creations in Pongees, diagonals, Taffetas & rain proof silk.

Serge Coats

These popular Coats in style and fit are unsurpassed in beauty usefulness short and full lengths.

Cravinett Coats

These are the coats you will want a is time being especially good for the early season.

New Capes

The popular demand for these garments continues to grow do not fail to see our selection all garments altered free.

THE FAIR




Come Once and You'll Come Again

You like to trade at a store where you are so treated that you have a desire to come again.

We try always to provide that sort of treatment for our customers.

We appreciate the trade of the public and this appreciation finds expression in a constant endeavor to make our customers feel at home and to make them feel that we are endeavoring at all times to furnish the best possible goods at the most reasonable prices.

Newlin Drug Co.