

La Grande Evening Observer

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER -- PRINTS THE NEWS THE DAY IT HAPPENS

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PRESIDENT HASTENS SOUTH TO SPEND CHRISTMAS; THE CAPITAL LIKE DESERTED CITY

Telegrams Follow Executive Urging Appointment To New Monetary Board

On Board the president's special train to Charlotte, North Carolina, Dec. 24.—Secluded in his private car the president enjoyed a period of complete rest today. He slept late and denied himself to all visitors at the few stops the train made. He admitted that he was completely tired out but that he was completely happy on account of the many messages that were coming to him from all parts of the United States congratulating him on the passage of the currency measure. All of them echoed the same note.

The president is unable to get away from the many jobseekers who by telegram are suggesting men for membership on the new federal re-

serve board. The president intends to make up the personnel of the new branch of the new governing board before he returns to Washington on January 13.

Washington Deserted Today.
Washington, Dec. 24.—A deserted village has nothing on Washington. Gone today were the legislators—after weary ten months of grinding on tariff and currency; vanished were the society folks—off on holiday trips.

The president and his family are speeding south to pass Christmas in Mississippi and an air of desertion hangs over the capital. It will thus hang, too, until January 12th when congress reopens.

Lincoln Bible Used At Grave

MRS. WRIGHT'S LAST TRIBUTE IS HONORARY.

Baker Divine Present

Bible in Which Lincoln Read Scriptures Used at Medical Springs.

Medical Springs, Dec. 24.—A Bible, once the property of Abraham Lincoln, was used yesterday by Rev. C. A. Edwards of the Methodist church of Baker in reading the scripture lesson at the funeral of Mrs. Dunham Wright at Medical Springs. The Bible came into the hands of Mr. Wright through his mother, who was Celia Hanks, daughter of William Hanks who was a brother of Nancy Hanks, Lincoln's mother. The Bible was published by the Methodist Episcopal church in 1830 and was the property of William Hanks and then became young Lincoln's. He studied it as a boy while by the fireside and many notations were made by him along the margins.

Mr. Edwards used as his scripture lesson the 90th Psalm. The funeral was largely attended.

CHICAGO DARK AS MIDNIGHT AT THE NOON HOUR

ABSENCE OF WIND GIVEN AS A CAUSE FOR STRANGE PHENOMENON.

LAKE CRAFT USE LIGHTS

Autos Required to Use Lamps Under Lighted Street Lights—Christmas Shoppers Fight Way Through Darkness—Weather Bureau Attempts to Explain Rare Fact.

Chicago, Dec. 24.—Inky blackness settled over Chicago at noon and Christmas shoppers fought their way through a gloom as pronounced as midnight. This is the second time this season that the phenomenon has occurred. Street lights were twinkling at high noon, and through the darkness automobiles with headlights flashing, wended their way carefully. Lake craft played their stores and office buildings were illuminated.

The weather bureau attributed the darkness to the presence of low-hung clouds with the effect that in that area the low pressure made the air stagnant. In the absence of wind, clouds of smoke hung low over the city.

CONTRACTOR LIKES PORTLAND.

Former La Grande Back to Close up Business Matters.

Perry Robinson is in the city from Portland where he recently moved to from La Grande. His partner, Al Heisner is also there. Mr. Robinson will return to Portland tonight after closing up some business matters in the city today.

Both he and Mr. Heisner are busily engaged at the contracting business in Portland. "Much work is being finished up," said Mr. Robinson today in speaking of building activity in Portland. "The new business will not open until about February or March but right now there are several big buildings being erected, which during the winter months will be finished up and made ready for occupancy."

North Yakima to Remain.

North Yakima, Wash., Dec. 24.—North Yakima will maintain a baseball team in the Western Tri-State league another year. There was a deficit of about \$2,000 from the 1913 season, but the directors have decided to enter another team and endeavor to pull even the coming summer. The directors are Robert Rundstrom, L. O. Janek, Guy Grafton, R. C. Sinclair, Fred Fontaine, T. L. Martin, Dr. E. S. West, Dr. A. F. Campbell and D. L. Thacker. The selection of a manager and players will be discussed in January.

Greeting From the "Y."

Through the columns of this paper we wish to wish the young men of this city who are making this their home, and the many who are making possible the erection of a Y. M. C. A. in this city a very Merry Christmas. In 1914 the citizens of La Grande will offer all young men besides this, a welcome to the new building. You should rejoice that you have had a part in this Christmas present to the young men and boys of our city. Then Merry Christmas to all.

Y. M. C. A.
By the Secretary.

Millamette Editor Here.

George H. Currey, Jr., editor of the Forest Grove Press, in the Willamette valley, is home to spend Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Currey.

Christmas Cheer Reigns Unhindered Throughout The Christian World

KING GEORGE V.

Recent Portrait Showing Him in the Uniform of an Admiral.



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The English ruler who tomorrow will romp with his children like any ordinary father, but who has his relatives only in his palace on Christmas Day.

NOEL—1913.

On Christmas day, they say, they say,
One snowy Christmas day,
God's only Word,
The mighty Lord—
Came to our world to stay;
To stay for aye!
One ancient, holy Christmas day.

On Christmas day, they say, they say,
One life-filled Christmas day,
God's holy Name
Christ Jesus—came
To take our sins away,
Our tears away,
This holy, happy Christmas day.

This Christmas day, we say, we say,
This joy-filled Christmas day,
We welcome Him
Who faced death grim
To give us peace today!
For aye today!
This peace-filled Christmas day!
—J. D. Gillilan.
Boise, Idaho.

Snowdrifts, happy homes, sufficiency, Christmas trees galore, homecoming and home-going, sleigh bells, social functions, filled larders in poor homes—such in epitome is the Christmas situation in La Grande on Christmas eve. The morrow promises much for La Grande and her inhabitants. The weather man predicts storms, but that will only enhance the attractiveness of the family hearth tomorrow, for there will be little or no occasion for husband and father to go down town. Business houses generally will be closed Christmas trees and Christmas proffer keeping late hours tonight, grama here and there make up the program for religious observation. Some of the churches hold services tomorrow morning.

Provisions to make all needy homes happy homes have been made by the various lodges of the city. The Elks can handle all that are reported today, the lodge committees having laid in stores in great quantities for such calls. The Elks' Christmas tree to which all children of all creeds and families are invited, commences at 8 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

Tree for Indians.

Fendleton, Dec. 24.—At the Umatilla agency school chapel tomorrow evening the annual Christmas tree program for the little children of the Indian school will be held and Major Swartzlander has extended an invitation to the white people of the city and surrounding country to attend. He also asks that the public be thanked in behalf of the children and the school for the contribution of \$140 raised in order to provide the Santa Claus celebration for the government wards.

The Indian school program will

start at 7 o'clock and a good program will be given prior to the tree celebration and a real Santa Claus will distribute the presents that have been purchased for the Indian children.

The roads to the agency are now in good shape and the trip may be made by auto with ease according to Major Swartzlander.

Royal Christmas Quiet.

London, Dec. 24.—King George and Queen Mary will spend their Christmas very quietly with their children and a few intimate friends at their Norfolk residence, Sandringham. They will be joined early in the day by Queen Mother Alexandra and Princess Victoria, who will drive over from York cottage, and the whole family will settle down to the enjoyment of a "good old-fashioned English Christmas."

There are never any thrills at Sandringham, for there the king lives like an ordinary country gentleman. After the usual church service the morning is devoted to a tour of the estate, during which the king and queen have friendly words of greeting for the various royal tenants. Luncheon is informal, and Christmas night there will be an unpretentious family dinner party, followed by games around a monster Christmas tree. On these occasions the king romps with his children just like any other father. He is always considerate of the servants on Christmas, and household work is cut down to the minimum. There will be a big dinner and ball for the royal servants and tenants, and for dependents or the neighbors, gifts of turkeys, geese, beef, clothing, etc.

Such Christmas presents as are received by the royal family come only from relatives and intimate friends, and no list is available. The royal children make a great secret of their gifts to their parents and there is always much juvenile joy and excitement over those they receive. The king and queen always give presents which are useful rather than ornamental in character, and they sternly discourage extravagance on the part of their own children.

Emperor Plans Amusement.

Vienna, Dec. 24.—Surrounded by his two daughters, Gisela and Maria Valeria, a bevy of 12 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, Emperor Franz Joseph, the oldest ruler in the world will celebrate Christmas at Castle Schoenbrunn, and personally distribute his gifts to members of his family and court. Franz Joseph celebrated the 65th year of his reign on December 2, breaking all records for the length of time any monarch has occupied a throne.

Wilsons Send Gifts.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Several hundred homes of poor families will be happy during the Christmas holidays owing to the charity dispensed by President and Mrs. Wilson. Two of the White House automobiles started this noon on the Christmas mission with loads of gifts of all sorts. The packages contained turkeys, clothing and all sorts of toys selected by Mrs. Wilson and her daughters, who after a personal investigation of several hundred cheerless homes dispatched things to them in plenty; for all there was genuine pleasure because the gifts came direct from the head of the nation.

Home From Canada.

Jess Parker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Parker, has returned from an extended visit to Canadian points about Vancouver. West Parker, a brother, will arrive accompanied by his wife, from Palmer Junction, tonight to spend the holidays at the Parker home.

Change at Episcopal Church.

A change in the musical program for the Christmas ceremonies at the Episcopal church is announced to the effect that in place of the anthem as printed in the program there will be a solo by Ellsworth Ellis, entitled, "Glory to eHaven's Eternal King," composed by Meyers H-Helumd.

"The Big Brother"

(Tom P. Morgan.)

'Twas the night before Christmas, and I'll tell you, b'ing, I wasn't expectin' a single blame thing. Since Daddy sloped out and never came back we've had next to nothin' down here at our shack, 'cept Mother could make it by playin' a tune on the Irish pianer night, mornin' and noon—What's that? Aw, the washboard and also the tub, and the tune that she played was just "rubbitt-rub!" We was hungry all day and fraezin' all night, and nacher! enough, us kids had a right to 'spect San Claus kids had a right to 'spect Sandy Claws wouldn't bother with us, so ornery poor we weren't worth the fuss. My leg's on the bum, and of course I am nix, and the kids are all smaller; when you count us we're six. So the best we expected, as you may suppose, was to go to bed hungry and tumble out froze.

An then as the baby was saying her prayer—too young to know better!—and the rest of us there was waitin' for nothin' and knowin' 'twould come, there sounded outside a motor car's hum, and it stopped, and a knock came, and mother looked queer when a feller he hollered, "Any good children here?" and came rammin' in and before she could tell he sized us all up and he snorted, "Well! Well! I needn't to ask, for the children I see are looking, I tell you, just plumb good to me!" And he dug in a turkey and all kinds of junk, and a big bag of coal, and dropped it kerplunk, and a basket of shoes. Aw, yes, sir, he did! Shoes!—w'at d'yer think?—for every darn kid! And a bushel of toys and such folderols, and for babe and the twins the swellest big dolls!

And he slipped maw a tenner, and turpin to me, he says, "Little brother my doctor will see tomorrow or next day, what ought to be done for that flat wheel of yours?"—"I'm a sun-of-a-gun!"—"Why, why—" I just stutered, "you ain't Sandy Claws!"—"I am for tonight," he says, "just because I've forgotten too often my duty to do to all of my poor little brothers like you." Then he told us good night, that big kindly chap, and maw and us kids could do nothin' but gasp. When I think of big brother and all that he done, I know that our babe was the sensible one of all of our mizsable shiverin' bunch, when she whispered her prayer—she sure had a hunch!

Rand Is Indignant.

Feeling that Governor West has been misled by erroneous reports published in Portland and other papers that he had refused to com-

ply with the governors orders to close the saloons at Copperfield, Sheriff Rand yesterday sent the following message to West:

Oswald West, Governor,
Salem, Oregon.
Mailed you letter giving history of the Copperfield case. Did not refuse to carry out your orders. Asked to be bited to law to work under. Please be just enough to give me a hearing before you condemn me and the people of Baker county.
ED RAND, Sheriff.

Catholic Services Tonight.

Christmas services will begin at St. Mary's Catholic church tonight at 12 o'clock with high mass. There will be another mass at 8:30 and a third mass with benediction at 10:30 A. M.

City Carriers Rest.

There will be no city delivery of mail tomorrow, though the rural routes will go out. The postoffice windows will be open from 9 until 11 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Portlanders in City.

Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Parker of Portland, arrived this noon to spend the holidays at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Wright and family. Mrs. Parker is a sister to Mr. Wright.

To Christmas in Telocaset.

Lydia M. Hug departed today for Telocaset, where she will attend the Christmas entertainment given by the school of which her niece, Annie Niederer is teacher. She will spend the holidays there.

OBSERVER FORCE TO ENJOY CHRISTMAS.

Because the annual Christmas number published Saturday brought the message of the merchant to the homes of La Grande in so thorough a way, and because even newspaper men are sufficiently human to observe Christmas in a quiet and homelike way, there will be no issue of the Observer on Christmas Day. No other day of the year except Sunday can keep the Observer from the readers' doors, but the carrier boys, the mechanical force and the "front office force" as well, have laid their plans for a day of rest and Yuletide observance. Hence no paper on Christmas. All business of the city will suspend that day.

DEPARTMENTS REAL ACTIVE

MANAGER'S REPORT IS TO BE FILED TONIGHT.

Report for the Past Week Indicates That City Is Busy.

Activity in all departments of the city government will be shown tonight to be at high tide. City Manager Lafky will report this evening to the commissioners, the following: The police made 10 arrests, released 10 men. None in Saturday evening. Fines, \$10. Two horses in pound, are advertised to be sold December 26. Fire department had one alarm from box 14; saved everything that was not burning when alarm was turned in.

Water superintendent spent \$17.75 repairing and covering pipe at reservoir and \$26.45 on taps, meters, repair work and filling meter boxes. The recorder collected \$576.16 on street improvements and \$280.29 interest on same; \$542.22 water rent; \$160 fines, \$5 license; building permit \$50; nine cases, two fines in the municipal court. Bought a ledger for treasurer, \$2.25; telegram to bond company, \$75; express fire department, \$1.01.

The street superintendent spent \$54 cleaning streets and clearing walks and \$42.50 in construction work. Prisoners worked 17 days; \$10.80 lumber purchased from the Palmer Lumber company; engineer had an assistant six days completing final estimate and assessment for Spring avenue; also final estimate and assessment lateral sewer, section 4, district No. 1; also for Second street railroad to Spring avenue.

The manager completed the rules for the commissioners' meetings, now in your hands. Also checked over the bills held over from the old council or incurred since. Have given some time to each department and hope to work out some plans by which the city work may be further facilitated and its efficiency enhanced.

La Grande is certainly to be congratulated upon the publicity this new form of city government is giving; on stepping into a Corvallis store Friday, the clerk, a stranger to me, asked if I were not the what-you-call-it from La Grande.

We have many inquiries about the success of the new government, etc. The accountant has about completed the treasurer's books.

Your manager was on leave of absence for last half of week.

Kansas Visitor Comes.

M. Boyd, a retired business man of Clay Center, Kansas, arrived today to spend a few weeks with his daughter, Mrs. G. H. Waite. He may locate in La Grande.