

BASEBALL BUG SQUIRMS NOW

EASTERN OREGON TOWNS TAKING UP LEAGUE

Preliminary Survey Being Given to the Situation Today

Baseball is assuming its place on the horizon of interested topics right now. Formation of a semi-pro league in these woods is deemed certain but just who and what will be in it remains to be determined. Jimmie Richardson, Portland league booster, is making a regular round of Eastern Oregon towns, and by the time he reaches Baker tomorrow he will have felt out the pulse in most of the towns that might be brought into a league of this sort. Waldo Geddes, ex La Grande pitcher now located in the copper belt out from Salt Lake, went to Baker last night and in Baker tomorrow the whole matter will be gone over. While Mr. Geddes will probably not remain here, he has taken advantage of the opportunity to assist in boosting up a good league for the early Summer.

Baker, North Powder, Cove and La Grande are four teams some have suggested as suitable. Others believe Union would be desirable and still

others insist Elgin should be in. Then there is a class that wants Pendleton, Baker, La Grande and a fourth club, probably North Powder. In picking Cove, some promoters think they turn a wise trick for Cove has a good team always and supports baseball well; so does North Powder. Union goes by spurts, like Elgin, but either of the two towns will probably ask for consideration, so that when an organization meeting is held, it is likely that at least six will be applying for admission. Why not make it six? Baker, North Powder, Union, Cove, La Grande and Elgin? Well, the Observer is not forming this league so merely calls attention to boosters that the way to organize a league is to invite all prospective towns in, see what they can muster in their respective towns, and then act accordingly.

Chet Luttrell, ex-La Grande third baseman in Tri-state days, who came here from Boise while batting close to 400, is not at Smelter, in the Salt Lake city league, says Waldo Geddes, who has pitched to Chet considerable there. Another ex-La Grander in that league is Lind Scott the peppery backstop who wore La Grande colors in the Tri-state league.

Catcher Alexander, of the Alexander Brothers battery at Cove has been "Looked over" by scouts as prospect for the bigger leagues. J. Richardson, Esq., Portland Beaver scout, did the looking over.

Speaking of Richardson reminds us that he is quite confident Tacoma will call for Garrick, the young La Grande pitcher. He is now corresponding with magnates there hoping to get Carrick started off in the Northwest camp.

Fans Wonder About Phillies Philadelphia, March 3.—Full of hope for the 1916 campaign though the fans are somewhat doubtful Pat Moran and his Champion Phillies today attuned their ears to the flap-flap of the pennant at Phillies Park masthead as they headed for Spring training. It is their first flag in so many years that they count 'em by decades and the Clam Moran enters the strife determined to repeat the pennant winning performance of Grover Alexander and his noble cohorts.

Snow-Season maneuvers. He wanted to pluck Roush and Gedeon out of the Federal League grab bag. He didn't get them and the soft-spoken Gael had to revise his plans in mid-stream. However, the pennant winners are practically intact and important new faces loom in the Phillies family album. The strengthening of other teams and the Phils fizzle in the World's Series are the causes of doubt among the fans.

One of the Moran's hopes is to develop something of stellar luminosity from out the array of recruits and second-string men on hand. This he believes can be accomplished soon after the regular season gets under way, when the youngsters have had the benefit of a training trip and a few tangles in the big time.

Who will fill the outfield and infield positions when the season opens is problematical. Expected shape-ups probably will mark the exit of more than one old timer. This already has been evidenced by the release of Beals Becker, veteran outfielder. This release showed that Moran has great confidence that Good or Devore will prove a valuable addition to the champions. It is certain Moran will carry a left-handed hitting outfielder and with Becker gone there is room for Good or Devore.

Cravath and Paskert, according to the dopsters, will have to do tall hustling to prevent the youngsters from crowding them out of the race. While both play consistent ball they are not expected to improve a great deal. Cravath in particular although an asset as a hitter, last year showed signs that his legs were giving him trouble.

Dave Shean, who was secured from Boston, is another recruit expected to strengthen weak spots. It is not unlikely that Bert Niehoff of last year's championship infield will be out of the lineup. Shean does good work in keystone territory and the dopsters will not be surprised to see him gallivanting around second base.

The back-stop staff is not expected to be materially changed unless Killifer's bum arm goes entirely bad. Killifer is still in his prime and it is believed the expert attention given the injured member will see him pegging to second with his same old accuracy. Eddie Burns, and Jack Adams also are expected to work again behind the plate.

Moran has thirteen twirlers to choose from. His recent purchase of Chief Bender who played with the Baltimore Federals last season, gave Moran good timber for his elimination trials. Whether Bender can beat out six second-string pitchers depends on whether he can show some of the form he demonstrated five years ago. It is not believed Moran will carry more than seven mound-men.

Alexander the Great again will be the moving spirit of the Phillies. During the winter he faithfully watched his condition and his arm is reported better than last year. With Chalmers, Mayer and Rixey steadily improving and Demarse, McQuillan and the recruits all promising Moran does not anticipate any trouble with his pitching department.

It is the young blood and reserve strength the Phillies are counting on to pull through the 1916 season.

Power Squadron Forms Branch Philadelphia, March 3.—The United States Power Squadron. A yachtsmen's naval auxiliary organization with fifteen branches throughout the country has been augmented by an-

other branch to be known as the Delaware River Power Squadron. The formation of the new squadron was ratified at a meeting of more than 100 yachtsmen here at which the purposes of the organization were outlined by Charles F. Chaplin, vice president of the United States Power Squadron. The Delaware river squadron will have nearly 350 members and its territory will take in all waters from Trenton to Cape May, including the Atlantic coast and the Delaware river and its tributaries.

About Bouts Milwaukee, March 6.—Freddie Welsh and Ad Wolgast will battle ten rounds here tonight. They are contracted to weigh in at 135 at 3 P. M.

Cincinnati, O. March 6.—Frank Fowler, of El Paso, Texas, and Knockout Brennan, Buffalo lightweight, will mix in a ten round go here tonight.

Sherbrook, N. D. March 7.—John Baldwin has installed a wireless apparatus in his farm home. Each night he invites his farmer friends over, and they get the day's news by wireless from Bismark.

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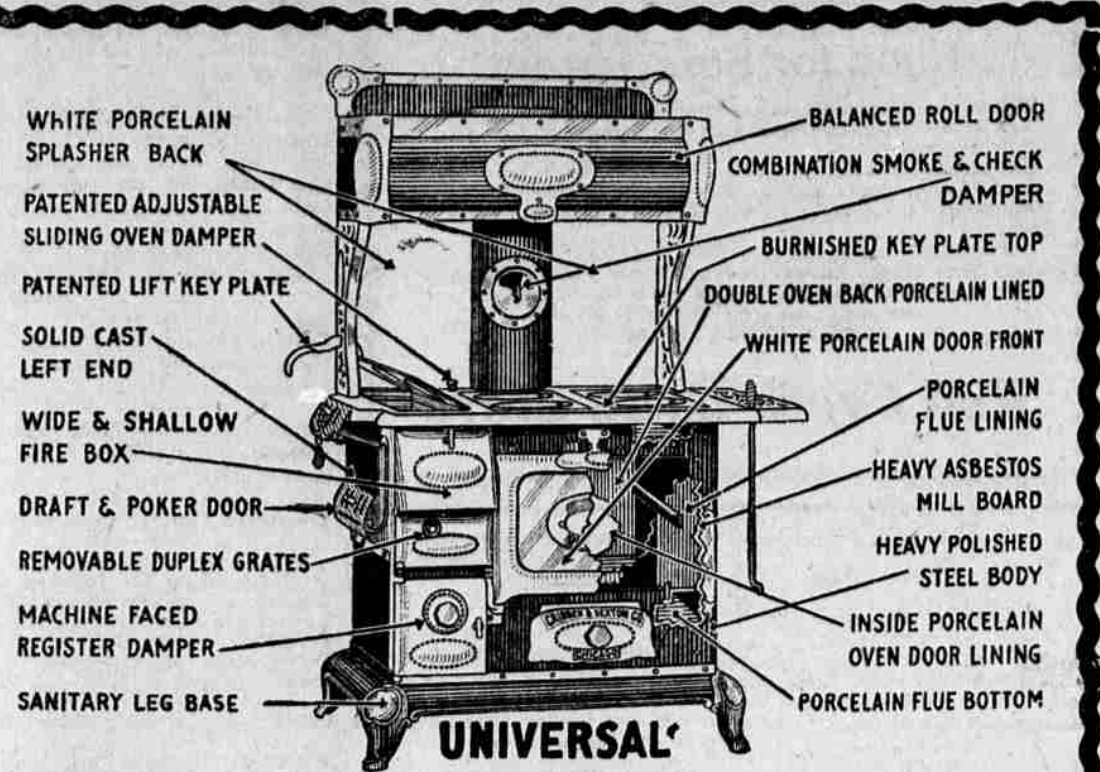
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