

La Grande Evening Observer

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

VOLUME XVI

LA GRANDE, OREGON.

MONDAY, JULY 31, 1916.

NUMBER 35.

ORIGIN OF THE EXPLOSION IS A MYSTERY

LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY HEAVY WHEN MUNITIONS EXPLODE

MANY CARLOADS OF DYNAMITE EXPLODED BY FIRE

New York Shaken by the Blast and Fires Follow—Some Thought It Was An Earthquake—Panic Follows—Bay Is Filled With Floating Muniton on Fire—Word Sent to All Ship Captains To Be Watchful.

New York, July 31.—Secret Service Chief Bielaski said today that reports from agents indicate an accident caused the explosion at New York yesterday. The bureau will not make a complete investigation unless later reports indicate that outside influences wrecked the Allis muniton stores.

John Kilfoyle told the police today the fire originated aboard ammunition cars which he worked late Saturday night to load. He saw the cars burning, and says the first explosion came from the cars and the second from the ammunition barge.

Jersey City, July 31.—Albert M. Dickman, Lehigh Valley agent, and Alexander Davidson of the National Storage Co., were arraigned in the Superior court charged with manslaughter in connection with Black Tom Island explosion yesterday. The cases were postponed until Friday. Each of the men was released on \$5,000 bail.

New York, July 31.—State and Federal officers have begun an investigation to Sunday's explosion in which four people are known to have been killed. One body is floating in the bay.

Dynamite Floating.
Scores of boxcars of dynamite is floating and ship captains in all directions have been warned. The prosecuting attorney has openly declared that every railroad terminal in New Jersey has flagrantly violated laws regulating the storage of high explosives.

Cause Unknown.
The cause of the disaster remains a mystery, although there is much speculation. Some claim it is incendiary, other spontaneous combustion, and the best authority seems to amount to little when it comes to shedding light on the real cause.

Fires started Sunday are now subsiding and inspection of the burned ruins is now on.

Many Injured; Loss Is Heavy.
New York, July 31.—(Special)—One hundred and sixteen people are injured from the explosion and fires of yesterday and last night.

Seventeen warehouses, six piers, four barges, one tug boat, 85 freight cars are reported to have been destroyed.

The estimated property damage to the National Storage Co. is twelve million dollars, Lehigh Valley Railroad Co. one million, Central Railroad \$50,000, Bedloe's Island, \$150,000, Ellis Island, \$100,000; other points \$50,000, making a total of nineteen millions of dollars.

Man Thrown from Bed.
Herbert Delima of Jersey City describing the explosion, said: "Jarred from my bed by the Titanic burst I along with thousands fled into the streets in my night clothes. The lights were out, but the lightning flashed skyward causing roosters to crow thinking it was daylight. Ambulances began passing, and suddenly the entire world seemed split. The earth seemed to drop away and gave a sensation like a rapidly descending elevator. Overhead there were whistling and whirring sounds. Shrapnel buzzed and continued to explode. Calm nurses carried wounded through the streets and it all brought to mind the scenes of the European war. Twisted steel bars weighing fifteen pounds were hurled for miles. Many freakish episodes are noticeable. Policeman Henry Doperly of Jersey City landed in the water naked, while Bargeman Charles

(Continued on Page Eight)

A NEW MECCA FOR CAMPERS

AN OLD MOUNTAIN TOLL ROAD ATTRACTS MANY.

Summit of the Mountain is Rendered Easy of Access.

A new paradise for campers, for auto parties, tourists, and others, has been discovered. It is near the summit of the Blue mountains on the old Thomas and Ruckles toll road above Summerville. It is only about 12 miles up the gradual mountain slope from the valley to within three-quarters of a mile to the summit. This road is of such easy grade as to be almost the same as level and for nearly the whole distance the road lies within the shade of the trees.

Access to this place has been secured by road improvement which has been made jointly by subscription by residents of Summerville and vicinity and by work done by the county. The present "terminal" is just this side the summit, but within another week the road improvement is to be finished so the travelers may go over the divide if desired.

The place as it is, affords the most inviting spot imaginable for campers and those who go for a day's outing. There are springs of ice cold water, abundance of shade and the sojourners may enjoy all the comforts of a mountain retreat without the rough traveling usually necessary to reach such a desirable place.

Yesterday there were a dozen auto loads of people from Summerville and valley points in camp on the old road. There is also a large encampment of people who have gone there for a stay of a few days, included among them is "Uncle" Billy Hindman, of Elgin, who camped on the old Thomas and Ruckles road 51 years ago. The place is about a machine hour from La Grande.

INSTALLS WATER SYSTEM.

A. Rysdam Adds Improvement to His Country Home.

Bay & Zweifel have just finished installing a private water system for A. Rysdam at his ranch east of Elgin. The water is lifted 450 feet into the private reservoir and then distributed over the premises.

Grand Circuit Races Start.

Pittsburg, July 31.—Despite failure in recent years to make Grand circuit racing at Brunots Island track here a success, the races originally awarded to the Grand Rapids club were transferred here and will begin this afternoon. Many of the fastest horses on the circuit are entered. After the meet here the horses will go to Kalamazoo, on August 6.

Satisfied With Mountain Road.

J. G. Pacy and his party spent last night in Pendleton on their way back to Seattle after passing through the Yellowstone National park, says the Pendleton Tribune. Mr. Pacy is a Seattle manufacturer of electric fixtures. The party is traveling in two eight-cylinder Cadillacs and the party of nine, with their dunnage is accommodated with ease. They went into the park from the Gardiner entrance after crossing over the northern part of Washington and Idaho into Montana. The park they found magnificent. Coming out on this side, they struck awful roads between the southern gateway and Hailey, Ida. From there they had no difficulty and were satisfied with the condition of the road from here to La Grande, of which they had heard troublesome tales. "All one needs is gasoline and patience," said Mr. Pacy. "Many of the tourists are trying to make 200 miles or more a day. We were satisfied to take it easy and cover 125 miles on the average, so enjoyed our trip."

After the Bomb Thrower

San Francisco, July 31.—Captain of Detectives Matheson declared today that the police are still hunting for one man who is thought to be a very prominent figure in the bomb throwing plot. He believes plotters intended to dynamite the United Railways section of the parade because employees recently refused to strike. The time was miscalculated, according to the chief's belief, and the man abandoned his suitcase and fled.

READY TO START.

Baltimore, July 31.—At 1:30 o'clock this afternoon the tug Timmons began removing barges that have obstructed the Deutschland. There is every indication that immediate departure is contemplated.

PHEASANTS ARE RECEIVED

SPORTING CLUB RECEIVES FOUR CRATES TODAY

Game Warden Walden Pleased With Nice Shipment of Birds

The Wing, Fin and Fleetfoot club today received through Game Warden John Walden, four crates of very fine China Pheasants which will be liberated in the Grande Ronde valley adding to the already numerous birds of the kind.

In the four crates were forty-eight birds. They came by express and were properly cared for. Warden Walden is delighted with the birds for in shipping them the state commission has honored his request for more birds for the valley. Since he was first appointed he has been making an effort to get more birds and it would seem that his efforts are now meeting with success.

Members of the Wing, Fin and Fleetfoot club are elated today over the arrival of the birds.

JACK CHILDS INVESTS.

Becomes Partner in Stiles Feed and Provision Store.

Jack Childs has purchased an interest in the feed, provision and transfer business heretofore known as the Stiles concern. The partners are Jack Childs and Peare Stiles and it will hereafter be known under the euphonious name of Childs & Stiles. With the new move Mr. Childs once more bids farewell to the contracting business in which he has been engaged many years. He has, however, a contract for sewer construction which was recently awarded him by the city of La Grande. This contract he will complete, but after that no more contracting for your uncle Jack.

Power Plows Tear Up Field.

St. Louis, July 31.—The first practical demonstration of tractor farming ever held in the Mississippi valley began here today. Thousands of farmers went to Kinlock, in St. Louis county, where for five days the latest power-driven agricultural implements will be demonstrated on a two thousand acre farm. Under the auspices of the National Tractor Farming association, harrowing, plowing, seeding, spreading, pulverizing, threshing and harvesting will take up the morning sessions. Each afternoon 40 power-driven plows will tear up the ground. The dynamometer tests of draw bar pull of the various makes of plows attracted considerable attention as did the belt-work exhibit.

THREE AMERICAN SOLDIERS KILLED

El Paso, July 31.—Mexicans killed three troopers of the Eighth cavalry in a running fight on American soil near Fort Hancock. Five Mexicans were killed, and one American wounded. The cavalry patrol surprised bandits on their way to raid an American ranch. The Mexicans fled towards the border. At least 200 shots were exchanged.

DEATH OF NANNIE BERKLEY.

Former La Grande Resident Passes Away in Portland.

The death of Mrs. Nannie Berkley occurred at her home in Portland yesterday following several weeks of affliction caused by a nervous breakdown. Mrs. Berkley lived for many years in La Grande but has lately been making her home in Portland. The death of her husband, Scott Berkley, occurred about 12 years ago. Mrs. Berkley was a daughter of John Stotts and a sister of James Stotts and Mrs. Henry Young, of La Grande. Mrs. Young has been with her through the final weeks of her illness. She leaves to mourn her loss five children; three sons, James, Hugh and Le Roy, are at North Yakima, and Miss Lora Berkley, the oldest child, and her son Lee, the youngest, have been living with her at the home in Portland.

The remains will be brought to La Grande for interment and the funeral will be held from St. Peter's Episcopal church tomorrow (Tuesday) afternoon at 2 o'clock.

UNION OPERA HOUSE DAMAGED

Sunday Afternoon Fire Inflicted Very Severe Loss.

Union, July 31.—(Special)—The Union opera house belonging to Joe Yorgason was heavily damaged by fire which broke out at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon. By very prompt work on the part of the fire depart-

MILLIONS IN FIRE DAMAGE

MANY LIVES LOST AND HEAVY PROPERTY LOSS SUFFERED

Rains of Last Night Saved Canada from Further Devastation.

Montreal, July 31.—North Bay, Ontario reported at noon today that one hundred and eight-four bodies had been found in the forest fire district. Heavy rains drenched the country last night and succeeded in extinguishing the flames. It is expected that railway communication will be resumed this afternoon. Fire has burned over hundreds of acres between Cochran, Hearst, and several towns are reported to have been destroyed. Several millions of dollars worth of timber has been destroyed.

ROUND-UP BOOSTER HERE.

"Kit" Carson Tells of Wonders of the Big Show This Year.

W. F. (better known as "Kit") Carson, is in La Grande for a day or two to explain in various ways the main features of the big Round-Up at Pendleton this year. Among other things he has moving pictures of the great annual gathering which he expects to have thrown on the canvass tomorrow.

"There is no possible doubt," says Mr. Carson, "that the show will be bigger and grander than ever. An order has been sent to Texas for two carloads of the biggest, longest-horned and most implacable steers that can be had for the performances. There will also be a bigger list of riders and ropers than ever before."

"Kit" Carson's territory extends as far east as Salt Lake and he intends to let everybody within that territory know through illustrated supplements, moving pictures and otherwise what a big treat is in store for those who attend the 1916 Round-Up.

Rookies in War Games.

Plattsburg, N. Y., July 31.—Under the personal direction of Major General Leonard Wood, Commander of the United States Army, Department of the East, 7,000 citizens rookies in training here for several weeks started a series of war games today which will close the senior camp for this year.

Participating in the mimic campaign are a lot of New York society young men. The 7,000 includes four regiments of infantry, two squadrons of cavalry, a field artillery detachment and several hundred regulars. The active operations are under the personal direction of Major Peter Murray, Camp Commander and Quartermaster Major Frank Lawton.

San Francisco Suggested.

Among those whose names are being brought forward for the supreme vice-chancellorship are: William Ladew, of New York; C. S. Davis, of Denver; Robt. Burns, of San Francisco; F. M. Beckford, of Laconia, N. H.; William Broening, of Baltimore; Richard S. Witte, of Milwaukee, and Fred J. G. McArthur, of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Slocum Is Exonerated.

Washington, July 31.—The war department today announced the exoneration of Colonel Herbert J. Slocum of the Thirteenth cavalry from all blame for the Villista raid at Columbus during the raid and the charge against him was negligence.

HAS NEW PRIVATE CAR.

Superintendent Bollins Returns from Portland With No. 182.
Superintendent W. Bollins and daughter, Miss Madeline, have returned from a trip to Portland where the superintendent was an official business and incidentally a participant in the employes' picnic at Bonnevile. On his return Supt. Bollins brought with him his private car, No. 182. This was formerly the "06" but it has been under a thorough overhauling and has been repainted, renumbered and revived until it is the same as a brand new car.

Believed He Was Mad

Salem, July 31.—A man giving his name as M. J. O'Brien of Camas, Washington, rushed into the office of Chief of Police Welsh today and demanded that he be jailed or sent to the madhouse. Welsh did not believe the man was crazy but afraid he might suicide so he detained the man until he could get in touch with the sheriff of Clarke county, Washington. Later O'Brien said he lost his job with the Willamette Paper Company and that it had a bad effect on his mind.

PYTHIANS ARE GATHERING

PORTLAND IS PLACE WHERE DAMON AND PYTHIANS MEET

Delegations From All Parts of the Country Arriving in Metropolis

Portland, July 31.—The Supreme Lodge of the Knights of Pythias and the Supreme Temple of the Pythian Sisters, to say nothing of the Grand Lodge of the Knights of Pythias of Oregon are, to all practical intents and purposes beginning their session this morning.

The most important delegates to the two Supreme lodges reached Portland last night by special trains from the East, and while today is devoted according to the program, to registration and preliminary work, the opening activities of the great biennial sessions began to be apparent almost as soon as the first two of the big special trains from Chicago rolled into the city.

Visitors Are Welcomed.

Gus Moser, Frank S. Grant and W. J. H. Clarke, of the local committee, met the visitors in Seattle and accompanied them to Portland, where the local reception committee under W. M. Calk, took charge of them, and escorted the various delegates to their hotels.

The Knights of Pythias specials reached the city 15 minutes apart, the first arriving at 7 o'clock, and the special of the Pythian Sisters came in about 10 o'clock.

The two Knight's specials were in charge of W. G. Edenes, of Chicago, who, for the past eight years, has made up the official specials to the biennial Supreme lodge sessions.

Officials Arrive Early.

Every one of the Supreme lodge officials, with the exception of Fred E. Wheaton, Supreme Keeper of Records and Seal, who arrived several days ago, came in on the first section.

Past supreme chancellors who were on the train were W. W. Blackwell, of Henderson, Ky.; H. P. Brown, of Claybourne, Tex.; Thomas J. Carling, of Macon, Ga.; Phillip T. Colgrove, of Hastings, Mich., and Walter B. Richie, of Lima, O.

Thomas D. Meares, supreme master of the exchequer, will deposit at the First National bank this morning \$85,000 for the mileage and per diem allowance of the delegates and for other expenses of the convention.

John J. Brown is conceded to be the next supreme chancellor, under the custom which advances the vice-chancellor to the chancellorship each biennium, and the big contest of the convention in election of officers will center around the next supreme vice-chancellor. Seven candidates are already mentioned prominently, and it is intimated that others may be in the contest before the election is made. Regarding other offices in the supreme lodge there is comparatively little interest displayed at this meeting.

Auto Speeds Across the Continent Inside of Six Days.

San Francisco, July 31.—Samuel D. Stevens, of Rome, N. Y., who yesterday made a new transcontinental automobile record of five days 15 hours and 30 minutes, delivered today at the headquarters of the Western department of the United States Army a letter from Major-General Leonard Wood, commanding the Eastern department.

Mr. Stevens said tonight that the aim of the trip was to bring home to the public the ease and speed with which troops might be transported long distances by means of motor cars.

The journey was made under the auspices of the American Defense society, of which Mr. Stevens is chairman of the automobile division.

Other Knights will give short addresses.

The Supreme Temple of the Pythian Sisters will open its session this afternoon at 3 o'clock with the memorial ceremonies, which will be most impressive. These ceremonies will be held at the Elks' lodge rooms, and will be open to the general public. The report of the special committee on the early history of the order will be received immediately after the memorial ceremony and will be presented by Dr. Ida M. Jane Weaver, of Seattle, and five other past Supreme chiefs of the order.

Dr. Weaver has the distinction of having been the first chief of the Pythian Temple, when it was founded in Warsaw, Ind., 27 years ago, and to have been the first grand chief in that state and the first supreme chief over the Supreme Temple. The other members of the committee also are pioneers in the work of the order.

The meeting this afternoon will be presided over by Abba Warren Libby, of Maine, past supreme chief.

SUNDAY SEES MORE GAINS FOR ALLIES

FRENCH DEFEAT GERMANS AND CONSOLIDATE ON NEW GROUND.

BRITISH SAID TO HAVE MADE ADVANCE

Haig Says Britishers Are Far Advanced North of Bazaline Lepetit and Spent Night Improving Their Newly Won Positions—Russians Deliver Sunday Defeat to Austrians and Germans on East Front.

British Are Advancing.

London, July 31.—Commander Haig has reported further advances of the British north of Bazaline Lepetit. He says the British spent the night improving positions they won yesterday.

Russians Defeat Austrians.

Petrograd, July 31.—Announcement is made here that Russians have won in a fierce battle around Brody. They drove the Austrians and Germans to Graberki and Seret rivers.

Battle in Air

London, July 31.—The admiralty reports a battle between a British aeroplane and a German Zeppelin thirty miles off the east coast. The British pilot fought until the gun burst, which delivered a stunning blow to the pilot. When he recovered it is asserted the Zeppelin was gone.

Berlin, July 31.—The war office announces that French attacks from Longueval to Somme have been heavily repulsed. Russian attacks were also repulsed, it is said. Northwest of Buczacz the Russians penetrated the first line but were later defeated.

TRANSCONTINENTAL RECORD.

San Francisco, July 31.—Samuel D. Stevens, of Rome, N. Y., who yesterday made a new transcontinental automobile record of five days 15 hours and 30 minutes, delivered today at the headquarters of the Western department of the United States Army a letter from Major-General Leonard Wood, commanding the Eastern department.

Mr. Stevens said tonight that the aim of the trip was to bring home to the public the ease and speed with which troops might be transported long distances by means of motor cars.

The journey was made under the auspices of the American Defense society, of which Mr. Stevens is chairman of the automobile division.

Other Knights will give short addresses.

The Supreme Temple of the Pythian Sisters will open its session this afternoon at 3 o'clock with the memorial ceremonies, which will be most impressive. These ceremonies will be held at the Elks' lodge rooms, and will be open to the general public. The report of the special committee on the early history of the order will be received immediately after the memorial ceremony and will be presented by Dr. Ida M. Jane Weaver, of Seattle, and five other past Supreme chiefs of the order.

Dr. Weaver has the distinction of having been the first chief of the Pythian Temple, when it was founded in Warsaw, Ind., 27 years ago, and to have been the first grand chief in that state and the first supreme chief over the Supreme Temple. The other members of the committee also are pioneers in the work of the order.

The meeting this afternoon will be presided over by Abba Warren Libby, of Maine, past supreme chief.