An Independent Newspaper. Prints the News the Day It Happens.

La Grande Evening Observer

An Independent Newspaper. Phone The Observer the News.

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VOLUME XXIV — LA GRANDE, OREGON, FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1921 — NUMBER 134

CLARA HAMON QUARRELED WITH HAMON

OPENING PROSECUTION STATEMENT TO JURY ALLEGES FREQUENT QUARRELS.

OKLAHOMA'S MOST NOTED MURDER CASE ON TRIAL

Defendant, Who Was Secretary to Millionaire Oil Victim Claims A Share in His Estate—Widow Had Not Intended to Prosecute Clara Smith Hamon.

ARDMORE, Okla., Mar. 11.—Allegations that Clara Smith Hamon, on trial charged with the murder of Jake L. Hamon, millionaire oil man and Republican National Committeeman, had once pressed a pistol against the body of Hamon, and had frequently quarreled with him during their years of association, were made by S. P. Freeling, attorney general, in opening the prosecution statement to the jury. The case is regarded as Oklahoma's most sensational murder trial.

Clara Hamon sobbed when the prosecution told the jury that Hamon, in describing the shooting before he died, said that she shot him as he law on the bed.

Mr. Hamon died November 25, last, five days after he was shot. The shot that caused his death was consistently declared by Frank I. Ketch, his business manager, to have been "self inflicted" through the "accidental discharge" of a .22 calibre automatic pistol Mr. Hamon was cleaning.

Clara Smith Hamon was charged with assault with intent to kill on information filed by County Attorney Russell B. Brown the day following the shooting, which later was changed to a charge of murder. A separate information was filed jointly charging Clara Smith Hamon and Jake Hamon with a statutory offense. Warrant on this charge was never served.

Employed as Secretary.

Clara Smith Hamon was graduated from the common schools of Lawton, Okla., afterward attended business college at Fort Worth, Tex., and Oklahoma City, Okla., and later assumed a position as cashier and bookkeeper in several stores at Lawton.

Mrs. Clara Hamon entered the employ of Jake Hamon in the summer of 1912 in the capacity of private secretary, which position was maintained until a short time before Mr. Hamon met his death. It had not been established at the time of her trial whether Mrs. Hamon was in Mr. Hamon's employ at the time of his death.

Mrs. Clara Hamon disappeared the day following the wounding of Hamon, and, despite a search which gained nation-wide scope, was not discovered until she voluntarily gave herself up at Juarez, Mexico.

Freedom on $12,000

Clara Hamon arrived in Ardmore on Christmas day and was granted her freedom under bond of $12,000 only a few moments after entering the sheriff's office, which served as a court room for her preliminary hearing and serving of bail. She pleaded not guilty. Following her release Mrs. Hamon spent the greater part of her time with her relatives at Wilson and Ringling, Okla.

Mrs. Jake L. Hamon, of Chicago, widow, stated when in Ardmore and Oklahoma City that she did not at that time desire to apprehend Clara Smith nor was it her wish to have her prosecuted. She declared then that Mr. Hamon's death-bed statement that he died from accidental wound was her belief.

Injection of Clara Hamon's claim to a share of Jake Hamon's estate threw another angle into the case, upon which defense counsel declared, would be brought to bear the disclosures that would follow.

J'ever Hear This?

By STRICKLAND GILLILAN

HAD HAD A VISION.

George, from Green River, Ky., was at the front. He had been writing frivolous letters home. The sound of the guns was coming nearer, and the letter was serious. Mammy was reading it by the coal-oil lamp. Pappy sat near, smoking his corncob and listening.

"I want you-all to pray for me, mammy, and I want pappy to pray for me and all the white folks to pray for me," read mammy.

Pappy removed his pipe from his mouth long enough to say, decisively: "That nigger's seen somethin'."

FARMERS PLAN LARGE GRAIN SALES AGENCY

CONFERENCE CALLED BY FARMERS' MARKETING COMMITTEE

Oregon, Washington and Idaho Will Meet Delegate of Committee in Spokane, March 24.

CHICAGO, Mar. 11.—Plans for a farmers' national sales agency for the handling of their grain will be laid before farmers in all the principal grain growing states this month in a series of meetings beginning Monday.

The conferences are called by the Farmers' Grain Marketing Committee of 17, which was appointed in the Fall of 1920 by J. R. Howard, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

At each state meeting delegates will be selected to attend a final meeting in Chicago on April 6 to pass on ratification of the proposed "improved grain marketing plan" of the Committee of 17.

Representatives of all the farm organizations in each state interested in the co-operative marketing of grain, together with all the grain growers of the state, have been invited to attend the conferences. Representatives of the Committee of 17 will be present at each meeting to explain the plan in detail.

Oregon, Washington and Idaho will hold their meeting in Spokane Mar. 24, when W. G. Eckhardt, a member of the Committee of 17, will be in attendance.

In the ratification meeting, each state will have one delegate at large and one additional delegate for each $15,000,000 worth of grain marketed annually. On this basis, Illinois will have 14 delegates; Iowa 9; Kansas 8 Nebraska, 7; Indiana, 7; North Dakota, 6; Minnesota, 6; South Dakota, 6; Ohio, 5; Missouri, 4; Oklahoma, 4; Washington, 3; Texas, 3; Michigan, 3; California, 2; Pennsylvania, 2; Montana, 2; Oregon, 2; Idaho, 2; Wisconsin, 2; Maryland, 2; Tennessee, 2; Virginia, 2; Colorado, 2; and Kentucky, 2; making a total of 107 delegates.

CITY BOOKS IN GOOD SHAPE

H. P. OLIVER REPORTS THAT ALL IS WELL.

Officials Highly Complimented on Manner in Which Records Have Been Kept Two Years Covered

According to the audit of the city books which was completed last week by H. P. Oliver, and on which the formal report was presented to the city commissioners at their regular meeting Wednesday evening, the books of the city are in excellent condition and "all funds have been properly accounted for, excepting such items shown remaining due the city."

In his formal report Mr. Oliver compliments the city officials on the manner in which the records were kept. In this respect he says: "I find the records, filings and accounts of the various officers accurately, neatly and uniformly kept."

The report covers the two-year period from January 1, 1919, to December 31, 1920, inclusive. At the end of that period there remained in the hands of the city treasurer, Mrs. E. M. Fowler, $23,994.14.

The audit shows that during the two-year period the receipts of the city were $412,057.74. Among the large items making up this total, water rents contributed the sum of $67,833.88. The police department was responsible for a total of $9,761.20 of fines collected and $305.65 in pound fees. Electrical permits, building permits, general licenses and dog license contributed $4,960.91 during that period.

The improvement district bonds outstanding at the close of business the last day of last year amounted to $156,329.25.

DAVIS WILCOX IS LUCKY MAN

HAINES, Mar. 11.—Davis Wilcox, president of the Bank of Haines was certainly born under a lucky sign of the zodiac.

Of the many safety deposit boxes broken into and relieved of their contents by the robbers of the Bank of Taines last Sunday morning, the box of Mr. Wilcox, containing $10,000 in liberty bonds, remained untouched on account, perhaps of a lack of time to open it and in their hurry to make their get-away before being discovered.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Tonight and Saturday, rain or snow continued cold.

CONGRESS MAY STUDY PROPOSALS

GOVERNMENTAL RE-ORGANIZATION MAY TAKE MUCH STUDY

SECRETARY HOOVER MAKES SUGGESTIONS

To Follow His Suggestions May Lead to the Creation of a New Department of Transportation, Which Would Take Over Shipping Board Work, Etc.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 11.—Indications that the governmental re-organization proposed by the new administration may await congressional study, were seen in a statement by Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover. To follow his suggestion may lead to the creation of a new department of transportation, which would be entrusted with the work now performed by the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Shipping Board and other agencies, it was said in some quarters.

Former representative Esch, of Wisconsin, and Mark W. Potter, of New York, were nominated by President Harding today as members of the Interstate Commerce Commission. William J. Joyce was nominated for the Farm Loan Board.

The senate has confirmed the nomination of D. R. Crissinger, of Marion, O., as the controller of currency.

ORDERS CASE SUBMITTED ON BRIEFS MARCH 25

Judge G. W. Phelps, of Pendleton, circuit judge of the sixth judicial district, was in La Grande yesterday taking testimony of Ed Cressen vs. Brooks Campbell, involving a five-year lease on a ranch near town. The case is ordered submitted on briefs March 25.

NEW STATE WOULD BE CALLED LINCOLN

SPOKANE, Mar. 11.—To formulate plans for the organization of a new state called Lincoln, from the counties of northern Idaho and eastern Washington, a meeting has been called for early in September in this city.

TAX NOTICES BEING MAILED

SHERIFF'S OFFICE BUSY WITH MAILING

Annual Reminders of Approach of April Are on Way To Property Owners Now.

Omens of springtime increase as the time when winter makes its formal exit approaches. Tax notices are now being mailed out by Deputy Sheriff D. McIlroy, in charge of tax collections. About 2,000 of the notices were put into the mails last night and today's mail brought notices to many a resident here.

There are about 3,500 more notices to be mailed out and all of these will be in the mails by Tuesday night. After that Mr. McIlroy will be only too glad to have recipients of the notices call at his office and pay their taxes or mail a check for them.

The last day for paying taxes is April 5. So far very few residents have taken opportunity of the chance to avoid standing in line the last day by paying early.

MEXICAN ENVOYS ARE IN PORTLAND

PPORTLAND, Mar. 11.—A party of Mexican trade envoys are guests of the Chamber of Commerce here today.

Would Follow Washington In Anti-Alien Land Law

State Senator Colon R. Ebarhard, who was one of the leaders in the contest in the consideration of the anti-alien land bill in the Oregon State Senate, has been watching with great interest the campaign in other states. Upon learning the result in the state of Washington, the Senator issued the following statement:

"Now that the Associated Press dispatches inform us that the governor of Washington has signed the anti-alien land bill passed by both houses of the Washington legislature, which prohibits aliens who are ineligible to citizenship from owning or leasing land in the state and forbids any traffic in the lands in the state with such aliens, it becomes pertinent to ask those members of the legislature who fell so easy a prey to the spacious arguments of the business interests of the metropolis, what has become of the argument that Seattle will get all of the Oriental business if Oregon passes such legislation? The proposed anti-alien law was either right or wrong, upon principle. Whether a Japanese steamship line would continue to come to Portland or not was not only a consideration of policy and expediency. We know that the State of Washington has, through the harbor of Puget Sound, a great Oriental trade. Interference with such trade did not seem to deter the legislators of Washington from passing a bill which they believed to be absolutely essential to the protection of the white race in that state. The proposed treaty now in course of negotiation will not cover the subject of alien ownership of land within any one state, and this proposition was never combatted or even attempted to be met, in the debates in the legislature. It is to be hoped that the next time this matter comes before the legislature of Oregon, there will be sufficient courage to follow the state of Washington, if there was not sufficient courage to take the lead and pass a bill that fully ninety per cent of the people desired passed."

PRESIDENT WILL VISIT IN PORTLAND

HARDING PLANS ON COMING TO THE NORTHWEST SOME TIME ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF JULY

EXPECTS CONGRESS TO ADJOURN BY THAT TIME

President Will Spend Part of His Vacation in Alaska, Which Plan Is Approved by the Congressional Leaders—Local Ad Club Gets Busy This Afternoon.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 11.—President Harding is planning to visit Portland and the Northwest about the middle of July. He announces that he expects Congress to adjourn by that time and that he will spend part of his vacation in Alaska. The congressional leaders support this plan.

Members of the local Ad Club, when shown the telegram announcing President Harding's proposed visit to Portland this summer, immediately started preparations to have President Harding make a stop in La Grande, provided he came west over the Union Pacific system.

Inasmuch as Harding did not make a tour of the west during his campaign last autumn, La Grandera did not have an opportunity to see or hear the present President, and should he come through La Grande this July, there is bound to be much interest manifested.

Even though the proposed visit is several months ahead, a number of local enthusiastic citizens have declared that they will visit Portland themselves, at the same time as the President.

GETS TWO FINES IN ONE DAY ON LIQUOR CHARGES

J. W. Hansell was fined $25 and costs yesterday afternoon in Justice of the Peace A. C. Williams' court for driving a car while drunk. He also had his license revoked as part of his punishment. Hansell has disposed of his car as a result of the penalty imposed. Earlier in the day he was fined $25 in municipal court for being intoxicated.

RED LETTER DAY IN EVERY CLUB

The Neighborhood Scholarship Loan Fund Day, which was postponed last year, will be held this year on Friday, March 18.

This day is set aside by every club in the state to raise funds for the benefit of ambitious girl students of Oregon, who need aid in their work.

The Neighborhood double quartet will put on an unusually excellent "Musicale" for this fund.

Happens About This Time Of Year

ULTIMATUM IS SENT TO PETROGRAD

CITY MUST SURRENDER BEFORE MARCH 25, IS DEMAND

If City Is Not Given Up, There Will Be a General Bombardment by Revolutionists.

LONDON, Mar. 11.—The revolutionary authorities at Kronstadt have sent an ultimatum to the soviet authorities in Petrograd, demanding the surrender of the city before March 25. If the city is not given up, the ultimatum declares, there will be a general bombardment, says a dispatch from Abo, Finland. Wholesale arrests and executions of workmen are reported a Oranienbaum, Systerbak and Petrograd.

LOSS IN SAFETY BOXES IS LARGE

BAKER, Mar. 11.—As the first excitement of the Haines Bank robbery of Sunday morning is past there comes to light some of the details of their plunder.

In their hurry to rob the safety deposit boxes of valuable papers they evidently in most cases threw the contents into some receptacle which they took with them, preferring to take their time later to examine their loot and segregate the good from the bad. Following out this line of procedure many of the safety depositors find besides losing liberty bonds, valuable papers, notes, mortgages, and even a marriage license in one case, were taken. Altogether the loss to individuals in Liberty bonds and securities will total about $15,000.

At this time there is little clue to the perpetrators of the robbery. However, the police department of this city is holding in jail one or two suspects and something may develop.

KIDS ARE NOW BACK AT SCHOOL

CONTAGIOUS DISEASE EPIDEMIC SEEMS TO BE OVER.

Superintendent of Schools States That Effects of Epidemic Will Be Noticed Several Months.

If the attendance in the public schools can be taken as a criterion, the smallpox and scarlet fever epidemic is practically over. Superintendent of Schools A. C. Hampton this morning announced that the attendance in all schools is practically normal now, the first time normalcy has been approached for several months.

At the Central school the number of pupils out of school ran as high as 100 a day during the height of the epidemic. There is now a very good attendance there. At the other schools the proportion was practically the same and all are now practically normal again.

Mr. Hampton stated that the after effects of the epidemic would be felt for some time by all classes as the number of pupils who were prevented from attending school regularly is so great that the progress of all classes was held in check and it will be some months before this handicap is overcome.

SHOOTS KIDDIES THEN KILLS SELF

LOVELL, Wyo., Mar. 11.—Mrs. James Watters, wife of a prominent rancher in the Big Horn Basin, last night shot and killed three children, wounding three others, two of whom will possibly die, and then reloaded the revolver and killed herself.

KLAMATH FALLS BANK TO OPEN

KLAMATH FALLS, Mar. 11.—The First State and Savings Bank which was closed on January 12, will reopen Monday, said Captain J. W. Siemens, president, today.

Local subscriptions of $150,000 and $100,000 was obtained from Portland and San Francisco banks as additional reserve funds. This will make the reorganized bank stronger than ever, President Sieman said.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

PORTLAND, Mar. 11.—All of the local markets remained steady today.

WESTERN ROADS TO CUT WAGES

VIRTUALLY ALL WESTERN RAILWAYS HAVE SWUNG INTO LINE

REDUCTION OF WAGES IS FOR UNSKILLED LABOR

Proposal Affects Thousands of Men, and Railways Have Called Special Meetings With Their Employees—"Wages Must Come Down," Said A. G. Wells.

CHICAGO, Mar. 11.—Virtually all of the larger western railroads have swung into line in the policy started by several eastern railroads in taking steps for the reduction of war time wages for unskilled employees.

Steps to bring about wage reductions of skilled employees probably will be taken by the railroads throughout the country soon, as adjustments made in the pay of unskilled workers, according to officials of the Association of Railway Executives.

Wage reduction proposals affecting thousands of men were officially announced Thursday by practically every western railway with headquarters in Chicago, among them being the Santa Fe; Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul; Chicago & Great Western; Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific and the Chicago & Northwestern.

The roads will first hold meetings with their employes in an effort to reach an agreement regarding a wage reduction. If the roads and workers were unable to reach agreements, the disputes, it was announced, would be allowed to go before the railroad labor board.

Will Confer With Workers.

"Wages must come down," said A. G. Wells, vice president of the Santa Fe system. "Everybody knows that. We will in a few days, as a start in a general readjustment, ask representatives of maintenance of way and shop workers, especially the unskilled workers to come to Chicago and agree to a more seemly wage scale."

The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Thursday sent letters to labor representatives of its maintenance of way and shop employes asking that they meet with officials of the road here March 21.

The Chicago & Northwestern likewise notified its maintenance of way employes to meet here March 18.

NEW YORK CENTRAL MOVES.

NEW YORK, Mar. 11.—The New York Central railway Thursday announced that beginning April 16, it would revise downward wages of approximately 43,000 employes. It was understood that the subsidiary lines, forming a system which employes 174,000 men, or almost one-tenth of the railway workers in the United States, soon would follow in this action.

The company in a statement accompanying its order said "a marked change in conditions" justifies and requires reductions in existing rates.

SAYS OPINION IS ERRONEOUS

BOSTON, Mar. 11.—Efforts to overcome what he termed the erroneous opinion of former Attorney General Palmer that beer and wine can be prescribed as a medicine, were outlined by Wayne B. Wheeler, general counsel for the anti-saloon league.

BEFORE BIRDS AND BUDS APPEAR.

When the bluebirds and robins make their appearance, it is time to make plans for starting garden work, but several things can be done before the birds and buds appear that will prevent delay when it is desired to start actual operations, say specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. Plan the garden on paper. Get the seed, and make sure it is of the best quality. Good seed will note sleep long in good garden soil, but poor ones may never wakeup.

The Observer still has a limited amount of government seeds for distribution, which are free for the asking.