

The Observer

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
Published daily and weekly at La Grande, Oregon, by La Grande Evening Observer Publishing Company.
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Entered at the Postoffice at La Grande, Oregon, as Second Class Mail Matter.
Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1114 Adams Ave., La Grande, Oregon.

CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

On sale in other cities—Oregon Hotel News Stand, Portland; Imperial News Stand, Portland; Minnesota News Stand, Portland.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Daily, per month	75c
Daily, per three months	\$2.25
Daily, per six months	\$4.50
Daily, per year	\$8.00
By Mail	
Daily, per year in advance	10.00
Daily, per six months in advance	5.00
Daily, per three months in advance	3.00
Daily, per month in advance	1.50
Weekly Observer-Star, by mail, per year in advance	\$1.50

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Federal Roads in Oregon

The Oregon Journal of Saturday, contained on its editorial page, some very interesting figures on federal road money in Oregon, which is of much interest locally, and is herewith reprinted, being as follows:

"The government has apportioned \$4,332,178.27 in aid of the Oregon road program. It has a part in the construction of every highway of first importance and of a number considered secondary.

"It put \$152,700 into the construction of the lower Columbia river highway, federal aid represents a total of \$907,057. Between Echo and Pendleton the government spent \$64,900 in road building, and its total contribution to the Columbia river highway is \$1,124,654.

"Between Hood River and Arlington on the upper Columbia river highway, federal aid represents a total of \$907,057. Between Echo and Pendleton the government spent \$64,900 in road building, and its total contribution to the Columbia river highway is \$1,124,654.

"The government's help in building the Pacific highway amounts to \$376,105. A post road is under construction between Medford and Trail on the way to Crater Lake, which will require \$222,570 of government money.

"Government aid will, by the time the 1925 exposition opens, make the great Southern Oregon scenic asset more accessible than it has ever been.

"The Newberg-West Dayton and the Corvallis-South sections of the West Side highway will receive \$221,444 of the government's road building fund.

"The John Day highway in Eastern Oregon, 93.28 miles long will be constructed with the aid of \$688,252.85 from the government.

"The Dallas-California highway through Central Oregon has an aggregate of 54 miles under construction with \$326,400 of federal aid.

"Federal aid amounting to \$295,000 is helping build 14.44 miles along the line of the Old Oregon Trail between Pendleton and Cabbage Hill and between Union and Telocast; 27.88 miles of the Baker-Cornucopia highway and 15.94 miles of the La Grande-Enterprise highway.

"The road from Burns to Crane, the nearest railroad point, which has long been impassable during the winter, is being improved with \$188,935 of government money. It is 27.19 miles long.

"Three projects in the vicinity of Lakeview, having an aggregate of 26.87 miles, are being built with government aid. Government money to the amount of \$527,753.43 is helping build the Yamhill-Nestucca, Salem-Dallas, Cross Bay-Roseburg and Redmond-Prineville highways.

"The late review by C. H. Purcell, district manager of the government's road building enterprise, shows that the government is not only helping to build 483 miles of state roads but is assisting in bridge construction.

"By the time of the 1925 Exposition the government will have completed 207.2 miles of forest roads at a cost of \$3,264,500, which will make it possible for the visitors to the state to reach some of the water spots of Oregon.

"Such figures confirm the statement by Chairman Booth of the state highway commission that within the decade \$100,000,000 will be spent for permanent road improvement in Oregon and 25 per cent of the amount will come from Uncle Sam."

Just Gravel

Do you remember years ago when every sign board had an annex tacked on it, "Watch Pasco"? Well, people watched for a while and then grew tired. Pasco developed into a good little town and stayed a little town. You hardly ever hear of Pasco now. But she has been heard from recently. And here is the way Pasco again gets into the limelight: When the O.-W. railroad decided to gravel the road-bed between La Grande and Baker, every layman thought that would be easy because we have so much rock and gravel in Eastern Oregon, all of which goes to show that the layman in any line of business knows very little about what he is saying. When

the railroad tested out the gravel under the eagle eye of Superintendent William Ballons, who has record for being one of the best trackmen in the United States, it was decided that any gravel found in Eastern Oregon would not stand up for the job. And today gravel trains are passing through La Grande carrying gravel from Pasco to gravel the road-bed between this city and Baker.

Trading Business Will Be Good

The old wheel moves around and it very seldom gets out of line. When hard times hit the country invariably two things happen—mining for gold begins with renewed vigor and the trading of property becomes active. Just why this is so we can't tell, but it is nevertheless. The trading spirit is now abroad in the land and in the next year there will be more property change hands than did when money was plentiful and times were good. Already the mines have begun to open and people are seeking the gold still hidden in mountains with considerably activity.

In the property trading, it seems when money gets tight men don't want what they have and desire a change in the hope that they can better their condition. And, according to real estate men, the only drawback to brisk business in property is finding enough money to pay commissions.

Restitution

W. W. Embree, formerly of Walla Walla county, has purchased a tract of ground in the Grande Ronde valley and will make his home here. Sa urday Mr. Embree entered the Observer office with the exclamation, "I have got right with God and I am making restitution for my sins. About eight years ago I took your paper for six months and never paid for it, and I now want to settle that debt."

The old account was found and Mr. Embree paid the bill, mentioning as he did so the change in his life since he had "been born again" and taken up Christianity in its true form.

Some may read this little article and smile, but to see the face of Mr. Embree beam with pleasure as he cancelled the small debt of long standing brought conviction that he was experiencing a great joy.

Grain growers have a perfect right to demand enforcement of the grain laws passed by the last legislature. But the amusing thing is that there is talk of calling a peace conference so that friction between the wheat buyers and producers can be ironed out. There is nothing like harmony with a big "H".

That was a fine little storm we had last night. The thunder and lightning made the native jump a little but it was good for everyone. Evidently we need the Grande Ronde storm just as much as we need the Grande Ronde sunshine in order to be happy all the time.

The Inter-State bridge at Portland is said to fail to show the handsome profit that everyone believed existed. And that is the way with a good many things—appearances indicated a big business and lots of profit but the dope sheet tells a different story.

Governor Small of Illinois says the "vested" interests have combined to ruin him. Perhaps they have, but it is up to the governor to make the fight and show the country that he is right.

FORUM

Place Signs on Highways Now

KAMELA, Ore., July 23.—To the Evening Observer: In regard to the protection of the traveling public between Pendleton and La Grande, I want to say that the people on both sides of the mountain are not taking the interest that they should. In this instance, may I say that garage men in particular should be more interested.

At the present time, the sign board service is inadequate, and many tourists each day travel over the rough roads, only to end up at Casey siding, and then have to return over the same bad road. There should be sign boards at all of these places, directing the tourist to the right road.

This lack of signs is causing strangers lots of grief, as it is a waste of time and money to them. The people in La Grande and Pendleton must remember that 1925 is coming and that many of the same people or their friends will want to come to the World's Fair. But they will look for some other road way. As one would naturally say, "That bunch around La Grande and Pendleton are a dull old timers layout. There must be roads and as we are now spending the money on roads why not label them so travelers know whereof they lead."

A Kamela Good Roads Book.

Try Our Eats.
A good, quick lunch all ready for you at 11:30 to 1:30. Much better than most lunches. Sold at Al Cain's PALACE CONFECTIONERY COMPANY.

THE OFFICE CAT



—By JUNIUS—

Have You Joined?

Have you joined La Grande's "Mystic Order of the Deep yet? Yes? No? If you haven't you are out of class, for nearly everybody's doing it. What is the Mystic Order of the Deep?

The M. O. D. is a secret society organized by the fish hounds of La Grande.

What for? To foster the interest of fisher folk and to originate disseminate and maintain, free from all adulterations, all stories, concerning swordfish, whales, swafish, albicote, flying fish, devil fish, and other water creatures that have their habitat around Union and Wallowa counties enchanted lakes.

How did it originate? It was organized last night, the meeting being held under the Second street bidge. Officers elected, so far as could be learned, were:

- Grand Whale—Al Andrews.
- Grand Saw Fish—Howard O'Brien.
- Grand Dolphin—Frank Harris.
- Grand Walrus—Bob Newlin.
- Grand Octopus—E. T. Andrews.
- Grand Keeper of the Tackle—Joe Green.
- Grand Keeper of the Kale—C. D. Putnam.
- Grand Abalone—Chase Robbenkamp.
- Grand Shunter of the Harpoon—Bill Bollins.
- Grand Sea Lion—Tom Seroggin.
- Grand Oyster—Ed Coolidge.
- Grand Sea Serpent—F. L. Lilly.
- Grand Keeper of the Seal—Perry Oliver.
- Grand Devil Fish—Lot Snodgrass.
- Grand Polar Bear—Geo. Garrett.

Of course all these bright lights were not present, but they were elected to membership, and each one is now entitled to a miniature harpoon in his buttonhole—the insignia of the order.

One beautiful feature of the Mystic Order of the Deep is that all members are officers—there are no rank and file.

Application for membership should be sent to Al Andrews, Grand Whale, care Union county jail.

Very Well

Ye ed—The utmost in politeness, as we take it, is a Boy Scout saluting a policeman—V. G. B.

Not the Good Old Days

Some city slicker put one across on the Hotel Portland last night. A telephone call came to the exchange asking that John Barleycorn be paged. The girl at the switchboard was a relief operator and passed the message to the head bellman. The latter ordered the bellboy with the loudest voice to page the supposed patron. "John Barleycorn, call for Mr. Barleycorn, please," shouted the page and everyone in the lobby began to sit up and take notice hopefully. The desk clerk heard the call and, realizing that someone was perpetrating a joke, stopped the calling.—Portland Oregonian.

A Date

Mr. Pepper: "It was really a larceny evening; the theatre was good, the lunch was better, our walk home was delightful—in fact every minute was thrilling. However, we are now to the jumping off place and I must say good night, dear."

Miss Kewpie: "Oh, please don't go, Pepper. I am just beginning to like you."

Can't Be Done

"A man betrays his by bragging," says A. J. Martin. "When I hear a man talk 'bout how easy he

can drive a mule, I knows right off he ain't no regular mule driver."

Ek, Bo?

Smith—"The band that rocks the cradle rules the world."
Mrs. Smith—"Then you come in here and rule the world awhile, I'm tired."

"Man, you will see the day that you will be glad to give up all the whiskey in the world for a cup of cold water." (From Banty Pulls the Strings).

We know some La Grande folks who would give the whole La Grande water system for a cup of whiskey, right now.

The Charter Election

A discussion of the different amendments to be voted on August 9th.

August ninth citizens of La Grande will be called on to pass upon 11 amendments to the city charter, the vote to be cast at a special election for that purpose. Four of the total amendments really make it possible to adopt new policies in city government but the balance are perfunctory in that they are inserted in the ballot to allow a legal conformity to state laws now existing. The state laws prevail, regardless of whether or not the voters adopt amendments of that type, but in re-shaping the charter, the voters are asked to correct such features of the charter as are in discord with state laws passed either by the legislature or by the people since the present charter was drafted and adopted.

Some of Vital Interest
But this does not apply to four of them, and of the four two are of especial interest in that about their adoption hinges the proposed water system. Two of these are necessary of adoption by the voters of this city before a new water system can be built. A vote on this special election does not carry a direct approval or rejection of the specific plans that are being proposed to the city commission by consulting engineers. That is another matter. The measures merely make it possible to finance the project by two processes: First, to raise the limit of indebtedness, and, secondly, to increase the rate of interest legally limited by charter to conform to the new standard of interest rates brought about by present conditions, wholly new and after effects since the limitations now in the charter were adopted. The one amendment makes it possible to offer bonds for sale for this purpose, the other would make them saleable on the market.

In order that the public may have an opportunity to study the measures that will be voted on, the Observer will publish them separately, with comments from the city's viewpoint, and of taxpayers as well. The proposed and much-needed water system is vitally related to the first.

(Continued on Page Six)

READ OBSERVER WANT ADS.

AROUND THE EDGES

The popularity of burglarizing La Grande homes is in its height and no one is surprised now to go home and find the house turned inside out from a search by strangers for valuables.

It has become so prevalent that strange noises at night cause the man of the house to immediately arise and search the premises for intruders.

A few nights ago H. E. Coolidge was aroused from slumber by the sound of footsteps on his back stairway. Hastily he jumped from his downy couch, grabbed his automatic and stealthily crept down the front stairway expecting to encounter the big hairy tough face to face. He reached the parlor and pressed on the light. No one was in sight, but as he turned a sound in the kitchen door caught his eye. It was some one moving, so he crept to the hall and made

IN THE OLD HOME TOWN



THE BOYS WHO TRAVED 'TWO HEADS O' TO BRIBE THE BUSHES WEAT NOW AGE UP AGAINST THE FLY PROBLEM.

North West & Co
THE QUALITY STORE

MEN!

The Greatest Money Saving Sale

In Many Months

\$6.90



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Values up to \$15

Would you pay \$6.90 for a shoe worth from \$10 to \$15? It's clearance time here, of all odd lots and broken sizes in Men's dress shoes. There are brown and black—the best of our FLORSHEIM stock.

Not all sizes in any one shoe of course, but there are all sizes in the sale, and every man, young man, or boy who wears a man's shoe, will find ample selection and the most in value you have ever seen. The regular prices of these shoes are \$10.00, \$12.50 and \$15.00, and at such a low price as this, over half of them go at less than their wholesale cost.

There are all sizes and widths. See them in our window. Your choice for \$6.90.

Oregon would convince them and it is too bad more of them don't come."

C. J. Black, who went to Chicago on the real estate men's excursion, tells some great stories about things that happened on that journey. He admits most of the charges made against him by La Grande to the effect that he suffered from the heat, that he stood on Chicago's street corners, telling of the wonders of the Grande Ronde valley until a policeman made him move on, but he positively refuses to admit that the trip was "sprinkled" with anything of a spry nature, except the general booster spirit which prevailed throughout the journey.

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A savings account puts its owner on the sunny side of life. Despite reverses, lay-offs and ups and downs of various kinds, the man who saves can still afford to smile.

His account is the lubricant that makes life run more smoothly and speeds his upward progress.

We particularly invite the wage earner to open an account with us. Small accounts are cordially welcomed.

United States National Bank
La Grande, Oregon

INTER-STATE BASE BALL

CHAMPIONSHIP Cove vs. Weiser

LA GRANDE BASE BALL PARK

Sunday, July 31

Admission 50c, Grand Stand Free

"HELP COVE" is the Slogan.