

La Grande Evening Observer

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VOLUME XXIV

LA GRANDE, OREGON, MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 1921

NUMBER 262

La Grande People Are Among Missing

DYER FAMILY AND R. HART IN DISASTER

Six La Grander's Fate Keeps City in Intense State of Suspense

FIREMAN DYER AND CHILD SAFE

Confusion in Names Adds to Concern Here—Believed That One of the Dyer Twins and Mother Missing

EUREKA, Calif., Aug. 8.—Ruth Hart, Mrs. Dyer and her two children are still missing this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. K. F. Bonneywell, of Portland, heretofore missing is reported saved. O. J. Hoebler, previously reported saved, is now missing. Twenty-nine have been unaccounted for at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

EUREKA, Calif., Aug. 8.—(By Associated Press.)—Forty-seven names from the passenger and crew list of the ill-fated Alaska, which foundered Saturday night after striking Blunt's Reef, have been definitely posted as missing. This included the 17 known dead, whose bodies are in the morgue here. Of the remaining missing, 25 are passengers and 12 of the crew.

Most of the fatalities were caused by explosions as the vessel sank, and by the capsizing of one lifeboat.

La Grande People Missing. Among the missing are Miss Ruth Hart, of La Grande, and Pendleton and Mrs. U. H. Dyer and twin children, of La Grande.

Among the survivors are Mrs. M. J. Albers and Mrs. J. Stone, of Toledo, Oregon, and U. H. Dyer and daughter, Irene, of La Grande. The little Dyer girl drifted for eight hours in the wreckage with a life-belt and was found unconscious but quickly recovered. John Fitzgerald, of Marshfield, is among the drowned.

Captain in Doubt. It is generally believed that Captain Harry Hoboy is among the drowned, having apparently gone down with the ship.

The Irene Dyer referred to above is evidently an error. It is probably Elaine Dyer. Neither it is believed here that both twins were drowned. Relatives in La Grande believe the missing children to be Orver, the youngest, and a twin brother to Elaine, aged about seven.

Purser's Records Lost.

EUREKA, Aug. 8.—While the list of dead and missing this afternoon is placed unofficially at 47, the actual loss of life may never be known, as the purser's records went down. All that is definitely known of the lost is that 17 bodies are in the morgue, leaving 30 missing, of which at least 27 were passengers.

Oil Covers Bodies.

Many of the bodies were so covered with oil that they had to be washed with gasoline before they could be identified. Oil from the sinking ship saturated the bodies of both the living and the dead that they frequently slipped from the arms of the rescuers.

The Identified Dead are:

Thomas Johnston, Brooklyn; J. C. Jekway, Oakland; E. Pickell, Los Angeles; A. M. Hutchinson, San Francisco; Mrs. J. W. Oliver, San Jose; S. Kumazawa, of Seattle. All these were passengers. The crew identified dead include Chief Steward Charles Heane, Steward E. H. King, Frank Comm, of Winnipeg; Ralph J. Kockett, Red Bluff; Larson, engineer, Portland; a deckhand, a waiter and a seaman, unknown, and Baldwin, the bell-boy.

Later this afternoon the body of Mrs. Walter J. Johnson, of Portland was identified, leaving one unidentified body. Her husband is still missing.

It is probable that bodies will be washing ashore for many days to come.

La Grande was in nervous state yesterday when the reports of the Alaska wreck first came in and all through yesterday and up to today the alarm and concern has grown in intensity as news from the scene of disaster began to come in in disjointed and conflicting manner. The Frank Rechin family and Mrs. Metzler were naturally the most concerned about the fate of Ruth Hart, of La Grande, who of late has been operator at Pendleton. Up to this afternoon there

Passengers Receive Shaking When No. 17 Hits Gravel Train Entering Haines Siding

When passenger train No. 17—one of the Union Pacific's transcontinental flyers—hit a gravel train at Haines Sunday morning there was a general shaking up of passengers, breaking of dishes in the diner, shifting of grips and suitcases from one berth to another, but fortunately no one was seriously injured.

Conductor J. T. Richardson was on No. 17 and Frank Rechin was the engineer. When the long stretch of straightaway track between Baker and Haines was reached, and it is probably the longest piece of straight track on this division, it was observed that a gravel train was taking the siding at Haines. Engineer Rechin slowed down to about ten miles an hour to let the train in, but it did not quite get in the clear and the engine of the passenger train struck a gravel car, throwing it over. The impact was heavy and passengers went sprawling in all directions. At first it was hard for the conductor to determine just how bad anyone was injured, for there were some who suffered bruises and scratches and a few teeth were missing from a passenger or two.

A wire was sent to Baker telling of the accident and Dr. Carl G. Patterson was conveyed to Haines by an extra engine which was in the Baker yards. He administered first aid and when the passenger train pulled out

has been no report of Miss Hart, other than that she is among those missing. The nervous strain undergone by the family can better be imagined than described. Mrs. Metzler and Mrs. Rechin are sisters of Miss Hart.

Miss Hart had gone to Seaside to visit Judge and Mrs. Phelps, of Pendleton. Mrs. Phelps is another sister. She sent word to Mrs. Rechin last week that she was hurrying back to Portland to catch the Alaska for Southern California to visit with friends.

Dyer Family Aboard.

One of the most pathetic incidents of the whole catastrophe was that involving Fireman and Mrs. U. H. Dyer and three children, whose home is at 2106 Cedar street. The Dyer family were on their vacation and were passengers aboard the ill-fated ship. Press dispatches, issued in haste, and upon uncertain authority, have confused names until at a late hour this afternoon there was not much definite information about the family, other than that the local fireman is in a hospital quite seriously injured, but alive and that one of the children was saved.

Girl in Water Eight Hours.

Contrary to press dispatches, it is presumed by the family here that Elaine, one of the Dyer twins, is the girl saved. Reports tell of "Irene" Dyer, of La Grande, being in the water eight hours and being found unconscious with a life preserver about her. She recovered hastily and her first question was "Where is mamma and daddy?"

Rescuers were able to take her safely to her father and she immediately showed deep concern about his care. She is, apparently, the little wonder of the wreck.

However, there is no Irene Dyer. The two oldest are twins, aged six and Devain is a boy and Elaine his twin sister. Orver is the youngest.

Contrary to press reports it is believed that the younger child and the boy, Devain, are the two that are missing with the mother.

Family Terribly Shocked.

Several relatives of Mrs. Dyer live in La Grande and Meacham. The terrible mental strain of hoping against hope that the lady and two children are alive, is telling on the family. Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Chelf are the father and mother of Mrs. Dyer. Mr. Chelf is engaged in the garage at Meacham and the mother is in La Grande for the present.

Mrs. F. R. Barnes, wife of Engineer Barnes, who lived at 1792 Adams until Mr. Barnes went to Kamela, is a sister of Mrs. Dyer. Mr. Barnes was called to La Grande yesterday and was here today. He and his family are now at the Dyer home on Cedar street.

Barnes Family Go to Eureka.

Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Barnes leave tonight for Eureka, California, where they hope to find trace of Mrs. Barnes' sister, Mrs. U. H. Dyer, and her children. It is reported this afternoon that some of the rescued have been brought to Portland and there is a "Dyer Junior" among them. In hopes that he is the little Devain Dyer reported missing, Mr. and Mrs. Barnes will investigate this rumor in full before going south to Eureka. They will advise authorities at Eureka of their coming in case there are any unidentified women and children there now or that any might be washed ashore. Advice state that Mr. Dyer is badly hurt, and probably not in

JUDGE J. C. HENRY PASSES ON

Unable to withstand the shock of a cerebral hemorrhage which struck him about two weeks ago, J. C. Henry, veteran business man and community leader of La Grande, passed away quietly Sunday morning.

He rallied splendidly from the first attack and regained his sight and speech which had been impaired by the stroke, but Friday he began to sink again and the end came Sunday morning. Hundreds of families who had been endeared to the Henry's, during long social and commercial relations with them, had high hopes of his ultimate recovery until Friday. While his death was not wholly unexpected since the ill-fated night about 10 days ago when he was hit by a paralytic stroke, his death nevertheless is a severe shock especially among the pioneer circles of La Grande and Union county.

Came to La Grande Early.

Mr. Henry was born in South Bend, Indiana, 72 years ago last June. He grew to young manhood there and was married 50 years ago the 5th of July this year. Forty-six years ago he answered the call of the West and, leaving his wife behind him for the time, came to Oregon via immigrant train and stage. When he set foot in La Grande he looked the setting sun full in the face with 50 cents in his pocket. He set to work at anything he could find to do, and soon gained permanent employment with the late W. J. Snodgrass for whom he worked 14 years. His wife joined him a year later. He then established himself in the furniture and undertaking business, remaining at that work until he had built up one of the leading businesses of Eastern Oregon. A few years ago he sold out to his junior partner J. J. Carr and went into the undertaking business exclusively. His very comfortable home and the Henry Chapel were built on Fourth street at the time he dissolved his partnership.

Community Worker Always.

About all the honors that can come to a man who has the interest of his community at heart were showered upon the late Mr. Henry during his long sojourn here. He was councilman for several terms, was on the school board, officiated as mayor for a term, and was then elected to the county judgeship for a long period of years in the latter period of his life.

Fraternally Conspicuous.

He was galled to many of the leading lodges of the city. He was a Mason, including many branches of that order. He was a member of A. L. M.; Royal Arch Chapter No. 9; Eastern Oregon Commandery, No. 6; Knight Templar, and a Shriner. La Grande Lodge No. 41, A. F. & A. M. will have charge of the funeral which will be held from the Methodist church

(Continued on Page Six)

University President's Body Has Been Recovered In Mt. Eanon Country

CALGARY, Canada, Aug. 8.—The body of Dr. W. E. Stone, president of Purdue University, who lost his life climbing Mt. Eanon on July 18th, has been recovered.

Spaniards Flee From Moorish Rebels With Panic In Full Blast

LONDON, Aug. 8.—Moorish rebels arrived at Wals, Melilla, today, causing a general panic. Spaniards and civilians are hastily boarding ships in the harbor and fleeing the country.

WEATHER FORECAST.

PORTLAND, Aug. 8.—Tuesday will be generally cloudy with Westerly winds.

ABOUT THIS TIME O' YEAR



Commission Urges All Voters to Go to Polls

Importance of Passing On Principal Measure Pointed Out By City Officials.

Members of the city commission today urged every voter who is registered to vote tomorrow at the special charter amendment election, the polls for which being open from eight in the morning until seven in the evening. Although it has been definitely decided by the city commission not to build the Lower Beaver Creek water system at this time, and therefore there will be no immediate necessity of taking advantage of the increased bonding limit provided for by the first amendment on the ballot. This section increases the limit of the bonded indebtedness from ten per cent of the assessed valuation to fifteen per cent.

The commissioners are especially anxious to have this amendment pass because when it was decided to rehabilitate the old water works system so as to be serviceable another three years it was also agreed that eventually the new system should be built and at that time it is very likely that it will be necessary to issue bonds beyond the ten per cent limitation.

If the voters fail to approve this amendment tomorrow, it will be necessary to have another charter amendment election at the time when the city is ready to start work on the new water works and this is considered a useless expenditure by the commission in view of the fact that a special election is being held here tomorrow. The cost of the election tomorrow will probably be well over a thousand dollars as the new state law provides that the same precincts in use at state elections are used, necessitating increasing the number from four, the number in use in previous city elections, to thirteen. The additional burden of an extra election will be saved the city if the voters tomorrow pass this measure.

The second measure on the ballot provides for increasing the maximum rate of interest to six per cent on city bonds. The amendment on the ballot

FOREST FIRES FEW THIS YEAR

ONLY FEW SMALL FIRES IN THE COUNTY THIS YEAR.

Fire Association Has Protection Work Well Organized—Warden on Job All the Time.

Although serious forest fires have been reported in many sections of the country and the fire season is at its height now, Union county has been left unscathed so far this year. Partly, this is due to vigilance of officials and partly because those living near the woods and campers are reacting toward the many warnings to use care that have been given.

L. H. Russell, county fire warden for the Union county fire association, which is composed of timber owners and whose purpose is to protect their holdings and to fight such fires as do start, is responsible in large measure for the protection given forests in the county.

Russell has been fire warden many years and there isn't a cow trail he doesn't know in Union county. Whenever a fire breaks out he knows just how to get to the place and this helps much in keeping small fires from spreading.

The only fire causing alarm so far this year occurred last week near Kamela on McKay creek. Russell and several men spent several days fighting it before it was put out. However, Russell is out every day and keeps an special lookout along the highway, where campers are liable to camp a fire. The fact that he is so vigilant is probably responsible for the lack of fires this year, as he has put out many a camp fire that would have spread if it had not been attended to.

The lookout maintained by the association on Mt. Eanon has been furnished with a pair of high power field glasses this year so that practically the entire county can be watched from there. Besides Russell and the lookout several other fire wardens are constantly employed by the association.

Another small fire was reported Saturday when James Woodell, of Summerville, reported a fire on his place. He has an eighty-acre timbered tract, on which is located an ideal camping site along a creek. For many years campers have been using this spot and early last week a party camped there for a night and left. Several days later Woodell saw smoke coming from the spot and investigated.

He found that a fire had been made against an old stump and after leaving the fire crept along the roots until it menaced much timber. A ditch was dug around the spot where the fire was burning and Woodell and his neighbors kept a watch night and day for three or four days until the fire had entirely burned itself out.

The following are the polling places for the thirteen precincts:
Precinct No. 1.—Frank Cleavinger's residence, 503 Third St.
Precinct No. 2.—City Hall.
Precinct No. 3.—W. D. Grandy's residence, Second street, near Viaduct.
Precinct No. 4.—Lane Chapel, 2802 North First St.
Precinct No. 5.—D. D. Berger's residence, Corner 9th and Washington.
Precinct No. 6.—Court House.
Precinct No. 7.—Presbyterian Church.
Precinct No. 8.—Methodist Church.
Precinct No. 9.—Lacey Graham's residence, 902 Washington Avenue.
Precinct No. 10.—Harry Hall.
Precinct No. 11.—A. M. Berger's Paint Shop, 1502 Y Avenue.

BOY SCOUTS ARE SAFE AND HAPPY

DEAN CROW'S DAMSITE, Aug. 8.—The Boy Scouts from La Grande, who arrived here under the supervision of Scoutmaster Pryke are tired and happy. They came as far as the Minam forest reserve entrance in machines early Saturday morning and then hiked across the mountains sixteen miles, arriving here tired and hungry.

The camp cook was expecting a lot of hungry boys and the "ham and atom" filled the forest air. Camps were made and the boys are comfortable in their nature's own resort. No buzzing of flies will keep them from sleeping, for no automobile has ever been in this part of the world.

FORMER UNION GIRL KILLED

KATHERINE MESSENGER DIES IN CALIFORNIA.

Machine Driven by Father Plunges Down 350 Foot Gorge—Father Is Uninjured by Fall.

UNION, Aug. 8.—Details were received here during the past few days of the death of eight-year-old Katherine Messenger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Messenger, of Burbank, California, formerly of this city. The fatal accident took place in California when a machine in which she and her father were driving up Mt. Wilson backed off the grade and fell 350 feet into the gorge below.

Mr. Messenger was thrown clear of the car but suffered from severe nerve shock and was given treatment in a hospital in Pasadena. According to Mr. Messenger's explanation of the accident, the engine died when he tried to shift the gear and, backing up, rolled over the grade before he could set the brakes.

The little girl was hurled to the bottom of the ravine and killed instantly. The mother of the child was prostrated with grief.

WOULD SLICE MELON.

Louisville & Nashville Wants to Pay Dividends to Stockholders.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—Louisville & Nashville railroad has asked authority of the Interstate Commerce Commission to issue \$55,000,000.00 capital stock to be distributed as stock dividends.

WATER CLAIMS FILED AT VALE

VALE, Aug. 8.—First steps towards the adjudication of the water rights of the Owyhee river were taken this week by State Water Superintendent Cochran, who opened the filing of claims at Vale Tuesday. Superintendent Cochran continued receiving claims at Ontario on Wednesday and at Jordan Valley on Friday.

Claimants have 30 days in which to file for rights, after which the State Water Board will take these claims under advisement and in the course of time adjudicate the rights of the waters. In all probability it will require close to two years before this is completed.

The Owyhee river is one of the longest in the northwest used for irrigating purposes. Its waters are taken out in three states, Nevada, Oregon and Idaho. The largest acreage open to irrigation is in Malheur county near Vale.

PLANNING FOR THE COUNTY FAIR

It is being planned for the county fair to be held at Vale, Oregon, on the 15th and 16th of September. The fair will be held on the grounds of the Hotel Vale. The committee in charge are: J. C. Johnson, chairman; W. E. Stone, secretary; and J. J. Carr, treasurer. The fair will feature a variety of exhibits, including agricultural products, handicrafts, and live stock. There will also be a series of lectures and a musical program. The fair is expected to be one of the largest and most successful in the county's history.

If Mexico can prove that she has an oil left, perhaps she can keep her sovereignty.—New York World.