

La Grande Evening Observer

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VOLUME XXIV

LA GRANDE, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1921

NUMBER 270

CONFESSES TO KILLING NINE PEOPLE

Detroit Barber Tells New York Policemen His Story

THROWS LIGHT ON MANY TRAGEDIES

May be the Cause of Ferretting Out Murder or Seventy Italians in Detroit the Past Four Years.

DETROIT, Aug. 17.—Advices from New York to officers here conveyed the information that Bartholomew Fontana, a former Detroit barber, has confessed complicity in nine murders in Detroit. This clears up a mystery surrounding five of the crimes and leads the authorities to believe further light will be shed on the killing of seventy local Italians in the past four years.

WOOL MEN ASK LOWER RATES

Rates Discriminatory For Interior Towns Opposed—Hearing in Spokane.

PENDLETON, Aug. 17.—Fortified with facts and figures showing the production of wool in Oregon and the transportation problems of wool growers in the state, Mac Hoke, secretary of the Oregon Wool Growers' association, accompanied by Mrs. Hoke and baby daughter left Tuesday evening for Spokane where he will appear tomorrow at a hearing before Commissioner Eddy who represents the interstate commerce commission.

The hearing is one of a series being held in the Northwest to decide whether the request of the railroads to have the present rates on wool lowered from the terminal at Portland to Boston shall be granted.

What the wool men are fighting for is either a flat rate from interior points to Boston, or else a rate equal to the rate from Portland. As rates are arranged at present, sacked wool can be shipped from Portland for \$1.66 per hundred weight, and from Mountain Home, Idaho the rate is \$3.33 1-3, or just one and one-third cents more than twice the terminal rate.

According to the testimony of J. W. Mount, an O. W. R. & N. official, said to have been given in a hearing at Boise, August 4, the railroad figures that it can make a profit in shipping from Portland at a rate of \$1.35 a hundred weight for baled wool. One thing that wool men are interested in is why the rate for interior shipping points should not be equally as low, or even lower. Instead of being much higher, depending on the distance from the terminal. In other words, what practice makes it possible for the railroads to charge twice as much for the shipping of Oregon wool to Portland, rather than to Boston directly by rail, as the normal movement would be, according to the contention of the wool growers.

REPATRIATING NATIVES.

APIA, Samoa, Aug. 17.—The New Zealand government is repatriating natives of the South Sea islands who were brought to Samoa by the Germans to work on the plantations. The American motor schooner Ajax has been chartered to convey them to their homes in the Solomon and other islands.

Highway Commission is Killed by the Senate

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17.—By a vote of 56 to 14 the senate struck from the good roads bill provisions for the creation of a commission to administer it and placed it under control of the secretary of agriculture.

Brumfield Says Russell Killed in Memory Lapse

FUNDING BILL REPORTED

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17.—A favorable report on the administration railroad funding bill was ordered by the senate interstate commerce committee today by a vote of seven to two.

Receivers Are Named by Court

McClure's Magazine Short of Funds and Cannot Pay Its Notes

NEW YORK, Aug. 17.—Receivers in equity have been appointed for McClure's Magazine, Inc., on complaint of Marcus B. Behrman, who claims \$12,956 due on notes. The complaint stated the liabilities exceed a quarter of a million dollars with assets in excess of this amount, but the company is short of funds.

STAGE DRIVER FINED FOR CARRYING BOOZE

PENDLETON, Aug. 17.—In a hearing before Judge Halley yesterday afternoon, Fanchio Stubbfield, owner of the Pilot Rock-Pendleton stage, was fined \$100 after he had been narrated by city officials on a charge of transporting liquor. The arrest was made Sunday evening when officers found a quantity of liquor in the car.

MOTHER SAVES LIVES OF BABES

Pendleton Woman Carries Fourteen Months' Old Child Through Flames

PENDLETON, Aug. 17.—In saving from death her three small children during a fire which destroyed the upper story of the J. R. MacMaster apartment house, 717 Thompson St. this morning, Mrs. Earl Purcell, pretty young mother, was badly burned on the back, shoulder, neck, head and arms. Her 14 months old baby Harold, whom she carried through the flames, suffered serious burns on the head, neck, arms and legs, while her two-year-old twins, Floyd and Lloyd were slightly burned on their heads and necks.

Mrs. Purcell, who with her husband and children occupied the rear apartment, was washing when she noticed smoke pouring in from the hall, the blaze evidently having started from a box of papers.

Mother Courageous

Snatching her baby in her arms, she called the twins and attempted to reach the stairs at the front of the building. The little boys, frightened by the flames and smoke, three times attempted to go back but the mother finally succeeded in fighting her way through the blaze, taking the children with her. With hair and clothes aflame, Mrs. Purcell reached the safety of the downstairs and she and the children were taken to the Charles Keen home.

The loss, says Chief William Ringold, is about \$1500 including furniture and building. He is of the opinion that one of the children in the house was probably playing with matches and threw one into the box of papers.

THE WEATHER.

PORTLAND, Aug. 17.—Tonight and Thursday probably showers with thunder storms in high mountains in the northern part of state.

Roseburg Dentist Tells the Sheriff He Is the Right Man

SUFFERING FROM FAULTY MEMORY

District Attorney Neuner Has Confidential Talk With Prisoner and Gives Out Statement.

PORTLAND, Aug. 17.—Brumfield arrived this morning in Portland and was taken by Sheriff Starmer to the county jail.

Brumfield now admits his identity, but claims that he remembers nothing since the Sunday before the alleged crime of killing Dennis Russell at Roseburg.

District Attorney George Neuner of Douglas county met the officers and prisoner here and conferred with Brumfield for some time.

When the district attorney talked to newspaper men this afternoon he gave out the following statement:

"Brumfield told me," so Attorney Neuner said, "that Russell was killed while Brumfield was suffering from a loss of memory between Sunday, July 10th, and the day of his arrest. He claims he has had only occasional flashes of recollection."

PORTLAND, Aug. 17.—Brumfield was questioned by District Attorney Neuner within view but out of hearing of newspaper reporters.

After the interview Neuner told the reporters "Brumfield says with exceptions of flashes in Portland, Seattle and Vancouver his mind was an absolute blank from Sunday, July 10th until he awoke yesterday morning and found himself shackled to Deputy Sheriff Webb. Brumfield recalls that on July tenth his boy spilled a lot of buckshot and Brumfield had trouble in picking it up. He then became ill and his mind was a blank. He has a hazy recollection of trouble at the boundary line between the United States and Canada at Blaine."

Does Not Refer to Crime.

Attorney Neuner says Brumfield made no reference to the crime with which he is charged. The attorney refuses to allow the prisoner to be interviewed or photographed. He allows nobody to see him. Neuner and Brumfield spoke of suffering a mental lapse during his college days similar to the lapse just experienced.

Pains in His Head.

Brumfield told Deputy Webb that he suffered from pains in the head while he was a student and to some extent since he had resided in Roseburg. When attacks came upon him, he said he would have to quit work for several days.

"It is very obvious his defense will be that he was suffering from a lapse of memory," Attorney Neuner told newspapermen.

Hoover Aid Sent To Riga to Meet Soviet's Agents



Walter Lyman Brown, of Los Angeles, European director for the American Relief Administration, will supervise the Russian famine relief which the Hoover organization has undertaken. Mr. Brown, who was ordered to Riga for the preliminary conference with the Russian emissaries, will direct the work from his London headquarters, 67 Eaton Square, just as he has child feeding operations in Central and Eastern Europe.

Mr. Brown is forty-four years old, a mining engineer and a graduate of the University of California. He engaged in mining work in this country, Alaska, and Africa and has been associated with Herbert Hoover in relief work since 1915, when he joined the staff of the Commission for relief in Belgium. In August, 1916, he was placed in charge of the Commission's office in Rotterdam, port of entry for Europe. Since August, 1919, he has been director for Europe of the American Relief Administration, whose New York headquarters are at 42 Broadway.

SPRING GRAIN IS DAMAGED

Hailstorm of Sunday Does Considerable Damage in Two Counties.

ELGIN, Aug. 17.—Spring grain as well as some winter wheat, still standing in the field, was considerably damaged by an electrical hail and wind storm which visited some sections of Union and Wallawa counties Sunday night.

Hail stones as large as English walnuts fell on Cricket flat and in the Minum districts, accompanied by considerable wind and rain. Fruit in many farm orchards was stripped from the trees and battered and bruised until virtually ruined.

Fortunately, most of the winter wheat had been harvested and was little injured. The hail did not reach the commercial orchards of the Elgin, Foster or Summerville sections. The section immediately surrounding Elgin entirely escaped the damage.

ABOUT THIS TIME O' YEAR



BRUMFIELD POSED AS A FARMER

D. M. Nichols of This City Spent Day With Him at Lake Louise

PASSION FOR BEING ALONE NOTICEABLE

Local Man Had Long Talks With Man Wanted for Murder Dennis Russell; Appears Highly Cultured

D. M. Nichols, an employe of the La Grande National bank, who has just returned from a vacation spent partly in Canada, picked up a newspaper last evening and when he read the story of Dr. E. M. Brumfield, wanted for the alleged murder of Dennis Russell, and came across the Roseburg dentist's alias, Norman M. Whitney, recalled some pleasant hours spent with a man of that name at Lake Louise on July 26 and 27. Upon seeing a picture of Dr. Brumfield in another paper, he identified the man he had met as Norman M. Whitney as the man captured in Alberta several days ago.

In July when Nichols saw Brumfield the latter had grown the mustache, the latest pictures show but the beard had not grown out. Otherwise he looked little different from his published pictures.

"On the afternoon of July 26, I first met the man who is now under arrest as Dr. Brumfield," Nichols said. "It was about four o'clock in the afternoon and we took a long walk and talked about many things."

Claimed to Be a Farmer.

"He represented himself as being a wealthy farmer of Evansville, Ind., and told me that he had three or four farms there and had them rented and was taking an extensive trip. His wife and two children he had not brought along, he said, because the former was not able to make the trip."

"The only thing about the man that could be construed as abnormal was his desire for being alone. But he seemed to feel lonely and this led to our acquaintance. We spent many hours in the hotel lobby and he always sought a secluded corner and we sat with our backs turned to the lobby. When he first came he wanted to stay but a day, but it seems as though the seclusion there was so much to his liking that he spent about a week at the hotel."

Man Of Culture.

"On the afternoon of the first day we took a long walk. My companion seemed to be a mighty fine chap in every way and his mental facul-

(Continued on Page Six)

Girl Sits on the Money and Yells

Holdup Men Try to Dislocate From Coin But Fail and Run

CHICAGO, Aug. 17.—Rose Yore, secretary of a dairy company, was stopped by robbers while carrying a thousand dollars to the bank today. She dropped the money on the sidewalk, sat down on it and began to scream. The robbers were unable to pull her off the money and they fled.

'LET 'ER BUCK' IDEA INVADES ELGIN TOWN

After putting the finishing touches on the Round-Up publicity campaign here, Arthur Radd, advertising man for the big show spent a day in Elgin, where he reports Round-Up spirit as "flourishing". A large number of Elgin folks are planning to motor to Pendleton when the Round-Up opens, September 22, via the Tolt Gate road, which is said to be in fairly good condition. Pendleton is planning to take care of an especially large number of visitors at their auto camp around this year, according to the publicity man.

While in this vicinity Radd has visited practically every Union county town and he says that Union will probably have as large a delegation at the Round-Up as any county, except Umatilla.

LOS ANGELES SCALES FOUND TO BE FAULTY

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Aug. 17.—More than 71,000 inspections and tests of scales, gasoline measuring pumps and other measuring devices were made in the last fiscal year, recites Charles M. Fuller, Los Angeles county scaler of weights in his annual report filed with the board of supervisors and 15,000 faulty or incorrect scales, weighing devices and measures were adjusted, condemned until adjusted, or destroyed.

The report also states that 9261 places of business were visited and that forty-nine storekeepers and peddlers were convicted for selling short weights and measures.

PAGEANT ON INDIAN LIFE

Rancher, Cobbler, Actress And Nobility Active In Production

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif., Aug. 17.—A pageant-play-opera, depicting the life of the early American Indian, and covering the three epochs of childhood, youth and old age, will be produced in an open-air theater here during the August moon, starting tonight and continuing until August 20, by the local art colony to raise funds with which to build an art gallery at which the products of the colony may be displayed.

When it was decided to produce a pageant as the means of raising the necessary funds, the sponsors of the plan called upon many varied occupations to contribute, with the result that the script was written by a San Diego county rancher and poet; the musical score composed by a town cobbler, a former soloist in Sousa's band, an actress of note, in both this country and Europe undertook the direction; a member of the British pageant volunteered to serve as stage manager, while a number of people who have achieved prominence in letters, art and music, were enlisted as actors.

Authorities of Indian lore, university professors, and students have entered into the spirit of the occasion, and sponsors of the event claim that a portrait of Indian life, accurate in every detail, will be presented.

ALASKA AND YUKON TO BE JOINED BY ROAD

DAWSON, Y. T., Aug. 17.—Plans for highway work in this section of the sub-Arctic call for the joining of Alaska and the Yukon Territory by a road, for the first time, and eventually, for a system of roads which will lead from Valdez, on the southwestern coast of Alaska, overland to Dawson. The road between Alaska and the Yukon will extend from Eagle, Alaska, across the international boundary, to Forty Mile, and then to Dawson. On the American side work will begin next year. Later the road will connect in Alaska with the Richardson highway which runs across the mountains from Valdez, to Fairbanks.

A nine-year-old girl recently fell off a station platform in front of an elevated train in Brooklyn. In falling, she missed the approaching train, dropped between the rim of the platform and the track, glanced off an electric feed wire, and landed on the street 35 feet below. She faced death three times and escaped with scratches.

D'VALERA IS POSITIVE OF NO YIELDING

Irish Leader Thinks Dahl Eireen Will Not Accept

PUBLIC MEETING IS ADJOURNED

Legislative Body of Ireland Will Consider Subject in Private Session Beginning Tomorrow.

DUBLIN, Aug. 17.—DeValera declares that Dahl Eireen will not accept the terms offered by the British government in extending the dominion status to Ireland.

DUBLIN, Aug. 17.—The public meeting of Dahl Eireen adjourned indefinitely this afternoon. A private session is to be held in the meantime, beginning tomorrow.

SWISS TO SEE WONDERS

Invitation Extended to Minister to View Wallowa Lake on Visit Here.

Marc Peter, Switzerland's minister to America, may compare the scenery of Union and Wallowa counties with that of his native country which is famed the world over as the scenic wonder of the world. The distinguished Swiss will be in Portland the latter part of this month and will visit some of the famed spots of Oregon in an effort to make comparisons with his native country. An invitation has been extended him by the Ad club of this city to visit both of these counties, and Charles Birchler, manager of the Swiss consulate at Portland, has been in communication with the local club to that end. No definite acceptance or rejection of the club's invitation will be made until the 24th when the minister will reach the Swiss consulate at Portland.

Several Swiss families live in and near La Grande and if the invitation is accepted the itinerary and entertainment will be taken up with several of these local native Swiss.

The tentative plan is to introduce Minister Peter to at least Wallowa Lake if time prevents him visiting Eagle Cap or visiting the famed Snake River brakes opposite the Seven Devils. The latter spot is said by travelers who have toured Switzerland to be of such a nature that the minister will have to admit its superior grandeur and magnitude.

HONOLULU HAS CURFEW LAW

For First Time Old Law Is Being Enforced—Provisions Strict

HONOLULU, T. H., Aug. 1.—Curfew is ringing in Honolulu these nights for the first time in history despite the fact that a curfew law has stood, unenforced, on the statute books for years.

Enforcement of the law, which forbids children under fifteen years of age from being in any public place without their parents or guardian between the hours of 8 p. m. and 6 a. m. resulted from a conference recently between judges of the juvenile court, the city attorney's office, police and probation officers. At the conference attention was called to the increase recently in the number of petty crimes in which children were involved. Much of this was laid to the fact that the children were on school vacation.

Parents or guardians who permit their children to violate the curfew ordinance are punishable by a fine of not to exceed \$100. Children who refuse to obey a policeman's order to go to their homes will spend the night in jail and be given a trial the next morning.