

La Grande Evening Observer

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SECTION ONE

NUMBER 74

HUGE THEFT OF MAIL IS UNCOVERED

Million and a Half in Bonds Stolen Last July Near New York

THREE BEING HELD ON ROBBERY CHARGE

Divorced Wife of Pugilist and Two Men Complicit Under Arrest; Bonds Altered and Passed.

(By Associated Press)
NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—A mail theft of a million and a half dollars in bonds last July became known today with the arrest of Mrs. Abe Attel, divorced wife of a former pugilist, Sam Gould and Harry Cohen, by postoffice inspectors and members of the police bomb squad. The bonds stolen were somewhere en route from the Federal Reserve bank of New York to the treasury at Washington. Some were cancelled by perforations and others stamped "paid," but the stamp was removed with chemicals and many of them were passed.

INDICATIONS ARE HOPEFUL

(By Associated Press)
LIVERPOOL, Dec. 31.—Stanley Baldwin, president of the board of trade, has just told the shipowners here that there were more indications of improvement than the returns in the industrial and financial outlook.

WORK ON ROAD HAS STARTED

The first work on the Island City-Hill road work contracted by the county was started yesterday. Ten men and eight teams started excavating from the gravel pit near Island City. In all likelihood this work will continue during the winter unless the weather is severe enough to force a lay-off.

A stock train of 55 cars made up from points east of Baker left that city Saturday for Portland and Seattle markets.

First Winter Camp of Boy Scouts a Success

Thursday evening, at eight o'clock, nine Boy Scouts and two officials arrived in town after experiencing one of the most pleasant trips ever taken. The novelty of this expedition lies in the fact that it was taken during the winter and it is the forerunner of several more of its kind in succeeding years.

Nine boys and two officials made the trip. The boys were Ed Fitzgerald, Francis Robinson, Clifford Brown, Orville Davis, Herman Miles, Golda Epling, Jack Coolidge, Wilson Thurston, and Claire McKennon. Scout Commissioner Edwin Pryke and Harvey Carter were those in charge.

The party left La Grande Tuesday morning at eight o'clock and walked up Fox Hill until they reached the timber line when they got on their skis and snowshoes and completed the rest of the journey to that point. Two miles from their destination the boys were met by a party of

City to Start New Year Without Any Uncalled Warrants

The city of La Grande will turn \$97,750.06. Then there was a turnover a new year tomorrow. For the first time there will be no uncalled warrants outstanding, a call having been made for payment. The next year began this week for all warrants up-to-date. The history of the city's finances shows that warrants were not called for payment. The development of the present year. On January 1, 1918, there was a slight increase in the amount of warrants the city has been unable to call, the total at that time being \$53,124.75. A year later the amount had decreased to \$45,433.10 and in 1920 it was down to \$39,464.04, and on the first of January, 1921, it was all in the amount of \$89,925.54 that could not be called for payment. A year later this had increased to meet.

COVE MAKES DEMAND FOR BETTER ROAD

Sends Petition to Forest Service Asking Construction of 10 Miles in Forest

Ten reasons why the national forest service should build approximately three miles extension to the road that runs from Cove to Bergreen sawmill, up the Mill creek canyon, toward the Minam river, will be laid before the proper officials of the forestry department by the citizens of Cove and vicinity, following a meeting called for that purpose at Cove yesterday. The meeting was largely attended, and after a general discussion of the needs a petition was drafted that sets out the essential reasons why the government should appropriate funds for that purpose.

Foremost is the need of fuel supplies. At the present time Cove obtains its fuel from the down timber of the National Forest but the supply reached by the present road has been exhausted. The whole community needs a new supply—one that would be tapped by the proposed road.

There are several thousand head of sheep and many cattle herds on the Little and Big Minam district, supplies to which are now packed in Stockmen would be big beneficiaries by the road.

Tourists, hunters and fishermen have always yearned for a road to Little Minam, in that ideal conditions there for summer camps have always existed. In spite of hazardous trails now existing, 300 people went in over the trail for excursion and business purposes last summer. Actual count showed 170 did in one week. If the road is opened up, one of the finest sportsman's paradises in the country will be tapped.

The Minam Lumber company could send supplies to its camps on the Minam direct from La Grande via Cove, backing in less than 10 miles as compared to 19, and reducing the total mileage of shipping by many miles.

There are vast government timber belts in that region now inaccessible and, as was the case a few years ago, when fire breaks out it is almost impossible to get fighters on the ground. This road would open up a safe and secure avenue of sending in fire prevention.

Vagrant Signals Are Still a Big Puzzle

(By Associated Press)
LONDON, Dec. 31.—Despite the most diligent research, experts are not yet able to say whence the mysterious "vagrant" signals come that every day, and particularly at night, are received on wireless aerials.

Prosperity Is Coming in 1922

Bankers Believe That Year Will See Business Pick Up

(By Associated Press)
NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Business prospects for 1922 are in general hopeful, according to a statement by prominent bankers made public today by the American Bankers' association. "The future of business and finance in the United States is encouraging," said Thomas R. McAdams, president of the association.

Two Dead And One Dying Found In Portland Home

Divorced Husband of Portland Woman Leaves Note Indicating He Killed Her and Man Friend.

(By Associated Press)
PORTLAND, Dec. 31.—The police today found the body of the divorced wife of Charles Wesley Purdin and the body of a man believed to be H. W. Sigbee, shot to death in Mrs. Purdin's home. They found Purdin on the kitchen floor with a gas tube in his mouth. Purdin was taken to a hospital and may survive. A note in the house indicated that Purdin had called to get his clothes and found another man there.

The note said, "They tried to kill me, so I done my best to protect myself and got wounded, but I think I was justified in doing what I did." The man thought to be Sigbee was found dead in the front room in his underwear. Mrs. Purdin was in her nightgown.

REFUSES INVITATION.

(By Associated Press)
PITTSBURGH, Dec. 30.—The Pittsburgh Coal Producers' association has declined to meet representatives of the United Mine Workers of America here January 6, to negotiate a new agreement, it was officially announced Thursday.

THE PRESENT WINTER BIDS FAIR TO SEE ALL DANCE RECORDS BROKEN

A man riding near Bigard was surprised by a freight train while crossing the track and barely had time to dismount and save himself. The horse was killed.

HARDING ASKS FOR NATIONAL FARM SESSION

Date of Conference Has Not Yet Been Definitely Set

PRESIDENT URGES SECRETARY TO ACT

Practical Means of Improving Farm Conditions Sought by President; Future to be Discussed.

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—President Harding, in a letter to Secretary Wallace of the department of agriculture, asked that the latter call a national conference at Washington "to suggest practical ways of improvements" for "severe agricultural depression which exists throughout the land." Prompt action was taken at the department of agriculture in response to the request, telegraphic invitations being dispatched immediately to a number of organizations and individuals whose attendance is desired at the meeting.

Secretary Wallace said Friday night that the date of the conference had not yet been fixed, nor a complete invitation list made up. It is expected, however, that the conference will be held within a month and that in addition to farmers and their organizations, industries associated directly and indirectly with agriculture will be called in to assist in the efforts to improve conditions.

"No one will pretend that the present conditions could have been avoided," President Harding said in his letter to the secretary, "but none of us is willing to agree that there ought not to be some correct and conservative steps taken to remedy the severe hardships under which so important a portion of our productive citizenship is struggling. I am convinced that a conference may be made a very helpful agency in suggesting practical ways of improvement, principally if brought in co-operation with the helpful investigation which has been begun by a congressional commission constituted to a related work."

The president further suggested that the conference might divide its work into two sections, one "for consideration of our present day difficulties, which, though temporary, are serious and need effective action," while the second would deal here January 6, to negotiate a new agreement, it was officially announced Thursday.

BOY SCOUT PLAY IS ON NEXT MONDAY

Final Rehearsals Being Held Today; Many Between the Acts Numbers.

Everything is ready for the presentation of the "Upper Trail," to be presented by the Boy Scouts of La Grande Monday evening. Final rehearsals are being held today and Scout Commissioner Pryke is optimistic of the success of the production. The reserved seat sale has been good, although there are a few good seats left. The play will be presented in the high school auditorium on Monday evening, January 2. The financial success of the play is already assured.

Preparations have been made for an entertainment between acts and the people of La Grande can be assured that time will not drag heavily during intermissions. Those listed on the extra numbers are Russell Nelson, a piano selection, the Ad Club, Francis Robinson in several numbers; Francis Robinson will give some of his well known clarinet selections; the Boys' Sextette will furnish two numbers, and M. Hooper, Russell Nelson and James Coker will give the audience several thrills with some classy tumbling stunts. Miss Florence Lynch and Russell Nelson will furnish a piano and violin duet, and in addition to the above, during the third act the cast will furnish several songs and solos.

The following is a synopsis of the drama. It is a dramatization of the work carried on by the boys' division of the Y. M. C. A. and portrays how a gang leader with his gang seem to rebel against every effort put forth for their development and growth. They make the lives of all those with whom they come in contact almost unbearable, but in the progress of events through the various activities of the Y. M. C. A. the leader and his gang catch a vision of the broader aspects of life and decide to follow the Upper Trail. In addition to the above plot the play portrays the workings of the Boy Scout organization and illustrates practically every phase of the movement. It promises to be a production the play-loving public cannot afford to miss.

Mrs. Annie Allen Passed On This Morning At Home

Mrs. Annie Allen, wife of E. L. Allen, passed on at her home this morning, following an extended illness. She is survived by her husband, three children, Russell Collier, Mrs. H. K. Hickey and Marie Collier, and two brothers, Harry P. Weishaar and George Weishaar, both of St. Louis, Mo.

Triplets Are Born to La Grande Woman at Home Today; All Big

J. St. W. Johnson, an O. W. R. N. employee living at 296 North Spruce street, has a wife this morning three times as broad as that of the average newly-made father.

Snodgrass and Zimmermann

Funeral Service Parlor, Licensed Embalmer, Ambulance Service. Day Phone Main 62, Night Phone Main 743. 1505 Fourth St. La Grande, Oregon.

Rail Directors May Hold Jobs

Interlocking Directorates Favored in Decision

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—All persons holding two or more places as officers and directors of interstate railroads were given legal permission by the interstate commerce commission today to hold their various positions indefinitely. Under the transportation act the commission was given authority to determine whether interlocking directorates should be maintained.

Indian Revolution Is Looming As New Year Development

United States of India Is Plan of Mohan League; Guerrilla Warfare Is to Begin.

(By Associated Press)
AHMEDABAD, British India, Dec. 31.—A plan for an Indian republic to be called the United States of India, is to be declared January 1, and to be attained by guerrilla warfare if necessary, was featured in the address of President Hazrat Mohan of the All India Muslim League, opening the annual session of the league here today.

REALTORS FAVOR BETTER ETHICS

An important meeting of the Union county realty board was held Friday noon at the Foley hotel, several matters being discussed. The main item for discussion was the fact that several real estate men in La Grande have not been complying with the regulations of the state governing their transactions. This matter was thoroughly discussed by the board and steps will be taken to advise the real estate commission of the true state of affairs.

The purpose of the Union county realty board is to protect the general public from fraud or misrepresentation in real estate transfers, to reduce the cost of handling these transactions, and to make the real estate business in their precincts absolutely clean and above board. They are endeavoring to educate the general public in handling these matters and are themselves an intermediary through which the public and the real estate companies of Oregon whereby any complaints of fraud or misrepresentation may be handled intelligently and correctly with all fairness.

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BANKER PARODIES

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 31.—President Harding yesterday parodied J. Pierpont Morgan, banker of New York, in the signature of the executive order effective January 1.

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DURING WAR LAW WILL BE USED ON SUBS

France Willing to Leave Merchantmen Alone During Wars

FIVE POWERS TO SIGN A TREATY

Definite End of Naval Limitation Part of Conference in Sight for First Time Today.

(By Associated Press)
PARIS, Dec. 31.—The French delegation at Washington, according to official quarters here, has already given assent to the application of international law to the operation of submarines which the French say satisfies the British demand that submarines in war time be prohibited from torpedoing merchantmen.

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The end of the naval limitation work of the arms conference is definitely in sight today as the naval experts turned to the task of working out detailed agreements.

A five-power treaty embodying all points upon which agreement has been reached is being drafted and it will include the capital ship agreement, an agreement on airplane carriers, displacement limitation for auxiliary craft and resolutions finally accepted regarding submarines.

SPINSTERHOOD IS ADVERTISED

(By Associated Press)
PARIS, Dec. 31.—St. Catherine's Day is the day when all young French girls who have attained the age of 21 without finding a husband, put on the bonnet of spinsterhood, although this does not necessarily mean that they forego with abandon all hope of finding a suitable mate.

The girls who work in the dressmaking establishments high holiday on that day, a cut in among them who had been "Catherine" were far made by their comrades.

Band has a community half block of vacant lots of the city lying by that purpose.

ant and Bakery

OTHER

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