

SILVER THAW HITS UNION

Streets Were Glazed With Ice; Heavy Winds Struck City; Three Telegraph Wires Broken.

(Special to The Observer)
UNION, Dec. 28.—Miss Helga Neilson, who taught in the Union high school last year, is coming back from California, where she has been attending college, and will take charge of some of the classes again this semester. The school board last spring decided to get along with a smaller number of high school teachers, but they are finding a too crowded condition in many of the classes, so decided to relieve this condition next year.

Mr. Perry is here from Portland for the holidays. He is visiting at the P. H. Crocker home.
Last Saturday our streets were a glare of ice and travel was difficult. Heavy winds added to the trouble. The party started to La Grande and turned back after reaching Hot Lake. It was almost impossible to keep cars in the road.

Owing to a broken wire near the station, Union was in darkness for about an hour Saturday evening.

Alumni Defeat High School.

Last Thursday evening the high school basketball quintet went down to defeat before the first team they opposed this season. It was the game with the Alumni, and the latter segregation was considerably strengthened by the addition of two college boys, Golden Peterson and Scott Callahan, who are home from the O. A. C. on their Christmas vacation. Geertson showed up especially fast, being easily the fastest man on the floor. The game about the last ten minutes of play the outcome was in doubt, as the two teams were scoring almost evenly, with the Alumni a little to the good most of the time. During these last ten minutes the ball was in near their basket most of the time and several field goals were made and when the time-keeper's whistle blew, the final score was 22-14 in favor of the Alumni. The U-H team showed up well and with a little more team work practice they ought to be creditable playing during the season.

R. H. Rohrig who recently went to Hot Lake for treatment, is home for the holidays somewhat improved. He will either return to the lake or receive medical attention at his home here in Union. Mr. Rohrig is about 30 years old and is well known in this end of the valley.

W. Halsey is again able to be out and resume his work.

Geraldine Hibbert is reported as seriously ill at her home in North Union.

Our schools closed down last Friday for the holidays and will remain closed till January 2. Many of the teachers are spending their vacation in other places. Miss Edna Watkins went to Alice Monday to spend the week with her parents; Miss Freda Thompson left Saturday for her home in Prairie City; Miss Eugenia Sanderson went to Portland; Miss Tyler is visiting with her parents in Salem.

John Hough and his daughter, Blanche, both of whom are teaching, went to Portland. Mrs. Kirtles will remain here and her son came up from Portland to visit with her during the vacation. Miss Davis went to Burbank, Wash., to visit with her sister, Mrs. S. E. Mustal, who is principal of a high school at that city. The other teachers will be Christmas at their homes here in Union.

Christmas services were held in the different churches Sunday evening. Programs were held and the usual treats were given to the children.

Co-Operative Fruit Growers.

Preliminary steps looking toward a co-operative fruitgrowers' association were taken at a meeting at the Union Hotel last Monday at which H. D. Monahan, representing the Walla Walla association, and H. E. Gleason of the Milton organization were present. A representative number of local growers were present and 21 signed up for an organization. Another meeting will be held about the middle of January to complete the organization.

Mrs. Vera Fox, who was operated upon about two weeks ago at Hot

Lake, is steadily improving and will soon be home again.
Dale Seibird, who hails from Portland, is here visiting for a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Seibird. He returns to Portland this week.

Mrs. Anna Noble is here from her home in San Francisco to spend the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Al Emmens.

Francis Larkin who is home from college for the Christmas vacation, is temporarily installed as clerk in Clint's Clothing in La Grande.

The local W. O. W. lodge here entertained their sister lodge, Union Circle No. 209 at a dance at the K. P. hall last Monday evening. More than 50 couples were present and thoroughly enjoyed the dance and supper which was served at 10 o'clock.

At their regular meeting last Wednesday evening the following officers were elected and appointed: Edith Johnson, W. M.; J. H. Jones, W. P.; Royal Hutchinson, A. M.; Anna Maxwell, secretary; Hazel Green, treasurer; Gracie Halsey, Com.; Nellie Little, A. C.; Margaret Smith, chaplain; Louisa Barwell, mar.; Edith Ely, organist; Pearl McKay, ad.; Mable Gale, Ruth Patience, Paddock Kather, Francis Terrell Martha, Grace Martens, Electa; Vera Fox, Warden.

A. W. Middleton who has been here for a couple of weeks appraising the property of the Central L. L. and the Catherine Creek Lumber company has completed his work and left for the east.

Another radio outfit has been installed at the Union Hotel and is giving good service, though it is not yet working as well as it should.

Lightning Kills Few.

The fear of lightning is almost universal, but the number of deaths caused by it is small. Dwellers in cities are even safer than those in the country, since statistics have shown that on the average four-fifths of the deaths from lightning occur in rural localities. The innumerable electric wires, the many grounded water pipes and the metal roofs of cities are undoubtedly the chief elements of their safety in this respect.

Ascertaining Depth of Sea.

The depth of the sea can be ascertained by means of a device which measures the interval of a sound signal and the receipt of the echo off the bottom of the water.

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New modern five-room house, full basement, fireplace, hardwood floors, very conveniently arranged, on paved street, new lawn with good stand. This is a splendid well built home in a desirable location in western portion of the city.

Rooming house, 12 rooms, furnished, on paved street, steam heating plant, close in. A splendid income property. This is a property that should appeal to some family when the husband has a good position and where the wife can make from \$120 to \$150 per month, besides giving the family a comfortable close-in home.

Modern four-room furnished home for rent. Price, \$30.00.

Modern 6-room house, full basement with wash trays, heating plant, lawn, shade trees. This is a well built house in good location on N. avenue. Price \$1500.

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Real Estate Insurance

LADD CANYON SOCIAL NEWS

(Special to The Observer)
LADD CANYON, Dec. 28.—After the storm, the good weather is a welcome visitor.

Raymond Council, Jess Ward, Robert Austin and Jim Kelly entered Ladd Canyon and emerged with an evergreen tree as one could wish to see. They put it up in the school house and proved themselves equal to the occasion in assisting their teacher in every way possible to make the work pleasant. The tree is a wonder in size and will be headed with goods for all present.

Mrs. Duld spent her vacation with her parents at Roseburg, Ore. After a week's vacation she will again resume her duties.

Mrs. William McCauley entertained her committee for the next club party to be given in three weeks. Last Tuesday after the business meeting, Mrs. McCauley served dainty refreshments. This committee consists of the following ladies: Mesdames McCauley, Banton, Peehler, Miller and Miss Edna Manton.

Miss Zela Lofland and her friend, Mr. Loren Tucker, spent Sunday at the C. W. Lofland ranch.

The first of a series of club parties was given Friday night, December 15, in Peehler's hall. This was given in the form of a Christmas party, the hall being decorated with Christmas trimmings and two beautiful trees. On one tree were the numbers of the ladies for supper and on the other

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Bargains In Homes

A new five-room dandy home and two lots near the railroad shops, city water, electric lights, bath and toilet, garage, nice lawn, etc. \$2,000, \$500 cash, \$25 per month payments.

Five-room home on Oak St., near Adams Ave. All furnished, for \$2,500, \$500 cash, \$25 monthly payments.

A dandy home on First St., one-half block from Adams Ave. Five rooms, built-in kitchen, bath, toilet, electric lights, city water, etc. \$2600, \$400 cash.

Five room modern home in the 1500 block on Y avenue. Two lots, bath, toilet, electric lights, city water and garage. Macadamized street. Price, \$2000, \$500 cash.

A five-room modern home, with large corner lot on 12th street, one block from paved street. \$2500, \$500 cash. Will take a good car as part payment.

Small tracts, city lots, farms, etc., for sale and trade.

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the number for the gentlemen. The numbers were written on cards, each tied with ribbons to a stick of candy, giving them the appearance of the Christmas trees indeed.

The hostesses appeared arrayed in white costumes, wearing the beautiful flower. The first thing in order was a guessing contest. A large pumpkin was placed on a table and every lady guessed the number of seeds it contained. The guesses ranged from 50 to 9999. Mrs. Beale was awarded the first prize and Miss Edna Banton the second. Tables were arranged for cards.

About 10:20 refreshments were served in a dainty way—this was enjoyed by all present, after much fun and well-filled stomachs. With Jack Walker and Frank Conness as violinists, and Mrs. Hopple at the piano, the remainder of the evening was spent in the old as well as the new time dances. That the party was a success and enjoyed by all is easy to say. Mrs. Elliot who chairman and was ably assisted by Mesdames Grandy, Peehler, McClure and Wilson. A vote of thanks is extended to the hostesses for their fine entertainment.

Mr. and Mrs. Spencer of Hornsblom, Ore., on their way home from Boise, Idaho, spent last week at the home of Mr. George Tilton. After coming this far in their car they were compelled to store the car and go

on home on the train, as the road across the mountain is impassable.

Mr. and Mrs. Neil McClure visited last week-end with Mr. McClure's parents. They were over-night visitors at the H. E. Peehler's home while here. Mr. McClure returned to Pendleton Monday. Mrs. McClure remained until Tuesday on account of the storm.

First to Issue Postage Stamps.

The Swiss cantons were the first European countries or official sections of Great Britain in issuing stamps, Zurich and Geneva sharing this distinction with Brazil in issuing their first postage stamp in 1843. That was two years after Great Britain had issued her famous Mulready envelope stamp and the now popular one penny black adhesive. Basle followed the other cantons in 1845.

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