

La Grande Evening Observer

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IRVING DENNIS, Editor.

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GOES PEOPLE.—My people shall dwell in a pleasant habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.—Isaiah 32:18.

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CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER.

The Hardest Test

Walter M. Pierce of La Grande, who is now governor of the state, may play some politics; it has been said that he sometimes does. He may do a lot of talking, make numerous speeches about this and that. He may scrap with legislators, turn down the Northwest Tourist association and urge economy all along the line, but the hardest battle Walter has had in his new office was the case of Husted A. Walters, who was hanged yesterday in an official manner at the state penitentiary.

We make this statement because we know Walter. Regardless of his spontaneous nature which asserts itself in words, down deep under his waistcoat he has a tender heart, and we think that old heart was badly torn when he was weighing the evidence to decide whether with one word from him the life of the murderer might be saved. After all, it was a heavy responsibility—one that most of us fail to understand. As a governor, Pierce's power was positive. He could stretch the man's neck and send him into that great unknown as payment to society for the crime he committed, or he could have made him a prisoner for life for the crime. Just think it over, reader of the Evening Observer; yes, in your calm moments, think it over. Guilty, of course the man was guilty, but there comes the old question of whether an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth is good practice.

It took courage to hang Husted Walters, for the governor, in fact, says the word that does the hanging. Whether it is commendable courage we will leave that decision to the individual, but nevertheless knowing Walter Pierce as we do, we believe that he experienced the hardest problem of his administration when he passed on the case and sent Walters to the gallows yesterday.

The mystery of radio never ceases to be interesting. With the Dr. O. M. Heacock receiving set last evening we heard a concert in Winnipeg, Canada; a rangers dance in Fort Worth, Texas; a Spanish song by a Cuban girl in Havana, Cuba, besides hearing the regulars, including the Portland Oregonian, Kansas City Star, Salt Lake's Deseret News, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles Examiner in presentation of the opera Quo Vadis, and a very fine concert from Calgary and one from Aberdeen. Charles Ray, the movie actor, gave a short talk over the radio from Los Angeles, and the pipe organ in Hale Bros. department store in San Francisco furnished a fine concert. And all of this heard in a La Grande home. Is it not remarkable?

Kubli, Booze and Movies

Because K. K. Kubli, speaker of the house of representatives, smarts under defeat of the Northwest Tourist Bureau's large appropriation of which he had been a beneficiary in a business way, and because with his usual lack of thoroughness in obtaining correct information, as well as attending to legislative matters, he mistook commendatory articles in this newspaper on the lack of booze at the last session for charges that booze flowed freely, he turned loose a vitriolic tongue against the editor of the Evening Observer at a reaty board luncheon in Portland yesterday.

He charged that the "most conspicuous efforts of Bruce Dennis at legislation consisted in an attempt to hold up the movie theatre business."

Some of the best attorneys in Oregon along with the attorney general joined in framing a bill to tax the producers of movie films shown in Oregon. It was a just measure and would have brought large sums into the state treasury from the overpaid movie producers, not the exhibitors, had the bill passed. This would have helped reduce taxes. But we found Kubli running true to form and opposing this constructive measure, which was backed by Governor Pierce, just as we found him opposing many other measures that meant reduction of taxes and better government. Had the last legislature not suffered the handicap of Kubli as speaker of the house, together with so many of his weak committee heads, Oregon voters would have had a much better chance to obtain tax relief which was so sincerely promised in the last campaign.

General condemnation, and some day probably the abolishment of Oregon's legislature, will largely be caused by the Kubli type of politicians elbowing their way into state prominence and failing to legislate for the general good of the people.

NOTE: A copy of the above editorial was wired the Portland Journal in reply to the Kubli article carried in Friday's issue of that newspaper.

Welcome, Service Men

La Grande is yours today, oh, men of the army and navy. La Grande people have not entered the pacifist zone to such extent that they do not thoroughly and deeply appreciate your great work, your sacrifices, your loyalty to flag and country.

You are gathered in district convention for the purpose of binding closer in the ties of war service, and it is commendable in you that you should put before the people the spectacle of fighting men in peace time. Without you this country would be without her strong arm; without you this nation would be a prey for every other nation on the face of the earth.

Never eliminate the soldier. It can't be done, and the nation that tries is inviting quick decay and subserviency to some power that retains her red blood in fighting form.

While you are here, boys, put on the loud pedal; do as you like, for what you do will be right. La Grande not only says the latch-string is out to you, but she goes further and says the lock has been taken from the door and all keys have been thrown away. The city is yours.

His Thought Was for Others

Harry Hamilton, assistant manager of the Imperial Hotel at Portland, has passed on. And in that passing we all take a deep breath, recount the many virtues of this fine man, and solemnly and profoundly say: "Goodbye, Harry, you have greeted us your last time, you have smoothed out local troubles, have cashed our checks, have reserved us rooms, have given us that service with a smile for years, and throughout that time no Imperial guest has ever witnessed you in bad humor. Your smile was as regular as the call to lunch, your patience was inexhaustible, your sterling worth to the traveling public has ever been pronounced, and your reward today is the saddened hearts of thousands who read in the newspapers of your untimely death."

Harry Hamilton was a prince of a man. His life was given to making others comfortable; his pleasure was the pleasure of his guests; his mind was ever attuned in sympathy with the traveler. If at his hotel on a sad mission Harry Hamilton mingled his sadness with yours, and did it in sincerity. If there on a pleasure trip his spirits reflected buoyancy and hope, his attitude was for frolic and fun. Hardly a man of our acquaintance so blended his nature and his thoughts to harmonize with those of his associates as did Harry Hamilton, who was always a gentleman, no matter what circumstances arose.

And as fleeting time registers the number of years we have known Harry we join with his large circle of friends in the thought, "You have lived a good life, in your chosen sphere you were a peer; appreciation has been your reward, so goodbye, Harry, goodbye."

Men are to have cape-coats, according to the clothes designers. Skirts for men will be next, we suppose.

Editorials From Over the Nation

TABLE MANNERS.
Omaha World-Herald: Riches are lovely legacies to leave a youngster, and education is still more important, although the two are fairly likely to go together nowadays. As a part of education, however, there is a branch that should be taught in the home, and to the utmost-table manners.

When a grown man handles his fork in the manner of a No. 3 spade and his knife as if afraid that somebody were planning to take it away from him; when he gurgles his water with a grisly death rattle and pokes two-thirds of his fork into his collar and his Adam's apple; when he smacks his chow as if to punctuate the animal pleasure he is taking in it—then it requires indeed much riches and an abnormal quota of other education to offset the handicap.

While it isn't necessary for the modern human to perform at the table as if he had been trained at the Ritz by a French governess, the ordinary smooth and noiseless system of consuming provender is a considerable asset when thrown among the general run of ladies and gentlemen.

The first few years that a youngster spends at his home board while in sole control of his dining tools are very important, as he will learn later, and gentle hints by thoughtful parents may well collect large amounts of interest in decades to come.

Table manners sound like a small item—but isn't.

THE OFFICE CAT

SOME CHICKEN
She was a country chicken.
He was a village youth.
He thought her "easy pickin'."
And so she was, forsooth!

And after he had picked her,
He hung her on a hook—
Where everyone might see her,
Who cared to take a look.

She was a country chicken,
Quite undressed, we'll admit—
Her bones weren't easy pickin'—
By a great big little bit!

Did you ever stop to figure out
Just how terrible it would be to live
In a city where natural gas was
Among "those absent" (from the list
Of modern conveniences)?

One La Grande man lost his back
on memory culture, and when he went
to advertise for it, he couldn't think
of the name of it.

It is rather a shock to be confronted
suddenly with the fact that
the laws demand obedience from you
as well as from any one else.

When the husband nicks if he needs
a shave, he isn't after information.
He's after an alibi.

THE GENUINE ARTICLE
"Death," exclaimed the Old Toney
in scorn. "Why, you fellows don't
know what a dry spell is. On the
stream in Idaho where I settled in
1885, we had to haul water to keep
the ferry running."

The boys down on the farm
include those who control Wall Street.

If everybody were optimists and
lucks up their convictions with well
directed hard work the best for
equal division of wealth would soon
die out.

Amos Tash would like to know
why it is when a girl is single every
one wonders why, and when she is
married every one wonders why.

IF WE CAN SMILE

Life is a laugh, life is a enter,
Life is much sorrow and often despair.
But there is pleasure, music
and light; there is a morning after
each night. Life is a mixture of joy
and pain, plenty of sorrows, plenty
of rain. But this same mixture
makes us worth while, if through
the shadows we can still smile.

"A resident has reported a window
broken by a baseball, so spring is
here, robin or no robin," rejoices a
La Grande man.

AN ENTERPRISING FIRM
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Combining Business and Pleasure.
We don't our dimmest.
Angels could do no more.
And then quit.

Anyone desiring to quit anything
should consult us. Our experience
is valuable.

The villains of La Grande were
treated to a strange sight recently
when a man astride a lion, with a
wildcat under each arm and using a
cattle-whisk as a quill, stepped in
front of a drug store, blatched the
lion to the post and entering the
drug store demanded a soft drink in
loud voice. The clerk asked him
what he considered a soft drink, with
a smile a shot of cocaine held with
Blue Vial as a chaser." Was the
reply, "Those guys at Union are
gettin' so tough that a wearable
like me has to get out."

The clerk fainted.



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Poets' Corner

LA GRANDE
(By Jesse Payton Holt of La Grande)

La Grande—city beautiful, thriving,
in sunny valleys, Grande Ronde—
Where time people all are striving
to gain the wealth from fertile
ground.

Banana fruit, rich, luscious fruits
proceeding,
Almonds, grapes, wheat, abundant,
All kinds of things best inducing
Tone, health from tree, from vine
and bush.

Beautiful hills with fields and lawn
Elegant houses making homes
fair,
Glistening dew drops in morning
dawn.

Loaves, sandwiches everywhere,
Hot, in the streets, in the grounds,
In the street, in the grounds, in the
fair city, none the party stand?
The highway took the street, and
"how?"

There are hills, there is heart and soul
—All that it truly must be so,
In peace, in quietude, in
Assurance, hope, in falling snow.

It's people all to fair, to content,
That are the tender in sleep,
A every one has its intent
To make the narrow, grave and
deep.

Let us all unite with purpose firm
To make our city clean, within
its boundaries, be results, stern,
To push our drive begin.

BROTHERS DAY IS A BIG EVENT

Blue Mountain Grange Is to Have Fun and Frolic and Two Roast Pigs.

Next Saturday at noon the Brothers Day Banquet will be held at the Blue Mountain Grange and it is to be a day of fun for everyone who is fortunate to be a member or have an invitation to attend.

Nothing serious is to be permitted that day and members will not be bothered with speeches from men who want to save the country, better will they listen to any business proposition.

"We are going to have a good time and a roast pig," said a member of the grange today. "We know we are going to have plenty of pig for two very fine roasts have been set aside for the occasion and at the proper hour McPherson's livery will have the oven good and hot in those two pigs will go there to remain until the gravy runs down their backs and the sweet potatoes hold their shape in the good old days."

Those invited should remember that the good music promptly at 12 o'clock next Saturday. Don't attend unless you have a smile and a funny story for that is the factors in the day.

RAGS Wanted at The Observer.

GUILD TO MEET SUNDAY NIGHT

Plans to Secure a Rector for the St. Peter's Church Will Be Discussed at the Meeting.

The St. Peter's Guild of the Episcopal church will meet Sunday evening at 7:30 o'clock at 7:20 o'clock. At this time plans will be discussed for the establishment of the new Arch Deacon who is to locate in La Grande and a general discussion of church affairs will also take place.

"The Misses Jean Young," states J. D. Shuler, Rector of the church, "for us to get together and co-operate in a way that we have never done before. When Bishop Irvington was here a week ago he suggested that it is possible for us to secure a worthy Rector for St. Peter's Church. In order that the vestry may have the wisdom of every communicant and friend of the church a general meeting has been called for the purpose of coming to a common understanding of the matter. The matter will be threshed out tomorrow evening at 8 o'clock and we will be very appreciative if you and your family will attend unless you have a smile and a funny story for that is the factors in the day." Mr. Shuler also announced that the Guild has consented to provide refreshment for the evening.

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STRIKE IN PROGRESS
OWA, Mar. 9.—The employees of the East Oregon Lumber Co. went on strike March 8 and for an increase of wages. Officials of the company and a committee representing the work-organization have not come to the strike is still on.