

La Grande Evening Observer

INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER Published daily and weekly at La Grande, Oregon, by La Grande Evening Observer Publishing Company. BRUCE DENNIS, Editor. Entered at postoffice at La Grande, Ore., as Second Class Mail Matter. On sale in other cities—Oregon Hotel News Stand, Portland; Imperial News Stand, Portland; Multnomah News Stand, Portland. Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1416 Adams, La Grande, Oregon. SUBSCRIPTION RATES By Carrier 12 months \$7.00 3 months \$2.25 6 months \$4.50 Single copy 10c

THE OLD HOME TOWN By Stanley



WOMEN'S CLUB HAS MEETING

Elgin Improvement Organization Starts Year with Social Session.

ELGIN. (Special) — Mrs. J. A. Masterson has returned from the Hot Lake sanatorium, where she has been spending several days with Mr. Masterson. Although it will be some time before he will be able to leave the hospital, his condition is somewhat improved since he entered the sanatorium. The Women's Improvement club held its first social meeting of the year at the home of Mrs. J. T. Bator on Thursday afternoon. After a short business session, at which the president, Mrs. Floyd Galloway, presided, a program made up of delightful numbers filled the afternoon. Several familiar songs were sung by the entire club. Mrs. Bator gave two readings, which were well received. The Misses Rachel Woods, Charlotte Brocius and Jean Denham contributed piano solos which were much enjoyed. One of the features of the afternoon was the presentation of a brief comedy by Mrs. Bator, as the cook, Mrs. Martin Allen, as the caller, Mrs. Galloway, as hostess and Mrs. Henry Hug as host. The little play drew forth much applause. A vocal solo, by Mrs. Lynn Hill closed the program, after which coffee and cakes were served by the refreshment committee.

January This is the eloquent manner an eastern writer describes January:

Janus, the ancient deity, for whom this month was named, is usually pictured as having two faces, and this fact is not without its signification. Extremely cold days vie with those of milder temperature now, yet withal, the ice and snow and biting winds are not at all backward in asserting their authority.

Winter is no longer an unfamiliar visitor, but an accepted guest whose stay of some weeks' duration is taken as a matter of course. Too bad that the aristocratic sleigh, the plebeian bob-sled and especially the merry jingle bells are but a memory. But the boy with the coaster is still with us and to watch him take a hill "belly-buster" fashion is good for the eyes and better for the heart. Moreover, the skaters are holding carnivals, so heigh-ho for the river and the lake, the frolic and the fun and the clever capers cut by steel-shod boots!

January skies at night time are ripe for the enjoyment of astronomy with the naked eye. Go out of doors at 9 o'clock on a clear evening and the heavens will reward you lavishly. Almost directly overhead Capella shines with a steady white brilliance. Toward the southwest Taurus, the Bull, with his two celebrated clusters, the Hyades and the Pleiads coruscates. Of all the star groups none is more famous than the Pleiades, seven in number, which, according to an Indian legend, are as so many lovely children who once danced themselves into the sky and never came back. Orion, the "Gocconda of the heavens," is resplendent in his glory, and the starry river called Eridanus, may be glimpsed west of Rigel, which glitters like a gem on the giant's left foot. And these are but a few of the diadems that stud the heavens on a January night.

The woods are drear and stark for the most part and bear the marks of battle. Nature has put on the weeds of widowhood and every green thing save the fir, the balsam and other trees not deciduous is at a premium. The cottontails are joyous and much in evidence in the field along the roadways. Coveys of quail, while not abundant, are flushed occasionally by the chance pedestrian only to disappear in a flutter and fluff of brown and a whir of muffled music. Here and there a Junco, or snowbird, is cheerily hopping about. A lonely and somber crow flaps overhead, cawing as he goes—a raucous note, and in keeping with the wintriness of the January landscape.

Still The Land Of Refuge

For three centuries a ceaseless migration has knocked at our eastern portals, a migration of men, and women, and children, a migration that has put behind oppression and misery and hopelessness, and turns its face with eyes alight to visions of hard work rewarded by independence, self respect, and opportunity. But never has come to Ellis Island a human cargo more appealing to pity than that which mingled despair and hope now bring racing to our shores. In large measure the immigration of today is an immigration that is spurred less by bright dreams than driven by bleak reality. A craving for the most elemental necessities is the dominating influence in countless northern European lives today, and lucky indeed is the family that has the means to find escape.

The future of the newcomer as a citizen must be powerfully affected by the dominating impulse that brings him here. Entirely different futures may be predicted for the new arrival who comes for the sake of greater freedom of thought and conscience and for him who comes to escape starvation. Likewise, the immigrant who flees political oppression may become a citizen essentially different in outlook from the naturalized alien who comes here from economic choice as distinguished from economic necessity. Unfortunately, the question as to what kind of citizens the newcomers of 1924 will make is overshadowed for the present by heart-burnings as to how many of them will make citizens at all. Consideration of this aspect of immigration is, however, not so much impelled by the composition or characteristics of the new arrivals as by the failure of many hundreds of thousands now in this country to avail themselves of naturalization. A hopeful view lies in the fact that the present press of immigration is most powerful from those lands that have produced the most easily assimilable contributions to the making of an American people.

When he makes a particularly good shot at golf, John D. is said to give dimes to those who may be looking on. The recklessness of age.

If both sides in Mexico are not winning victories both have propaganda bureaus completely organized.

Congress has reconvened after the holiday recess, but what will it do further deponent saith not.

Practice makes perfect in writing it 1924.

Editorials From Over the Nation

SPEED HAS ITS PRICE

El Dorado Times: A safety first enthusiast writes: "Why was so much attention paid to the wreck of the Twentieth Century Limited, killing nine, when at least five times that many were killed each day by autos here in America alone?" The answer is, the big train wreck was spectacular. It was the wreck of the train rather than the loss of life, that appealed to popular imagination. The Twentieth Century wreck was an international story, for this train symbolizes the speed that so widely worried in our generation. This train is famous all over the world—principally for its speed, since the average person needs secondary attention to the train's comforts and the services it renders.

Our is a nervous generation, impatient, restless, eager to be up and moving. Many individuals are about as speedy as molasses in zero weather. But the national tendency is toward speed.

People rush their eating, gulp their meals. They may move deliberately, but in the main they are ever on the lookout for shortcuts of methods and mechanics that will hurry their work. They even rush their entertainment—start leaving the theatre before the final curtain, as if getting to the exit ahead of their neighbors were an life-and-death matter.

Occasionally we are reminded by a catastrophe like the Twentieth Century wreck of an auto crash, that speed has its price. The real and greater price, however, is nerves and existence made unnecessarily wretched and disagreeable by hurry without motive. The man with speed mania must be a great admirer of the inventor of the automobile hearse, which certainly is speed plus.

IRRIGATION A FAILURE

Albany Herald: We have always favored reclamation projects of the United States government on the ground that they are necessary to help feed our growing millions of population, first; and secondly, because they give opportunity for wealth to individual citizens. We are cognizant of the nation's problem now at hand of feeding with its own resources its population 50 years hence. As James J. Hill, America's great banker, baldly put out some years ago, it is time that America began to make provisions for the future. It is therefore, with keen disappointment that we learn that an analysis of the twenty-eight irrigation projects constructed by the United States government shows the ventures unprofitable up to date, with net public land decreased and acreages running into millions of dollars.

The compilation shows the original estimated cost of the twenty-eight projects to have been \$2,235,541, while the net construction cost was \$14,787,805. The original estimated irrigable acreage of these projects was 3,958,427. The actual acreage irrigated is 1,262,129. The original estimated cost per acre was \$29.87. The cost per acre for area actually irrigated is \$117.92. Of the net construction cost only \$35,992,842 have been paid to June 30, 1923, leaving a difference not unpaid of \$126,194,963. Of the twenty-eight projects, eighteen have been in operation 15 years or over, and all but one have been in operation over nine years. Comparatively little has been paid on the construction costs of those which have been in operation the longest.

The total operation and maintenance costs up to June 30 have been \$17,669,231. The total operation and maintenance receipts up to the same date have been \$11,379,744, leaving a deficit in maintenance and operation of \$6,289,487. All told, there is an amount unpaid by the water users on these projects of \$152,662,788, which amount is due on construction costs, operation and maintenance and water rentals. Three of the projects have been abandoned by the government. This is, indeed, a sorry showing and steps should be taken to remedy the condition. The great west is dependent upon irrigation for its future welfare. Let's get at the root of the trouble and correct it, if possible.

OFFICE CAT



BY JUNIUS

WOMEN LOVE GOSSIP HIT THEM SIMPLY ADORABLE

A girl I like Is the prettiest one; Who will not eat 'Till she gets home.

At that it is dangerous to have a gun. You might shoot yourself or somebody else or game out of season.

Quite Right. "Paw, why do they call it a pineapple?" "Because it doesn't grow on a pine tree and isn't an apple."

Before marriage a man acts like a bear in that he hugs afterwards he acts like a bear in that he grows.

Try This. Waiter—What will you have, sir? Patron—Roast beef. Waiter—How do you want it, sir? Patron—In a hurry and well-done thou good and faithful servant.

DON'T BLAME YOUR NEIGHBOR IF HE CARRIES SOMETHING INTO HIS CELLAR. IT MIGHT BE GASOLINE.

A man in Lincoln, Nebraska, started home in a stolen car. It is notable that he won't get there for 18 months.

You learn to swim not by paddling around in a life preserver but by striking out for yourself.

Marconi reports that Mars has been trying to get us on the wireless. That was some time ago. The Martian operator must have heard a couple of bedtime stories from Newark and decided to try Jupiter or Saturn.

OPTIMISM IS THE YEAST OF BUSINESS — IT RAISES THE DOUGH.

The political mudslinging period is just about to commence—whom'll be the first victim?

Ginghams

Only a few patterns of Gingham, Chambray and Outings left to be cleared at 3 Yards for 49c

Spring is coming—you better get a few yards at this low price

Andrews' Variety Store Service - Economy

Wm. West & Co. 26th Annual Clearance SALE Every Article in the Store Reduced Here Is A Real Buy ONE LOT OF MEN'S SUITS Excellent Quality, Latest Styles, Good Assortment of Patterns and Colors— \$19.50 each OVERCOATS Many men have profited by our unusual cut on all HART SCHAFFNER & MARX and OREGON CITY OVERCOATS 33 1/3% OFF They are more than satisfied. They know it is the best buy they ever made. We have the model you have been looking for. Invest now and save! Every Article In Our Men's Department At Clearance Prices

of the failure to dispose of the property of the bankrupt telephone company. In a number of cases, however, the subscribers have purchased their phones and lines and by paying a small monthly switch-board rental, will have service about as usual.

SKYSCRAPERS IN "BAD REPUTE" NOW

(By Charles A. Smith) International News Service Staff Correspondent.

LONDON. — Skyscrapers have not solved and will not solve the office-building problem in America, according to Raymond Unwin, chief town-planning advisor to the English Health Ministry. Unwin has just returned from a visit to the United States, where he acted as an advisor to the New York municipality on town-planning scheme.

In a paper read to the Royal Institute of British Architects, Unwin exploded the beliefs of people who, he said, return from visiting America, with glowing accounts of the skyscrapers, and urged the Institute not to consider the introduction of the "upward" method of expanding cities, which he considered was a danger and a menace to the health of the community.

"With every added story the effective floor area per story is reduced," said Unwin, in discussing the office-building problem as relating to New York. "The cost per square foot is increased, while the greater number of elevators required take their toll of space from each succeeding floor. "Every story added tends to darken all the floors below; even in spite of the bright light of New York this is becoming increasingly evident, and the number of rooms

in which artificial light has to be used is much greater than in England," continued Unwin.

"New York is discovering that you cannot dispense with transportation by going up. You merely change the horizontally moving street car for the vertically traveling elevator.

"Increased height means increased traffic congestion, while the darkening of offices and its consequent injury to health and efficiency is serious. Eyesight is injured, and tuberculosis and other diseases are encouraged. "America will have to find some other way than the use of sky-

scrapers in order to expand its cities," said Unwin in conclusion.

Pig's Affection for Cow Saves His Neck

GOLDFIELD, Nev., (INS) — A little pig's affection for a cow will save him from the butcher.

Born in a slaughter house, the little porker was presented to O. K. Reed, Nevada cattleman, who took it to the Longstreet Ranch near here.

There will be no more talk of revolution when the workman's wife no longer envies the wife of the boss.

"If you send that urgent message by Telephone You will not have to wait for the answer" Home Independent Telephone Co.

Universal Lunch Kits \$2.50 Complete PINT BOTTLES \$1.50 These take standard fillers and are refillable

Cold Type and Warm Sunshine In expressing to our patrons and friends the hope that this may be the Happiest Holiday Season you have ever enjoyed, we are compelled to use cold type because there is no other way to reach all. But we wish we might walk up to each and every one of you, take your hand, look you in the eye and say right to your face "HAPPY NEW YEAR" La Grande NATIONAL BANK SOUND-RELIABLE-PROGRESSIVE

Que D al S BA D school out over. Halm school. In ning. Mude a 17 from. PE. Hook. Pend in the ed by ning. Hook for if the H point. TIGER I was of hitting hand. official time at suit. the rapidly drive. At th eregath wind sh not en change of chair of the and the fac. Consd game a son, La. promisi mount. lows, J. they in their. by the say. the lie for. Hums with a t er, guar tied for points. e point in with se came a Rear. I might.