La Grande Evening Observer

INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Published daily and weekly at La Grande, Oregon, by the LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER PUBLISHING CO.
BRUCE DENNIS ..... Editor

Entered at postoffice at La Grande, Oregon, 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 Ave., La Grande, Oregon.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By Carrier

Daily, per month	75c
Daily, per three months	$2.75
Daily, per six months, in advance	$4.50
Daily, single copy	5c

By Mail

Daily, per month	50c
Daily, per six months, in advance	$2.50
Daily, per year, in advance	$5.00
Observer-Star, per year	$2.00

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FINALLY, BRETHREN, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.—Philippians 4:8.

November

No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds—
November. —Thomas Hood.

The whimsical poet tells the truth about November in these clever lines, but not all the truth. He perceives the motif of the month and straightway proceeds to exaggerate the same—a privilege which belongs to all poets, and is assumed by some who are not.

Every month of the twelve has its characteristics and November an individuality quaintly its own. The vivid and varied color scheme of mid autumn gives place to a study in gray monotony. The trees are leafless and they stand sharply silhouetted against skies that are leaden and bleak. The wind rustles amidst the fallen leaves as if searching for something it has lost, and the fitful gusts scatter promiscuously the leafy heaps of brown and buff. There are hints not vague, but broad, that winter is near at hand and snow may fall any day.

There is a sombre charm in November days and nights. The air is often crisp and invites the pedestrian to fill his lungs to their peak with deep breaths and pure. The landscape is alluring, even in its undressed effect. Rarely there is a sunset of such weird beauty as would have moved John Ruskin to exclaim "It was well worth seeing." The twilight comes early and deepens quickly into night. The constellations keep pace with the calendar, and shortly after supper mighty Orion makes his appearance and begins his triumphant march across the heavens.

The insignia of November is the fodder shock, the pumpkin and the turkey gobbler strutting to his doom. History and romance meet and mingle in this month, mellow with the memories of those days when America was young. It is easy now to see things at night. In the frosty twilight the rows of serried corn-shocks resemble a village of Indian tepees and in fancy one sees the shadowy forms of warriors, their women and the children moving to and fro beneath the light of a harvest moon.

The time of the frying of doughnuts has come, the making of mincemeat and the baking of pies; the cranberry sauce blushes furiously, for they are grinding knives in anticipation of Thanksgiving dinner "out at old Aunt Mary's."

Mince Pie

A humorous weekly querulously inquires who started the superstition that a hot mince pie may be eaten rapidly at the end of a heavy meal by a middle-aged dyspeptic without harm, providing it was baked by his mother.

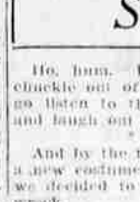
This item in the American credo was written with the building of the first mince pie because the heart has always been more or less concerned with the business of proper digestion. That is, a man who feels an attachment for food is apt to encounter a reciprocal affection in his meals.

To the ordinary standard commercial mince pie no one writes sentimental verse and for it no one is willing to go to war. The pie must be built in the beginning by one who feels an attachment for her task. Like the garden truck of the Coast Chinese, who raises his plants with love while those about him fail, the mince pie flourishes only when the heart of the maker is in the making. It must not be an orphan makeshift of cracker crumbs, green tomatoes and kindred new-day fillers. It should be conceived, preferably in the fall, in rural regions at hog-killing time. It must be rich in lean meat and white suet moistened with cider. The cooked mess should be stored in a back shed for a time until its various juices have mingled freely with one another. Finally it must be sculpted into a pie by sympathetic hands.

It must be eaten on a frosty morning. But in no case must it be approached unless the eater's heart is in the project. Preferably it should be consumed after a series of hard chores out of doors, and it should never be met by any but a razor-edged appetite. If these directions are followed mince pie will lie easily in the old frame.

However, the inquirer is correct in questioning the qualifications of a middle-aged man already full of food and of poor digestion. Under no circumstances should he tangle with a robust old-fashioned hot mince pie, save after an acknowledgment that he does so at his own risk.

THE OLD HOME TOWN . . . By Stanley



OFFICE CAT

TRADE MARK REG.

By Junius

When a new odor of perfume pervades the room suspicion generally centers on the slickhaired young man who just entered the room. And suspicion for once is right.

* * *

How much of what you do is done just to kill time?

* * *

When you're past learning you're at the end of your line.

* * *

If the piano has to be moved, do not grab the stool.

* * *

THE BOOSTER

There is a man in our town.
And Booster is his name;
He boosts and boosts and urges
That others do the same.

He's full of windy wisdom—
To any club will lend it;
But when he has some real cash,
He goes away to spend it.

* * *

"Dat Ain't De Quevshun"

Old Darkey (to shiftless friend): "I hearn tell you is gwine to pay me **dat** dollah you owes me. Is you?"

Friend (ingratiatingly): "I ain't sayin' I ain't."

Old Darkey (severely): "I ain't ask you is you ain't; I ask you ain't you is."

* * *

Suitor: I called to —er—talk—er—to ya-nabout —er—your daughter's hand.

Father: James, tell Miss Helen the manicurist has arrived.

Tom Sims Says

Ho, hum. If you can't get a chuckle out of this stuff you can go listen to the radio politicians and laugh out loud.

* * *

And by the time we thought up a new costume for a masque ball we decided to go as a nervous wreck.

* * *

In Boston, a man claims a $10,000 reward for staying sober ten years. Even if he doesn't get it, he has saved that much.

* * *

We wouldn't send a daughter of ours to a dance with a drunk, not even if we had a dozen daughters.

* * *

The first reliable signs of old age is when a man starts thinking the rising generation is going to the dogs.

* * *

Woman in Steubenville, O., shot her husband instead of poisoning him, which was rather old fashioned of her.

* * *

The man who kicks because the cat gets under his feet, should try keeping goldfish instead.

* * *

The circus ring isn't as amusing as the political ring.

* * *

And political machines, as you may have heard, use a lot of gas.

* * *

You can boil some microbes in oil and they will still live. This proves microbes and politicians differ.

Editorials From Over the Nation

BAN ON PITTSBURGH-PLUS HAILED AS PUBLIC VICTORY

Newspapers Believe Decision Will Help the West and South.

The recent decision of the Federal trade commission ordering the United States Steel Corporation to abandon the "Pittsburgh-plus" plan of basing steel prices seems to have been one of the most popular actions in the commission's history. Everywhere it is regarded is a victory for fair dealing, and particular satisfaction is expressed by the press of the west and south.

"Under that system," the Portland Oregon Journal explains, "the price of steel purchased anywhere in the country amounted to the price in Pittsburgh plus the cost of shipment to the point at which it was purchased, even though the steel may have been manufactured at the point of purchase and never shipped a mile. It was an arbitrary charge which the federal trade commission says cost the farmers of eleven western states $20,000,000 a year. The decision, if upheld by the courts, will end the operation of a charging system for steel that should never have existed."

It made of Pittsburgh, observes the Indianapolis News, "the steel capital, and discouraged independent output." The order "not only puts other steel centers on a competitive basis with Pittsburgh," continues the Birmingham Age-Herald, but "it relieves the steel purchasers and users of a cost burden whose only purpose was to protect the Pittsburgh leadership in steel at the public's expense."

Thus the decision, "important as it is to the steel industry," according to the Memphis News-Scimitar "is still more far-reaching in that it assures actual competitive conditions and ends the most ingenious and insidious method of price-fixing which has yet been devised."

"An economic triumph for the west, a triumph for free commerce in general," is the way the St. Louis Post Dispatch puts it. Indeed, "it marks one of the greatest victories the west has ever won," says the St. Paul Dispatch, because "it will end a price-fixing system which for two decades has held the west under the domination of the eastern steel industries, and has stunted the natural industrial development of Minnesota, Alabama, and other states fitted by their situation to become powerful steel factors."

The Davenport Democrat feels that "here in Davenport where they make steel cars, we have a right to congratulate ourselves on the decision which wipes out 'Pittsburgh-plus.'"

A victory for the middle west, continues the Lansing State Journal, "where it will reduce costs to users of the steel which enters into building and many industrial products, and will promote the development of the steel business throughout the central section of the nation." It will "mean a great deal to Kansas and all the middle west," in the opinion of the Wichita Beacon. The Albany Knickerbocker Press also sees an "immense advantage in producing steel for New York and New England as near to the point where steel is used in large quantities as is possible."

Pointing out that the evidence given in the case showed that there is little or no competition between the United States Steel corporation and independent plants in various sections of the country, the Detroit News holds "the independent as well as the steel corporation, was getting the benefit of the Pittsburgh-plus, and was holding up the consumer." If the decision results in a decentralization of the steel industry, the Minneapolis Tribune thinks it ought to be a benefit "notably in the matter of transportation and a more even distribution of the purchasing power that industrial activity creates."

With the abolition of Pittsburgh-plus, the Chicago Tribune remarks "one more dangerous effort to establish the principle of internal tariff in America goes into history."

The Springfield Republican notes that "even Mr. Gary sees the handwriting on the wall and declares that his company will 'cheerfully and promptly act in accordance' with the decision as soon as it is made final. This means no stubborn resistance by the United States Steel corporation."

The matter goes to the courts and another two years probably must elapse before a final decision is made," the Milwaukee Journal points out, "yet one by one we weed out the practices by which clever minds prey upon the public."

If the Pittsburgh-plus system is defensible, the Hartford Times concludes, "every manufacturer of every kind of product is warranted in adding to the selling price of his goods a fictitious freight charge representing what it would cost to ship goods if they had been sent on a journey they never took. It is difficult to uphold any such contention."

The Newark News does not consider that the controversy is ended by any means, for "while the trade commission's order is sweeping and drastic, it is conceivable that its application may be enjoined until the case is fought all the way up to the highest court."

The steel men's view is set forth by the Pittsburgh Sun, which says: "The average Pittsburgher, and the average steel man for that matter, will continue to believe as he has believed that a manufacturing concern has the right to standardize the price of its goods if it wants to, and that fixing the price of the product of one's own mills or the labor of one's own hands is not un-American as long as the buyer is free to purchase where he wills."

LO, THE POOR INDIAN.

Manchester Union: New Hampshire has twenty-eight Indians, had thirty-four in 1910. Some of these dwell in the vicinity of The Weirs and are lineal descendants of the Indians who built the weirs that give that locality its name.

At one of the meetings of the state chamber of commerce two years ago, it was seriously proposed, not on the floor of the formal convocation, one is the possible more productive and richer interchange of thoughts when "sitting around," that our state could, with great profit to itself, bring in some Indians. Indians lend a romantic interest to any locality. Indian guides, Indian boatmen, are much sought. A goodly-sized Indian village at The Weirs, or at any other resort of the state, would be decidedly good business.

The Indian supply of this part of the country is decreasing. Even Maine is losing its Indian population. Dartmouth has not had an Indian student for twenty years. The college used to make some effort to have an Indian on hand, and in the day when college students used to teach in the long midwinter term of district school, the Dartmouth Indians were in great demand for unruly pupils. No school ever tried to throw out an Indian teacher. In Hanover itself, one winter the boys had thrown out three teachers in succession and the school committee in desperation solicited the lone Indian youth in the college to assume the vacant post. He walked in the school house with a hatchet in his hand, struck its blade quivering into the platform and there it stayed during his whole incumbency. Not once was he forced to withdraw it to scalp a pupil and the entire school at the close of his administration, received testimonials for perfect deportment.

Which shows there is still another field for Indians in New Hampshire.

Women will meet in Washington to find a cure for war. We don't know which one unless it is the last one.

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NAZARETH WAISTS For Babies — N. K. West & Co. THE QUALITY STORE — DR. DENTON'S For The Kiddies

Kings Watched Stars

In ancient times November was known as the Pleiad month. Kings of Persia never failed to grant any request presented on November 17, the day when the Pleiades came to the meridian at midnight, says Nature Magazine of Washington. This exquisite little group with five stars forming a tiny dipper, and two additional stars visible to keen eyes will be one of the most noted groups in the heavens. The V-shaped cluster of the Hyades is scarcely less famous.

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