

CITY  
EDITION

## La Grande Evening Observer

THE WEATHER  
PORTLAND (AP)—Oregon: Fair and cold tonight and Saturday with zero temperature in east Oregon.

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Hunt's  
Daily  
Letter

(By Harry R. Hunt)

WASHINGTON (NEA Special).—At last the cat is out of the bag. The secret of Coolidge's strength in West Virginia, which he carried at the recent election despite the fact that John W. Davis, the Democratic candidate, was West Virginia's "favorite son," is revealed.

The facts were, literally, "smoked out."

It develops that Coolidge has long been a booster for one of West Virginia's prize products—the stogie.

Whether it was their flavor he liked, or the price, which always has been kept comparatively low, isn't disclosed. Probably the price had something to do with it, however, for in writing to a stogie maker in Fairmont, in August, 1919, when he was still governor of Massachusetts, enclosing a check for a new consignment of "smokes" the president-to-be wrote:

"I have smoked them for some years and therefore hope the price will not further advance."

Word of this letter and Coolidge's endorsement of the long, "rag-tail" smokes on which no little of West Virginia's prosperity has been based, was circulated in the state's most loyal stogie circles during the campaign.

At the same time Davis' preference for smoothly rolled, gut-banded Havanas was pointed out.

Result: The stogie smokers swept the state for Cool!

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BAKER PEOPLE  
ESCAPE DEATH

BAKER, Ore. (Special to the Observer).—Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jacobs and three children of 2425 Center street can be thankful, even at the expense and discomfort of other people, in fact they are exceedingly thankful that the fire department trucks passed their home at 8:15 yesterday morning, states a local newspaper.

The family were just sitting down to breakfast when they heard the fire trucks. They immediately rushed to the front porch and while standing there heard a terrific explosion, rushing back they discovered the water pipe in the kitchen range had exploded which completely demolished the stove, broke every window in the kitchen, blew the door between the kitchen and adjoining room off the hinges and sent pieces of steel crashing through the ceiling and walls.

Had the family continued with their meal, some or probably all of them would have been killed as one piece of the stove was hurled directly over the table with much force as to go through a substantial wall. The entire kitchen was wrecked.

Mrs. Jacobs stated it undoubtedly was an act of providence that sent the family to the front porch at that particular moment, when one will ever make me believe any different," Mrs. Jacobs declared.

LA GRANDE HAS ESCAPES  
In La Grande during the past two days, three stoves have blown up due to frozen, then heated, water coils. Luckily no one was injured but new stoves had to be purchased in each instance.

Business At Normal In  
America Says Babson

BAKESON PARK, Mass. (Special).—Business is again at normal according to Roger W. Babson, the statistician, who today issued a detailed statement covering the business and financial situation.

"General activity as reflected by the Babsonchart is shown at 'par' for the first time in eight months," says the statistician. "The final November figures, just in, bring the line up from a point 5 per cent below normal where business stood at election time. The readings by months trace the path of decline during the early part of 1924 and picture clearly the advance that has taken place since the election. January saw business at 2 per cent above normal. The momentum from the last month of 1923 was still keeping activity at a good

## MR. AND MRS. W. CHURCH BURNED TO DEATH

COLD SPELL  
CONTINUES  
OVER WEST

Warren, Idaho, Reports  
46 Degrees Below  
Zero Weather

SUB-ZERO MARKS  
STAY IN VALLEY

Mercury Fell to Within  
3 Degrees of Wednesday  
Night's Mark Early Today.

The weather, in La Grande and the valley last night, was slightly warmer than Wednesday night but still colder than Tuesday. The mercury reached 12 degrees below zero during the early morning, and is climbing slowly today.

With the exception of the disastrous fire last night, and one or two small fires that might be held at the door of the cold wave, little difficulty was reported this morning. As on the preceding night, everyone was prepared for the cold and all precautions were taken to prevent freezing of water pipes and faucets.

CHICAGO. (AP).—The cold wave in the northwest, pushing its way southward and eastward, with zero and sub-zero temperatures as far east and south as Iowa, Kansas and Oklahoma, was expected to extend still farther, reaching Chicago and the central valleys by Friday.

A modification of temperature is expected to start in the northwest, however, at the same time.

The cold still is severe throughout the northwest and portions of Nebraska and Kansas Thursday, with temperatures at 7 a. m. ranging from 16 degrees below zero at Miles City, Mont., to zero at Council Bluffs, Neb. N. Dak. reported 26 below; Goodland, Kan., 6 below; Lander, Wyo., 32 below; North Platte, Neb., 8 below; Omaha, Neb., 22 below; Rapid City, S. Dak., 22 below; St. Paul, 2 below; Sioux City, Iowa, 4 below; and Valentine, Neb., 12 below.

Two persons are dead here as a result of the ice-covered streets.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION  
SEES NO RELIEF FROM GOLD

DENVER. (AP).—The Arctic storm that has the northern Rocky mountain region in its grasp gathered into its may two lives and left in its wake increased suffering among livestock, partially-paralyzed rail and wire traffic and the growing dread of fuel shortage.

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COMMERCE CLUB  
PLANNING XMAS  
LUNCH TUESDAY

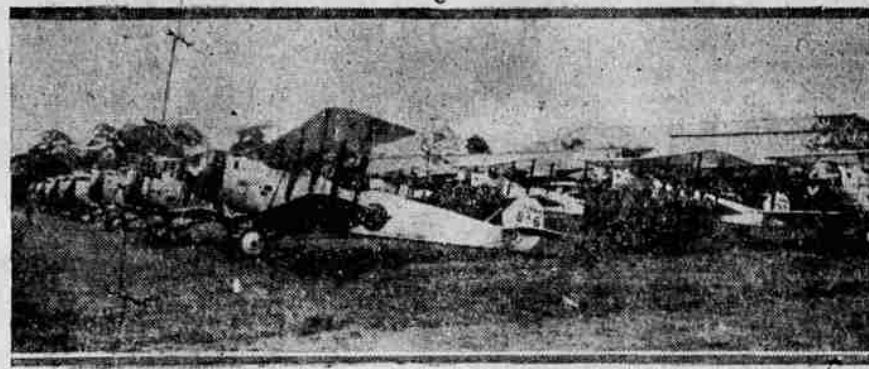
A Christmas program, under the direction of Dr. W. P. Mossman is scheduled for the luncheon of the chamber of commerce next Tuesday. Several vocal and musical numbers will be on the program as well as a Christmas address. The entire program will be announced early next week, according to Dr. Mossman.

volume. February continued at the same level. In March, in spite of the usual seasonal spurt, we saw things drop to 1 per cent above normal. Further slowing up in April took us back to 4 per cent below normal and from then on business fell off rather badly. May showed activity at 5 per cent below normal, June registered at 12 per cent below normal, and July at 11 per cent below normal. August finally reached the bottom, activity averaging at about 12 per cent below normal. September and October suffered from the uncertainties attending the election and were recorded at 10 per cent and 6 per cent below, respectively. On the eve of the

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## 12 BELOW ZERO AT TIME OF TRAGEDY

Here's Proof of Japan's Aerial Hopes



Here is proof that Japan is striving for success in the air. These are just a few of hundreds of new planes the army has bought. They are the last word in aircraft—not flimsy and dilapidated like many of Uncle Sam's. The planes shown here are lining up for a gigantic mock battle as part of the maneuvers of the emperor's military forces.

REPORTS HUGE  
SUPPLY BILL

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press).—The largest peace time supply bill ever presented to congress, a measure carrying more than three quarters of a billion dollars for the treasury and post office departments during the coming fiscal year, was reported today by the house appropriations committee.

The total \$762,180,522 is \$11,420,414 more than for the current year, but approximately 12 million under the budget estimates. The treasury will receive \$126,411,197 and the remainder will go to the post office department.

ACTION POSTPONED  
WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press).—Action on a resolution for naval inquiry was postponed indefinitely today by the senate naval committee.

OIL BOARD CREATED  
WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press).—An oil conservation board, consisting of the secretaries of war, navy, interior and commerce was created today by President Coolidge to study the government's responsibilities toward oil conservation.

SKILL IN POLO PLAYING  
AIDS IN BALLROOMS

LONDON. (AP).—The latest stunt at London society dances is "ballroom polo," which has taken like wildfire. Men dancers the four balloons to their partner's ankles, and as

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COOLIDGE GIVES  
CABINET DINNER;  
FIRST OF SEASON

WASHINGTON (AP).—The cabinet dinner, first of the state functions of the White House social season, was given Thursday night by President and Mrs. Coolidge.

The cabinet members, their wives and other guests were served food cooked by the White House chef and his assistants, instead of a caterer brought in from the outside for the occasion.

Expensive caterers have been retained by previous White House occupants for the four state dinners of the social season, but President and Mrs. Coolidge have abandoned the practice. No reasons for the change were forthcoming Thursday from the White House.

The guests at Thursday night's dinner, in addition to the members of the cabinet, included Senator Warren of Wyoming and Mrs. Warren, Senator Borah of Idaho and Mrs. Borah, Senator Wadsworth of New York and Mrs. Wadsworth, Senator Curtis of Kansas, Senator Butler of Massachusetts and Mrs. Butler, Representative Madden of Illinois, Representative Longworth of Ohio, Representative Shell of New York and Mrs. Shell, Representative Sanders of Indiana and Mrs. Sanders, Representative MacEwan of California, Director Lord of the Budget and Mrs. Lord, Col. and Mrs. George Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. John Hays Hammond, C. Bascom Shoup, secretary to the president, Mrs. Eugene Hale, Mrs. Frederick Dent Grant and Mrs. Edward D. McLean.

Funeral For  
Dead Is Not  
Yet Arranged

The conflagration that snuffed out the lives of two prominent La Grande citizens early this morning, one of the most terrible in the history of this city, removed two that were well liked and who held an important place in the community.

W. J. Church, was the son of J. M. Church, one of the pioneer bankers of Union and Walla Walla counties, was United States commissioner here at the time of demise. Mrs. Church, an expert at clerical and stenographic work, was employed at the court house.

In Prime of Lives.  
The husband, about 50 years of age, was in the prime of life and his wife was only a few years younger. They were members of the Episcopal church and the Order of the Eastern Star.

He was advanced in the Masonic lodge and also belonged to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

At one time he was representative from Union county in the state legislature.

Funeral Pending  
Funeral arrangements are not definitely arranged and the bodies were at the Bohlenkamp chapel this morning.

Mrs. Church is survived by a sister, Mrs. Bob Fletcher, of Pendleton, and also a sister in Portland, and a half brother who lives here.

Mr. Church's father, a pioneer in this section and one of the most outstanding exponents of the early prosperity and advance of Union and Walla Walla counties, was for years one of the state's foremost men. When he established a bank in Enterprise, Oregon, he practically founded the city, setting the pace for its subsequent growth.

Will Church was an only son.

Robbers Fire Town  
After Looting Bank

FORT WORTH. (By the Associated Press).—Robbers set fire to the town of Valley View today after wrecking the State and National bank and carrying away two safes.

German Leaders Cannot  
Form Majority Cabinet

BERLIN. (By Associated Press).—Unable to form a government commanding a reliable majority, President Ebert and Chancellor Marx today to discontinue their efforts until shortly before the Reichstag meeting January 26th. Marx and Brüningmann cabinet is continuing to function.

FIRE DESTROYS ELWITAS  
FRAT HOUSE AT MOSCOW

MOSCOW, U.S.S.R. (AP).—The Elwitas fraternal house across the street from the cathedral of the University of Idaho, was destroyed by the Thursday forenoon, with a loss of \$11,000 to \$12,000, when it became ignited from a defective fuse. The personal property of the 45 or 50 men students resident there was saved, as was part of the furniture.

CLEAVER MUST  
FACE CHARGES

PORTLAND, Ore. (By the Associated Press).—Regardless whether he returns liquor he seized aboard the British steamer London Merchant, George Cleaver, state prohibition commissioner, will still face charges of violating the international treaty regulations. Federal District Attorney Coke announced today.

PIERCE SILENT  
SALEM, Ore. (By the Associated Press).—Governor Pierce refused to comment today on the arrest of George Cleaver on a charge of unlawfully raiding a British ship and confiscating liquor that was in the custody of federal customs officials.

ZERO WEATHER  
MAY END SOON

PORTLAND, Ore. (By the Associated Press).—While the forecast for the Pacific Northwest today was continued cold and storm "somewhere in the North Pacific area" it was indicated in reports to the weather bureau that a change may be caused before night. This is the only hope for relief from the frigid spell.

Portland's minimum this morning was 13 degrees above zero. Barometer reported 29.60, Salem seven above, Eugene four above and Roseburg 22 above.

COUGAR KILLS YOUNG LAD

WENATCHEE, Wash. (AP).—Jimmy Fuglehaber, 13, an orphan of Spokane, was killed by a cougar Wednesday near Brewster, when he went to round up some strayed cattle. It was announced Thursday. Parts of the boy's body had been devoured. His knife, indicating that he had put up a fight, was found at the bottom of the hill in the brush.

When it's zero and you have to move fast and don't want to be out in the weather any more than you can help—what a great aid it is to have the help of advertising with your shopping!

Most hurried, busy shoppers use the ads constantly to save time and effort—and exposure on these cold days. That's one reason everybody takes The Observer.

"Observer Advertising—A Merchandising Service"

When it's zero and you have to move fast and don't want to be out in the weather any more than you can help—what a great aid it is to have the help of advertising with your shopping!

"Observer Advertising—A Merchandising Service"

COUPLE CAUGHT IN  
HOME BLAZE, ORIGIN  
OF FIRE UNKNOWN

Alarm Turned in About 3 O'clock; Neighbors Heard Screams; Victims of Inferno of Flames Found Dead on Sleeping Porch; Succumbed Trying to Escape.

One of the most terrible tragedies ever enacted in the history of La Grande occurred early this morning when Mr. and Mrs. Will Church were burned to death at their home on Second street.

About 3 o'clock neighbors were awakened by screams, and looking out, saw the Church residence with flames pouring out of the windows. At that time the thermometer registered 12 degrees below zero.

Alarms were turned into the fire station almost simultaneously from several different points but when the firemen arrived immediately afterwards the flames had gained much headway and almost the entire interior of the house was a veritable inferno.

Believed Couple Elsewhere.  
At first it was not believed that Mr. and Mrs. Church were in the house.

Friends, however, became worried by the non appearance of the couple and started a search of the city in an effort to locate them at a hotel or at the home of a friend, supposing that they had been able to get free of the burning building.

All Safe at Midnight.  
Captain Paul Hathaway, U. S. Army instructor and Arthur Kerr, an old friend of the Church family, were the last to see the victims, having spent the evening at the scene of the tragedy. Captain Hathaway and Mr. Kerr had left the residence about 12 o'clock, then going to their rooms in the Elk's building.

The bodies were finally discovered, after the fire had been almost completely extinguished, on a small sleeping porch, at the front of the house. Many times during the fight to keep the fire under control, the firemen had been within a few feet of the bodies but the intense heat, thick smoke and general impossibility of seeing into the interior of the building, prohibited any chance of discovery.

Many persons are of the opinion that Mr. and Mrs. Church succumbed shortly after the first cries had been heard, even before the alarm had been turned in.

Escape Impossible.  
The details of the tragedy may be reconstructed from the position in which the bodies were found and an examination of the burned portions of the house, which was not demolished completely.

Mr. and Mrs. Church were evidently asleep until the fire had gained great headway. The flames must have started in the front of the house on the lower floor. The bedroom which the couple occupied at the time is located to the rear of the house on the south side of the building, which is of a two-story bungalow type, located at 1905 Second street, facing east.

But One Exit.  
The "upper" floor had only one exit, a winding stairway which climbed from the living room at the front of the house.

Separating the bed room where Mr. and Mrs. Church were sleeping and the place where the bodies were found is the hall at the head of the stairs and also a small bedroom.

Rushed Into Hallway.  
When awakened by the fire, Mr. and Mrs. Church evidently rushed into the hall and there found the flames sweeping up the stairway, driving them toward the front of the house.

The blaze had already climbed up the partition near the sleeping porch where the bodies were finally discovered. On opening the door into the front bedroom the draft evidently caused the flames to sweep into the vacant bedroom, thus trapping man and wife on the sleeping porch at which time it seems probable that the screams were heard by the neighbors.

The bodies, burned almost beyond recognition, were found on the small sleeping porch at the direct front of the house. Mr. Church was lying on his back across the threshold from the front bedroom

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TO EXECUTE  
WHOLESALE  
MURDERER

Fritz Haarmann, German  
to Pay Extreme Pen-  
alty for Crimes

ACCOMPLICE ALSO  
TO BE BEHEADED

Haarmann Showed No  
Remorse, But Declared  
If Set Free He Would  
Kill Again.

HANOVER, Germany. (By the Associated Press).—Fritz Haarmann, a man, "wholesale murderer," whose trial for slaying 26 persons stirred Germany, was sentenced to death today. Hans Gruns, his accomplice, was also sentenced to death.

Haarmann was found guilty of murdering 24 young men, his crimes extending over a period of six years.

Glad of Sentence.  
"I go to the decapitating block joyfully, happily," Haarmann told the court. "Were I at liberty, I would murder again," he told the jury.

Haarmann showed no remorse for his gruesome deeds.  
Has Killing Mania.  
"Why I kill is a mystery to me," he remarked, claiming his condition to be hereditary. Haarmann said "I don't know how I got into this condition. I simply saw that in the morning there was a corpse next to me, but not in all cases. I never acted with premeditation. I don't understand why my victims did not offer resistance."

He declared a large percentage of his potential victims escaped.

A. F. O. L. HEAD  
IS SELECTED

NEW YORK. (By the Associated Press).—William Green of Ohio, was today elected president of the American Federation of Labor.

RAMSEY NAMED  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

SALEM, Ore. (By the Associated Press).—Governor Pierce Thursday announced the appointment of William Ramsey, McMinville attorney, formerly of La Grande and Pendleton, as circuit judge for the Twelfth Judicial district, succeeding Judge Connelley, recently elected to the supreme bench.

RETURN FROM PORTLAND

Clint Haynes, chief of police, and Jim Nelson, a member of the force, returned last evening from a trip to Portland on official business.

Elgin Resents Effort  
To Kill County Fair

ELGIN, Ore. (Special to the Observer).—The boys are at it again. The county fair at Elgin must go, says Frank McKennon, county clerk, and being a farmer himself, and having talked with many other farmers this paper gives more credence to Conrad's statement than it does to McKennon's.

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