

J.D. SLATER RESIGNS AS CITY JUDGE

Cass Humphreys Elected Last Night at Commission Meeting

OATH OF OFFICE TAKEN AT NOON

New Judge Tries Two Cases at 1 O'clock; Drunks Are Fined \$25 Each.

CHRISTMAS IN JAIL. Judge C. M. Humphreys shortly after being sworn in during the noon hour today, heard pleas of guilty by James McDonald and Dick Mooney, charged with drunkenness. Both were fined \$25. As neither defendant could pay the fine they were ordered to jail to serve out the sum at the rate of \$2 a day.

J. D. Slater, municipal judge of La Grande for about two years, yesterday tendered his resignation from the office to J. E. Stearns, city recorder, who that night submitted it at the city commission meeting. Following a short discussion the resignation was put to a vote and accepted.

Later in the evening, under special order of business, Commissioner Charles Phyle nominated Cassius Humphreys as city judge and Commissioner R. P. Landis moved that the nominations be closed. President A. T. Hill called for a vote and Mr. Humphreys was unanimously elected.

The oath of office was taken by Mr. Humphreys during the noon hour today. He is obviously affiliated in the abstract business, employed by Jack Oliver. Mr. Slater has presided as judge in the city court since the resignation of E. J. Kitchen about two years ago in a faithful and conscientious manner, performing the duties of his office to the best of his ability. His resignation became effective last night as soon as the city commission met.

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WRECK VICTIM IS NEAR DEATH

No hope is held for the life of H. J. Muthersbaugh, who has lain in a serious condition at the Hot Lake sanatorium ever since Thanksgiving day, when he was injured in an automobile accident about a mile east of the hospital.

The victim's mother has been summoned from her home in Portland, and is now at his bedside. Dr. W. T. Phyl, in whose employ Muthersbaugh has served at Hot Lake, has done everything possible to save the young man's life, but said today that hope of his recovery has passed.

Muthersbaugh had been riding with a party of patients and guests of the sanatorium. On the way home from Union, the car skidded off the slippery pavement, and turned over into the ditch. None of the others were injured.

Story of The Christ's Birth Will Be Retold

With something of the same holy hush that settled over Bethlehem's hills on the eve of the first Christmas, La Grande worshippers will gather in their respective churches tonight to hear again the story of Christ's birth in a lovely stable.

Scenes of the nativity will be depicted in pageant and pantomime. Carols repeating the songs of the angels sang will ring from the choir lofts. And every child enrolled in a Sunday school will make his proud way to the platform to add a sentence or a verse to the program.

Most of the services will commence early, so the little folk need not be kept waiting for Santa Claus post the bedtime hour. Catholic and Episcopal churches will have their formal observances at midnight. Mass at Our Lady of the Valley altar will commence at 12 o'clock. Bishop Benjamin of Pendleton will officiate at the Episcopal communion service, which is announced for 11.

The children's programs are to include the following:

The Presbyterian children's program, beginning at 7:15 p. m., will

Still Leads Owner Into Law's Grip

Sam Moore, of North Powder, Arrested by Sheriff, Must Serve 6 Months and Pay Fine.

The wheels of justice took a hint from the movies and experimented with speeded action in the case of Sam Moore, of North Powder, last night.

Moore had a nice new copper still about a mile and a half up the canyon from his home.

He set it in operation last night, at 6 o'clock, and had no more than got the burners running when Sheriff Jesse Breeshars and two prohibition agents stepped in and placed him under arrest.

An hour later he pleaded guilty to a charge of possession of mash and a still before Judge E. J. Sonnerby in the justice of the peace court at North Powder. And at 8 o'clock he had arrived in La Grande and commenced to serve a six months' term in the county jail. He has, furthermore, a \$500 fine to pay, or to serve out at the rate of two dollars per day.

SALES TO PAY UP TAX BILL

Personal property upon which taxes are delinquent is liable to sheriff's sale and will presently be sold for recovery, according to 250 notices sent out from the tax department of the sheriff's office to delinquent taxpayers.

Section 4224 of Oregon's tax laws provides that if taxes on personal property are not paid before delinquency, the sheriff has the right and it is his duty to levy upon that personal property of the taxpayer by taking it into his possession and selling it, or as much of it as may be necessary to take care of the taxes.

The amount of personal property upon which 1924 taxes are delinquent is but \$2991.86, according to Amos L. Helms, head of the tax department. The 1922 and 1923 delinquent personal taxes are to be handled in a similar manner a little later, he announces.

Forest Ranger's Auto Demolished by Train

The light car of Gerald Tucker, forest ranger, was completely demolished early last evening when train No. 22 ran into it. Mr. Tucker was on his way to La Grande near Tokelau. The roads were slippery and when crossing the railway tracks the car turned and caught between the rails. All efforts to move the car were useless so he tried to flag the train but did not succeed.

The car is a total loss.

Knights Templar Will Have Xmas Ceremony

Eastern Oregon Commandery No. 6 Knights Templar will hold its annual Christmas observance tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock in the Masonic hall here. An appropriate program has been arranged.

The Christmas service is one service that all Knights Templar are supposed to attend. The service features ritualistic work, which exemplifies the foundation principles of the order.

Organ prelude—Mrs. J. A. Tolford. Hymn—"Joy to the World." Prayer by pastor. Recitation, "Welcome"—Albert Douglas. Recitation, "My Best"—David Douglas.

Recitation—Nancy Dutton and Phyllis Westenhaven. Recitation—Kathryn Avery. Recitation, "A Call for Santa"—Grace Helen Bohnenkamp. Recitation, "Advice to Santa"—Myron Tolford.

Recitation—Peter Colburn. Violin solo—Sam Ashby. Recitation—Mary Jane Bohnenkamp. Recitation, "The First Attempt"—Nancy Lee Lindsay. Recitation, "Baby's Present"—Jack Murphy.

Recitation—Barbara Biggers. Recitation, "Merry Christmas"—Betty May Vohrs. Recitation, "Settling It"—Stella Jean Ingle. Solo—Katherine Wissler. Exercises, Merry Xmas—Mrs.

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CITY READY, ENGER FOR CHRISTMAS

Everyone in La Grande Is Remembered in the Distribution of Gifts

KIDDIES TO HAVE TWO BIG PARTIES

Elks Treat for Children to Be Preceded by a Theater Party Christmas Morning.

The night before Christmas—and the whole town is a tip-toe with expectancy.

Last minute shoppers are still checking names off their lists, tissue paper rustles enticingly as delivery boys fly to and fro with packages, and here and there a kitchen window reveals a bustle of savory preparations for the morning's feast.

But the hurry and excitement will soon be over, and the citizenry will settle itself, like the stockings that hang by the chimney, to wait for Santa Claus to come and do his part.

All Remembered. La Grande should have nothing but happy dreams tonight, for there isn't a chance that a home in the community will be forgotten.

More than 50 baskets were deposited on grateful doorsteps by the Elks this afternoon, and between 25 and 40 dinners were distributed by the kindly members of the Salvation Army. These untiring workers made a survey of the needy quarters, and checked their lists with the B. P. O. E's to see that every deserving family might share in the cheer that is being broadcast.

Ensign and Mrs. J. C. Barker have prepared a program of Christmas songs to be given at the county jail in the morning. The prisoners took a collection among themselves for a special dinner. At the Salvation Army hall in the evening, the Sunday school will furnish a program, after which there will be a tree, with 150 gifts and a plenty of candy and nuts to brighten the occasion for children from home, where Mrs. Barker discovered an unfortunate condition. Her recent search yielded the names of eight children all under 14 were deploring the certainty of being overlooked by Santa, because their father had been without work for more than a month.

Two big parties will warm the forenoon check-full of joy. At 10:25 o'clock, the Star Theater will open its doors to the whole juvenile population of La Grande for a free show featuring Baby Face. The show will be over in plenty of time for the Christmas tree, which

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SANITATION IN HERDS DESIRED

Practically all of the dairymen of Union county met last evening in the chamber of commerce offices and considered a form of dairy ordinance to control sanitation in the handling of milk in and about La Grande. The ordinance has been drawn up and will be presented to the city attorney by Lee Reynolds, president of the dairymen's association. If found satisfactory by the city attorney it will be proposed at the next meeting of the city commission.

The association also considered a form of by-laws and marketing agreement but did not arrive at any definite conclusion. This will be continued at the next meeting to be called by the president probably next week.

Two new dairymen were added to the association last evening.

Soviet Bars Foreigners From New Gold Fields

YAKUTSK, Siberia. (By the Associated Press)—The borders of Korea, Japan and China who have been flocking to the Alder river gold field, Russia's new "Klondike," doubtless will be thrown into consternation now that the soviet government has issued a decree giving all non-Russian prospectors and residents one month in which to depart. The great mass of gold is to be for Russians alone.

The commission of investigation sent to the gold fields by the soviet estimates there are some 400 tons of available gold in the 6000 square miles of the Alder district.

Why Christmas Is Merry

By WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE



Physical man on this planet is a lonesome creature. He has made friends with the dog, the elephant and the cow, the pig, the horse, the cat, the sheep, and the chicken. But most of his other fellow travellers avoid him. Physically he is an orphan with a lurking fear that his pride may be hurt if he knows who his parents were. He has no idea from whence he came, how he got here, nor where he is going. The dumb rocks tell a man that he has clung to the changing earth, dodging glaciers, running before earthquakes, volcanoes and avalanches in terror and pain for many thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands of years. Over and again through the lonely centuries he has tried to find just one companion with a voice who would guide him, would speak wisdom to him, would tell him of his past, would make some compact with him for his future. So man has formed with his own fingers, growing defter as the millenniums have passed, a long procession of gods—stone gods, clay gods, wooden gods, brass gods, and gods of fine gold. He bowed before them and listened—baffled, puzzled, but always passionately hoping for the voice that never came. He worshipped the deep mystery of life in the animals who had befriended him—the bull, the cat, the goat, the snake. He turned to the sun and lifted his face to the source of life. He came to know the ebb and flow of the seasons, understood planting and harvest; but could not learn the meaning of his exile on the earth.

To know the meaning of life was the spiritual quest of man through countless thousands of years in the ancient world. In those years he captured fire, wrought homes, cities, temples, palaces in bronze and stone and iron, and

wood, restlessly roving from pole to pole, ever futilely seeking something. His homes, his cities, his sacred temples, his gawdy palaces crumbled to dust under his hands. All his gods mocked him.

Then after long cycles of vain striving, sharply as though a great sword had rended the threads, the story of the world was cleft in twain. Two thousand years ago the modern world began. We are celebrating that beginning today—celebrating the birth of Him who made the greatest discovery the world ever has seen—the discovery that God is not a graven image made after the likeness of man, but that man is a spirit made in the likeness of God.

The Great News came most simply. Early one fine morning, an itinerant evangelist was sitting by Jacob's old well, not far from Jerusalem. A woman of Samaria came up to him. He asked her for a drink from the well. She was not a model of domestic virtues, but was living with her fifth man, and that without benefit of clergy. The two fell to talking; he in parables about the water of the well itself. As their words touched religion and spiritual things, slowly it dawned upon her that she was in the presence of a noble mind and a great heart. So she heard the truth. The evangelist said:

"Ye worship, ye know not what. But the hour cometh and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth. . . . God is a spirit, and they that worship, must worship in spirit, and in truth."

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XTRA UNION GIRLS SING AT LAKE

PANAMA (AP)—Warm weather and glory skies greeted the undated 270000 members of the University of Alabama when they arrived here today where they will battle the University of Washington New Year's day for the east-west big game honors.

BUENOS AIRES (AP)—Henry Hayes Morgan, United States consul general here, announced today that he was retiring after a connection of more than 40 years with the American diplomatic and consular service. He will sail for New York Dec. 31 to join his family.

The Christmas Season

During the present holiday season The Observer has enjoyed the largest volume of local advertising in its history for a similar period. In last Friday's issue it carried the largest amount of local display of any week-day issue on record.

Today it boasts the largest circulation that it has ever had, and has, according to the publishers, the best news and advertising service, and the lowest reader-cost. Continued improvement in every department is planned to further merit the confidence of its advertisers and its readers—a confidence that is valued most highly.

"Observer Advertising—A Merchandising Service."

Closing Down Night Clubs In New York

NEW YORK (By the Associated Press)—Federal Attorney Buckner has begun his third and largest "padlock crusade" by a holiday onslaught on White Way night haunts, some of them favorites socially and noted as theatrical resorts.

At midnight last night the federal deputy marshals' prohibition agents and the police began wholesale service of summons and complaints upon proprietors who are given 20 days in which to accept

Hundreds View Coffin Wherein Munsey Rests

NEW YORK (By the Associated Press)—High government officials, prominent business and professional men, members of society attended today with type setters, printers, and newsmen at the funeral services in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine for Frank A. Munsey.

Dixieland Has Hopes Of White Christmas

ATLANTA, Ga. (By the Associated Press)—1926 Wednesday was preparing to spend the kind of a Christmas it often reads about but experienced only about one in a blue moon—a white Christmas. Snow flurries were reported at several points while one or two told of heavy falls.

NEW YORK (AP)—Frank A. Munsey's fortune was variously estimated at from \$25,000,000 to \$40,000,000 including his two newspapers in New York, the Sun and the Telegram.

RANCH OWNER SHOOT'S SELF

ONTARIO, Ore. (Special)—Joe Tipton, aged 54, a Malheur county stockman, ended his life with a bullet, according to the findings of a coroner's jury which investigated his death at the Tipton ranch, 20 miles north of Crowley.

Tipton, according to the story told the jury summoned by Dr. R. P. Payne, coroner, Sheriff Charles W. Glenn and District Attorney E. M. Hodgett, shot himself

Feng Defeats Lin And Enters Tientsin Today

TOKIO (By the Associated Press)—The latest dispatches to the Kokuhon News agency from Mukden today stated that troops of Lin were retreating in disorder after being defeated decisively by Chang's army.

PEKING (By the Associated Press)—Marshal Feng Yu Hsiang's national army troops entered Tientsin this morning after several days of fighting in which thousands were killed or wounded.

The troops of General Liching Lin, civil governor of Chihli, and Feng's enemy, are fleeing in disorder.

Chaos reigns in the native quarters of Tientsin, where soldiers attached to the defeated army are engaged in looting.

CHARLESTON, S. C. (AP) —

John W. Weeks, former secretary of war, was slightly injured, three others were killed, and another is missing in a head on collision between two Atlantic coast line trains today near Moncks Corner. The fireman of the south bound were found dead in the wreckage. No details were given concerning Weeks' injuries.

WEEKS IN ACCIDENT.

ALBANY, N. Y. (AP) —

The population of New York state is 11,162,151, according to totals of the 1925 state census, announced here Wednesday. This represents a gain of 776,924, since 1920 and is the largest growth made by the state in any five year period since 1910.

PERKING (By the Associated Press)—

Foreign volunteers and troops are protecting the gates of the foreign settlements.

XMAS WAGES STOLEN BY 6 BANDITS

Pittsburg Terminal Coal Company Employees Bereft of Pay

GUARD SHOT BY ROBBERS' VOLLEY

Forty - Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars Taken by Armed Men at Molleniuer, Pa.

PITTSBURGH (By the Associated Press)—The Christmas payroll of the Pittsburg Terminal Coal company, \$47,909, was taken from the pay cab by six armed men at Molleniuer, a mining settlement near here today.

The robbers escaped in an automobile. The bandits shot one guard in the abdomen and his condition is critical.

The paymaster and two guards had just alighted from a special railroad pay car when the bandits drove up and opened fire immediately. The first volley struck one guard and the others were forced to drop their guns.

ARMISTICE IS SIGNED TODAY

CAIRO, Egypt (By the Associated Press)—An armistice is reported to have been signed between Druse tribesmen and the French high commissioner in Syria, Henry de Jouvenel.

The report said that all political prisoners held by the French in Syria will be liberated.

Butler Will Publish Dairy of Official Life

PHILADELPHIA. (By the Associated Press)—General Smedley D. Butler, dismissed by Mayor Kendrick as head of the Philadelphia police department, said today that publication of his diary would "raise a ruction."

He kept it during the two years he was director of public safety and recorded, among other things, conversations with the mayor and with other city officials.

Butler said that a broadside in which he alleged the mayor was protector of big violators of the prohibition law was only a preliminary blast.

N. Y. POPULATION INCREASES

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