

SALES HERE TO ATTRACT BIG CROWDS

Stores of La Grande Preparing for the Annual January Clearances

WILL DRAW TRADE FROM LARGE AREA

Combination and Other Sales Will Begin Saturday, to Run from Two to Three Weeks.

Beginning Saturday, January 2, large crowds of people from all parts of Union and Willowa counties are expected to be attracted to La Grande and business interests of the city are anticipating a heavy period during the next two or three weeks, the annual clearance sales in many local stores being the attraction.

January 2 usher in the annual period featuring such sales, and retail men in La Grande assert that the best buys they have ever been privileged to offer the purchasing public will be on display in local stores during the coming month. Both new and already in-stock merchandise will be marked down and the reputation of La Grande stores for big stocks and excellent sale value will be a drawing card for people who are within driving distance of this city.

Local Stores of High Rank It is generally recognized now that La Grande has the finest stores in existence east of Portland.

Large crowds of buyers are expected here from Union, Imbler, Elgin, Cove, Willowa, Joseph, North Bend, and other points. In the two sister counties as well as many from Baker and other points. A large number of people patronize such sales year and the coming period, with its extra values, is likely to see the greatest volume of business of any January.

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REALTORS MAY MEET IN JULY

The Northwest Realtors' association, who have accepted La Grande's invitation to hold their annual convention here next summer, will be asked to fix a date in the latter part of July if that is convenient. It was decided at a luncheon meeting of the local real estate men at the Tiffin.

William Miller and Sherwood Williams were chosen to represent the La Grande realtors at the board meeting of the Northwest association at Seattle Jan. 11 and 12. They were instructed by the board to arrange a convention for late in July if that proves convenient to the majority of the affiliated realtors.

La Grande expects a visiting delegation of from 500 to 1000 land men at the convention here.

Complete Program Given For New Year's Cantata

1926 A Big Business Year

Everything indicates improved conditions for the New Year and the most favorable business volume throughout the country since the World War.

Eastern Oregon will be no exception and you will naturally spend your money with the business man who keeps you constantly informed about his goods, his services, and his policies. The business men who appreciate their opportunity most will give increased attention to publicity during the coming year. Never before have they had available as complete a service nor such high reader-interest at such a low reader-cost.

"Observer Advertising—A Merchandising Service."

Peterson To Stand Trial Next Month

Jurors Fail to Reach Verdict in Case Against Driver Charged with Drunkenness.

Failing to come to a verdict in the case against E. L. Peterson, whom the state charges with being intoxicated the afternoon of December 28 when the car he was driving struck Earl Stream's car and drove it through the guard rail along the highway near Perry, a jury of six men was dismissed by Justice Hugh E. Brady last evening, and a new trial set for January 5, 1926.

The jury withdrew for deliberation at 4 o'clock after several hours of testimony and argument by the attorneys. When they had not arrived at a unanimous decision at 9 o'clock, the court released the jurors from further responsibility in the case.

On Saturday, at 9 a. m., Clyde Bloom is to appear before Justice Brady for a hearing in his trial on a charge of possession of hash. His case, according to the district attorney, will be tried in a higher court.

A fine of \$5 and costs was paid in justice of the peace court by Mrs. L. Hutchinson Wednesday when she pleaded guilty to a charge of permitting her son, under 16 years of age, to drive her automobile. Mrs. Hutchinson lives at Union.

OREGONIANS WILL ATTEND MEETINGS OF IDAHO GRANGE

The Idaho State grange will hold its annual meeting at Payette January 18-22, inclusive, and a large number of grangers from Eastern Oregon are intending to be present for at least part of the session, it is announced here today.

W. W. Deal, who was formerly pastor of the M. E. church in La Grande, is state master. George A. Hamilton, Oregon state grange master, and W. H. Gekeler, state deputy, will attend as official Oregon delegates.

Idaho Man Arrested Here for Burglary

Prompt action on the part of the local police force prevented the escape from La Grande of two young men wanted in Pocatello, Idaho for burglary in a store.

Yesterday a letter was received from Pocatello, and a short time later Lyle Kouch, 18, and Delbert Phillips were behind the bars and a telegram was being sent to home authorities notifying them of the finding of the pair. In their possession were four suitcases containing articles alleged to have been stolen from the Pocatello lumber company store.

Upon receipt of the telegram Sheriff Sumnerfield and his deputy, of Moscow, Idaho, started for La Grande in his car, arriving there at 5 a. m. today after an all night drive. Half an hour later the officers and their prisoners had started the return trip.

CHURCH NOTICES MUST BE IN EARLY TOMORROW

Church notices in order to be printed in Saturday's issue of the Observer, must be in the editor's hands not later than noon tomorrow. Any notices arriving later will not be printed.

Club Decorations for Ball Extraordinary

Ball and his famous Chauve Souris—who took America by storm when the intangible showman brought his Russian ballet entertainers to this country a few years ago—furnished the motif and the inspiration for the brightly decorations that will form the background for the farrow ball at the La Grande country club this evening.

Two life-size figures, emulating characters from the original Chauve Souris, are to be a feature attraction.

- 1. Organ prelude. 2. Recitative, tenor—"Comfort Ye My People." Bertrand Wardell. 3. Recitative, baritone—"The People That Walked in Darkness." Blood Williams. 4. Chorus with contralto and soprano solos—"Arie, Shine, for Thy Light is Come." Myrtle Black and Mrs. G. A. Bean. 5. Recitative, baritone—"Behold, a King." Lester Stoddard. 6. Quartet—"He Shall Feed His Flock." Mrs. Jack Huff, Mrs. Vernon Almsworth, Messrs. Edward Williams, John Stoddard.

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Seek Pole



Capt. George H. Wilkins (above) and "Sandy" Smith, (below) plan to hop off next March from Point Barrow, Alaska, for a flight over the north pole. They will have an especially built plane for their 800-mile flight.

WATCH PARTIES TO GREET 1926

The infant year—when he thrusts a timid toe over the threshold of the waiting world at midnight—will find the citizens of La Grande all ready to greet his hand and wish him "Happy New Year."

They will greet him with both arms and screaming sirens, but they will greet him thoughtfully and prayerfully, too.

In the churches, there will be gathered the Epworth Leagues and the Christian Endeavors and the young People's societies, with older members of the congregations as their guests. They will have hymns and prayer and hour before the new watch night begins.

Joint C. E. Meeting

Delias C. Hiles, of Milton, who is the Oregon Christian Endeavor's first field secretary, will address a joint meeting of that organization at the Christian church at 5 o'clock. Prosyterian young people will be the guests.

One of the largest services will be celebrated at the Salvation Army hall, Claude C. Pratt, pastor of the Church of God, will be there with his band, and the Rev. E. L. Johnson, once a presiding elder in the Methodist Episcopal church, is to be one of the speakers. The first meeting starts at 8 o'clock and will be followed at 9 by an informal social. Devotionals will be resumed at 10 and continue until the new year arrives.

Parishioners of the Church of the Nazarene will be received in the chapel at 8 o'clock for the New Year's service. An hour or more of bible study will be included in the devotional portion of the meeting. The young people of the parish have prepared informal entertainment.

Members of the Lutheran church will give a dinner in the

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FINAL STEP HAIL 1926 IN GAMBLING AS YEAR OF FIGHT MADE PROSPERITY

Commission Passes Ordinance Ruling Against Slot Machines

PUNCHBOARDS ALSO BANNED FROM CITY

Fine and Jail Sentence or Both Provided as Penalty for Violators of New Law.

The final step in its determination to eradicate nickel-in-the-slot machines and punch boards from this city was taken by the city commission last night when it passed an ordinance making the operation or possession of slot machines, punch or pull boards or any similar gambling device an offense punishable by a fine, a jail sentence, or both.

The ordinance, containing an emergency clause making it effective immediately, was read for the third time last night and when placed upon passage, was given a unanimous vote.

The penalty for a violation of the ordinance is a fine of not less than \$5 nor more than \$500 and a jail sentence of not more than 30 days, or both. In the event any offender would be unable to pay a fine he would have to serve the amount out at a rate of \$2 a day in the city jail, not to exceed 150 days.

A movement to clean out such devices was launched several weeks ago and local business men were warned not to permit any future operation of same. Since then, some of the machines have been put into service, it is said, which resulted in the passing of the ordinance.

Commission Room Used

The commission met for the first time since repair work on the municipal building was begun several weeks ago in the commission room.

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Three Ford Planes Damaged in Accident

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (By the Associated Press)—Three of Ford's stout all-metal passenger planes en route to Florida were badly damaged in an accident today. No one was hurt.

The plane Miss Fort Myers, in taking off, crashed into Miss Tampa and Miss Miami. Miss Fort Myers tipped over before leaving the ground in her take off.

The planes, which arrived here yesterday for a stop en route to Florida from Detroit, will be repaired here.

Ted Thye Loses Title To Oakland Wrestler

PORTLAND, Ore. (By the Associated Press)—Ted Thye, local wrestler, lost his light heavyweight belt to Al Karasick, of Oakland, Cal., last night. Karasick won two out of three falls.

Karasick won the first fall in 34 minutes with a headlock. Thye took the second with a flying wristlock in 12 minutes and Karasick ended the bout 13 minutes later with another headlock.

McCormack Will Sing For Radio Tomorrow

NEW YORK (By the Associated Press)—Arrangements have virtually been completed for an international broadcasting program for tomorrow night, featuring songs of John McCormack and Lucrezia Bori, in America and chorus of "Big Ben" in London.

Starting at 6:25 p. m. Eastern time (3:20 p. m. Pacific coast time) the program will continue until about 11:35. The chorus of "Big Ben" will be heard between 6:45 and 7:30. McCormack will sing between 9 and 10:20.

Federal Taxpayers Refunded Large Sum

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—Refunds aggregating \$150,885,415 were given to federal taxpayers during the last fiscal year by the United States treasury department.

Most of the funds were of less than \$100.

Submitting its report to congress, the treasury set forth at \$124,107,772 had been returned on account of illegal collection of taxes.

Italian Sun and Women Lure to Crown Prince

PARIS (By the Associated Press)—Queen Marie, of Roumania, is searching far and wide for her errant son, Crown Prince Carol.

Financial, Industrial and Agricultural Leaders Are Optimistic

WAR DEPRESSION BUGABOO BEATEN

New Year Will Usher in An Era of Better Times for American People Is View Held.

CHICAGO (By the Associated Press)—Financial, industrial, and agricultural leaders hail 1926 as promising to lead the nation much further away from the bugaboo of post-war depression.

Their views, representative of the wholesale and retail dry goods, railroads, farmers, labor and bankers both in agricultural and livestock regions, agree that the new year will marshal in an era of better times.

This outlook follows a record breaking Christmas buying season which closed a "most successful" year in which many business records were broken.

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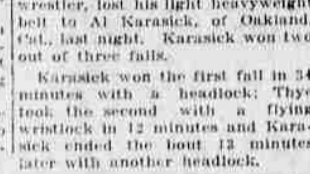
DIVERS SEEKING MORE VICTIMS OF CAR WRECK TODAY

TACOMA, Wash. (By the Associated Press)—Divers today will search for more bodies at the bottom of the city waterway in the wreck of a street car which last night plunged through an open street of the city, killing four persons and resulting in injuries to four others.

Clyde Staley, street car conductor, blamed the failure of the air brakes for the accident.

The known dead are: G. E. A. Morrow, 43; Teletig Obayashi, 67; Mrs. Alice Scott and her son, Louis, 5.

Looks Like A Dry New Year



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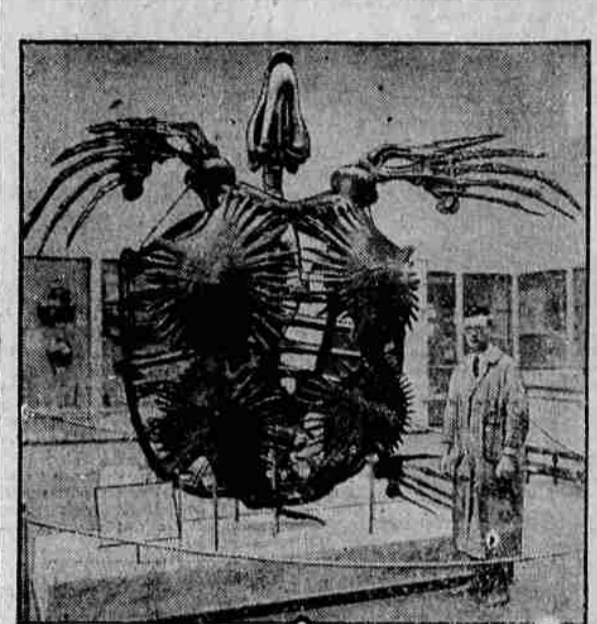


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Washington is going to be dry on New Year eve, if these people have anything to say about it. Five thousand gallons of liquor, of all qualities, have been confiscated and are about to be destroyed. At the left is U. S. Marshal L. C. Snyder, former newspaper man, with his ax ready to break the bottles; next is Wayne B. Wheeler, general counsel for the Anti-Saloon league; Detective Scrivener of Washington is at Wheeler's left, and Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt, assistant attorney of the United States, is at the right.

World's Biggest Turtle



Yale university's new Peabody Museum displays this skeleton of a prehistoric turtle—the largest turtle that ever lived. A member of the museum staff is shown beside it. One of the turtle's feet is gone. The evidence, scientists say, is that this foot was chewed off by a giant lizard some time before the turtle's death.

BOWMAN-HICKS OFFICIALS HERE

Preparatory to the launching of their sales campaigns for the coming year, outside salesman and branch managers of the Bowman-Hicks Lumber company are in La Grande this week on an inspection and educational visit.

The delegation, which is composed of 12 men, headed by R. H. Bowman, of Kansas City, vice president of the company, representing territories as far east as Ohio, arrived in La Grande Tuesday morning, and left immediately by motor stage for Willowa, where they spent Tuesday and Wednesday at the plant here. They returned here last night, and will spend the remainder of their stay—until Saturday evening—in acquainting themselves with the big plant in La Grande.

New Year's night, the visitors will be banqueted at the Foley hotel, with local salesmen and foremen of departments composing the remainder of the company.

Besides Mr. Bowman, the visiting crowd includes: A. L. Brown, sales manager, Kansas City; W. R. Steiner, Omaha; L. D. McCoy, Topeka; K. P. F. Houston, Kansas City; Robert Minton, Lincoln, Neb.; Curtis R. Hay, Des Moines; E. A. Chicago; L. J. Campbell, Cleveland; P. J. Gillis, Detroit; H. E. Johnson, Aokland, Ohio; and John Rice, Milwaukee.

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Italian Sun and Women Lure to Crown Prince

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36 MINERS MEET DEATH IN EUROPE

Flood Situation Growing Worse Hourly, Reports Today Declare

THOUSANDS FLEE TO HIGHER LANDS

Klenraab Dam, in West Hungaria, Breaks Menacing Inhabitants of 30 Villages.

PARIS (By the Associated Press)—Floods in Central Europe continue to spread, notably in Eastern Hungary.

Devastation by water is being added to by ice jams forming at bridges. Thousands of persons have been thrown from their homes by high water and are flocking to cities which are above the flood level.

DAM MENACES 30 TOWNS VIENNA (By the Associated Press)—A dispatch from Oedenburg, in West Hungaria, says that the dam at Klenraab, on the Rabb river, burst last night, menacing 30 villages.

Unconfirmed reports state that 36 miners were drowned when the salt mines at Marosajvary were flooded.

EXPERTS GIVE CANCER VIEWS

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (By the Associated Press)—Three outstanding conclusions were announced by leading exponents of medicine and genetics Wednesday during a symposium on cancer conducted at Yale university by the American Society of Zoologists. These conclusions were:

That cancer is not an infectious disease.

That cancer cannot be developed except by persons in whom there is a hereditary cancerous strain.

That even person tainted at birth with a cancerous strain cannot develop the disease spontaneously, but through the agency of environmental factors, chief among which is frictional irritation.

The first was expounded by Dr. James D. Murphy of Rockefeller institute for medical research. Dr. L. C. Strong of the Braxey institute, Harvard university, supported Doctor Murphy in his findings and added his convictions on heredity which was disputed, however, by Dr. James Ewing of Cornell university.

Another announcement of significance was that of Dr. Halsey G. Hager of the Cornell Medical college, who reported that experimentation with mice and study of the clinical history of 200 cancerous mothers indicated that the nursing of babies has little if any effect in producing cancer of the breast. Abstinence from nursing, on the contrary, he believed, had a noticeable effect in increasing cancerous susceptibility.

Playful Volcanoes Warm Large Area In Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (By the Associated Press)—The return of volcanic activity to North America's hottest peak—Mt. McKinley, 26,200 feet high, was indicated by volumes of smoke and steam rising from the mountain and by an earthquake felt here yesterday.

It is regarded as one of a series of volcanic phenomena in which many observers saw promise of radical permanent climate changes for the southern part of Alaska.

Mr. Shishimite, in the Aluetian Islands 800 miles southwest of McKinley, erupted November 31 and this region has experienced a spring-like November and December unparalleled in the memory of the oldest inhabitants.

Streams and seas usually frozen have remained open, and in place of the usual snow the landscape is green with vegetation.

The affected area covers several hundred miles all along Cook inlet, to the northwest of which McKinley rises, and far up into the valley of the Bushitta river.

Anchorage had a Fahrenheit temperature of 28 degrees above zero Christmas day when the

temperature is usually around zero.

Steam Surging Up Immense billows of steam issuing from the saddle between Mt. McKinley's topmost peak and the lesser one to the north were plainly visible from Broad Pass on the Alaskan railroad. Conductor P. Knight said on his arrival here with the train.

An earthquake which occurred December 22 tossed sleepers on Pullman car about on their beds and was the most severe in years. This was reported here yesterday from Curry, about 55 miles south-east of the mountain.

It is believed that a heavy displacement in the Alaskan range opened a steam vent in the vicinity of the peak. Clouds surrounding the mountain shut off a view of the peak from here yesterday.

DENIES REPORT

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (By the Associated Press)—A denial of the report that Mt. McKinley about 150 miles north of here, has erupted was voiced by Henry T. Karasick, superintendent of McKinley national park, in a statement here last night.