

50 HOUSES ERECTED IN PAST YEAR

Quarter Million Dollars Spent in Construction Here in 1925

BIG INCREASE IN OWNERS OF HOMES

Three Hundred and Fifty Residences Have Been Built in La Grande Since January 1, 1920.

Building in La Grande during 1925, while it did not reach the figures attained during the three preceding years, passed reaching a quarter million dollars by a small margin and swelled the amount spent on new construction since January 1, 1920 to \$1,587,822, according to a check of building permits issued at the city office by J. E. Stearns, municipal recorder.

More than 200 permits were issued calling for expenditures totaling \$243,817 during the past year and of this amount, from \$156,000 to \$160,000 was expended on the erecting of some 50 new residences, bringing the total number of homes built since January 1, 1920 to 350. The greater part of the remainder was spent in other work. In some cases remodeling bills amounted to from \$1000 to \$2000.

\$2,000,000 Actually Spent. The amount actually spent during the last six years, by conservative estimates, reached the two million-dollar mark, according to the figures, who state that it is often impossible to stay within the preliminary estimate, which is given at the time of issuance of the building permit.

La Grande has been passing through a period of prosperity and stability during the last four years that is reflected in the large sums spent in new buildings and in repairs, and remodeling work, one authority declares.

Home Owners Increase. Of course, many of the homes were built to relieve the housing conditions which were, to say the least, crowded three or four years ago.

(Continued on Page Five.)

TIGERS TRIM COVE QUINTET

Cove broke off the short end of a 29 to 11 basketball score in a practice game with La Grande on the local court Monday evening after school.

Twelve of 13 local fellows in fact, about everyone who has been out regularly for practice, got into the melee before it was over. Cove was admittedly short on practice and experience, the visiting players not having been on the floor since vacation.

A practice game with the annual for this evening has been postponed indefinitely. The season's schedule begins with the Wallowa game here Friday.

Woman, Drunk New Year's Day, Draws Term In Jail

Biggest Day In Its History

A well-known La Grande store enjoyed the largest business Saturday in its history, by a large margin. It was the first day of the store's January sale—an annual event.

It is especially worthy of note that this sale was advertised exclusively in the columns of The Observer, no other medium or method being used except display windows. The results are convincing as to the pulling power of The Observer, its excellent coverage of the La Grande territory, and its high reader interest. Many other stores are experiencing like results—and all at a cost per reader that is unusually low. Intelligent use of Observer space is always profitable.

"Observer Advertising Service."

Faces Trial



William Bevans, 76, is being held in the Logansport, Ind., jail awaiting trial on a charge of first degree murder. An inmate of the White county infirmary, he stabbed to death Nelson Anderson, 74, in a quarrel over Stella Shirley, another inmate of the institution. He objected to Anderson's sentencing Miss Shirley, who is 37, with an acquittal.

FRED CURREY GIVES VIEWS

Stand behind La Grande as a whole, take a part in its affairs, and find out what there is to know about the city, "a community that excels... and we will have increased our capital stock," said Fred H. Curry, local editor and publisher of The District News, before the chamber of commerce today during the Tuesday luncheon hour. Mr. Curry's topic was "Sell Our Town to Ourselves" and he declared that in that way such a thing would be accomplished.

(Continued on Page Five.)

THREE-DAY MEET OF COUNTY COURT IS IN PROSPECT

With first-of-the-year business sliding into proportions before it, Union county court will convene at the courthouse tomorrow prepared to stretch its customary two-day term into a session of three days or longer, Judge U. G. Couch announces.

First, there will be the annual selection of a jury list for all regular and extra terms of circuit court in 1926. From 400 to 500 names are regularly drawn, the registration and tax lists supplying the numbers. Usually an entire day is required for this task.

Bids on gas and oil for use with county machinery during the ensuing year will be received. Certain county officers will be appointed or reappointed to their present positions. In addition, the usual accumulation of bills will be audited, complaints heard and judgments made.

BEY'S LAND FOR POWER SITE

WENTZHEE, Wash.—Trustees of property and easements along lake shore land and near the town of Chelan, amounting to \$27,149, were filed in the county auditor's office by Major Anderson for the Chelan Electric company.

Woman, Drunk New Year's Day, Draws Term In Jail

Biggest Day In Its History

A well-known La Grande store enjoyed the largest business Saturday in its history, by a large margin. It was the first day of the store's January sale—an annual event.

It is especially worthy of note that this sale was advertised exclusively in the columns of The Observer, no other medium or method being used except display windows. The results are convincing as to the pulling power of The Observer, its excellent coverage of the La Grande territory, and its high reader interest. Many other stores are experiencing like results—and all at a cost per reader that is unusually low. Intelligent use of Observer space is always profitable.

"Observer Advertising Service."

Will Build Wonderland Golf Course

Wallowa Lake Promoters, in Annual Meeting, Lay Plans for Future Expansion.

Plans to equip the Wallowa Lake Wonderland with a scenic golf course that will require two years for construction, to build an additional unit on the resort and to erect several more tourists' cabins were made when stockholders and directors held their annual meetings separately and successively at the courthouse last evening.

Prospects for the project loom really, and the promoters are in high spirits as to the future of the playground of Eastern Oregon.

Twelve or more stockholders were present representing directly or by proxy, some 32 1/2 shares in the corporation.

August Stange, John MacPherson and H. E. Dixon elected directors. A comprehensive exposition of the financial status of the park project was given jointly by G. L. Larson and MacPherson.

Larson Re-Elected. At the directors' meeting which followed, Larson was re-elected to the presidency; MacPherson was named vice president, and Dixon was re-elected secretary.

August Humeson, a brother-in-law of Stange and recently come to La Grande from Canada, was chosen director to fill the unexpired term of Senator Bruce De-

(Continued on Page 5.)

PARISH PLANS CONVOCATION

Announcement that La Grande will entertain the Eastern Oregon convocation, with 100 or more delegates from the Episcopal churches in the territory, came out of the annual parish meeting at St. Peter's church last night.

Further plans for the meeting, which is set for Feb. 12, 13, and 14, will be made when the Rev. Oliver Riley, lately come to assume the duties of rector, meets with his vestry men at the rectory Monday night. The vestrymen will call for an assembly of parishioners to name committees and arrange details for the convocation.

St. Peter's church will be represented at the Eastern Oregon convention by H. A. Zurbrink, W. H. Russell and Mrs. J. C. Campbell. As their alternates, the assembly last night chose Mrs. George Cochran, Mrs. C. N. Tarkington, Mrs. B. W. Carr and Mrs. C. C. Ball.

Other elections of the annual session included: H. A. Zurbrink, senior warden and treasurer; Mr. Slater, junior warden; E. Marks, clerk of the vestry; L. H. Russell, W. G. Williams, A. W. T. Milne and G. N. Tarkington, vestry men.

Knights of Pythias Install New Officers

The Knights of Pythias lodge installed officers for the coming year last evening when a meeting was held at the K. P. hall for that purpose. Dr. H. W. Riley, deputy grand chancellor of the lodge, was installed installing officer and the following took office:

Ether Ross, chancellor; commander: Alvah Crowley, vice chaplain; H. C. Beckwith, prelate; C. L. Berry, master of work; C. K. McCormick, master of exercises; Lawrence Graham, keeper of record and seal; Eddie Brennan, master of arms; Harry Sterkeling, inner guard; John Rogers, outer guard, and Jack McCarty, trustee.

A. G. S. Will Entertain At Pot Luck Dinner

With Colon R. Sheppard, president of the board, Dr. W. P. McDory and A. W. Nelson, of the Hi-Dad club, Superintendent J. T. Longfellow and Principal E. A. Bennett, dean of girls, and all the women members of high school faculty, as their guests, the 24 students of the Associated Girl Students association will entertain at a pot luck dinner Wednesday evening in the domestic science dining room.

During the evening the girls will make their semi-annual reports of the work the association is accomplishing through its various committees. The A. G. S. was organized in 1922, and comprises the total girl membership of the high school. The women teachers act as sponsors.

Miss Marian Miller is chairman of the committee in charge of dinner Wednesday night. Entertainment is being prepared by Miss Daisy Robbs.

Justice Court Moved Into New Quarters

Judge Hugh C. Brady and the justice of the peace court are moving today from their quarters in the West-Jacobsen building to two slightly larger rooms in the Foley-Hobby building at Adams avenue and Depot street. They are located next to the street, over the E. & L. drug store, and are reached by the stairway in the adjoining parlor next door.

The new office and courtroom will be open for business tomorrow, the judge announced today.

TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT EPIDEMIC

High School Fumigation Follows Report of a Scarlet Fever Case

DIRECTORS LOSE NO TIME IN WORK

Precautionary Measures Prescribed for Students for Their Individual Protection.

High school was dismissed today to permit the thorough fumigation of the building against a possible spread of scarlet fever, a well-developed case of which was discovered when Thelma Bray, a high school girl, consulted Dr. R. P. Landis about what appeared to be a slight indisposition Monday evening after school.

The matter was immediately brought to the attention of the board of directors, who called Dr. A. L. Richardson, city health officer, into consultation on the situation.

On his advice, it was decided to begin fumigation of the building immediately, and to cancel all high school activities today in order that the process might be as complete as possible.

After formaldehyde-sulphur candles had been collected from every drug store in town that stocks them Superintendent J. T. Longfellow, E. D. Towler, principal, and the high school janitor touched off the fumigation tapers until long after midnight. Every square foot of space from basement to garret was fogged with the germ-destroying fumes today.

Will Open School Tomorrow. The building will be thrown open at 8 o'clock this evening, and will be closed and ready for school at the usual hour in the morning.

Meanwhile, every precautionary measure has been taken to ward off danger from the exposure of students yesterday.

Girls and boys were gathered in two separate groups at the domestic sciences and manual training departments this morning while Dr. Landis outlined to them the measures they are to observe for individual precaution.

Co-operation Asked. "We are battling the problem of contagious disease," he said in part. "You have all more or less been exposed. Scarlet fever is an acute disease, developing among young people mostly. The portal of entry is in the throat, where it first develops. You have a slight headache, some nausea and vomiting. About the second or third day a rash develops. Many are misled by thinking it is caused by some drug. The rash extends over the body except for the face, and lasts from two to five days and disappears. The sores appear about the neck and in the armpits. A few things to do to co-operate with the school board in preventing an epidemic are these:

"First, take a shampoo. Then, take a bath accompanied by a complete change of attire. "Gargle every two hours with one teaspoonful of salt in a glass of warm water. "I would like for you to cleanse the system within and without. A light laxative and fluid foods will accomplish this. "Stay out of crowded places as much as you can. "Please use every possible effort

(Continued on Page Five.)

H. I. Crawford Seated As W. O. W. Commander

H. I. Crawford was installed as council commander of the Woodmen of the World last evening when members of the lodge met in regular session at the L. O. O. F. hall. Other officers of the organization were re-elected some time ago, so remained in their former positions without further installation.

After the ceremony lunch was served.

Justice Court Moved Into New Quarters

Judge Hugh C. Brady and the justice of the peace court are moving today from their quarters in the West-Jacobsen building to two slightly larger rooms in the Foley-Hobby building at Adams avenue and Depot street. They are located next to the street, over the E. & L. drug store, and are reached by the stairway in the adjoining parlor next door.

The new office and courtroom will be open for business tomorrow, the judge announced today.

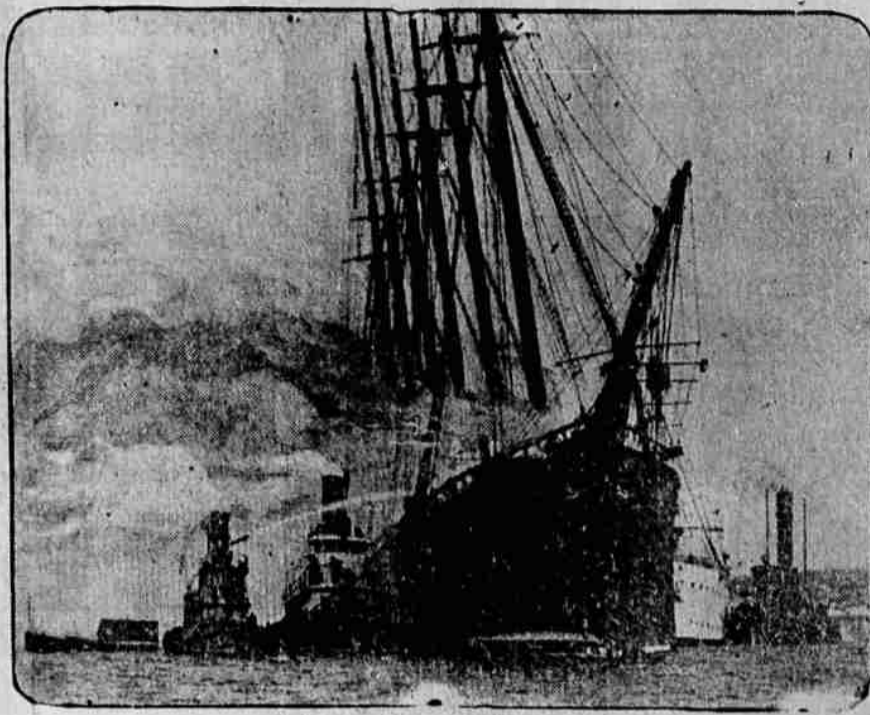
BEHNS AND BRIDE WIFE HONEYMOONING ON COAST

ATLANTIC CITY (AP)—Christened in the luxurious comfort of the presidential suite at the Biltmore, and denying themselves to newspaper interviewers, Irving Berlin, former of jazzmania, and his bride, formerly Ellen Mackay, daughter of the head of the Postal Telegraph company, are honeymooning today.

DEATH FOLLOWS RIDE

PORTLAND, Ore.—(AP)—After an all-night ride in a truck—Kenneth Livingston, 19, of Bend, Ore., was killed early today when the truck skidded on the ice on the Columbia River highway near Springfield, Vernon Mason, of Lapine, was driving.

Last Six-Masted Schooner Burned



The Edward J. Lawrence, the last six-masted schooner in the world, burned in the Portland (Me.) harbor. Photo shows fire boats pouring water into the ship in an effort to extinguish the flames.

LEGIONNAIRES WILL INSTALL

Frank C. McCulloch of Baker, a member of the state executive committee of the American Legion, and Mrs. Leona Palmer, a past department president of the auxiliary to the American Legion, will officiate at the installation of 1926 officers Wednesday evening when the La Grande post and its auxiliary meet in joint session at the Knights of Pythias hall.

Otis W. Palmer, present commanding officer of the post, will at that time relinquish his authority to Harley H. Richardson. Taking office with the new commander will be Hugh E. Brady, vice commander; Chester Thompson, adjutant; Lynn Bohlenkamp, financial officer; C. H. Talbot, chaplain; O. W. Palmer, Harvey P. Matthews, Ray Williams, Ed Colledge and Jesse Andrews, executive committee.

Mrs. Ray Williams is president-elect of the auxiliary. Her staff includes: Mrs. E. G. Olson, first vice president; Mrs. J. C. Richardson, second vice president; Mrs. Roy Curry, secretary and treasurer.

In the absence of Mrs. Harley H. Richardson, retiring president, and Mrs. Julius Rosoch, first vice president, Mrs. Walter Palmer, the second vice president, will preside until the new commanding officer takes her chair.

A contest, for which a free trip to Paris is to be the prize, and the coming American Legion theatrical production, "The Whirl of the Town," will be subjects for discussion when the installation ceremonies have been completed.

Methodists Will Give Farewell Party Jan. 7

In farewell compliment to Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Fanning, who are moving to Walla Walla, Wash., and to Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Ross, who will take up their residence in the east, the Meek's Forum and the Marytha class of the First M. E. Sunday school will hold a joint social meeting at the church Thursday at 7:45 p. m. The affair was first planned for Friday evening, but was advanced a day to avoid conflict with the boys' and girls' basketball games at the gymnasium that night.

The regular monthly business meetings of the two organizations will be conducted in addition to the party.

Alleged Check Artist Taken by B. P. A. Man

J. A. Boyer, charged with passing bad checks, was arrested yesterday by Officer Priest, of the Bankers Protective association, and turned over to Police Chief Hayden, who in turn, lodged him in the county jail where he is awaiting a preliminary hearing.

Ex-Scotland Yard Head Fined for Misconduct

LONDON (By the Associated Press)—Sir Basil Thompson, former head of Scotland Yard, was convicted today on a charge of misconduct with a woman in Hyde park and fined five pounds. The defense gave notice that an appeal would be taken.

Sir Basil was merely gathering data for literary work when arrested, it was testified on his behalf in the police court. The defendant's counsel declared Sir Basil intended to write about communism and to get his material in the park at night. It was during a conversation with a woman to get such material, counsel said, that the police arrested him.

SEATTLE CONDON DIES

SEATTLE (AP)—Dean John T. Condon, Washington university law school, died today.

Spree Ends In Drinking Of Posion

Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, Jobless, Drunk, and with Broken Nose, Attempts to Commit Suicide.

CHICAGO (By the Associated Press)—This afternoon physicians were forced to administer heart stimulants to Miss Nesbit, but they still held hopes for her recovery. The liquor she drank might have her life, they said, as alcohol is a most effective antidote for the poison she drank.

CHICAGO (By the Associated Press)—Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, former wife of Harry K. Thaw, drank poison today in an attempt to commit suicide, after a prolonged New Year's celebration. Her condition is critical.

She has been living in an apartment here with her son, Russell Thaw, during a cabaret engagement, and had been drinking for several days, her negro maid said. Her engagement at the cafe ended abruptly but New Year's eve brought further libations, and when Evelyn returned to her apartment her maid saw that her nose had been broken.

She had not ceased to seek medical diversion since, the maid said.

Refused Antidote. The suicide attempt was made at 5 a. m. after Evelyn asked for a drink of water. The servant heard a crash in the bath room, "I've done it, I've taken poison," Evelyn cried.

The maid hurried with a bottle of milk for an antidote but Evelyn dashed it to the floor. The maid then called a physician who found Evelyn unconscious.

An occupant of the apartment beneath Miss Nesbit's told the police there had been a party in her quarters from 11 o'clock last night until early this morning, which that two men's voices could be heard. Another neighbor said she heard a scream early today. Evelyn's maid, however, denied there had been a party last night. "Miss Nesbit was ill last night," she said.

Europe Slowly Emerging From Its Worst Flood

PARIS (By the Associated Press)—Transylvania, Eastern Hungary and Rumania present the most critical situation in Europe, which is slowly emerging from one of the worst floods in its history.

The number of dead in these countries and the amount of damage inflicted probably will not be known for several days, perhaps weeks, because of the demoralization of communities and because vast areas of territory are likely to remain under water for some time. But it is certain that there will be a tremendous death toll and financial loss.

The swollen rivers and canals in Belgium and Holland are going down, the German and Polish rivers also are receding. The situation in France remains at a standstill, but the rain there continues unabated.

Details of the casualties and suffering in Transylvania, Hungary and Rumania are slowly reaching Budapest and Bucharest. It is variously estimated that between 500 and 1000 persons have perished, while the loss in cattle and the damage to spring wheat and property is tremendous.

Isolated Hamlets Suffer. Most deaths occurred in isolated hamlets and on small farms, where the residents had no warning of approaching danger. This makes the task of a close computation of casualties almost impossible. Many died of hunger or exposure as they waited to be rescued from their rooftops or other vantage points.

Eastern Hungary has suffered greatly, but the western reports are more reassuring. At Kis Jano it is known that 150 houses collapsed and several persons perished. In the Ozegs district 40 houses and farms were destroyed, and it is believed that portions of this district will be inundated for at least 10 days.

The worst situation exists along the River Theiss, where thousands of inhabitants still remain on the roof of the flooded houses, awaiting rescue. Great ice packs swept down from the mountains by recent thaw have completely dammed up the rivers at several points, causing the water to overflow the countryside.

FEASIBILITY OF PROJECT IS DEBATED

Sinnott Scores Handling of Baker Reclamation Work

BILL PROVIDES FOR CONTINUANCE

Interior Department Supply Measure, Pruned by Committee, Reported to House Today.

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—Recommending decreases in expenditures below both current appropriations and budget estimates for next year, the annual supply bill for the interior department was reported to the house today, calling for expenditures of \$228,000,000. This would be \$7,700,000 below the current funds and \$610,000 less than the budget figures.

Continuation of the Vale, Owyhee and Baker projects in Oregon would be provided for.

Baker Project Argued. Differing views as to the feasibility of the Baker reclamation project were contained in testimony given before the house appropriations committee by Reclamation Commissioner Elwood Mead, and Representative Sinnott, Republican, of Oregon.

Mead said the government has not proceeded with construction of the project because, under the law with no provision for advances or credit to settlers, the project is not economically feasible.

Sinnott asserted that the way in which the project has been handled "has been a great embarrassment to us and the other members of the Oregon delegation."

TAX BILL MOVING ON. WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—The provision in the house tax reduction bill increasing from \$10,000 to \$20,000 the limit of income on which a 25 per cent reduction of account of "earned income" might be applied, was approved today by the senate finance committee.

(Continued on Page Five.)

FASTER LIVING BRINGS DEATH

CHICAGO (By the Associated Press)—People are dying because they don't know how to live, said Dr. Gilbert Fitzpatrick, member of the executive committee of the Gorgas Memorial institute before the Ohio society of Chicago today. "How to Postpone Your Funeral" was his subject.

"The great bulk of human life is our own making. People overeat, overwork, overtax their bodies and mental energies. With these conditions go insufficient sleep and exercise. The American people in the middle span of life are dying faster than any other white people in the world," he said.

EUGENE, Ore.—This city's Hancock improvement bonds in the amount of \$25,000 were awarded the most critical situation in Europe, which is slowly emerging from one of the worst floods in its history.

The number of dead in these countries and the amount of damage inflicted probably will not be known for several days, perhaps weeks, because of the demoralization of communities and because vast areas of territory are likely to remain under water for some time. But it is certain that there will be a tremendous death toll and financial loss.

The swollen rivers and canals in Belgium and Holland are going down, the German and Polish rivers also are receding. The situation in France remains at a standstill, but the rain there continues unabated.

Details of the casualties and suffering in Transylvania, Hungary and Rumania are slowly reaching Budapest and Bucharest. It is variously estimated that between 500 and 1000 persons have perished, while the loss in cattle and the damage to spring wheat and property is tremendous.

Isolated Hamlets Suffer. Most deaths occurred in isolated hamlets and on small farms, where the residents had no warning of approaching danger. This makes the task of a close computation of casualties almost impossible. Many died of hunger or exposure as they waited to be rescued from their rooftops or other vantage points.

Eastern Hungary has suffered greatly, but the western reports are more reassuring. At Kis Jano it is known that 150 houses collapsed and several persons perished. In the Ozegs district 40 houses and farms were destroyed, and it is believed that portions of this district will be inundated for at least 10 days.

The worst situation exists along the River Theiss, where thousands of inhabitants still remain on the roof of the flooded houses, awaiting rescue. Great ice packs swept down from the mountains by recent thaw have completely dammed up the rivers at several points, causing the water to overflow the countryside.