

CITY
EDITION

La Grande Evening Observer

THE WEATHER
OREGON: Unsettled tonight and
Friday, probably rain in the north-
west portion. Not so cold in the
west portion.

VOLUME XXV.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

LA GRANDE, OREGON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1926.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

NUMBER 136

VOTE ON NEW
COMMISSION
PLAN IN 1928City Dads Refuse to Sanction
Special Election
in February, 1927PETITION TO BE
CERTIFIED, FILEDIf Amendment to City
Charter Is Approved
in May, 1928, Election
Due in November.

A proposed charter amendment, providing that five commissioners shall be elected instead of three, will go on the ballot at the next regular election, which may be the May primary election in the spring of 1928. Then, if the amendment is approved by the people of La Grande, four commissioners will be elected from wards and one at large at the November election in 1928.

Such is the status of the "five-commissioner movement" according to action taken by the city commission last night.

Petition Considered.

A petition, bearing more than 15 per cent of the voters who cast their ballots at the last regular election, was filed two weeks ago asking for such an amendment and specifying a special election next February because the petitioners failed to specify what should be done with the present commission and when the five commissioners should be elected, ruled that such a special election would be an unnecessary expense to the city.

The state laws provide that all commissioners shall be elected at a regular biennial election. Thus, even if the proposed amendment were put to the voters in February, the five commissioners could not be elected until November, 1928. With nothing to gain by holding the election early next year and with such an election likely to cost \$500 to \$1,000 the commission neither accepted nor rejected the paper.

When no action is taken, the Oregon laws provide that the amendment petitioned shall be placed on the ballot at the next election. City Recorder J. E. Stearns will see that the names on the petition are certified by the county clerk and then file the document.

"We wouldn't gain any time by holding a special election," Commissioner Charles Phillips declared. "President A. T. Hill agreed with him. Commissioner H. P. Landis was not present, as he is out of town."

With the petition disposed of.

CONGRATULATE
LA GRANDE ON
STATE NORMAL

Congratulations upon the location of the Eastern Oregon normal school here are still being received. Today a letter came to the chamber of commerce officers from the Prineville Business Men's club.

"The Prineville Business Men's club and the citizens of this community wish to congratulate you and your community on the wonderful showing you made in the Eastern Oregon Normal school campaign," the letter reads. "We know of no better location outside of Prineville for such an institution than that of La Grande. The board of regents have made their choice and this community would be very glad to join with other contributing cities in endorsing the action of this honorable board and pledging cooperation in the building up of a great Eastern Oregon Normal school."

A telephone call from Baker this morning reassured La Grande of support and cooperation from that city.

THE
OBSERVER IS
REMEMBERED

In the midst of holiday shopping and festivities, the hundreds of Observer readers out over the valley might easily be too busy to think of their subscriptions. Such is not the case—each day there are a number of visitors from nearby communities who drop in, order The Observer for another year and extend the greetings of the season.

From Summerville, from Elgin, from Union and Cove, from Imbler and Alton, from North Powder and Telocast, from Island City and Perry, and from up in Wallawa county they have come to remember The Observer at Christmas time. There are over 1200 families in and near those communities who are regular, loyal Observer readers.

"Observer Advertising—A Merchandising Service"

New Ordinance
On Traffic In
Effect FridayAutomobile Drivers in La
Grande Given "Christ-
mas Present" by City
Executives.

Automobile drivers of La Grande will be given a Christmas present by the municipality tomorrow when the new traffic ordinance, passed late in November, will become effective.

The city officials are making ready for the new law and 500 copies of the ordinance have been printed and are now available for distribution. Forms for permits governing use of streets, loading zones, etc., are being prepared.

At the commission meeting last night it was announced that permits are necessary for the use of streets for any purpose, such as erecting a gasoline pumping plant, placing signs, etc.

"U-Driving"

U-driving, as it is commonly called, will not be permitted on certain parts of Adams avenue under the new ordinance. U-driving means the reversing of a car's direction, a turn clear around.

The ordinance reads: "Vehicles shall not make a complete turn, or reverse their direction, or turn around, in any part of a street between intersections, nor at the following intersections: Adams and Chestnut, Adams and Depot, Adams and Elm and Adams and Fir, nor at any place where traffic will be obstructed, but shall go around the block, or to any intersection where such a turn is permitted."

Other changes in the present rules are incorporated in the new ordinance. Many of the provisions give the police chief power to determine the status of streets as conditions demand.

The provision in reference to unloading vehicles has attracted much interest. It provides that the vehicle may back to the curb, but it shall not stand in such a position as to interfere with traffic on the street. No vehicle shall remain backed up to the curb except it be actually loading and unloading, and in no case longer than the actual loading or unloading requires.

It also provides, when practicable, that freight shall be discharged from and loaded upon vehicles upon the side nearest the curb.

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Time Nears For
Presentation of
Midnight Show

With New Year's a little more than a week away participants in the American Legion midnight matinee, to be given New Year's eve at the Arcade, are practicing regularly.

Two hours of real entertainment is promised by the legion committee in charge, with some of the best amateur artists in the community taking part.

Jack Coleman of Pendleton, in the role of Harry Lauder, will be the big attraction. Coleman was formerly with the Orpheum.

The matinee will start promptly at 12 o'clock and the doors will open at 11:30 o'clock. Only the first eight rows of seats on the main floor of the theater and the loge seats will be reserved. Meyers and Bowen, proprietors, donated the theater for the show.

Salvation Army
Santa Will Call

"Would you like Santa to make a personal call to your kiddies?" That is the question that Envoy Barker, of the Salvation Army here, asks La Grande people today.

"Thirty Christmas eve or Christmas morning, whichever service you best, Santa can make a few short calls on local families."

The Santa from the Salvation Army will get about quickly in a car and a small charge of 50 cents or more will be made for the service, the proceeds to go for Salvation Army relief work. Anyone desiring to take advantage of this opportunity may call Main 553.

Several families have already "signed up Santa" for Christmas eve.

Because of a shortage of Christmas funds, the Salvation Army will have a little go through the business section and take up a tambo-line collection. "We would appreciate every donation," Envoy Barker said. "Every cent will go toward providing Christmas cheer for the poor."

Two Below Zero
Near Eugene, Ore.

EUGENE, Ore., Dec. 22 (AP)—Two degrees below zero was the minimum temperature reported to Cascade summit, mountain hamlet on the new Cascade line of the Southern Pacific railroad this morning. Christmas eve at 7 o'clock in the town, with Mrs. Elmer McManus in charge. The prologue will present the religious side of the church in tableau form and

Approximately 32 inches of snow lies in the Cascades at the present time.

RECOMMENDS
MORE SHEEP
DURING 1927County Agent Avery Out-
lines Agricultural Work
for New YearWOULD INCREASE
HAY PLANTINGSMarkton Oats and Feder-
al Wheat Should Be
More Widely Distrib-
uted, Report Declares.

County Agent H. G. Avery has completed his program of work for the year 1926 and annual report has been sent to headquarters. With the work for 1927 finished a program for the coming year has been outlined.

During 1927, the following should be emphasized as the most important work in the county as far as agriculture is concerned, according to the county agent: Make the ram sale a state-wide sale under the direction of the Oregon Wool Growers' association; secure a further increase in farm flocks of sheep; secure more pasture and increased alfalfa plantings; secure further distribution of markton oats and more figures on federation wheat yields; train local club leaders to handle club work; secure commercial fertilizers for orchards; continue club work, general farm group work and rodent control work on the same plan as during the previous year.

The program of work in Union county is one worked out during 12 years of extension work and the following goals have been reached:

(Continued on Page Five)

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SEVERAL DIE
IN FIRES AND
EXPLOSIONSThree Firemen Missing
After Burning Winni-
peg Theater CollapseGIRLS' SCHOOL IS
LEVELLED BY FIRETwo Killed, 12 Injured
When Dozen Wooden
Buildings Are Wrecked
by Explosion.

Ely Court, girls' school, burns; loss \$1,000,000.
Two killed when 12 wooden buildings destroyed.
Three firemen missing in Winnipeg theater fire.

WINNIPEG, Dec. 23 (AP)—Three firemen were missing after a town of brick fell upon flames fighters as the Winnipeg theater burned and collapsed today. Five were taken injured from the wreckage. Loss was put at \$125,000.

BALDWIN, N. Y., Dec. 23 (AP)—Two persons were killed, about a dozen injured and twelve wooden buildings destroyed today in an explosion authorities believed might have been caused by a bomb set off in a "shoemakers' war."

Last week District Attorney Edwards, of Nassau county, learned Samuel Acarbi, a shoemaker with a shop in the Baldwin tavern, received a letter threatening to blow up the hotel if the cobbler did not cease a house to house canvas for trade.

GREENWICH, Conn., Dec. 23 (AP)—Ely Court, an exclusive school for girls, was destroyed by fire today, the loss being estimated by the owners at between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000. A man named Lillard, an employe on a neighboring estate, could not be found and it was feared that he had lost his life in the blaze.

The school was closed for the holidays and the one hundred girls had departed to their homes. They left all their belongings at school and their losses will be heavy.

Below-Freezing
Weather Due on
Christmas Eve

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23 (AP)—Santa Claus will probably do considerable blowing into his hands as he fills the assorted hokey weather bureau predicts "below freezing" Christmas weather generally throughout the state, with the beautiful "white Christmas" in many sections and says that it will be clear and calm.

The sharp cold weather with its killing frosts brought somewhat of a crisis to Southern California, region of the wide citrus belt, and orchard smudging had to be resorted to generally. Forecasts of 27, Escudido and Redlands 25 and Pomona 24 at the coldest period last night, and it was expected these figures would be even lower tonight.

Mount Hamilton and Mount Wilson reported the lowest temperatures last night being 22 degrees on each peak. In Chico it was 28, Oroville 21 and Stockton 22.

According to information received from Secretary of State Sam Koser, motorists in Oregon may affix their 1927 license plates to their automobiles Dec. 25 if they do not wish to wait until the first of the new year. Between Dec. 25 and Dec. 31, state traffic officers will not molest cars with new license plates. Amos Helms, deputy sheriff, declares.

Temporary licenses may be placed on newly-purchased cars tomorrow, it is said.

Christmas Church
Programs

The following Christmas programs at the various churches in La Grande are being printed today and will not appear in the church page tomorrow, which will be devoted to the regular Sunday service news.

Church of the Nazarene

The Sunday school Christmas program, to be held at 7:30 Christmas eve, follows:

Song, "Joy to the World," congregational scripture reading, the Rev. G. P. Owen; opening prayer, H. H. Cleaver; Story of the Christ Child, Ruth McDaniel; dual "Star of the East," Verla McClain and Marie Neukirchner; "Bethlehem," Lavella Crawford; "God's Son," Cecelia Hayburn; "What He Gave," Alice Cain, Lorain Keefe, Helen Fallow, Cuba Buchanan, Anna McClung; "The Christmas Doer," Gordon Jones; "My Christmas Gift to Him," Kenneth Crawford; song, "Little Hearts Open Wide," primary department; "Christmas Shopping," Lucile Briggs; "His Manager," Marjorie Walcott; exercise, "A Glad Word," Helen Fallow, Charles Zink, Anna McClung, Dorothea McKers, Dorothy Baldwin, Frank Cain, Cuba Buchanan, George McClung, Lorain Keefe;

"Snowflakes," Juanita Wilson; "The Joke on Pa," Billie Conrad; song, "Luther's Gracie Hymn," Emma Sult; "My Broadcast," Howard Zink; "Little Stockings," Norma Kelly; exercise, "The Way to Spend Christmas," Virginia Sult, Juanita Wilson, Anna McClung, Alice Cain, Cuba Buchanan, Robert Baldwin, Dorothy Baldwin; piano solo, Violet Kelly; "Good-Night," Emma Sult; reading, Mrs. G. E. Owen, "Merry Christmas," Ellen Cain; benediction, the Rev. L. D. Meggers.

Catholic Church

Midnight mass, in its usual elaborate and inspiring features, will be the principal Christmas service at the Catholic church, to which the public is invited. Special music will be furnished. Christmas day services will be held at 8 and 10:30 a. m. followed by benediction.

L. D. S. Church

The Sunday school of the L. D. S. church will present a cantata Christmas eve at 7 o'clock in the tabernacle, with Mrs. Elmer McManus in charge. The prologue will present the religious side of the church in tableau form and

The business section of La Grande will be closed Christmas day, although all stores will remain open on Friday night as is usual custom for Saturday nights.

The Evening Observer will issue no paper on Christmas, the Friday paper being the last until Monday, Dec. 27.

(Continued on Page 5.)

PAT AT MURDER SCENE



Pat McDermott, now on trial for the murder of Editor Don H. Mellett at Canton, O., was seen today at the scene of Mellett's death. McDermott is shown here with a group of officials. He is the little chap in the center.

Pat McDermott
Denies Killing
Canton Editor

TOURTHOUSE, CANTON, O., Dec. 23 (AP)—Patrick Eugene McDermott, testifying today in his trial on a charge of murdering Don H. Mellett, Canton publisher, denied any complicity in the crime and pointed to Steve Kaskol, the state's star witness, as the probable slayer. McDermott said it was he who had warned Mellett by telephone that three men were lying in ambush for him at his garage door.

McDermott was defiant throughout his cross examination by Prosecutor C. B. McClintock, and shouted that he had been "framed." On two occasions, Judge Edwin Diehl was forced to reprimand McDermott for his refusal to McClintock.

When he refused to divulge the name of a man with whom he said he had bid for a while in Cleveland the prosecution asked that he be held in contempt of court, but the ruling was deferred and McDermott repeatedly refused to divulge the name, declaring: "I'm not a rat."

He denied knowing Ben Rudner and Louis Mazer, his co-defendants, and that he had ever had a gun while he was in Canton.

Columbia River
Highway Blocked

HOOD RIVER, Ore., Dec. 23 (AP)—The Columbia river highway is blocked by a rock slide 150 feet long and 20 feet deep west of the Moser tunnel, near this city. Reports from highway crews who were working at both ends of the slide today were that the highway could not be cleared within two days.

The slide occurred at a point where a mass of loose rock overhangs the highway. Successive thrusts and tremors loosened the rock, which poured down over the highway last night. No report of anyone being injured in the slide has been received here.

Father of New
Governor Passes

INDEPENDENCE, Ore., Dec. 23 (AP)—F. A. Patterson, aged 91, father of Governor-Elect L. L. Patterson, died here yesterday following an illness of several months. Patterson was born in St. Clair county, Illinois and came west to California at the age of 17. Shortly afterwards he came to Portland and made a brief stop in Portland. The family home since 1855 has been on a farm on the banks of the Willamette river near Independence.

All Stores To Be
Closed Christmas

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Searchers Find
Charred Body of
Woman, Aged 66Mrs. Elizabeth Hutchin-
son Believed to Have
Killed Herself Because
of Ill Health.

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 23 (AP)—With a black cloth bound tightly about her neck and a tin cup by her side the charred body of Mrs. Elizabeth Hutchinson, 66, was found beside a log hidden in the brush of a small ravine between her home and that of her son, just north of the town of Jefferson, about 6 o'clock last evening.

The body was found by Joe McKee, one of a party of searchers composed of boy scouts and others who were called out to hunt for Mrs. Hutchinson about 5 o'clock.

Was Despondent

Members of the dead woman's family said that she had been in poor health and despondent for some time, and reported that they found a note beside her body stating that she was "lonely" and could not stand it here any longer.

Members of the family said that Mrs. Hutchinson had been in the habit of hiding away for hours at a time and that they saw her last when she left the home of her son, Gerald Hutchinson, about 1:15 yesterday afternoon. When she had not reached her home at 5 o'clock the search for her was started.

The Hutchinson family came to Jefferson from Kansas last spring. This morning the case had not been reported to the coroner, sheriff or district attorney here.

Besides her husband and son, Jefferson she leaves two sisters, a Mrs. Know, of Albany, and Mrs. Lucy Reed, of Holton, Kan.; and a brother, Squire Turner, of Binger, Okla.

JURORS ACCUSE
SEATTLE POLICE

Nine Officials of the Law
Department Indicted by
Federal Grand Jury

SEATTLE, Dec. 23 (AP)—Prosecutor Roscoe, former State Senator Smith, who was a close political associate of former Governor Hart, and Deputy Sheriff McCall and Myrick were indicted in Everett today on indictments returned here yesterday after investigation of the liquor traffic in Snohomish county.

SEATTLE, Dec. 23 (AP)—Nine Seattle policemen, including a lieutenant who was a prominent figure in trial of Roy Olmsted, run runner, were accused by a federal grand jury here in 21 indictments last night. Police Inspector Damm announced today.

Former Police Chief Severns, lawyer, declared that a former side of his Roy Thornton, was among those named.

Indicted officers named were Lieut. George A. Connelley, Sergeant W. J. Strecker and L. L. Norton, Patrolmen R. W. Black, A. G. Anderson, G. G. Kilduff, G. C. Jensen and Fred Phillips and Frank Semple, health department dry squad member.

Bond of \$2000 for Mark Fleming, co-between of bootleggers and officers, who failed to appear before a King county grand jury

(Continued on Page Five)

King Ben Faces
Grave Charges

BENTON HARBOR, Mich., Dec. 23 (AP)—Further charges that Benjamin Farnell violated young women members of his home of David colony were made in justice court today. While Farnell lay on a cot in the court room of Justice Florence Forhan, Mrs. Gladys Bamford Rubel, charged that Farnell mistreated her when she was a young girl. Mrs. Rubel is a sister of Mrs. Ruth Bamford Reed, who testified yesterday in Farnell's preliminary hearing on warrants charging statutory offenses against the two young women, former members of the cult.

Denies President
Said He Would Run
Every Person In
Debt, Bishop Says

PARIS, Dec. 23 (AP)—Colonel George Harvey today said he was incorrectly quoted yesterday in an interview in the Paris edition of the New York Herald-Tribune in which he was represented as having said that President Coolidge had told him he would run again for the presidency in 1928 if the republican national organization and the voters wanted him to.

The former ambassador to Great Britain declared he had merely expressed his personal opinion that the president would be a candidate again under those conditions—an opinion which he expressed just before sailing from America.

Chicago, Dec. 23 (AP)—An average man's accounting of what he has contributed to the world and what he owes society will convince him he is a bankrupt, Bishop Edwin H. Hughes of the Methodist Episcopal churches in the Chicago area, believes. From the standpoint of service, Bishop Hughes said in recommending such a general accounting, the average person will find he can't pay two cents on the dollar.

"Considering humanity as a unit, we are all hopelessly in debt. Others won a country for us. Every nation has contributed to our welfare."

WAR VETERAN IS
FROZEN TO DEATH

TUCSON, ARIZ., Dec. 23 (AP)—Sergeant F. J. Wilkinson, world war veteran, was found apparently frozen to death in the foothills of the Catalina mountains near here last night.

ROAD WOULD
COST ABOUT
\$4,000,000Highway Commissioners
Surprised at Report
Read to ThemOUTLINE OILING
PROGRAM FOR 1927Old Oregon Trail From
State Line to a Point
East of The Dalles to
Get New Coat.

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 23 (AP)—Cost of the proposed Wilson River highway which would shorten the distance between Portland and the Tillamook beaches, was estimated roughly at more than \$4,000,000, in a report to the highway commission today by W. D. Clarke, district engineer who has been in charge of a survey. The road would be 53.77 miles long, from the Tualatin highway, at Forest Grove, to the Roosevelt highway at Tillamook.

The commission took no action. Some of the members expressed surprise at the high cost. Clarke will make a more detailed report to the commission Jan. 27. Cost of grading was placed at \$2,738,000, and surfacing more than \$1,000,000.

Oiling Program

The commission today decided upon the road oiling program for next year. The following was outlined:

The Old Oregon Trail from state line to the connection with the paved Columbia River highway just east of The Dalles. This road will be re-oiled wherever needed to bring the highway up to standard.

The John Day highway from Ontario to Vale, and the road from Ontario to Nyssa will be given new oil.

The Mt. Hood loop is to be oiled as soon as weather permits.

New Oiling Program

The following sections will be oiled in 1927 for the first time: Albany to Lebanon on the Santiam highway.

Algonia to La Pine, Crooked River bridge to Jefferson county line, and from Lava Butte to Bend on the Fremont trail (The Dalles-California highway). The entire trail will be re-oiled wherever necessary.

The newly surfaced Tygh Valley-Maupin section of the Fremont trail.

Wasco to Moro section of the Sherman highway. Other parts will be re-oiled.

Pendleton to Pilot Rock.

Dillard to Camas mountain section of Roseburg-Coos Bay highway, 17 miles. Redwood highway from California line to Selma, 22 miles.

The commission decided to await reports on last year's oiling along the coast highways before deciding on what action to take for 1927.

Let Contracts in January

Contracts will be let at the January meeting for 160,000 cubic yards of maintenance material to replenish stocks that have been used. There will be 14 different sections where this