



EASTERN OREGON'S LEADING NEWSPAPER—FOURTEEN PAGES TODAY—FULL ASSOCIATED PRESS LEASED WIRE SERVICE

CITY EDITION

La Grande Evening Observer

THE WEATHER OREGON: Rain in the west and north and cloudy and warmer in the southeast portion tonight and Sunday; southerly gales on the coast.

VOLUME XXV.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

LA GRANDE, OREGON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1927.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

NUMBER 143

50 QUAKES ROCK CALIFORNIA

LEGION SHOW VIEWED BY LARGE CROWD

Arcade Theater Packed for Presentation of Midnight Matinee

ACTS ENTERTAIN; FROLIC A SUCCESS

Proceeds to Help Swell Fund to Be Used in Playing Host to Oregon Vets in July.

Every seat in the Arcade theater was occupied last night when the community of La Grande enjoyed the first New Year's midnight matinee sponsored by the local American Legion post...

After the whistles announcing the departure of the old year and the arrival of 1927, had finished blowing and the people had quieted down after the excitement of celebrating the New Year at parties and dances, the orchestra began to play and the curtain went up.

Lois Hale made his appearance in the first act with his musical saw and played several well-known numbers, accompanying a graphophone in several of his selections.

Miss Matot Dances Little Miss Rosella Matot made an instant hit with the audience when she appeared in the second act of the vaudeville.

Comic Skit Dykhus, Bruce and Larson furnished plenty of laughs for the audience when they appeared in a comic skit, which was arranged and directed by Leal Russell.

Comedy Farce Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Williams and Mrs. Anderson appeared in a one-act comedy farce, which was well received.

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City Welcomes Arrival of New Year Joyously

Celebration Here, Compared with Former Demonstrations, of a Quiet Nature.

The passing of the old year and the arrival of the new one was joyously greeted in La Grande, although, compared with some of former celebrations, the demonstration here was quiet.

For nearly 10 minutes whistles, bells and horns sounded jubilantly in welcoming 1927 and bidding farewell to its predecessor.

Little liquor flowed over the city, the police department reports, although three arrests were made. Joe Sev, Dan Howe and James Keenan were taken into custody around the midnight hour and after their names on the police blotter appear the words "very drunk" in parenthesis.

Watch Parties Held A large majority of the city's watchers attended parties and dances before going to the American Legion midnight matinee show.

Large attendances were reported at four church watch parties, given by the united Christian Endeavor societies of the Presbyterian and Christian church, the Lutheran League, the Epworth League of the South Methodist church, and the Baptist church.

Scenes of smaller social affairs were held, breaking up just after midnight so that those who wished to could attend the Legion show.

Taking Inventory The business section, outwardly silent, nevertheless showing considerable activity.

Several large stores here are preparing for January clearance sales and practically every business firm is now in the midst of annual inventory. Some are completed but many are still in progress.

BUSINESS MAN SHOOTS HIMSELF

Klamath County's New Year Ushered in with a Tragic Note

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., Jan. 1 (AP)—Klamath county's new year was ushered in with a tragic note when E. C. Woods, Merrill bank manager, shot himself in his home shortly before 2 o'clock this morning.

His action followed a disagreement at the Merrill dance hall. His wife and some friends had protested at his dancing with a certain woman. Woods left the dance hall in a rage while his friends discussed the incident.

A moment later two shots were heard. The dancers investigated and found Woods lying in the livingroom of his home, the upper part of his head blown off. He left no note.

Luncheon to Honor Past Presidents

The regular forum luncheon of the chamber of commerce Tuesday afternoon at the Sommer hotel will honor the past presidents of the organization. Twelve of them, who are residing in La Grande, will be present for the meeting and will be called upon for short talks.

This is the first meeting of the commerce chamber in 1927 and the president will preside.

LOTTIE EN ROUTE WEST NEW YORK—Mrs. Lottie Schoenmel is taking her sister to Los Angeles with her to put on the unique suit in which she will try that Catalina swim. Whether she will wear it in a contemplated dip in Lake Michigan during a stop-over at Chicago Monday is not disclosed. Friends are presenting a big knife for her to carry for sharks.

REPUBLICANS TAKE OFFICE NEXT MONDAY

Howard and Bean First State Officials to Be Sworn in

PATTERSON MUST WAIT UNTIL JAN. 10

State Legislature to Convene Nov. 2 Vote Before Governor Pierce Gives Up Position.

SALISBURY, Jan. 1 (AP)—Two new republican state officials elected on Nov. 2 will take on the duties of their offices next Monday, succeeding democratic incumbents.

They are Charles Howard, of Macmillan, who succeeds H. H. Turner, as state superintendent of schools, and Louis E. Bean, of Eugene, who succeeds W. A. Dettzell, of Klamath Falls, as a member of the public service commission.

Howard has never before held a state office. Bean has been many times a member of the legislature, serving a term as speaker of the house. His legislative service has been both in the house and the senate.

Both Dettzell and Turner were to be succeeded by the new officials as holding office by appointment. Turner, who was and who will again be superintendent of schools at Dallas, was appointed state superintendent by Governor Pierce upon the resignation of J. A. Church to become president of the Ashland Normal school. Dettzell was appointed service commissioner by Pierce to fill the vacancy caused by the death of T. K. Campbell. Dettzell had previously been private secretary to the governor.

Patterson In Jan. 10 Governor-Elect Patterson will not take office or Governor Pierce quit office until the legislature meets on Jan. 10. The new governor will be sworn in and given his inaugural address after the vote has been canvassed officially by the legislature.

Four re-elected officials will begin serving new terms next Monday. They are C. H. Gram, state labor commissioner, and Judges Thomas A. McBride, Geo. M. Brown and Henry J. Bean, all members of the supreme court.

GUARDSMEN TO OPEN YEAR IN MONDAY DRILL

The first drill of the New Year for Company E, 18th Infantry, Oregon, national guard, will be held next Monday night in the Zuber hall armory. No drills took place during the holiday season.

Normal Weather Is in Prospect

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 1 (AP)—The weather outlook for the week beginning Jan. 2 was announced here today by the U. S. weather bureau as follows:

Far western states: The outlook is for normal temperature, general cloudiness with rains in Washington, Oregon, Northern California and possibly southern California and local snows and rains in Idaho and Nevada.

Jolly Pipers to Meet on Jan. 10

Because of the nearness of the holiday season, the Jolly Pipers will meet Monday, Jan. 10 instead of next Monday night, it was announced today.

The program has not been definitely arranged but it will include speaking and music.

Today Means More Than New Year's To Thousands of World War Veterans

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1 (AP)—Today means more than a mere New Year's holiday for thousands of American world war veterans.

It ushers in the lawful period during which those who served in the great conflict and were entitled to more than the \$50 cash in adjusted service credit, may, if they desire, obtain the first benefits from their 29-year insurance policies or bonus certificates by depositing them as security for loans.

It is estimated that there are approximately 2,048,922 such certificates in the hands of veterans or dependents of deceased service men, with a face value of \$1,137,458,062, and that loans up to \$262,540,000 may be made during the year 1927 on that aggregate.

Applications for certificates may be made up until Jan. 1, 1928. While it is inevitable that many service men or families of those who failed to return from overseas who are holders of certificates will exercise the loaning privilege, Frank T. Hines, director of the veterans' bureau, hopes that beneficiaries will forego such a step to any appreciable extent on the ground that it would be more advantageous to the holder to keep his certificate unencumbered to the date of its maturity.

Eligible For Loans The earliest date of any of the bonus policies is Jan. 1, 1925, and as the law provides that loans may be made any time after two years from date of issuance, thousands of the early applicants eligible for loans. Others will become eligible during the year at the expiration of the two-year period from the date of their certificates.

The average amount that may be obtained by loans during the year 1927 is approximately eight and one-half cents on the dollar of the face value of the certificate. Loans may be made at any national or state bank up to 99 per cent of the current value of the certificate. Thus, on a \$1,000 policy, at the end of two years, a loan of \$87.93 could be made, interest excluded. On the same policy, at the end of 15 years, it

loan of \$851.23 would be possible. Failure of a veteran to make good the loan at maturity date will result in the bank or trust company turning over his certificate to the veterans' bureau, which will hold it for the full period of negotiability and then turn over the balance after deducting the loan and interest. The government will make good to the bank.

(Continued on Page Five)

Eugene Celebrates Arrival of Year

EUGENE, Ore., Jan. 1 (AP) Dances, parties, midnight matinees and private parties were in order last night to usher the new year into Eugene.

The downtown streets were crowded at midnight, with many parties in vogue, and noise dominant.

State of Perak Flood Disaster Said Appalling

SINGAPORE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, Jan. 1 (AP)—Latest dispatches indicate that the flood disaster in the Malayan state of Perak is of appalling magnitude.

Wahgan over an area of many square miles have been swept away and it is believed there has been great loss of life.

The river at Kuala Kangsar rose several feet and reports are that some bridges are blocked by bodies swept down by the flood waters. Thousands are homeless and the damage is incalculable.

The country has been stirred by dispatches telling of the bravery of the Sultan of Perak, who led the official relief party and risked his life many times in the work of rescue.

(Continued on Page 8.)

CELEBRATION IN NEW YORK IS EXPENSIVE

Demonstration at Arrival of 1927 Most Costly in City History

HUGE CROWDS IN HOTELS, CAFES

Marines Usher in New Year from White House Roof—Coolidges Say Farewell to 1926.

NEW YORK, Jan. 1 (AP)—While chiming in churches from the Battery to the Bronx sang in the New Year Friday night, Broadway was celebrating the event in one of the most costly demonstrations in the history of the city.

As the old year faded, hotels and night clubs were jammed with merry-makers paying fancy cover charges.

Through special dispensation from Mayor Walker, inauguration of the newly enacted 3 a. m. curfew law for night clubs and cabarets was postponed for another day. The clubs were given permission to remain open as long as they liked.

No Raids Made Chester E. Mills, federal prohibition administrator, retired to his country home in Connecticut to spend the holidays with his family. He said no raids were contemplated.

Theater tickets sold for as high as \$16.50 while cover charges at night clubs reached a level hitherto unattained. The Club Anatole on West 44th street led with a \$40 charge per person. Next was Elmer Wolfe Kahn's Le Perroquet de Paris on West 57th street with \$29. Texas Gulian's three hundred club asked \$25.

Hotel reservations for exceeded (Continued on Page 8.)

Ormiston Tells Of His Flight From California

Miss "X" Trained Nurse From Seattle, Los Angeles Newspaper States Today.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 1 (AP)—The Examiner, in a copyrighted story today, says the trial of Kenneth G. Ormiston, radio man in the Althea Temple McPherson case, in his flight last May from Carmel-by-the-Sea, where the state charges he remained in hiding with the Angelus temple evangelist, has been uncovered.

Ormiston's biogogical companion, referred to by him as "Miss X" had been partly identified and is said to be a trained nurse whom he met in Seattle, where she is said to live.

Ormiston's movements from the time he left the seaside cottage at Carmel on May 29 until he was located recently at Harrisburg, Pa., was disclosed by the radio man himself in a statement to the newspaper.

The radio man declared he left Carmel with his mysterious woman companion for Los Angeles with the avowed purpose of assisting the authorities here in their investigation of the disappearance of Mrs. McPherson, who was missing at the time.

Tells of His Movements "I left Carmel at 2 a. m. on May 29 and arrived at San Luis Obispo at 6 o'clock in the morning of May 29, where we rested at a San Luis Obispo hotel," Ormiston is quoted as saying. "Continuing our journey at 6 o'clock in the evening we arrived at Santa Barbara at about 11 o'clock that night."

"At Santa Barbara I was stopped by Wallace Moore, a newspaper reporter. He talked to me and my companion. He told us he was looking for Mrs. McPherson and after viewing the woman in the car he was satisfied she was not Mrs. McPherson and we drove on."

Miss "X" Perturbed "Moore and I laughed and joked about the incident and the case of mistaken identity, which it really was. We drove on a little way and Miss "X" was perturbed and said she would go no further."

"We had a quarrel over the matter and she asked to be taken to a hotel in Santa Barbara for the night. I drove her over to a hotel around the corner from the Pickwick stage offices, and she got out and went in and was met there by a newspaper reporter and others. I drove on to Oakland, arriving there May 30. I parked my car at the Dulma garage and went to the St. Marks hotel, where I had been registered since May 28 under the name of K. Gladstone. My car remained parked at the Dulma garage until June 22."

Moved to New Hotel "I moved to another hotel and a block away from the St. Marks on May 30 and registered under the name of George Walker."

"On May 31 I received a long distance telephone call from Miss "X" from San Mateo asking me to come immediately and see that she was taken to her home in Seattle. Everybody was following my blue coupe and I had no privacy whatever. So I rented a Ford coupe, drove to San Mateo and brought Miss "X" back to Oakland with me. There she boarded a train for the north as she wanted to go to her home in Seattle."

"I might say here that I first made the acquaintance of Miss "X" in Seattle. She is a nurse by profession."

Denies Conspiracy Ormiston Ben told in detail his wanderings from the time he parted with Miss "X" until he was found in Harrisburg, Pa.

"I want to say in conclusion that I returned to California voluntarily in the interest of clearing up the misapprehension and false accusations which have been hurled in this case. At no time have I conspired to defeat justice."

DIAMOND IN APPLE PARIS—Eve was driven from Eden and Susanne Schiltz, maid, who bit into a guests apple in a hotel and discovered the stolen Conde rose diamond, has lost her job.

DAMAGE RUNS HIGHER THAN \$1,000,000.00

Shocks Center Around Calexico and Mexicali, in Imperial Valley

NO KNOWN DEATHS IN EARLY REPORTS

El Centro and Heber Also Suffer from Tremors, Most Severe Occuring at 12:18 A. M.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 1 (AP)—A report to the Southern Pacific company here from Mexicali, lower California, Mexico, stated that the last of a series of earth quakes shocks beginning shortly after midnight occurred at 7:10 a. m.

The Overland and Calexico hotels were buildings most seriously damaged, the report said.

Considerable damage was done by water when pipe lines were broken by the shocks. Basements in some buildings were flooded.

The report stated that residents of Mexicali and Calexico, the American city across the international border were gathered in the streets and vacant lots, fearing to enter damaged buildings.

CALEXICO, Cal., Jan. 1 (AP)—Earthquakes, numbering over half a hundred rocking the Imperial valley at intervals of about two minutes since 12:18 o'clock this morning and still continuing at 4:45 a. m., badly damaged Calexico and Mexicali, adjacent border cities, causing damage which is estimated will approximate over \$1,000,000.

El Centro, 11 miles north of this city, and Heber, a town of approximately 400 population, lying between El Centro and the Mexican border, also suffered from the continuation of the quakes, but the damage reported in the two localities appeared to be but little.

Calexico, lying on the American side of the international boundary line and Mexicali, on the Mexican side appeared to bear the brunt of the tremors which were accompanied by a heavy rumbling.

Business Area Wrecked Hardly a business house in Calexico was left sound by the quakes, the walls of many falling, while the walls of others were badly cracked. Almost every plate glass window in the business section was shattered and in many instances the window casing was torn loose.

A survey of Calexico's business section revealed that the rear walls of the post office, the "big four" garage, Haller brothers garage and of the old Varney brothers store were demolished. A portion of the rear wall of the Overland hotel was about to fall. The upper portion of the front walls of the Melbourne hotel, the Glenwood hotel and of the city fire and police stations tumbled into the streets.

No Known Dead No one was known to have been killed but several persons were slightly injured, their injuries ranging from cuts and bruises, suffered when struck by falling plaster.

Nine of the shocks were severe, the first at 12:18 a. m. being the sharpest, and lasting the longest, fully three minutes. It caused the most damage. Two tremors following immediately after also were sharp. They were felt at 1:13 and 2:10 o'clock.

Fire Loss Damage in Mexicali so far as could be ascertained in the darkness was principally the loss by fire of the Aster brewery and the collapse of a number of adobe houses. The brewery caught fire in some unknown manner after the first quake.

Yuma had four or five quakes, two of them fairly severe. These were at 1:26 and at 2:13 o'clock (Mountain time). The others noticeably felt were at 2:35 and 3:50.

Dawley also in the Imperial valley had buildings rocked and windows jarred by the shocks, but (Continued on Page 5)

AH, WE'VE PICKED UP ANOTHER NEW STATION



HELLO EVERYBODY! - WE ARE NOW BROADCASTING FROM STATION 1-9-2-7 WE WILL START OFF BY TOWING WHISTLES, BLOWING HORNS AND RINGING BELLS AFTER WHICH YOU WILL BE ENTERTAINED BY MY LITTLE ASSISTANT - THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

OVER 12,000 PEOPLE PASSING BY

A show window is an excellent means of advertising—showing the passing public the merchandise to be had inside and inviting a purchase. It is especially valued if a thousand or so people go by each day, even though only a small percentage of them stop to look.

The Observer's advertising columns constitute the business community's show window—presenting to you the merchandise that is new or different and inviting your trade. It is the giant show window of the community and is viewed by the greatest number of prospective customers. Over 12,000 people look in it each day—by far the most efficient and far-reaching contact to be had in the La Grande territory.

"Observer Advertising—A Merchandising Service"