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(Incorporated)
An Independent Newspaper

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A DAY OF GOOD TIDINGS—"Then they said one to another, We do not well; this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace."—2 Kings 7:9.

Business, after a slight holiday lull, is speeding up again. But it can't fool the professional pessimists.

The senate says 35 miles an hour is not too fast in Oregon—or at least they have approved a bill boosting the speed limit. That's sensible. Few drivers observed the old regulation religiously anyhow. And speed is not always dangerous, but the carelessness with which it is attained.

Hall Hoss, lengthy and genial business manager of the Oregon City Morning Enterprise, and efficient secretary of the state Editorial association, is Governor Patterson's private secretary. He is admirably fitted for the job and the governor, as well as Hal, is to be congratulated. E. E. Brodie, publisher of the same paper, was frequently mentioned as a possible secretary, but obviously without full appreciation for his calibre and experience. Mr. Brodie might well be governor some day but not the governor's secretary.

HANDLING AUTO LICENSES

The recommendation of Governor Patterson that a new bureau or state agency be created to handle the automobile license business, together with kindred activities, taking the responsibility away from the secretary of state, is conceived in the interest of economy. It is possible, however, that an even more economical and sensible plan might be devised and the careful study of the whole problem by the legislature will not be out of the way.

In some states it has been found that issuing of license plates and collecting of fees can well be done by counties—the county treasurer having the responsibility—without the added expense to the license fund occasioned by exclusive state supervision. In Nebraska and Iowa, for example, each county is given a number or letter which serves as a prefix on the auto plates purchased within that county. Thus, in addition to spreading to labor of handling auto licenses around among the county offices, there is provided a new means of car identification when it is abroad in the state—the county number is quickly recognized and located. It is an aid to traffic officers and, incidentally, to car owners as well. When they drive into the big city from out in the sticks their "greenness" and unfamiliarity with traffic rules are labeled with some resultant tolerance, perhaps, on the part of hard-boiled cops.

Actually there is some question of the good sense in having license plates handled permanently by a state office. Supervision is necessary there, of course, but the future may, and probably will, bring entirely new problems. Oregon will grow. The number of motor vehicles will increase. The demand for so much money for state highways will possibly diminish. The need for more and more license fees to build county market roads and connecting highways will increase steadily. There are many considerations in favor of county license offices, though a change is not likely under the present policy of high fees and rapid expenditure on badly needed state roads.

In any event, some provision might well be made for the sale of plates through a county office as a means of speeding up the wearing of new license numbers. If auto owners might get the job done by a simple trip to the court house in the old flivver, it would not appear near so formidable. But to have to hunt up blanks, hunt up last year's license card, hunt up writing materials, and get the application off in the mail—that's a duty we do not take so kindly, for some unknown reason.

CALLES GREET'S MME. KOLLONTAY



Mme. Kollontay, Soviet Russia's woman ambassador to Mexico and one of the few women diplomats in the world, presents her credentials to President Calles on her arrival in Mexico City to take up her official duties.

President Acknowledges Xmas Card

That personal attention is given to the immense volume of Christmas cards that are sent to President Calvin Coolidge was demonstrated recently when a card arrived here to Fred Nelson, 501 Cedar street, a former carrier boy on The Observer's staff, from the white house, acknowledging receipt of a holiday greetings sent to the chief executive.

The card said: "The president appreciates your thought of him and thanks you for your good wishes."

Needless to say, Fred considers the card from the president as one of his most treasured possessions.

MEDFORD, Ore., Jan. 17 (AP)—Negotiations were completed today for two games here early in February between the O. A. C. rocks and the Medford high school basketball team.

F. L. Miller Loses High Court Appeal

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17 (AP)—Frederick L. Miller, convicted in Oregon of involuntary manslaughter in causing the death of Alvin Hall in Multnomah county while operating an auto, lost in the supreme court today in his attack upon the constitutionality of the law under which he was tried.

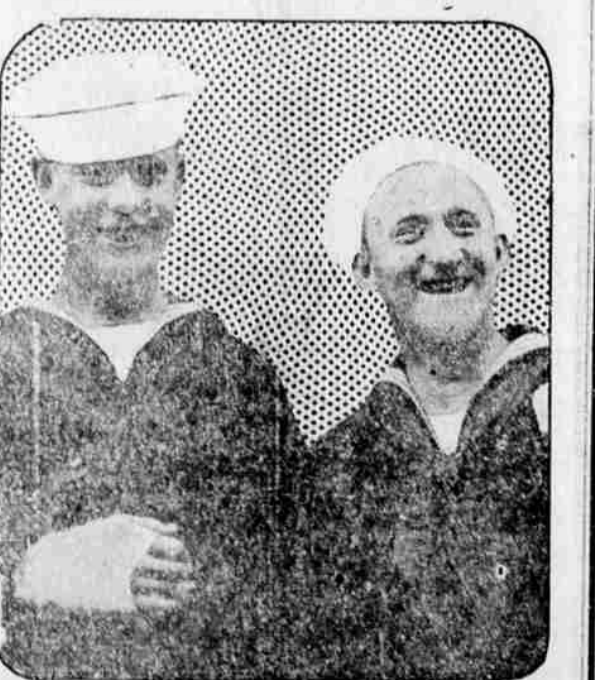
The court affirmed the lower court as authorities cited.

BIDS DUE TOMORROW

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., Jan. 17 (AP)—Despite protests of officials of the Klamath Irrigation district, bids for the sale of the McCormick power site, on the Klamath river near Keno, will be called at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon in the office of H. H. Newell, local boss of the U. S. reclamation service. Bidding will be oral. Reclamation service officials here say the sale will not be consummated until all protests have been heard, despite the fact the bidding has been authorized.



A COWBOY FOR A DAY—Secretary of Labor James Davis received this 10-gallon hat at a dinner for employees of a Philadelphia hat factory at which he was a speaker.



THESE TWO GIBS ARE WEARING THE SMILE that won't come off. They are survivors of the Coast Guard schooner Lincoln, which sank recently off the coast of North Carolina. They are Howard Carter (left) and Gordon J. Schultz.

Speaker, Landis Answer Comment By B. B. Johnson

CLEVELAND, O., Jan. 17 (AP)—William Boyd, attorney for Tris Speaker, former manager of the Cleveland Indians, issued a statement here today in Speaker's behalf challenging Ban Johnson, president of the American League, to reveal any proof of alleged irregularities for which Speaker was relieved of his connection with the Cleveland club.

LANDIS SILENT

FRENCH LICK SURINGS, Ind., Jan. 17 (AP)—K. M. Landis, baseball commissioner, refused to comment today on the Chicago Tribune story which quoted Ban Johnson, president of the American League as recently charging that Landis was responsible for "letting the world" about Tris Speaker and Ty Cobb.

The baseball commissioner was here today to present to a meeting of the major-minor committees four proposals to correct baseball irregularities.

CANADIAN YOUTH ONLY SWIMMER TO CROSS CHANNEL

(Continued from Page One)

forced to abandon their attempts when in sight of their goal.

Nearly Completed Swim

Daring and determination to complete the swim were reflected in the constant battle waged by the two feminine nators against the cold, especially throughout the night. Fame to come to the first woman ever to span the passage and a \$15,000 prize offered the first feminine entrant to finish in the race were denied Mrs. Hauser when she was within a mile and a half of the mainland. There, what strength remained from fighting the frigid waters and a tricky current was exhausted in battling through a heavy swell. The Long Beach woman was in the water approximately 19 hours and 29 minutes. She came closer to the mainland than any of 14 other starters of her sex. Miss Stager, although she swam 10 minutes longer than Mrs. Hauser, halted her attempt when four miles from the mainland.

Fog and cross currents encountered in the close vicinity of point Pirain and against which he battled vainly for more than two hours caused Meyers to give up at 4:15 a. m. when he also was but a mile and a half from the mainland's shores.

Young's Record

Young landed at 2:06 a. m., completing the swim in 15 hours and 47 minutes.

Cold, rather than fatigue, appeared as the greatest factor in blunting the efforts of the remaining 95 starters. Before the first hour had passed from the time the starters gun sent the long line of swimmers into the placid cove of the helms, 15 drowned, but cramped and numbed entries had flung from the covers the singular flags—tokens of failure. More than half of the original starters had dropped out before sunset.

Norman Ross, giant Chicago entry, who ruled a general favorite to conquer the channel if anyone did it and who followed closely in Young's wake throughout the early stages of the gruel, gave up the struggle at 2:40 o'clock yesterday morning. He had covered between 17 and 18 miles.

Mrs. Charlotte Schoemmel, of New York, was forced by an injured right leg and illness to drop out after about seven and a half miles of swimming. Another favorite, among the women, Miss Charabelle Barrett, New Rochelle, N. Y., school teacher found the cold waters telling and dropped out at 1:13 a. m. after swimming 13 miles.

Shortly after the finish of the marathon announcement was made by William Wright Jr. of the awarding of two special prizes, each of \$2,500 to Mrs. Hauser and Miss Stager, because of their entry in being the last two women to drop out. These two prizes, together with Young's \$25,000 one, will be given the swimmers at Los Angeles next Tuesday night.

HIG RANCH SOLD

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., Jan. 17 (AP)—Harry A. Hill, pioneer stockman and showman, who is credited with being the originator of wild west shows and whose roster of employees at one time included the names of Tom Mix, Will Rogers and other celebrities, today announced the purchase of the Edgewood Polo and Stock ranch from Bob Coyne for \$100,000 cash. In addition to general stock raising, Hill plans to continue the raising of polo ponies for which Coyne will establish a sales agency in Los Angeles.

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Well-tailored overcoats in popular colors today with both raglan and setin sleeves. These are exceptional values at this price. The sizes run to 44 and as small as 36. At the Clearance **ONE-HALF** price of

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" Baker and Boise	9:25 A. M. - 1:25 P. M.
" Baker only	5:30 P. M.
" Pendleton	11:00 A. M. - 5:30 P. M. - 6:15 P. M.

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