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NUMBER 181

UNION BUYS
RAIL STRIP
TO JUNCTION

Sheriff Breshears Auctioning Off C. R. of O. This Afternoon

• \$10,239 IN BACK TAXES SOUGHT

Municipality Offers \$1100 for Stretch Connecting It with the O.-W. Mainline.

The Central Railroad of Oregon, connecting Union and Cove with the O.-W. mainline at Union Junction and consisting of some 13 1/2 miles of steel track, failed to escape the auctioneer's block today and at two o'clock Sheriff Jesse Breshears, of Union county, began offering the property for sale to the highest bidder to protect delinquent tax claims held against the line amounting to \$10,239.

The city of Union, desiring to continue to enjoy contact with the mainline, was the first purchaser, buying for \$1,100 the strip of line between Union and Union Junction, approximately two and a half miles in length.

Sold Before 2:15 p. m. This was the first article sold and changed hands before 2:15 o'clock, according to telephone communication with the Union depot, where the sale is being held.

A. W. Middleton, who secured the postponement of the sale for a fortnight on Feb. 1 with a promise to raise money enough to satisfy the county's tax claims, apparently failed in his attempts to procure funds.

No Report Received. No report from him was received by the county officials and, keeping his word, the sheriff proceeded with the sale.

Middleton went east about 10 days ago and no word from him has since been received by the county officials, it is said.

The impending sale of the railroad evoked considerable comment at Union and Cove, quelling the past few weeks and the purchase of the Union-Union Junction line is believed to be the result of a movement to gain local control of the line.

Following sale of the two and a half miles of track, the sheriff was to offer for sale other parts of the property, including the stretch from Union to Cove, the rolling stock which included a condemned locomotive, and other equipment.

START SURVEY
ON OLD TRAIL
NEAR HILGARD

A survey between the Union and Umatilla county line and Hilgard, for the widening of the old Oregon trail over the Blue mountains, was started yesterday by an engineering party under resident engineer, W. C. Williams.

The purpose of the survey is to make an estimate of the probable cost of widening the highway, the minimum width of the road bed to be 24 feet and the maximum 32 feet. At present the road is about 16 feet wide.

The surveyors started work at Glover and will work toward La Grande, not being able to survey west of there until later in the spring because of deep snow.

If funds are available for the widening of the road the grading will probably not be done before fall, and the surfacing of the widened portion will probably not be accomplished before 1928.

WONDERING
WHAT'S
WRONG

Sometimes you see a business man sitting in his store or shop, waiting for a horde of customers who seldom materialize, wondering what's wrong with business and the world in general.

He seldom considers that maybe the world and business are all right but that the wrong is with himself. What's wrong usually is that he thinks you owe him your trade and he owes you nothing. What's wrong is that he fails to attract you and battle you through advertising, fails to give you the best merchandise and the best service possible so that you'll be glad to come again. "What's wrong" can usually be righted by intelligent business methods—planned advertising, efficient selling, and a good measure of hard work in the interests of customers.

"Observer Advertising—A Merchandising Service"

Legion Musical
Show Presented
By Local Post

"Oh You Mary Jane" Plays to Fair Crowd in Arcade Theater—Comedy Closes Tonight.

Although there was only a fair sized audience for the opening night of the American Legion's second annual play, "Oh You Mary Jane" last evening at the Arcade theater, the play "went over with a bang," legionnaires declare adding that if the good words going around by those who saw the play last night is any indication there will be a capacity house tonight, when the show will be repeated.

The play has a definite plot centered around the real estate and brokerage firm of Hoop, Skipp and Jump, Leslie Hale, taking the part of Hiram Hoop, Leal Russell, Silas Skipp and Elwood Williams, Johnny Jump, and excitement is plentiful from the opening curtain to the final one. Norman Dendall as Hank Tumms, the tramp; Tom Bruce, as Sniffles, the messenger boy; Dick Dhykus, Juniper Perry; Tom Russell, Arnold McLean, the bank clerk; and Douglas Klein, as Dush, the reporter, are the other men in the cast.

The women taking part are Miss Ruth Brumwell as Beatrice Clay, stenographer for Hoop, Skipp and Jump; Miss Anetta Johnson, Mrs. Skipp; Mrs. Elwood Williams, Miss Farnam and later Mrs. Hoop; Mrs. Tom Williamson, Mrs. Maggie Duffey, the Irish woman; Miss Lucille Black, Miss Angelina Lofly, a rich lady, and Miss Edna Belle Kitchin, as Nellie.

Supporting the cast and adding to the entertainment with several snappy songs and dances is a chorus of 20 girls.

Jury Disagrees
After Night of
Deliberations

After the jury was out all night, it reported late this morning that its members could not reach an agreement on the case of the Grande Ronde Lumber company vs. Mary E. Blanchard and was dismissed by Circuit Judge J. W. Knowles. Late yesterday, it is said, the jurors attempted to return a verdict splitting the sum in question 50-50 with the defendant and plaintiff but the court could not accept this. Snyder vs. William E. Zell is being tried today. The defendant's testimony was being heard at two o'clock this afternoon.

Fire Truck Finds
"Sparking" Wire

The fire truck, called to the corner of Spruce and X about 5:30 p. m. yesterday, after about a five-minute wait at the fire street railroad crossing while a long freight passed, found that the alarm had been turned in because of a light and power wire over the street was sparking.

Fire Chief C. O. Murchison today declared that citizens should be careful in turning in alarms in such cases, as the power company should have been notified of the defective wire instead of the fire department.

Senate Invokes
Cloture Rule

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (AP)—The senate today invoked its drastic cloture rule to cut short debate on the McFadden branch banking bill conference report.

This forecasts final aggressive action on the bill not later than tomorrow.

Wrestler Killed
By 4000-Volt Wire

GRANTS PASS, Ore., Feb. 15 (AP)—Dusty Miller, 28, local wrestler, was electrocuted this morning when a pole which he was helping raise in rebuilding operations of the California-Oregon Power company came in contact with a wire carrying 4000 volts. Efforts at resuscitation were unavailing after more than an hour of work.

MASONS TO MEET

A joint meeting of the Masonic lodges of Union and Wallawa counties will be held in La Grande tomorrow evening, beginning with a dinner to be served by the past masters of Hope Chapter No. 12, Order of the Eastern Star. About 40 Masons from the adjoining county will probably be here, according to members of the local lodge.

A train from Wallawa county will confer the Master Mason degree.

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 15 (AP)—Eight new cases of influenza were reported to the city health office today. Last week 30 cases and five deaths were reported.

KNIGHTS OF
2 COUNTIES
GATHER HERE

Three Members of K. P. Grand Lodge of Oregon in Attendance

BANQUET STARTS OFF CONVENTION

Damon and Pythias Play-let Feature of Evening—Eastern Oregon Caravan Planned.

About 250 Knights of Pythias of Union and Wallawa counties gathered here last night for a district convention, with three members of the Grand Lodge of Knights of Pythias of Oregon in attendance.

The grand vice chancellor, Judge Morrow, of Portland, was unable to attend, and the past grand chancellor, James Quinn, of Pendleton, represented him. Walter J. Giverson, grand keeper of records and seal, of Portland, and Bruce Cox, member of the grand tribunal, were the other members of the grand lodge here.

Begins With Banquet

The evening's entertainment started with a banquet at seven o'clock in the I. O. O. F. banquet room, H. E. Dixon, a past chancellor of the local lodge, acting as toastmaster.

The address of welcome was given by F. S. Ivanhoe, and responded to by James Webb, of the Union lodge, and grand outer guard of the grand lodge, L. Willet, of Wallawa; C. M. Nichols, of Elgin lodge; and Dr. Smith, of Elgin lodge.

The Union county chamber of commerce quartet sang several numbers, which were enthusiastically received. The Knights of Pythias presented the quartet to be second to none after their performance. Other music furnished by the Eastern Oregon Music company was also well received.

The invocation was given by the Rev. R. C. Lee, of Union. The banquet was served by the local Pythian sister lodge.

Following the banquet the convention adjourned to Legion hall where the story of Damon and Pythias "The Lesson of Friendship" was given by members of the local lodge. Those taking part were DeLille Greene, Kenneth McCormick, Dr. W. S. LeRoy, and Don Gaily, and others with minor parts. Clayton took the part of headman. After the play a class of six pages, to be known as the Walter

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TRAIL MEETING
HERE TOMORROW

Idaho, Eastern Washington and Oregon Cities to Be Represented

Representatives from towns in Idaho, Eastern Washington and Oregon, as far west as Seaside, are expected to be here tomorrow for the annual meeting of the Old Oregon Trail association, which has been called for 11 o'clock tomorrow morning at the city hall here. The public is invited to attend.

A board of directors will be elected and after the regular meeting the board will meet and elect officers.

New plans in connection with the trail will be outlined.

Pre-Tournament Basketball Season
Nearing End; Two More Games Here

Two more games remain for the La Grande high school basketball team before the district tournament, which will begin at Union Thursday, Feb. 24.

Friday night the Tigers will go to Pendleton to play a return game with the Buckaroos and Saturday Wallawa high comes here. It is doubtful whether Coach MacKenzie will send his entire string to Pendleton because of injuries in the blue and white camp.

Saturday night, before the boys contest, the girls' teams of Union and La Grande will play here in a championship contest. If La Grande wins the Tigers will have completed the season without a defeat and will have a clear title. If Union wins, however, the two teams will be tied, each with one loss, which would require a playoff if the title were definitely decided.

Fifteen Victories

The two La Grande high teams to date have won 15 interscholastic games and lost none, although both have had close calls.

The record of Coach MacKenzie's squad so far follows:

Early History
of Oregon Given
by Judge Slater

Chamber of Commerce Has La Grande Basketball Team as Luncheon Guest.

Remarks by Judge J. D. Slater, reminiscent of the earliest days of Oregon's history, and short talks by Coach Ian MacKenzie, Captain Lyman and Irene Zundel, made up the program at the chamber of commerce forum luncheon at the Sommer grill today.

The legislative committee also reported and the chamber went on record as favoring a bill to increase jurors' salaries from \$2 to \$4 a day and disapproved of a bill making all holidays non-judicial days in Oregon and the Wilson toll road measure.

Judge Slater, who is the son of one of Oregon's first United States senators and who personally knew many of the men identified with Oregon's beginning, spoke for half an hour of incidents that occurred when the northwest was young.

His remarks, extremely interesting and bearing much of historical value, included a resume of early politics, stories about Governor Joseph Lane, first territorial chief executive, and other items.

"Trade Tobacco For Gold"

Judge Slater spoke of early trading, citing as one example the exchange of tobacco for Indians for gold, pound for pound.

He told of the early coinage of gold money at Oregon City, giving Oregon the distinction of being the only state in the Union to issue gold coins outside of federal mints.

The early struggles of Eugene, Corvallis, Salem and Oregon City for the state house which ultimately ended in victory for Salem was another highly interesting portion of his speech.

In closing he told of a pestle he possessed at one time, dug up in the Grande Ronde valley and bearing the date of 1890 which antedates any known visit of white men to this country.

Thanks Business Men

Coach MacKenzie expressed pleasure at the support given the basketball team by the business men of this city and his words were duplicated in remarks made by Lyman and Zundel. The entire basketball squad was present and each member was introduced.

Oscar Warnock urged that all ballots for directors be mailed immediately. The Legion show, "Oh You Mary Jane," now being staged at the Arcade, was announced during the meeting.

French Accepts
Managerial Post
At Ball Meeting

Further plans for a first class baseball team in La Grande this year were worked out last night at a meeting of fans at the Buick garage, at which time Harris French accepted the management of the 1927 Pirates. French, it will be remembered, managed the championship Blue Mountain league team in 1925. Vern Johnston was appointed finance chairman.

At present, it is hoped to form a semi-professional four-team league extending from Pendleton east to Welser, Ida. La Grande and Baker would complete the circuit, if plans work out. The other three cities are to be negotiated with in the near future.

With a nucleus for a first class aggregation of ball players already in La Grande, local fans feel that it would not be difficult to get together a nine as strong if not stronger than the one the city had in 1925.

It was said today that Manager French is already getting in touch with prospective players.

Another Strangler
Suspect Arrested

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 15 (AP)—Douglas Boyer, who recently lived in Seattle, Wash., was arrested here last night for investigation in connection with the "dark strangler" murders which women all along the Pacific coast.

The arrest came as a direct result of a brother's desire to see justice meted out to the murderer of his sister, slain by the "dark strangler" in Portland, Ore., last October.

The brother in the case is Thomas Morien. He told the police that since his sister's death he had spent his time traveling up and down the coast, ever on the look out for the murderer.

He said he had seen Boyer loitering around in Seattle, Aberdeen, Portland, and other ports, and had grown suspicious of the man.

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OREGON DAY
OF ADMISSION
CELEBRATED

Modern La Grande Remembers Feb. 14, 1859, State's Birthday

PAYS TRIBUTE TO COUNTY PIONEERS

Sons and Daughters of Union County Pioneers Sponsors First Annual Observance Dinner.

Modern La Grande, harking back almost three-score years into pioneer days that are constantly kept alive lest they be relegated to an uncertain cubbyhole in one's memory, turned out last night to pay tribute to the early home builders of Oregon's admission to the United States.

Oregon, America's valentine, was recalled as it existed in earlier days, months distant from the east in point of travel, and the hardships encountered then contrasted with the position it now occupies—a vast domain of enormous possibilities and of incalculable benefit to the nation as a whole, the same nation that was doubtful back in 1859 as to whether it would be good policy to admit a state so far distant from the seat of government.

One objection raised 69 years ago was that after a congressman was elected in Oregon he would be unable to reach Washington until the legislative branch had met and adjourned. This, of course, was subsequently shown to be without foundation, especially after the iron trail beat its path across the continent shortly afterwards.

First Annual Celebration

The Sons and Daughters of Union County Pioneers sponsored the first annual celebration here and it took the form of a chicken dinner in the First M. E. church basement and a program designed as a tribute to Union and Wallawa county pioneers at seven o'clock.

A crowd of 350 persons was in attendance but, because of inability to guess in advance the number who would attend, approximately 100 were unseated. It was announced today that persons who went to the church and could not be accommodated may return their tickets to Earl Reynolds, at the chamber of commerce office, and receive their money back.

Curry Toastmaster

The banquet began at 6:30 o'clock and the Rev. Oliver Tilley, pastor of the St. Peter's Episcopal church here, gave the invocation. Fred Curry presided as toastmaster and after a few introductory remarks, introduced Dr. W. T. Reynolds, who delivered the address of welcome.

Jim Morelock, president of the Wallawa County Pioneers' association, responded on behalf of a number of visiting pioneers and sons and daughters of pioneers.

The chamber of commerce quoted "Oregon" and responded to hearty applause with an encore.

Dorothy Eberhard, of the Minir staff, explained the purpose of the high school annual and its efforts to keep alive the early history of Oregon. This year's Minir is dedicated to the pioneers.

Plays—Century-Old Melodians. Mrs. Harriet McDonald, after a short talk and a piano solo, took her place on an improvised stage as a melodian and played some long-lost selections that were popular three-score and more years ago. The melodians belonged to G. S. Birnie's family and was brought here from Canada. It is about 100 years old.

Assisting Mrs. McDonald, a number of pioneer women, garbed in the habiliments of the '50s, sang to her accompaniment. A number of those present were dressed as pioneers, lending color to the scene.

Mrs. George H. Curry presided

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Earthquake Casualties Estimated
At 600 in Jugo Slavian Territory

BELGRADE, Jugo Slavia, Feb. 15 (AP)—Doctors with medical supplies are being rushed into the earthquake zones of Herzegovina, Dalmatia and Bosnia as fast as modern airplanes can take them.

VIENNA, Feb. 15 (AP)—A dispatch from Belgrade to the Graetz Tagesspost says that the casualties of the earthquake which rocked Bosnia, Herzegovina and Dalmatia are estimated at 600 persons. These figures for the dead and injured could not be confirmed.

The dispatch says that earth tremors were renewed last night. The hotel La Saville at Ilagusa was reported to have collapsed killing several guests, while at Popovipolje, a row of houses fell into the Trebisnara river drowning and crushing the inhabitants.

BELGRADE, Jugo Slavia, Feb. 15 (AP)—Earthquake shocks in the Herzegovina Dalmatia and Bosnia sections of the Balkans have caused enormous damage.

TO CHINA?



The Fourth regiment of U. S. Marines has sailed from San Diego for Guam, with Col. Charles W. Hill (above) in command. The regiment may be destined for duty in China.

INSPECTORS SEEK
TRAIL OF TWINS

With One of De Autremont Brothers Taken, Efforts Redoubled

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (AP)—Having succeeded in capturing after a three days search one of the three De Autremont brothers on a murder charge in connection with an Oregon train mail holdup, postal inspectors today launched a widespread search to apprehend the other two.

Postal inspectors and maritime officials in all seaport towns have been notified to be on the lookout for Ray and Roy, twin brothers, 27 years old. While officials have no assurance that they are in the United States, the postal inspection service is acting on the theory that the criminals, learning of the capture of their brother Hugh in Manila, might attempt to get out of the country to foreign lands.

Efforts are being made to have the pictures and descriptions of the two brothers published and also broadcast by radio. Every postmaster has been supplied with the pictures and descriptions to be hung in the post office lobbies. Dentists have been furnished with descriptions of their dental formations; jewelers and watchmakers with coat and movement numbers of their watches; librarians with the types of books they read, and logging camps and large industrial establishments have been asked to watch for them among their employees.

"These unusual steps have been taken," said Postmaster General Newton today, "not only because of the practically heinous and cold blooded crime with which the De Autremont boys are charged with committing but also because of the baffling manner in which they have managed to drop from sight."

The post office inspectors have a reputation for always getting the offender in captured. It sometimes requires years before the culprit is eventually apprehended.

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American Party
Fired Upon by
Sacasa's Troops

Newspapermen and U. S. Official Menaced During Disorder in Nicaraguan City.

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Feb. 15 (AP)—Awaiting reinforcements, liberal and conservative armies were camped today near Managua intent on battle for possession of the city, second in importance only to the capital, Managua.

General Moncada, leader of the liberal forces, is anxious to gain Managua and then fight his way to Managua, stronghold of the conservative president, Adolfo Diaz. As the conservatives desire to prevent this at any cost fighting more severe than any yet seen in the warfare between the two factions is expected.

City Evacuated

Believing the liberals outnumbered them, the conservative garrison at Managua evacuated the city yesterday, to encamp to the west and await the arrival of additional forces from Managua.

As soon as the conservatives had left liberal adherents in Managua staged a demonstration, in which rifles and revolvers were much in evidence. For a time there was wild disorder, in the course of which an automobile flying the American flag and with the American charge, Lawrence Dennis and three newspaper correspondents as passengers, was fired on. One shot lodged in the upholstery, but no one was wounded.

Those in the automobile, besides Dennis, were Linton Wells, of New York; Gerald Martin, of Chicago; and M. B. Alexander, the Associated Press correspondent.

Dennis had gone to Managua to warn General Moncada against imperiling the lives of Americans and foreigners, but could not locate the general. The general had retreated into the mountains to await reinforcements and look after those wounded in the recent battle at Muy Muy.

Americans Fearful. Americans and foreigners in Managua, fearful of the conse-

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House Takes Up
Farm Bill; Vote
Counted 201-62

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (AP)—The house today voted to substitute the McNary-Haugen relief bill as passed by the senate for the house companion measure.

A vote on final passage must yet be taken.

The substitution was made to avoid parliamentary delays with the session approaching a close.

Both friends and opponents of the bill said the vote was not a final test of strength, a number of members, including party leaders, approving the substitution without committing themselves on the bill itself.

A move by Representative Newton, republican, Minnesota, to place the house on record on the bill's merits, failed.

Two hours will be allotted for general debate on the senate bill before it is taken up under the rule permitting the offering of amendments.

Denies Banker and
Girl Under Arrest

SAFFORD, Ariz., Feb. 15 (AP)—It was two residents of Florence, Ore., wanted in connection with the closing of a bank there are in those parts, it is news to Graham county authorities. The sheriff's office disclaimed all knowledge of the whereabouts of Henry Bergman and Harriet Weatherston and last night, M. T. Stinson, night watchman, said the county jail was empty.

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MOTHER, BOY
KILLED WHILE
FATHER AWAY

CONNEAUT, O., Feb. 15 (AP)—Floyd Hewitt, 15, a farmer boy living across the road from the home of Frederick Brown, near here, confessed today to county authorities that he killed Mrs. Brown and her five-year-old son last night.

CONNEAUT, O., Feb. 15 (AP)—Authorities today were puzzled by the slaying of Mrs. Fred Brown and her four-year-old son. They were found clubbed to death in their home by Brown, when he returned from work last night.

Money and other valuables in the house were untouched, Brown said that he had no enemies who might seek revenge.

The woman's body with her clothing torn to shreds was in a sleeping porch. The boy's body was found in the basement. Walls of the house were splattered with blood and a blood stained baseball bat was in a waste paper basket.

Officials considered the theory that the slayings might have been the act of a crazed person. The house was in disorder. Furniture was overturned and other evidence of a terrific struggle was found.

When Brown arrived home, the radio was still turned on and in conference here late yesterday came from the loud speaker.

C. E. Spence Quits
As Market Agent

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 15 (AP)—C. E. Spence, state market agent under the Pierce administration, has written his resignation and sent it to Salem, according to reports received here today. Spence is ill at his home in Portland, following a surgical operation.

OFFICERS ELECT
EUGENE, Ore., Feb. 15 (AP)—More than 150 law enforcement officers of Southern Oregon today, in conference here late yesterday, elected officers and heard addresses.

SUPPLY BILLS
DUMPED INTO
HOUSE TODAY

Ways and Means Committee Recommends \$2,000,000