



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

EARLY EDITION

La Grande Evening Observer

THE WEATHER

OREGON: Unsettled tonight and Sunday with occasional rains in west, local snows in the east portion. Normal temperature.

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MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

LA GRANDE, OREGON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1927.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

NUMBER 112

SPRIT OF CHRISTMAS TAKES CITY

Happy Weekend Began Last Night with Three Church Yule Parties

ELKS' TREE WILL BE SUNDAY EVENT

Episcopal, Methodist and Church of God Children Receive Season's Gifts from Santa Claus.

Christmas Eve
7:30—Presbyterian Sunday school program.
11:40—Midnight mass at Episcopal church.
12:00—Midnight mass at Catholic church.
Christmas Day
9:45 a.m.—Methodist Sunday school program.
—Christian Sunday school program.
12:00 noon—Elks Christmas tree.
7:00 p.m.—Lutheran Sunday school program.
7:30 p.m.—Baptist Sunday school program.
Christmas Morning
10:00 a.m.—Free Matinee, Star Theater.
7:30 p.m.—Acmey Christmas tree.

Christmas for the children of La Grande began last evening when annual Christmas programs were held in three churches of the city, and were attended by happy crowds of youngsters, who received their first gift from Santa Claus this year.

The three programs were held in St. Peter's Episcopal church, the Methodist Episcopal church south, and the Church of God. The children of the Sunday schools furnished the program, after which they gathered around prettily decorated Christmas trees and were presented with Christmas gifts and treats by Santa Claus.

300 Children Present

CARRYING PART OF THE LOAD

Securing a reader's attention and maintaining his interest is the chief requisite of successful advertising. If a merchant's message fails to do that, his money is lost as far as your response is concerned.

That's why a newspaper with adequate news service, established prestige, and obvious reader-interest is preferred in metropolitan cities—the news helps carry the responsibility of constantly interesting a great family of readers. In La Grande territory the same requirement is fulfilled by The Observer—and wire news is given Observer readers many hours ahead of any other paper entering the territory. In no other way can an advertiser have the same day-after-day reader interest as an ad in his selling message.

"Observer Advertising—A Merchandising Service"

P. E. O. Chapter Plans To Bring Christmas Cheer

Musical Numbers to Be Presented at Hospital—Campfire Girls to Carol Over the Yuletide.

Every year since its organization, here Chapter 1 of P. E. O. has furnished a program for those who are confined to the hospital on Christmas day. This year's program is in charge of Mrs. H. A. Zumbach, assisted by Mrs. E. P. Mossman, Mrs. F. A. Epling, Mrs. C. H. Bidwell and Mrs. L. Denham and the offering consists of several numbers of music.

In addition to the musical entertainment each patient will be given flowers. Red carnations are the flowers to be given away and will be distributed among the patients by little Jimmy Bohnenkamp, who will be dressed as Santa Claus.

The program will be presented from 3 until 7 o'clock in the afternoon. The campfire girls of the city will sing Christmas carols. Ray Williams will sing "In Bethlehem" by Palmer King, accompanied by Mrs. Williams at the piano and Miss Daisy Robbs will sing "I Came Upon a Midnight Clear." Mrs. H. N. Ashby will sing "The Song of Waiting" by Wright and "Down in the Forest" by Ronald, accompanied by Mrs. George S. Birnie at the piano and Mrs. Ray Fuller will sing a solo to be selected.

Flavia Ritter-Silverwood will sing "The Birthday of the King" by Neidlinger. Mrs. W. H. Bohnenkamp Jr. will sing "Blessed Town of Bethlehem" from the cantata "Holy Night" by Ashford and Mrs. A. L. Richardson will sing "To Victory" by Neidlinger. Mrs. Harvey Richardson will be piano accompanist.

The program will close with several carols and anthems by the choir of the First Presbyterian church, which is directed by Mrs. A. L. Richardson. Miss Edris Maguire will accompany the singers at the piano.

The campfire girls besides singing carols at the hospital on Christmas day will sing down town, in front of the La Grande hotel at 10:10 o'clock Christmas eve. They will also carol at the hospital at 9:45 o'clock on Christmas eve and will be ready to visit other places where there are shut-ins Christmas eve of Christmas day.

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DANGER OF FIRE IS POINTED OUT BY LOCAL CHIEF

"The day before Christmas, Fire Chief C. O. Murchison sounds a warning against the use of candles on trees, because of the fire hazard.

"Avoid the use of candles or open flames on Christmas," Mr. Murchison said, "and also place all candles and other inflammable articles away from any danger of catching fire. In case of fire call the fire department first and then turn your attention to extinguishing the fire with water, extinguishers or other means. If a person's clothing takes fire, wrap the person in a blanket or rug and roll the person on the floor or ground."

Mr. Murchison points out that many Christmas tragedies result annually because of carelessness.

MRS. TANNER BURNED IN GASOLINE EXPLOSION

Mrs. Dan Tanner was burned painfully about 10:20 o'clock this morning in a gasoline explosion at her home at 1710 Cedar street which also set fire to the room in which she was. The fire truck was called and extinguished the blaze. Mrs. Tanner's injuries are said to be not dangerous.

THE GREATEST GIFT



By Rt. Rev. W. P. Remington, D. D. (Bishop, Eastern Oregon Diocese Episcopal Church)

WE ARE accustomed to think of Christmas as the gift of God's love, and we try, all in too formal and sometimes too hollow fashion, to express love and friendship through gifts to one another on Christmas Day. In how many American families is the day a failure? Judge for yourselves, and there will be no need to remind you of the ill humor, the unwillingness of good things, of prospects, and the unseemly intemperance which so often characterize our keeping of the birthday of the Manger Child King. The reason for it is plain; we have too much and we have too little to give; too much of things, and too little of unselfish adoring sacrifice to offer the Christ Child and one another.

Now can we honor the King with feelings without cheer and with gifts unadorned by the joy of unselfish sincere love? When we go through the day heedless of the praise and worship we should render to the Child, we make of our Christmas a mere mockery, a show of things unadorned by the only pure joy that can give it meaning. We do it because we have not thought how we were drifting. The Saviour of the world must look up from His cradle and cry, as He did from the cross, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

When God gave His Great Gift of His Son, it was the expression of Divine Love, Creative Love, Unfathomable Sacrifice. Just what do our gifts to God and to one another express? Sometimes we are looking for an exchange, and we get only what we give. If we do happen to go to church on the birthday of the Child, we put our offering into the plate in the hope that one day we will be rewarded for an act of charity, or else we give because we expect the church somehow to save society from going altogether to the bad. We believe that some offerings are given to God's Church, as we tie the policeman or pay the watchman at Christmas time. The church helps keep things safe and some and might a big surprise, we say. In this way we receive just what we give, we get some sense of safety, but we never know the glow of real love

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WOMAN FLIER MISSING, NO TRACE FOUND

Mrs. Frances Wilson Grayson Long Overdue at Newfoundland

MAY HAVE FALLEN INTO THE OCEAN

Woman Took Off from New York Last Night in Spite of Warnings by Weather Bureau.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24 (AP)—The Western Union Telegraph company announced today that its station at Heart's Content Newfoundland, advised that a complete check from all cable stations along the coast failed to show any trace of Mrs. Grayson's plane, "The Dawn."

NEW YORK, Dec. 24 (AP)—Mrs. Frances Wilson Grayson, who hopped off in her amphibian plane, "The Dawn," for Newfoundland yesterday, and failed to arrive at 7 a. m. today as scheduled, undertook the flight against the advice of the weather bureau. Dr. James H. Kimball, meteorologist, told the Associated Press.

He expressed slight hope that "The Dawn" despite its untimely departure could long withstand the buffeting of the waves, as aviation observers agreed and it seemed likely it made a forced landing during the night somewhere between Cape Cod and the coast of Nova Scotia.

With Mrs. Grayson were Oscar Omdal, pilot; Bruce Goldborough, navigator and Fred Koehler, engine expert.

C. E. Blanchard was bound over to the grand jury under \$250 bonds yesterday afternoon when he was given hearing in the justice of the peace court on a charge of larceny by embezzlement. He furnished the amount of the bond and was released. He is charged with embezzling funds from the local Carpenters Union.

Knights Templar To Hold Services

Sunday morning all Knights Templars will gather at 9 o'clock for annual Christmas services at the Masonic hall, August J. Stange announced. The Rev. Oliver Wiley will make the address.

Golden Wedding Plans Completed

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Warren will observe their golden wedding anniversary tonight at their home at 1618 M avenue. They have made their home here for 24 years, since their here in 1899 in covered wagon. Their daughter, Mrs. W. F. Anderson, of Portland, and Mr. Warren's sister, Mrs. J. E. Stine, of Kuna, are out-of-town guests who will be present at tonight's gathering which will include members of the family here and a number of friends. Mr. and Mrs. Warren are receiving hearty congratulations from friends on the occasion.

Nation To Give Christmas Spirit Full Sway Today

President and Mrs. Coolidge to Preside at the Washington Festivities, Beginning This Eve

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 (AP)—The nation turned aside all other interests today and entered into its preparations for the observation of Christmas.

Those who remained in Washington looked forward toward the evening for the opening of festivities on the south lawn of the treasury where President Coolidge will light a stately spruce by pushing a gold button to flood the boughs with colored aces while others were hurrying to their family firesides in every part of the country.

As the joyous spirit of the season caught the country in its festive preparations, the White House, like a symbol for the festivities throughout the nation, became a busy place in anticipation of the crowds which will gather there tonight to sing Christmas carols under the community tree on the treasury lawn has been dedicated.

Inside, Mrs. Coolidge began to direct the work of putting up five Christmas trees, all with gleaming lights and under the boughs of one of them she arranged a miniature reproduction of the nativity in Jerusalem. The president decided to take no part in these preparations, but John Coolidge, who is spending the Amherst college vacation with his parents, was eager to help his mother.

An already busy day was to be crowded for Mrs. Coolidge by several hours she agreed to give to charity.

CARRY YULETIDE TO EVERY SHORE

United States Lavishes Bounty to Bring Christmas Cheer to World

By William F. Brooks (Associated Press Feature Editor) WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 (AP)—When the three Wise Men came into Bethlehem out of the East and found the child Jesus newly born, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. They "fell down and worshipped Him, and when they opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts: gold and frankincense and myrrh."

Tonight—the eve of His natal day—a nation will pause in worship, and throughout the land treasures will be opened and gifts presented in His name.

From the greatest mansion to the humblest hut, the Christmas spirit will be felt in some form or another. The memory of the lonely manger will exalt and comfort the poor, soften the hard-hearted, call up thoughts of charity to the wealthy, and bring goodness and mercy out of the hearts of a busy people.

At the same time, in thousands of city tenements other mothers and sons will set about fixing humble quarters for Christmas with joyous hearts. Charity organizations have sought out the lonely and homeless and poverty stricken that they may have some share in the glorious celebration.

In the homes of the millions of average American citizens, turkeys and gifts and carols and parties and gaiety will mark the coming of the Christmas season. National charity organizations here declare that scarcely a home is being overlooked. Christmas in the U. S. is out-of-town guests who will be present at tonight's gathering which will include members of the family here and a number of friends. Mr. and Mrs. Warren are receiving hearty congratulations from friends on the occasion.

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W. E. HICKMAN STILL DENIES KILLING GIRL

Faces Questions of Police With Unchanged Story Despite Evidence

OFFICIALS FROM SOUTH NEARING

Youth Shows Some Apprehension—Still Hopes to Conduct Own Defense at Murder Trial.

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 24 (AP)—Asa R. Keyes, Los Angeles district attorney, and Herman Cline, chief of Los Angeles detectives and three other officers arrived here this morning on their way to Pendleton where they will take William Edward Hickman into custody.

The party, traveling in a special Pullman, arrived at 8:30 and 30 minutes later left on the Union Pacific for Pendleton.

PENDLETON, Dec. 24 (AP)—Told point blank that police had evidence that he had killed Marian Parker in his apartment at Los Angeles, W. Edward Hickman, youthful prisoner in jail here, replied to the Associated Press today: "That is not true, I did not do it."

"Under the California law you face death for what you have already confessed," he was told. "I can't help it," replied Hickman. He spoke steadily and with apparent frankness. "I have told the truth. I will feel better to go that way than to have to tell a lie."

Hickman displayed considerable apprehension this morning on being informed of the approach of officers from Los Angeles, who are to take him on extradition papers. He asked questions about the probable length of time before his trial and was interested in getting information concerning court procedure.

Would Conduct Defense Hickman expressed a wish to be able to conduct his own defense. He had been reading in the newspapers of the famous trial at Cincinnati and indicated that he would like to try his hand as an attorney. He showed ignorance of court procedure, however.

Forming a grilling when he is taken into custody by the Los Angeles authorities, he asked questions about members of the official party. He said he had heard about the prosecuting attorney, Asa Keyes and Chief of Detectives Cline, and seemed to be mustering his forces to match with those of theirs.

"The police have learned that you used 10 bars of soap and two cans of cleaning powder in removing blood stains in your apartment after Marian was killed," Hickman was told by the Associated Press correspondent.

"That's not true," The reply came quick in steady voice. Hickman did not seem to be jolted, he maintained the same even demeanor that has characterized his attitude.

Mrs. Nixon Passes Away at Island City

Mrs. Lilla E. Nixon, age 51, passed away at 6:50 a. m. at her home near Island City. Funeral services from Snodgrass & Zimman parlor at 2 p. m., Monday, Dec. 26. Interment at Island City cemetery.

FUNERAL SERVICES MONDAY

Funeral services for Al Ray will be held Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Elks' temple.