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

EARLY EDITION

La Grande Evening Observer

THE WEATHER

OREGON: Rain in west portion, snow and rain in east portion tonight and Tuesday. Warmer.

VOLUME XXVI. MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS LA GRANDE, OREGON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1927. MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS NUMBER 113

J. MAYFIELD MURDERED AT IMBLER, ORE.

Sheriff's Office Is Investigating Today—Assailant Is Unknown

SHOT FIRED WHEN MAN WAS ASLEEP

Body Brought to La Grande—Coroner F. L. Ralston May Hold Inquest Tomorrow.

John Mayfield, about 45 years of age, was shot and killed about 3 or 4 o'clock this morning by an unknown assailant at Imbler, Ore. Before going to press this afternoon, no arrests had been made.

Deputy Sheriff Hugo Klinghammer is at Imbler today investigating the circumstances surrounding the killing.

Coroner F. L. Ralston, who spent the weekend in Walla Walla, is expected home this afternoon but it is believed that an inquest will not be held before tomorrow.

According to reports received here Mr. Mayfield was shot with a rifle, the bullet piercing the front door of the Andy Coe home at Imbler, where the man was staying, then entering Mr. Mayfield's head as he lay asleep.

The door, one with a glass pane, afforded a view of the sleeping man and officers believe that the slayer took careful aim, pulled the trigger and then left. Early reports were that no one entered the house and officers believe that revenge was the motive that prompted the firing of the fatal shot, although this is as yet merely conjecture. The hour at which the killing occurred precludes the possibility of the bullet being a stray one, accidentally fired, it is said.

Mr. Mayfield is widely known in and around La Grande. Death was practically instantaneous, the bullet entering his head just below the left ear and coming out through the top of his skull.

The body was brought to La Grande and is at the Shodgrass and Zimmerman chapel. Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

MRS. D. TANNER RETURNS HOME FROM HOSPITAL

Mrs. Dan R. Tanner was taken to her home this afternoon from the Grande Ronde hospital where she was taken Saturday after her hands had been badly burned in an explosion at her home on Cedar street.

The explosion was caused by gasoline in which Mrs. Tanner was washing curtains. It is thought that the heat in the room ignited the gasoline. The room was set on fire, but the fire department was called immediately and put out the blaze. Nothing was badly damaged, although the walls and furniture were smoked considerably.

Mrs. Tanner's hands and arms are in bandages to her elbows while her injuries are very painful they are not thought to be of a serious nature.

Storm Warnings Up Along North Coast

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 26 (AP)—Storm warnings were ordered up today at all Oregon and Washington seaports, when the weather bureau reported a gale heading for the Pacific northwest and due to reach there tonight. By Tuesday night, the forecaster said, the storm probably would affect the weather in California.

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 aid to his selling message.

"Observer Advertising—A Merchandising Service"

Legion Midnight Matinee Program Headed by White

Character Impersonator from Portland Signed—Much Other Entertainment to Be Offered.

A feature of the second annual New Year's midnight matinee staged by the American Legion will be the character impersonations of O'Regent White, known here as Bob White, manager of the Sherman Clay Music company. Mr. White has a wide reputation as an impersonator and has become well known in radio circles over the northwest particularly.

Press notices from Portland papers include the following remarks: "O'Regent White, character impersonator and dramatic star, will give a farewell program over KWJJ tonight, prior to leaving for Los Angeles where he will take up dramatic work on a larger scale." . . . "Two special headline attractions on KEX broadcasting schedule tonight are . . . and dramatic entertainment by O'Regent White, character impersonator, singer and radio star of the first order. White is appearing in a farewell program for his large following of radio listeners to Portland stations, Saturday he will journey to Los Angeles to enter theatrical work." This is but one of the many interesting acts of the matinee which is being looked forward to by people with real anticipation.

The American Legion committee, headed by Dr. R. F. Murphy announces the program, on which it has been working for the past several months, as follows: Violin and acrobatic act by Mae Elizabeth and Alice Jeanette Cooper; vocal selections by Leona Waldorff; dance act by Beulah Newlin; musical trio by Dr. and Mrs. McCall and Donna Scott; Scotch act by David Wylie; vocal solos by Francis Smith; one-act sketch by DeMolay boys; impersonations by O'Regent White; Legion minstrel show.

Seats will be on sale at the Glass Drugs for the production to be held at the Arcade theater, Thursday morning. The matinee is scheduled for 12:05 o'clock.

LIGHTING EXPERT PRAISES SYSTEM

W. D. Williams Pays a Glowing Tribute to La Grande's Street Lights

A glowing tribute to La Grande's municipal lighting system has been received from W. D. Williams, of the Portland Electric Power company, of Portland, Ore., who chanced to notice this city's ornamental illumination units while passing through.

The following letter has been received by W. C. Crews, city manager:

"While on a tour through some of our eastern states and five European countries, I kept notes from day to day of the things that impressed me most.

"The first entry is in regard to the uniformity of street lighting in your city. Of course I saw better lighted streets in the larger cities but it usually applied only to one or two streets. While touring California last year, the street lighting in the smaller towns was outstanding and I was under the impression that we had nothing like it in Oregon. It is interesting to know that we have here in Oregon a city lighting system that was planned, started and finished, and it impresses me as being one of the best that I have ever seen. Naturally, I was curious to know something of the layout and on my return to Portland, I went to the street lighting man of the G. E. company, Mr. George Barker, for information. Mr. Barker explained the main features of the system. From my viewpoint, the main fact is that for every dollar put into this lighting, a full dollar's worth of service will be rendered.

"It occurred to me that you might appreciate hearing from one who happened to pass your way and was so favorably impressed with some feature of your city. (signed) W. D. Williams."

Store Employes In Christmas Party

In keeping with the annual custom of rewarding women employes the J. C. Penney company here presented Christmas presents to its women employes in the form of "fat" bonuses, during a jolly Christmas party held following the closing of the doors Saturday night. Bonuses are determined according to both the time the women have been in the company's employ and according to production during the year, M. M. Hunt, local manager explained. About 35 employes of the local store, some of them extra for the Christmas rush, enjoyed the party and Christmas tree which was held Christmas eve on the mezzanine. Grant Bean acted as Santa Claus and helped to make the hour a merry one, distributing gifts for all present. Mr. and Mrs. Hunt were presented with a large basket of flowers by the employes during the evening.

CHURCHES OF CITY OBSERVE THE YULETIDE

Story of Christmas Told Sunday in Music, Pictures and Verse

PAGEANT GIVEN BY CHRISTIANS

Musical Cantata Presented at First Methodist Church—Midnight Mass Evening Feature.

The Christmas story was told over and over again in music, verse and pictures in the churches of the city yesterday—Christmas Sunday. Through the Sunday school hour yesterday morning the Christmas spirit prevailed—children were told the story of the birth of the baby Jesus, anthems telling of His birth were heard, and the purpose of Christmas—to remember others and give—was not forgotten, when at the close of the Sunday school hour in several of the churches the children of the school were presented with Christmas treats.

At the Central Christian church the story was told in a pageant entitled "The Path or Promise," which brought out the promise of the Old Testament up to the fulfillment. The pageant was under the direction of Mrs. C. F. McPherson. The Rev. R. L. Putnam took the part of Abraham; Mr. Roberts, Jacob; George Ault, Judah; Miss Gertrude Wagoner, Ruth; Henry Winburn, David; Tom Hardesty, Robert Weeks and William Corey, shepherds; Mrs. C. E. Bragg, Bethlehem; Leona and Winona Putnam, Blanche McPherson and Madeline Gallagher, Stars; Lenord Putnam, Mary, mother of Jesus; and Mr. Roberts, C. E. Bragg and Dr. J. L. McPherson, the three wise men. A. P. Nelson had charge of the decorating and lighting. Music for the pageant was furnished by a quartet composed of Mrs. Walter Price, Mrs. R. B. Pauly, Walter Price and J. P. Caldwell.

Given Treats

The children of the Sunday school were given treats at the close of the school hour in the morning, and on Saturday afternoon the primary department enjoyed a Christmas party at the church under the direction of Mrs. George Rochester, superintendent of the department, assisted by Mrs. C. F. McPherson. About 30 children were present, besides several mothers.

The Christmas story was told in music at the First Presbyterian church last night and heard by a large audience. An organ program, with Miss Edris Maguire at the console, assisted by Mrs. W. H. Bohnenkamp Jr., L. J. Lindsly, violinist, and the vested choir of the church, which is under the direction of Mrs. A. L. Richardson.

Saturday night the Sunday school of the Presbyterian church observed Christmas with an appropriate program at the church. After the program, which was given by members of the school, Santa Claus appeared and presented the children with gifts of candy.

In addition to this program Sat-

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Elks Are Hosts To 2025 Kiddies This Christmas

P. E. O. Program Given at Hospital—Children Are Guests at Star Matinee—Baskets Given Needy

The B. P. O. Elks lodge here was host to 2025 children of the city yesterday at noon, when the annual Christmas tree was held at the intersection of Washington avenue and Depot street. Santa Claus was on hand and each child was presented with a toy, an orange and a bag of candy and nuts.

The Christmas tree is an annual affair sponsored by the lodge and is financed by the '49 show which is held each fall. The committee in charge this year consisted of Harry Hoffman, Claude Berry, Herb Browning, R. J. Kitchen and Nate Zweitel.

Gave 110 Baskets

In addition to making the children happy the lodge sent out 110 Christmas baskets on Saturday into homes where there would probably have been no Christmas this year otherwise. Accompanying each basket, which consisted of things for the Christmas dinner, were toys for the children, these being collected, repaired and repainted by the boy scouts of the city as their Christmas "good turn." The boy scouts also assisted in delivering the baskets.

Program at Hospital

It is the annual custom for chapter I of P. E. O. to help to make people happy at Christmas time also, and each year the chapter gives a program at the Grande Ronde hospital for those who are confined there at that particular time. In addition to the excellent musical program furnished by the chapter yesterday afternoon at the hospital from about 4 o'clock until 7, about four dozen red carnations were dis-

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Burden of Xmas Mail Rush Over; Record Is Good

With the burden of the Christmas rush practically over, Postmaster Ralph Huron and his staff of assistants are today unusually joyous, for they have the satisfaction of knowing that they established a record thought unusual in any postoffice—that of having cleaned up every bit of Christmas mail on time. This, of course, does not include parcels that reached the postoffice too late for possible delivery, Mr. Huron explained this morning, and there are some packages which did not reach the homes, but it was because they arrived too late for the last delivery.

"Though we were getting towards the 'zero hour,' we had everything possible delivered by Christmas," said the postmaster. He attributes this very satisfactory record to a better co-operation on the public's part to a great extent. "It is very encouraging to know that the 'mail early' campaign is gradually taking effect," he says. "Particularly in the card mail we had less congestion and it was a material help to us."

The postoffice had six extra persons helping all last week and still have four. A generally good organization and an adequate force to handle the mail is attributed as the other cause of the completion of the annual big task of the postoffice.

HICKMAN—"THE FOX"

Here is another view of William E. Hickman, "The Fox" who is charged with kidnaping and murdering little 12-year-old Marian Parker, in Los Angeles. He spent the last of the week in the Pendleton jail awaiting the arrival of District Attorney Asa Keyes and chief of Los Angeles detectives, Mr. Cline, who will return him to the scene of his alleged crime.

'DAWN' SENDS FAINT FLASH OF TROUBLE

Radio Message Picked Up Last Night Said "Something Gone Wrong"

SEARCHERS COMB NORTHERN WATERS

Airship Los Angeles to Aid in Attempts to Find Mrs. Grayson and Missing Plane.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26 (AP)—Mrs. Frances Wilson Grayson's plane, "The Dawn," flashed "something gone wrong" to the Canadian government radio station at Sable Island at 9:45 last night, they advised the Associated Press today.

A broken message with the single tragic phrase intelligible ending with the letters "Nce" and signed W M I was the slender thread upon which hope hung today that the four occupants of the plane might still be alive.

The Canadian radio station said that the strength of the signals led them to judge the distance at 80 to 100 miles.

Several ships listened for her signals but no report of any kind was received, the station declared.

Emergency Radio

By the characteristics of the signal received from the plane, it was assumed that the fliers were using a small emergency set with a range of 25 to 50 miles. The fact that the message was received at the Sable Island station was taken to indicate the plane must have been in the vicinity of the island to make its signals heard above the storm, which the operator reported eventually interrupted the plane's signals.

Two overwater jumps were before "The Dawn" if it had followed a direct line from Cape Cod to Newfoundland. The first hop, out of sight of land, was one of 250 miles from the cape to Nova Scotia, and one of 150 miles from Nova Scotia to Newfoundland.

The plane carried 525 gallons of gasoline when it took off, a supply estimated as sufficient for 20 hours of flying. This period would have expired at 1:07 p. m. Saturday, about six hours after the time Mrs. Grayson had expected to reach Harbor Grace to prepare for a 2500 mile flight to Croyden, England.

With Mrs. Grayson was Lieut. Oskar Omdal, pilot, Brice Goldsborough, navigator and radio operator, and Fred Koehler, motor expert. All but Koehler comprised the projected trans-Atlantic flying crew.

Searchers Busy

Friends and relatives of the missing fliers spurred searching efforts from New York, the first air relief air expedition, financed by Mrs. Brice Goldsborough with $500 given on her for Christmas by her husband, but had only a negative result. William Winston, an aviator, found nothing in a search of the New England coast.

The United States navy, coast guard patrols, Canadian railway employes, radio and telegraph stations on the Newfoundland coast, Canadian wireless stations, and coastal and other steamers were enlisted in the search. Friends of the missing fliers today were awaiting receipt of $5000 for which they had cabled Mrs. Aage Ancker, financial backer of "The Dawn's" flight in Denmark. It was planned to finance two hops with this money, one to start out from Long Island sound and one from the neighborhood of Nantucket, Mass., to explore the areas in which it was believed "The Dawn" might have been forced down.

AIRSHIP TO HELP

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26 (AP)—The navy department today ordered the airship Los Angeles made ready to take the air in search of the missing Grayson plane, "The Dawn."

Assistant Secretary Robinson issued the orders for the Los Angeles, which will start its search as soon as the ship can be made

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Spend Christmas Clearing Up Debris

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 26 (AP)—After a Christmas holiday spent in clearing up the wreckage due to the explosion of a bomb, employes of the National City bank branch today was ready to reopen for business. One victim of the blast died after he had been exonerated of any connection with the explosion, which was attributed to Sacco-Vanzetti sympathizers. Manuel Heliosilo, who was removed as a suspect when it was found that he was selling candy in another part of the building at the time of the bombing, succumbed to his injuries.

All the documents and books of the bank have been found to be intact, the check on the money is not completed.

TOM AND BUCK

Police Chief Tom Gurdane and State Traffic Sergeant Cecil "Buck" Lieuallen, of Pendleton, are pictured above. They are the men who became nationally famous Thursday when they captured William Edward Hickman, wanted in Los Angeles on a kidnaping-slaying charge, east of Echo, Ore.

PEACE OFFICERS FIGHT TO DEATH

Six Killed in Battle Between Police and Sheriff Forces in Tennessee

SOUTH PITTSBURGH, Tenn., Dec. 26 (AP)—State militia men patrolled this small industrial town today to guard against possible echoes to a brief but withering flare of gunfire which last night resulted in death for six police officers and serious wounds for three others, all members of warring law enforcement factions.

Meanwhile state authorities endeavored to penetrate the maze of conflicting evidence and the confusion brought by the affair in order to fix blame for the fray.

Fight Short

Witnesses said that less than a minute was consumed by the encounter with shotguns and pistols.

Sheriff Wash Coppinger, Deputy Sheriff L. A. Hennessy, City Marshal Ewing Smith, Night Marshal Ben Parker and Special Policeman O. B. Larowe are dead. Chief of Police James Conner was taken to a hospital where he later died. Deputy Sheriff Fayette Nelson and Special Policeman Charles Pittman and John Bates suffered four serious wounds.

The fatal interchange of shots was described as the culmination of a feud between county officers and city officers growing out of a strike in a local manufacturing plant. County officers are alleged to have sympathized with the strikers, while city officers and special policemen were detailed to stand guard over property affected by the walkout.

The fatal skirmish was traced to a minor conflict according to the story of Thomas Connor, a deputy sheriff and brother of the police chief. He said that in a scuffle early last night city officers had drawn a pistol on him.

Arrest Breaks Ice

Later, he said, he, Sheriff Coppinger and several other deputies

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Virginia Hotel Ruins Searched For Six Missing

Christmas Morning Blaze Destroys Building—Many Guests in Thrilling Escapes from Fire.

HOPEWELL, Va., Dec. 26. (AP)—Fire-blackened ruins of the Grand Central hotel here were searched today to determine whether six unaccounted for guests lost their lives in the Christmas morning blaze that destroyed the building.

The missing are: Charles Cocke and Luther Hammond of Hopewell; Mr. and Mrs. Maud of South Carolina; a Virginian named Riddenbush and a Mr. Sanborn of Massachusetts.

L. L. Edwards, acting night clerk, discovered the fire when it ate its way through a thin partition between the lobby and a furniture store that shared the lower floor. He ran to the second floor to spread the warning, collapsing there in a smoke filled corridor. A policeman who entered by a fire escape dragged Edwards to safety.

Persons on the second floor escaped down the stairways but many on the floor above had to wait until firemen rescued them.

Search for bodies was begun by Fire Chief Cuddahy as soon as the fire had burned itself out but the work was handicapped by falling of the front and a side wall, piling debris that must be moved before a complete check is possible.

The greatest loss was suffered by the furniture store approximately $15,000.

Wind Rages In California And Mountain Areas

BAKERSFIELD, Cal., Dec. 26. (AP)—Wind, blowing savagely out of the east, roared over Kern county for almost 36 hours without cessation, uprooting great trees, leveling billboards and only moderating in fury with the end of Christmas day at midnight Sunday. In some sections of the country the wind whirled rain in its wake and in others, the mountainous regions, it drove snow before it in blinding, horizontal sheets, covering the mountains.

Along mountain roads thawing snow caused many miniature landslides and started the movement of great boulders to the valleys and ravines.

63 I. W. W. Taken To Jailhouse In Trinidad, Colo.

TRINIDAD, Colo., Dec. 26 (AP)—Sixty-three members of the I. W. W. are held in the county jail here following a raid on the headquarters of the organization here last night during which Chief of Police A. E. Cleary, Night Police Captain Mike Foundy, Patrolman Mark Reynolds and Dr. James Espey, mayor pro tem of Trinidad, were held as hostages for nearly three hours. The officers were disarmed by their captors.

Sheriff J. J. Marty and a squad of deputies rescued the four city officials from the I. W. W. hall and arrested the men who now are in jail. State police were called from Walsenburg but they arrived after the I. W. W. members had been taken to jail.

Chief Cleary and his assistants said they went to the hall on receiving a report that the prohibition laws were being broken there. The officers were disarmed and held prisoners. Mayor Pro Tem Espey went to the hall seeking the release of the policemen and he also was seized and held a prisoner. After the four men were held for approximately three hours, R. W. Henderson, attorney for the I. W. W. organization advised the occupants of the hall to surrender to Sheriff Marty and his deputies who had surrounded the building.

State police remained on duty throughout the night and placed a padlock on the door of the hall.

Chief Cleary and Foundy received numerous bruises but their injuries were said not to be serious.

Hunger Strike Is Cause of Death

SALISBURY, Md., Dec. 26 (AP)—After refusing food for more than three weeks in a self-imposed hunger strike, W. C. Cooper cleared embezzlement warrants issued for him in connection with an alleged building and loan company shortage and died last night.

Cooper established the Wicomico Building and Loan association 22 years ago and three weeks ago it closed its doors after being adjudged bankrupt. Since that time, Cooper, who was charged with a $29,000 misappropriation of funds, had refused nourishment.

SAY HICKMAN CONFESSES GIRL MURDER

Portland Telegram Learns That Prisoner Admits Crime to L. A. Officers

DEED "TOO AWFUL TO TALK ABOUT"

Kidnaper of Marian Parker in California Today—Passes Through Klamath This Morning.

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 26 (AP)—The Telegram says today it has learned on good authority that William Edward Hickman had confessed to Los Angeles authorities that he alone is responsible for the brutal murder of little Marian Parker.

That it became necessary for him to do away with her because he had "told her too much," was the reason given by Hickman, it is understood for the crime.

Gruesome Crime

The crime was committed in a manner that is even more gruesome than the public has been led to believe it was said and it is deemed advisable by the Los Angeles officials to withhold the confession until Hickman is securely locked behind jail doors for fear the details would fan into flame the embers of the lynching spirit that is said to have taken hold of the Los Angeles populace.

"We will have no statement to make," said James Davis, Los Angeles chief of police, when questioned about the confession last night.

"Do you deny that a confession has been made?" he was asked.

"We will make no statement now," he reiterated.

Asa Keyes, district attorney, merely stated, when asked about the reported confession, that he could say nothing at present.

"Nothing Else to Do"

Hickman contended that he did not intend to murder Marian Parker, the Telegram learned. "I had no intention of doing her harm," he is quoted as having said, "but after I let her find out who I was, that I had worked at the bank and all that, I know that if she ever saw her father again they would know who I was and get me. There was nothing else to do."

It was also intimated that Hickman did not commit the acual murder in the Bellevue Arms apartment, but killed the girl elsewhere, nearby, and then took the body to the apartment and there mutilated it.

According to the alleged confession, Hickman committed no outrage upon the body of the girl. He used drugs with which to put her to sleep, and purposely administered an overdose prior to committing the deed which is described by one Los Angeles official as "too awful to talk about."

In his alleged confession, the Telegram stated, Hickman says he cut up the body with the intention of disposing of it, but later realized that he could not obtain the $1500 unless he presented the girl to the father, whereupon he reconstructed the body as best he could to make it appear that Marian was still alive.

ABOARD CASCADE LIMITED, at Klamath Falls, Dec. 26 (AP)—Speeding toward the southland where the kidnaping and murder of Marian Parker was perpetrated, the special car bearing W. Edward Hickman was at the doorstep of California this morning. Locked in a compartment Hickman spent the night shackled to a Los Angeles detective. He slept and made no disturbance, said his custodians.

Special Southern Pacific officers guarding the car reported the night passed without incident. These special officers are to remain at the doors of the car until it reaches its destination at Los Angeles, supplementing a flock of Los Angeles police officials closely surrounding the prisoner.

In Good Condition

Hickman was in condition to benefit from the seclusion and quiet of the Pullman compartment after the three nights spent in the Pendleton jail following his capture. The comfortable berth contrasted sharply with the iron bunk which he spent his last fretful night in the jail.

The youthful kidnaped and alleged slayer who made two attempts to end his life Sunday morning after a night of hysteria quickly recovered his composure under soothing tactics of his new custodians but his appearance shows unmistakably the effect of the intense nervous strain of the past week. Knowledge that he was returning to the scene of his crime was not expected to improve his mental or physical condition.

Likened to D'Autremont

Maurice Cottogri one of the railroad agents guarding the car sat this morning that Hickman reminded him of Hugh D'Autremont one of the trio of brothers respon-

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