

FIRE LOSS IN CITY IS LOW DURING YEAR

Actual Loss to Buildings and Contents in 1927 Was \$19,461.95

PROPERTY WORTH \$379,550 AT RISK

Alarm System Given General Overhauling, Reported in High State of Efficiency Now.

La Grande's fire loss during 1927, according to Fire Chief C. O. Murchison, whose report has just been filed by the city recorder, was one of the lowest in years.

The total loss in this city amounted to \$19,461.95, divided as follows: loss to buildings \$15,408.76; loss to contents \$4,053.19.

Insurance paid on the loss amounted to \$15,056.95, of which \$11,692.74 was on buildings and \$3,364.21 on contents.

Amount at Risk High Despite the small loss, the amount of property and insurance at risk is large, which, of itself, denotes a high degree of efficiency on the part of the La Grande fire department's personnel.

Total value of property at risk during the year was \$379,550 and insurance at risk reached \$216,470. With a third of a million dollars worth of property imperiled, the fire department had the total loss to less than \$20,000.

Cause of Fires Grass fires, caused by defective lines and by careless disposition of ashes were near the top of the list, as is usually the case. Local fire fighters have engaged in several fire-prevention campaigns in recent years, which have helped to bring down the loss to a certain degree.

Trucks Driven 110 Miles During the year the regular truck was driven 100.7 miles to and from fires at an average speed of 2 1/2 miles an hour and the pumper truck was driven 10.8 miles at the same average speed.

Other interesting facts revealed in the fire report follow: 239 electric permits, 141 plumbing permits, and 1,235 fire permits were issued during the year, and 16,222 feet (nearly three miles) of new fire alarm wire was run during the year.

The fire alarm system was given a general overhauling and is reported as being in a high state of efficiency at present.

NORTH POWDER MAN HURT BY FALLING LOG

HOT LAKE, Ore., Jan. 12 (Special)—William Fathberg, of North Powder, is in the hospital the result of injuries received late yesterday afternoon when a log fell on him. He has three fractures of the leg and pelvis bone, but is getting along nicely today.

Mr. Fathberg was working in the Jacobs Brothers logging camp, about seven miles from North Powder, when the accident occurred. He was brought to Hot Lake immediately following the accident and was placed in a plaster cast this morning.

GETTING READY FOR SPRING

It's not yet time for spring housecleaning—but you are getting ready for it with plans for changing things about, getting new things, getting rid of old things.

Check over the things in the attic or storeroom or woodshed—check over the things you'd like to discard if you could do so to a reasonable advantage. Then write a Want Ad for The Observer and have it inserted several days. Someone wants the things you don't want.

Check over the things you can't use—sell them—get the money with a Want Ad. The cost is extremely small—the line for the first insertion, 7c a line for each insertion thereafter.

Liquor Charge Placed Against Harrison Today

Elderly Man Bound over to Grand Jury—Sheriff Finds Still, Mash and Quantity of Liquor

With a 50-gallon still, nine huge barrels of mash and a quantity of liquor and apparatus held as evidence against him, C. H. Harrison, elderly La Grande man, sits today in the county jail, bound over to the grand jury on charges of possession of a still.

At midnight Wednesday Mr. Harrison, with Deputy Hugo Klinghammer and Fred Gaskill, special city officer, went up Glass hill, about five miles west of La Grande, to the farm known as the old Blockland place.

At 10 o'clock Wednesday preliminary hearing before Judge Hugh E. Brady and was bound over to the grand jury under \$1000 bonds.

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STREAMS OUT OF BANKS IN UMATILLA CO.

Highway and Railroad Tracks Covered by Water in Many Places

STREETS FLOODED IN COUNTY SEAT

Pavement Undermined at Milton—Spokane Train Forced to Return to Pendleton Yesterday.

Streams are running high in the Grande Ronde valley today as a result of melting snow in the mountains and steady rains here but so far no reports of flood conditions have been received.

The street department is working a large crew of men in an effort to keep catch basins and storm sewers clear so that the unusual quantity of water can be drained off.

Pendleton, Ore., Jan. 12 (AP)—Creeks and streams throughout Umatilla county were out of their banks today and highways and roads were reported flooded in many sections following two days and nights of warm weather thawing the snow and ice and unusually heavy rains last night.

The local office of the highway department was swamped with telephone calls this morning from all parts of the county asking for relief from water sweeping over the roads or reporting small slides.

Streets Flooded Locally, the flood here on both the north and south sides this morning and streets leading from the hills were, in many cases, running full of water from curb to curb.

In the east end of the city water poured over the highway leading from town in such volume that highway officials ordered automobiles detoured over the railroad right of way.

Water on Highway The Old Oregon Trail is covered (Continued on Page 5)

LA GRANDE TEAM TO PLAY JOSEPH

Eight Tigers Invade Wallawa County—Enterprise to Be Host Tomorrow

Eight tigers, carried for victory, left La Grande this morning bound for Wallawa county to play the first two out-of-town games of the season, with hoop pointers that are reputed strong—Joseph and Enterprise.

"What chances for victory? I don't know. The boys are in fine shape, they've had a couple of exciting games, but we don't know what we're up against until we meet them. We'll do our best and hope for victory." This was Coach Christie's version of the outlook for the two-day trip up the branch line on which the boys started by stage at 9:30 o'clock, accompanied by the coach and the student body business manager, Kenneth Owen.

The five will play Joseph tonight and Enterprise Saturday night. Coach Christie's string of Tigers this morning was composed of Stoddard, Hubbard, C. Wolfe, Braden, Herr, H. Wolfe, Foss and P. Newlin.

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I. W. W. GUNS START FIGHT IN COLORADO

Walsenburg In Unofficial State of Martial Law Following Battle

ONE KILLED, ONE MORTALLY INJURED

Police Attempt to Stop Parade When Strikers Open Fire—Machine Gun Quiets Belligerents

WALSBERG, Colo., Jan. 12 (AP)—The death toll in yesterday's clash between state police and striking miners was raised to two today when Saldivino Martinez, 20, died in a hospital here from a bullet wound.

DENVER, Colo., Jan. 12 (AP)—Walsenburg, Colo., in the southern coal fields, is in a state of unofficial martial law today following a shooting affray there yesterday afternoon, which resulted in the death of one striking coal miner, serious injury to a state police officer and injuries to two other striking miners.

In the clash, which occurred when state police endeavored to turn back an I. W. W. parade, Klementz Chavez, miner, was killed; Max Lordeman, state police officer, was shot through the groin; Peter Verlich, striking miner, was shot through the shoulder, and Saldivino Martinez, 20-year-old Mexican striking miner, was shot through the stomach, liver and kidneys. His condition was reported as critical and physicians say he probably will die.

The fight between the I. W. W. and state police was precipitated yesterday afternoon when approximately 600 strikers who had gathered in the Walsenburg I. W. W. hall formed in the street to parade to the court house where the state industrial commission was in session hearing grievances of striking miners.

Fires On Police When within a block of the court house Louis N. Scherf, chief of the Colorado state police, stopped the two men who were leading the parade while Mayor John J. Pritchard, of Walsenburg, warned them that they were violating the city ordinance. It was on the second attempt to stop the march that Martinez stepped into the I. W. W. ranks and opened fire at Max Lordeman, state policeman, according to Scherf.

When Lordeman, who was wounded returned the fire the I. W. W.'s broke up and barricaded themselves in the I. W. W. headquarters. Soon afterwards Scherf stated the miners started firing at state police from the second-story window of the hall. Klementz Chavez was shot and killed during the sniping and hardly had his body fallen from the second-story window when his comrades carried him in.

Machine Gun Used The district around the hall was then roped off, a machine gun mounted on a truck and trained on the I. W. W. headquarters within a few hours. Soon the headquarters was cleared and there was no further disturbance.

Despite the clash the I. W. W. (Continued on Page 5)

K. W. Van Fleet Injured by Fall

K. W. Van Fleet, father of C. H. Van Fleet, received a fractured shoulder last evening when he slipped and fell on the pavement, striking his shoulder. The injury is reported to be quite serious, the arm being broken and splintered.

Word has been received here of the death of Francis Xavier Rummelhart, a brother-in-law of Mrs. Mary Rummelhart, who died here Oct. 5, and an uncle of Mrs. Clara Lawson, of this city. Mr. Rummelhart passed on in Iowa Dec. 25, 1927, nearly 90 years of age. If he had lived until Mar. 26 he would have been a year and a century old.

A complication of disease and his advanced age ruined his health. He was taken sick Christmas eve at his daughter's home near River Falls, Wis., and died in a hospital there at 2:07 o'clock. He was born in Alsace, Germany, in 1837 and came to America when a year old, settling in the Ohio river valley, then the western front of the United States.

CATTLE RUSTLER Given Five Years KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., Jan. 12 (AP)—Charles Walker, convicted cattle rustler was sentenced this morning to serve five years in the state penitentiary by Judge J. B. Campbell. Walker's attorney filed a motion for a new trial and arguments on the motion will be held in the near future.

Workmen Open Highway and Railroad; Slide Disrupted Traffic on Columbia

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 12 (AP)—Workmen working near Arlington, Ore., where a slide blocked the Columbia River highway and halted the U. S. R. R. train service yesterday had opened the highway today.

Motorists were warned to drive cautiously in the Arlington district until several small slides have not been removed. Water, coming as a result of the chinook which melted recent snow, covers the road in several sections near Milton and Sylva.

The Union Pacific system which routed trains over the S. P. and R. tracks yesterday had cleared its tracks today, but trains were operating several hours behind schedule, officials reported.

LUCKY DAY—FRIDAY THE 13TH



General John J. Pershing, Who was born on Friday the 13th and has always laughed at the black cat's warning.

By NEA Service Don't feel that you ought to stay indoors and keep your fingers crossed just because today happens to be Friday the 13th.

According to the superstitious of two ages Friday the 13th may be fraught with evil omens but America, at least, ought to regard the day as the luckiest on the calendar.

Friday and the number 13, either together or separately, have played a large and beneficent part in American history, and anyone who thinks they are unlucky will have to take a second guess.

Pershing's Birthday To begin with, it's supposed to be the height of ill luck to be born on Friday the 13th. Yet Gen. John J. Pershing, wartime commander of the A. E. F., was born on such a date, and it may be admitted that he has risen pretty high for a man whose life began under an unfavorable star.

Then, as everybody knows, there are 13 stripes in the American flag. Originally, when that flag was most in need of fortune's smiles, there were 13 stars also. And, of course, there were 13 soldiers at the time of the Revolution.

It is even an unlucky number for America. George III ought to have won that war in no time. But the combination proved so lucky for America—whose revolutionary commander customarily signed his name Geo. Washington, in which there are exactly 13 letters—that on June 13, 1776, the kingdom of France decided to come to the new country's aid, and this made certain the success of the war for independence.

You might notice that there are 13 letters in "revolutionary," too. As if they were aware of these things, the fathers of the Republic then proceeded to work 13 into the American scheme very effectively.

For our national motto they picked "E Pluribus Unum," which has 13 letters. On the seal of our country they put an eagle, each wing of which has 13 feathers. They laid the foundations of the White House on Oct. 13, 1792.

Death Takes 101-Year-Old IOWA CITIZEN Word has been received here of the death of Francis Xavier Rummelhart, a brother-in-law of Mrs. Mary Rummelhart, who died here Oct. 5, and an uncle of Mrs. Clara Lawson, of this city. Mr. Rummelhart passed on in Iowa Dec. 25, 1927, nearly 90 years of age. If he had lived until Mar. 26 he would have been a year and a century old.

A complication of disease and his advanced age ruined his health. He was taken sick Christmas eve at his daughter's home near River Falls, Wis., and died in a hospital there at 2:07 o'clock. He was born in Alsace, Germany, in 1837 and came to America when a year old, settling in the Ohio river valley, then the western front of the United States.

Coolidge Leaves For Key West WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 (AP)—President Coolidge and his party left here this afternoon for Key West.

Wool Secretary To Be Selected PENDELTON, Jan. 12 (AP)—A secretary to succeed Hugh Sproul in the Oregon Wool Growers' association is to be selected in the near future, according to President K. G. Warner. An executive committee has been named consisting of the following officers: K. G. Warner, Pilot Rock, president; Bob Thompson, Heppner, vice president; Fred Phillips, Baker, second vice president; Ernest Johnson, Wallawa, Fred Palmer, Pendleton, Heran, Oliver, Prairie City, John Murtha, Condon; Charles Burgess, Fossil, and Ben Taylor, Mitchell.

Michigan After Man Who Killed Like "The Fox" Five-Year-Old Girl Stolen, Slain and Dissected by Fox—Mother Witnessed Kidnaping. FLINT, Mich., Jan. 12 (AP)—The most intensive man hunt in Michigan history today sought the kidnaper and slayer of five-year-old Dorothy Schneider.

Kidnaped from under the eye of her mother, wife of an automobile factory worker, the child was taken in an automobile to the countryside near Mt. Morris, not far from here, and brutally slain. The child slayer then dissected the body and stuffed a portion of it under a ledge of ice bordering a creek. Some portions of the body still were missing today.

STRANGLER, MRS. SNYDER, GRAY SLAIN

State of New York Electrocutes Illicit Lovers in Sing Sing Cell

CANADIAN NOOSE CLAIMS NELSON

Three Slayers Pay with Their Lives for Crimes, in Spite of Desperate Efforts for Reprieves

WINNIPEG, Man., Jan. 13 (AP)—The hanging today of Earl Nelson, known as the "strangler," was hauged at 7:41 a. m. Death at 7:56 a. m.

Ossining, N. Y.—Mrs. Ruth Snyder and Henry Judd Grey electrocuted late last night. Mrs. Snyder died at 11:09 p. m. and Grey at 11:15 p. m.

Winnipeg, Man., Jan. 13 (AP)—The hanging today of Earl Nelson, known as the "strangler," ended the grim story of a criminal trial, winding from the Atlantic to the Pacific, along which police ascribed 22 murders to Nelson's brutality.

The trap was sprung at 7:41 this morning in the provincial jail courtyard here. Nelson protested his innocence to the last and said he "forgave" all those who had testified against him. At 7:56 a. m., 15 minutes after hangman Arthur Ellis dropped the trap, Nelson was pronounced dead.

Known as "the strangler" and "the gorilla man" because he was believed to have strangled all of his victims, Nelson was hanged today for the murder of Mrs. Emily Patterson, mother of two children, in Winnipeg, June 14, 1927. He had been indicted last year for the killing of 14-year-old Lola Cowan, Winnipeg school girl, whom he was accused of strangling.

Police said that Nelson, on Feb. 29, 1926, in San Francisco, Cal., began his trail of death, which stretched for 7,000 miles along the Pacific coast, across the United States. Gray left lovers, also, in the electric chair of Sing Sing prison seven minutes apart last night. They were executed for the murder of her husband, Albert Snyder, magazine art editor, who was beaten to death while asleep in his home at Queens' Village, Long Island, March 29, last.

Mrs. Snyder was pronounced dead at 11:09 o'clock and Gray at 11:15.

Both Calm Suggestions freely made that Mrs. Snyder would collapse at the end were not borne out. She walked to the death dealing chair and seated herself in it with little reaction from two matrons accompanying her. They held her arms but were guiding her more than lending support.

Gray was the Gray of the Long Island city court of the walk with elastic tread and from the court room each day. In court, however, Gray for all his almost jaunty walk, always stepped in and out of the room with the former aviator. At his execution, the eyes covered salesman looked directly into the faces of the asid witnesses, numbering almost two-score.

Mrs. Snyder walked into the execution chamber with a slightly dragging step and although her eyes were wide open they were apparently unseeing and it was evident that for her the crowded room did not exist. She closed her eyes as she slipped into the electric chair.

Asks Forgiveness Both died with prayers on their lips. Just before the black mask, the last detail of the final arrangements, was placed over her face, Mrs. Snyder cried: "Forgive me, father, for they know not what they do." Gray's last words were not audible but it was certain that his lips were moving in prayer as the current was applied.

The Sing Sing death chamber issued a bold black warning to those who assembled there. "Silence," the warning was not necessary as Mrs. Snyder, the first woman to be executed in the state in nearly 29 years, came through the door beneath the sign. The 29 newspaper men and seven physicians, three of them prison doctors, were silent. Only the slight sound of escaping steam from a radiator could be heard.

Wore Black Dress Mrs. Snyder wore a black dress with a tan sash as she walked 25 feet from her cell. One of her black stockings, the right, was (Continued on Page 5)

French Airmen Leave Ecuador For Canal Zone CAMPO LINDBERGH, Panama Jan. 12 (AP)—The French aviators Oates and LeBrix arrived here this afternoon on their flight from Guayaquil, Ecuador.

GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR, Jan. 12 (AP)—Dieudonne Costes and Joseph LeBrix, French aviators who are en route to the United States from South America, took off for Panama this morning.

PANAMA, Jan. 12 (AP)—Col. Charles A. Lindbergh, who will not take off before tomorrow on his flight to Caracas, Venezuela, en route to Havana, was standing by at France Field, Colon, today for news of the progress of Dieudonne Costes and Joseph LeBrix, French aviators, whose next scheduled stop was Panama.

Col. Lindbergh possibly will come here to meet the French fliers, it was stated by the commandant at France Field. Eugene Langlais, the French minister here, received a message from the French aviators from Guayaquil, Ecuador, where they landed Wednesday, saying they hoped to reach Panama late today.

Lone Robber Gets Jewelry And \$400 PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 12 (AP)—A lone robber held up a clerk in the jewelry store of Miller and company, 230 Alder street, this morning as hundreds of persons were passing outside, and escaped with about \$400 cash and one watch. The robber, a lanky, well dressed man, who appeared nervous, asked Bob Lovell, clerk to show him a watch then drew a gun and forced him to the rear of the store.