

CITY EDITION

La Grande Evening Observer

THE WEATHER

OREGON: Fair tonight and Sunday but cloudy northwest portion, heavy frosts in east portion.

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91 SENIORS TO GRADUATE THIS SPRING

Class of '28 Largest in La Grande High School History

COMMENCEMENT SET FOR MAY 16

Edwin T. Reed, College Editor of O. S. C., to Speak—Junior-Senior Dinner Soon.

Annual commencement exercises for the La Grande High school this spring, which will be held on Wednesday, May 16, will mark the graduation of the largest senior class in the history of L. H. S.

The address of the evening will be given by Edwin T. Reed, college editor of the Oregon State college, and an appropriate commencement program is being arranged.

Annual dinner next including the junior-senior banquet to be held this coming Thursday, are drawing near. The dinner will be out in a few weeks. Miss Lenora Ely is editing the yearbook this year.

A traditional event that is the social highlight of every L. H. S. student is the junior-senior banquet, with the juniors hosts to the graduating class. This year the affair will be held at the La Grande hotel ball room. The banquet will be served at 6:30 o'clock, to be followed by a short musical program, and later, dancing. As president of the junior class, Lawrence Day will be toastmaster for the evening, and he is chairman of the program and speaking to follow. Edna Mae Wilton is chairman of the invitation committee, Mildred Smith of the seating committee, and Mary Gould Parsons and Nyle Lewis are chairmen of the decorating committee.

While the baccalaureate program has not yet been definitely announced by school officials, one very interesting feature of that event will be a cantata, "The Gate of the Sun of Eerie, the Red," which the glee club of the high school will present, under the direction of W. W. Nushbaum. The clubs will begin preparations for the musical number the first of next week, Mr. Nushbaum said today.

LARGER CROWD AT OPERETTA SECOND NIGHT

With a larger audience than that of the previous night in attendance at the annual high school operetta, "The Bells of Beaujolais" was presented last night at the high school auditorium.

Pendleton Mah Is Sentenced to Pen

LONGVIEW, Wash., Apr. 21. (AP)—George W. Weavers, alias R. D. Ritters, 38, giving his home at Pendleton, Ore., pleaded guilty to first degree forgery today and was sentenced to two to ten years in the state penitentiary.

WEAVERS admitted forging a check for \$55, using the name of H. E. Van Evers, sales manager of the Shell Oil company, passing the check in purchasing a suit of clothing. He also admitted issuing a forged check for \$175 as a down payment on a used automobile.

Baseball Season To Start Sunday; Baker Nine Here

Fair Weather Is Rapidly Drying Field—Large Crowd Expected at Initial Contest.

Where played: La Grande High school athletic field. Time: 2:30 p. m. Parade downtown at 1:45 p. m., led by band.

The race for the 1928 season in the Blue Mountain league will start with a bang tomorrow if the weather man, who was kind last night and this morning, continues to hold back rain.

The field was in poor condition yesterday and another bad rain would have made it impossible to play.

Baker and La Grande are both possessed of strong clubs and the game tomorrow is expected to be a thriller from start to finish. Both teams have been handicapped in practice because of the weather, and neither has reached mid-season form.

A. T. Hill, president of the city commission, is scheduled to toss the first ball of the day and Dr. W. T. Pily, of Hot Lake, president of the Blue Mountain league, will be on the receiving end.

After that the umpire will announce the batteries and break loose with the time honored yell "Butter Up."

From present indications the crowd tomorrow will be just about as big as can be squeezed into the stands. Interest in baseball here has been running high and in addition, Baker expects to send a large delegation down for the game.

La Grande's lineup will be Nolan Buckner, pitcher; Ray Baker, catcher; Gil Stokke, first base; Tony LaSalle, field captain and second base; Spud Helms, shortstop; Ned Davis, third base; Jerry Goeman, left field; Graham Robertson, center field; P. L. Marlow, right field; Tex Knight, utility and O. Harlan, relief pitcher.

Baker's lineup follows: Floyd Sowers, catcher; E. Berkson, pitcher; Ray Taylor, Leroy Sipes, Al Brennan, Star Pilette, Sid Bertoni, M. J. Denney and Spike Kennedy. The relief pitcher is Ralph Russell, according to Dr. G. W. Marshall, manager of the club.

While La Grande and Baker are playing here, Pendleton and Walla Walla will be crossing bats at Pendleton.

Sewage Disposal Plant Functions At 100 Per Cent

La Grande's municipal sewage disposal plant is functioning 100 per cent according to a recent test made by the state board of health.

A report has been received from Dr. Frederick W. Stricker, secretary of the board, telling of the findings.

"In obtaining stability number of 100 the final effluent of the plant is no longer capable of putrefaction and the report cannot cause concern," the report says.

"Our engineers report that to all appearances your plant was well and efficiently operated when inspected in March; that there was the minimum amount of odor around the plant; and that the place was maintained in a neat and workmanlike manner."

SINCLAIR IS NOT GUILTY, JURY HOLDS

Is Acquitted of Charges That He Conspired to Defraud the U. S.

STILL FACES TWO CONTEMPT TRIALS

Conspiracy Case Against Albert B. Fall Still Alive and May Be Affected by Verdict.

WASHINGTON, Apr. 21 (AP)—Harry E. Sinclair, today was acquitted of the charge that he conspired to defraud the government in the leasing of Teapot Dome.

A jury in the District of Columbia supreme court accepted his contention that when he paid Albert B. Fall \$223,000 in liberty bonds and \$25,000 in cash it was for a part in the ranch owned by the former secretary of the interior and was not a part of a deal through which the Wyoming naval oil reserve was turned over to him.

The jury took the case from Justice Halley at 10:25 o'clock this morning and returned its verdict at 12:24 p. m., being out exactly one hour and 55 minutes.

Sinclair's attorney immediately after the verdict was rendered Sinclair authorized this statement: "I have felt since the inception of the oil cases that I would be acquitted of any charge of conspiracy to defraud the government when the evidence went before the jury."

Today in the court room he was surrounded by his friends who poured their congratulations upon him. Mrs. Sinclair was so deeply moved that she became hysterical.

When the jury had entered the court room and seated itself the usual routine was performed by the court before the justice addressed it.

"Gentlemen of the jury," have you reached a verdict? he asked finally. "We have," replied the foreman. "What is your verdict, Mr. Foreman?"

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STATE PRESIDENT VISITS LA GRANDE

Spanish-American War Veterans and Auxiliary Hold Joint Meeting

A joint meeting of the James E. Page camp of Spanish American War veterans and the Ladies Auxiliary was held last night at Honan hall with about 40 members present.

The occasion was the official visit of Mrs. Minnie D. Liville, of Portland, state president of the auxiliary, who gave an interesting talk during the evening.

Mr. Liville, who is a past commander of the Spanish American War veterans' organization, was also present and addressed the meeting on patriotism and the veterans' hospital in Portland, telling of the excellent work which is being done there.

Two candidates of the auxiliary were initiated during the meeting and the floor work was exemplified. Following this work a program was given. George Moays and Miss Mable Woodell played two harmonica and piano numbers. L. Hale gave two musical numbers on the band saw, accompanied by Mrs. Hale at the piano, and Mrs. A. P. Nelson and Putnam Cook each gave a reading. Several of the members present spoke briefly. Refreshments were served after the program.

SCORESHURT BY TORNADO IN ARKANSAS

Storms Wreck Dozens of Buildings in Towns of Index and Ogden

TENNESSEE ALSO HIT BY WIND, RAIN

One death, Three Injured at Atoka—50 House Are Damaged, Trees Leveled in Memphis.

TEXARKANA, Ark., Apr. 21. (AP)—An undetermined number of persons were injured, one probably fatally and dozens of buildings were destroyed when a tornado swept Index, Ark., and Ogden, Ark., today.

Mrs. W. L. Johnson, about 45, suffered injuries which probably will result in death when the twister hurled a tree against her home at Ogden.

Many houses, barns and tents were blown down or carried away, and a plantation owner at Index reported that ten of his tenants were homeless and he feared lives had been lost.

Later reports were that the storm swept across Leary, Texas and Hooks, Texas, west of Texarkana, before striking the Arkansas communities. A church, business buildings and houses were unroofed at Hooks, but no loss of life was reported.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Apr. 21. (AP)—More than fifty houses were damaged, hundreds of trees were leveled, and many telephones were reported out of commission as the result of a severe wind and rain storm that swept Memphis early today.

The wind centered its violence in the eastern part of the city, traveling from southwest to northeast. Two 85 foot smokestacks of the Huffman hardwood flooring company were blown down.

Reports from the northeastern part of Shelby county said some farm houses had been damaged there and dispatches to the Illinois Central railroad told of a heavy storm along the main line to North Mississippi.

One death and three injured were reported in a heavy wind-storm that struck at Atoka, Tenn., today.

Ambulance drivers who brought C. B. Forbes, 56, a millwright and his two sons to a Memphis hospital, said a third son was killed when the Forbes home was demolished.

Forbes' wrist was fractured and he was internally injured, his son, J. D. Forbes, 18, suffered a fractured leg and internal injuries.

One Bridge Bid On County Span Given At \$2477

PORTLAND, Ore., Apr. 21 (AP)—Contracts awarded last yesterday by the highway commission were Yukon bridge, over Unatilla river, Unatilla county, Kurkenberg and Writman, \$15,184.

Columbia bridge over McKenzie river, Lane county, Portland Bridge company, \$44,360.

Surfaceing 2 1/2 miles Klamath Falls-Lakeview highway, Coos county, boundary, Wren and Greenleaf, Portland, \$148,563.

WILKINS AND EILSON FLY ACROSS NORTH POLE



Word was received today that Captain George H. Wilkins (left) and Lieutenant Ben Eilson (right) successfully flew from Point Barrow across the north pole, arriving at 11 o'clock this morning. The map shows how the fliers crossed the pole and from Spitzbergen they are to fly on to London. The upper picture shows the Lockheed-Vega monoplane in which they made the trip.

SEVEN BURN TO DEATH IN KANSAS

Trapped in Kitchen, Family Succumbs to Blaze of Unknown Origin

EL DORADO, Kans., Apr. 21. (AP)—Seven members of the William E. Overst family were burned to death at their farm, home 20 miles northwest of El Dorado last night.

The blaze of unknown origin, occurred about 8 o'clock but the bodies were not discovered until midnight, as neighbors who were attracted to the fire at first believed the family had left home for the evening.

Owen Overst, 17, was the only member of the family who escaped death. He had driven the family car to Florence to attend a motion picture show.

The dead: William E. Overst, 45, Edna Overst, 41, his wife, Five of their children: Dorothy 16; Ralph 14; Hugh 10; Edith 8, and Herbert six.

The home, a two-story frame structure, was burned to the ground. All the bodies were found in the kitchen.

A coroner's jury was impaneled this morning, and an inquest probably will be held.

County authorities, preparing to make a thorough investigation faced a mystery as they tried to discover a possible explanation of the fire's origin. There was no main stove and no oil stove used in the house, but the home was lighted by kerosene lamps, they learned by questioning the only surviving member of the family.

Three Summerville Men Are Initiated

Three candidates from Summerville were initiated into the Odd Fellows lodge last night when a meeting was held at the L. O. O. F. temple here, attended by about 75 members of the organization.

About 25 members of the Summerville lodge attended the meeting and about 19 from Cove.

Sinnott Takes Name Off List Of Candidates

WASHINGTON, Apr. 21. (AP)—Congressman Nicholas Sinnott, republican, Oregon, today telegraphed secretary of State Koser, of Oregon withdrawing as candidate for reelection because of his appointment as judge of court of claims.

Attorney General Van Winkle, who is now in Washington, yesterday telegraphed his assistant, Willis S. Moore, that Sinnott had shown him Secretary Koser's telegram urging Sinnott to resign.

Sinnott, according to Van Winkle, said he was going to telegraph his withdrawal at once.

PENDELTON, Apr. 21. (AP)—Judge Norbenton Berkeley, of Pendleton, today entered the race for the democratic nomination for congressman from Eastern Oregon district, making the announcement to this effect today. He asks his name to be written in on the ballot May 17.

Judge Berkeley says he favors Walsh for president and upholds federal development of power on the Columbia river.

Explosion Death Toll Reaches Nine

DENVER, Apr. 21. (AP)—The death toll from the explosion and fire which wrecked a part of the plant of Alexander Industries near here yesterday amounted to nine today with the death of George Howe an employe.

Ten other persons, one of whom is expected to die, were in hospitals from injuries suffered in the blast which consumed the wing shop of the airplane manufacturing plant, while investigations were under way of charges that the ill-fated structure was a "fire trap."

Two Killed When Plane Takes Dive

FRESNO, Cal., Apr. 21. (AP)—George Faw, 26 pilot for the Beacon Airways, Inc., of Fresno, and Jay E. Dustin, 24, a student pilot were killed today when their plane fell 600 feet to the ground. The accident occurred a mile and half from the city.

Smith's big victory came in Iowa, where a dry faction headed by Edwin T. Meredith, former chairman of agriculture had put up a stiff fight to keep that states 24 delegates in the Meredith "favorite son" column, or at least away from the New York candidate. The state convention instructed the entire 26 for Smith by acclamation.

125,000 BULGARS HOMELESS TODAY

Earthquakes Continue to Shake Devastated Region—Deaths 150 to 300

SOFIA, Bulgaria, Apr. 21. (AP)—More than 125,000 homeless families in Southeastern Bulgaria today endured misery, cold and deprivation in terror as intermittent earthquakes continued to ruck the already devastated region.

The government and volunteer agencies devoted every effort to feeding the more than 850 persons injured in the region around Philippopolis. The utmost was being done to supply refugees with food. The death toll was variously estimated at between 150 and 300 persons.

Bulgaria faced a tremendous problem in relief and reconstruction.

Valley of Roses Wrecked The Valley of Roses near Philippopolis was turned into a sandy waste when waters burst through the ground or poured down from the hills. The buds of the roses, which are one of the chief crops of the region and furnish 90 per cent of the European supply of attar of roses, were almost ready to

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Colorado And Wyoming Have Spring Snowfall

DENVER, Apr. 21. (AP)—A north wind swept an April snow storm in Wyoming and Colorado today and snowfall of one to seven inches was reported from various sections, but with temperatures reaching normal. Freezing temperatures were forecast for tonight and Sunday.

Snowfall was heaviest in Wyoming where the storm began last night. Lanier reported seven inches of snow and a temperature of 28 degrees. Sheridan had two inches. Denver had two inches of heavy wet snow.

Witnesses to the wedding were Florence Vidor, motion picture actress, and Dolores E. Squires, a college chum of Barthelmess.

Fair Weather Is Due During Week The weather outlook for the week beginning April 22, was announced here today by the U. S. weather bureau as follows: Far western states: The outlook is for occasional rains west of the Cascade mountains and generally fair weather elsewhere. Temperatures above normal in California early in the week and about normal elsewhere.

CROSS NORTH POLE AREA IN AIRPLANE

Captain Wilkins and Lieutenant Eilson Safe in Spitzbergen

HELD AT ISLAND FOR FIVE DAYS

Hopped Off From Point Barrow, Alaska, But Was Forced Down Because of Weather

LONDON, Apr. 21. (AP)—An exchange telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen says that the newspaper Politiken has received a message from Svalbard stating that Captain George H. Wilkins, arctic flier, landed near the Svalbard radio station at 11 o'clock this morning.

A previous message of Politiken, also from the Svalbard radio station, stated that Captain Wilkins flew from Point Barrow and landed near Doedmansoera where bad weather stopped him for five days. Doedmansoera is an uninhabited island on the north side of Isfjord, about 25 miles from Svalbard.

The crew of the plane was reported in excellent condition.

The arrival of Captain Wilkins near Svalbard from Point Barrow Alaska represents the successful completion of Captain Wilkins' plans to fly across the Polar region and presumably across the north pole itself.

The Wilkins plane carried a radio, but despite a constant watch by radio stations, complete silence enveloped the activities of the expedition from the time that the aviator was expected to take off from Point Barrow.

Captain Wilkins, a noted Australian explorer was accompanied by Carl B. Eielson an Alaskan pilot. Svalbard is the name applied to the entire archipelago of Spitzbergen, Bear Island and adjacent islands in the Greenland sea. The distance from New York to Bear Island is 250 miles north and to Spitzbergen 375 miles. Spitzbergen was the point for which Captain Wilkins set out from Point Barrow in a direct line across the north pole.

WILKINS SENDS MESSAGE DETROIT, Apr. 21. (AP)—Captain George H. Wilkins announced his arrival at Spitzbergen from Point Barrow, Alaska, in a radio message today to the Detroit News: "Reached Spitzbergen after 20 and one-half hours flying; one stop five days account bad weather. Greeters at Point Barrow and flying club." The message received this forenoon said:

It was dated Eilvald 12:21 p. m., April 21 and was signed "Wilkins, Eielson."

Eielson is the Alaskan flier who has accompanied Wilkins on his previous arctic expeditions and went with him to Point Barrow, Alaska, early in the year on his latest effort to find a lost continent and attempt a flight across the "top of the world" to Spitzbergen.

Success came to Wilkins on his third expedition. Two previous attempts at aerial exploration of the "blind spot" lying north of Point Barrow were unsuccessful. In the first of these in 1926, Palmer H. Hutchinson, a Detroit newspaper man accompanying the expedition, was killed at Fairbanks when struck by the propeller of one of Captain Wilkins' planes.

In the second attempt, made the following year Captain Wilkins flew out into the Arctic spaces and was forced down. Several days later he returned to Point Barrow, reiterating his conviction that a

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FAVOR INCOME TAX TO HELP STATE'S PURSE

PORTLAND, Ore., Apr. 21. (AP)—Oregon's tax problem can be met by the adoption of a state income tax, in the opinion of a subcommittee of the Oregon property tax relief commission, which met here yesterday. The report was written by Claude E. Ingalls and was adopted by the subcommittee with only one dissenting vote, that of L. B. Smith of Portland. The subcommittee did not recommend any form of income tax, preferring to wait until after the November election to learn what action voters of the state take on the three income tax measures that will come before them. Ingalls stated that a four per cent rate income tax will yield \$1,700,000 annually.

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE Brooklyn-Philadelphia and St. Louis-Pittsburg, postponed, rain. AMERICAN LEAGUE Chicago at Cleveland, postponed, rain.