

CITY
EDITION

La Grande Evening Observer

THE WEATHER

Oregon: Generally fair tonight and Thursday. Freezing temperatures in the interior tonight.

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MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

LA GRANDE, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1928.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

NUMBER 74.

FLU EPIDEMIC
ON DECREASE
IN LA GRANDENew Cases Fewer With
Peak Reached Monday,
Health Officer SaysDIPHTHERIA ALSO
UNDER CONTROLGeneral Situation in City
and Throughout State
Greatly Improved Over
Last Week

A new note of cheer was sounded in La Grande today when it was announced that the peak of the influenza epidemic has been reached and that a material decrease in the number of new cases was noted both yesterday and today. On top of this, it was announced that the diphtheria situation, which never assumed an epidemic nature but which caused much worry in the community due to two deaths, is apparently under control now.

These statements were made by Dr. A. L. Richardson, city health officer, this afternoon. He reported that a material decrease in influenza was noted yesterday and that an even greater decrease today. He estimated that there are at least 50 per cent less new cases than previous to yesterday. The peak was reached on Monday, he said.

The influenza epidemic in La Grande resulted in several deaths, wherein pneumonia developed, but there were few deaths. Only two fatalities have been reported to Dr. Richardson.

Quarantine Released

In reference to the diphtheria, there is only one case here now and that is in the city isolation hospital. The Waverly apartments, where the case developed, was placed under quarantine, 15 persons in the apartments immunized, and was then released from quarantine today when danger of spread of the disease was past.

There is practically no other cases of contagious diseases in La Grande in addition to the above mentioned, with the exception of a case of two of scarlet fever, Dr. Richardson reports.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)—

The commerce department announced that 77 cities had reported 379 deaths from influenza during the week ending December 15, compared with 284 deaths from influenza in the same cities during the week ending December 8.

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 19 (AP)—

Twenty-seven cases of influenza were reported to the health bureau today, the smallest number in several days. Total number reported to the city reached 548 with today's new cases. The state health report for the week ending Dec. 15 showed 1,851 cases in Oregon.

GIRLS TO AID
IN XMAS SEAL
SALE MONDAY

The Order of Rainbow for Girls will take over the sale of Christmas seals Monday in La Grande, and will then send their representatives to the La Grande Neighborhood club which is sponsoring the sale.

Following the motto of the Rainbow Girls which says to give service instead of money, the girls have planned to help with the seal sale.

Girls will be stationed at the various booths about the city to sell the seals on Monday, the last day of the sale.

Mrs. G. N. Torkington, mother of the girls, and Catherine Humphrey, secretary of the order, will be in charge.

Elks Lodge Puts
Up Christmas Tree

The community Christmas tree, annually provided by the B. P. O. Elks of La Grande, has been erected on the intersection of Depot street and Washington avenue. It will be decorated as quickly as possible, members of the lodge reported, and will remain up during the holidays. Last year about 2,000 children were present at the tree lighting day and an even larger crowd is hoped for this year.

RAIL PASSENGER TRAFFIC
LESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Revenue passenger-miles of Class I railroads in the West for the first nine months of 1928 declined 6.5 per cent from 1927, the Bureau of Railway Economics reports, and if the loss in passenger traffic continues during the last quarter it is expected passenger revenue will be 22 per cent below the 1926 record and lowest of any year since 1920. With the exception of 1922 each year since 1920 has shown a decline.

Bankers Of Two
Counties Meet
With SenatorsBank Taxation Problem
Discussed at Banquet
Last Night at the Saca-
jawa Inn

Representatives from every bank in Walla Walla and Union counties were present at a banquet and meeting of the bankers of the two counties held last night at the Sacajawea Inn. The meeting was called to discuss bank taxation problems as they have arisen following the declaration by federal courts making tax on bank stock unconstitutional.

When called upon to speak, Colonel R. Eberhard, of La Grande, state senator-elect, expressed himself in favor of extending the power of the appellate state tax commission to include taxing supervisory powers over county assessments, and he pointed out cases of inequalities in personal property assessments and expressed the opinion that the inequalities were probably unavoidable under the present system.

Senators Fred Kiddle and Albert Hunter spoke at length giving a history of the tax legislation of the last legislative session and Mr. Kiddle explained the provisions of the proposed excise tax which approximates a limited income tax upon the net earnings of all corporations operating in Oregon including the national and state banks and the competitive institutions. With the information at hand at present, Mr. Kiddle saw no other recourse than enactment of an excise tax legislation substantially as now proposed, this proposal as a substitute for the tax law which was declared unconstitutional by the federal courts.

Bankers from Walla Walla county requested the legislative delegates to take action calculated to raise and strengthen the bond required of warehousemen. It was pointed out that in a recent warehouse failure in Walla Walla county, wherein the grain shortage aggregated many thousands of dollars, the warehousemen's bond was \$1000. Holders of the warehouse receipts issued against the grain suffered a heavy loss, it was said.

Talks were also given by C. T. McDaniel, cashier of the Stockgrowers and Farmers' National bank at Walla Walla; A. K. Parker, of Enterprise, cashier of the Enterprise State bank; Mr. Miller, cashier of the Walla Walla National bank at Enterprise; J. L. Meyer, H. J. Coddie, T. J. Stoughton, A. J. Shantz and H. G. Avery, all of La Grande, and Representative H. H. Weatherspoon, of Elgin.

Mrs. Bacon Gets
High Position
In Association

Mrs. Florence Bacon, Union county treasurer, was elected secretary-treasurer of the Oregon association of county treasurers in the concluding session of the annual meeting in Portland late yesterday. Only two officers were elected. Mrs. Bacon and the president, treasurer of Marion county, and local people regard Mrs. Bacon's selection as a signal honor.

She returned to La Grande this morning and reported that the convention was very interesting and instructive, although the influenza epidemic chased some members to be absent.

Revoke Parole,
Wilson Starts
For State Pen

Charles "Chuck" Wilson started from La Grande this morning for a two-year period in the state penitentiary at Salem, accompanied by Sheriff Jesson Brothers. Some time ago he was sentenced to two years on charges of larceny and their parents and over the weekend he was arrested in connection with larceny from an automobile. Late yesterday Circuit Judge J. W. Knowlton revoked Wilson's parole when the defendant confessed.

Willard Goeck, arrested with Wilson, was sentenced to one year in the county jail and then paroled to a relative, P. M. Lindsay, in Joplin, Mo., officers report.

Moose Christmas
Program Friday

The Moose Lodge members and their families will have their annual Christmas tree and program at the Moose temple Friday evening, according to announcement. The program will begin at 8 o'clock.

The lodge also announced that the Moose spirit turkey shoot would be held Sunday, beginning at 10 a. m., at the Lone Tree trapline. The public is invited.

TOOTH ACHES CAUSE SCRIBE
TO CHIEF

LA GRANGE, N. Y., Dec. 19 (AP)—A tooth ache is believed to have driven Max Skompton of Greenwich, Conn., to commit suicide.

CONGRESS TO
RECESS FOR
ELEVEN DAYSResolution in Senate Provides
for Beginning
Holiday on Dec. 22HAWES BILL IS
GIVEN APPROVALRadio Commission Notifies
Six Nations That
They Have Violated
Federal Rulings

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)—Congress will recess for the holidays from December 22 until January 2.

The senate today passed a resolution already approved by the house fixing that period for the Christmas-New Year adjournment.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)—Representative Garner, democrat, of Texas, asserted in the house today that through settlements made by Secretary Mellon more than \$65,000,000 in tax refunds was being given to the various subsidiaries and branches of the United States steel corporation during the present fiscal year.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)—The senate today passed the Hawes bill to permit states to bar the sale of prison goods manufactured in other states.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)—The radio commission today notified six stations that because they have been off their assigned frequency their licenses will not be renewed at the usual time unless they present satisfactory evidence that the violations of the radio law had ceased.

The stations were: WIRB, Ellensburg, N. J.; KPCW, Seattle, Wash.; WKBO, Jersey City, N. J.; KFCW, Seattle, Wash.; KPCB, Seattle, Wash.; and WSGH, WSDA, New York.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)—Postponement of consideration of the Kellogg anti-war treaty reported today to the senate, until after the Christmas recess has been decided upon by Senator Borah, in charge of the treaty fight, after consultation with leaders.

SOME OF STORES
TO REMAIN OPENMerchants Decide on Evening
Program for Convenience
of Shoppers

The stores carrying toys in considerable quantities have announced that they will remain open until 8:30 o'clock each evening until Christmas, beginning tomorrow night. A number of other stores will also start remaining open during the same evenings but Hills, Wests, Bohlenkamper, grocery stores, notions, etc., will not remain open excepting on Saturday and Monday nights. The J. C. Penney company, Montgomery Ward & Co., W. K. Gilberts, Clarks, Stevens, Van-Engelen and Westenhaver will stay open starting Thursday.

The chamber of commerce business men's committee is talking no action on the opening and is making no recommendations, leaving the matter entirely to the merchants.

Following the usual custom, The Observer will not issue a paper on Christmas day.

DEATH CALLS
F. CARBINE AT
WALLA WALLA

Francis Carbine, about 28 years of age, died at the Veterans hospital in Walla Walla last night after a long illness. His body will arrive here tomorrow night and the funeral services will be held Friday at 2 p. m. at the Bohlenkamper chapel under the auspices of the L. D. S. church. Burial will take place in the L. D. S. cemetery.

Mr. Carbine had been a resident of the Grande Ronde valley since 1903. He was born in Parker, Ida. He leaves his wife, Velma, and one child, four years old, besides other relatives and many friends who were saddened by news of his death.

McManus Funeral
Set For Tomorrow

Funeral services for Mrs. Elmer McManus, who died early yesterday morning, will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock at the L. D. S. tabernacle. Burial will take place in the family plot in the L. D. S. section of the Masonic cemetery. The body will lie in state from 10 a. m. to 1 p. m. at the residence and Zimmerman mortuary.

Adverse Report
On Roy West Is
Made by BoardChairman Nye Makes
A Recommendation
Against Nominee in
Washington Late Today

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)—An adverse report on the nomination of Roy O. West as secretary of interior was recommended to the senate lands committee late today by Chairman Nye in the presence of Mr. West.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)—Roy O. West appeared again before the senate lands committee late today as it resumed consideration of his nomination as secretary of interior.

Earlier in the day his nomination was discussed at a conference between President Coolidge and Chairman Nye of the committee.

A letter from the federal water power commission detailing the list of applications of the Samuel Insull interests for water power licenses pending before the commission, on which Mr. West serves, was read by Chairman Nye, at the reopening of the committee hearings.

The total amount of horse power involved in the applications of the Insull interests was estimated at \$20,000 horse power.

High School To
Play Two Games
Tomorrow Night

The high school preliminary basketball season will open here tomorrow night at the L. D. S. recreational hall at 7:30 o'clock when the Tigers will play a doubleheader.

The two games, with Imbler high and the First Ward M. L. A. of La Grande, will be the only contests until after the holidays, according to E. D. Towler, principal.

The first game will start at 7:30 and the second an hour later. Jimmy Rosenbaum will referee. Coach Ralph Christie has been working out his squad of losers for several days and this will be their first real trial of the season.

It was also announced that all Friday night games this season will begin at 7:30 o'clock and all Saturday night games at 8:30 o'clock.

SANTA CLAUS
IS GUEST AT
ROTARY MEET

Santa Claus, represented by J. T. Longfellow, was a guest at the Rotary club luncheon today at noon at the La Grande hotel, and each member was presented with a gift, accompanied by a little poem, which was extremely clever.

The committee, in charge of the interesting program, consisted of Dr. L. R. Bouvy, C. R. Seltz and J. R. Appleby.

The Star Society orchestra furnished the music for the meeting.

Miss Marvin Quits
State Library Post

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 19 (AP)—After 23 years of service as state librarian for Oregon, Catharine Marvin handed her resignation to the board in control last night. As she read her report tears came to her eyes. Her resignation was accepted by the board with regret.

Miss Marvin has made no statement as to her future plans and has not denied rumors that she will marry Walter M. Pierce, ex-governor, after the first of the year.

Khaled Temple To
Elect Officials

Khaled Temple No. 179, D. O. K. R., is holding a meeting tonight at 8 o'clock at the Knights of Pythias hall. Members of the local lodge in the territory from Portland to Huntington will be in attendance at the meeting.

Election of officers for the coming year will be held and delegates for the Bi-State convention to be held in Winnipeg will be named. The convention is to take place next August.

Bumper Crop Of
Xmas Mistletoe

CHICAGO, Dec. 19 (AP)—A bumper crop of mistletoe, some of which is being sold for as much as \$10 a bushel, is being harvested in the state.

A bumper crop is available from the south, especially Alabama and Texas, the Florida state, resulting in a price drop which in turn has been accompanied by an unusually heavy demand.

MURDERER EXECUTED

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Dec. 19 (AP)—H. H. Sheppard was put to death in the electric chair at the state prison here today for the murder of House painter of Appleton.

SECRETS OF
PERMIAN AGE
ARE EXPOSEDScientists Find Fossils of
First Reptiles That Dom-
inated EarthMOST VALUABLE
FIND IN HISTORYBones Strata 75,000,000
Years Old Discovered
Where Great Continental
Divide Break Occurs

BERKELEY, Cal., Dec. 19 (AP)—Two University of California scientists were preparing today for classifying a ton of fossils found in a hitherto unexplored New Mexican stratum which have specimens from every geologic age from 75,000,000 years ago, up to 7,000,000 years ago and so valuable to scientists that the discoverers refused to reveal its location.

The scientists are Prof. C. L. Camp, curator of amphibians and reptiles, and V. L. Vanderhoof, museum collector. They said their discovery was made in a section of the state so remote that the natives through their grain with hand flails and grind their own flour. Schools are 75 miles apart, and the residents seldom speak English. Deeply religious, the people, said the scientists, castigate themselves with whips and wear scars in their hands by way of penance for their sins.

Divide Shoved Up

In this thinly-peopled upland, the California expedition found a district where the great continental divide had shoved up, and exposed to view many old strata, revealing fossilized remains of animals which died millions of years ago.

"These strata contain the fossilized bones of animals from most of the first age of reptiles, some to be found remains of the reptiles which began replacing the amphibian inhabitants of the earth as the swamps were turned to dry land. In another stratum, representative of the Cretaceous period when the reptile had overrun the earth, were found fossils of dinosaurs, crocodiles, etc., later ages, the Paleocene where primitive animals swarmed over the land, and the Miocene, when the primitive horse, the rhinoceros and the other more recent specimens had appeared, also were represented.

Remains of First Reptiles

The report adds that in one bed, representative of the Triassic period, the first age of reptiles, were to be found remains of the reptiles which began replacing the amphibian inhabitants of the earth as the swamps were turned to dry land. In another stratum, representative of the Cretaceous period when the reptile had overrun the earth, were found fossils of dinosaurs, crocodiles, etc., later ages, the Paleocene where primitive animals swarmed over the land, and the Miocene, when the primitive horse, the rhinoceros and the other more recent specimens had appeared, also were represented.

History of Evolution

"All the strata represent a full history of evolution," the scientists' report concludes.

The California men said they would reveal the location of the "fossil mine" when they had collected all the specimens needed for their work. Until that time, they intend to keep it secret from a curious public which might interfere with their collections.

Elks Smoker To
Be On Thursday

The Elks are planning a smoker for tomorrow night at the temple to honor the lodge meeting which will begin at 8 o'clock. An excellent program has been planned, the committee says. Three boxing bouts are scheduled between the following men: Sandy Anderson and Eddie Howell; Glenn Ford and "Kid" Frank Anderson; and Ben Courtney.

Phil Williams, fight promoter, will have charge of the bouts. The committee planning the smoker includes: Chester Thompson, Bob Williamson and Bob Carey.

Unlucky Or
Lucky? Anyhow,
They Missed "13"

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)—For the fourth time in seven years, seven have been born to ME and ME, Grever E. Reber here, bringing to the total number of children in the family to fourteen.

"We missed the unlucky number, anyway," Reber said philosophically today.

BETHLEHEM, Pa., Dec. 19 (AP)—The eighteenth child of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Tied of this city, a son, was born today in the local hospital.

DICKERSON NOT IMPROVED
CORVALLIS, Ore., Dec. 19 (AP)—Louis (Hep) Dickerson, former Oregon state officer, said today that he was not out of danger.

Physicians said the patient would not be known for some days. No marked change was reported in his condition.

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 19 (AP)—Fred J. Smith, son of the noted song writer, Charlie J. Smith, died at a gunshot wound through the head "self-inflicted with suicidal intent," a coroner's jury found here.

TRAFFIC DRIVE IN
PORTLAND APPROVED

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 19 (AP)—The police court district had 130 new cases today as a result of arrests in the war on traffic law violators with prospect that total fines imposed since Dec. 8 would exceed \$6,000 today.

At a mass meeting last night citizens adopted a resolution approving action of the police department against reckless drivers.

NEW WRINKLE



SEASON TICKET
To Mid-Week Prayer Meeting
Asbury Methodist Church
PRICE \$1.00
Good from Sept. 15, 1928 to May 26, 1929

They say there's nothing new under the sun but we're not so sure. The solution for wanting attendance at Methodist prayer meetings has been discovered by the Rev. H. D. Tucker, pastor of Asbury Methodist church at El Paso, Tex. Mr. Tucker sells tickets to his mid-week service at \$1 for the "season" and uses the money to buy new hymnals.

Attendance at the Wednesday night meetings has tripled. "I've always observed that people value things more if they pay money for them," Mr. Tucker says.

KING IS MAKING
SLOW PROGRESSPasses Quiet Day, Medics
Report; Situation More
Favorable

LONDON, Dec. 19 (AP)—The 5 p. m. bulletin issued by the King's physicians said:

"The King has passed a quiet day. Both the general and local conditions are continuing to make some progress."

This morning's bulletin, which was signed by Sir Stanley Heavitt, Sir Hugh Rigby and Lord Dawson of Devon, was as follows:

"The King has had a restful night. The slight improvement noted yesterday continues."

On the whole the situation was regarded as favorable and satisfactory although it was emphasized that anxiety continues and must continue for some time. Uninterrupted progress for several days, it was said, could be necessary before real confidence in the outcome can be felt.

The developments of the immediate future are awaited anxiously, the physicians always being present in his Majesty's suffering a setback and losing some of the ground so painfully won during the past two or three days. There was no disposition to minimize the fact that the royal patient's condition still was critical.

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State Highway
Session Draws
County OfficialsMany Bidders Make Offers
for Road Work; to
Take Over Interest in
Bridge Dec. 31

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 19 (AP)—The most largely attended state highway commission meeting of the year opened today. The little room assigned the commission at the courthouse could not hold more than one-third those who wished to attend. One-half of those that gained entrance had to stand.

For months the highway commission could not let contracts for new road work on account of the menace of the so-called "bumme" bills that were on the initiative ballot. With these defeated in November, the commission advertised for work to be let as quickly as possible.

Counties Send Delegates

At today's meeting were members of county courts from every county in the state, representatives from commercial clubs and booster organizations, and contractors.

Secretary Roy A. Klein was nearly two hours reading the bids that were piled high on the table. Many bids were rejected without being read on account of arriving late, irregular hours or not containing signatures.

The last unimproved section of the Klamath Falls-Lakeview highway will be cared for at this session. Six bids were received for grading the 8.5 miles of the Dairy-Rly mountain section of the highway. This road, some 100 miles long, has been held back on account of location of the route.

The last work on the Roseburg highway between Roseburg and Coos Bay will be let, grading .37 of a mile for the Lakeview undercrossing. There were seven bidders.

There were eighteen bidders for surfacing Linn County Ranch-Albee section of Pendleton-John Day highway.

Other bids opened included those for regrading and surfacing the Morrow county line-Umatilla section of Columbia River highway, 2.45 miles; grading Keyes Creek summit-East Creek section of Ochoco highway, 5.92 miles.

The state highway commission planned to sign sometime Wednesday its contract with the Multnomah county commissioners to take over the latter's interest in the interstate bridge of Dec. 31. It is planned to make this bridge toll free January 1, 1929.

Guard Witnesses
In Chicago Case
After Testimony

CHICAGO, Dec. 19 (AP)—A guarded room in a local hotel housed two of the principals in the Barker kidnapping case last night.

Billy, 16, his father, A. F. Barker, and Thomas Donnelly, a cousin who came from Philadelphia for the trial, were ordered paroled under guard by assistant state attorneys Mueller and Hoffman.

This step was taken, they said, to prevent an attempt on the lives of Billy and his father because of their testimony yesterday.

The Barker, father and son, had pointed out in court Angela Delitto as the man who demanded the \$20,000 ransom for Billy and Andrew and Tony Capellano as the men who held him hostage.

One witness, Ch. Scully, already has paid with his life. Police are holding 29 men, the gangsters of a roundup of 150, for questioning in connection with the mysterious Scully slaying.

He was killed Monday by five men who had followed him and several companions into a restaurant. Scully was to have taken the stand yesterday.