

COMMISSION GIVEN OATH LAST NIGHT

A. T. Hill, Charles Playle and Victor Melville Begin Two-year Terms

ONE VOTE CAST AGAINST MANAGER

Radio Aerials Come in for Discussion; Attaching to Public Utility Poles Unlawful

Radio aerials vied with organization at the annual meeting of the city commission held last night when Victor R. Melville was sworn in as commissioner to succeed W. K. Gilbert, and Commissioners A. T. Hill and Charles Playle, took the oath of office for the third time. Shortly afterwards Mr. Hill was elected president of the commission, a position he has held continuously for the last four years.

Mr. Gilbert has been in office since H. B. Colburn moved to Washington state, filling the former commissioner's unexpired term. Mr. Gilbert did not seek election last fall. Both Mr. Hill and Mr. Playle praised him for his efforts on the city commission and assured him that it had been a pleasure to work with him during the last several months.

Crews Re-Appointed The next step in organization was the appointment of a city manager. Mr. Playle nominated W. C. Crews, city manager for the last four years, and as no other nominations were made, Mr. Hill asked City Recorder J. E. Stearns to call the roll. Mr. Hill said: "I cast my vote for Mr. Crews." Mr. Playle said: "Yes," and Mr. Melville said "No." Receiving two of the three votes, Mr. Crews was declared re-appointed. Appointment of city judge was postponed a week.

Following adjournment, Mr. Crews said to an Observer reporter that to the best of his knowledge, all present city officials appointed by him, would retain their appointments.

Radio Aerials Discussed Following the organization, radio aerials came to the front when Fred Henning of the West Coast Telephone company, pointed out that many radio owners had aerial wires attached to public utility poles in disregard of an ordinance that prevents this practice. He said that the practice was hazardous to the company and to the public as well, stating that injuries and loss of life might result. He asked that a city ordinance, passed in 1923, and taking care of this matter, be enforced for the protection of all concerned. Supporting Mr. Henning's statements, Gene Walker, of the Eastern Oregon Light & Power company, emphasized the danger of the practice, stating that several deaths in the east had resulted from broken wires coming in contact with aerials attached to utility poles.

The city commission agreed to take care of the matter and on motion, decided to publish the ordinance in The Observer so that the public may become acquainted with its provisions. Afterwards, steps will be taken to enforce the ruling. The ordinance carries a penalty of from \$5 to \$100 in fines. It also provides that persons must take out permits, which are given free, from the city recorder before installing aerials. This morning Mr. Stearns stated that the ordinance would be enforced.

(Continued on Page 8.)

SCOUTS PLAN FOR NEW YEAR OF ACTIVITIES

A number of events are on the docket to begin the boy scout year in La Grande. Last night the week classes, conducted for and by scout leaders of this city were held. Eight men attended and discussed the elements necessary for a successful scout program.

The week of Feb. 8 will be anniversary week which is one of the most important of the year, according to E. Russell Scott, scout executive. The program will be announced later.

Friday night the executive board of the scout council will meet at Hot Lake.

Today and tomorrow Mr. Scott is spending in Wallawa County towns and Elgin.

Weather Today 7:20 a. m. 21 above. Minimum: 20 above. Condition: partly cloudy.

Weather Yesterday Maximum 37, minimum 29 above. Condition: rain, 28 of inch, snow one and half inches.

Weather Jan. 3, 1929 Maximum 46, minimum 22 above. Condition: clear, 29 of inch.

Cut Over Part Of La Grande To New Sub-Station

Light and Power Company Plans to Connect South Side La Grande from 8 to 12 Sunday

With the new Eastern Oregon Light & Power company sub-station here completed to a point where the company can transfer circuits, the work of cutting over is under way. Island City was cut over on Sunday and yesterday all of the city on the north side of Adams avenue from Greenwood to First street and the O.-W. shops was cut over.

Sunday, according to company officials, the southwest residence district and that part of La Grande south of Adams avenue between Fourth and Greenwood, will be cut over between 8 and 12 o'clock in the morning. A large crew of men will be working on the transfer in order to finish the job as quickly as possible with a minimum loss of power to local users. It is possible that a little less than four hours will be required.

Working Perfectly. In the districts already cut over, tests show that the change is working perfectly. The construction of the new sub-station, which is located near the foundry, was started in the early summer and although it is not finished, all that remains to be done is of a minor nature. This will be taken care of within the next three or four weeks.

The new sub-station is regarded as the outstanding improvement in service facilities in La Grande in many years and has the "last word" in equipment, etc. It will provide much more capacity, looking to the future needs of the city for a number of years and it will also provide for a minimum of interruptions. Better voltage regulation will be another important advancement.

When everything is cut over the sub-station on Washington avenue, which has served the city for several years, will be eliminated, according to Gene Walker, of the local company.

Three Days To Be Required For Court Session

The January, 1929, session of Union county court continued today with County Judge U. G. Couch and Commissioners Stevens and Ledbetter concluding the work of auditing bills which took most of yesterday and this morning. This afternoon the officials began work on the court docket.

The session may continue tomorrow, says Mr. Couch, in order to finish all the work to be done, including the appointment of county officials.

Legionnaires And Auxiliaries in Meet

The American Legion and Legion auxiliary held their first meetings of the year last night at Honan hall. Each organization discussed routine affairs. The legion voted to give \$50 for boy scout work in La Grande.

After the meetings a social time was enjoyed with the members of the auxiliary acting as hostesses. "A Night of Fun" was the title of the entertainment. Games and group singing were featured. Refreshments were served.

Guards Hold Team To No Field Goals

The L. D. S. Second Ward basketball team defeated the First Ward quintet in an exciting game last night at the Second Ward amusement hall. The contest was featured by the extraordinary efficiency of the two guards on the winning five—Melvin Baxter and John Price—who held the opposing players scoreless as far as field goals are concerned.

The score was 25 to 6, all the First Ward points being counted on shots after foul. Jimmy Rosenbaum was referee.

Monday night the same teams will play in the First Ward hall.

Former Resident Of La Grande Dies

C. N. Coleman, former resident of La Grande, died in Seattle this morning according to word received by his daughter, Mrs. D. Fitzgerald. She will leave for the Washington city tonight to attend his funeral, which is to be held on Sunday.

King George Has Fair Day, Report

LONDON, Jan. 3 (AP)—A bulletin time 8 p. m., issued by Drs. Hewett, Rigby and Dawson, said of King George: "The king had a fair day and there is no change to report in his majesty's condition."

TWO BANDITS GET 10-YEAR PRISON TERM

John R. Byng and Ben Robins Plead Guilty to Grand Larceny

HELD UP THEATER MAN YESTERDAY

Circuit Judge Knowles, in Passing Sentence, Expressed Regret at No Training House

John Richard Byng and Ben Robins, La Grande men who yesterday morning held up Francis Greulich in the Arcade theater and robbed him of about \$500, learned today that crime doesn't pay.

And, after Circuit Judge J. W. Knowles finished with them, they faced a long period of time to think it over. The two, between 22 and 24 years of age, were captured yesterday within an hour and 15 minutes after the robbery, by Deputy Sheriff Hugo Klinghammer, Police Chief Clint Haynes, Traffic Officer Claude Cooper and Deputy Sheriff Amon Helms. When arrested they had the money in their possession and admitted their guilt within a short time.

Shiff Sentence The unsuccessful holdup men, who left an easily followed trail in the newly fallen snow, agreed to waive preliminary hearing and plead guilty and this morning at Judge Knowles' court. He sentenced them to 10 years in the penitentiary, without limitation. The penalty for grand larceny is from one to 10 years, officers said, and the "without limitation" clause provides that a maximum time may be served unless penitentiary officials decide otherwise.

Expresses Regret In passing sentence, Judge Knowles expressed regret that there were no intermediate training schools to send the two men to, as he believed them too young for (Continued on Page Four)

TIGERS TO PLAY TWO GAMES HERE

Enterprise High Tossers in La Grande Friday, Powder Saturday

The intensive pre-tournament basketball season for the La Grande High school will begin tomorrow when the Enterprise High school tossers play in La Grande. The game will start at 7:20 o'clock in the evening in the L. D. S. Recreational hall.

Saturday night the Tigers will meet the North Powder team here the game to begin at 8:30 o'clock. A 9 o'clock assembly will be held at the high school in the evening, partly in the form of a pep rally for the players.

Jimmy Rosenbaum will be referee for both games.

Different men will play each night, says Ralph Christie, coach. From now until the season ends almost two games a week will be played, he reports.

The men are in fine shape, according to the coach, and are practicing regularly every night. According to E. D. Towler, principal, arrangements have not been completed for reserved seats for these two games, so that those in attendance will follow the plan of "first come, first served." Later on, he says, it is hoped to work out a plan so that reserved seats will be available.

County School Superintendents Oppose Change in Two-Mill Tax

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 3 (AP)—County school superintendents of Oregon, at the business session yesterday that concluded their annual meeting to grade examination papers, went on record as opposed to any reduction in the two-mill elementary school tax "until some other definite and permanent income for school support shall be provided to take its place."

Reduction of the tax by half is advocated by the state property tax relief commission.

The superintendents join with the Oregon State Teachers' association in recommending an additional field assistant for the state department of education "because of the rapid growth of the school system in Oregon."

A change in the manner of giving eighth grade examinations was favored whereby the examinations would be given in zones in the various counties, the tests in each zone to be conducted by a person named by the county superintendent.

A raising of the standard of (Continued on Page Four)

Sweeping Raids Made Last Night On Speakeasies

New York's Reorganized Police Enter More Than 50 Places; Large Number Persons Arrested

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (AP)—Commissioner Grover A. Whalen sent his reorganized police force into a series of sweeping raids on speakeasies last night and then made a personal inspection of the results.

Sweeping from Washington heights to Greenwich Village, police in groups of three raided more than 50 speakeasies and restaurants, arresting proprietors and employees and seizing entire stocks of liquor.

Liquor Analyzed The raids followed presentation to Commissioner Whalen of a list of places where representatives of a newspaper said they had purchased liquor. The newspaper said an analysis of 594 samples of liquor purchased showed 55 contained traces of wood alcohol. All the liquor seized by the police was sent to the city chemist and analyzed.

The raids were the most extensive made by city police in years and occurred almost simultaneously in mid-town Manhattan, the Bronx, Harlem, Washington Heights and Greenwich Village. As the first prisoners and seized liquor arrived at the precinct stations, commissioner Whalen started his tour of inspection.

Arrests Attention Attracted by his chief inspector, John O'Brien and surrounded by members of his "strong arm" squad, the commissioner attracted considerable attention as he walked through the midtown district.

He expressed satisfaction with the results of the night's raids and in a talk to the men promised that merit would receive prompt and increasing rewards.

The present police activity was declared by former Mayor John F. Hylan to be an endeavor by "the new Tammany" to "put their pre-election house in order now within the last year of the present administration, so that they will be able to elect another dyed-in-the-wool and so-called new Tammany mayor," Hylan is a minority candidate.

Oscar Ayers Will Operate Herman's

R. M. Rogers has rented the cigar store part of Herman's restaurant in La Grande and the restaurant itself has been taken over for rental by Oscar Ayers. The two La Grande men are taking over the management of the concern in the place of Herman Rosesch, owner.

Mr. Rosesch started the restaurant in 1915 and has managed it since then. Because of his duties as head of the bakery of the Saccawewa Inn, Mr. Rosesch has found it impossible to continue his management of the restaurant.

Mr. Ayers has been connected with Herman's restaurant since 1919.

Cupid's Vacation Lasts Two Weeks

No marriage licenses have been granted in Union county during the last two weeks which is unusual for La Grande at this time of the year, officials say. Usually during the Christmas season there are as many as six licenses issued, according to officials in the office of the county clerk.

The longest time which usually elapses between the granting of licenses is no more than 10 days, it is said.

SNOW IN PENDELTON

PENDELTON, Ore., Jan. 3 (AP)—An inch of snow fell in this region last night. The fall turned to sleet in Pendleton before noon, but was remaining on surrounding foothills.

Police Balked By Alleged Robber

BUFFALO, N. Y., Jan. 3 (AP)—An intensive police search was under way today for William Wunderlich, 24, who with a companion disguised five police officers at his home in Lackawanna last night and seriously wounded Patrolman Fred A. Smith, the only policeman to succeed in drawing his gun.

After the shooting Wunderlich and his companion escaped in the police department automobile. The officers, four Buffalo policemen and two Lackawanna detectives, had surrounded the Wunderlich home to arrest him on suspicion of being implicated in a series of robberies.

"Sure, I sprinkle shirtee allve same mouth," he affirmed. "That will be \$10.00," said Judge Brightmore.

"I sprinkle shirtee allve same (the my boss tell me too," explained Mr. Joe Dong Dong.

FLETCHER TO BE CLOSE TO MR. HOOVER

Ambassador to Italy Mentioned as Possible Member of Cabinet

REGARDED AS AN ABLE DIPLOMAT

Speculation As to Whom President-elect Will Name Continues As His Ship Nears U. S.

James I. West (Associated Press Staff Writer) ABOARD U. S. S. UTAH, En Route to Hampton Roads, Jan. 3 (AP)—The assistance rendered by Henry P. Fletcher to Herbert Hoover on his Latin-American goodwill tour probably will result in the new president in foreign affairs, particularly in Central and South American relations.

While there has been some talk of Mr. Fletcher for a cabinet position, just what place he will have in the new administration is for the president-elect to decide and he is keeping his own counsel. However, it is known that he is regarded as one of the ablest of the diplomatic career men and is highly pleased with his work as a member of the goodwill mission.

A Major Policy As one of the major foreign policies of Hoover's administration will be the fostering of better relations with other American republics, it is expected that Mr. Fletcher's advice and counsel will be called for frequently as he has very wide circles of friends among the governments of the Latin-American republics.

Mr. Hoover has known Mr. Fletcher for many years and kept his eye upon his work both in the diplomatic service in the Americas and in Europe where he was ambassador to Belgium as well as having been named secretary after a term as undersecretary of state.

Besides representing the state department in Chile as minister and ambassador and in Mexico during a delicate period of the world war, Mr. Fletcher has been a delegate to practically all Pan-American conferences held in recent years. Adept at diplomacy, brevity of manner and forthright in speech, he also has a wide knowledge of people and conditions in Latin-America.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3 (AP)—A belief that there is little prospect of enactment of farm relief legislation by the house this session was expressed to President Coolidge today by Chairman Shell of the house rules committee.

STORMS TAKE 56 LIVES ON JAPAN COAST

TOKYO, Japan, Jan. 3 (AP)—Storms on the Japan sea coast southwest of Niigata were reported today to have killed 56 persons. Several hundred houses were destroyed.

The railway department in Tokyo received information that at least 23 villages were inundated by high seas yesterday.

Niigata is on a sandy strip of land at the mouth of the Shinano river. There are canals in the center of the streets to assist traffic. Tea is grown throughout the district and there are oil wells in the vicinity.

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Sure, He Sprinkle Shirtee With Mouth!

EVANSTON, Ill., Jan. 3 (AP)—The most honorable Chinese custom of sprinkling shirtee from the most honorable mouth found itself rebuked today by Evanston's most honorable law.

Mr. Joe Dong Dong, who favored the mouth method at Charlie Young's laundry, was non-committal concerning the legal and sanitary aspects of the art when Judge Brightmore questioned him yesterday.

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CHIEF'S HOST



Howard E. Coffin, Detroit automobile magnate, was host to President and Mrs. Coolidge at his palatial home on Sapego Island, off the coast of Georgia. Coffin has been mentioned as a possible choice for a cabinet post under Hoover.

GOVERNOR TURNS DOWN LIFE PLEA

Mrs. Ada Leboutef and Dr. Dreher to Face Hangman's Noose Saturday

BATON ROUGE, La., Jan. 3 (AP)—Only an insanity plea and the state supreme court today stood between the hangman's noose and Mrs. Ada Leboutef and Dr. Thomas F. Dreher, sentenced to death for the murder of the woman's husband, James Leboutef, Governor Huey P. Long last night declined to commute the death penalty of the pair to life imprisonment.

With the hope of aid from the governor gone, counsel for the condemned today planned to appear before Judge James D. Simon, who presided at the trial, and request an inquiry by a sanity commission into the present mental states of Mrs. Leboutef and Dr. Dreher. If this move fails, counsel planned to apply to the state supreme court to halt the execution until a hearing can be held.

Set For Saturday The execution is set for Saturday between noon and three o'clock. The application for commutation of the death sentence to life imprisonment was rejected by Governor Long in a 5,000 word statement, in which he cited the brutality of the murder. The statement mentioned the Chicago Leopold and Loeb case as an example of the evil of life imprisonment, saying that while "their existence in Joliet penitentiary is one of pleasure and abandonment," the result is shown by Chicago statistics listing 527 persons killed last year against 476 the year before.

"But one thing remains," continued the statement, "to save this country from an increasing crime wave and reckless destruction of human life, an unswerving policy of enforcement not only by state officials but by upstanding citizenship of this country. In this case a commutation of sentence would be opening the doors of the state wide to those who lightly regard human life. I fail to find one single condition or extenuating circumstance which would justify my thwarting the course of the law as has prevailed in this state and this country for centuries past."

James Leboutef was murdered on July 1, 1927 in a boat on Lake Palouder. The body was slashed, weighted and sunk in the lake.

Sheriff Clem Sweeters revealed today on his return from San Quentin prison that Mrs. Sarah Louisa Northcott pleaded with him repeatedly to intercede with her son Gordon Stewart Northcott, and beg him to plead guilty to the murder of four boys on the Wineville, Cal., chicken ranch and "take his medicine."

Sheriff Sweeters said Mrs. Northcott expressed conviction that Gordon would be hanged if he went to trial on the "not guilty" plea which he entered last month.

"He deserves his punishment," Sweeters quoted the 61-year-old woman, as saying, "but if they hang him I will not be able to live."

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Airman Helig Into Far North With Anti-Toxin

Daring Errand of Mercy Started; Aviator Uncertain Whether Landing Places Are Available

EDMONTON, Alta., Jan. 3 (AP)—An airplane was headed into the north today carrying a supply of anti-toxin to two diphtheria stricken trading posts 600 miles away in the frozen wilderness.

Captain "Wop" May, former Canadian army pilot, with Vic Horner as passenger, hopped off yesterday with 500,000 units of anti-toxin in response to an appeal for help from settlements at Fort Vermilion and Little Red river. The pilot of the mercy plane and his passenger faced the task of locating the posts in the snow-covered forest and landing where no plane has been known to have flown before.

The appeal for anti-toxin sent out by Dr. H. A. Hamman, provincial health officer in the north, arrived New Year's day. It was dated Dec. 18 and had been brought 187 miles by dog to the nearest telegraph office at Peace River.

Epidemic Feared Dr. Hamman said the factor in charge of the Hudson Bay company post at Vermilion River had died of diphtheria and that an epidemic was feared among the 200 inhabitants of the two posts.

Captain May took off without knowing whether there would be enough gasoline at the posts to bring his plane out or whether a suitable place for landing could be found at either of the stations.

FAILS TO MAKE GOAL GHAZAL, Colombia, Jan. 3 (AP) (Delayed)—The dream of Lieutenant Benjamin Mendes, American-trained chief pilot of the Colombian Air Service, of flying from New York to Bogota, ended here today in a crash, a scant 75 miles from his goal.

Lieutenant Mendes, who took off from Mitchell Field, N.Y. 23 on a 4,600-mile flight, left Girardot late this afternoon, but a few minutes later met with disaster when the plane crashed into a tree and was destroyed. The forced landing was said to have been due to a poor grade of fuel preventing his motor from functioning properly. The flier was too close to earth to maneuver the plane to a safe landing.

Lieutenant Mendes was not injured, and later took off for Bogota in an army plane sent to his aid.

Protocol Terms Agreed Upon By Bolivia, Paraguay

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3 (AP)—Terms a protocol of conciliation for the dispute between Bolivia and Paraguay were agreed upon today at a meeting of the Pan-American arbitration conference's special committee and the instrument itself was prepared for signature by the delegates of the two countries late in the day.

The most hazardous part of the endurance test is the refueling, which occurs whenever the Question Mark signals for oil or gasoline. When the signal comes, a re-fueling plane takes off, flies above the Question Mark, lowers a four-inch hose, and transfers fuel, while the two machines speed through the air at a rate of 100 miles an hour. The only mishap so far of the flight and that a minor one, occurred when Major Carl Spatz, flight commander, was sprayed with gasoline during a re-fueling contact.

Mrs. Northcott Afraid Her Boy Will Be Hanged

RIVERSIDE, Cal., Jan. 3 (AP)—Sheriff Clem Sweeters revealed today on his return from San Quentin prison that Mrs. Sarah Louisa Northcott pleaded with him repeatedly to intercede with her son Gordon Stewart Northcott, and beg him to plead guilty to the murder of four boys on the Wineville, Cal., chicken ranch and "take his medicine."

Sheriff Sweeters said Mrs. Northcott expressed conviction that Gordon would be hanged if he went to trial on the "not guilty" plea which he entered last month.

"He deserves his punishment," Sweeters quoted the 61-year-old woman, as saying, "but if they hang him I will not be able to live."

Sprint Champion Battling Death

GLENDALE, Cal., Jan. 3 (AP)—Frank Wyckoff, 39-year-old American sprint champion, is fighting against death in a local hospital today following a tonsil operation last month.

Wyckoff has been unable to eat for two weeks and two teaspoonfuls of blood have been injected in his blood stream each day during that period. It was learned today.

Lone Star Deitz To Coach Haskell

LAWRENCE, Kas., Jan. 3 (AP)—Frank W. McDonald, athletic director of Haskell Indian Institute here, today announced the appointment of William H. (Lone Star) Deitz, former Carlisle star, as head football coach to succeed John W. Thomas, resigned. Deitz lives in Los Angeles.

ARMY PLANE NEARS WORLD AIR RECORD

Giant "Question Mark" Begins Its Third Day of Continuous Flight

METROPOLITAN AIR PORT, Los Angeles, Jan. 3 (AP)—Official reports from San Diego that the Question Mark had reached Rockwell Field at 11:45 a. m. and been refueled there, allayed fears here that the craft may have been lost in the fog which blanketed its course.

FEW MORE HOURS TO SHATTER MARK

Five Aviators Hope to Remain Up Seven Days; Most Hazardous Part Is the Refueling

METROPOLITAN AIRPORT, Los Angeles, Jan. 3 (AP)—The official course of the army endurance monoplane Question Mark on its third day in the air today. This temporarily drove the giant trimotored Fokker from the southern section of its course and it cruised over the San Fernando valley here where sun prevailed.

Major Carl Spatz, flight commander, anticipating possible cloudiness here, reassigned the army officers at the airport to prepare to send the refueling plane to Imperial Valley following the Question Mark if he so signals.

Air Bumpy The air is rather bumpy over the San Fernando valley. The Fokker took on 200 gallons of gasoline at 7 o'clock.

Rain was reported some hundred miles north of here. The ceiling over the valley is unlimited, but a ground haze is making the side visibility much lower than it has been heretofore.

The Question Mark has already broken the previous American record and the five army aviators directing the Question Mark in this historic flight now have three definite goals: First to remain in the air as long as possible; second, to make that "long as possible" seven days—but most important of all, to stay in the air until 7:34 o'clock tonight and thereby shatter the existing airplane endurance record of 60 hours and seven minutes.

The Question Mark took the air at 7:26 a. m. Pacific standard time, New Year's day. By actual minutes, if it stays in the air until 7:34 tonight it will have broken the world's record by one minute, but under the official ruling it must shatter the present mark by one hour to establish a new official record.

Refueling Hazardous The most hazardous part of the endurance test is the refueling, which occurs whenever the Question Mark signals for oil or gasoline. When the signal comes, a re-fueling plane takes off, flies above the Question Mark, lowers a four-inch hose, and transfers fuel, while the two machines speed through the air at a rate of 100 miles an hour. The only mishap so far of the flight and that a minor one, occurred when Major Carl Spatz, flight commander, was sprayed with gasoline during a re-fueling contact.

WOMAN BREAKS RECORD

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 3 (AP)—Miss Hobby Trout, 19-year-old Los Angeles flapper aviator