

LOCAL CHAIN RUMORED IN BIG MERGER

Report that La Grande Grocery Co. to Be Sold Not Verified

SPECULATION ON MONTYRE MOVE

It Is Understood That Serwiel and Thrift Stores Will Be Included in Combine

Rumors of the sale of the La Grande Grocery company and the Thrift and Serwiel retail stores in this territory could not be verified today, although it is understood that negotiations are in progress.

Speculation as to the future ownership of the local company and its chain of stores has followed the announcements in metropolitan papers of a big chain to be composed of Portland, Tacoma and Spokane stores under the direction of Ross McIntyre, owner of about 100 20th Century stores in Portland and vicinity.

Chain of 400 Stores

It is understood that this formation nucleus of the combination includes other units that would make a chain of about 400 grocery stores in the northwest, including Thrift Stores, Eagle and Thrift Groceries, and some Picky Wiggly groceries in the Tacoma district.

It is understood that a definite announcement regarding the merger cannot be made until after the middle of February, when all inventories and audits have been completed.

The Morning Oregonian yesterday carried an interview with McIntyre, stating that he said he plans to spread a network for economical food distribution over the northwest. "About 400 stores are lined up tentatively," he said, "but the corporate membership is not yet formed. What we are doing is consolidating our business along the lines of economic distribution of merchandise."

"There are many points in the northwest that take eastern freight rates. We will save money for the consumer if we can ship in carload lots. The savings in distribution cost will be about 2 per cent. We have eight distribution plants planned and the group will cover Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon."

Not Co-operative

"This is not a co-operative association. We are welding together scattered units into one body with the primary object of efficient and economical distribution of perishables over the northwest. Our stores will handle general groceries, fruit, vegetables and meat."

Mr. McIntyre's statement was re-

garded in Portland as confirming in general detail the plan for merging of various chain store properties into a combination capitalized at between \$3,000,000 and \$10,000,000.

The first and only non-commissioned officers' club east of Portland was organized in La Grande last night when the non-commissioned officers of Company E, 18th Infantry met at the Sackajaw Inn.

Sergeant Carl Ebert was elected president and Corporal Farrell Murray was named secretary-treasurer of the club.

The purpose of the organization is to promote fellowship, "esprit-de-corps" and working co-operation among the non-commissioned officers.

The "alpha" committee members were appointed as follows: chairman, First Sergeant Hob Carey and Sergeants Porter Webb and Ebert. The duty of the committee will be to decide whether or not a member who is absent from a drill shall be legally excused. If not, he will be fined a dollar. Money collected in this way will be put into the mess fund of the club. Drills are held every Monday night.

Plans were discussed for making several changes in the dressing rooms at the Armory.

La Grande Wins Second Game Of Season, 30 to 21

Enterprise Quintet Unable to Stop Last-period Rally; Game Is Hard Fought and Close

La Grande High school won its second intercollegiate game of the pre-tournament season in the Recreation hall last night, trimming Enterprise 30 to 21 in a last-period rally.

The first three frames of the game were hard fought with the Tigers never behind, although hard-pressed throughout to retain a lead of any size. At the beginning of the second period the score stood 7 to 6 and once in the third quarter it was tied at 13-13. In the fourth period, Enterprise, led by Braden, sped forward, into the game in the last 10 minutes, started a rally that netted 10 points and put the game on a knife edge.

Both teams were ragged, neither having attained mid-season polish but there was plenty of fight and action. In spite of the wild passing and basket shooting of both quintets, his play was fast at non-committal, starting and ending the basket more often than the visitors.

The La Grande team, tall and rangy, found the smaller and faster Wallows hard to handle at times, but the visitors were unable to keep the ball in their possession consistently. One of the brightest plays of the game was contributed by Braden, who dribbled nearly the length of the floor through the La Grande quintet and sunk a field goal unassisted.

H. Wolfe, Wallinger, Ahrendt, L. Berry and Patten started the game, playing the entire first quarter and a portion of the second. With Enterprise only one point behind, P. Newlin, V. Newlin, Ron and Thompson joined Wolfe and finally brought the lead to four points by half-time. In the third quarter Enterprise made their strongest bid, scoring 7 points to the Tigers' 5, but the red-suited team was unable to stop the blue and white squad in the last of the contest, when 12 points were scored to Enterprise's 5.

Tigers Fighting

The Tigers exhibited considerable potential power and fight last night and games during the next two or three weeks are expected to witness a great improvement in team work and speed. School authorities expect the five to be at a peak at the time of the sub-district tournament here and the district championship tournament at Union.

The high school band played during intermissions. Tonight the La Grande team will play North Powder in the Recreation hall.

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Executive Board Of Boy Scouts Adopt Budget

A meeting of the executive board of the Eastern Oregon council of boy scouts was held last night at the Hotel Lake when members of the board from La Grande, Baker, Union and Wallows were guests of Dr. W. P. Fly, president of the council, at a dinner.

The scout budget for the year 1929 was adopted. The amount is \$4500 which is approximately \$1000 more than last year's budget. The increase in money is found necessary due to the growth in membership of the scouting organizations from 350 members to 500 and it is hoped that within the next year the number will have been raised to 1500, according to board members.

Of the 26 councils in this scout district the Eastern Oregon 11th region was the first to have the annual report turned in to the headquarters in Spokane.

A new schedule was adopted whereby troop committees will be organized for each troop in the council, each committee to be composed of five men selected from the membership of the sponsoring body of troops. Each troop committee member will be given definite duties to perform. In towns having more than one troop committees will work together.

The men who attended the meeting last night were: Jay Billings, of Kailowa; Frank Hunt, Fred Kerr, John Kubus, of Baker; Dr. Hoffmann, of Union; Sherwood Williams, Dr. Ray Murphy, R. V. Copey, A. W. Nelson, Charles Reynolds, the Rev. Oliver Riley and E. Russell Scott.

WEATHER TODAY 7:20 a. m.—10 above. Minimum: 8 above. Condition: partly cloudy.

WEATHER YESTERDAY Maximum 35, minimum 24 above. Condition: partly cloudy.

WEATHER JAN. 5, 1929 Maximum 44, minimum 23 above. Condition: partly cloudy.

PROFESSOR HORNER REMEMBERS PIONEER GRANDE RONDE DAYS

Editor's Note—The following story written by Professor Horner of the department of history at Oregon State Agricultural college, is of particular interest to Grande Ronde valley residents because of its historical value and its intimate view of life here many years ago.

In the '50's when the Sandridge of Grande Ronde Valley was almost entirely an unfenced common, following cattle in their frenzied rush to the timber along the foot of the mountain foretold the coming of a storm, long before a heavy cloud appeared over Mount Emily. This was at a time when the principal settlements were near the foothills. Rangeland and farms were few, and everybody knew nearly everybody. It was at this time also that E. S. McComas, the brilliant editor of the La Grande "Sentinel" changed the name of Russell district to "Sawbuck District."

The school house was located on the site of Moss Chapel about three miles east of the deserted village of Ore-Dell. In 1867 the log structure occupied by the school was abandoned for a frame building. Among the teachers were Judge Harrison, James McCall, W. H. Parent, A. E. McCall, Harsha White, J. R. Kellogg, and L. S. Rouse, and they were the kind of teachers that I yearned for when I entered college.

According to my recollection, the first student to matriculate in a higher institution of learning from this school was Frank M. Beckwith who entered Pacific University in the fall of 1872, where he made a high record for faithfulness and efficiency. "Sawbuck Seminary" Later when I registered in college I was asked from what seminary I came and I promptly told the president that I came from "Sawbuck Seminary." He looked as if he was somewhat surprised, yet "Sawbuck Seminary" went down in the records, although I had received previous preparation in Whitman Seminary. But those were pioneer days, hence near my school on the college records appeared the name of "Brush College" where Bishop Wright father of the aeronauts often preached.

The pupils in the Seminary were sons and daughters of pioneers. The boys were strong. Many of them were so athletic that upon the advent of the game of football in later days, I have often wished for strong center men like the Moss boys and some right tackle like Will Robbs or Fillmore Wyatt. But these were the days before football and college yells and there was no lipstick. I thought the girls were very pretty. They certainly had the ideal complexion, occasionally slightly bronzed by the sun, yet softened by rainbow tints that floated into the old-time bonfire.

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W. W. CRAWFORD IS FOUND DEAD

Believed to Have Passed on New Year's Day—Coroner Says Suicide

The body of William W. Crawford, 45-year-old carpenter, was found in the bedroom of his home on North Walnut street yesterday by a sister, Mrs. Sarah Breedlove, when she went to visit him. A glass nearby and the condition of the body indicated to Coroner F. L. Raiston that death was the result of drinking poison. No inquest will be held as the official regards it as a plain case of suicide.

Dr. E. G. Kirby, who examined the body and prepared the death certificate, said the cause of death was "unknown." He said pneumonia may have been the cause. L. L. Snodgrass said that there was no evidence of poison about the home and gave as his opinion that Mr. Crawford may have become violently ill and then penned a note to his relatives. A note near his body said goodbye to his relatives. It is reported that several times in the past he has expressed a wish to commit suicide and that he has been dependent. He was not financially embarrassed and relatives are at a loss to find a concrete motive for his suicide, although they say that he has apparently been dissatisfied in La Grande for the last several years.

Dead Five Days

Everything about the bedroom was in order. The note was dated Jan. 1, New Year's day, and other indications were that he died five days ago. He was a bachelor and lived alone. Mr. Crawford was born in Missouri. Living there until he came to La Grande 23 years ago. He is survived by two brothers and two sisters, all of La Grande: Mrs. Breedlove, R. A. Crawford, Mrs. Frank Haines and H. L. Crawford. Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Snodgrass and Zimmerman mortuary. Burial will take place in the Masonic cemetery.

WALLOW LAKE BOARD PLANS ANNUAL MEET

At a meeting held last night at the Sackajaw Inn during dinner the board of directors of the Wallowa Lake Wonderland company met to discuss plans for the annual meeting which will be held next Monday night. At the annual meeting a report of last year's activities for the week beginning January 6 was announced here today by the United States weather bureau as follows: Far Western States: The outlook is for temperatures about normal and generally fair weather in California and the Plateau region and for unsettled, wet weather in Oregon, Washington and Northern Idaho.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 5 (AP)—The weather outlook for the week beginning January 6 was announced here today by the United States weather bureau as follows: Far Western States: The outlook is for temperatures about normal and generally fair weather in California and the Plateau region and for unsettled, wet weather in Oregon, Washington and Northern Idaho.

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The men who were in attendance at last night's meeting are: H. E. Dixon, G. I. Larson, A. F. Stanke, J. C. MacPherson, R. F. Tyler and Lynne Lohmengkamp.

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AGAIN NAME MR. COREY ON COMMISSION

Gov. Patterson, However, Appoints O. C. Bortz-meyer to Board

TAKES PLACE OF MR. OSTRANDER

Did not Wait for Transcript of Portland Council Hearing Over Letter of Expert

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 5 (AP)—O. C. Bortz-meyer, member of the Portland Civil Service board, insurance man and civic worker, was yesterday appointed by Governor Patterson to succeed Edward Ostrander as a member of the public service commission. Ostrander has served four years.

Hyien H. Corey, of Baker, who has served 12 years as a member of the commission, was reappointed by the governor. The change in the personnel of the commission in June, 1918, by Governor Withycombe after having been nominated for the office at the May primary of that year. He was elected the following November. Corey was reelected in 1920 and 1924.

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 5 (AP)—In making his appointments of members of the Public Service commission yesterday Governor Patterson did not wait for transcript of the Portland council hearing over a letter of Kenneth G. Harlan, rate expert, it was revealed at the city hall today.

At the hearing Harlan explained his reasons for stating that the council should demand new commissioners to be appointed by the governor. He accused Commissioner Corey of bias in favor of the Portland Electric Power company, and declared that in order to get a fair hearing of its case before the commission the city should see to it that new commissioners were named.

The council decided to make no demand on Governor Patterson, but named a court reporter to make a transcript of the hearing to be forwarded to the governor for his information. The transcripting of the reporter's shorthand notes was completed late yesterday and despite the governor's having made his decision the transcript was sent to him by special messenger today.

2 MEN LEASE PARADISE SOFT COAL DISTRICT

ENTERPRISE, Ore., Jan. 5 (Special)—Development of the beds of lignite coal in the north of the county at an early day seems probable. D. W. Kuhn and an associate, O. C. Grove, the rights to take the coal from 490 acres of his land on the Washington state line in the north part of the Paradise district. The lessees are to start operations in six months or their contract lapses, according to the Enterprise paper.

The nature of the proposed operations is not clear to Mr. Kuhn or other residents of the north end. The two men said they did not contemplate mining and selling the coal for fuel purposes, as they did not consider that would be profitable. But they said they would erect plants to manufacture certain products from the lignite, and gasoline was mentioned, without an explanation of the process, or further details.

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 5 (AP)—W. E. Duntiger, accused of practicing medicine without a license, surrendered to the sheriff today and was released on \$1500 bail.

DOUGLAS, Ariz., Jan. 5 (AP)—Trekking into the wild ravines of the Mexican mountains south of the border here, Francisco Smith today was leading a party of 12 men bent upon finding the mountainous retreat of a wild band of Apache Indians, with whom they expect to find Fimbre's kidnapped son.

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 5 (AP)—Members of the state property tax relief commission debated today over various details of suggestions to the legislature for reducing taxes. The commission is working on a set of recommendations which, if adopted, are expected to cut taxes in Oregon.

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 (AP)—Wall Street understands negotiations are under way to merge Piggly Wiggly Western States company of Los Angeles with Safeway Stores, Inc., of Baltimore, which operates one of the largest western grocery chains, through an exchange of stock.

SANTA ROSA, Cal., Jan. 5 (AP)—Directors of the 5-county shoreline highway district organized to rebuild the ocean shore highway from San Francisco to the Oregon line deeded over appointment of an engineer, and adjourned late yesterday after five hours' debate without setting a date for their next meeting.

GOODING, Ida., Jan. 5 (AP)—After struggling a mile and a half through deep snow to a butte near Gooding, Helen Tenney, 18-year-old daughter of President C. W. Tenney of Gooding college, shot herself through the head and her body was found by searchers at 1 o'clock this morning.

PENDLETON, Ore., Jan. 5 (AP)—Tom Gurdane, one of the captors of William Edward Hickman, Los Angeles slayer, will be sworn into office Monday as sheriff of Umatilla county. He succeeds R. T. Coochingham.

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WED IN 1878



Above is a picture of Mr. and Mrs. David H. Steward, who recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at their home at 1712 Alder street. They have been residents of the Grande Ronde valley for the last 44 years.

BLIZZARDS AND COLD-KILL TWO

Winter Intense in Midwest, Southwest; Drops to 8 Above in City

BAY CITY, Tex., Jan. 5 (AP)—Five persons were killed in a tornado 7 miles from Bay City last night.

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 5 (AP)—Winter hurried itself upon the Middle West and Southwest today with blizzard-like intensity, causing at least four deaths, and bringing to several states the season's heaviest snow which was whipped into drifts by blustering north wind.

Temperatures ranged downward to below zero, and more intense cold wave predicted for tonight in Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Oklahoma and East Texas.

Three accident deaths in Iowa were attributed to the storm, and a man was found frozen to death today in Heliot, Kan. Numerous sled and traffic accidents were reported.

All trains arriving in Kansas City were from fifteen minutes to two hours late, trains from the west and north being the most seriously affected. Many locomotives carried snow plows to clear the track of drifts.

City traffic was tied up by drifting snow. Travel on several street car lines in Kansas City was virtually at a standstill this morning.

Colder in La Grande. The minimum last night was 8 above zero in La Grande, the coldest weather since early in December when the thermometer fell to 5 above. The weather forecast indicates continued cold tonight and Sunday.

Bits of Today's Wire News in Brief

MADRID, Jan. 5 (AP)—A commission appointed to study the possibility of building a tunnel under the Strait of Gibraltar has returned with a favorable report. The cost of the tunnel was estimated at 300,000,000 pesetas (approximately \$48,000,000).

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Forest Service To Grade Elgin, Weston Highway

Department Will Spend \$60,000, Is Report; Other Projects in This State Determined

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 5—Under agreement with the Oregon highway commission, the United States forestry department will spend \$1,240,000 for 70 miles of roads this year in the state. Of this amount the state furnishes \$660,000. Some work will begin as soon as snow disappears. The annual allocation of forestry funds was made at a conference of the state highway commission and the government representatives, held in Portland at the Imperial hotel yesterday.

In addition to this road program, the state commission received an urgent request from W. A. Lynch of the United States bureau of public roads, that construction be started this year on the Umatilla-Wallula cut-off. Mr. Lynch explained that he was asked at Washington, D. C., why nothing had been done in Oregon toward work on this section, which will link the systems of roads in Oregon and the state of Washington. The state officials explained that while the road is a necessity, and must sometime be built, it is considered advisable to spend the money on roads within Oregon first.

Grade Elgin-Weston Road. For grading the Elgin-Weston road the forestry people will spend \$60,000.

On the Oregon coast highway the forestry department will build from Seal rock to Alsea bay, five and one-third miles, the forestry money representing \$10,000 and the state's contribution \$75,000.

Two widening projects were agreed on. For continuing the widening of the Mount Hood loop the forestry funds will supply \$20,000 and the state \$40,000. The road to the Oregon caves, which needs widening, for it is now one-way traffic for some distance, will receive \$40,000, of which the forestry fund furnishes \$10,000 and the state \$30,000.

Federals to Spend Money. The total forestry funds amount to \$800,000, and the state funds \$600,000. Of the state money, \$250,000 will come from 1929 revenues.

The largest undertaking on the forestry program is the Rainrock-Florence section, 19 miles. The forestry people will contribute \$100,000 and the state puts up \$500,000, or rather underwrites that amount. Lane county will contribute 25 percent. This is set up as a two-year project.

On the Wapinitia road the forestry department will spend \$137,000 surfacing 13 1/2 miles. The Salmon river road will be surfaced 4 1/2 miles at a cost of \$75,000. For the Santiam highway \$3000 has been set aside for 2 1/2 miles.

Canyon City Road Surfaced. The road from Canyon City to Burns will receive attention. The Silvies section, eight miles, will be surfaced for \$25,000. The north end of the road, out of Canyon City, will be graded 5 1/2 miles, the allotment for this being \$75,000. This will take care of some heavy construction. For surfacing the Haystack section of the Heppner-Spray road, \$25,000 of forestry money will be used and \$15,000 of county money. The distance is six miles.

On most of the projects will be opened in May, and work started in June.

Fliers Return From 650-Mile Trip to North

PEACE RIVER, Alta., Jan. 5 (AP)—Captain "Wop" May and Vic Horner were back in Peace River today after a 650-mile flight from Edmonton, Alta., to Fort Vermilion with anti-toxin to fight a threatened diphtheria epidemic. The fliers found that their virgin flight into the frozen north was a beautiful gesture, but nothing more for no cases of diphtheria had been reported at Fort Vermilion or Little Red River, other than the death which started their flight.

They hopped off from Edmonton Wednesday. The message sent December 18 was rushed 165 miles by dog team before it reached the rail end where it was telegraphed to Edmonton.

ROME, Jan. 5 (AP)—The flood waters of the River Tiber had subsided somewhat today and engineers said that no further danger was anticipated. Considerable damage has been done already.

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 5 (AP)—With gasoline being sold all the way from 15 1/2 cents to 21 1/2 cents a gallon as a result of a price war, the independent dealers' association was standing out today for a uniform price of 18 cents.

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 5 (AP)—Joseph Valotta, slayer of two Pitts-burgh policemen, and who escaped the electric chair 11 times, died of pneumonia today in Western penitentiary here.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 5 (AP)—Police Corporal James P. Muldoon was near death early today in a hospital here as a result of a shotgun wound inflicted when he walked into an automatic trap while approaching a still in the Excelsior district here.

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador, Jan. 5 (AP)—Dispatches from Riobamba state that 5000 Indians who threatened the city have been driven into the mountains.

ARMY PLANE NEARING NEW WORLD MARK

Has Chance to Remain in Air Longer Than Dirigible Dixmude

ON FIFTH DAY IN ENDURANCE TEST

Went Aloft at 7:26 O'clock Morning of New Year's Day—Performing Normally

METROPOLITAN AIR PORT. Los Angeles, Jan. 5 (AP)—Swinging southward on her second voyage today to San Diego, the Question Mark safely passed her 102 hours of continuous flight at a point approximately half way between here and the southern base at Rockwell field. She had been aloft since 7:26 o'clock, the morning of New Year's day. The plane appeared to be performing normally.

Completing its hundredth hour in the air, the Question Mark began to get within striking distance of the endurance record of 118 hours established by the French dirigible Dixmude. The feat of keeping an airplane up long enough to break the endurance record of a lighter than air machine—an idea which heretofore has been considered fantastic—thus appeared within the realm of possibility.

Close to Airport. The endurance plane has kept close to Metropolitan airport since yesterday afternoon, when it returned to the coast line from Imperial Valley. In order to officially establish the world's records it has made it must land here, the scene of its take-off.

LIKES AERIAL LIFE. METROPOLITAN AIR PORT. Los Angeles, Jan. 5 (AP)—Oh! For a life on the border! This morning the clouds three thousand feet up, however, and not the ocean and the crew of the Question Mark after five days of it find it itself in need of baths, replenishment of food stores and whatnot.

What was the girl of this first morning? She is the main attraction from Major Carl Spaatz, commander of the army's endurance flight plane, as it soared above the 400-acre landing field. His message read:

"Last night's dinner was marvelous, and if breakfast is half as good, it will be a corker. We are pleased at all the mail we are getting. Lt. Quezada is kept busy answering fan letters. We sometimes wonder how the ground organization and refueling crew gets this stuff to us with such dispatch. Teamwork, I call it! We are proud to be associated with the gang doing it all."

"Send up a wash basin if one is convenient. We've gone four days without washing and we're dirty as blazes but like it."

E. F. NELSON PROMOTED. PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 5 (AP)—Edward F. Nelson, who has been correspondent of the Associated Press in charge of the bureau at Portland for eight years, has been appointed news editor of Rocky Mountain division of the Associated Press, which includes the states of Colorado, Montana, Wyoming and New Mexico. His headquarters will be at Denver, where he will take charge Jan. 15.

BURIED ALIVE. SAN RAFAEL, Cal., Jan. 5 (AP)—Proctor Solomon, 14, was buried alive by a sand dune in a gravel valley. Fireman dug him out, with little hope that he was alive but found him unharmed. He said the sand packed around him in such a way that he was able to breathe easily.

FALLS TO HIS DEATH. NEW YORK, Jan. 5 (AP)—Shortly after returning to his West 54th street apartment from an evening at the theater and at 85, an official of the United States Rubber company, fell from a window on the 19th floor and was killed.

COUPLE SAVED FOR WEEK AT LAST MINUTE. FRANKLIN, La., Jan. 5 (AP)—Sheriff Fred Anderson today that Gov. Huey P. Long had again reprieved Ada Bonner Leboeuf and Dr. Thomas Dreher until next Saturday.

The executioner with his black mask had arrived from New Orleans and was prepared to officiate when the last reprieve came. In the jail it was said that the shifting orders had just about driven Mrs. Leboeuf and Dr. Dreher frantic.

The sheriff explained that the governor told him that since the state supreme court had agreed to reconsider the case he had decided to grant a