

LaGrande Evening Observer

(Incorporated)
An Independent Newspaper

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ABE MARTIN



"Now I wonder if it's to be informal or a full flash affair?" pondered Labe Bud, as he read a record an invitation to grand ball an oyster supper. The Weekly Slip Horn has offered a reward of \$5,000 for any woman who cooks with malt syrup.

close of the program by the Hostess committee.
Honoring her husband's birthday anniversary, Mrs. Walter Cook entertained a few friends Monday evening at a delightful dinner party at the Cook home in North Union. Dinner was served at 6:30 o'clock at a prettily appointed table with covers placed for Mr. and Mrs. Frank Conner and sons, Barton and Malcolm, Mr. and Mrs. George Scibird and Mr. and Mrs. Cook and son, Earl. After dinner the remainder of the evening was spent with music and visiting.
The Ladies Aid of the Methodist church met Wednesday afternoon at the church with Mrs. G. F. Hall, Mrs. Henry Gygis and Mrs. Rex Griggs as hostesses. The business session was followed by a short program with Mrs. Fred Brown in charge. The hostesses served refreshments before adjournment.
Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Dobbin were host and hostess to the members of the T. B. club and a few guests Wednesday evening at their home in North Union. Five tables of bridge were at play during the evening, with high score prizes going to Mrs. George Hoffman and S. I. Benson. Mrs. George Winship received the consolation prize. Luncheon was served by the hostesses following the card games.
Miss Katie Reuter left Sunday evening for Baker where she has accepted a position with Mrs. Priz-

ley Motor Co. Miss Reuter has just completed a business course at the Baker Business college.
Mrs. Alex Slater returned home Saturday after a ten days visit to Seattle and Portland.
Miss Opal Shappat returned Monday to Pendleton after spending the weekend here visiting relatives.
After spending the spring vacation here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Haggerty returned Sunday evening to Eugene where she is a sophomore at the University of Oregon.

Called Sacred Pillars
Many Scottish people today believe there is something sacred about pillars of stone. In Aberdeenshire such pillars were believed to be the abodes of spirits and sometimes deities. Some farmers place upright stones about their fields in the belief that they are propitiating the gods.
A wife and a goat are the same price in Kurdistan, according to a travel writer. In America the two sometimes marry.

Union Arranges Easter Morning Watch Program

By Mrs. Bert Knight (Observer Correspondent)
UNION, Ore., (Special)—Easter morning watch services will be held here next Sunday morning at 6:30 o'clock in the city park by the members of the Methodist Epworth League. Following the services of one hour, a waffle breakfast will be given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Reuter.
A large delegation of Island City Epworth League members attended the Epworth League meeting here at the Methodist church Sunday evening. After a very interesting meeting, light refreshments were served by a committee of girls.
The Missionary society of the Presbyterian church met Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. George Scibird in North Union. A potluck luncheon was enjoyed at 1 o'clock with about 15 members present. After luncheon the regular business session was held followed by a short program.
The Woman's club met in regular session Thursday afternoon at the club house with Mrs. W. M. Dobbin, Mrs. W. R. Phillips and Mrs. T. Cook as hostesses. The patriotic program for this afternoon was in charge of Mrs. Viola Parker. Mrs. Earl Davis read a paper on "The Early Settlers of America." Mrs. George Baird read an article on "Our Women in Congress." Mrs. Laura Burwell gave a history of the flag and also a history of "The Star Spangled Banner." Miss Carrie Williams gave the biography of Edward Everett Hale, American author, and Mrs. Viola Parker gave a sketch of one of his best books "Man Without a Country." Mrs. Ella Holly gave a short talk on "Our Flag." Concluding the program were two numbers by Mrs. Merton Davis who sang "The Nightingale and the Rose" and "Let Miss Lindy Pass." She was accompanied at the piano by Mrs. L. G. Knights. Refreshments were served at the

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Chicago has been unjustly injured, poor thing! Statistics show that Detroit has more murders per hundred thousand of population than the Illinois city. And ten southern cities have twice as high a percentage as either.

Considering La Grande growth in the last five years and the possibility of continued development in the future, the need for an active planning commission is extremely apparent. The efficient business firm looks ahead and plans to accommodate future expansion. An efficient municipality should do the same thing, and although the city commission has served admirably in this respect for several years, La Grande needs a representative body to go further, to anticipate the time when storm sewers, parks, street improvements, public building sites and other matters of civic interest can and should best be presented. An efficient planning commission can anticipate municipal funds for these purposes, can study city finances, can make varied recommendations that will be an influence for economy and for progress at the same time. It could well afford to import a city planning expert for consultation. Every possible step should be taken to see that the people of this city twenty years from now do not bemoan the lack of vision of the present generation. A planning commission has been in existence for several years, but it has been inactive—has accomplished practically nothing. An enthusiastic, active body would be a real civic asset.

NO ROAD DOWN THE SNAKE

The railroad down the Snake river from Homestead to Lewiston will not be built. No one familiar with the figures presented in the hearing thought it possible for Commissioner J. L. Rogers to make other than a negative recommendation to the interstate commerce body. But the communities of Eastern Oregon who co-operated to argue convincingly against the project can well congratulate themselves on spending time and money to that end. It wasn't a fight to be won by indifference.

Mr. Rogers was an impartial examiner. He heard the evidence and arguments from the standpoint of one seeking to determine public interest and necessity. His attention to the material presented by Lewiston and by Southern Idaho interests in favor of the Snake river route was not prejudiced. Yet his decision is in strict keeping with the arguments made by the railroad-company and these cities of Eastern Oregon who argued against the line. His opinions, as given in Sunday news dispatches, are interesting to everyone in this section:

"The examiner finds it would cost twenty-five millions to build this road; it would be dangerous and expensive to maintain and its maintenance and operation would entail heavy loss on the railroad company; so great, in his opinion as to justify a general advance in the rates over the O.-W. R. & N. lines to offset the loss, and this he thinks undesirable. Rogers, after exhaustive hearings, reached the conclusion the commission is not justified in forcing a railroad to undertake the project at this time. Rogers' findings will later be reviewed by the full commission after the hearing.

"While admitting there is much merit in the proposal, and many reasons why this road would be advantageous to the people of Idaho, Rogers holds the project impracticable because of the heavy losses it would impose on the O.-W. R. & N. He finds the commission could not require the Union Pacific system to build this road, although it owns nearly all the stock of the O.-W. R. & N. It would therefore be the latter that would have to absorb loss or raise its rates and this, he believed, would result in a general protest from all the communities served by the road. Very little freight, he finds, would originate in Snake river canyon, unless copper ore developed. While there are indications that ore may be there, existing companies along the route are not operating; furthermore, they all lie within 17 miles of Homestead and if they are determined to develop, Rogers suggests they build their own railroad north from Homestead.

"The volume of through traffic, in Rogers' opinion, would not be great enough to make the road pay; in fact, would fall far short of paying."

With such opinions presented by Mr. Rogers, there can be no doubt of the final action of the interstate commerce commission. The project will be turned down and will rest securely and quietly in the dreams of Idaho enthusiasts for another quarter century. The time will come, probably, when a rail road down the Snake river will be realized. But it will come only in the distant future when the population of the Pacific Northwest has multiplied many times and when the transportation requirements are far greater than they are now or will be in the next generation.

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