

# LaGrande Evening Observer

(Incorporated)

An Independent Newspaper

FRANK B. APPLEBY, Editor and Publisher  
HARVEY F. MATTHEWS, Business Manager

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GOD ACKNOWLEDGES HIS OWN—And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in Thee I am well pleased.—Luke 3:22.



If you enjoy football you can't help feeling that the 87,500 people holding tickets for the Stanford-Southern California game today are especially favored by the gods.

"The Democrat-Herald has backed the Baker high school in this matter because it believed and still believes they are in the right and that La Grande is wrong, both technically on the point raised and ethically on the manner of raising it. The whole thing could have been threshed out quietly and amicably if La Grande had wanted it done that way. The trouble seems to have been that La Grande did not determine upon a protest until after the Boise game, although she knew about the players she now seeks to bar several weeks ago." So complains the Baker Democrat-Herald. We forget just how many weeks ago it was but if the Baker paper will ask Supt. Coleman it will discover that La Grande objected verbally to him several weeks before the Boise game with the specific purpose of settling the matter "quietly and amicably." Results: none. His hands were apparently tied by a few thoughtless members of the chamber of commerce "athletic commission" who desired a winning team more than they desired fair competition. They made a mistake and the La Grande protest will help discourage any school making a similar mistake in the future.

### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR OPPORTUNITIES

A second letter from Mr. Smith dealing with the proposed extension of city boundaries is published in the Open Court column today. The Observer welcomes the discussion of these points and secured technical data from the city manager, published following the Smith communication, dealing with paving assessments. They will, we are sure, serve to correct misunderstandings and misinformation.

The matter of water service to the new districts, referred to by Mr. Smith, is exactly as previously stated in Observer news stories. We are assured by city officials that water mains would be extended to a large part of the area probably within a year and it is estimated that practically all could be given service within eighteen months. Further it is estimated that the cost could be handled out of general savings in the budget and out of increased water revenue, though no definite allowance can be made for this until the new districts are actually within the city.

Regarding Mr. Smith's further questions on providing of sites for the normal school and highway shops by the city, these acts stand out as the most constructive accomplishments of any city administration in many years. By trading land to which the city had title, these two sites were provided at very small cost to the people of the community and they made possible the addition of two industries whose value to every citizen can hardly be estimated.

Bringing new educational opportunities to the young people of this section, new employment opportunities to all citizens is a civic project of universal benefit. La Grande is rightfully proud that it has city commissioners who had the vision and the energy and the high public spirit to accomplish these projects. The progressive policies they have instituted and followed in this connection have played no small part in making La Grande the outstanding city in Eastern Oregon in development and progress the last five years.

The La Grande of the future—its property values, its employment opportunities, its general prosperity—depends on the co-operation of all residents of the community, inside and outside, in making the most of every chance for betterment. Extension of boundaries is one chance. To realize it will not seriously handicap anyone, will benefit not only those of the La Grande community but the entire valley.

TRY  
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FIRST

### Little "Lobbies" of Everyday Life!



### THE OPEN COURT

CORRESPONDENTS MUST SUBMIT THEIR NAMES TO THE EDITOR IF THEY DESIRE LETTERS PRINTED.

La Grande, Oregon, Oct. 24th, 1929.

To the Editor of The Observer:—Inasmuch as the Baker Democrat-Herald has taken up the cudgel in regard to the football dispute, I would like to have you, in the columns of your paper, ask them a few more simple questions. If the Baker paper can answer them satisfactorily we'll all go back and sit down and say nothing more. Question No. 1. What excuse, if any, did these five boys, from five different places, offer for choosing Baker High school? No. 2. Were these "Guardians" appointed over these boys before they answered the football call and started practices? No. 3. Would these guardians have been appointed to look after the welfare of these "orphans" if they didn't want to make the football team? No. 4. Are these guardians legal and binding for all time or can these boys get up and dust as soon as school is out? The State High School Athletic association has laid down certain specific rules in regard to pupils attending other schools other than to their own town. These rules were made to be observed. Baker High saw, in the "legal guardian" rule, a loophole whereby they could get some good football players and still be "within the law." If they had succeeded in pulling this little stunt successfully it would have been the signal for every school in the state to start importing players and have them "adopted" by the nearest Santa Claus all over town.

The Baker paper stated yesterday that the Baker High could play football if the entire first squad were disqualified but that the main thing was to play fairly and squarely. A fifth question I would like you ask them in this—Has this always been the policy in Baker in the past in High school athletics? An Interested bystander.

La Grande, Oregon, Oct. 22nd, 1929.

Open Letter to: City Manager and Chairman of City Commissioners. On the subject of extension of City boundary lines.

In regards to the answers given by Mr. Crows, City manager, in the Observer of Oct. 15th, we find in some instances, somewhat enlightening information, though we would appreciate further information as to the following: In answering our question as to what was the average price paid per square foot of hard surface pavement in the city, Mr. Crows states in reply that on small contracts the average price paid per square foot was about 25c and of course the cost would be smaller in larger contracts. If 25c per square foot is the maximum cost, then why was a property owner assessed approximately \$400.00 for his share of the cost for the 87 1/2 square foot frontage as his share. This street pavement is supposed to be only 30 feet in width. Why is the assessment this amount if 25c is the average? Another example: Nearly six years ago, the city paved six blocks

Oregon Trail highway, the pavement was 50 feet in width as we learn, making SEVENTY FOUR, SIXTY five feet, or square feet. The total cost was \$22,000.00 or 75c per square foot, no grading or other improvements were done of this job. The above figures are perhaps not exact, but are approximate, we would ask the city manager to furnish us with an example of facts.

We feel that the chairman of the city commissioners should extend us further information regarding city water mains, for he was quoted about ten days ago in this paper to the effect that in the new city budget for 1929 had included the cost of additional water mains to accommodate the proposed new districts to be taken in, a few days later the budget was announced in this paper, yet it failed to verify the commissioner's quotations.

We would like to be informed if the commissioners have the authority to advocate such items to be included in the city budgets in advance, especially when on a more shoe-string hope of the proposed new districts coming in? And has the city accommodated all of even the present home owners now within the city with nearby water mains? We would ask the City Officials also, if it isn't been customary to use some rather large sums of money for many purposes not mentioned in city budgets? If we were to be residents of the city we would like to know that all business matters were acted upon in the open and legal manner.

We hear of the city purchasing locations for private enterprises as sites for factories, Normal schools, also of using the funds of the city to advertise the promotion of locating the Normal school in La Grande, if such quotations are true, has the city not over stepped its legal authority? If we were voters and tax payers within the city, we would wish to know that all funds were used in the manner called for in the city budgets as approved of. If none of the city's general funds have been used by the city officials as above, stated and talked of, then we as residents in the proposed new districts to be taken in will certainly appreciate the information.

Sincerely, H. W. SMITH. La Grande, Oregon, Oct. 25, 1929. Reference to H. W. Smith's Open Letter of October 22, 1929: In giving an explanation to Mr. Smith's questions of October 22nd, I would like to refer back to a previous question which is as follows: Does the city at large believe in cost of improvements such as streets, sidewalks, curbs, and grading inlets, etc., has been let to contractors at reasonable prices? and, what is the average price paid per square foot of 4" thickness of street pavement? (Note that Mr. Smith's question only asked for the average price per square foot of hard surface pavement. He does not ask to have included in this price the cost of sidewalks, curbs, grading inlets, etc.) I answered the question stating that the city does not lay 4" pavement, but the average cost was about 25c per square foot on small contracts and the larger the job the lower the price is per square foot. Now, in regard to the cost of the improvements on W. Avenue. The improvements on W. Avenue include the following items: storm sewer, sidewalks, curbs, and crush rock macadam. The cost per square foot for all the above mentioned items was approximately 20c. The average cost for the macadam only, was approximately 7c per square foot. The following explanation will be of benefit to those interested. When working up an improvement cost the intersections are paid for by the property owners. The corner lot nearest the intersection pays 40 per cent of its share of the intersection, the next nearest lot

to be seen that the average cost per square foot over an improvement district means very little in figuring the assessment cost against an individual lot.

Referring to the improvement on M Avenue. The contractor bid price for hard surface pavement on this street was 23.1 cents per square foot. In addition to the hard surface pavement on this street some of the other items were as follows: excavation 4,800 cubic yards, sidewalks 4,800 square feet, curb and gutter 4,420 lineal feet. The average cost per square foot including all items in this improvement district was 41c per square foot.

Referring to Adams Avenue. If you are referring to that portion of Adams Avenue from Spruce to Willow Street, this section contains 13,556 square yards of pavement. The final assessment on this job was \$29,112.25. The average cost per square foot using the above mentioned figures is 24.7 cents. The unit price of 24.7 cents per square foot also includes 4,465 lineal feet of curb and inlets in addition to the regular paving job. W. C. CREWS.

### The Town Doctor (The Doctor of Towns) Says

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT Perhaps you are one of those who is sick and tired of reading about "Buy At Home," "Be Loyal to Home Town Merchants," etc. Being a fair-minded individual, all I can say is, "Maybe you're right." You may feel as the gentleman who recently said to me, "your saying 'try the home folks first' may be all right, and I don't say it isn't the proper thing, but it does get my goat to have certain people in my town always preaching 'buy at home' to me, and then turn around and do the opposite themselves." Said but true, that is often the case. Not long ago a prominent merchant sat at his desk lamenting the people of his community for doing business with four-story store buildings, and buying in other towns the things he had to sell. He started to give me figures—and what do you suppose he wrote them on? Stationery he had purchased through the manufacturer of a product he sold. I called his attention to it, and he said, "I never thought about that."

A tire dealer in this same town said, "business in town is scarce everybody in this town has the mail order bug." A half hour later I saw a statement from this tire store on the desk of a banker, made out on a bill head printed by a mail order concern. When told of this, the tire man said, "well, I never looked at it that way."

I once heard a druggist give a regular lecture on "buying at home," and that same evening saw conclusive evidence that members of his own family did just that which he was exhorting others for doing. He said in reply to inquiry regarding it, "well, that's a little different."

I heard a hardware dealer rave recently because a dry goods merchant's wife bought a cook stove elsewhere; when I told him that I happened to know that his wife would not buy a stove in town for four others would know what she paid for it, he said, "well, that's our business."

Such cases as this do get a person's goat and that is why I say, "Maybe you're right." But don't let these few "goat-getters" influence your attitude. Because a few people don't practice what they preach, don't cut off your nose to spite your face by saying, "well, they do it so why shouldn't I?"

Be big—don't let the ways of doing and thinking of little people pull you down to their level. If you don't like "buy at home," all right—but remember this, it's good business on your part—any way you look at it—it's money in your pocket to try the home folks first. Published by The Observer through the co-operation of the Lions club.

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