

LaGrande Evening Observer

(Incorporated)
An Independent Newspaper

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Published evenings, except Sunday, at 1710 Sixth street La Grande, Oregon.
Entered at the Postoffice of La Grande, Oregon, as Second Class Mail Matter under act of March 2, 1879.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF UNION COUNTY AND THE CITY OF LA GRANDE

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By Carrier
Daily, two weeks in advance 35c
Daily, six months in advance \$4.50
Daily, single copy 5c

By Mail
Daily, per month in advance 50c
Daily, per six months in advance \$2.50
Daily, per year in advance \$5.00

ADVERTISING RATES
Display, foreign, per column inch 45c
Display, local, per column inch 40c
Time contract prices on application

If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.—1 John 1:7.

NATIONALISM VS. SECTIONALISM

There is need in congress for a leader of men, but the cross-purposes, quarrels, and squabbles exhibited by that body indicate that the greater need is for a preponderance of nationalists in its membership. It seems that the nation expects men who are saturated with individual and parochial ideas and prejudices to agree on a broad national policy.

The present congress appears to have a large number of men, each scrambling to get all he can for himself and his own immediate constituents, and permitting their selfish wants and requirements to blind him to the national welfare. In so far as this condition exists, it is not a national congress, but a congress of provincial representatives.

National relief must wait until each senator and representative of the above type has obtained from the federal government relief for the particular locality from which he draws his votes. National appropriations must give the right of way to provincial grants. National problems must go unsolved until local issues have been decided.

It is not a new worry. The present emergency only makes it seem so. President Madison wrote of it. Webster and a few other senators before and since his time have on rare occasions taken the stand that the good of the nation comes first, though it may mean injury to their home districts.

Because grave national problems confront the country, the need for national men was never greater than it is today. Congress must produce men who place their country first, their state or district second, and their own political futures last.

THE OIL PROBLEM

There is broad public interest in the movement for further conservation of our oil resources through the restriction of drilling and production.

The public is concerned with the waste of an essential and exhaustible natural resource upon which the nation is so largely dependent for commercial and industrial progress. It is concerned with regulation of production of petroleum by methods which will not permit exploitation of the consumer. And it is concerned in the success of the movement because continued failure to solve the conservation problem will lead to insistent demand for government entry into the field of business on a broad and comprehensive scale. The public would give its consent to such a departure reluctantly and only as a last resort.

Impressive as are the reasons which should prompt the industry to strive for an agreement on ways and means of attaining the ends sought, it must be recognized that the obstacles are immense. Many deep conflicting interests of states, individuals, and great corporations must be reconciled.

Anti-trust laws, which remedied some of the evils of monopolization, are largely responsible for wasteful production of oil. They have made it illegal for the producers to enter into agreements curtailing production. The danger of giving them a free hand in this, is that they might take advantage of reduced supply to increase prices inordinately.

If a man wants to be a cynic, there are plenty of situations to make him cynical. If a man wants to be an optimist and wants to trust in the world and humanity, there are plenty of situations to make him optimistic and trustful. This old world is accommodating that way.

Few of the larger memorials have been erected to commemorate men who were in the habit of putting it off a couple of weeks to see how things shaped up.

Good things sometimes do not last long—that is why it is wise to take a generous helping of fried chicken the first time it is passed.

THE OPEN COURT

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

To the Editor:

A meeting is to be held at the

Sacajawea Inn, Saturday afternoon,

Feb. 21, at 2:30 o'clock, for the

purpose of forming a Tax Equalization

league on lines similar to organiza-

tions recently perfected in the Will-

amette valley and other sections of

the state.

Reliable reports have been sub-

mitted showing that real property in

less than two-fifths of the actual value and that other forms of property pay less than 15 per cent of the tax but represent more than three-fifths of the wealth. This is a situation that is intolerable. In many instances, especially in the case of farm lands, there is not enough income to pay the tax to say nothing of providing for physical upkeep on buildings and fences, replacement of machinery or any respectable sum in the way of wages.

Every person who pays tax on real estate should be present at the meeting. Other groups have no hesitancy whatever in employing every means to escape tax demands. There is no reason for the owner of real property to continue to "stand for" the abominable injustice.

E. L. Eklund.

Aberdeen, S. D., will observe its 50th anniversary next summer.

THE CRIME IN THE DUTCH GARDEN

BY HERBERT ADAMS

SYNOPSIS: The murder of Anabelle Querdling crushed to death by a stone in her lovely garden, remains shrouded in mystery. Her niece Evelyn Blake had previously consulted Jimmie Russell, young London lawyer, concerning death threats against the eccentric spinster. Marjorie Blake, her sister returning to the garden, while the end of the garden and just left her aunt dead and summons Evelyn and her niece Evelyn Blake who have been in the house since. Superintendent Richmond, concluding the investigation, hears their stories and that of Janet Querdling, the maid, concerning the murder. The story of the crime is told in a series of chapters. The story is told in a series of chapters. The story is told in a series of chapters.

Chapter 9

"OLD LADIES' FANCIES"

"When Marjorie married," Richmond repeated slowly the words Dr. Netherthorn had just spoken, "she would not get a penny of her aunt's money. Why did Miss Querdling say that to you?"

"That is a question only she could answer," replied Bill coolly, continuing when the superintendent insisted that she must have had a reason.

"You know how old ladies are," said Bill with a shrug. "She also said that the 'singing fool,' as she called Duckworth, hoped to persuade her otherwise, but would be disappointed."

"Why should Miss Querdling couple you with Marjorie?" the superintendent persisted. "Are you engaged?"

"We are not," the doctor retorted. "Look here, you are on the wrong track altogether. Marjorie Blake and I are nothing more than old friends. If her aunt wants to make silly suggestions, there is no need for you to."

Bill revealed under questioning that Miss Querdling had been ill so rarely that she had no regular physician and that his call on the night of the tragedy marked his third professional visit to her estate. He deposed emphatically that he possessed Miss Querdling's intimate confidence.

"Then why," asked Richmond, "should the tell you that private matter concerning her niece and the money?"

"I told you I could not account for old ladies' fancies."

"You suggested there was no reason for her to think there was anything between you and the girl. Yet you went off together and stayed talking in the lane for quite a while. Miss Marjorie told me that. How long were you there?"

"I don't know," Bill spoke shortly as in anger.

"What were you talking about?"

"What the devil has that to do with you?"

"Just this," said Richmond doggedly. "While you say you were talking, or immediately after you had talked, some one killed Miss Querdling. She evidently thought you and Marjorie were lovers and she had just 'wed you' if you married you would get none of her money."

The young man went white. It might have been with anger. He controlled himself with an effort.

"As I told you—Marjorie and I are old friends. It is strange that we should talk together for a few minutes?"

"But you cannot say what you were talking about?"

"No," returned Bill.

"Perhaps," suggested Jimmie, "if you will positively assure Mr. Richmond that your conversation had nothing to do with Miss Querdling, that will satisfy him."

"Will it?" said Netherthorn in a rather contemptuous tone. "Suppose I say we were discussing last month's agricultural show or Farmer Brown's prize pigs?"

"I should ask Miss Blake and see if she said the same. Here's my point," Richmond said. "If Miss Querdling loved her niece and her niece's lover that no money was to be expected from her, they might think it better to remove her before the threat was carried into effect. It is a hypothetical case that shows there is a matter on which I require to be satisfied."

Netherthorn's coolness had returned.

"Now I will put my point," he said defiantly. "Marjorie and I are not lovers. Either you were plotting Miss Querdling's death or we were not. If we were, we should say so. Nothing else concerns you."

Richmond returned his stare. "Very well, doctor, I will take that."

Probably that she would be taken back to La Grande unless she improved soon.

A number of parties from La Grande and one from Union county enjoyed the Cove pool Sunday, though the day was rather dreary with quite a bit of rain. Mrs. McNeill reports a party of La Grande people also away Saturday. The girls were in the room of Miss Mae Hileman and Miss Margaret Hubbard where the girls cooked and ate their breakfast. The promised increase in the price of the first legal returns would be an estimated \$20,000,000 collected in 1932 had it not been for revisions last night.

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first planned to apply it first to 1932 incomes, collectible this year, and then to 1933, at the 8 per cent rate. Tax leaders expected a return of \$1,180,000. Since the retroactive provision for 1930 has been abandoned, and reckoning on some natural increase, it is estimated that the first legal returns would be an estimated \$20,000,000 collected in 1932 had it not been for revisions last night.

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answer, but your attitude is ill-advised. How long did you talk with Marjorie?"

"Perhaps a quarter of an hour," When Bill said that he had gone home upon leaving Marjorie, Richmond disputed him, saying that when the chauffeur called for him he had not returned. The doctor explained that he had not said he had gone straight home. "I went for a walk," he added hesitantly. "I went to see Captain Stirling. He was not in."

"You went to Captain Stirling's house? His servants told of, of course, confirm that?"

Netherthorn looked annoyed. "I did not say I went to Stirling's house but that I went to see Stirling. I was on my way to his house when he passed me on the road. He was in his car and ran by on the main road just before I reached it. I saw him, but he did not see me. It was useless to proceed, so I turned back."

Since there were few people about that late in the evening, Bill said that, aside from Marjorie, no one could confirm his movements from the time he spoke to Miss Querdling until he got home.

Captain Stirling, he explained to the superintendent, was a Morris two-seater, headed toward Merrow Craig, though he could not say he was going there.

Bill declared that he had not seen the empty Morris which Green had reported stopped on the golf course. "If I met Stirling mile away, how could it have been there?"

Jimmie smiled. "If there was no car there when you passed, and you saw him going in that direction, it might have been there at the time the chauffeur suggests. If it was, it is likely to have been Stirling's."

"How the dickens can I tell?" Bill clearly resented the inquiries. "Is Stirling a friend of Marjorie or of Evelyn? Is he likely to have been calling on Miss Querdling?" questioned Jimmie.

"Why ask me?" replied Bill. "Why not go to the parties concerned? I saw Miss Querdling at about 9:15 and she was alive and well. I saw her an hour later and she was dead. As a doctor, I can tell you my belief as to the cause of death. Otherwise I know nothing and shall say nothing."

From this attitude he refused to budge, but his manner was more genial as they left. Jimmie and Richmond "laughed him as they turned toward Merrow Craig to question Marjorie.

"Not too helpful, was he?" commented Jimmie.

"The old lady said Marjorie would get nothing when she married," said Richmond. "That supplies a motive, and think of his and Marjorie's opportunity. On their own showing they were with the old lady or near her for about a half hour, including the moment she was killed. And their behavior is suspicious."

"There is something they have not told us," said Jimmie thoughtfully. "There may be things having nothing to do with Miss Querdling that they wish to keep to themselves."

"You may be right," he added, "but you must remember that the threat of disinheritance applied equally to Evelyn a Duckworth. Have you made inquiries about him?"

"Yes. Real name's Dalton. A clerk until he found he could sing, and then changed to Duckworth. He's fairly well known. Nothing against him. Duckworth and Evelyn come out cleanest. She says he was with her singing, Janet and the other maid heard them. Marjorie says she came in and told them. Are they all lying?"

When they arrived at Merrow Craig, the door was opened by Janet, the dark-eyed maid. Her manner seemed unfriendly and Jimmie guessed that Ted Green had told her of his conversation with the superintendent.

"Just had a telephone call, haven't you, Janet," asked Jimmie. "Dr. Netherthorn to speak to Miss Marjorie?"

"Yes, sir." Her tone showed surprise, but he made no comment and she left them.

"Well, I'm haggard!" exclaimed Richmond when she had gone. "I thought I should be in time to prevent their putting their heads together. Now do you believe they are innocent?"

"Of course there is something between them," said Jimmie. "What is it? That is the question."

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Jimmie, in tomorrow's installment, discloses the mysterious woman, while Joe Allen provides a startling development.

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and Mrs. O. M. Gardner. Directions were instructed them that they might find a clue in a tree near "Jim" who proved to be the new "house" followed the trail. They were Jean Miller, Mary Towle, Eleanor and Katherine Davis, Ruth White, Lavene Hallmark, Alida Blank, Evelyn Hays, Miss Thelma Anderson, Miss Hubbard and Miss Hileman. Mrs. Cora Bloom went to Union Friday for medical attention. She wrenched her back while emptying a bucket of water. Mrs. Oscar Gorham accompanied her.

Miss Alice Miller spent Saturday evening and Sunday with her cousin Jean Miller returning home Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Will Miller, who were dinner guests at the home of Mrs. Bernice Miller Sunday.

Miss Mae Hileman, Miss Margaret Hubbard, Miss Blanch Ingalls and son, Jackie, and Gertrude Blackland were dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Anderson Sunday.

Celebrate 42nd Anniversary At Cove on Feb. 12

By Mrs. A. G. Conklin (Observer Correspondent)

COVE, Ore. (Special).—Mr. and Mrs. George M. Baker celebrated the 42nd anniversary of their marriage Friday, Feb. 12. Of the four children only one, Ray, and his wife, were with them on the anniversary.

George M. Baker and Mrs. Hannah Saunders were quietly married in Alexandria, Douglas county, Minn., Feb. 12, 1889. They were both natives of Wisconsin where they were acquainted a dozen years before their marriage.

They have three sons, Ray, of Hamilton, Ore.; Earl, of Cove, Ore.; and Earl, of Cove, Ore. They have one daughter, Eva Hartley, of Cove. Mrs. Baker has one son by a former marriage, Clark Saunders, who lives with his family in San Jose, Cal. There are seven grandchildren. Charles Saunders, Cecil, Melvin, Claude and Jois Jean Baker, Alfred and Clark Hartley.

Mrs. Baker was born at Bear Station at the head of Rush river, Wisconsin, Nov. 8, 1889 and Mrs. Baker was born two years later on the same day of the month. They lived five years in Minnesota before coming west. They were attracted to the locality because a brother of Mrs. Baker, John Van Schoonhoven, and his family, lived at Bear Station.

They spent the first winter in Union and then came to Cove where they have spent 37 happy years. Mrs. Baker has been a teacher in Hornston, Ore., for many years. They were married in Alexandria, Minn., and it was a great surprise to the parents when they walked in. Earl Baker, who lives near Pendleton, has spent a couple of weeks with his parents, but returned before the anniversary. Earl is employed at the head of Rush river, Wisconsin, Nov. 8, 1889 and Mrs. Baker was born two years later on the same day of the month. They lived five years in Minnesota before coming west. They were attracted to the locality because a brother of Mrs. Baker, John Van Schoonhoven, and his family, lived at Bear Station.

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