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La Grande Evening Observer

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Printed in La Grande
Covering Union and
Wallowa Counties

VOLUME 30

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LA GRANDE, OREGON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1931

EASTERN OREGON'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

NUMBER 105

AMOS HELMS DIES AFTER BRAVE FIGHT

State Policeman Succumbs
to Wound at 3:15
O'clock Wednesday.

**FUNERAL SERVICES
SATURDAY AT TWO**

Death of Mr. Helms Comes
After 73-Day Battle For
Life—Entire Commu-
nity Mourns.

Amos "Spud" Helms, member of the state police and a citizen of La Grande for eight years, until Aug. 1, when he moved to Baker because of official duties, died at about 3:15 o'clock Wednesday at the Grande hospital, after a 73-day battle for his life.

Wounded in the abdomen and wrist by a fusillade of shots fired from a car occupied by Keith Crosswhite and John Owens, of Springfield, Mo., on Sunday, Oct. 18, he underwent an almost immediate operation and since then has fought a valiant but losing fight against death. Other operations have been necessary since that October Sunday and numerous blood transfusions were performed as doctors endeavored to save his life.

He passed a restless night Tuesday, after three or four days of apparent improvement, and began sinking yesterday morning. At 2 o'clock, half an hour before the Observer went to press, he was in a critical condition and fears were expressed then that he would not survive the day. The end came only a little over an hour later.

Mrs. Helms, who came to La Grande the Sunday evening Mr. Helms was shot, was with her husband constantly throughout the long period of his final battle. Assisting him in every way possible also was every member of the state, federal, county and city law enforcement organizations, besides a large number of friends.

News of Mr. Helms' death spread like wildfire through La Grande late yesterday and a cloud of sadness overspread the community. Mr. Helms was one of the most popular men in La Grande and had a very wide circle of friends. He died eight years ago from Central Oregon and was employed in several different positions. He served as deputy sheriff for four years, then was employed by Perkins Motor company for three years, and then became a state traffic officer a year ago, going into the state police department during the summer when it was inaugurated.

(Continued on Page Five)

POLICE FORCE TO BE REDUCED ON JANUARY 1

A short session of the city commission was held last night with routine business occupying the attention of the three commissioners. City Manager Angus McCallister reported that effective tomorrow the police force would be reduced, at least temporarily, by the removal of the traffic officer's position. If necessary, he said, this will be restored later on. When the actual cut is made in the police force, seniority may govern the reduction, it was unofficially said today.

Cash on hand at the end of the week totaled \$32,196.22, divided as follows: La Grande National bank, \$22,292.68; U. S. National bank, \$8,744.07; cash, \$1160.07.

WEATHER FORECAST
Oregon: Occasional rains in the west and local snows today and tonight; Friday cloudy; rain in the extreme west portion; moderate temperature; moderate south breeze coming west winds offshore.

WEATHER TODAY
7 a. m.—23 above.
Minimum: 27 above.
Condition: Cloudy, windy.

WEATHER YESTERDAY
Maximum 33, minimum 25 above.
Condition: Cloudy, traces of snow, high winds, precipitation .02 of inch. Range—eight degrees.

WEATHER DEC. 31, 1930
Maximum 42, minimum 8 above.
Condition: Cloudy. Range—34 degrees.

New Year Will Be Greeted; No City Celebration

Arrival of 1932 Looked
Forward to Eagerly—
General Improvement
Expected in Year.

New Year's eve in La Grande is expected to be one of the quietest in years, with practically all celebration confined to small watch night parties. No community events are being staged this evening.

Most of the stores in La Grande will be closed throughout the day and the Observer will not issue a newspaper on Friday, today's issue being the last until Saturday afternoon.

The majority of La Grande and Union county residents were looking forward eagerly to the new year, hopeful that conditions in general would show a marked improvement before another 12-month period rolls around. In many ways 1931 has not been so bad in this community, although the lumbering industry and wheat markets suffered serious setbacks, although with difficulties experienced in some other industries.

Unemployment is being taken care of locally with few families in the county not receiving support through some source or other.

Presence of a considerable quantity of snow in the mountains with only half of the winter season over, already is leading farmers to anticipate a good crop year in 1932, and hopes are running high that prices will show an increase during the summer and fall months.

Five Dead, Three Dying Today In Wake of Storm

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 31 (AP)—Five persons dead, three dying and less seriously injured were counted today in the trail of last night's tornado that tore through Simpson and Covington counties, Mississippi. A survey of the storm's path through the isolated communities revealed dozens of demolished homes and heavy livestock losses.

Two of the dead persons were white. They were:
Mrs. Anne Everett, 25, crushed to death as she held an infant in her arms when her home three miles southwest of Magee was demolished. The child was unhurt.

Paul Brown, two-year-old son of Wilbur Brown, Magee farmer, killed in the collapse of the family home. The other dead were negroes, one a child.

Tahoe Tavern Is Isolated; Help Now On the Way

TAHOE TAVERN, Cal., Dec. 31 (AP)—Without medical aid and with no food other than canned goods, residents of this section were sorely distressed today as they sought to hold out against the severe cold and heavy snow until aid arrives from Truckee, 16 miles away. A single telephone wire affords the only means of communication with the outside world.

3-Year Moratorium On Reclamation Favored At Meet

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 31 (AP)—Representatives of western reclamation projects, meeting here Tuesday, decided to favor a moratorium of a three year moratorium on payments, such as was favored by the first meeting of the western representatives at Boise, Idaho, Oct. 27 and 28, and provided in a bill introduced by Senator John Thomas of Idaho.

The plan advocated instead a three year moratorium on payments, such as was favored by the first meeting of the western representatives at Boise, Idaho, Oct. 27 and 28, and provided in a bill introduced by Senator John Thomas of Idaho.

Stocks End Year With Small Gain

NEW YORK, Dec. 31 (AP)—Stocks ended the final session of 1931 with a small average net gain today, thus departing from the traditional sharp upturn which usually marks the passing of an old year. A few issues were slightly lower.

Contrary to custom, the market was very quiet late. Earlier gains of a point or so were reduced or eliminated by last-minute profit-taking. Sales approximated 1,500,000 shares.

PROSECUTION OF BANDITS WILL BEGIN

First Degree Murder
Charges to Be Pre-
ferred Against Two

**EXPECT NO DELAY
OFFICERS STATE**

Keith Crosswhite and
John Owens, Slayers of
Amos Helms, Notified
of Death Today.

Keith Crosswhite and John Owens, Springfield, Mo. bandits who Oct. 18 fired the shots that resulted in the death yesterday of Amos "Spud" Helms, state policeman, will face first degree murder charges as quickly as legal action can be set into motion.

This is the statement made by District Attorney Carl Helm. The grand jury probably will be called into a special session to consider the case, and officers regard it as a foregone conclusion that indictments charging first degree murder will be returned against the two Missourians. After that, the progress of the prosecution is expected to move ahead as rapidly as possible.

On Way to Portland
Circuit Judge J. W. Knowles is reported to be en route to Portland at

(Continued on Page Eight)

BAND DONATIONS UP TO \$624.65

Drive Gradually Nearing
Halfway Mark—Mini-
mum of \$1500 Needed.

The campaign for \$1500 to insure continuance of the La Grande band during 1932 was gradually nearing the halfway mark today, with workers expecting a marked gain after the first of January, when monthly pay checks are distributed. Today at noon the figure stood at \$624.65, a gain of \$167.15 in the last 24 hours.

Largest of the recent contributors was the Eastern Oregon Light and Power company, which gave \$60 to the fund, it was announced.

Additional contributions were received from the following:
Margaret Amson, C. W. Chandler, Mrs. D. A. Hansen, Snodgrass and Zimmerman, Mrs. E. D. Johnson, Charles Norby, G. E. Reavie, H. H. Taylor, Mrs. H. E. Taylor, L. M. Fry.

(Continued on Page Eight)

Chinese Pheasant Hens Invade City During Wind Storm

Apparently lost in the storm which swept over La Grande yesterday, two Chinese pheasant hens invaded the business district about 2:30 o'clock. Although they apparently were at first unaware of the dangers they ran, it wasn't long before citizens began chasing them. One of the birds was seen to escape to a nearby house, where it was seen again. The two were seen near the Sacramento Inn and one of the men from the barber shop gave chase. The birds separated, one flying toward the police station, and the other disappearing also.

Mrs. Culbertson Peaved And Her Side Gains 3900 Points in Play!

By Tom O'Neill
NEW YORK, Dec. 31 (AP)—In a rage, as she expressed it, for the first time during the match, Mrs. Ely Culbertson had a large share in the contract bridge match to be greater than ever today.

She and her husband won five of eight rubbers played at the sixteenth session ending early today after a turbulent session before a card was dealt.

The plus of the Culbertsons total increased 3900 to the total of 20,220. The total points became 107,385 for Culbertson and 87,165 for Lenz. The rubbers 68 for Culbertson and 52 for Lenz. There are 30 rubbers left to play in the 150-rubber match. In the opinion of neutral experts, it is impossible for Lenz to catch up. Mrs. Culbertson's anger was due

Fall Appointed On Strength Of False Telegram

So Says Harry M. Daugherty in His Book "The Inside Story of the Harding Tragedy."

NEW YORK, Dec. 31 (AP)—The World-Telegram said today that former Attorney General Harry M. Daugherty, in his book "The Inside Story of the Harding Tragedy," accuses Albert B. Fall, former secretary of the interior, of securing his appointment through a forged telegram.

The following quotation from the book, which will be published in two or three weeks, was printed:
"A. B. Fall and I could never have been chums in any political enterprise. I think at the last moment President Harding began to feel the unspoken antagonism between us and hesitated to make the appointment."

Fall Meets Crisis
"Fall met the crisis in his usual bull-headed fashion. He sent Harding an urgent telegram asking his immediate appointment and signed my name to it without phoning me, wiring me or in any way hinting his purpose. This message he boldly charged to A. B. Fall."

"The appointment was made and the mine laid for an explosion about to shake the nation."
Daugherty, who collaborated with Thomas Dixon, author, in writing the book, gives his version of virtually every scandal that was stirred up after Harding's death, and answers each accusation.

"Negro Blood" Story Denied
He denies the story of negro blood in the Harding family as entirely false and traces the origin of the story, the World-Telegram said, to a name-calling spat between school children 75 years ago, which wound up with one group referring to the president's ancestors, then youngsters, as coming from negro parentage.

Daugherty calls Gaston B. Means' book "The Strange Death of President Harding," a "colossal hoax," and declares a record of all persons entering and leaving the White House.

(Continued on Page Eight)

LANSING WILL ATTEND RITES FOR MR. HELMS

SALEM, Dec. 31 (AP)—The death of Amos Helms, state policeman, from the effect of gun shot wounds received while attempting to arrest Keith Crosswhite and John Owens, wanted in Idaho for burglary, will result in first degree murder charges filed against the two men, George Alexander, assistant superintendent of police, said today. Helms died late yesterday, two and half months after he was shot.

Lieutenant Walter Lansing, of Salem, who has known the deceased officer for some time, will represent the headquarters department at the funeral. Superintendent Charles P. Pray announced.

Helms' death is the first fatality in the state police department since its organization last August, Pray said. He had been a member of the state traffic division a year before he became a member of the state organization at its inception. His performance in the office was lauded by Pray.

Captain Noe, of the La Grande division of state police, was with Helms when he was shot in the performance of his duty.

No 7-Cent Carfare For Portland, Ore.

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 31 (AP)—Hopes of a 7-cent car-fare for Portland went glimmering today when Judge Oliver P. Coshow, who sat as master chancery in suit of the Pacific Northwest Public Service corporation against Charles M. Thomas, publisher of the Oregonian, and city of Portland, handed down his findings, ruling that Thomas' order for 7-cent fare was confiscatory, unlawful and in violation of the constitution of the United States.

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NEW YORK, Dec. 31 (AP)—In a rage, as she expressed it, for the first time during the match, Mrs. Ely Culbertson had a large share in the contract bridge match to be greater than ever today.

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(Continued on Page Eight)

DRIFTS CLOG HIGHWAY TO PENDLETON

Snowplows Helpless as
Storm Continues Over
the Blue Mountains.

**OTHER HIGHWAYS
OPEN TO TRAVEL**

Airmail Service Interrupt-
ed—One Plane Forced
Down in La Grande on
Wednesday.

At noon today the Observer was informed that the road from here to Pendleton had been opened sufficiently to permit passenger cars with chains to go through. Travel was not able as yet for trucks.

Although the temperature was normal, high winds, assuming the strength of a blizzard in some sections, continued to sweep over Eastern Oregon this morning, effectively blocking the Old Oregon Trail highway between La Grande and Pendleton and making travel hazardous on some stretches, although all other roads out of La Grande were reported as passable.

Seven snowplows were at work in the Blue mountains yesterday in an attempt to open up the road, and five continued on the job this morning. By the middle of the morning, with the storm unabated, highway officials declared that it was impossible for the snowplows to clear the highway until the blizzard came to an end. "It is a question of the elements," the engineer at division headquarters said here today. "Until the storm lessens, we are unable to make any progress."

Heavy Drifts Formed
During the night the wind drifted snow many feet deep over some parts of the Blue mountain section of the Oregon Trail and all traffic between La Grande and Pendleton was stopped.

Between La Grande and Elgin and between Haines and North Powder the travel is somewhat hazardous, it is reported, but traffic is going through both places.

The snow storm forced A. Warner, pilot of the airmail plane which flies between Boise and Pasco, to land yesterday in a field about one mile east of Hot Lake on the Davis ranch. His plane was undamaged, according to the report from the government emergency field.

Pilot Warner had been unable to leave at noon today.

Airmail service had been curtailed

(Continued on Page Four)

Rate Petitions Granted Today By Commissioner

SALEM, Dec. 31 (AP)—The public utilities commissioner today announced granting petitions of Oregon rail carriers for increased freight rates on certain commodities in conformity with the interstate commerce commission's decision in the 15 per cent rate increase case. Commissioner Charles M. Thomas ordered the same tariffs increase as ordered by the federal commission.

While the 15 per cent increase was denied, the federal commission permitted an increase in certain commodities from 6 cents a carload up to 1 cent per hundred weight. These increases become effective January 4, 1932. They now become applicable in Oregon.

The greater increase will be borne by citrus fruits, melons, cabbages, onions, tomatoes, fresh vegetables and dried fruits, which rates have been increased one cent per hundred weight. A 12 cent rate per ton will affect lumber, posts, piling and poles, lath and shingles and box materials, while a six cent per ton increase will affect the following:

Income Tax Blanks To Be Mailed Soon

PORTLAND, Dec. 31 (AP)—That any increase which may be voted on federal income taxes will not be retroactive as to salaries of 1931, was indicated here today by a wire release received by Clyde Huntley, district internal revenue collector, authorizing tax blanks to be sent to those in the district who paid taxes in 1930.

Approximately 40,000 blanks will be placed in the mail Monday. The tax rate will be the same as in 1930, from 1½ to 5 per cent on incomes of over \$3500 for married persons, and \$1500 for single persons.

"Sort of Mayor"



Herbert Hoover, president of the United States, told 500 newsmen in Washington yesterday that he was "a sort of mayor in this part of the country and if you boys don't have a good time here let me know." He is a "sort of mayor" inasmuch as he is head of the government not only of all America but of the District of Columbia as well.

FEDERAL AGENTS SEEK BOMBERS

More Than 100 Questioned
Following Easton, Pa.
Post Office Tragedy.

EASTON, Pa., Dec. 31 (AP)—Federal agents today sought clues to the senders of three packages containing explosives which resulted in the death of two postal clerks and the injuring of three others when the parcels exploded in the post office here yesterday.

Explosion of three of seven packages mailed by two men yesterday in what investigators suspected was an anti-fascist plot also seriously injured three other postal clerks and a county detective. A fourth package was opened without exploding, while three others lay guarded in a quarry near here, unopened.

Although the addresses on the packages were misapprehended, authorities said they believed the bombs were intended for prominent Italian-Americans in Pittsburgh, New York and Baltimore. One of the bombs which exploded, was addressed to the Italian consulate in Pittsburgh, and a second to the Argentine consulate in Baltimore.

100 questioned

More than 100 persons, questioned by post office inspectors from Washington, Philadelphia, New York and Pittsburgh, a detail from the New

(Continued on Page Eight)

GOVERNOR TO RETURN HOME ON SATURDAY

SALEM, Dec. 30 (AP)—The administration of Governor Willard L. Marks will come to a close Saturday morning. The president of the senate, who has served as executive during the past month in the absence of Governor Julius L. Meier, from Oregon, said he would put in his final day at the capitol today.

Governor Meier will leave San Francisco on the Cascade train of the Southern Pacific, his office here announced, arriving in the state Saturday morning and at Portland in the evening. He will return to Salem on the following Monday.

The governor left Portland Dec. 6, and Marks has been serving as executive since that time. Marks today said he had enjoyed the job, but was getting somewhat tired of stage-riding. He commutes from his home in Albany daily.

The executive office, as others will be closed on New Year's day, Friday.

SALEM, Dec. 31 (AP)—The executive office here today sent telegrams of congratulations to Governor Julius L. Meier on his 57th birthday. The governor was celebrating his birthday in San Francisco.

Two Sentenced To Year in Prison

WEBSTER, S. D., Dec. 31 (AP)—James Martin, 23, of St. Louis, and Ernest Klatt, 24, of Klamath Falls, Ore., yesterday were sentenced to a year each in the state penitentiary for the robbery of a store at Andover Monday. The men pleaded guilty to third degree burglary. Police said both recently had been released from Nebraska and Missouri prisons.

Finland Votes For Repeal Of Prohibition Law

Heavy Majority Counted
in Helsingfors—Report
From Rural Constitu-
encies Received.

LONDON, Dec. 31 (AP)—A Reuter's dispatch from Helsingfors said today that the vote in 88 rural constituencies of Finland in the prohibition referendum showed 78,953 for repeal, 18,858 for maintenance of the present law, and 905 for modification, giving the wet a majority of 59,100 in those districts.

By Louis P. Lochner

HELSINGFORS, Finland, Dec. 31 (AP)—With 57 per cent of the local votes counted in the prohibition referendum, Helsingfors has gone so surprisingly and overwhelmingly wet that this afternoon's editions of anti-prohibition newspapers talked about a "national front" against the dry laws.

At 4 p. m. the returns showed that out of 132,730 votes, or 57 per cent of the entire city electorate, 83 per cent voted for repeal of the prohibition laws.

Continuance of the present laws was supported by 12,910 voters, or 12.2 per cent. Only 659 ballots were cast for modification to permit light wines and beer.

The vote in the capital does not determine the national outcome, but supporters of repeal were confident that their large vote here was an indication of how the rest of the Finnish cities would go, and their prediction was that the prohibition laws are doomed.

His plan, it was understood, provides that there shall be no private business in alcoholic potables but that every department of the government. Each citizen would be entitled to a ration card fixing the amount he is permitted to purchase. No returns were available outside of Helsingfors.

Earthquake Jars West Washington At 7:25 Today

SEATTLE, Dec. 31 (AP)—A slight earthquake jarred Western Washington today. No serious damage has been reported. At Lillwau, on Hood canal, it cracked the concrete wall of a new store building. Although there has never been a serious quake recorded in this state Dean Henry Landes of the University of Washington college of science, said slight tremors are not unusual and occur about two or three times a year.

Reports of the shock were received from Bremerton, Port Orchard and Silverdale, across Puget Sound, 15 to 20 miles from here, and at Longview, in Southwest Washington. It stopped a man's watch in the university district here and was felt distinctly in West Seattle.

Plates were rattled, pictures tilted and doors swung throughout Seattle. Dean Landes said the tremor was "purely local" and probably would not be recorded on the university seismograph, set for distant recording. Meanwhile the seismograph operator is "on vacation" and his apparatus locked up.

Returning Alleged Slayer to Oregon

DENVER, Dec. 31 (AP)—Sheriff R. G. Jennings of Medford, Ore., left today with Albert W. Reed, who is to be returned to Oregon to face a charge of slaying an Ashland police officer last month.

Reed was arrested two weeks ago in Longmont, Colo. He waived extradition to Oregon.

Cauliflower From South Quarantined

SALEM, Dec. 31 (AP)—Three carloads of California cauliflower at Portland and another at Medford have been put under quarantine by the state department of agriculture, and will either be destroyed or shipped out of the state, Max Gehlbach, director, announced today. Inspectors announced the cauliflowers were shipped from areas infected with vegetable weevil.

The quarantine against vegetables from infected areas was established last July.

BAKER LEADS STATE
CORVALLIS, Dec. 31 (AP)—The Baker Cow Testing association, for the first time in more than a year, led all other members of the Oregon Herd Improvement association in butterfat production for November, according to the monthly summary of reports of the 16 associations, announced today by R. W. Morse, extension dairyman at Oregon State college.

The Baker association had 337 cows on test that averaged 586.5 pounds of milk and 26.3 pounds of fat. The Central Oregon association ranked second, the Yamhill-Washington group, third, and the Linu-Benton dairymen, fourth.

JAPANESE 15 MILES FROM CITY TODAY

Expected to Capture Chin-
chow Tomorrow to Cele-
brate New Year's.

**CHINESE EXPECT
TO DEFEND CITY**

American Ambassador to
Japan, W. C. Forbes,
Desires to Retire With-
in Next Two Months.

FORBES WOULD RETIRE
WASHINGTON, Dec. 31 (AP)—William Cameron Forbes, American ambassador to Japan, has notified the state department he desires to retire from the diplomatic service.
The ambassador said he was willing to remain at his post until the acute phase of the Manchurian crisis is over, but he wishes to leave within two months. He plans to return to private life.

By Glenn Hahs
MUKDEN, Manchuria, Dec. 31 (AP)—Japanese cavalry, advance guard of General Tamon's column, reached the banks of the Taling river tonight and were within 15 miles of Chin-chow.

There were no indications of serious Chinese resistance and it was believed the Japanese would celebrate the New Year by the occupation of the city, which has blocked their mastery of the whole of Manchuria for three months.

Japanese airmen reported there were strong indications of a whole-

(Continued on Page Five)

AWAIT ACTION OF ARBITER IN MILK WAR

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 31 (AP)—Distributors and producers in the Portland milk shed today awaited the decision of an arbiter as to what the price shall be in 1932. The current price is \$12.17½, but on Dec. 7 a wholesale price of \$2.28 a 100 pounds was established, to become effective Jan. 1.

Meanwhile the two factions have battled desperately over the price. Rabbi Henry J. Berkowitz is arbiter. Hearings conducted yesterday were continued today. Since the August milk war the distributors have been fighting for a price lower than the current \$12.17½. Producers, on the other hand, insist it costs them \$2.18 to deliver 4.1 per cent milk to the market.

Young Alpinists Jerked to Death

MILAN, Italy, Dec. 31 (AP)—Seven-year-old Vittorio and Claudio Cattaneo, two young Alpinists of this city, met a strange death on Orsina mountain when they slipped and fell 1100 feet.

At this point their rope caught on a protruding rock and jerked them to death. The bodies were found hanging against the side of the mountain wall. It will be days before they can be recovered.

Wheat Today

CHICAGO, Dec. 31 (AP)—Despite end-of-the-year settlements wheat prices today showed a general tendency to advance. The factor which stood out was uneasiness concerning reports apparently indicative of disturbed political conditions in Russia. On the other hand, German advances were at hand, saying Russian re-sellers were offering wheat at lower prices.

Wheat closed irregular at ½¢ to 1¼¢ decline for December but at ¾¢ to ¾¢ advance for other futures, corn unchanged to ½¢ to ¾