

# Nehalem City Is Flooded; One Resident Missing

La Grande Is The Gateway to Wallowa, "The Switzerland of America"

# La Grande Evening Observer

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# FURTHER FINDINGS IN COVE MURDER

## MYSTERY OF ALLEN MONEY IS UNSOLVED

Leslie Kirm, Alias Louis Stevens, Came Here to Rob J. A. Allen.

## NEVADA MAN GAVE STORY TO KIRM

Results of Recent Investigation by State Police Disclosed in La Grande Today.

What may be the closing episode of the murder of John A. Allen, aet Cove farmer in September, for which Louis Stevens is now serving a life term in the Oregon state penitentiary, was announced today by the state police. And again it may not be the closing episode—but it at least clears up some points that have been veiled in obscurity for some weeks.

After Stevens was sent to prison requests were made to the state police department in Salem, Ore., to continue investigations of the case—possibly because some people felt that Stevens may have had an accomplice. So the state police took up the investigation, and today state police stationed in La Grande made the findings public.

In a nutshell, these sensational disclosures were to the effect that Louis Stevens, 19, is in reality Leslie Kirm, who will be 21 years of age next month; that Kirm, alias Stevens, came here from Fallon, Nevada, purposely to rob Mr. Allen; that Stevens learned about the recluse from a man in Fallon who had previously robbed Mr. Allen and showed \$20 gold pieces to Stevens as proof; and that the mystery of what became of a large sum of money that Mr. Allen once had at his farm home still remains unsolved. Also, that state police are powerless to take action against the Nevada man who told this story to Kirm, because this man later repudiated his story when questioned by Oregon state police, and absolutely no proof exists upon which to base his arrest—that is, proof that would hold water in a jury trial.

If the Nevada man's story to Kirm—

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## The Story of Christmas



And the star which had beckoned to the Three Wise Men went before them as a guide and led them to the place where the Christ Child lay in the manger at the inn in Bethlehem of Judea.

## SHOPPING DAYS WITH CHRISTMAS

## SALE OF CHRISTMAS TREES ABOUT OVER

Youngsters around La Grande are making quite a bit of Christmas money these days, using the Yuletide season itself to return them some cash to buy presents.

Hardly a day has passed for the last two weeks but that several boys have invaded hills near La Grande, and returned later lugging one or more small fir trees, to be sold later for what they'll bring as Christmas trees.

During the weekend, scores of trees were brought out of the mountains, some of them by the man of the house who would rather select and cut his own tree. And throughout the city, brightly decorated Christmas trees have made their appearance.

## WILL ROGERS SAYS:

BEVERLY HILLS, Cal., Dec. 18— I see where Jesse Jones and his R. F. C. (redistribution finance corporation) are not satisfied with the way the banks are just sitting counting their money.

So, to make the banks ashamed of themselves the R. F. C. is going to make loans to industries.

The banks will about be so humiliated that they will be the first ones to borrow all that Jesse has. Jesse, you been a banker yourself, you ought to know you can't shame a banker, especially a big one. Yours,

Will Rogers  
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## HOLDUP MAN GETS \$20.00 LAST NIGHT

Robb Paul Bull on Spring Avenue; Makes Good Escape in Dark.

Paul Bull, proprietor of the Union Oil Co. service station at Henlock at Adams, was held up and robbed of \$20 at his home at the Walnut apartments on Spring avenue about 9 o'clock last night. A masked man accosted him just after he stepped from his car, and told him: "Stick 'em up or I'll blow out your brains." He then took the money and escaped.

Mr. Bull entered the house and with Philip Walnum, gave chase but the man had 400 yards of a head and disappeared. Officers were notified but search failed to reveal the man's whereabouts.

He wore a cap and a jumper which he discarded, the articles of clothing

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## 29 STUDENTS ON HONOR ROLL AT NORMAL SCHOOL

Twenty-nine students, 14 men and 15 women, have been named on the honor roll of the Eastern Oregon Normal school for the fall term. This distinction is based on the student having received no grade below B or A.

Honor students are as follows: Turner H. Bond, Haines; Alvin Bork, Island City; J. B. Conaway, Enterprise; Ethel Conklin, Union; Arline Conradt, La Grande; Donna Cook, Nyasa; Harry Dawson, Joseph; Elma Dunham, Pendleton; John W. Dunn, Halfway; Robert Eakin, La Grande; Barbara Ester, Pilot Rock; John K. Fisher, Cove; Ruth Gelbel, La Grande; Beverly Guy, Pendleton; Gladys Huston, Baker; Burke Inlow, La Grande; Don Johnson, La Grande; Wallace Kaapcke, La Grande; Nylig Lewis, La Grande; Ethel Maxon, Ontario; Arlo

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## ONE-ACT PLAY IS PRESENTED TODAY

When, unbeknown to each other, a journeyman printer is the day tenant and a journeyman hatter is the night tenant of one lodging, there is the device to pay when they discover each other. Such a situation is the

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## FIFTY MORE JOBS GIVEN ON C. W. A.

Brings Total in Union County to 357 — 26 Short of Quota.

## GLASS HILL ROAD WORK TO TAKE 42

Men Also Assigned to Library Project at Union and Work on North Powder School.

The number of Union county men either at work on or assigned to work on civil works projects this morning stood at a total of approximately 357. Fifty additional men were called at a meeting of the county board last night, all of whom will be at work by Friday morning.

The reason all the men are not going to work sooner is because of a shortage of tools, which the board is now purchasing.

This takes care of all but 26 of Union county's quota of 383, and approval of more projects by the state board in Portland is expected any hour.

Forty-two men were assigned to the Glass Hill project, two to the library at Union and six to the school at North Powder last night.

## Scouts Qualify For Awards At Court on Dec. 29

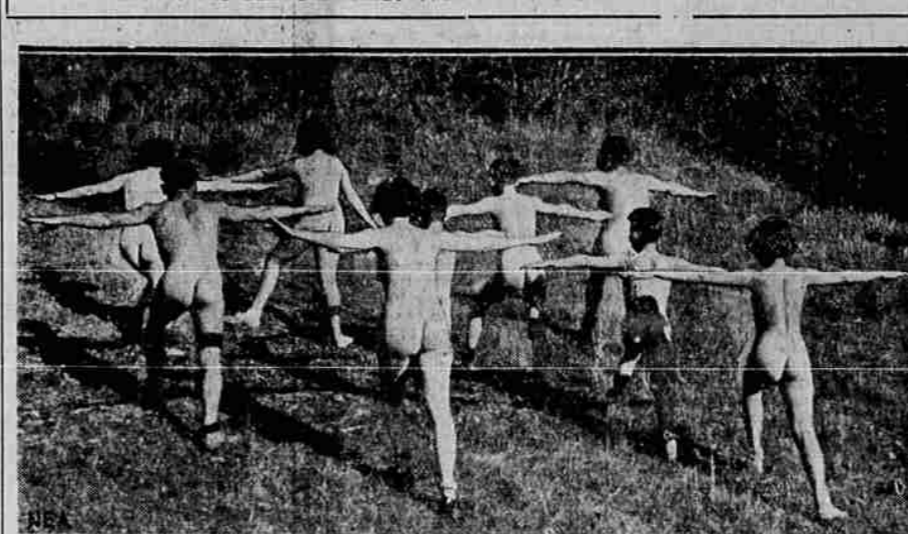
Rank and merit badge examinations were passed by Boy Scouts of Union and La Grande last night at a board of review held in the office of Charles H. Reynolds. The court of honor when they will be conferred will be held Friday evening, Dec. 29 at the High school.

The tenderfoot rank was passed by Glen Kelly, Robert Kelly, Kenneth Brady, Kenneth Planery, Jim White, Tom Robbs, Kenneth Shirley, Bernard Cleveland, Ray Pierson. Second class, Wayne Williamson, Harold Hess, Union. First class, John Koop, Ernest Woodell, Eugene Parlett, Merrill Rosenbaum, Claude Baker, Harry Carter, Bob Dow, John Ralston, John McManus, Dick Lottis.

Merit badges will be conferred as follows: cooking, John Koop, Leland Grapp, John Ralston, Dan Miller; personal health, Walter Salmann, Darrell Trowbridge, Melbourne Buck, Kenneth Lilly; lifesaving, Harry Cur-

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## HERE'S ANOTHER WAY TO JOIN THE N. R. A.



This is a NRA group—all members of Nature's Recreative Association—conducting a back-to-nature colony near Clear lake, California. And setting-up exercises are part of the program for beginning the day.

## U. S. LABOR BOARD IS STRENGTHENED BY F. R. DEFINITION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)— In the light of the controversy between the national labor board and the Welton Steel company, and contemplating legal battles to come, President Roosevelt today by order defined the authority of that board to strengthen its hand.

"All action heretofore taken by this board," the brief document said, "is hereby approved and ratified."

Assistant Secretary of Commerce John Dickinson today opposed before the house ways and means committee his proposal to abolish foreign tax credits in the new revenue bill.

Asserting the proposition "amounts to double taxation," Dickinson said the proposed repeal of the foreign tax credit allowance "reverses the policy against double taxation from which we have been away since 1918."

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## NO PRACTICE DURING WEEK

There will be no practice of the American Legion drum and bugle corps this week, because of the holiday season, it was announced today.

## The Question Is—Who Will Eat Those Puddings?

Women of the Episcopal church worked for two days baking tasty Christmas plum puddings, 29 in number, for a Christmas sale.

Then last night, Mrs. Guy Ellis, with the puddings in her car, was preparing to deliver them. She stopped at her home and went inside for a moment, and when she came back the "cupboard was bare"—the car was empty!

Someone stole not only the 20 plum puddings, but the utensils in which they were contained.

Today the women were uncertain about their future course.

## SAM INSULL WILL GO TO BRITAIN NEXT

Dethroned American Utilities Czar Plans Newest Move.

ATHENS, Greece, Dec. 19 (AP)— Samuel Insull, dethroned American utilities czar, plans to go to England when his police residence permit in this country expires January 31, it was reported here today.

Local British authorities, informed of the report, said if Mr. Insull applied no visa would be granted him until instructions were received from London.

The 47-year-old fugitive has been remaining in bed most of the time since he was informed he would have to leave Greece.

Originally, he was told his departure would be expected when his permit would regularly have expired, December 31. On his formal application, an extension was granted to January 31.

Insull was indicted while he was in Paris in the autumn of 1932. He fled to Italy and went later to Athens as American agents sought his arrest and return.

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## FARM CROP VALUE IS FOUR BILLIONS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)—This year's farm crops were valued by the department of agriculture in its final report of the year at \$4,076,537,000. Revised figures gave the value of the 1932 crop as \$2,879,517,000, and that of 1931 as \$4,102,354,000.

The figures were based on farm value as of December 1 for most crops, but on seasonal averages for crops already marketed. The production this year and the farm value of the principal individual crops were announced as follows:

Corn, production 2,330,237,000 bushels, and farm value, \$917,005,000. All wheat, 527,413,000 bushels and \$357,525,000. Winter wheat, 351,030,000 bushels and \$250,901,000. All spring wheat, 176,383,000 bushels and \$106,624,000. Durum wheat 16,100,000 bushels and \$10,133,000. Other wheat, 160,274,000 bushels and \$86,791,000. Oats 722,485,000 bushels and \$219,520,000. Barley, 150,104,000 bushels and \$63,486,000. Rye, 21,184,000 bushels and \$11,737,000.

## Wheat Today

The price of local cash wheat stood at about 50 1/2 cents bulk today, according to quotations at the Pioneer Flouring Mills, Portland cash 68 cents.

CHICAGO, Dec. 19 (AP)— Notable steadiness characterized the grain markets late today, with advances indicating that rains southwest had failed to penetrate wheat areas where moisture was most needed.

A cargo of wheat from the Pacific coast of the United States was reported sold to Ireland, making 8,500,000 bushels disposed of abroad since the United States emergency export association started operations.

Wheat closed mixed 1/8c off to 1/4c up compared with yesterday's finish, corn unchanged to 1/4c higher, oats at 1/2c decline to 1/4c advance, and provisions unchanged to 7c down.

## JUST BEFORE PRESSTIME

- ALLOW WAGE REDUCTION
- MORE TROUBLE IN HAVANA
- ROAD FUNDS SURVEYED
- LINDBERGH IN NEW YORK

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 19 (AP)— A reduction of from 40 to 30 cents an hour in wages paid women workers was approved today by the national control committee of the lumber industry. NRA code authority on appeal of the Pacific vessel package subdivision of the industry.

HAVANA, Dec. 19 (AP)— Shooting broke out near the presidential palace in Havana shortly after noon today as gangs of negroes armed with sticks roamed the streets, forcing shops which had closed to open.

SALEM, Dec. 19 (AP)— Funds now in sight for construction and reconstruction work on Oregon state highways will be depleted October 1, 1934, highway department officials announced today. Unless further federal funds are appropriated, the 1934 road building program in Oregon will be at a standstill at that time.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (AP)— Colonel and Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh, finishing a dramatic 28,000-mile journey over much of the globe, came home today to hang the baby's stocking up for Christmas. They alighted at Glenn Curtiss airport, near College Point, Queens, at 2:38 p. m. eastern standard time.

SALEM, Dec. 19 (AP)— Judgment of Howard H. Hansen, supervisor of banking for the state of Washington, against Laura Harris of Umatilla county, Oregon, for the collection of \$1,000 due on double liability assessment of the defunct People's State bank of Walla Walla, was upheld by the Oregon supreme court today.

## LAUNCH ATTACK ON SALES TAX; PETITION FILED

SALEM, Dec. 19 (AP)— A state-wide campaign against the sales tax swung into full stride today.

Attorney General I. H. Van Winkle was preparing a ballot title for the measure, preliminary referendum petitions having been filed late yesterday.

The petitions may be circulated as soon as the ballot title is handed down. If completed petitions are filed before March 8, the sales tax will be placed on the ballot at the May primary election.

The legislature, in special session, passed the sales tax for school relief. Unless reformed, the sales tax would yield the first revenue in April and bring monthly returns thereafter, tax commission members stated.

Ray W. Gill, master of the state grange, and Dr. A. Slaughter of Portland signed the preliminary referendum petition.

The following organizations endorsed the referendum: Oregon State Grange, by Ray W.

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## CHRISTMAS TRADE SHOWS GOOD GAIN

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (AP)— Christmas trade for the first 15 days of December showed an average increase of 18 per cent over the corresponding period a year ago, a survey of the nation's leading department stores by the National Retail Dry Goods association shows.

The association reported today that in almost every day Christmas buying was proceeding "at an accelerated and highly encouraging rate."

The average 18 per cent gain, the association said, compares with a two per cent increase over a year ago in department store sales during November, as reported by the federal reserve system.

## COAST STILL IN GRIP OF WIND STORM

Fresh Gales Come Down From North in Seattle Today.

## DIMINISHING WINDS PROMISED, HOWEVER

Transportation and Communication in Oregon Are Checking Loss and Damage.

ASTORIA, Ore., Dec. 19 (AP)—Reports from Nehalem City, a small community near Seaside, said today most of the buildings there were flooded, that one man was missing and perhaps drowned, and that there had been considerable loss of stock in the Tideland section, the result of terrific downpours and flooding creeks. Glenn Wolf, a Tideland farmer, was reported missing, and searching parties were seeking for him in boats.

SEATTLE, Dec. 19 (AP)— Fresh gales howled down from the north today, persistently hounding shipping to cover, harrying workers who toiled to restore communications in the flooded coast cities, and pelting inundated lowlands until they became a health menace.

New storm warnings were broken out by the Seattle weather bureau in sales of wind rain and sleet that ranged from 45 to 80 miles an hour and sent heavy seas crashing on coasts that had seen four ships disabled and countless small craft shattered. Only two lives had been lost.

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 19 (AP)— Diminishing winds and respite from the torrential rains which poured down on Northwestern Oregon, were promised by the weather bureau here today. Transportation, communication and highway officials began an immediate survey of loss and damage. Some coast cities and towns remained cut off from communication with Portland.

The Willamette river at Salem rose 7.4 feet in 24 hours to a stage of 14 feet, and 2.5 feet at Portland to a state of 13.2 feet. The Columbia was reported falling at Umatilla. The Cowlitz river in Washington, which

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## Survey of Rural Homes Planned; Use C.W.A. Funds

CORVALLIS, Ore., Dec. 19 (AP)— Fifty skilled unemployed persons, mostly women, will be hired soon to make a quick survey on 6,000 rural home buildings on Oregon farms for the accumulation of accurate data for the government.

The announcement was made by Paul V. Maris, director of the Oregon State college extension service, and CWA funds will be used in the work which will be started as soon as the extension service receives the money. Miss Charibel Nye, state leader of home economics extension, has been selected as chairman for the Oregon survey.

The national survey expects to develop accurate information on a representative ten per cent of the farm homes in each state.

## Armistice Begins At Midnight Tonight

GENEVA, Dec. 19 (AP)— The league of nations was informed officially today that Paraguay and Bolivia had accepted terms for an armistice to begin at midnight.

The league was informed representatives of the two countries engaged in the long Gran Chaco warfare would meet soon at Montevideo to negotiate conditions of peace and security.

## Brave Pilot Wilted When He Met F. R.

ST. PAUL, Dec. 19 (AP)— The hazard of flying cannot frighten Mal Freeburg, Northwestern Airways pilot, but meeting the president of the United States "nearly scared him to death." Freeburg went to Washington where President Roosevelt presented to him a medal for "distinguished service as an airmail pilot." The medal was awarded for his heroism in bringing to a safe landing his tri-motored plane carrying mail and eight passengers after dislodging and dropping

