

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

La Grande Evening Observer

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OREGON FLOOD DANGER LESSENER

CITY AWAITS ARRIVAL OF CHRISTMAS

Last-Minute Shopping Under Way Today — Merchants Are Busy

PROGRAMS PLANNED FOR THE WEEKEND

Elks Christmas Tree Monday Morning — Lions and Firemen Distributing Toys.

Last-minute preparations for Christmas were under way throughout the city today, and merchants were doing a thriving business in gift goods and foods.

The Elks, with their purchase of clothing for needy school children pretty well taken care of, were concentrating on preparations for the Christmas morning party for the kiddies at the tree at Depot and Washington, when Santa will give out candies and nuts.

Some church programs also are scheduled for Christmas day, but most of them will be held tonight and Sunday.

Today the Lions and the city firemen began their weekend task of distributing toys and dolls to some 300 needy children in the La Grande district.

Sunday, also, will have its share of events besides the church programs. There will be a community carol singing and program at the La Grande hotel from 4:30 to 5:30.

(Continued on Page Two)

Move Into New Offices In The Foley Building

The civil works committee and the national re-employment service in Union county are moving into new quarters today, and are expected to be settled by tonight.

The county relief committee headquarters will remain at the court house.

Those in charge of the C. W. A. and re-employment organizations feel that the downtown location will be much more advantageous to the program.

JUNE STALCUP LEASES PLANT

The Associated Oil company distribution plant here has been leased by June Stalcup, well known local man. The lease is effective now, and Mr. Stalcup has begun operations.

WANTED CHRISTMAS IN APRIL OR MAY

Did you know that if some early people had of had their way, Christmas might have been observed in April or May?

It has an interesting history. Quoting from one of the modern authorities:

"Christmas, the festival of the Nativity of Christ, is observed by the Christian church annually on Dec. 25. Augustine considered the festivals, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Ascension Day, and Whitenside, as the only festivals which had an Apostolic origin and the sanction of a general council. Christmas he deemed to be of later origin and of lesser authority."

When the first efforts were made to fix the period of the year when the advent took place, there were, it is learned from Clement of Alexandria,

WILL ROGERS says:

BEVERLY HILLS, Cal., Dec. 23—There is really not much new under the sun. Thirty-seven years ago a long-haired young man came riding a day coach out of the west and said something about "you can't crucify us on a cross of gold, we want the wreath on our law to be studded with about 16 silver ducats to one gold doubloon."

In the meantime, silver was used as the sole medium of exchange by over three-quarters of the earth's population. With us it was a money but never official. It just had a slot machine value, so lying under Arlington's hallowed soil tonight must be a satisfied smile for it's something to be 37 years ahead of your government. Yours,

Will Rogers

IMPROVEMENT AT HOT LAKE PLAN OF DR. GREGORY

Announcement was made today by Dr. J. B. Gregory, formerly of Wallowa, who has leased the Hot Lake sanatorium, concerning various improvements planned for the institution.

Dr. Gregory will make his residence at the lake, where he also will have his office.

L. F. Allen, of Wallowa, will have charge of a modern drug store to be located at the sanatorium. Extensive

(Continued on Page Four)

'TWELFTH NIGHT' STAGED AT L. H. S.

"Twelfth Night," a program of dancing, drama, and music, was presented by the La Grande High School senior class under the direction of Miss Bessie Pettigrew yesterday afternoon before a large group of students and townspeople.

(Continued on Page Four)

PROGRAM WILL BE EVENT OF SUNDAY

The Presbyterian church choir will present a Christmas musical program Sunday evening beginning at 7:30 o'clock in the auditorium of the church, the program designed to carry the message of Christ to those attending.

The program follows: Organ "Andante Cantabile" (from Symphony No. 5) Miss Gladys Miller Professional "Come All Ye Faithful" (Candle Service) The Choir

(Continued on Page Four)

Buttercups In Bloom—Damerell Picks Blossoms

Some say you can't fool Mother Nature about the time of year. If that is so, it must be that spring is here!

Anyway, Claude Damerell picked some buttercups in full bloom on the hill south of La Grande on Thursday, and has been showing them to his friends as proof.

Senior Missing at Dartmouth

Handicapped by lack of a crew, police were conducting an intensive search for Clarence L. Marks Jr. (above), of Philadelphia, Dartmouth senior, who vanished from his dormitory in Hanover, N. H.

A paper was found in his room declaring that every young man should sever relations with family and friends and rub shoulders with the working man.

(Continued on Page Five)

284 C. W. A. WORKERS ARE PAID \$4374

Christmas cheer in dollars and cents were served out to 284 men at the civil works disbursing office here today.

The C. W. A. payroll for this county for the week ending Thursday night amounted to \$4374.35, with project No. 8 still unreported.

Many of those receiving checks today were put to work during the last week and it represented their first money in many months. It was a real Christmas present!

Approximately 355 men are at work on the C. W. A. projects now, but those not on the payroll today included many who went to work Friday and will not receive their checks until next Saturday.

This included \$2 on the Glass Hill project, which was started yesterday.

Union county's quota of civil workers has been set at 383 and it is expected that all of these will be

(Continued on Page Four)

FAY REFUELS PLANE HERE

A passenger plane, piloted by Howard Fay, landed at the airport this morning for gasoline.

C. M. Wright brought the passengers to La Grande where they spent about a half an hour before continuing on to the west.

CANTATA WILL BE SUNDAY EVENING

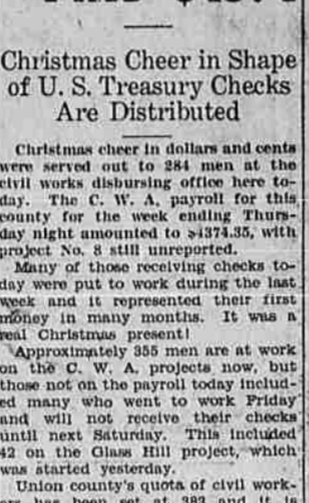
A Christmas cantata, "The Christmas Adoration," by Carrie B. Adams, will be sung at the First M. E. church beginning at 8 o'clock Sunday evening by the Chorus choir.

The program and soloists follow: "Angels from the Realms of Glory" Choir "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Women's Chorus "While Shepherds Watched" Choir "Sing, Oh, Sing This Blessed Morn"

Trio Mrs. Sherwood Williams, soprano; Mrs. Thomas McGuire, alto; Sherwood Williams, tenor. "Hark! The Glad Sound" Choir "Joy to the World" Soprano solo and choir Mrs. Ray Fuller, soprano "All Praise to the Eternal Lord" Choir "The Shepherd" Tenor solo Sherwood Williams, tenor

(Continued on Page Five)

New Cruiser Astoria Launched



Named in honor of Astoria, Ore.—pioneer Pacific coast seaport—the 18th of Uncle Sam's new 10,000-ton cruisers, U. S. S. Astoria, was launched at Bremerton, Wash., today. The vessel is expected to be commissioned May 1.

HOLDING COMPANY EXPENDITURES OF \$23,353 REJECTED

SALEM, Dec. 23 (AP)—Expenditures of \$23,353 as holding company fees were rejected by the public utilities commissioner today under the budget law.

He held these expenditures imprudent and unwise. The companies affected by the order include:

The West Coast Power company, \$4,610, as fee to the Peoples Light and Power corporation of New York. The operating company serves the Oregon coast cities.

The Natural Gas corporation, serving Bend, Coquille, Cottage Grove, Klamath Falls, La Grande and The Dalles, \$5,050 to the Pacific Public Service company of San Francisco.

The Malheur Home Telephone company, serving Ontario and Nyssa, \$400 as holding company fees to the Mountain States Telephone company of Boise.

The Eastern Oregon Light and Power company, which serves Baker and La Grande and vicinity, \$4,920 as fee to the Columbia Construction company of Milwaukee.

The Hermiston Light and Power

(Continued on Page Five)

RE-OPENING HIGHWAYS IN STATE TODAY

Closed Roads Again Passable—Coast Highway Is Still Blocked

SALEM, Dec. 23 (AP)—Closed roads were being opened today in many flooded sections of the state. R. H. Baldoek, state highway engineer announced.

The east side Pacific highway is open all the way from Portland south. The Santiam river receded at Jefferson where yesterday it flooded the highway.

The west side highway was passable by way of detour at Tigard, near Portland.

One-way traffic was restored on the lower Columbia River highway, though tourists were warned to drive carefully. The upper Columbia River highway will be opened tonight, it was announced.

The coast highway is still blocked at Wheeler and there is no detour. A detour was opened on the Mt. Hood highway which was closed near Parkdale.

More than a score of houses along Pringle creek in southeast Salem were flooded on the ground floor today, but the waters were receding slowly. Overflows from creeks and gulches ran from six to 18 inches deep in several Salem streets of the section.

(Continued on Page Two)

PRAYER NEEDED POPE PIUS SAYS

VATICAN CITY, Dec. 23 (AP)—Pope Pius today told a world entering the Christmas season that prayer is necessary in the present international situation.

"That is the world of the church, said his holiness, in this moment "so filled with contrasts—negotiations and refusals to negotiate—conflicts and contradictions."

He said all other advice derived today from human foresight, precautions, efforts at negotiations, and even generosity "seems to us to be really unhelpful."

(Continued on Page Two)

Wheat Today

Chicago and Portland wheat markets were closed today because of the holiday weekend.

WINNIPEG, Dec. 23 (AP)—Wheat prices were or less charted their own course today as the Christmas feeling pervaded the pit and trading thinned to slim proportions. Meager export buying met with no opposition, in the shape of offerings and values advanced to 3/4¢ higher at the close.

Final prices were close to the high points. December wheat closed at 61 1/2¢, May at 61 1/2¢, and July at 65 1/2¢.

JUST BEFORE PRESSTIME

SWITZ CHARGES FRAME-UP

COLD HITS MONTANA TODAY

FILES \$225,000 SUIT

ALLEGED EXTORTIONIST HELD

PARIS, Dec. 23 (AP)—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gordon Switz, Americans held by French police on espionage charges, flatly declared themselves victims of a police "frame-up" when they were examined by a magistrate today.

HELENA, Mont., Dec. 23 (AP)—Sweeping in from the north without hint of its approach, a blizzard struck most of Montana today, sending the mercury down 25 degrees in ten minutes in Great Falls with as heavy decline elsewhere in the state.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 23 (AP)—A suit for \$225,000 damages, charging her father and her brother with kidnaping, threats, and intimidation, was filed here today by Mrs. Mary Allen Towle. The defendants are Albert C. Allen, senior and junior, of Medford, Oregon.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23 (AP)—Police today arrested William Schultz, 34, in an alleged plot to extort \$30,000 from Lesing J. Rosenwald, merchant and philanthropist. Rosenwald, who is chairman of the board of Sears, Roebuck and company, told the police he received a letter about ten days ago demanding money and threatening him with bodily harm if he refused to deliver it.

BRICK MASON TO DIE FOR SETTING FIRE IN BERLIN

By W. E. Breckmann

LEIPZIG, Dec. 23 (AP)—The supreme court today three months of deliberations ended with the verdict that Marinus Van Der Lubbe, 24, a brick mason from Holland, must die for setting fire to the reichstag building in Berlin last February.

At the same time the court freed four communists whom the state had held to be responsible with Van Der Lubbe. Thus ended one of the most spectacular trials in German history.

The communists acquitted were Ernst Torgler, former communist whip in the reichstag, and three Bulgarian refugees, Georg Dimitroff, Blagoi Popoff and Wassil Taneff.

LUMBER MEETING COMPLETES WORK

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 23 (AP)—Adjournment until Jan. 27, when the group will meet in Washington, D. C., was reached last night by the national control committee of the NRA lumber industry code.

The committee which began its deliberations here Dec. 12, concluded its meeting with the announcement that minimum prices set in November for lumber under the NRA code were approved without variation and will continue in effect through the first three months of 1934.

Announcement will be made later from national headquarters of the commission in Washington, D. C., concerning the method of allocating operating hours for the next quarter to mills throughout the country.

ELGIN BOYS TO SEE SHOW

According to word received from Elgin, the Elgin theatre will give the kiddies of that community a Christmas present Monday afternoon in the form of a free show, consisting of comedies and cartoons. The show is free for children of grade school age and under.

BETHLEHEM, WORLD READY FOR YULETIDE

By The Associated Press

An air of expectancy and devotion hovered today over Bethlehem, where Christ was born. Devout pilgrims awaited the hour for traditional ritual to commence.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, first lady of the land, stood between two grandchildren, Sittie and Buzzie, and handed out the first gifts to 1500 poor children of the nation's capital. Beltschek polished up his satchel and prepared to call upon the boys and girls of the Pennsylvania German families. Red clad Santa Claus plowed through northland snows on his way to everywhere else. There is a possibility of a white Christmas

SLACKENING OF RAIN IN WEST OREGON

Gives Swollen Rivers a Chance to Recede; Cooler Weather Is Due

COLUMBIA RIVER STILL ON RAMPAGE

Cowlitz County, Washington, Badly Flooded; Weather Stays Warm in La Grande

Clearing weather over much of the Pacific northwest afforded relief for flood stricken communities. Along with this announcement was a prediction by the weather man that it would be colder tonight in Eastern Oregon, with a moderate northerly wind offshore, and that temperatures next week would be near normal.

Near normal temperatures for La Grande this late in the year would send the mercury below freezing point each night and not much above 38 or 40 in the daytime. No snow is forecast, although occasional rains were indicated.

Friday was one of the warmest days in December in local weather history, with the mercury up to 59 above in La Grande. The all-time December maximum here is 63 above. The minimum last night was 45 above, three degrees cooler than on Friday, when the December all-time mark equaled 48 above.

Relief from the northwest's week of storms and heavy rains, offering a chance for swollen rivers to recede and for repairs to storm damage, was definitely in sight, today, Edward L. Wells, Portland meteorologist, announced in Portland.

Rains have been much lighter over the northwest and but little, if any, rain is in sight for today, tonight or Sunday.

Wells expressed the belief that the Willamette river at Portland is nearing its crest and does not contain the serious flood threat of Friday.

Columbia High

The Columbia has risen more than a foot at Umatilla, however, and this condition will retard the fall in the

(Continued on Page Five)

Byrd Flies Over Uncharted Ross Sea On Survey

ABOARD BYRD FLAGSHIP, Antarctica, Dec. 23 (AP)—(By Mackay Radio) —A flight over the uncharted vastness of the Ross sea has convinced Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd that he will be able to push his ship much farther toward Little America than he first expected.

When his flagship, plunging along the 150th meridian, encountered what seemed to be an impenetrable ice pack, Admiral Byrd ordered the ship back to open water, lowered his huge seaplane over the side and took off yesterday in a surprise flight over the unknown spaces lying ahead.

He returned four hours later with the report that there was no heavy

Insull Hopes To Prolong His Stay

ATHENS, Greece, Dec. 23 (AP)—Samuel Insull, former American utilities operator, today filed an appeal with the supreme state council against the government's decision that he must leave Greece by Jan. 31.

Insull was served Thursday with notice that the government would make no further extension of his police resident permit, already extended by a previous order from the original expiration date, Dec. 31.

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