

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

La Grande Evening Observer

Only Newspaper Printed in La Grande Covering Union and Willowa Counties

VOLUME 32

EASTERN OREGON'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

LA GRANDE, OREGON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1934

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

NUMBER 130

BREMER IS FREED

CITY WATER DEPARTMENT PAYING CASH

Receipts From Water Users Enable Department to Retire Bonds

AUDIT OF BOOKS OF CITY FINISHED

Bonded Indebtedness of La Grande Now at \$634,791.87 — \$14,000 in General Bonds Paid.

Since the water department was established as a self-sustaining department of the city last July, it has received \$21,193.80 in water receipts...

This was announced in the copy of the city audit accepted by the city commission at its meeting last night...

This showing by the water department has been made in spite of water consumers' delinquencies listed as follows: 1930—\$799.26; 1931—\$10,000.75; 1932—\$50,414.42 and 1933—\$7,437.75.

The audit also showed the city's bonded indebtedness at the end of the year to be \$634,791.87, representing a considerable decrease in 1933 in spite of uncollected taxes...

The audit showed all records, transactions, etc. in correct order, and it said all bank accounts, disbursements, etc., had been checked and verified.

Dr. James Millar Speaks at L.H.S. On Friendships

Dr. James Millar, of the department of religious education of the College of Idaho, was the principal speaker at an assembly yesterday afternoon at the La Grande High School.

ALYCE COOK GETS SCHOLARSHIP

Miss Alyce Cook, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cook, of this city, has been awarded a scholarship to study dancing in San Francisco with Ann Mundetok.

Mr. and Mrs. Orlando Stevens, who have made their home in Union county since 1899, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Tuesday and were complimented at a dinner for which their daughter, Mrs. W. F. Ashman, entertained at their home.

BUCHANAN ESTATE IS FICTITIOUS, REPORT

During recent years, much interest has been shown nationally and locally over reports of "the great Buchanan estate," which was supposed to involve great sums of money and which was expected to be divided among many heirs.

WILL ROGERS says:

SANTA MONICA, Cal., Feb. 7.—Say, did you read what Jesse Jones, head of the reconstruction finance, told the New York bankers' convention? Jesse told 'em, "You boys will either start in loaning business and industry some money to operate on or the government will do it."

Course the old bankers just got four years of good causing by everybody for loaning too much money. Well, they got some awful nice business, so when a banker fails he fails in splendor, so that's something, Yours,

49 ENROLL HERE FOR CLASSES IN ADULT EDUCATION

Adult education classes, sponsored by the C. W. A. and under the supervision of Herbert Evans, superintendent of schools, have been arranged for to be held at the La Grande High School building, it was announced today. The local C. W. A. committee has approved the classes, and state approval is now being sought.

METHODISTS OF EASTERN OREGON TO HEAR TORBET

A meeting of unusual significance is being arranged for tomorrow at the Methodist Episcopal church and will be attended by members and friends of that denomination in Union, the John Day circuit, Baker, Cove and La Grande.

MR. AND MRS. O. STEVENS WED 50 YEARS

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They'll Marry



Merna Kennedy, formerly a leading woman with Charlie Chaplin, and Busby Berkeley, dance director, plan to marry Feb. 10 at Hollywood.

EASTERN OREGON LOSES CLOSE ONE TO L. N. S. 34-29

The revamped Eastern Oregon Normal school basketball team, although falling short of victory last night against the Lewiston Normal quintet, turned in an improved brand of ball and made the contest an interesting one from start to finish.

THAT FIRST SHOT

It was the first shot of the year, and it was a close one. The Eastern Oregon Normal school basketball team, although falling short of victory last night against the Lewiston Normal quintet, turned in an improved brand of ball and made the contest an interesting one from start to finish.

Wheat Today

The price of local cash wheat stood at about 51 1/2 cents bulk here today, according to quotations at the Pioneer Flouring Mills. Export bid.

Wanted an Auto—So He Made One

Fred Menkenn, living on a farm near Hillsboro, Ore., wanted an automobile. He used three old motorcycle wheels, a discarded steering wheel, a motorcycle engine, some planks and maple limbs to make a three-wheeler that will travel 55 miles an hour.

FRIGID WAVE IN EASTERN AREA TODAY

Cold Records Broken in Many Places in New York State; Much Suffering Reported.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8 (AP)—Cold records were broken or equaled in many places in New York state today and widespread suffering resulted.

PHONE COMPANY REPLIES TO QUIZ BY CITY HEADS

The Central Labor council's petition to the city commission last week, asking that action be taken with the view of obtaining lower telephone rates here, was discussed, again at last night's session.

STRIKE ENDS IN CAPITAL OF FRANCE

PARIS, Feb. 8 (AP)—Gaston Doumergue, aged 67, of France, told a suddenly tranquil nation today that he would give it a government of "elder statesmen" cabinet.

NO 25 PCT. CUT IN EXPERIMENT STATION FUNDS

CORVALLIS, Feb. 8 (AP)—Great satisfaction was expressed here today by state college officials upon receipt of formal confirmation that President Roosevelt has rescinded a previous executive order for a 25 per cent reduction in federal appropriations for experiment station and extension work.

TRUCK AND BOAT SERVICE FOUGHT

PORTLAND, Feb. 8 (AP)—Establishment of a combination truck and boat freight service up the Columbia river to Central and Eastern Oregon, planned by the Shaver Forwarding company of Portland, was protested in a public utilities commission hearing here Wednesday by 15 trucking companies who declared such an organization would result in a monopoly that would ruin other common carriers operating in that area.

REVENUE MEASURE AMENDED; TAX ON CHECKS CHANGED

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BANKER SAFE; RANSOM PAID TOKIDNAPERS

St. Paul Banker, Seized By Abductors Jan. 17, Returns Home.

WEALTHY FRIEND OF FAMILY HELPS

Walter Magee Serves As Intermediary; Government to Intensify Search For Criminals.

ST. PAUL, Feb. 8 (AP)—Ransomed with an unannounced amount of money, Edward G. Bremer, seized by kidnapers for \$200,000 Jan. 17, was at home today after a 23-day imprisonment in an unlocated hideout.

Wounds about the head, which he had suffered when spirited away by a gang, were healed, Dr. Joseph Sprafka said, though the victim was very weak, exhausted, and "very, very nervous."

Dr. Sprafka was summoned soon after the son of Adolph Bremer, wealthy brewer, had returned home after being thrown out on a highway



Edward G. Bremer

near or at Rochester, Minn., about 85 miles south of here, last night. Dr. Sprafka said a ransom had been paid but he did not know how much.

Three men in a small sedan, members of the gang of six or seven, which held the president and owner of the Commercial State bank prisoner, freed him about 8 p. m.

Bremer was unharmed. He had been either blindfolded or his eyes taped during the imprisonment, friends of the family said.

Revenue Measure Amended; Tax On Checks Changed

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The bank check tax would not expire until July 1, 1935, under existing law. It produced approximately \$38,000,000 in revenue in the calendar year.

The hearing will be held in San Francisco Feb. 21.

BREMER TELLS OF HIS KIDNAPING ON JAN. 17

ST. PAUL, Feb. 8 (AP)—While law enforcement agencies moved swiftly but secretly today to trap his kidnapers, Edward G. Bremer, banker, slip, exhausted and wounded, after returning home from a 23 day imprisonment that ended with payment of an unannounced amount of ransom.

During his imprisonment, Bremer said he was kept in a dark room with guards, working in relays of two, always seated behind him night and day. He was constantly warned not to look around.

"One look and we'll blow your brains out," Bremer said he was told.

(Continued on Page Five)