

# La Grande Evening Observer

Established 1896

WEATHER

Partly cloudy through Tuesday with scattered showers today; high today 52-58 and Tuesday 58-63; low tonight 25-30.

Daily except Sunday

LA GRANDE, OREGON, MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1959

Price 5 Cents



LOOK! HERE COMES THE BAND  
Parades Are For The Children

## Crowd Of 8,000 Views First Pow Wow Parade

Viewed by an estimated 8,000 persons, the Pioneer Parade — feature attraction of the La Grande Pioneer Pow Wow — Saturday afternoon unfolded a dramatic flashback to early days of the area in a colorful sequence of floats, exhibits and costumes. The 32-minute moving panorama brought applause from the crowd. In the best recollection of many oldtimers of the community, La Grande had never before seen such a parade for quality of entries and size.

At the starting point, at Hemlock and Washington, Parade Marshal Bill Carey and his assistants called in the various elements of the long train from four avenues of entry with such dispatch that the parade actually started 10 minutes ahead of schedule!

## School Hearings Slated Tuesday

County Superintendent of Schools Mrs. Veda E. Couzens this morning reminded county residents of the official hearings slated Tuesday and Wednesday nights by the State Department of Education on Union county school reorganization plans.

A hearing will be held at 8 p.m. in the La Grande High School Tuesday on the plan to merge all schools into one district except the North Powder area. A similar hearing will be held at the North Powder High School the following night on that administrative district plan.

## Pioneer Pow Wow Parade Winners And Awards Listed

A complete listing of winners and awards in Saturday's Pioneer Parade is given below. Except for out-of-town groups, all winners who have not yet received their awards are asked by the Pow Wow committee to pick up their awards at the La Grande fire department.

- Wagonmaster Marvin "Red" Childers, covered wagon.
- Centennial Queen Sharon Noyes, Covered Wagon.
- Pow Wow Name Contest winner Mona Otten, Covered Wagon.
- Large high school band competition: La Grande, Covered Wagon.
- Small high school band competition: McEwen High Scotch Lassies of Athena, Covered Wagon.
- Drum and Bugle corps competition: Pendleton, Covered Wagon.
- Best float, organizations division: LDS Church, Covered Wagon.
- Best float, business division: Low Cost Auto, Covered Wagon.
- Best float, automotive-industrial division: Low Cost Auto, Covered Wagon.
- Most unusual float: Hidden Valley Guest Ranch, Covered Wagon.
- Largest group participation: Riverside Hobby House, Covered Wagon.
- Most unusual group participation: Blue Mountain Gem Club, Covered Wagon.
- Special parade feature awards: Beta Theta Mountain Gals, Covered Wagon; Blue Mountain Grange, Covered Wagon; Intercollegiate Knights, Covered Wagon; Elgin Stampeders, Centennial Plate.
- Women's best authentic costume: 1st—Mona Otten, Centennial Plate tie for 2nd—Florence Miller and Mrs. Bert Lassley, Centennial relish dish each, and Jane Ford, Centennial Pin.
- Men's best authentic costume: 1st—Bert Lassley, Centennial Mug; 2nd—Niles Navarre, Centennial Mug.
- Girl's best authentic costume: 1st—Janice Pipes and Bonnie Scott, Centennial mug each; 2nd—Linda Standley and Barbara Ricker, Centennial Mug each.
- Boys' best authentic costume: 1st—Doug Prosch, Centennial Mug; 2nd—Richard Oesterling, Centennial Mug.
- Most unusual individual costume awards: Vance Mattot, Centennial Mug, and Phi Beta Sigma, EOC, Centennial Mug.
- Special unusual individual costume award: The Lyons sisters, Centennial Bracelets.
- Most unusual individual participation: Merton Loree, Cove, Covered Wagon.
- Special unusual individual participation award: Jay Lorenzen and unidentified friend, Centennial Salt and Pepper set.

## She Hopes Cakes Aren't As Stale

Even in the "Good Old Days" of Oregon, which we hear so much about during our current Centennial, it didn't take 18 months to deliver a post card mailed and delivered inside La Grande.

Observer Society Editor Maxine Nurmi Saturday received a post card mailed Nov. 29, 1957 from the Extension Service office in La Grande.

The post card was an invitation to attend and participate in a cake decoration demonstration meeting of the Blue Mt. Juniors extension unit.

The card was mailed by Home Economist Miss Dolores Uria. Sorry we missed the meeting, Miss Uria, but we hope the cakes are not as stale as the card.

## Liu Shao-Chi Will Succeed Mao Tse-Tung

TOKYO (UPI) — Tough, cold Liu Shao-chi, Red China's No. 2 Communist, was chosen today to succeed Mao Tse-tung as head of the Peiping government.

Liu was the only man nominated for the post of "chairman of the people's republic" at today's session of the rubber-stamp People's National Congress, making his eventual election a virtual certainty.

Soong Ching-Link (Mme. Sun Yat-sen), sister of Nationalist China's Mme. Chiang Kai-shek, and Tung Pi-su, an "elder statesman," were nominated for vice chairmen.

A Peiping broadcast said the nominations were made by the executive chairman of the congress "amid thunderous applause from the deputies."

The actual voting for chairman and vice chairmen will be by secret ballot. Before today's meeting, the executive chairman said deputies who do not approve of the official choices may vote for whomever they wish — but no extensive "write-in" campaign is expected.

The congress's 143-man presidium made the nominations. Liu, Red China's "organization man," is generally regarded as second in power only to Mao himself. The outgoing chairman, who announced some time ago that he did not plan to seek re-election, retains full power in Red China as chairman of the Communist Party.

The post of "chairman of the republic," roughly corresponding to president, has traditionally been largely a ceremonial position in Red China as it is in Russia.

Liu's selection for the job suggests it may be more important in the future.

China experts generally have regarded Liu as a more influential figure than Chou En-lai, the glib, suave diplomat who holds the titles of premier and foreign minister.

## Elgin Man Held On Indecent Exposure

David C. Gandy, 30, Elgin, is held in city jail on charges of indecent and indecent exposure.

Gandy, held on \$45 bail, was scheduled into court at 3 p.m. today. He was arrested by city police at 10:30 p.m. Saturday.

# Castro Assassination Plot Discovered By Authorities

MONTREAL (UPI) — Cuban Premier Fidel Castro left by plane today only a few minutes after authorities received a message from New York saying that two men were on their way here to assassinate him.

Castro was whisked aboard the plane a few minutes after Royal Canadian Mounted and Quebec Provincial Police were informed that two known suspects were en route here from New York apparently bent on an assassination attempt.

The bearded Prime Minister came here Sunday for a 24-hour visit. His Cubana Airlines plane headed for Houston, Tex.

Castro was whisked aboard the plane a few minutes after Royal Canadian Mounted and Quebec Provincial Police were informed that two known suspects were en route here from New York apparently bent on an assassination attempt.

Police said the message came from FBI headquarters in New York and was relayed to them by radio as Castro's 27-car convoy headed for downtown Montreal to Dorval Airport.

When the message was received, the convoy made a brief halt to allow one of Castro's personal security guards, who knew the suspects, to transfer to the Prime Minister's auto.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Inspector D. E. McLaren said the report was one of many that had come to law enforcement agencies here during Castro's brief stay.

"This is routine," he said, "and I don't want to go into details about it. We're very discreet about these matters."

Very few persons were at the airport to see the Cuban rebel hero depart. He was greeted by large crowds on his arrival Sunday.

Castro was scheduled to arrive at Houston this afternoon for a brief stopover before heading for Buenos Aires where he will head the Cuban delegation at a conference of American states. He was scheduled to spend the night in Trinidad.

He arrived three hours late in Montreal Sunday afternoon and, mainly because he insisted on shaking hands with hundreds of Montrealers who made him feel "as if I'm in Havana," kept running late.

The Cuban leader was assigned guards by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a force which he said he hopes to copy in Cuba; Quebec provincial police; Montreal city police; and at the airport 15 miles from Montreal, patrolmen from suburban Dorval. But he moved away from his guards whenever he got the chance and at one point downtown asked Montreal Mayor Sarto Fournier to call them off.

"He could have been killed three dozen times the way he ignored us," one high police officer said of the 32-year-old, fatigued, uniformed Cuban leader.

Castro apparently was impressed by Montreal as Montreal and "Hurray, Fidel" seemed to be impressed by him. "There's a Latin atmosphere here that I missed in the United States," he told newsmen.

# FBI Agents And State Police Press Search For Negro Youth

By CLIFF SESSIONS  
United Press International

POPLARVILLE, Miss. (UPI) — FBI agents and state troopers worked around the clock today, trying to find a young Negro who was dragged screaming from a jail cell by a hooded lynch mob.

The Negro, M. C. Parker, 23, was to have gone on trial today on charges of raping a young white mother. He was beaten and abducted early Saturday.

No leads were reported in the case, although bloody and dirty clothing found in woods 25 miles from Hattiesburg, Miss., Saturday was chemically tested by the FBI. The clothing was ruled out by Parker's by the FBI, according to Hattiesburg Patrolman Luther L. Robinson, acting night police chief.

Some officers believed Parker would never be found, dead or alive.

FBI Seeks Mob  
Gov. J. P. Coleman, however, instructed the Mississippi Highway Patrol to continue to search through the swamps and pine forests of southern Mississippi "as long as there is any area left to explore." The FBI indicated similar determination.

Also sought by about 40 FBI agents and an equal number of state highway patrolmen was the mob that kidnaped the Negro.

The well-organized mob broke into the unguarded Pearl River County Jail before dawn Saturday. The 9 or 10 men who entered the jail beat Parker with gun butts and clubs in his jail cell. They dragged him screaming to a waiting getaway car.

County Attorney William Stewart said today he "wouldn't be surprised" if Parker is never found. "It looks like now we are up against a stone wall," he said.

Deputy Sheriff George Moody said that "when we didn't find it (the body) the first day and it became apparent they hid it, I figured then it would be a long time or maybe never before the body turned up."

Witnessed By Farmer  
Today's search over about 600 square miles of swamps and forest lands came after a farmer revealed he was a witness to the abduction.

John Reyer, 64, said he told the FBI, "A bunch of men came running from the jail dragging the other man."

"I thought they were carrying off a drunk," he said. "All the men were hooded."

"I saw them throw him in the back seat of a four-door car," Reyer said. "Then they jumped into the car and took off fast."

Parker was charged with raping a 23-year-old white woman as her four-year-old daughter looked on. The woman's only comment to newsmen who called at her home at Petal, Miss., was: "They got the right one."

But in a three-room shack near Lumberton, Miss., Parker's mother, Mrs. Eliza Parker, said, "My son was a good boy."

HOT STOVE FIRE  
Residents of 2703 N. Fir street called La Grande firemen at 12:30 a.m. Sunday when their fuel oil stove became overheated. Fire Chief Ray Snyder said no blaze broke out and no damage was done.

## Congressional Recognition Hoped For Pondosa Site

The California research firm which determined that the new 50-state center of the United States is near Pondosa has pledged "full cooperation and resources" in getting the site officially recognized through congress.

In his letter to the Chamber of Commerce, Holmes said, in connection with locating the center of the U. S. in Union County, that "As this is a scientific discovery, and all scientific discoveries must be proved, it will be necessary to 'prepare a case' on Pondosa to be presented officially to Congress. We will furnish you, or a committee that is interested, in having this spot made official with the necessary scientific data on how we arrived at our Pondosa calculations."

W. O. Holmes, president of Research Publications, Inc., San Carlos, Calif., following a telephone call by the Chamber of Commerce and La Grande Observer, said in a letter that he and other members of his firm plan to fly here for a visit to the new geographic center of the country.

Chamber of Commerce Manager Fred Schneider this morning said a committee would be organized to follow through with this project.

## White House Juvenile Group Plans Meeting

Members of the newly formed executive committee of the Union county White House committee on juvenile delinquency will meet in the La Grande High School 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Holmes also said that while in Portland recently the Oregon Centennial Commission became interested in the geographic center site and there was some discussion of planning a celebration near Pondosa when the "On To Oregon" Centennial wagon train arrives in this area on the trek from Independence, Mo., to Independence, Ore. There was also some discussion, Holmes said, of putting an "Oregon pioneer guard," complete with beard and long rifle, on guard 24 hours a day at the center of the United States.

Where was invited to La Grande where the Blue Mountain Boys would "find" the new geographic center for him. The offer was made after Holmes, in a news release, said he would like to visit the spot "if he could find it." He noted that Pondosa (which will be sold at public auction May 5) is not shown on some maps.

The Blue Mountain Boys then volunteered to "guard" the site and lead Holmes and his party to it when they came as guests of the Chamber of Commerce.



THE VIEW'S FINE FROM HERE



A MIGHTY FINE PARADE



THIS IS BETTER THAN SELLING PAPERS