

## OUR COUNTY Correspondents

PHOENIX ITEMS.

By M. O. C.

Alfalfa harvest has commenced in Eden precinct already.

Professor Standard and Miss Elmer, the latter of Jacksonville, have just closed a very successful term of school in our district.

Mrs. E. Angerth of West Phoenix, went to Ashland on Saturday's train to visit her granddaughter, Miss C. P. Fort.

Mrs. C. Carey went up to Ashland on Saturday's belated train to visit her daughter, Mrs. E. O. Reed, and to attend the sale of lots in the new southeast addition to Ashland.

Last Saturday the people of Phoenix and vicinity voted bonds to the amount of \$15,000 for a new school building. Don't judge a town by her sidewalks.

The aged mother of Mrs. E. Gibbs and John Helmick was last Sunday removed on a stretcher to her daughter's home, where every attention is being given her; but her condition is a critical one.

Charles McClain has torn down his old house preparatory to building a much larger and better one, on the same site. There are several other who contemplate building in the near future.

E. Gibbs met with rather an unusual accident while handling a large bull last week. The animal kicked the club out of his hand, causing it to strike him in the mouth with great force, causing painful bruises about the mouth.

Several monuments were delivered and erected in our beautiful little cemetery last week. Among them, one for the late Thomas Ferguson, erected by his stepdaughter, Mrs. C. Carey. Also one for Mr. and Mrs. Mevin Standcliff, deceased, erected by their children.

What's the matter with you, Medford? You're too slow. Phoenix is going to start that electric carline if you don't look out. Why, report says a gentleman from the East has bargained with A. A. Davis of Medford for the old Mill ditch water and all rights and will put in an electric plant that will furnish power to operate said line. And—but your space is valuable. I must not try to tell all this time. (To be continued.)

### BUNCOM DOINGS.

It has been quite stormy of late, which is a great help to the farmers.

Ed Saltmarsh was in the city of Jacksonville one day last week.

Amos McKee and wife of Upper Applegate was in the city of Medford one day last week on business.

Mr. Garrett and son Charley made a business trip to the Pursell mill one day last week.

Mrs. Martha Jones of Buncom has been visiting at Sterling, the guest of her son, M. D. Jones.

Miss Maude Harr and Miss Boush of Buncom, visited Mrs. J. Goldsby, one day last week.

Harney Randolph of Provolt, Or., was visiting home folks last week living near Buncom.

Grandma Buck has been spending several months with her son, M. R. Buck.

Manford Goldsby of Sterling took a few hours' ride on his wheel Saturday evening.

Miss Ella Wallace of Buncom has been visiting friends on Forest creek, accompanied home by Miss Hettie Ryan.

Hollis Parks of Buncom is busy hauling lumber from the Pursell mill on Little Applegate to repair the flumes on the Cameron ditch.

The Medford Mill is warmly welcomed by its many readers in this community. We only wish we could get it twice a week.

Miss Maude Harr spent Saturday and Sunday with home folks and enjoyed a birthday party which was given for her, which passed off nicely.

Robert Cameron of Uniontown has a force of men working cleaning his large ditch, which is called the Chinese ditch.

Miss Stoker of Watkins was visiting on Little Applegate Saturday and Sunday, the guest of Mrs. C. C. Pursell.

Mrs. Dunlap of Buncom has been visiting relatives living in Talent and Ashland, and returned home Thursday evening.

Arthur and Fred Kleinhammer and families of this section have been residing in Ashland for several days, attending the latter's father, who was quite ill.

S. R. Coffman and son Morton have been staying in Medford for several weeks, attending the latter's father, who has been quite sick for three months, we are sorry to say.

Ike Coffman of Ruch had a narrow escape while going home from Fairking's last Sunday night. A cow which was frightened took after him and ran him nearly 200 yards down the canyon. He ran up a tree, which saved his life.

James Hamilton, the graphophone man of Ruch, spent Monday evening at Garrett's. Among those present were Miss Etta Parks, Miss Maude Harr, J. Goldsby and family, Mr. and Mrs. Garrett, Misses Dunlap and Jessie Garrett, Charles Garrett, Ike Coffman, Hollis Parks and Anderson brothers. Fine tunes were played by the graphophone.

### Died.

The little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. McKee passed away in the

morning of May 12, which was not a surprise to her many friends, for she had been on the sick list for years. She will be missed by all her schoolmates and sorrowing friends. In Memoriam of Wilda McKee. Dearest daughter, how we miss you, Miss you more than words can tell. Every hour and day that passes brings us nearer with you to dwell.

Friends may think we have forgotten And our wounded hearts are healed, But they little know the sorrow That's within our hearts concealed. R. G.

### Automobile for Sale.

Runabout for sale cheap. Thoroughly equipped with odometer, top, acetylene lights, etc.

A. C. Allen, Medford.

### Assaulted His Wife.

A man by the name of John Williams assaulted his wife last evening about 6 o'clock at their tent which was pitched just outside of the south boundary of the city. The wife's mother and father attempted to interfere and as a result the father was threatened with death by shooting and the mother was pushed to the ground and severely injured by the angry Williams. The officers are at present looking for Williams and it is thought that there will be but little difficulty in apprehending him with daylight again.

It seems that Williams, who is a member of a band of travelers who are on their way north from this city, became angry at his wife last evening and started in to chastise her. Her father, John McNeil, objected, and had a revolver, according to his story, shoved into his face, with the instructions to "beat it." The father did—became to town for the authorities. After his departure Williams started in to finish his beating of the wife. The mother-in-law, Mrs. McNeil, then objected and was most painfully injured in the beating which Williams then bestowed upon her. She started for town and was picked up by the driver of an automobile who took her to a doctor for treatment.

The excitement which prevailed about the city following the rumors of the affair was not small by any means. Before a reporter for The Morning Mail ascertained the facts of the case he had heard that there were no less than three persons murdered in the camp—the persons being Williams' wife and two children. Williams, however, did not use a gun with the exception of threatening the father-in-law.

The party was camped near the Gore place, south of this city, and therefore the chief of police could not act in the matter, as Williams was outside of the city limits. Sheriff Jackson happened to be in town and he immediately began an investigation. He will probably have Williams this morning.

The party was but a band of rovers seemingly. They gave evidence of being gypsies, although they deny that.

A story was told by the mother-in-law to the effect that Williams was recently released from the county jail at Redding, Cal., where he served a sentence of 90 days for the same offense, that of beating his wife. Mrs. McNeil was not badly injured, but painfully. The entire side of her face was raw and bleeding when she reached town. Medical assistance was given at once. There are a large number of children with the party, but they were not injured.

### Installed New Machine.

The Crater Lake Lumber company has just installed a new surfacing machine in their box factory in this city. This machine was ordered some time ago, but failed to arrive until yesterday. A force of men under the direction of Master Mechanic Renicke is at work pacing the big machine in position. It will replace the old planer, which was put in place when the box factory was built.

The new machine has a capacity of 100,000 feet of lumber a day, but it would require a force of four men to turn the lumber out at that rate, and would more than fulfill the present requirements of the mill as regards capacity in number of boxes. The planer will probably turn out 60,000 feet a day when in operation. The machine weighs 17,000 pounds and is of the latest model. It was built by the Berlin Machine Works at Beloit, Wis. The machine represents an investment of about \$3000.

The Crater Lake Lumber company also purchased several thousand feet of steel cable of various sizes for use in logging. This cable is to be forwarded to the woods in the near future.

Manager Hafer of the company is at present up in the timber owned by the company in the Big Butte country.

### Second Coll Show.

The second annual coll show of the Rogue River Stockbreeders' association will be held in Medford, Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Catalogs ranging from two-year-olds to six-year-olds will be shown, all the get of Faircour, the premier Percheron stallion. There are no premiums offered, but the people will have an opportunity to see what good blood and breeding will produce.

One colt of Faircour at two years weighed 1850 pounds and had all the points of an aged horse.

### The Ice Plant.

The ice plant which has been recently installed in South Medford by the Medford Ice & Storage company is a credit to Medford in every way. The plant is modern in all respects and as complete as any one could find in any large city, although perhaps upon not as large a scale as some of the metropolitan concerns. The plant has not been entirely completed, but the work of finishing it is being rushed as much as possible and will be completed in time to furnish ice for the hundreds of cars of fruit which will leave the valley this coming season.

The plant as installed has a capacity of ten tons of ice a day, which is thought to be a sufficient quantity for this city at the present time. The plant is constructed in such a way as to make it possible for additions to be added with little trouble, so that it will grow in accordance with the increase in consumption. The nearest demand upon the plant will be at the time for fruit shipments when cars are to be iced for shipment to the east.

Last season in the neighborhood of 175 iced cars were shipped from Medford, and a conservative estimate of the number of cars to be shipped five years from the present time is placed at 10,000. Some time ago William McMurray of the Southern Pacific Railroad company, in an interview with the press in San Francisco, stated that the number of cars of fruit to be shipped from Medford in five years would exceed 15,000. At that time a number of the fruitmen in this city and vicinity stated that that estimate was too conservative and that a greater number of cars than that would be needed to handle the output of fruit from Medford. It seems most conservative at this time to state that the number of cars will be at least 10,000. Each car, when properly iced, consumes five tons of ice, and that would mean 50,000 tons of ice for one fruit season. So the future of the ice company is bright indeed.

Not alone is the company in the business of manufacturing ice, but they are devoting considerable attention to storage, as their name would infer. When the building work they have under way is completed they will have a cold storage capacity of 294,679 cubic feet. In addition to this, they have ice storage rooms with a capacity of 95,000 cubic feet. So it can readily be seen that their plant is of no small size. A considerable portion of their storage rooms are already rented to meat companies and each of the rooms will have overhead cranes for the handling of commodities to be stored.

The machinery for the plant was built by the Frick company of Waukegan, Pa., and is modern in every particular. Electricity is the power used.

When the owners of the concern went before the city council to make arrangements for a concession as to the use of water, they stated that their plant would not cost less than \$15,000. While declining to state the cost of the plant, the owners say that the money expended so far on the plant is far in excess of that figure. The plant at present costs \$15,000.

The owners of the company are F. M. Carter and Jesse Houck. Both of these gentlemen are well known in this community as two of the leading business men. Both are experienced men in the manufacturing of ice and there seems to be no doubt but that the venture will prove a success. They are entitled to the thanks of the community for the excellent manufacturing plant that they have added to the list of industries in this city.

### Death Claims W. J. Virgin.

(Ashland Tidings.)

William J. Virgin, one of Ashland's best known citizens and for 17 years past a leading business man of this city, died this morning at 5 o'clock, at the S. O. Hospital in this city. For many months past Mr. Virgin had been in poor health. For several days life has hung in the balance with him, until the final summons came this morning.

Mr. Virgin was a native of Taunton, Somerset county, England, where he was born, October 20, 1848, and was the oldest in a family of ten children.

When a lad of 15 he was apprenticed to the miller's trade and after serving his time came to America, taking his first employment at the age of 18 years in Vanceburg, Ky. A year later he went to Michigan, where he followed his trade for several years, locating in Minneapolis in 1872, where he was employed in the big Pillsbury mill. Going from Minneapolis to Boardman, Wis., he entered the employ of Johnson & Bros., and after helping them build a new mill in Richmond, Wis., he was admitted to partnership in the firm and for nearly 20 years the firm carried on a large and profitable business, operating both the Boardman and Richmond mills. In 1886 Mr. Virgin made his first visit to the Pacific coast, making a second visit in 1890, and in 1891 he came to Ashland. With W. E. Jacobs he purchased the Ashland flouring mills from F. Roper and ever since Mr. Virgin has operated these mills, for a number of years past being the sole proprietor. He had also recently rebuilt the Central Point mills, which he had acquired several years ago. Two years ago he sold the Ashland mills, with other valuable water rights, to the city, operating the mills since under lease.

### The Board and Taxpayers.

The Democrats are talking themselves black in the face about what the board of equalization did. Now, here is how the action of the board of equalization did effect the taxes: Suppose A was assessed for \$600; suppose B was assessed for \$1200; suppose C was assessed \$1800; suppose D was assessed \$2400, their total assessed valuation would amount to the sum of \$6000. Suppose the county court had to raise a certain amount of taxes, say \$60. In order to find what the rate of taxation would be they would divide \$60 by \$6000, and would find that the rate would be 10 mills on the dollar. Now to find what each man's taxes would be we multiply each man's assessed valuation by the rate and we will find that A's taxes are \$6, B's \$12, C's \$18 and D's \$24. Now, suppose the board of equalization makes a proportional raise of 66 2/3 per cent on the assessed valuation. We will multiply each man's assessed valuation by 1.66 2/3 and A's assessment will then be \$1000; B's \$2000, C's \$3000 and D's \$4000, and the total valuation will be \$10,000. Now, the county court still wants to raise \$60—in order to find the new rate we will divide \$60 by \$10,000, and will find that their rate is now 6 mills on the dollar instead of 10 mills, as under the assessed valuation. Now, to find what each man's taxes will be multiply the raised valuation by the rate and you will have the taxes of each. A's will be \$6, B's will be \$12, C's will be \$18 and D's will be \$24, just as before. The raise did not affect the amount of taxes to be paid by each person one cent.

That is exactly what the last board of equalization did. The raise in valuations was not made for the purpose of raising revenue, but to comply with requirements of the law of 1907, chapter 265, page 450, and in compliance with the oath of the members of the board. Section 2 of said law provides as follows: "Before proceeding to the equalization of such rolls the several members of the board shall each take and subscribe to an oath, to be administered by a member of such board, and to be filed with the county clerk, to faithfully and honestly examine, correct and equalize at full cash value said assessment roll and all property so returned by such assessor."

Section 4 provides that it shall not be necessary, in event the board deems it necessary to increase the valuation of all property upon such rolls, in a certain proportion, in order that the valuation of the property generally upon the rolls shall be its full cash value, as by law required.

If property is not properly assessed, here is how the law provides for an adjustment of the discrepancies or wrong valuations: "Petitions or applications for the reduction of a particular assessment shall be made in writing, verified by the oath of the applicant or his attorney and filed with the board during the first week it is by law required to be in session and any petition or application not so made, verified and filed shall not be considered or acted upon by the board."

If there was anything wrong with the assessment, parties should go before the board of equalization, and make their complaint; if they do not do so, it is presumed that they are correctly assessed.

The parties who were assessed too high and did not make it known, ought not to complain at the action of the board of equalization, for if they had not done their duty in accordance with law the persons who were assessed too high would have paid just the same amount of tax this year, before being raised, as after, and the chances are 10 to 1 that they would have gone on year after year paying more than their just share of taxes and been none the wiser. They are the ones benefited and should bless rather than curse the board for doing its duty.

### The Oil Industry.

The oil industry about Medford is at last to get attention. J. B. Wood, of this city, well known in real estate circles, has formed a company to drill on the east side of the valley for oil. The money, according to statements made to a representative of The Morning Mail by Mr. Wood, has all been subscribed and Mr. Wood will leave in the near future for the south, where he will obtain a complete outfit of modern machinery for the sinking of the well.

Along the base of Roxy Ann there is any quantity of indications of oil, especially in the neighborhood of the coal mine. The site for the well has not as yet been determined upon, but the company has several locations in view and will sink the well in the most promising spot.

The company completed its formation yesterday afternoon, the stock all being subscribed by local business men.

Mr. Wood is an experienced oil man, having been in the business for a number of years previous to coming to Medford. Since he has been here he has been engaged in the real estate business. He is one of Medford's popular young business men.

### Wanted.

To trade a house and lot in Grants Pass for a team, harness and wagon. Aug. D. Granger, or address Box 90, Medford, Oregon.

### Improvements Planned.

C. J. Buck, acting supervisor of the Mazama forest reserve, is very busy these days in routine office work and in laying plans for the expenditure of \$6000 of the government's money in improvements on this division of the government reserve.

The Mazama reserve is the south portion of the Cascade reserve and it is this particular part upon which this money is to be expended.

The work which is to be handled includes the laying out and making passable a trail from Fort Klamath straight west to the west boundary line of the reserve; the building of several rangers' cabins and the establishment of about 50 miles of telephone line. Of this telephone line, about 30 miles of it will be built from either Medford or Eagle Point up Little Butte creek to Pelican bay, where it will connect with an already established line from Fort Klamath to Klamath Falls. Another telephone line will be put in from Ashland to Ashland Butte, at which latter place there will be established a fire outlook station, at which there will be a ranger stationed during the season of the year when fires may be expected to occur. There will be three or four rangers' cabins built at different points of the reserve. These cabins are not the kind which are sometimes found scattered throughout the mountains, but are, instead, just about as comfortable a little mountain home as it is possible for the government to provide. They are made according to specifications and plans. These cost about \$500 each, and besides there is provided all necessary cooking utensils and furniture and with this there is also built a good barn and corral for the rangers' horse—if he should be traveling on horseback. These cabins are provided for the rangers—not as a fixed place of abode for any of them—but as a shelter for any and all of them when occasion calls them in the locality where they are located.

About July 1 Mr. Buck will put on more rangers and this division will then have twelve who will be kept at work during the entire year. During the dry months of July, August and September a greater number of men than this will be kept at work, and it is expected by this means to practically do away with the usual forest fires.

### Greater Medford Club Busy.

The library board of the Greater Medford club has ordered the books for the new library and have ordered the furniture for the library room, which is to be the same as the one used by the city council for its sessions in the city hall.

A number of the famous Copley prints have been ordered and the same will be on exhibition in the near future at the library for three afternoons. Refreshments will be served on the days of the exhibition, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the library.

Mrs. H. C. Stoddard has been chosen as librarian for the first year. The new members of the club are Mrs. Worrell, Mrs. J. F. Hutchinson and Mrs. J. F. Reddy.

Mesdames Miller and Page have been appointed a committee to attend to the matter of placing receptacles in the parks and other places in which to deposit refuse. The club is joining actively in cleaning up the city.

## Portland ROSE Festival

TO BE HELD IN  
PORTLAND, OREGON  
JUNE 1 TO 6  
Will be the most brilliant  
FLORAL FIESTA  
AND  
CIVIC JUBILEE  
ever held in the Pacific Northwest

Portland, "The Rose City," will be a scene of splendor and the center of world-wide interest for one week.

Several important conventions to be held in Portland on that occasion

THE  
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Will sell special tickets on this occasion from

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AND RETURN AT

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YOUR MONEY IN SOILS OF EVANS CREEK VALLEY

One grower sold \$110 strawberries from 1/4 acre rows 3 feet apart. Another grew 15 tons of pumpkins on less than 2 acres. Sold berries to local stores \$97, besides giving quantities of fruit for picking from 40 hills raspberries and 38 Logan berries. Less than 1/2 acre of onions produced 14,000 lbs., sold \$280. 225 Bayway Peach trees in four successive years sold: 1904, 1300 boxes; 1905, 2300 boxes; 1906, 1300 boxes; 1907, 1000. One Royal Ann Cherry, 16 years, picked 500 pounds in 1907. One D'Anjou Pear, 7 years, picked 6 boxes. You can get such results as these and better. Come to me and I will tell you why. You can buy a new nine room house, large lot with barn \$1200. 50 acres fronting on Rogue River, one mile from town at \$20 per acre. 420 acres, very finest apple, pear, peach and cherry land, 1 mile, \$60 per acre. Very best vineyard land \$15 per acre. Five room house and barn near depot, \$1000. 160 acres with 3 water rights, \$60 per acre. 160 acres—20 acres cleared—13 acres young Newtowns and two acres bearing orchard, 4 1/2 miles out. Deep soil, \$2,750.

## BEN A. LOWELL

WOODVILLE, OREGON

### Another Man For Medford.

J. B. Smith of Chicago is the latest prominent man from the East to decide that he wants a home in the Rogue River valley. Mr. Smith did not jump at conclusions rapidly, but decided that here was the place for him after he had traveled extensively throughout the West, even visiting Mexico, in his search for a home. He visited Montana, Idaho, Colorado and California before deciding where he wished to remain, and now he has decided upon this valley. He will purchase a ranch and plant grapes, as he rather fancies that fruit.

"I believe that Medford is the place for me," said Mr. Smith, "for I wish to obtain a place where irrigation is not needed. This valley grows splendid grapes and as I fancy

that fruit I will endeavor to grow them. The returns are good and quicker than they are from other fruits.

"There are a few splendid valleys in Idaho, but I find that irrigation is necessary and I do not wish to irrigate. This valley is the best of them all that I have seen, and I am going to stay here."

### To the Public.

Having installed machinery for the manufacture of High Grade Ice Cream we solicit your orders for same in any quantity. We make deliveries to any part of the city. Give us your orders—large or small. Rogue River Creamery, Medford.

## MILL PRICES.

500 LOTS OR MORE.

Flour, \$2.50 per 100 lbs  
Rolled Barley, \$1.70 per " lbs  
Middlings, \$1.65 per " lbs  
Mill Feed, \$1.50 per " lbs  
Bran, \$1.40 per " lbs

LESS THAN 500 LOTS.

Flour, \$2.70 per 100 lbs  
Rolled Barley, \$1.90 per " lbs  
Middlings, \$1.80 per " lbs  
Mill Feed, \$1.60 per " lbs  
Bran, \$1.55 per " lbs

MEDFORD  
FLOUR  
MILLS.

CAPITAL \$5,000,000  
RESERVE \$1,000,000

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