

# THE POLK COUNTY POST

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## A NUMBER ANSWER THE FINAL SUMMONS

### Hulda J. Bennett

Hulda J. Bennett died at her home in North Independence the first of the week of complications due to old age. Interment was made at the I. O. O. F. cemetery. Besides her husband, S. C. Bennett, she is survived by three sons of a former marriage, J. W. Ball and E. A. Ball of Portland and L. P. Ball of Dallas.

### Lieutenant C. F. Cropp

Lieutenant C. F. Cropp of Independence died in Salem last Monday of influenza after a week's illness. He was here on a furlough and while enroute to Salem was taken sick on the train. In a brief period of seven days this robust specimen of manhood had succumbed to the epidemic. It was Lieutenant Cropp's intention to resume the practice of medicine in Independence as soon as he received his discharge from the army. A number from Independence attended his funeral in Salem where he was buried.

### C. I. Barclay

C. I. Barclay, whose parents live in Benton county, died at the Beaver hotel in Independence on Thursday morning of influenza. He had been here for a few months buying live stock. The body was taken to his home in Benton county for the funeral and burial.

### Warren R. Foster

Warren R. Foster, commonly known as "Buck", died in Portland Tuesday of influenza at the age of 29 years. He had gone to look after his parents, residents of Portland, who both had the disease. Warren made his home with his aunt, Miss Jessica Foster, at Oak Point.

### Henderson W. Murphy

Henderson W. Murphy died in Vancouver, Wash., one day last week, aged 82. At one time Mr. Murphy owned the Wigrich hop ranch south of Independence.

### Annie Tetherow

Mrs. Annie Tetherow, a native of Polk county, died of influenza in Portland one day last week, aged 47 years. She was visiting in that city at the time of her death. She was buried in the K. of P. cemetery after the funeral at Monmouth Tuesday.

Mrs. Tetherow was a daughter of the late William Ireland and a granddaughter of Stephen Staats, pioneers. After her marriage to Columbus Tetherow she lived on the Tetherow donation land claim in the Luckiamute valley. They had no children.

### Harold L. Fitchard

When the news of Harold L. Fitchard's death became known last Wednesday, heart-felt grief at once spread over the town. Grief for a friend who had passed so suddenly, for a friend who was a friend indeed, for Harold Fitchard was a friend to every one alike with malice toward none. He was generous in all his deeds and charitable in all his remarks. A little more than a week before his passing he was stricken with the prevailing malady influenza, which developed into double pneumonia and soon severed the life cord of the young man. Specialists from Portland and Salem were called to consult with the local physician but it was his time to go and all the skill available could not stay his call to report for duty in the realms beyond.

Harold L. Fitchard was born in Clinton, New York, February 10, 1890 and died in Independence, Oregon, on Wednesday, January 8, 1919. When but a mere child he moved with his parents to Utica, N. Y. In May 1912, he was married to Miss Margaret Retzer of Utica. They soon went to Los Angeles where Mr. Fitchard engaged in the automobile business for a year, moving from that city to Independence where he has since been successfully engaged in a similar business, being owner and proprietor of Fitchard's Garage. Besides his widow, he is survived by one son, Robert Lewis, his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Fitchard, one brother, Sergeant Thomas N. and a sister, Miss Dorothy, all of Utica. Only a few weeks ago, his father, mother and sister came from New York to spend the winter here. While their visit has been a sad one indeed it has proven such a comfort for them to have been with their son and brother in his last days here.

Harold Fitchard was the embodiment of life, health, strength and vigor. He keenly felt his country's call to service and made several attempts to enter the aviation branch, being refused each time because of his over weight, but now he has been accepted for duty and has passed to where a new life begins and where he will take an active part in the Great Service.

He was a member of the Masonic fraternity being attached to the local lodge. The body will be taken to Portland Monday for cremation.

### Rueben Troxel

Rueben Troxel, age 37, died at his home in North Independence yesterday of influenza. He is survived by his widow, who was formerly Miss Ida South, three children, his father, James Troxel of this city, one brother, Gail,

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## The Post Is To Be Enlarged, Improved

The Post is to be improved and enlarged within a few weeks. New equipment and materials will be added and competent mechanical assistance seems assured. The Post will do what it intended doing several months ago but was prevented by war conditions. Country newspapers bore the brunt of depression during the conflict and many of them went under during the period. While the price of all commodities advanced, the country newspapers continued to be operated on pre-war incomes and in addition many, many columns of space were given for patriotic purposes without favor or price. Then the city dailies encroached upon the country paper's territory for the people correctly forgot everything but the war and its outcome. Local events became secondary to the war and the daily took first place in the homes. But with the return of peace and its glorious victory, conditions will return to normal and prosperity abound everywhere. Now is the time for every business concern to find its place in the sun. Those who fail to do so will become stagnant or go down under present day competition.

The Post thinks a whole lot of Independence and its future. It believes that it is within the power of its live citizens to accomplish wonders if the proper "stuff" is placed behind the blows. Independence has made its great error in soothing and pacifying its knockers and grumblers. It has erred in considering them part of the natural scenery and because of a sense of home industry given them patronage. If other mistakes have been made they were errors of judgment rather than pure cussedness.

The Post like the nation will be obliged to have its era of reconstruction during which time it will print two or three issues that may be shy on local news, after which comes the bigger, better and brighter Post.

### THE BOYS ARE COMING HOME

Dean Girard of the bombing squad of the marine aviation corps was an arrival home during the holidays on a furlough at the expiration of which he will probably have to report at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. During the late unpleasantness with the Huns, Dean was stationed in Northern France between Calais and Dunkirk, Belgium, where he played an important part in making it lively for the enemy in that section. While Dean's particular duty was not to fly over a German fortification and drop a bomb on it, he was attached to that squad and assisted in preparing for such attacks. He has gone up on several occasions and looked down upon old Mother Earth from the clouds. During his stay overseas he did not see a single person he knew in America. Happy to be home again and feeling fine and dandy, he thinks he has had enough experience to last him a life time. It was all very interesting and educational and he is very much pleased to have gone thru it all.

With several sharpnel scars upon his body, Dewey Steel has returned home after many months of active service with the Canadian army during which time he has gone thru many hard battles and has had a number of narrow escapes. In one engagement he was gassed. Dewey can furnish an evening of entertainment for those interested in the adventures of the boys over there.

### DALLAS-SALEM ROAD TO BE PAVED

A delegation of Dallas citizens appeared before the state highway commission one day this week and induced that august body to provide for the paving of the Dallas-Salem road this year. This is taken by wiseheads to mean that Dallas is to give up its chance for a place on the West Side Highway and this thoroughfare will go from Rick-reall via Monmouth to Independence; that the Commission to reconcile Dallas to its fate gave it a paved road to Salem.

### ARCHIE DAVIS KILLED IN ACTION

Archie Davis of Albany, well known in this section having been employed here by Verd Hill and Clark Hembree, has been reported as killed in action in France.

### SALMON SALAD

(From the Youth's Companion.)

Sam, Sally Sanders stolid spouse, spurns supper. Sally sobs, Sam soothes, still sups sparsely.

"Sweet stuff soon sickens," says Sam, succinctly.

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## CITY COMMENCES DRIVE AGAINST INFLUENZA

Owing to the death of several persons in this city from influenza, extra precautions are now being taken to stamp out the disease. A strict quarantine against all homes where any of the inmates are afflicted has been inaugurated and city officials declare it will be enforced strictly. Signs have been posted upon all houses quarantined and people are supposed to know that it means "Keep out!" Any person removing or tearing down one of these signs is subject to arrest and fine. The city council at a special meeting last night declared vigorous warfare against the flu and passed an ordinance giving the city power to deal with the situation as it is deemed best for the public good. Loafing in the stores and offices about town has been prohibited and once again card and pool playing stopped. The proprietors of places where crowds are in the habit of loafing have been requested to order their guests to move on. In the past week there has not been so much loitering in the postoffice lobby. If influenza is a "crowd disease" as alleged, the postoffice lobby has been the principal place of contagion.

The Post shares the opinion of many that if the influenza is a contagious disease, as it certainly appears to be, the only way to stamp it out is to isolate the cases and quarantine them so tight that there will not be a hole left for the smallest germ that ever wiggled to crawl out thru.

But the influenza being somewhat of an enigma, even to the medical profession, it is a hard problem to know exactly what to do to beat it. The return of the epidemic to Independence is not the fault of any one. It paid a second visit everywhere. Our death rate has been small compared to other places for which we are thankful.

It is presumed and very plausibly reasoned at the present writing that the worst is over; that the epidemic has reached its high mark and is now receding. This is the opinion of those who have been "close up" to the local situation. They are very hopeful that in two weeks, the disease will no longer be a public menace. While there may be a few cases left, the authorities will have them so well in hand that the city may return to normal conditions and resume its activities.

### NEW CITY ADMINISTRATION NOW REIGNS

The old city administration went out with the old year and the new one came in with 1919. Other than a few taps of the fire bell, the change was made without advertisement. W. H. Walker seated himself in the mayor's chair, a place he occupied with credit for two years once before, and J. S. Bohannon, W. E. Craven, W. H. Cockle, C. D. Calbreath and G. G. Walker were ushered in as councilmen. W. M. Huff, the sixth councilman-elect, failed to appear to claim the honor and A. L. Thomas was awarded the place by the other five. Messrs. Bohannon and Craven with Recorder Swope are what remains of the war administration. In the drawing to determine the tenure of office, Messrs. Bohannon, Walker and Thomas were the recipients of four years terms. The three C's, Craven, Cockle and Calbreath got the booby prizes—two years each.

F. R. Arrell was re-elected chief of police but the mayor and council failed to agree upon a city treasurer.

### IT IS NOW JUDGE ROBINSON

Asa B. Robinson was sworn in as county judge Monday and is now entitled to wear the prefix "Judge." The people of Polk county will receive a prudent, honest and economical administration of public affairs from Judge Robinson.

Floyd Moore succeeded to the clerkship and T. H. Graves took the place of C. W. Beckett as county commissioner.

### WALTER SMITH AND ALDA GILLESPIE MARRY

Two well known and popular young people, formerly of Independence, were married at Oregon City during the holidays when Walter Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Layton Smith of Cordova, Alaska, took for his bride, Miss Alda Gillespie, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. F. Gillespie of Centralia, Wash. Their large number of friends in Independence certainly wish them all the happiness and prosperity possible.

After a short honeymoon, Walter left for Mare Island where he is stationed as a member of the U. S. Navy and Mrs. Smith resumed her duties as a nurse in a Portland hospital. When Mr. Smith receives his discharge from the navy some time soon, the happy young pair will establish a home after going to Alaska to visit his parents.

### LIEUTENANT FLOYD TRIED TO ESCAPE

Lieutenant Ralf A. Floyd, in a letter to relatives here, tells of his escape from a German prison, how he skulked half starved for ten days in an effort to reach France or Switzerland, how he was re-captured and placed in solitary confinement. But he is now in France and well, considering what he has gone thru, and expects to see America and home soon.

Oregon Historical Society  
Auditorium

Jan 5 1919