

THE POLK COUNTY POST

ONE HUNDRED PERCENT INDEPENDENCE

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GEORGE A. MITTY PROBABLE SUICIDE

(Salem Journal.)

His right arm dangling over the arm of the old chair in which his body was found lifeless, a .38 calibre rifle leaning between his knees, his head terribly disfigured by the shot which ended his life, George A. Mitty, a farmer, apparently about 38 years of age, was found dead in his home at Eola at 9:30 o'clock Thursday night.

Suicide is believed by friends and Coroner A. M. Clough to have brought to a climax a tragedy about which there is but little known—a tragedy made manifest by Mitty through several weeks of silent brooding and a never-broken state of melancholy. No inquest was held.

Mitty's life was ended in the same house in which his mother passed away on June 9, and in which his father died on August 20. For several weeks he had been apparently worried about something, Eola acquaintances of Mitty told Coroner Clough, and for some time he has been in ill health.

Mitty was discovered by Eola residents after Mrs. C. C. Smith, whose home is located near the Mitty residence, heard the fatal shot. The bullet, apparently sent by the dead man's own hand struck him at the left of his nose, just below his left eye, tearing off the top of his head. No message of any kind was left by the dead man.

Mitty took to brooding many weeks ago, according to Thomas Holman, an Eola hop grower, who was well acquainted with Mitty. Financial reasons are not considered as a cause of the alleged suicide, as Mitty is said to have been fairly prosperous. He had lived at Eola for many years.

When found Mitty was dressed in his week-day working clothes. He is survived by two brothers.

Smart Evening Reception

Society was enlivened a bit by the smart evening reception and card party last Wednesday over which Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Eldridge most graciously presided, complimenting their son, Neville, and his bride who were here from Medford. Receiving with Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge and the honor guests were Mr. and Mrs. Merritt Schoonover and Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Eldridge, Jr., house guests from Portland.

Mrs. Eldridge chose chrysanthemums and potted plants for her decorations. Art vases and jardineres of feathery "mums" intermingled with lacy ferns artistically placed about the handsomely furnished home made an effective background for the smartly gowned assemblage.

During the reception hour friends extended congratulations to Neville and were most happy to meet his

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A GOOD CORN SHOW

True, it wasn't as big as the corn expositions back in the "corn country" but what there was of it was just as good. The exhibits were first class considering that "tenderfeet" in most every instance made the selections. One who is "on to the ropes" knows that size is not the only essential in carrying away prizes at a corn show.

A. C. Moore, chairman of the committee in charge, is very much pleased at the showing made and predicts that each succeeding corn show will be better than the last one. He has a most excellent suggestion that all kinds of grain and vegetable seeds be added to the show.

Barrick Goes; Butler Comes

Dr. L. A. Barrick, who has been engaged in the practice of dentistry here for several years, will go East to specialize in Extraction. On his return he expects to locate in Salem, a partner of Dr. Springer.

Dr. M. J. Butler, who since his graduation has been successfully practicing dentistry in Monmouth has taken Dr. Barrick's office. Dr. Butler needs no introduction. He is simply coming home; Besides he has always been close enough that we could keep our eye on him.

County Ioofs Get Together

Representatives from the Odd Fellow lodges of Polk county met in Dallas Saturday, Nov. 27, and organized a visiting association by electing H. K. Sickafoose of Monmouth chairman and J. E. Richter of Dallas secretary.

The object of this association is to inculcate the spirit of fraternity by visiting the different lodges of the county at stated times during the winter at the call of the chairman and secretary.

Mrs. DeSelm Seeks Divorce

A divorce case, sensational in spots, was tried in Judge Belt's court today. Ethel M. DeSelm is attempting to dissolve the matrimonial bonds that bind her to Will C. DeSelm of Independence. B. F. Swope looked after the interests of the later. The court reserved judgment.

Owls Hoot At Hubbards

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Hubbard were delightful hosts to the Owls Monday evening. Four tables of whist were played and Mrs. Hubbard topped off the evening with one of her delicious luncheons which are always thoroughly enjoyed.

Town Yes; Country No

While the proposal to levy a ten mill tax for road purposes was adopted in Independence, it hit the rocks north and south of town and was defeated in both places.

A WEEK OF GOOD PICTURES

Owing to cancellations on the part of the film houses and eleventh hour changes, it is impossible to give the titles of all the pictures that are to be shown at this theatre next week. Suffice to say, the usual high standard will be maintained and patrons can be assured that they will see a good show on any night.

The first episode of "Ruth of the Rockies" was very pleasing and satisfactory. To those who like the thrill of continual suspense, hair-breadth escapes and acute situations, this serial especially appeals. On Monday and Tuesday nights (Dec. 6-7) the second episode is shown. It is entitled "The Inner Circle", the scene of action now being in Dusty Bend, Arizona. The conflict of wits in this episode revolve around the "mysterious trunk"—the "Inner Circle" to regain it and Bab (Ruth Roland) to keep it. Then, the "Unknown" drops in and he has such a "persuading" nature that Bab consents to marry him. Pretty early in the story (it generally comes in the last episode) but that's what happened just the same. The fan who doesn't see "Ruth of the Rockies" is missing a whirlwind.

ISIS THEATRE INDEPENDENCE

To Talk About This Town



W. H. NATION

The needs of a community are reflected in the needs of the country. You cannot have a country of slipshod, poorly governed cities and towns, and at the same time have a progressive country any more than you can have a community that is better than the average of its citizens.

The Chautauqua is preeminently a community activity and no program is quite complete without a day devoted to self study under the direction of a constructive critic. It is one thing to listen to criticisms that offer no remedy—most any one can tear down—but it is quite a different matter to consult with a keen observer who has traveled much, and carefully studied many communities.

Just as a doctor's knowledge is the result of study and observation, so are W. H. Nation's lectures the results of many conferences with community officers in every part of the United States.

Mr. Nation will lecture on the fourth night, constructively criticizing and counseling audiences upon community problems.

Buys Farm In Douglas

(Benton County Courier.)

G. A. Peterson of Suver, formerly a resident of Benton county, has just returned from Douglas county where he purchased 164 acres of improved land equipped with modern buildings and in the beautiful Looking Glass Valley 9 miles from Roseburg. He expects to make his home there after one more year in Polk county. He says the scenery in Douglas county is great. The roads beat Polk county roads in every way, and land is changing hands as though good times were assured.

Kill Kares At Slopers

The members of the Kill Kare Klub were most pleasantly entertained by Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Sloper at their attractive Main street home last Friday evening.

Seasonable flowers added a note of color to the pretty interior and tables were in play for the club's chosen game, whist. A player piano enlivened the gathering. To close the evening Mrs. Sloper dispensed a delightful repast.

Civic Club To Monmouth

The Civic club will be entertained at the home of Mrs. Pember in Monmouth on Wednesday, Dec. 8. Those who have cars and those who haven't and can go are requested to meet at Mrs. O. D. Butlers at 2:15 sharp and provision will be made. An interesting afternoon has been arranged and it is hoped no one will miss the opportunity to go. Any information regarding the trip will be answered by Mrs. J. E. Hubbard, chairman of arrangements.

State Librarian Here

Miss Cornelia Marvin, state librarian, was here Wednesday and called the local board together in the interest of the proposed county library system.

Ace On Cash Basis

The Ace Garage announces that beginning Dec. 10, its business goes on a strictly cash basis. In other words, pay cash and pay less.

Young Girl Dies

Clara Fleming, age 15, daughter of — Chamberlin of Independence died in a Salem hospital Saturday. Funeral and burial at Yamhill Monday.

It's a Girl

A 7½ pound girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Williams of Airlie Wednesday.

THE PILL BOX

COMING EVENTS CAST THEIR SHADOWS BEFORE
Mail is coming to this town for Mrs. G. C. Smith

WE'VE OFTEN WONDERED WHY ALL THE GIRLS WANTED TO TEACH IN SALEM
George Hugg is superintendent of the Salem schools.

STARTLING NEWS!
The daily papers tell the world that stockings are coming down.

Walter Plant Surprised

Walter Plant, the efficient book keeper at the Ace garage, received the surprise of his life Thursday night when the Ace boys and a number of other friends gathered at the Plant home to indulge in a few hours good cheer. Walt proved a good "shock absorber" and soon regained his equilibrium, and he and his estimable wife made splendid hosts.

Some of the guests were "make up" artists and prepared the crowd for black face stunts. A "smoker" was very pleasing. There were many rounds of fast and furious boxing.

A bountiful luncheon had been provided and the entire evening was immensely enjoyed.

Berrys Given Farewell

A coterie of neighborhood friends and a few others gathered at the Berry home on Monmouth street Friday evening to give them a "surprise" farewell party. The self invited guests went provided with ample lunch and entertainment to make up a jolly evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Berry during their stay of several months made many warm friends who deeply regret their going away. However, we are happy to have them in a neighboring city. They left this week for Dallas and for the present will reside at the Gail hotel.

Autowins Play

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Thomas were delightful hosts to the Autowins Friday night. Additional guests were asked to make up five tables of auction 500, the game being most enthusiastically indulged in.

The rooms were cheerful and gay with chrysanthemums and potted plants and the hostess assisted by Mrs. Fletcher served a delectable luncheon.

War on Wolves

Wolves are carrying away so much stock in the Kings Valley country that the farmers living in that part have formed an organization and will hunt wolves and pay bounties for all of the "wild dogs" killed.

Big Smoker Dec. 15

The athletic committee of Co. K. is preparing for a big smoker on Dec. 15. Originally it was planned to hold the same on Dec. 8, but as the armory would not be ready by that time, a postponement to the 15th. was necessary.

REMINISCENCES OF FIRST MAIL CARRIER

(Portland Journal.)

Arch Parker, present postmaster of Monmouth, was the first rural mail carrier to serve out of Independence. He has a record of approximately 100,160 miles, made with a horse and buggy. He began to serve on July 1, 1903, and for a period of ten years and eight months, except Sundays and holidays, he averaged 30 miles per day.

The route was 25 miles in length and Parker resided in Monmouth, 2½ miles from Independence, and drove the round trip daily. In those days he didn't have an automobile nor good roads to spin along over. He used a single horse and buggy, or rather a rebuilt buggy, especially designed to protect the driver and the mail from the winter storms.

Thirty miles per day with a horse and buggy is a different proposition from 30 miles in an automobile. It required two horses, taking turn about, to stand the work, and even then some would play out in a year or two. Two horses Parker owned, "Seneca" and "Ned" were used every other day from 1910 to 1911, and covered approximately 18,000 miles each during that time.

This first route was somewhat of an experiment in Polk county, and some of the people didn't take very kindly to the new order of things. They were accustomed to driving into town on Saturday or Monday, and this free rural service broke into the habit of years. On the first trip there were only 30 boxes out to receive mail, when there should have been 85. By January 1 the number had increased to 45.

About this time an inspector went along on the trip. After looking over the route he remarked, "Parker, you have one of the largest and one of the smallest routes in Oregon. Large, because it comprises service for 16 square miles, and small, because only 45 families are willing to receive mail by carrier."

He decided to continue the route for another six months, and at the end of that time there were 67 boxes. The daily papers delivered the first six months averaged 12 and on the second half of the year increased to 22. By this time he collected and delivered 3800 pieces of mail each month. Parker continued to serve as rural carrier until March 31, 1914, and on April 1 he assumed the duties of postmaster at Monmouth and is acting in that capacity today.

Orthellow Bagley Passes

Orthellow Bagley, who was born in Erie county, New York, nearly 91 years ago, died Saturday. He was the father of J. Bagley of Suver. Funeral services held Monday at the Presbyterian church. Dr. H. C. Dunsmore officiating. Interment at Odd Fellows' cemetery.