

OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Brief Resume of Happenings of the Week Collected for Our Readers.

Linn county's total indebtedness for the Albany bridge has been cut to \$47,800. The original debt, contracted in 1926, was \$112,500.

Mrs. Emma L. Hufstater has been nominated by President Coolidge as postmistress at Knappa, a position she has held for many years.

Approximately 600 carloads of broccoli will be shipped from the Umpqua valley during the coming season, according to present estimates.

The Red Cross chapter at The Dalles is one of the most prosperous in the state. It now has a membership of 900, nearly double that of last year.

There are 1628 children of school age in Albany this year, according to D. D. Hackelman, school clerk. This is a gain of only five over the 1926 census.

The Bert Mullins confectionery and newsstand in Heppner was robbed early Wednesday and about \$70 taken from the safe, which may have been unlocked.

The Fowler-street bridge was opened at Roseburg last week, eliminating the long highway detour, over which traffic has been routed for the past six weeks.

Yamhill county closed the books on its treasury November 30 with cash on hand amounting to \$230,115.59, the largest cash balance in the history of the county.

Charles H. Hamlin, past 70, log scaler at Mike Morrison's camp above Bridge, near Myrtle Point, was killed instantly when he was struck by a falling tree.

Rural delivery route No. 1 has been established at St. Helens. The route serves 120 families over a distance of 26 miles with one carrier at a salary of \$1890 a year.

Officials of the First National bank of Eugene last Friday celebrated the 44th anniversary of the founding of the institution. The bank first opened December 16, 1883.

Owing to weather conditions, all work has been suspended at the Moon Lumber company's planing mill in Ashland until March, throwing 20 men out of employment.

A snowfall that has covered the ground to a depth of more than six inches has caused the temporary shut-down of nearly all the logging camps in the Nehalem country.

A total of 356 stray horses have been rounded up in Pine and Eagle valleys near Baker and sold to a Mr. Martin of Portland for shipment to a meat cannery there.

The newly created office of city marshal at Coquille, as provided in the 1928 budget, will be filled by P. R. Bernhardt, appointment being made last week by the city council.

Mrs. Mary Henderson, 90, an Oregon pioneer of 1843, and since 1878 a resident of Baker county, died last week at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Jennie Baisley, in Baker.

Fall-sown crops are looking fine around Dayton and the continued mild weather is ideal for them. Farmers have been able to finish seeding, as the soil was in perfect condition.

An organization known as the Eastern Clackamas Business Men's Credit association was recently organized at Estacada and a meeting was held in the city hall last Friday evening.

Believed to be Portland's oldest citizen, Mrs. Angeline Yane, 103 years 5 months and 21 days of age, died in the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Pugh, 575 Savier street, last Thursday.

Alfred Richardson, 38, negro employe of a barber shop in Astoria, was blinded last week when lye being used to cleanse a drain exploded. Physicians feared blindness may be permanent.

Damage aggregating \$159,170 resulted from 778 forest fires burning over a total of 24,078 acres of forest land during the past season, according to a report just made public by F. A. Elliott, state forester.

Fatally injured when struck on the forehead by a piece of oak wood which broke while he was working it on a lathe in the Bend high school manual training shop, Norland Pitman, 16, died in a Bend hospital.

Search for Thomas H. Cormier, Portland man lost since December 5 in the wilds of upper Drift creek, near Taft, has been abandoned. Searching parties combed the entire region but only found some torn clothing.

Drilling was scheduled to be resumed at the well of the Guaranty Oil company near Eugene last week. Bunk-houses and a mess hall have been prepared and everything is ready for active operations, it was announced.

A Siuslaw chamber of commerce was organized at Florence last Saturday when a group of men representing West Lane county met there. Each district chose two men to represent them. Earl Hill of Cushman was elected president and Jack C. Pensler of Florence, secretary.

A 60 foot plunge off the new Soapstone bridge on the Roosevelt highway, near Astoria, proved fatal to Edwin Bergdahl, 41, laborer, Tuesday. Bergdahl was carrying materials for the bridge across the skeleton structure when he misstepped and fell to the bottom of the narrow gorge.

By a margin of 26 votes at the special election held in Seaside last Monday, the measure to provide for a fund of \$2500 "to advertise the beauties and advantages of the city of Seaside, as a pleasure and health resort" was defeated. The vote stood 104 in favor of the measure and 130 against.

State highway crews have not only kept the McKenzie highway open to Lost Creek ranch, a winter sports center 12 miles above McKenzie bridge, but have scraped the snow far enough off the center to allow two cars to pass at almost any place, according to Smith L. Taylor, national forest ranger of McKenzie bridge.

A dog saved the life of Otto C. Karstens, farmer of the Knox Butte district east of Albany last week. An angered bull attacked Karstens and gored him in the body and legs, breaking one of his ankles. A farm hand tried to catch the bull, but was chased up a tree. The infuriated animal finally was diverted by the dog.

By vote of its board of directors the Lexington State bank in Morrow county did not open its doors last Tuesday and it was turned over to the state banking department. For the last six years the bank has operated at a loss. Arrangements have been made to pay the depositors 80 cents on the dollar without delay.

A proposal to improve reclamation in Klamath by expending between \$200,000 and \$250,000 on new drains and deepening existing drains has so aroused the interest of the United States bureau of reclamation that a drainage engineer, I. R. Lakisch, has been sent to the Klamath country to investigate the feasibility of the project.

H. F. Hunt, principal of Stadium high school, Tacoma, has accepted an invitation to address the high school principals of Oregon when they assemble at the University of Oregon, Eugene, January 13 and 14, for the first annual principal's conference to be held in conjunction with the regular conference of student editors and officers.

For the first time in 18 years Gresham was without fire protection last week, due to the disbanding of the Gresham volunteer fire department. Vote to disband was unanimous, all 25 members joining in the ballot. Lack of co-operation by the city council, and refusal of that body to purchase adequate apparatus, were given as cause for the department's disbanding.

The Douglas county court was informed last week that the government has approved the 1926 Douglas county claim for O. & C. tax refund money in the sum of \$192,838.38. This is \$445.17 less than was claimed by the county. Approximately \$121,500 will be retained in the county fund and the remainder will be distributed among road and school districts, Port of Umpqua and Umpqua highway improvement district.

Merchandise and commodity exports from Oregon in the second quarter of the current year declined rather sharply from those of the same quarter in 1926, according to report just released by the United States department of commerce. The department fixed value of the quarter's exports from this state at \$11,067,328, compared with \$17,818,029 in the same period of 1926, a decline of \$6,751,001. The value of second quarter exports of this state placed it 22d among the states of the union this year, as compared with 16th place in the same quarter last year.



New Explanation of Fading Bogies

Relation Between Earth Currents and Reception Seen by Expert.

A new explanation with reference to fading is advanced by C. Warfield Keefer, noted radio experimenter of Baltimore.

He believes "man-made static" is a big factor.

"It certainly looks as though there is a relation between the earth currents and reception," he states.

"One phase of radio transmission and reception that is being intensively investigated by radio engineers is fading," Mr. Keefer continues.

"As a rule the longer the wavelength the less the fading effect, although there are cases where the fading on the shorter waves is very small. Most fading is relatively slow; that is, the time interval between maximum and minimum signal strength may be two minutes or more. Generally speaking, fading is more prevalent at night. Observations made at the same location on frequencies very close together show that they do not fade simultaneously. The type may be identical, but there is no relation between the maximum and minimum values, Mr. Keefer says.

"In Baltimore everyone is familiar with the behavior of WJZ, WGY and KDKA. The first of these three stations presents a very interesting study. As a general rule WJZ is affected with the most troublesome type of fading.

"Two well-defined types of fading are recognized synchronous and asynchronous. The first, which is uniform, may be compensated somewhat by control adjustments at the receiving set. Asynchronous fading is the type where the side bands and the carrier wave do not fade together. When the carrier wave is reduced to the value of the side bands or lower, the distortion that results is marked frequently to such a degree that speech may be unintelligible. This condition has been frequently observed with WGY and KDKA, which seem to fade uniformly in this section.

"One theory recently advanced is based upon the fluctuations in the directional flow and intensity of earth currents.

"It is true that natural earth currents are highly related to the magnetic storms and also rather definitely correspond to solar activity as indicated by sun spots. Continuous records have been made of natural earth currents at several magnetic observatories, including one at Ebro, Spain, and Watheroo, western Australia, he reports.

"In or near civilization most of the earth currents notes are not natural, but are caused by leakage from various electric services, particularly from trolley lines. For these currents the rapid changes in intensity and often direction are generally related to the changing amount and position of the currents drawn by the trolley cars.

"Electricity, through electrolytic action, will decompose iron at the rate of twenty-one pounds of iron per ampere per year. It is possible, therefore, that such currents could, through electrolytic action, change the earth's resistance in certain areas, and so more or less permanently change reception conditions. Undoubtedly, the transmission of radio waves is very greatly affected by human activities, such as is evidenced by transmission over a city of steel skyscrapers.

"Investigation of this theory is now being made in Baltimore."

Much Improvement in Home-Built Radio Sets

The home craftsman has joined in the evolution of the radio receiver. No longer does his product resemble the haywire jumble of the past. It rivals and sometimes surpasses the commercial output in the way of modernisms.

Individual ingenuity has not been entirely responsible for the improvement, but it has spurred the home builder to greater efforts and to demand better parts.

The kitchen sink soldering expert doesn't have to replace expensive machinery when he wants to change the design of his receiver. All he has to do is to detach a few wires, replace a few instruments and his receiver is radically changed. The set manufacturer must often go to great expense when such departures are made in his output. Yet the home builder and the manufacturer are far from rivals. One labors for the thrills and the other for financial returns.

GUATEMALA



A Young Maid of Guatemala.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

LIKE ancient Gaul, Guatemala may be divided into three parts, with a special brand of climate assigned to each. There are the lowlands of the Atlantic and Pacific—the hot country; the uplands, ranging from 3,000 to 6,000 feet—the temperate land; and the highlands, where fanglike peaks stretch up to 14,000 feet above the sea—the cold country. In Guatemala climate is a thing of altitude rather than latitude.

The American visitor to Guatemala is likely to land at Puerto Barrios, on the Atlantic or Caribbean side of this country. This port, set on the inner rim of Amatique bay, is alluringly beautiful from the steamer. Though one accepts it as a tropical dream come true, it does not bear close inspection. Here is the north coast terminal of the International railways and important buildings of the United Fruit company. Aside from these, Puerto Barrios does not intrigue one as a site for permanent residence, nor is the hotel the type to which one yearns to return.

A few decades ago the Guatemalan government concluded to build a railway connecting its capital and west coast coffee plantations with the north coast markets. When this road was half-finished, both money and credit ran low, leaving a pair of rails beginning at tidewater and ending at a spot in the broad, warm desert surrounding El Rancho. Then an American stepped into the breach, completed the railway, and made it possible for passengers to ride on a well-equipped train from the shipside to most of the population centers of the republic.

First Impressions of Guatemala have to do with countless bunches of green bananas, for this northern fringe of the republic is bananaland. The great fruit farms are recent, and to make them, the low, rich, swampy coastland was drained and made sanitary.

Race Between Time and Decay. Railways, banana walks, administration buildings, imposing hospitals, modern towns—these have all been built in order that a fleet of vessels may be fed two-score million bunches of bananas yearly. It is efficiency and organization par excellence.

Reduced to its least common denominator, it is a race between time and decay. The cutter, mule carrier, pick-up train, fast steamship, radio telephone, fruit dispatch, all combine to deliver this highly perishable commodity from the banana farm to the corner store in Iowa before rot overtakes the fruit and turns profit into loss.

We leave bananaland aboard the little train of the International railways and start south. From Quirigua the railroad winds up the Motagua valley through plantations, skirting abrupt hillsides. The train crosses the Motagua river every few kilometers, and, all along the way, passes women standing under palm sheds on the stream banks, washing clothing, children and themselves.

After leaving Zacapa the long climb to Guatemala City begins, over a road that winds in horseshoe curves, up mountainsides, through cuts and tunnels, over hills and bridges. Now and then one glimpses the shingly gravel bars of the Motagua and the brush fishtraps set by the Indians. There are villages where vegetable gardens are built on stilts, and perpendicular cornfields.

And still one climbs, past hot sulphur springs with steam clouds curling above them and deep railway cuts through volcanic ash. The air grows

chill as the altitude increases. At sunset the profiles of purple peaks stand out against a yellow sky. Then comes night with more chill and finally, below in the plain, the twinkling lights of Guatemala City.

Capital Often Destroyed.

Guatemala City is not of the New World. It belongs to Old Spain. It is a city suggestive of the Moors, with narrow streets, varicolored houses, deep-set barred windows, bright patios, porticos and colonnades. Guatemala's capital has always been Vulcan's plaything. He has shaken it down, even destroyed it, and has seen it rise again on three different sites.

In 1527 Pedro de Alvarado began the first city on the lower slopes of Agua. In 1541 came a night of torrential rain, lightning, thunder and earth rumblings, then a terrifying shudder. The crater of Agua was torn apart and the lake which filled it rushed down to overwhelm the city.

A new capital, built a few miles to the northeast, in time became one of the most imposing cities of the New World, with splendid palaces and more than 60 impressive church buildings. The old city was but a memory, earthquakes were forgotten, and all seemed well as the new capital grew richer and more powerful. In 1717, with an eruption of Fuego, came an earthquake that leveled the city. Again it was built and again shaken down in 1773, the year of the Boston Tea party.

The capital was again transferred, this time 30 miles away to the site of the present city, and the life of the people moved on until in 1917 came a series of tremblings that first cracked the thick adobe walls and then caused them to crumble. Since 1917 the capital city has again been practically rebuilt, thus illustrating the tenacity with which people cling to homes that have been erected where the shadow of some volcano falls.

On the Mixco Road.

Ten miles away, in the village of Mixco, live the Indians who each day carry to the capital the foodstuffs which its people buy. The road from Mixco to Guatemala City is one of the fascinating moving pictures of Central America.

Dawn in Mixco finds everyone up, preparing for the long, daily walk to the market place and back home again. Early risers set out with their wares packed in a broad basket, borne on the head if the carrier be a woman, or if a man, in a cascade carried on the back, with a broad leather tumpline leading from either side of the load about the forehead.

By nine o'clock there is a procession ten miles long, more fascinating, varied, and interesting than any circus parade that ever followed a caltipe. Women with leathery, wrinkled skin, gray hair, and shriveled bare arms and legs, still trot back and forth on this 20-mile errand each day, carrying to market a crate of eggs, a half dozen fowls, a tray of agucates, or any one of a hundred things to eat and wear.

Here comes a family. The father bears a heavy load of corn or beans or other vegetables, bending forward under the weight and balancing it with the tumpline. The mother, perhaps, juggles a wide wicker tray of vegetables on her head, while she carries a pair of chickens in either hand and an infant swung in a shawl about her body. A brood of children follows, each laden according to size and capacity. The family dog, anemic, apologetic, is always in the party and frequently wears a necklace of dried lemons to ward off canine ills.