

# THE TURNER TRIBUNE

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## Mill Will Be Rebuilt Soon

Turner's Largest Industry Wiped Out By Fire in Early Morning Blaze Saturday.

### PLATE GLASS CRACKED

Forty-four Thousand Bushels of Grain and Hay Consumed; Nine Thousand Bushels Being Stored Farmers' Grain; Insurance Company Salvaging Grain; Shipping to Portland; Farmers to Get Percentage.

Fire of unknown origin destroyed the big mill of the Oregon Feed & Flour company here Saturday morning about 1:30.

The fire was first discovered by Mrs. China Bones, who lives across the street from the mill. Arousing her son, Charlie, who soon spread the alarm and soon the whole town population was up read to render any and all assistance in their power. But the heat was so intense that little could be done and the whole structure was roaring furnace.

The Salem fire pumper arrived but not till after the fire had gained such headway that it was useless to try to fight it. A couple of boxcars of the S. P. company were scorched, one being totally destroyed and some of the ties on the track were somewhat burned.

A heavy freight train coming from the north was held up for a couple of hours on account of the train containing gas tanks. The Salem pumper played water on the fire next to the track and made a clearing for the train which pulled out about 4 o'clock.

The mill contained 44,000 bushels of grain, 9000 bushels of which belonged to farmers who stored it there, the rest belonged to the company. Some of the grain was insured but most of it was not.

A large quantity of baled hay stored in an adjoining shed suffered a like loss.

Farmers who had grain stored in the mill were J. V. Beach, Ball Bros., Dave Burnett, Mrs. Caroline Drager, A. DeGuire, Fred Elser, Fred Fellers, A. B. Hinz, Tom Little, Walt Miller, Albert Mader, Jack Miller, G. L. Morris, Ed Powers, Merle Pearson, John Schifferer, A. C. Stringrub, A. M. Sturevant and Leonard Walker, about 9000 bushels in all; the other 35,000 bushels belonged to the company.

The building was built 53 years ago by Mr. Cockerline of Aumsville and has been the main source of business for the town all these years. The past few years the annual payroll has been around \$12,000 a year with an annual business of \$125,000.

Manager Thiessen immediately opened new quarters in the Earl building where the company has a stock of grain, feed, hay, flour and everything that will keep the farmers and feed men supplied with their wants.

The grain is being salvaged by the C. A. Babcock company of Portland, who have a crew of about 25 men sacking the grain, which is being shipped to Portland, where it will be cleaned and made saleable, and the farmers will receive whatever it brings, which means that those having grain stored will not be total losers.

Manager Thiessen says the mill will be rebuilt as soon as the grain and other debris is removed. The new structure will be thoroughly modern and steps will be taken to make it as nearly fireproof as can be done.

The fire lit up the surrounding countryside. Salem people coming from the big prize fight in Portland

## GOVERNOR MINGLES WITH KIDS AT FATHER AND SON BANQUET

The first annual Father and Son banquet, sponsored by the community, was held in the high school auditorium Tuesday night. The men of the community who had no sons of their own acted as dads to some of the boys present. C. H. Jesse, superintendent of the Turner Boys' Home, was contact man and provided the boys with dads for the banquet. Dr. Epley of Salem led the group in some old familiar songs after which they retired to the domestic science room where the girls of the domestic science class served the banquet to more than one hundred and twenty men and boys. The girls were assisted by Mrs. C. A. Bear, Mrs. L. C. Ball, Mrs. E. E. Ball and their teacher, Mrs. Ivan Hadley. After the banquet they returned to the auditorium for the program. Russell Denyer told in a humorous manner of the boy's impression of dad. Harold Fowler gave his impressions of the boy in the home. This was answered by H. S. Bond, in his usual pleasing manner. Robert Schaefer spoke from the standpoint of the high school boy. The Boys' Home quartet gave a number. Sam Smith gave a whistling solo and Albert Jensen a violin solo.

The climax of the program was the address by Governor Norblad. This address was replete with good advice for the boy drawn principally from his own experiences in life. Everyone was well pleased and there were numerous requests that this be made an annual affair. The committee that had this in charge deserves much credit for the work put forth in working out the plans and handling the program.

Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Haworth called on Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Peterson, Thursday evening. The evening was spent visiting and playing the radio. A very enjoyable evening was spent.

## HARVE RANSOM BUMPS INTO LOGGING TRAIN IN MORNING FOG

Harve Ransom was removed from his home at Shelburn to the Stayton hospital Tuesday. Harve was injured when he drove his car into a logging train early Monday morning when he was on his way to Shelburn from Lyons to get Justin Ransom's mother to take her to Salem to see the boys who were in the Salem General hospital.

The fog was so dense Harve did not see the logging train and although he was not driving fast the compact rendered him unconscious. He was taken to the Ransom home at Shelburn by the train crew where it was found he had suffered chest injuries by being thrown against the steering wheel. He is at present recovering slowly.

reported that when at Brooks they could tell the exact location, it was so bright. The large windows in the Bones Bros. garage, which is about a block east of the mill property, were cracked and broken by the intense heat and the paint on the service station and buildings was blistered which will necessitate repainting.

## TURNER BANK OPENED 20 YEARS AGO BY S. M. ENDICOTT

S. M. Endicott was here from Salem last week renewing old acquaintances and as usual dropped in to visit with The Tribune force. We learned from Mr. Endicott that twenty years ago on Thursday, December 11, he opened the first bank in Turner.

Mr. Endicott said he had promised to open the bank on a certain date and he kept his word, although his fixtures had not arrived he opened the doors at promptly ten o'clock, using a couple of empty barrels and planks for a counter.

So eager were the citizens to have the bank opened and also to see who would be the first depositor a line of people extending from the Robertson corner up to the bank waited for some time till the doors were opened.

Mr. Endicott conducted the bank for five years, selling out to Henry Crawford of Salem; Mr. Gray succeeded Mr. Crawford, and then E. T. Pierce purchased the controlling interest. Mr. Pierce is also manager of the Aumsville bank and divides his time between the two places.

Mr. Endicott says he calls Turner his home, has a warm spot in his heart for our little city and would sooner live in Turner than be doorkeeper in the House of the Lord.

Mrs. Bean of Salem spent Thursday here as the guest of Mrs. Cornelia Davis and Miss Mary Davis. She also attended the bazaar at the Christian church.

## AUTO ACCIDENT CAUSES DEATH OF GIRL--TWO IN HOSPITAL

Driver of Second Car Said to Have Made Wrong Turn Which Caused Wreck.

One of the saddest auto accidents that has occurred for some time in this section happened last Sunday evening about 12 o'clock, when a Chevrolet sedan driven by Justin Ransom of Shelburn, was struck broadside by a car driven by V. M. Gower of Salem at the intersection of North Capitol and Center streets.

In the car with Justin Ransom were Wayne Ransom and John Sacre of Aumsville, Miss Blanche Hutchinson and Verla Massey of Salem.

The party had been visiting relatives in Salem and were on their way home, when Justin failed to see the stop sign, owing to the dense fog and drove into the middle of the street. The Gower car came onto them and it is said Gower turned the wrong way striking the Ransom car causing it to run to the curb, striking a tree with such force as to completely wreck the car.

Blanche Hutchinson received fatal injuries and died at the General hospital a couple of hours later without regaining consciousness. Wayne Ransom received a bad cut over the right eye that took several stitches to close. John Sacre was cut on the right cheek and was badly shaken up. Both boys suffered from shock.

Justin Ransom said he was driving in excess of the speed limit and was fined \$10.00 by Judge Poulsen.

The Gower car was somewhat damaged, the glass being broken and Mr. Gower received slight injuries.

At the General hospital where both Wayne and Johnny are being treated the report comes from Dr. Hobson that they are getting along nicely and will be out in a few days.

## THIRTY-THREE YEARS U. S. MAIL SERVICE

The following writeup is taken from the Portland Journal and is from the pen of Fred Lockley, who writes "Impressions and Observations of the Journal Man":

While in Turner recently I interviewed Fred C. Gunning, who, in point of service, is probably the oldest rural free delivery mail carrier in the United States. He has served continuously as rural free delivery carrier at Turner since October 16, 1897. This means he has been a rural carrier for 33 years. When I asked him to tell me about himself and his job he said:

"I was born at Omra, Wis., May 9, 1874. My father, Felix C. Gunning, was born in Pennsylvania. When I was a little chap, 4 years old, we moved to Kansas, where I lived until I was 19. We came to Oregon in 1893, living for a year and a half at Stayton. From Stayton we moved to Salem, where my parents ran a boarding house on Court street between Commercial and Front. I worked at the boarding house for a while and later worked at Westcott & Irvin's restaurant. Later I worked in a dairy in North Salem owned by Judge R. P. Boise.

"From Salem we moved to Turner. Father and mother leased the hotel here. My job was to meet the passenger trains and carry baggage to the hotel. One day two men got off the train. R. O. Thomas, who was station agent and postmaster here for many years, took one of these men to his home, while the other went to our hotel. I learned from the man who accompanied me to our hotel that he and his friend were postal inspectors. Next morning at the breakfast table this inspector asked me what I planned to do. I told him I had taken the railway mail examination and was on the eligible list. He said:

"You are the very man we are looking for. How would you like a job as mail carrier? I hope you will put in your application. The government is about to establish rural free delivery as an experiment. I can guarantee that you will get the job if you will apply for it. You will receive a salary of \$25 a month, but you will have to furnish your own horse and equipment and also the upkeep of your horse."

"When he was about to leave he said to my father, 'I want you to see that your son puts in his application for rural carrier here.'

"I figured I could take a chance, so I told him if the job was offered me I would take it. The inspectors left on the southbound train that night. A

day or two later Postmaster Thomas showed me a letter from one of the inspectors in which he said he had recommended George E. Judd, Phil W. Pearson and myself as rural carriers at Turner. We three were appointed, and, as you know, this was the first rural free delivery service in Oregon.

"I took out my first mail on October 16, 1897, carrying my mail on horseback. I carried 1700 pieces of mail the first month. I didn't worry about the cost of gasoline in those days, but it did take quite a slice out of my salary to buy oats for my horse at 25 cent a bushel and baled hay at \$4.50 a ton.

"On January 1 our salary was boosted from \$300 to \$400 a year. Within a year or so our salary was increased to \$50 a month. Judd worked about a year and resigned. Pearson worked for 10 years before resigning. My route was 24 miles in length and in winter I would sometimes get stuck in the mud even on horseback. After 18 months I bought a cart for summer delivery. Later I bought a rubber tired buggy and still later I purchased a rural mail wagon. From that I graduated to a Victor bicycle for summer use.

"In 1907 I went to Portland and purchased for \$250 a second-hand tiller steer Olds car. I bought my gas at the hardware store in 5-gallon cans. When the winter rains set in I had to lay up my car. I sold it next spring and bought a motorcycle for \$190. I used the motorcycle for the next seven summers and my horse and cart in the winter. It took me about 10 hours to cover my route with a horse and cart. In 1916 I bought a model T Ford. Last October I bought a model A Ford. My route is now 41 miles in length and for the past two years I have been able to use the car both winter and summer.

"Starting with a salary of \$300 a year, it has been gradually increased until I now receive \$2700 a year. The salary is based on a payment of \$1800 a year for a 24-mile route, with \$30 a year for each mile over 24 miles. We are also allowed an upkeep of 4 cents per mile.

"In 1910 I was married to Miss Nellie Durfee of Shaw.

"Mr. Parker, one of the carriers at Monmouth, the state president of our association, told me recently that there was no carrier in service in the United States today who had been on the job as long as myself. When I started, 33 years ago, there were only 87 free rural delivery routes in the United States."

## A. EDWARDS IS MASTER OF SURPRISE GRANGE

Officers for the year were elected when Surprise Grange No. 233 met in regular session Saturday and are as follows: Master, Arthur Edwards; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Eleanor Titus; lady overseer, Mrs. U. E. Denyer; lecturer, Mrs. W. T. Gulvin; steward, Fred Steiner; assistant steward, Mrs. U. E. Denyer; chaplain, Mrs. C. T. White; gatekeeper, Chas. Ramsdell; Ceres, Mrs. Fred Steiner; Pomona, Mrs. George Crume; Flora, Mrs. Chas. Ramsdell.

Between seventy and eighty were present for the 12 o'clock dinner and of unusual interest was the fact that it was the wedding anniversary of two couples present—Mr. and Mrs. C. T. White's tenth and Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Hale's fifty-fifth. Mrs. Hale cut a large pink and white wedding cake which she had baked and each person present was served a piece.

A splendid impromptu program was presented in the afternoon as follows: Recitation, Rosalie White; reading, Mrs. U. E. Denyer; piano solo, Clarissa Clark; song, "Up on the

## HICKOK--MCKINNEY

Miss Coelotta, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Hickok of Mapleton, Oregon, and William W. McKinney were quietly married at 2 o'clock Sunday at the home of the groom's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. McKinney, who live west of town. Rev. Earl Cochran, cousin of the groom, read the marriage lines.

The bride's sisters, Mrs. Archie Presnall and Mrs. William Rands assisted in serving the wedding dinner.

The bridal couple left for a short honeymoon to Seattle, after which they will be at home to their friends at 2333 State street, Salem, where the groom is a member of the law firm of Young & McKinney.

House Top," Alice Titus, Evelyn Jensen, Clarissa and Frances Clark; recitation, Bernadine White; violin solo, Albert Jensen; Christmas song, audience; reading, Mrs. W. F. Gulvin; accordian solo, Fred Steiner, who also played the music as a greeting to Santa Claus (W. F. Gulvin), who found a brightly trimmed tree upon his arrival with a present on it for all present.