

**The Ontario Argus**  
County Official Paper

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**THE NICHOLS CASE**

Perhaps never in the history of the county has there been so much discussion of a trial after it was finished as that which has followed the Nichols case.

Strange as it may seem, there seems to be a very decided majority of those who followed the case who believe that the ends of justice were defeated in the verdict. Most people do not believe Nichols innocent. They cannot believe that an innocent man would sign a confession of guilt for so grave a crime for the sake which the defendant gave for his action.

Yet it is also true that while the case was in progress there was evident a very marked sentiment in favor of Nichols. There was no evidence of mourning over the fact that Hicks was killed.

The general consensus of thoughtful citizens was that the killing was the result of a drunken brawl resulting from the use of liquor which Hicks himself had sold.

While many were puzzled over the conflict of testimony relative to the finding of the second bullet and the manner in which it was found, and the further fact that one member of the coroner's jury testified that he did not remember seeing the second hole in the court at the time he examined, yet three witnesses testified that they had seen it at that time. Yet the doubt was placed in the minds of the jury, and that together with the testimony of Marshal Wrotten of Jordan Valley that he told Nichols if he confessed he would be freed, served to bar the confession from consideration.

The freeing of Archie Nichols after he had confessed to murder was the result of a masterful defense which made the most of two weak links in an otherwise strong chain of condemning evidence. There is also one other consideration which undoubtedly was weighed in the minds of the jury, that was the character of the victim, had he been a man of higher standing, perhaps the verdict would have been different.

Yet that is not a measure for the judgment of a crime, but juries are human and men will take such things into consideration. When all is said and done, the impression will follow this trial that in Jordan Val-

ley the life of a human being is not accorded the value which society generally believes is due.

**THE END OF THE CONFERENCE**

Time alone will tell whether or not the Washington conference will be more fruitful of good results than any of the many famous predecessors.

The vast difference between this and previous conferences is that they followed directly upon the heels of a war; were held while the hates of war were still rampant; and were held for the purpose of imposing terms upon the vanquished.

This conference was held away from the scenes of war; in times of peace, and for the specific purpose of lessening the preparations for future wars.

Then, too, this conference has followed years of profound education in the ways of peace and the desire for international amity. It was held, too, at a time when all of the nations were feeling the burden of armaments more than ever before and having adapted to a hitherto unheard of degree of open diplomacy bids fair to receive more generous public acceptance. That is the test. Will the public of the various countries accept the responsibilities of the treaties? Has international honor reached a point where such high ideals can be maintained? Has the evolution of society reached a point wherein the co-operation of the nations can be counted on to settle their differences through discussion rather than through armies and navies? If the world has reached that point, then the Washington conference and its resultant treaties is a milestone in human progress. If that stage in the evolution of society is here, then the end of wars will not be far distant, but as yet it is too much to hope for the complete regulation of that ideal.

**MALHEUR COUNTY'S ROADS**

Malheur county has, according to the Oregon Voter, received 55.2 per cent more from the funds of the State Highway Commission than the county has paid into the fund since 1913. That is, nearly six times as much money has been spent in Malheur county than the county has paid in state road taxes, auto licenses and gasoline taxes. Certainly Malheur county has no complaint to make concerning its treatment at the hands of the commission.

But the benefits which Malheur county is to receive from the state program are only beginning to be manifested. When one remembers that four years ago there was no road between Ontario and Nyssa, no road to speak of across Dead Ox Flat; that there was no road worthy of the name between Vale and Jamieson or from Brogan to Cow Valley, nor one between Vale and the upper valley; then one gets an idea of what has been accomplished.

Yet the building of these roads, much as they each and all mean to the various communities and the people that use them; is not the end of the benefits of the new system of handling highways. The people should remember that the roads are to be maintained by the state from the funds secured from the gasoline taxes. In other words the skeleton of the entire road system of the county, the roads connecting all of the principal communities are thus to be placed on a permanent basis, and additional tax money for their upkeep will not be levied each year.

In other words, when times get back to normal, when it can be done within reason and without hardship, steps can be taken to extend the highways to the outlying sections and the entire county can be served with a complete road system. But for the present, after the Jordan Valley to Nyssa road is completed a holiday on highway building will have to be the order.

**LIBRARY NOTES**

The Central Library is open daily except Friday and Sunday from 2.30 to 5.30, and 7.00 to 9.00.

A book of the Rural Science series that will assume importance shortly is "Strawberry Growing" by S. W. Fletcher. "Ninety per cent of strawberry planting in the United States north of the latitude of Washington, D. C. is in early spring as soon as the ground can be worked." The following subjects are well discussed from a practical commercial standpoint—locations and soils, planting, rotations and fertilizing, tillage and irrigation, training the plant, mulching, pollination, picking and packing, marketing, cost of production and profits, propagation, varieties, insects and disease, and statistics on acreage and production. The book has excellent illustrations and index.

The author of "Marketing of Farm Products," L. D. H. Weld, presents this volume, he says, before the subject has been studied scientifically for a longer time, because of the astonishing misconceptions on the part of the general public. It is a simple, untechnical exposition of the whole field, and probably the best book on the subject, covering direct marketing, cooperative marketing, the problem of the middleman, retailing, transportation, costs and the other factors.

Work on the library basement is progressing rapidly and the result thus far is most stimulating to those who are raising the fund. The Library Board was most encouraged last week upon receiving a substantial sum from Dr. Weese.

**TWENTY-TWO MALHEUR COUNTY CLUBS QUALIFY**

Boys and Girls Clubs of Oregon Raise a Total of \$127,359.68 in Produce According to Reports of State Leader

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Ore., Feb. 7.—Malheur County had 22 of the 376 Oregon Boys' and Girls' clubs which finished the work of the year 1920-21, meeting all the requirements of a standard club, according to H. C. Seymour, state club leader.

The requirements for a standard club, are to have five or more members working on the same project, officers elected from among the members, an adult club leader, definite program of work for the club year, reports of work prepared and filed in the office of the state club leader, at least six regular club meetings, a local club exhibit, a demonstration team of three members which has given at least one public demonstration in the community, a judging team chosen by competition among the members, at least 70 per cent of the members completing their work and filing reports, an achievement day program held at the close of the club year, and a membership in the farm bureau held by the club or its officers.

The 6487 club members in Oregon were organized into 724 clubs. Of this number 376 met the requirements of the standard clubs, while 254 of these reported 100 per cent of their members completing their work. The total value of all products produced this year by club members is \$127,359.68. This was at a total cost of \$60,581.13, making a profit of \$66,778.55—a profit surpassing that of the preceding year in spite of the fact that the value of products dropped decidedly within the year.

The value of the county club leader is shown by the year's report. As the counties with leaders—Malheur, Multnomah, Clackamas, Tillamook, Linn, Douglas and Klamath—have made a percentage of completion of 81 1/2 per cent; while the counties

without leaders made 45 per cent.

The list of Malheur county's clubs which finished the year as standard clubs with the names of their leaders as follows: Malheur poultry, Mrs. Chester Morfit; Yale poultry, Mrs. E. J. Hadley; Blue Ribbon poultry club of Ontario, Graham Park; Owyhee poultry club of Nyssa, Victoria T. Schweiser; Valley View poultry club of Ontario, Mrs. Hans Ott; Bonita pig S. A. Blyer; Brogan pig; Mrs. H. M. England; Cairo pig club of Ontario, Steve Cox; Kingman Colony pig club of Nyssa, Robert Overstreet; Oregon Slope pig, Harmon Northrup; Malheur pig, L. D. Lynde; Kingman Colony corn, Mrs. Christie Fleetwood; Big Bend corn, Vera Eachus; Valley View corn club of Ontario, A. R. Albee; Nyssa corn, F. C. Fry; Dead Ox Flat gardening, Miss Jennie Patch; Dead Ox Flat sewing, Miss Marie Front; Cairo sewing club of Ontario, Etta McCreight; Nyssa sewing club, Mrs. W. H. Bean; Bonita cookery, Mrs. J. F. Pehan; Arcadia cooking club of Ontario, Mrs. Clara Gossett.

**MRS. J. H. COOK PASSES**

Word was received by friends of the death of Mrs. J. H. Cook at her home in Portland, Saturday morning, January 28th. Mrs. Cook will be remembered by many residents of Ontario. Her husband was in the real estate business, having charge of the St. Paul Orchard Co.'s business, later moving with his family to Nampa where he died five years ago, the body being taken to Salem, Oregon, for burial. Arnold, the only son, is living at Salem, while Irma, the only daughter, a former Ontario high school student, lived with her mother. Mrs. Cook was in her usual health Friday, having worked all day. At one o'clock a. m. Irma heard her breathe heavily and called to her, receiving no reply. She felt her pulse and found only a flutter, and she passed away immediately. The funeral was held Sunday from the Friends church of which she was a member, and interment was made at Salem.

Mr. and Mrs. John Geisler were guests of their daughter, Mrs. Frank Stowell, Friday evening.

Mrs. Oscar Niece is now a resident of Ontario, having moved in from the ranch last week.

E. B. Johnson was down from Baker the last of the week looking after business interests, having several hands of sheep in this vicinity to superintend.

**February VICTOR RECORDS ARE HERE---COME IN AND LET US PLAY THEM FOR YOU**



Have you been in to see bargains on display? Stationery, Soaps, Cough Syrups, Leather Goods, Brushes, and many other things. Large assortment of Valentines--New Stock.

**Ontario Pharmacy**

Prescriptions our Specialty  
Rexall Eastman Victor

Misses Mary Lackey and Ernestine Lacey spent Friday and Saturday with Ann Carlson at the C. W. Stover home.

Wylie Frakes and family visited at the home of Mr. Frakes mother, Saturday.

**DIRECTORY OF ONTARIO'S BUSINESS FIRMS**

These Men and Firms will serve your very needs promptly. Call upon or write to any of those who are listed below when in need of anything in their respective lines. They are reliable:

BANKS	HOTELS	GROCERIES
ONTARIO NATIONAL BANK The Oldest Bank in Malheur County "Service that Serves" Capital and Surplus \$100,000.	HOTEL WILSON The "Homey" Hotel of Malheur County. Good Meals 40c	THE INDEPENDENT MARKET Phones 6 and 135 If Its Good To Eat—We Have It If It's Farm Produce—We Buy It
DRUGS AND SUNDRIES	OPTOMETRIST	ONTARIO MEAT & GROCERY CO. The Home of Good Eats and Low Prices Phones 3 and 131
ONTARIO PHARMACY O. M. Castleman, Prop. Prescription Specialist—Victor Phonographs—Rexall Remedies—Eastman Kodaks	DR. J. A. MC FALL Eyeglass Specialist Eye Glasses and Spectacles	DEPARTMENT STORES
Moreland Dairy Phone 203 M	MILLINERY Distinction in Clothing and Millinery is the Mark of Those Who Patronize THE STYLE SHOP	Dependable Merchandise "Not the Cheapest, But the Best" RADER BROS.
THE SUGAR BOWL We Make Our Own Ice Cream	MORRIS MILLINERY & NOVELTY SHOP Palmyre Waists—Women's Suits And Sport Clothes	THE HUB One of 40 Stores Will Save You Real Money
ELECTRIC SUPPLIES	OSBORN MILLINERY Nell O. Bedford, Prop. The Only Exclusive Millinery Store This Side of Salt Lake	E. A. FRASER Hardware and Groceries
ONTARIO ELECTRIC CO. Electrical Appliances and Wiring	BAKERIES	JEWELERS
HARDWARE	PURITY BAKERY Ernest Barcus, Prop. All Kinds of Breads, Cakes and Pastry	BLACKBAY JEWELRY STORE Home of "Gifts that Last"
MC NULTY HARDWARE CO. Satisfaction Guaranteed	NOTIONS	W. L. HAZELTINE Watchmaker, Jewelry All Work Guaranteed
TAGGART HARDWARE CO. Malheur County's Largest Hardware Store	VARIETY STORE More than a thousand Articles for the home	BYRON TURNER Signs
H. R. UDICK Plumbing and Heating Domestic Water Systems	ONTARIO REAL ESTATE CO. Farm Lands—City Property Insurance & Rental	
	TROXELL IMPLEMENT CO. Farm Operating Equipment McCormick, Deering and P. & O.	

**A Package of Hurley's in your laundry room makes wash day 'wash hour.'**



Even the best washing machine made is working at a handicap trying to get clothes thoroughly clean with inferior soap. A little Hurley soap in the wash water means that each washerful of clothes will be clean in less time. Your clothes will be on the line that much earlier—and much cleaner, too.

We want every woman who owns a washing machine to try this wonderful soap powder, and as a means of introducing it into a large number of homes we are making this special price offer. We are sure that once you have tried it, you will prefer it to any other kind of soap.

Try it in your dish water—try it for scrubbing, it cuts the grease and cleans perfectly. Buy a package for next wash day.

**ELECTRIC SHOP**  
Idaho Power Co.