



BUSINESS BLOCK IS RUINED BY FIRE

LOSS OF \$25,000 RESULT OF EARLY MORNING BLAZE

ORIGIN IS UNKNOWN

WATER SYSTEM PROVES ITS WORTH AT CONFLAGRATION—WORST IN MANY YEARS.

Fire, of an unknown origin, broke out late last Friday night in the block occupied by the Washington Dry Goods store, located on the corner of Main and 1st streets. The fire was extinguished by the fire department and the damage done to the building was estimated at \$25,000.

This is the worst fire Vale has had in years. Several years ago a store was destroyed in this same block.

The fixtures and stock of the Washington Dry Goods store were a complete loss with the exception of a few suit cases and a few pieces of clothing. The fire was started in a room on the second floor and spread to the main floor. The fire was extinguished by the fire department and the damage done to the building was estimated at \$25,000.

The building was owned by J. J. Smith. It is a complete loss, conservatively estimated at \$25,000. Part of the loss was covered by insurance. The fire was started in a room on the second floor and spread to the main floor. The fire was extinguished by the fire department and the damage done to the building was estimated at \$25,000.

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Sheriff Noe Married.

Della Bullock sprung a surprise on her friends in Vale Friday morning by announcing that they had been married for several days. They quietly went over to Payette the first of the week and were married. Just as quietly they returned home and kept quiet until Friday morning.

The bride is well known in Vale. She has lived here for a number of years. Sheriff Noe is one of the best liked men in Malheur county. He is now serving his second term as sheriff. Mr. and Mrs. Noe will make their home in Vale.

WESTFALL TO VOTE SUM

NEW DISTRICT PLANS TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK.

Within the near future an election will be held by the landowners of the proposed Westfall irrigation district for the purpose of voting bonds for the construction of the reservoir and distribution system. This was definitely decided upon at a mass meeting held in Westfall last Saturday, at which a large number of the landowners were represented.

Two plans of construction have been presented to the officers, one of them promising considerable saving. Some more prospecting is necessary before decision will be made on the method and the election will be called as soon as this report is in. It is estimated by J. Edwin Johnson, engineer in charge of the proposed work, that construction by the drag-line method will save about \$11 an acre. The original construction work was figured at \$66 an acre.

L. R. Annett and a Mr. Ferris of Boise have tentatively offered to do the construction work and take the bonds in payment so that the problem of selling the irrigation bonds will not confront the officers.

The Westfall irrigation district as proposed in the present organization will be in the Bully creek valley about the town of Westfall. It will contain approximately 4600 acres of land of a very high character of soil. The estimated cost of constructing the reservoir and distributing system is: by drag-line method, \$55 an acre; by wagon method, \$66 an acre.

The reservoir will be located in Cottonwood creek canyon a few miles from the town of Westfall. It will be constructed to hold 14,000 acre feet of water.

BODY OF ONE IS FOUND

TWO WEISER BOYS PLUNGE TO DEATH FROM INTER-STATE BRIDGE LAST SUNDAY.

The body of Howard Lee, the 17-year-old Weiser boy who was drowned in the Snake river at Weiser Sunday morning, was recovered at 2:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon by a volunteer crew, which had been dragging the river since the accident. The body was found about a third of the way from the Oregon bank, 100 yards from the spot where spectators saw the boy go down for the last time. The body of his companion, Gerald Evans, has not been found.

The boys were drowned when the car in which they were driving across the Idaho-Oregon bridge west of Weiser, struck an obstruction on the bridge, which was being repaired at the time, and plunged through the railing to drop into the icy water of the river 60 feet below. The boys came to the surface and swam some 200 yards down stream before they sank. They made a vain attempt to reach the railing of the bridge which was floating ahead of them. D. M. Hancock and George Lee witnessed the accident but were powerless to aid the young men as the current is exceedingly strong and dangerous at this point.

Mrs. Emma Evans, mother of Gerald, watched her husband, a 12-year-old son and a 14-year-old daughter drown in the same stream 14 years ago in a spot just 25 miles below the scene of the present accident. Lee was the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Lee of Weiser.

The car has been recovered. District Attorney R. D. Lytle examined the scene of the accident the first of the week and he asserts he does not consider that any liability can be placed upon Malheur county.

PIERCE WILL TALK AT BUREAU MEETING

GOVERNOR-ELECT TO ADDRESS MALHEUR CO. FARMERS

LACKEY IN DISCUSSION

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS WILL BE TOPIC OF MALHEUR COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE.

The annual meeting of the Malheur County Farm Bureau will take place next Friday, December 15th at the Cairo Grange Hall, beginning at 10 a. m. A strong program has been arranged with Governor-elect Walter M. Pierce as the speaker of the day. This is an event to which the farm bureau members look forward as it is the one day in the year when the farmers from all sections of the county get together to discuss their mutual problems and renew acquaintances.

A cafeteria luncheon will be served at a nominal charge by the farm bureau committee at noon. Members of the farm bureau are being urged in a circular letter from the farm bureau office to extend an invitation to their friends to attend. The farm bureau wishes that every farmer should feel free to attend this meeting whether he is a member or not. The program is as follows:

- 1. Call to order by President V. V. Hickox, 10 a. m.
- 2. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, Secretary P. M. Boals, 10:01 a. m.
- 3. Report of the treasurer, P. M. Boals, 10:10 a. m.
- 4. Progress report, recommendations and announcements by the president, 10:20 a. m.
- 5. Violin trio, Miss Elinor Randall, Mrs. J. F. Phelan, W. D. Kinder, 10:40 a. m.
- 6. Report of the committee on amendments to the constitution, 10:50 a. m.
- 7. Report of the committee on budget and dues, 11:10 a. m.
- 8. Gello solo, Carlos Wilcox, 11:20 a. m.
- 9. Progress report and recommendations of the county agricultural agent, 11:40 a. m.
- 10. Progress report and recommendations of the county club agent, 11:50 a. m.
- Dinner at la cafeteria.
- 11. Call to order, 1 p. m.
- 12. Violin-quartet, Randall, Phelan, Kinder and Wilcox, 1:01 p. m.
- 13. Report of committee on nomination and election of officers, 1:15 p. m.
- 14. Vocal solo, Scotch Melodies, Mrs. D. P. Graham, 1:40 p. m.
- 15. Address, Hon. Walter M. Pierce, governor-elect of Oregon, 1:50 p. m.
- 16. Discussion legislative matters, Representative J. A. Lackey, 2:50 p. m.
- 17. Violin duet, Miss Randall and Mr. Kinder, 3 p. m.
- 18. Report of committees on resolutions, 3:10 p. m.
- 19. New business, 3:30 p. m.
- 20. Adjournment, 4 p. m.

The committees are as follows: Resolutions—O. E. Carman, I. E. Oakes and J. L. Brown. Dues and Budget—A. A. Reed, H. L. Taylor and Frank Morgan. Amendments to Constitution—T. W. Clegett, G. H. Bridwell, H. H. Hickox. Dinner and Arrangements—P. F. Contrymen and A. B. Cain. Program—P. M. Boals, E. B. Conklin and L. R. Brethaupt.

PASTORS' ASS'N FORMED

JAMES OF ONTARIO HEADS ORGANIZATION—WEAVER IS VICE PRESIDENT.

For the purpose of cultivating a spirit of comity and a closer co-operation in religious work in the county the Malheur County Preachers' Association was organized this week at Ontario. Preachers of the county met at the Nazarene parsonage in that city, organized and elected officers for the first year as follows: A. W. James, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church of Ontario, president; A. B. Weaver, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church of Vale, vice president; E. E. Martin, pastor of the Nazarene church of Ontario, secretary-treasurer.

Semi-monthly meetings of the association will be held and the next annual meeting is scheduled to be held at the Methodist Episcopal parsonage in Vale.

W. H. Harrington of Brogan spent Monday in Vale visiting with friends.

Firemen Compare Yarns of First Fight for Dept.

The city council was requested at its regular meeting on Thursday evening by representatives of the Vale fire department to provide a siren fire alarm for the city, suitable waterproof clothing for the volunteer fire fighters and a few other items of necessary fire fighting equipment. It was pointed out that had there been a better fire alarm the loss at Friday's fire might not have been so great as it was necessary to arouse many of the firemen by telephone calls.

The department seriously realized its responsibility to the property of the city and will give everything in the way of personal service it is possible to give during fires was shown at the December meeting on Tuesday evening. Nearly every member of the department was present.

Fire Chief Mueller complimented the new firemen highly for their work at the recent fire. He gave a brief talk upon the experiences of Friday night and instructed the different companies in their respective duties in relation to each other.

"The most important thing for you firemen to remember are these," said Chief Mueller. "Upon hearing a fire alarm, go at once to your company station. The first man there will be in charge until an officer appears. If your company has left the station follow it to the fire and report to the officer in charge. Obey implicitly the orders of the officer in charge of you. Do not leave a fire or your apparatus until given permission by your officer."

After the business session the members of the department enjoyed card games and other amusement until a late hour.

Hose Company No. 1 effected its permanent organization last Saturday afternoon and had it confirmed by the department. Officers were unanimously elected as follows: R. D. Lytle, captain; Charles Glenn, assistant captain; Lloyd Riches, secretary.

The company has a full roll of ten men who were all at the organization meeting. They are R. D. Lytle, Charles Glenn, Lloyd Riches, C. K. Crandall, B. F. Ford, C. O. McCrea, Earl Neeley, C. C. Hutchinson, Joe Gwilliams and John Derrick.

The other companies will organize at once, so their temporary captains assert.

BUTTON! BUTTON! WHO'S GOT THE BUTTON?

You know that little old game the kiddies have so much fun over. It's great stuff, isn't it? But in Malheur county it's a back number. The new game is Football! Football! Who's got Ontario's football? Those who are playing it claim the new one is quite fascinating.

As the story goes the football disappeared after the Vale boys so beautifully trimmed their old enemies two weeks ago. Vale was accused forthwith of theft with intent to keep—or something like that, and payment was stopped on the check to pay the expenses of the Vale team. The local team was given the ultimatum of producing the football, paying for it, or forfeiting the expense money.

Inasmuch as the most conscientious efforts of Supt. B. F. Ford have not found the elusive pigskin, the neighboring school has been paid its price with the understanding that whenever and wherever the football is found it is to be delivered to the Vale high school.

All this week milk bottles have been reposing in public places in Vale with the captions, "Help Ontario Pay For Its Football, One Cent Is the Limit."

But the football is still missing.

Will Preach at Brogan—Rev. A. J. B. Weaver will preach at the Brogan community hall this Sunday at 2:30. Every one is most cordially invited.

Returns from Baker—Mrs. Harold Hill and infant son, Thomas Harold, returned from Baker Tuesday.

PETITIONS ASK FOR RAISE IN SALARIES

CONTENTION THAT EFFICIENT WORK NOT ASSURED

SAVING IS VERY SMALL

TAXPAYERS ASK TO SUPPORT COUNTY OFFICERS IN MAINTAINING STANDARD.

Petitions, asking that the deputies in the offices of County Clerk Sackett, Sheriff Noe and Assessor Graham be paid the salaries asked for in the original estimates given the budget committee by these offices, are being circulated throughout the county and will be presented to the budget hearing meeting on December 20.

The text of the petition is as follows: To the Honorable County Court of Malheur County, Oregon, and Budget Committee:

We, the undersigned, citizens and taxpayers of Malheur County, Oregon, respectfully petition this honorable body to again look into the matter of the reduction of salaries of the several deputy officers of this county, and if consistent with good business and economy, give these officers the amount asked for in the different budgets which were presented to you by the officers of this county.

The amount of money in question is so small, where distributed as a tax to each individual, that your petitioners feel and believe that your body would not hesitate to make this allowance as asked for. The entire amount is only \$680, distributed as a tax against a \$15,000,000 tax roll. This is equal to about four cents on each \$1000 assessment. It is a small sum to ask of you, yet the underlying principle is not small. In a year's time it means a considerable to the individual drawing the salary. Your body certainly realizes that efficiency counts for much in this work, and if you do not pay, you do not get efficiency.

It has been our observation that the deputies in question have been faithful in this work. These men stand ready to give service to the people at any time, whether during office hours or at other times, and they are entitled to be paid for efficient service.

Bearing these acts in mind, we earnestly petition your body to allow these men a salary commensurate with their worth and ability, and that you allow the sheriff \$150 for a tax deputy instead of \$135, and \$125 for an office deputy instead of \$112.50; that you allow the county clerk one deputy at \$125 per month instead of \$112.50; that you allow the county assessor one deputy at \$125 per month instead of \$112.50.

We feel that no honest taxpayer would or could censure this body for such action.

FARM BUREAU MEETING

VALE BRANCH OFFICERS FOR 1923 WILL BE ELECTED NEXT SATURDAY.

For the purpose of deciding upon a program of work for next year and electing officers for that period members of the Vale Farm Bureau will meet next Saturday at 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon at the public library, according to a notice sent out by V. T. Herrett, chairman of the local bureau.

E. B. Conklin will represent the county Farm Bureau and County Agent L. R. Brethaupt and Club Agent W. D. Kinder will assist in the meeting.

After the business features some entertainment will be given. The complete program is not reported but it will contain a violin solo by Mr. Kinder and reading of Riley's poems by Mr. Conklin.

Everyone interested in farm bureau work in this district is urged by Chairman Herrett to be present.

Visits in Boise—Mrs. R. E. Weant spent the week end in Boise, returning to Vale Sunday evening. Mrs. Weant's sister, who has been visiting with her during the past week, accompanied her to Boise.

Visits Sister—Harry Edwards of Weiser is spending the week with his sister, Mrs. Earl Neely.

Plan Crops Now.

Right now is the time to decide whether you will plant head lettuce next year. The California Vegetable Union must have assurance that a sufficient acreage will be planted next year or they will move their packing plant from Vale. O. E. Carman, whose success with lettuce this season was marked, is interested in keeping the packing plant in Vale and he will list your acreage. See him if you want to grow lettuce next year. It is asserted that \$70,000 worth of lettuce was shipped from the little town of Wilder this season from an acreage not much larger than that around Vale.

XMAS TREE FOR KIDDIES

CHURCHES AND LODGES COMBINE IN PLANS FOR BIG COMMUNITY TREE.

Vale will have a community Christmas tree on the evening of December 23.

This was decided upon at a meeting of the Sunday school board of the Methodist Episcopal church at its regular meeting on Monday evening. A committee consisting of Charles L. Batchelder, Burgess F. Ford and Theodore Forcier was appointed and plans are being formed now for this community undertaking.

The different churches and lodges of the city will be invited by the Methodists to participate in making this event one long to be remembered by both the big and little boys and girls of Vale. If the weather permits the tree will be in the city park and there will be bonfires, skating on the municipal rink and a jolly good time for everybody. Bad weather will, of necessity, drive the fun makers under shelter.

There will be a present on the tree for every child in the city and, if the gifts are numerous enough, some of the big kiddies also. The entire city is expected to join not only in the fun of participation but also in the fun of preparation.

ELEVEN PERMITS GIVEN

WATER RIGHTS WILL BE FINAL IF NOT CONTESTED WITHIN THREE MONTHS.

Water Master H. G. Kennard has just received from the state water board, eleven water right certificates. These certificates were issued to cover appropriations perfected under permits granted by the state engineer, and are the final record of such water rights if not contested within three months. After being recorded by the county clerk, the certificates will be forwarded to the respective parties.

The certificates are as follows: Jacob Duen of Beulah, 0.70 second feet from Little Malheur river, for the irrigation of 56 acres; priority October 18, 1919.

Thomas P. Worsham of Malheur, 0.07 second feet from Cottonwood creek for the irrigation of 5 acres of land; priority January 10, 1917.

Forrest Jones of Juntura, 0.54 second feet from Dipping Vat creek for the irrigation of 454 acres of land; priority March 4, 1918.

Henry Cape of Ironside, 0.25 second feet from Station creek for the irrigation of 20 acres of land; priority May 18, 1918.

A. E. Nichols of Ironside, 0.25 second feet from unnamed springs for the irrigation of 20 acres of land; priority May 23, 1918.

W. L. Channer of Payette, Idaho, 0.31 second feet from unnamed stream for the irrigation of 25 acres of land; priority April 23, 1919.

E. D. Corder of Bonita, 1.50 second feet from Post creek for the irrigation of 128 acres of land; priority October 4, 1918.

CITY MUST BE MADE SANITARY SAY DADS

COUNCIL ORDERS PROPERTY OWNERS TO CONNECT

MAY BUY FIRE ALARM

REQUEST OF FIREMEN FOR EQUIPMENT REFERRED TO FIRE COMMITTEE.

Within sixty days all residences within 160 feet of a sewer must connect with this sewer and fill up all cess pools according to the orders issued by the city council at its regular December meeting on Thursday night. Recorder J. D. Rogers was instructed to issue notices to all property owners affected by this resolution and Marshal Barclay was instructed to serve the notices in person to all possible.

The city ordinance gives the council power to enforce this order. It makes failure to comply with the order a criminal offense and also empowers the council to order the sewer connection in and take a lien on the property for the cost.

Two arguments were presented at council for the strict enforcement of this ordinance. The first, and as was contended, the most important, is safeguarding the health of the city. All open cess pools were declared a menace to the people and should be closed up. It was also argued that every resident should pay his or her proportionate share of maintaining the water system by being connected with it.

Engineer Tamblin's report that the new water system was according to all contracts was accepted and the contractors will be given their last payment and the bond released upon the city's receipt of a guarantee for one year of the roof of the reservoir.

The proposition of George W. Hayes for a settlement of the \$250 damage suit began some time ago, by Schraeder against the city was turned down. Attorney Hayes offered to settle for \$142. The suit is to recover money alleged to have been lost when horses belonging to the plaintiff were illegally impounded and sold.

The fire and water committee was instructed to consider the request of the fire department for additional equipment which includes a suitable siren for fire alarm.

WANT LOCAL INSTITUTES

TEACHERS REQUEST PLACE ON COUNTY FAIR BOARD AND PROMISE COOPERATION.

At a meeting of the executive of the Malheur county division of the Oregon State Teachers' Association held at Ontario, Saturday morning, December 1st, the following measures were discussed and approved:

First: That the Malheur County Teachers' Association wishes to assure the county fair board of its desire to co-operate in every way possible with the board in its task of making the annual county fair a success. Furthermore, the association desires to be represented as a voting member of the board in order that it may thus co-operate most wisely.

Second: That, if possible, arrangements be made with the county school superintendent for the holding of local institutes throughout the county in the spring rather than for one general institute. The decision as to the various sectional divisions is to be left to the county superintendent.

Third: That a sum of \$30 be appropriated from the funds of the Malheur County Teachers' Association partially to defray the expenses of the delegates to the meeting of the Oregon State Teachers' Association which is to be held in Portland during the Christmas holidays.

Leaves for Enterprise—Carl Reed, well known man of Vale, left the first of the week for Enterprise, where he will remain indefinitely.

Moves Offices—George Hayes is moving his office this week from his old building to the rooms next to the Vale Electric Bakery. Robt. D. Lytle has completed his move from the First National building to the Odd Fellows building.

C. H. Musterman of Brogan has been transacting business in Vale during the last week.

SERMON SERIES TO BEGIN

METHODIST PASTOR WILL TALK ON TOPICS OF BUSINESS INTEREST SUNDAY.

Beginning a series of sermons dealing with the religious, social and business problems of communities like Vale, Rev. A. B. Weaver, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church will preach upon the "Three Road Marks to the City of Prosperity" next Sunday evening at his church. A special invitation has been extended to the business and professional men of the city to attend this service.