

## Midnight Fire Destroys Hood River Flour Mill

### Flames Beyond Control When Firemen Reach Scene and Only Hard Work Saves Adjoining Buildings--Railroad Company Has Freight Cars Burned and Track Damaged--Loss \$30,000.

By a disastrous fire which occurred at 1:45 Sunday morning, and destroyed the Hood River flouring mill, the city lost one of its most valuable industries.

The origin of the fire is a mystery as there had been no fires in the building for several days, and the plant was operated by water power. It is believed by G. J. Geesling, the manager of the mill, and also the heaviest stockholder, that it was caused by tramps who had gained entrance to the building and were again attempting to blow open the safe.

At the time the first alarm was turned in by Night Officer Henry Hickox the building was a mass of flames and when the firemen reached the scene of conflagration they were powerless to stay its progress. With the building two freight cars belonging to the O. W. R. & N. were consumed and considerable damage done to the ties on one of the sidings.

The loss to the milling company is stated to be \$35,000 partly covered by insurance and the railroad company's loss is in the neighborhood of \$1,000. The big building and contents were entirely consumed with the exception of the grain room on the south side of the structure.

When the alarm sounded Hood River Hose Company No. 1, W. B. McGuire, foreman, and R. B. Perigo, assistant foreman, was the first to respond and get a stream on the fire. The value of an additional hose cart came into play as with the other cart which soon arrived the firemen were able to lay 1,000 feet of hose. One stream was brought from near the office of the Stanley Smith Lumber company, the nearest hydrant, and another from the private hydrant of the Bridal Veil Lumber Company. As soon as the progress the fire had made was realized it was

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## Commencement Doings Dominate Public Interest

This is commencement week, and the sweet girl graduate and embryo statesman will be supreme in the eye of the local public. The class which will graduate from the Hood River high school this year is the smallest that has made its formal bow before a Hood River audience in several years. Strange to say, it contains an even division of the sexes—seven boys and seven girls—and while it is not wise to be prophetic, there may be an omen in this that will have its culmination in the future.

However, the product of Hood River's highest institution of learning are as likely a lot of approaching manhood and womanhood as could be found anywhere, and the city and their respected parents and friends may well be proud of them. The girls of the class are Eva Boyed, Hazel Cartan, Maude Conover, Ruth Vinton, Elsa Wagner, Ruby Whitcomb and Bessie Yowell, and the boys, Wyeth Allen, Fred Bell, Forrest Moe, Lester Murphy, Donald Onthank, Earle Spaulding and Lynn Young.

The exercises really began Sunday morning, when the class and a large

congregation listened to an eloquent and timely baccalaureate sermon delivered by Rev. E. A. Harris, pastor of Riverside Congregational church. The united congregations of the city crowded the Church to the doors to bid the graduating class God speed on the voyage of life.

The various ministers of the city took part in the opening services and Mrs. Chas. Henney and Mr. Epping sang and Miss Radford rendered a violin solo.

Mr. Harris dwelt on the importance of one's theory of religious life and earnestly recommended the acceptance and application of four cardinal virtues of Jesus' life and conduct which were:

First, to estimate the value of a man's life by his character and nothing less.

Second, to make righteousness the end of all conduct.

Third, to practice self-sacrifice as the only law for the attainment of success.

Fourth, to make all activity in life redemptive and uplifting.

His application of these principals to the social, religious, industrial and

political life of the times held his hearers in closest attention and gave to the out-going class four great corner stones for the building of a worthy life.

On Thursday evening the class will give a play at Monroe Opera House, in which its members will take part. The play selected is a four act drama entitled "Rose of Eden, and the cast of characters is as follows:

James Gregory.....Lynn Young  
Clara.....Bessie Yowell  
Imogene.....Eva Boyed  
Willy.....Fred Bell  
Mrs. Twells.....Ruth Vinton  
Miss Crowinshield.....Hazel Cartan  
David Crowinshield.....

.....Donald Onthank  
Eunice Dare.....Elsa Wagner  
Jane Salmon.....Ruby Whitcomb  
Marquis of Leamington.....

.....Forrest Moe  
Baron von Streits.....Lester Murphy  
Paul Smetana.....Earle Spaulding  
Wallress.....Maude Conover  
Polkeman.....Wyeth Allen

Friday afternoon, the High School baseball team will cross bats with the team from The Dalles for the de-

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## Cool, Wet Weather Will Make Strawberries Late

### May 20th, Date Fixed for First Shipment, Will See Few if Any Berries Moving--With Warm Weather Season Will Open June 1st--Growers Should Now Plan for Pickers.

The cold weather of the past ten days has held the berry crop back and it is now doubtful if May 20th, the date when it was expected the first berries would be shipped out, will see any fruit moving. Even from the few districts in the Northwest that are earlier than Hood River, no shipments have as yet been reported, and straggling claims to the earliest berries usually so frequent at this time of year are absent.

The local crop is said to be showing up fine as far as quality is concerned and a few warm days with plenty of sunshine would make them come along fast. Estimates of the crop run from 60,000 to 75,000 crates with a very considerable increase

from the Upper Valley. It is expected that Hood River fruit will strike a good market this year between the Missouri and Arkansas berries, which have been moving for a week and are plentiful, and those which come after the local berries are consumed.

It is stated that growers should now get busy and make arrangements for pickers instead of waiting until the last minute. About June 1st is thought to be the date when they will be needed.

Reports on berry crop conditions throughout the Northwest this year show a late season, with short yields in many districts. Frost has caused the short yield in outside districts, while cloudy and wet weather has made berries late in the middle west and Pacific coast states, as well as at Hood River. Missouri also reports berries poor in quality and color, owing to dark weather and lack of sunshine.

The local demand for berries is expected to be good this year, especially in the Puget Sound district, while the shipments east, it is thought, should bring a good figure.

## ORCHARD COMPANY ADOPT NEW PLAN

C. R. Bone, who has recently opened a handsome office in the Johnson building, has gone into the real estate business in a big way, and has associated with him J. E. Montgomery, formerly editor of the Glacier.

In addition to a general line of orchard lands the new firm is handling two large propositions, that of the Central Orchard Company and the Boneboro tract. The former consists of a large acreage in Willow flat, some of which has been set to trees and the rest is now being improved. Associated with Mr. Bone in this enterprise are C. H. Sprout and E. O. Blanchard.

The land is to be sold in small tracts and cared for until it comes into bearing. Payments can be made in installments, something that has never been offered to the public before in the way of orchard lands.

The Central Orchard Company has also established a Portland connection with the Oregon-Washington Development Company. The head of the latter is C. J. Tilson, formerly with Devlin & Firebaugh, and Henry J. Edward, both of whom are familiar with Hood River and who are taking an active interest in its development.

The firm expects to interest and secure investors who have not enough capital to buy outright. The land in question is some of the best in the Valley for apple raising and is being put on the market at a reasonable price.

## OLLIE'S NEW LOCAL CRAFT STAUNCH AND COMPLETE

Dean & Sheplar, who operate the White Salmon ferry, are now navigating their new craft, the Ollie S, which is said to be one of the staunchest and most complete little vessels of its tonnage on the river. The boat was built by Al Sheplar and Captain Woods, of the city by the sea. The new craft, which is the largest of the 15-ton class boats plying on the Mid-Columbia, is also the swiftest, making with ease 13 miles an hour against the current.

The trip from Astoria was made in 9 hours. The little vessel, which will cost her owners about \$8,000, is 62 feet long with a beam of 12½ feet. Dean & Sheplar will use her for excursions between Columbia River cities from The Dalles to Cascade Locks.

## A Large Legal Instrument

When County Clerk Hanson transferred the mortgage of the holdings of the Hood River Light & Power Company to the Pacific Light and Power Company last week, he recorded the largest legal instrument ever filed in this section of the state. The document contained 114 pages of printed matter and the fees were in the neighborhood of \$180.

A series of essays on various subjects by Byron Williams which the News is publishing are well worth reading. Couched in breezy language they contain a world of wisdom as well as humor.

## CLASS OF 1911



Bessie Yowell Hazel Cartan Eva Boyed  
Ruby Whitcomb Donald Onthank Fred Bell  
Forrest Moe Earle Spaulding  
Maude Conover Lynn Young Lester Murphy  
Wyeth Allen Elsa Wagner

## G. A. R. EXERCISES FOR MEMORIAL DAY

On Sunday, May 28th, the Post and Corps will attend divine service at the Baptist church at 11 o'clock. The members of Canby Post and Canby W. R. C. will meet at the residence of Mrs. B. F. Shoemaker and form in time to march to the church promptly. Visiting members of the Post and Corps and all ex-soldiers are requested to join in such service.

There will be no joint meeting of the churches on this day, owing to lack of room, but each minister of the town and valley is requested to preach a sermon in his church suitable to the occasion, and as the years roll by the Post and Corps will visit each church in succession in alphabetical order.

On May 30th the Post and Women's Relief Corps will march into the cemetery from the cross roads on the

## SEEKS TO TAKE AWAY DAUGHTERS

Through a citation issued by Judge Thomas Graham of the superior court of California, Albert Sutton, the well-known architect, orchard owner and director in the Hood River Apple Growers' Union, is ordered to produce his two daughters, who reside here with him, in court, in order that their mother, from whom Mr. Sutton secured an uncontested divorce, may make a plea for their custody.

Mr. Sutton for many years resided in San Francisco, where he was prominent in business and social circles. In 1907 his wife, now Mrs. Ethel Montgomery, having since married a wealthy San Francisco real estate man, deserted Mr. Sutton, going to Paris with a man companion and taking the children. Mr. Sutton followed and in Paris secured his two daughters, whom he brought

## EAST SIDE ACREAGE SELLS FOR \$18,500

An orchard sale of unusual interest was consummated Wednesday of last week, when ten acres of the Sprout orchard on the east side was sold to W. C. Keek, through the agency of G. Y. Edwards & Co. The purchase price was \$18,500. Mr. Keek was a banker residing at present in Nebraska, but will build on his property and it is said come here to live.

This is a part of the orchard from which Mr. Sprout sold 10 acres last fall to F. W. Hayt and for which he received the spot cash price of \$18,000. The ten acres are also a part of the orchard from which Mr. Sprout picked his load of Spitzenbergs last fall that took the blue ribbon at the Spokane Apple Show. A large part of the apples were picked from the part purchased by Mr. Keek.

## STEAM ROLLER FALLS THROUGH BRIDGE

While being taken out on the west side to be used in road construction by Senton & Smith, the contractors for the west side macadam, the steam roller belonging to the county crashed through the Indian Creek bridge. The bridge was badly damaged but very little damage was done to the roller. It was hoisted to the road and the bridge is being repaired.

## MOTHERS' DAY APPROPRIATELY OBSERVED

The several city churches appropriately observed "Mother's Day" by special services. Church members were greeted at the door by juvenile mothers, who presented each with a white carnation.