

FIRE HERO RESCUES FIANCEE, THEN DIES

Cudahy Hotel Manager Tells of Romance; Young Woman Is in Serious Condition.

FIREMEN SAY ALARM LATE

Blaze Had Good Start, but Water Is Put on Six Minutes After Call. Woman Jumps Just as Ladder Is Nearing Her.

Miss Myra Skogmann, who was rescued by Willard Dieting in the Cudahy Hotel fire yesterday before the young man lost his life, was to have been his bride in the near future, according to Mrs. Cudahy, the manager of the hotel.

With his entire face was marked with blisters, his eyebrows singed away and his hair scorched, J. Cudahy tells of his frantic search through the hotel for his 11-year-old son, Raymond. He did not find the boy, who had already gone down the stairway in safety, and was beaten back to Campbell's room and the fire escape.

Dieting Saves Woman. As he gained the fire escape he met Willard Dieting, who was just placing Miss Skogmann on the landing. Cudahy followed her down, he says, but Dieting, when he saw him last, was still standing by the window, was still at this time, apparently, that the heroic young man dared the flames again and returned, either to awaken Ebele, or to save valuable belongings of Miss Skogmann.

"Dick was standing in the window as I went down," said Cudahy. "Poor Dick, he was the life of the house." Another roomer who was scorched and burned was F. W. Campbell, the windows of whose room opened on the fire escape, and on whose bed the body of Dieting rested. Mr. Campbell, having tried the impassable stairs, returned to his room, and escaped just after Cudahy.

Wheeldon Annex Is Haven. At the Wheeldon Annex, those who fled, with only their night clothing, were taken in and ministered to. The patrons of the burned hotel were grateful for the care that was given them and the coffee and breakfast. The management of the Wheeldon Annex ordered that the firemen be given coffee and hot food, and served breakfast to the men who were in the building.

Only one was injured or burned. Truckman Fitzmorris had his face and hands scorched in his daring climb to bring R. D. Curtis down to safety. Fire Captain Ring, of Truck 1, which was the first apparatus to reach the fire, declares that the tardiness with which the alarm was turned in is responsible for the serious character of the fire. The run to the fire was made in record time, the alarm being received at 6:44. In less than six minutes the hose lines were in place and the flames and Captain Ring had run two blocks from the blazing hotel to "pull" a fire box. The records show that this second alarm was turned in at 6:50, six minutes after Truck 1 left its station at Fourth and Yamhill.

Captain Says Alarm Was Late. "The telephone alarm was received at least 15 minutes late," declared Captain Ring, "and the fire had a big start. Had we received an immediate alarm we could have confined the fire to the kitchen. Under the conditions I don't believe it could have been handled any better. I think it was one of the best things ever made in this town." Captain Ring stated that witnesses told him the fire had been in progress at least 15 minutes before the alarm was received by the firemen.

At least three ladders were up within five minutes after the arrival of Truck 1, members of that company declared, adding that it was unnecessary for the women to jump.

"Was in a window," said a fireman, "was in a window. We would have reached her with the ladder in less than 30 seconds. Someone called 'Jump' and she sprang out."

FARMERS' UNION BANQUETS

Pendleton Has Celebration Over Grain Elevator Work.

PENDLETON, Or., Nov. 26.—(Special.)—One hundred and fifty Pendleton and Umatilla County farmers and business men gathered at the Eagle-Woodmen Hall today for the annual banquet of the Farmers' Union Grain Agency. The occasion was the completion of the concrete-pouring at the new \$30,000 grain elevator now under construction.

Impromptu talks were made by F. C. Burrell, of the Burrell Engineering Company of Chicago; E. Roehlfing, of Portland; Fred Weiss, of Condon; J. D. Adkinson, of The Dalles; S. B. Calderhead, E. L. Hoppell and Walter Adams, of the Northern Pacific Railroad; and T. F. O'Brien, of the O.-W.-R. & N. Company.

Alumni Team Training.

HOGUAM, Wash., Nov. 26.—(Special.)—Regular nightly practice is being held by the Grays Harbor Alumni team in the Tacoma Stadium Thanksgiving Day. The team is composed of eight former Houliam High School football players and three from Aberdeen.

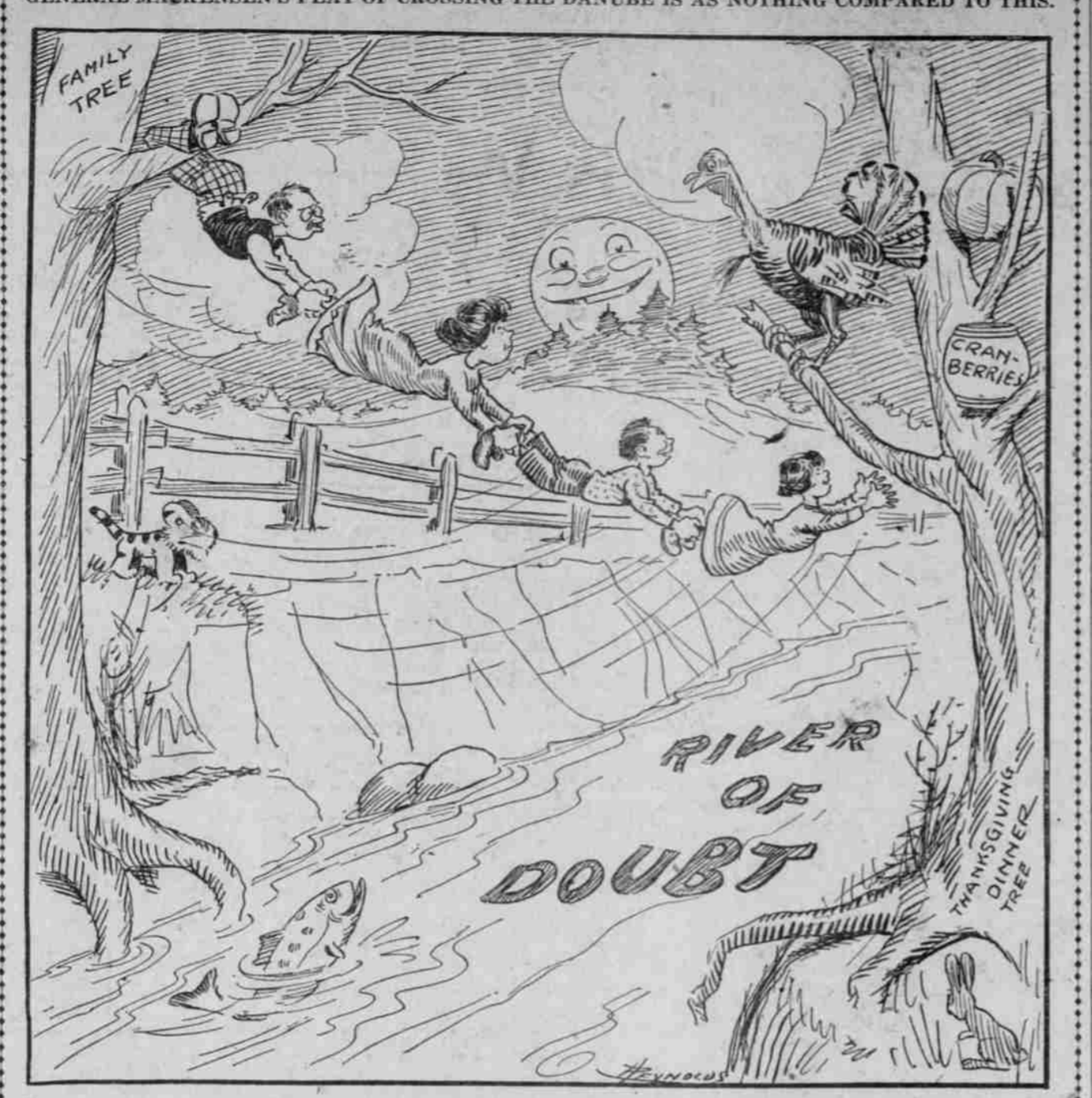
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ONE DEAD IN FIRE

Trapped Roomers Leap From Upper Windows.

VICTIM DIES AS HERO

W. G. Dieting Saves Two Others, but Succumbs to Flames—Five Women Are in Hospital Suffering From Injuries.

(Continued From First Page.)

nance of flame. Ebele says that he awoke with Dieting clutching at his throat, and imploring him to save himself. Half-asleep, Ebele for a moment resisted his rescuer, but Dieting pulled him from his bed. As Ebele realized the situation, Dieting sprang again through the door, to regain the fire escape. His roommate met a wave of flame at the door and fell back. Dieting succumbed as he reached Campbell's room again, with the fire escape just before him.

West Side fire companies and trucks responded to the alarm, which was turned in at 6:45, and turned swiftly to the rescue of the roomers, but not before a number had leaped from the second story.

Truckman Fitzmorris, of truck 1, scaled the blazing building to the third story, using a roof ladder, and brought R. D. Curtis down in safety when the latter was preparing to jump. Mr. Curtis' left arm, from elbow to wrist, was blistered and burned. A dozen other heroic incidents are told by the rescued persons, who unite in praise for the bravery of Willard Dieting, who lost his life, and for the conduct of the janitor, James Toomey, who raced through the thick smoke to give the alarm.

All Fleed in Night Garments.

So scanty was the time afforded that none of the roomers saved their personal effects and all were forced to flee the hotel in their night garments. The apartments of the Wheeldon Annex, across the street, were generally thrown open to the sufferers, where they were warmed and given coffee and breakfast.

The origin of the fire is unknown, save for the information given by the janitor, who rose at 5 o'clock. Mr. Toomey, who was employed by the hotel a week ago, said that he first kindled a fire in the kitchen range, then went to the basement to tend the furnace. As he was at this work, he heard a muffled explosion sound in the kitchen, and hastened back. He found the room seething with fire, and gave the alarm. It is his belief that the explosion was caused by a leakage of gas from the kitchen fixtures.

With almost inconceivable rapidity the fire coursed upward, devastating the south and southwest rooms on the second floor, and spreading fanwise to the third, where it swept every room. Most of the roomers on the third floor gained the second floor in time to escape, but others were marooned in the hotel a week ago, said that he first kindled a fire in the kitchen range, then went to the basement to tend the furnace. As he was at this work, he heard a muffled explosion sound in the kitchen, and hastened back. He found the room seething with fire, and gave the alarm. It is his belief that the explosion was caused by a leakage of gas from the kitchen fixtures.

Bedclothes Rope Used. Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Alkus and their seven-year-old son, Robert, roomers on the second floor, found the stairway roaring and retreated to a room facing the north, where Mr. Alkus made a rope of bedclothes, lowering his little son to the ground. Mrs. Alkus fell before the descent was completed, but was saved from more serious injury by a mattress which had been thrown out. Her right ankle was broken.

Cut off from escape, Mrs. Blanche Boss and her mother, Mrs. J. Gratton, fled from their room to a second-story window and leaped to the ground. Both were injured by the fall. It was

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At first thought that Mrs. Boss had received a broken back, but an examination showed that, while her condition is grave, she had been spared such injury. George Boestorius also jumped from the second story.

In like manner, Miss Jagger and Miss Smith, who were roommates, escaped, receiving severe injuries in their jump from the second story. Showing that the choice of risking broken limbs was set against that of suffocation or death by flame, is the fact that all of those who leaped from the building were badly scorched, while even those who escaped by the stairway ran the gauntlet of fire and were more or less burned about their faces and night clothing.

Ebele Escapes by Jumping. As for Ebele, who was roused by Dieting, which, set undoubtedly cost the latter his life, the exit from his room was barred by a hallway of fire. Turning back, he groped to the windows, and heard his name called. M. Eaton, who had already escaped, was on the roof of a building to the south, calling to him to jump. Ebele took the risk, springing out and downward, a distance of 12 feet. He struck Ebele, knocking the latter down, and arose with only slight bruises.

A cordon of police was drawn about the building at the order of Police Captain Hakesop, holding back the galled crowd that had gathered, despite the early hour. The first police to arrive were Sergeant Bunn and Patrolman Abbott, who were in the vicinity and saw the smoke and flames.

Patrolman Abbott said that when they arrived the fire was already spreading and already crowding the windows. Both he and Sergeant Bunn called to them not to jump, but to wait for the firemen. The warning was in vain, and the imperiled men and women, as the smoke and flame became unendurable, sprang to the lawn and pavement below.

Fire Subdued in an Hour.

Within an hour the fire was subdued and entrance to the charred ruins gained. All rooms to the southwest, on the first and second floors, were gutted, while those to the north and northeast had escaped. But the third floor was merely a mass of jumbled and blackened wreckage. Trunks and a burned bed in the room of Floyd Campbell was stretched the body of Willard Dieting. Deputy Coroner Smith was summoned and took the remains to the public morgue.

The Cudahy Family Hotel was operated by Mrs. Katherine E. Cudahy, and the establishment was of the "happy family" sort, where everybody knew everyone and the most cordial feeling of fellowship obtained. Willard Dieting was a great favorite with the other guests, and had been a roomer in the hotel since its establishment. Mrs. Cudahy and her guests were deeply shocked by the young man's tragic death, and were warm in praise of his good humor and fine character.

Owner Away From City. The owner of the building is Thomas Prince, who is absent from the city. He is represented by G. K. Jeffrey, president of the Oregon Home Builders' Association. Mr. Jeffrey stated that the structure was insured for \$10,000, while Mrs. Cudahy carried \$3500 insurance on the contents. It is thought that the loss is practically two-thirds.

Patrons who were in the hotel at the time of the fire were: Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Alkus and their son, Robert, 7 years old; Mr. and Mrs. Al Jeyer, and 4-month-old son; Mrs. Katherine Cudahy and 11-year-old son, Raymond; J. W. Cudahy, no relative of Mrs. Cudahy's; F. J. Campbell, G. M. Eaton, George Bistoria, Edward Ebele, Mrs. Emily Snake and daughter, Alice, age 7; Miss Myra Skogmann, Cleveland Catlin, Mrs. Harold Gratton, Mrs. Blanche Boss, R. D. Curtis, John Murphy, John Metkie, Miss Cora Jagger, Miss Marion B. Smith, Miss Lydia Fitzmorris and Miss Daisy Bunn, teachers in the Central School; Willard E. Dieting, Floyd Campbell, E. N. Coffey, Charles L. Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. E. Jacobsop, George Carlton, David Wax and James Toomey, janitor. Patrolman M. E. Sims, who was a roomer, as well as several others, were not in the hotel.

Willard G. Dieting had lived in Portland for five years, during which time he was constantly in the employ of the National Biscuit Company. His father, a mining engineer, is believed to be in Southern California, in the vicinity of Volcano, near the Mexican border. One of the many who visited the blackened room, where Dieting twice rushed to the rescue, was L. R. Dettmerman, local manager for the National Biscuit Company.

"Dick was a fine fellow and we thought a lot of him," was Mr. Dettmerman's single remark, as he pressed. The body will be held at the public morgue, while an effort is made to locate the father. Deputy Coroner

Smith stated that an inquest may be held.

"Jim was a dandy," said Mrs. Cudahy, as she recounted the fearless efforts of the janitor, James Toomey, in clearing the house. "He risked his own life and went from door to door, pounding and shouting at every room in the house." Toomey came from California a short time ago and was engaged by Mrs. Cudahy as janitor less than a week since.

Immediately after the fire an investigation was begun by Fire Marshal Jay Stevens, who was accompanied by State Insurance Commissioner Harvey J. Wells. Both declared that the construction of the building formed an almost perfect flue for the fire.

When word of the fire and the plight of the sufferers became known, the Moler & Frank store, closed for Sunday, was ordered reopened by the management for the benefit of the Cudahy Hotel sufferers. Employees were sent to each department, with instructions to see that the sufferers lacked for nothing. Even in those rooms which were not directly in the path of the flames, the clothing of the guests was sodden with water and reeking with smoke and could not be donned. Many others, who had fled to the street, suffered a total loss of their effects.

The destruction of the Cudahy Hotel is the most disastrous, as well as the most spectacular, fire that has occurred in Portland for some time. Witnesses of the blaze and members of the police and fire bureaus marvel at the comparatively small list of injured, when so many risked death or broken bones in leaping. But for the timely warning of Janitor Toomey, the fatality list must have been a heavy one.

Miss Cora Jagger and Miss Marian Smith, both badly bruised, smilingly received visitors at the Good Samaritan Hospital yesterday afternoon. Miss Jagger had little of the fact she had left to destruction in the burning building all her clothes, her stomach and allippers, not thinking of her escape from death by dropping from the second story to the sidewalk below, save that the only thing that disturbed her mind as she dropped was the awkward way in which she was forced to escape.

Smith and I were sleeping together," said Miss Jagger yesterday afternoon. "Miss Smith awoke first and heard the fire. She roused me, I got out of bed and put on my kimono and slippers, not thinking of my escape from the building by the stairs. I went to the door and opened it. The flames shot in the room so the only thing left was to go through the window. I was glad to escape with but a few injuries received in the fall.

Mrs. John Gratton, who was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital suffering from bruises and shock received in her jump from the second story, recovered sufficiently to be removed to the home of her daughter, Mrs. Harry J. Murphy, of 545 1/2 Williams avenue, late yesterday afternoon.

It is her daughter, Mrs. Blanche Boss, who is the most seriously injured of the four victims yet in the hospital.

FACTORY SITE TOO HIGH

Klamath Company Wants Medford People to Lower Price.

MEDFORD, Or., Nov. 26.—(Special.)—Erection of a box factory in Medford is dependent on the acquisition of 30 acres of land at a reasonable price and the extension of water mains to provide fire protection, according to officials of the Ewauna Box Company, of Klamath Falls, who held a conference with officials of the Applegate Lumber Company in Medford. A guarantee from the local company to supply the necessary lumber for 1,500,000 feet of lumber a year is also necessary.

The officers of the Ewauna Company are: C. B. Crisler, president; Charles Gowan, general manager, and Fred Shallock, secretary and treasurer.

Land for the mill site, the Klamath men said, was priced too high and must be offered at a reasonable figure or the company cannot consider its purchase.

You will know "The Song of Songs" later.—Adv.



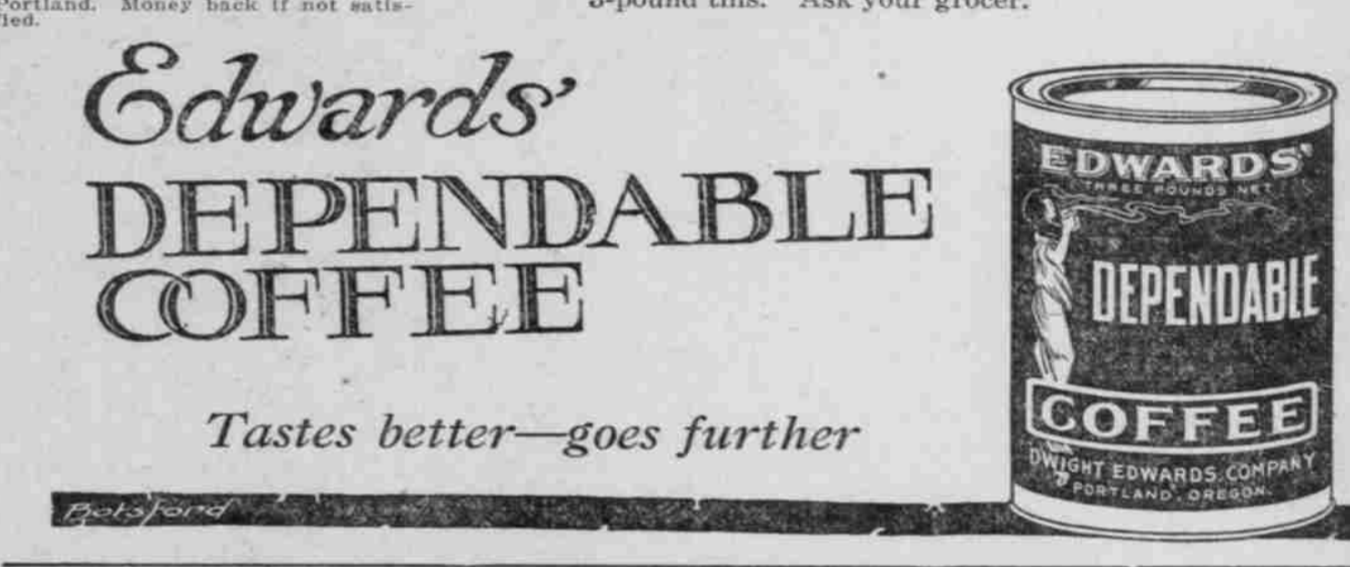
Famous Chefs Who Use "Dependable" J. Brizolari, Hotel Multnomah. Henry Thiele, Hotel Benson. H. Ode, Imperial Hotel. Chas. Kieffer, Arlington Club. Jack Fritz, University Club. S. P. & S. Dining Cars. O.-W.-R. & Dining Cars. Portland & San Francisco S. S. Co.

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NOTED WOMEN TO TALK

SOCIAL AND HOME TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED AT O. A. C.

Economics and Domestic Art Department Will Participate in Extension Programme.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Nov. 26.—(Special.)—The best and most extensive programme that has ever been offered to the women of Oregon along the lines of social and other subjects pertaining to the home has been arranged by the home economics and domestic art department of the Oregon Agricultural College for Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week, January 2 to 6, 1917.

Most prominent of the speakers who have been secured is Miss Alice R. Venhull, of Vancouver, B. C., who will give 11 lectures.

Many women, prominent in the state, will appear on the programme. Among them are Mrs. Charles Castner, of Hood River, president of the Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs; Mrs. George McMath, of Portland, president of the Oregon Mothers' Congress and Parent-Teachers' Association; Mrs. Aristene Felts, of Portland, past president of the Oregon Mothers' Congress and Parent-Teachers' Association; Miss Elizabeth W. Fox, dean of women at the University of Oregon; Mrs. Millie Trumbull of Portland, chairman of the legislative committees of the Federation of Women's Clubs; the Mothers' Congress and Parent-Teachers' Association and the Consumers' League; Mrs. Isaac Sweet, of Portland, president of the Women's Jewish Council; Mrs. Sarah Evans, of Portland, a director of the General Federation of Women's Clubs; Mrs. George J. Frankel, of Portland; Mrs. Minnie Bond, of Eugene; Mrs. J. H. Whitby, of Corvallis; Mrs. Gertrude Blanchard, of Grants Pass; Mrs. Orla Weston, of Forest Grove; and Mrs. Louis Miller, of Albany, all of whom are active in the Oregon Grange, and Miss Marian Towne, of Phoenix, Or., who is a former member of the State Legislature.

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