

The Madras Pioneer

MADRAS, CROOK COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, SEPT. 24, 1908.

NO. 6

VOL V

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TORRENT STRIKES AUTOMOBILE PARTY

Swept Down Mountain
By Cloudburst

THEN CAUGHT IN FLOOD OF SWOLLEN STREAM

Nelson and Williamson Have Remarkable Escape While Following Survey of Oregon Trunk.

Portland Oregonian
Overwhelmed by a cloudburst, swept down a precipitous mountainside by the torrents of water that fell in sheets and escaping from death as by a miracle, was the experience of W. F. Nelson and V. D. Williamson, of the Oregon Trunk Line, who reached Portland yesterday after an automobile trip along the surveys of the line from The Dalles South to Bend and back.

The two men, who were driven South into the interior by Jack Harrison, a Portland chauffeur, made the greater part of the trip in safety but on the return journey ran into a cloudburst near Haycreek. While bowling along the mountain road, a sudden rainstorm that reached the proportions of a cloudburst came up. The water fell in torrents and the road followed by the automobile along a steep hillside was suddenly washed out, the automobile precipitated down the mountainside and the party of railway men thrown down a steep hill. Luckily no one was hurt, but the machine had to be brought back to the road with the aid of a windlass and all hands had to tug at the ropes to bring the automobile up the hill.

But startling though this adventure proved, it was not the last to be encountered by the party. Scudding along at the best possible speed in order to reach the town of Haycreek, the railroaders ran into a raging mountain torrent soon after being sent tumbling down the mountainside. The stream was rising every minute because of the tremendous downpour of water following the cloudburst and it was thought best to plough through the stream at once lest the water rise so high that a crossing would be found impossible.

It was not until the automobile and its occupants had gotten into the middle of the torrent that it was found the stream was already so high as to be dangerous. The raging water foamed into the back of the automobile and almost covered the occupants. The railroad men set to work to bail with their hats and as the water had "killed" the engine, the machine came to a stop in the midst of the stream that threatened every moment to drown the occupants of the automobile.

There was nothing for it then, but to pull the machine by main strength across the stream and the railroaders were compelled to jump out into the water, which ran almost shoulder deep, and pull the machine to the other bank. One man remained in the body of the car and bailed with the oil cups of the automobile lamps while the other two working with the strength of desperation, managed to pull the machine into shallower water on the other side of the stream.

The party reached Portland yesterday and the railroad men were very much pleased to have escaped with their lives. They said that while held in the midst of the stream by the flood, they never expected to reach the other bank alive.

W. F. Nelson and V. D. Williamson, referred to in the above story, left for Shaniko Tuesday afternoon of last week. R. B. Porter and A. E. Hammond were also in the party. They left Madras in the face of a storm, which must have broken on them about the time they reached Sage Brush flat. There was some rain here in Madras, but it was reported to be much heavier North of and just East of Madras. The experience of the automobile party was doubtless an extremely disagreeable one, and it was by the best of good luck that no serious consequences resulted.

CHARGED WITH SHOOTING CHURCH WINDOWS

Jack Kitching and George McVey, both of Prineville, have been bound over to the grand jury on a charge of shooting through the stained glass windows of the new Methodist church at Prineville. Their bail was fixed at

\$500 each, which was furnished. The grand jury meets in October, and should indictments be returned against them, their cases will come up for hearing in the circuit court next month.

The stained-glass windows in the new church building at Prineville were shot through two weeks ago, and although it occurred at one o'clock in the morning, the culprits engaged in "shooting up the town" were seen by several people. That kind of amusement is not as popular in Crook county as it was a few years ago, as is evidenced by the arrest of the men at Prineville charged with this offense. The arrested men protest their innocence, and an alibi will probably be their defense.

SCOTCH FIFE BEATS THE "ALASKA" WHEAT

Jesse Windom of Culver Has a Phenomenal Yield From One-half Bushel of Seed.

Prineville Journal
All the recent talk about Alaska wheat, Durum wheat and other varieties of the staple recommended for culture in the arid regions of the United States are discounted by 54 bushels of pure Scotch Fife wheat which Jess Windom raised from only half a bushel of seed on his place in the Haystack country near Culver. This 108-fold yield is remarkable in itself, but when it is considered that the wheat was raised for seed purposes only the profit of the grower in a year or two will more than repay him for his trouble.

Mr. Windom came to Prineville Tuesday with several bushels of this pure Scotch Fife, which is the purest hard wheat seen in many a day, scarcely a grain of any other kind being admixed. Although the top price at the Stewart mill stands at 55c, Mr. Windom received 60c for his product, and figures as well as facts and actions invariably speak louder than words.

The grower two years ago picked over a lot of badly mixed varieties and failed it out on his barn floor, carefully selecting the half bushel of Scotch Fife which now has increased to 54 bushels. The wheat was raised on a dry ranch, where irrigation is never resorted to, and exemplifies better than mere talk the potentialities and possibilities of the supposedly arid but exceedingly fertile soil of Crook county. In other words, not an acre hardly of this rich interior country but will grow exceptional crops when the right kind of grain is sown.

VIGILIOUS HORSE KICKS SMALL BOY

James Cordell and family, who are driving through the country on their way from Fossil to Bend, were delayed at Youngs by an unfortunate accident to their nine-year-old son, the little fellow having been kicked by a horse last Monday afternoon, one foot striking his arm and breaking it, and the other foot landing on the side of his head and inflicting an ugly bruise. Dr. Snook was sent for immediately, and went to Youngs, where he reduced the fracture and dressed the wounds on the little boy's head.

Mr. Cordell was taking through with him several head of stock, and it was one of these which kicked the little boy when he came too close to the vicious animal's heels. Mr. Cordell and his family came on Tuesday to Madras and camped here that night, continuing next day on their journey.

JOCK MAY, PIONEER, DIES

Jack May, an aged pioneer of this county, who in recent years has lived a portion of the time at the home of Mr. Benefield, South of this place, died last Wednesday morning at Prineville. He was in the neighborhood of 80 years of age, and being too old and enfeebled to care for himself, had some time ago become a county charge.

It is reported from Prineville that a son of Mr. May, named William May and residing at Scio, had been notified of his father's death, but declined to provide for the burial or disposition of the body, which was then taken care of at county expense. The son is said to be well to-do financially.

WILLIAM S. SPICER DEAD

Died Monday, September 21, 1908, at his home Northeast of Madras, William S. Spicer, at the age of 79 years and 3 days. Deceased was a native of Ohio, and had been a resident of Oregon since 1900. Interment was held Tuesday afternoon, Rev. T. D. Brown, the Baptist minister, of which denomination Mr. Spicer was a member, conducting the funeral services.

A complete supply of legal blanks for sale including warranty and quit claim deeds, real, chattel and crop mortgages, etc. Justice court blanks and justice court work a specialty. Notary Public, -F. J. Brooks.

MORE HARRIMAN SURVEYORS IN FIELD

Are Locating Line In Deschutes Canyon

WILLOW CREEK GORGE A STRATEGIC POINT

Oregon Trunk Line Securing Right Of Way--Presumed Construction Will Soon Commence.

Another party of railroad surveyors arrived at Shaniko last Friday evening, and, according to the report which reached this place, left next day for some point on the Deschutes river. The supposition is that they are a Harriman party, and at any rate, none of the Oregon Trunk Line engineers camped at Madras know anything of another party having been sent to the Deschutes, other than the party under Mr. Hanford.

According to reports current the last two weeks, there are already several parties of Harriman surveyors working along the Deschutes, while another party in the same employ is running a line from Sage Brush down Trout creek to the Deschutes. The engineer in charge of this party is quoted as saying that he will also run the line South to Madras.

In the meantime, while all this activity of the Harriman surveyors is in progress, the Oregon Trunk Line has two large parties in the field checking up its survey from the mouth of the Deschutes to Madras. One party under Mr. Hanford is working on the lower Deschutes, while the other, under Mr. Crane, is camped at Madras and has been surveying in Willow creek gorge.

The old survey of the Oregon Trunk Line followed the Deschutes from its mouth to Willow creek, then up Willow creek gorge to Madras, and to those who have kept in touch with recent developments in the railroad situation, it appears quite certain that route will be followed when a line up the Deschutes is built. While the Deschutes canyon is the only natural pass into Central Oregon, it is contended that a road can be built up on either side of the river, so that the control of the Deschutes route will really lie with the company which occupies the best pass out of the Deschutes canyon to the territory to be tapped by the railroad. If the Willow creek gorge is that pass, its importance as a strategic point is apparent, for it would be the key to the transportation problem in Central Oregon.

The past week has brought no further definite news regarding when construction will begin on the Oregon Trunk Line, and it is probable that no news of this kind will be forthcoming until the location of the line is completed. Right of way is being secured, however, as rapidly as the line is located, and that is a strong indication that actual construction will be started in the near future. Another important fact is that Porter Brothers, who are the principal owners of the Oregon Trunk Line, have a large construction outfit and equipment now lying idle, and with that outfit and equipment idle at a heavy daily expense to them, it may be presumed that they will not delay the commencement of construction on the Oregon Trunk Line one day longer than is necessary.

ITEMS FROM OUR EXCHANGES

C. J. Sundquist, who was so severely injured on the road South of Madras three months ago, is still in bad shape. One of the bones of the leg below the knee was crushed by his freight wagon backing down upon it, will have to be wired before it will knit. It will be a year, the doctors think, before he will be able to use it.—Prineville Journal.

Professor Jas. F. Blanchard, a member of the high school faculty, came up from his homestead near Madras yesterday. He is getting ready for the opening of school next Monday.—Crook County Journal.

Judge Ellis went over to Prineville yesterday to attend to matters connected with the death of a pauper. The deceased was an old miner who has been around the Madras country for the past few years. He recently became ill and was taken to Prineville last Friday where he died.—Bend Bulletin.

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