

WOODEN VESSEL PROGRAM TO END WITHIN 60 DAYS

Government War Emergency Work in Oregon Included Delivery of 59 Steamers.

Within 60 days the construction program of the wood ship division of the Emergency Fleet corporation will have been concluded and this is expected to wind up the activities of the division in the Oregon district.

With a record of 59 wooden steamers delivered to date in 1914, an imposing fleet that has added 200,000 tons and more to the commerce carriers of the seven seas, six steamers are being finished.

Three are at the Astoria Marine Iron Works, two of which were launched by the Rogers yard and one by the Wilson yard. The Peninsula shipbuilding company of Portland is finishing two steamers, and the Coast company of Portland is finishing one.

All of these are of the Ferris type, 2000 gross tonnage. By the first of March, according to fleet corporation officials, all will be in commission.

Besides the steamers, the Peninsula company is completing two six masted schooners, which are expected to be ready in the spring. These vessels are now being offered for sale by the government.

BEACONS ARE DESTROYED BY ICE

Some Aids to Navigation in Columbia River Disappear.

Sunk without a trace were three or four of the lighthouse service beacons in the Columbia river as a result of the snow and ice, but most of the lights are still in place awaiting only the services of the tender to put them to work again.

According to Superintendents Robert Warrack of the Seventeenth Lighthouse district, 12 of the lights were ruined out of about 50 in the danger zone. Buoy lights in the lower bay have been re-lighted, and other beacons along the Columbia are shining again at night.

However, the Columbia is still frozen from Hayden Island east, and there is still plenty of chance for beacons to be carried away. All beacons recently equipped with ice cutters were found to have escaped injury. Superintendent Warrack has just returned from an inspection trip along Puget Sound.

BEACONS ARE PUT OUT BY ICE

Night River Boat Service Will Be Restored After Christmas.

Because certain of the beacons along the Columbia river taken out by the ice or extinguished, have not yet been restored, river boat service will probably not be resumed as before the storm until after Christmas.

The Undine and Lurline of the Harkins line are both night boats, but the Undine was taken down this morning to handle the way freight business. None of the Shaver boats are yet operating to any extent.

The Harvest Queen, operated by the railroad administration between Port-

land and Astoria, went down this morning to clean up Columbia river freight, and will probably return Friday. The Queen is also a night boat. Ice prevents navigation above Vancouver.

TUG PORTLAND MAKES RECORD

Tows Falls of Clyde and Brookwood Down in Two Days.

Two windjammers taken down in two days will be the record of the tug Portland when it concludes its trip to the mouth of the river this afternoon. The Portland took the four-masted barkentine Falls of Clyde to Astoria Monday, and en route down helped the wooden steamer Brookwood out of Westport clog.

Returning to Portland during the night, the Portland hooked on to the schooner Elise, laden with lumber for Cape Town, South Africa, and left down again at 6 o'clock. The Elise will put to sea Wednesday.

Chanolor Disaster Hearing Uncertain

The place for a hearing before a board of United States steamboat inspectors into the causes of the Chanolor disaster is still uncertain. Captain Edwards, senior inspector of the Portland district, said today that if Captain Sawyer and members of his crew who survived the wreck return to Portland, the hearing will be conducted here; otherwise it will probably be in San Francisco.

Dredge Resumes Operations

With the ice practically gone from slips of St. Johns terminal, the dredge Portland resumed operations on slip No. 2 this morning, and the dredge Tualatin at the Aladdin dump in North Portland harbor is expected to begin work again Wednesday.

Rossetter Returns

San Francisco, Dec. 22.—(I. N. S.)—John H. Rossetter, director of operations of the United States shipping board for 18 months past, returned here today to assume the duties of vice president and general manager of the Pacific Mail S. S. company.

City of Topeka Leaves Tonight

With full holds and a fair passenger list, considering the fact that the vessel will be at sea during Christmas, the City of Topeka of the Admiral line will leave down for San Francisco at 9 o'clock tonight.

Ill-Fated Chanolor Replaced

Taking the place of the J. A. Chanolor on the Portland oil run, the Associated oil tanker Lansing, which has been running into Puget Sound, arrived at Willbirge this morning with fuel oil.

Position of Ships

North Head, Dec. 22.—Positions of ships at sea as reported to this station by radio at 8 p. m., December 22: West Kaine, San Francisco, for Honolulu, 280 miles southwest of San Francisco; Derbyshire, Cuba, for San Francisco, 427 miles west of San Francisco; Jacox, San Francisco, for Sydney, 404 miles from San Francisco.

News of the Port

Arrivals December 23: Wahkema, American steamer, from San Pedro, ballast, for St. Helena; Larosine, American steamer, from Port San Luis, oil.

Departures December 23: City of Topeka, American steamer, for San Francisco via Eureka and Cook Bay; passengers and general; Elise, American schooner, for Cape Town; lumber.

MARINE ALMANAC

Weather at River's Mouth
North Head, Dec. 23.—Conditions at the

mouth of the river at noon: Sw. moderate; wind, south, 30 miles; raining.

Tides at Astoria Wednesday
High Water 10:27 a. m., 10:27 p. m.
Low Water 2:24 a. m., 7:17 p. m.
2:24 a. m., 7:17 p. m. ... 1.7 feet
8:17 a. m., 2:28 p. m. ... 3.8 feet
1:28 p. m., 8:0 p. m. ... 8.0 feet

DAILY RIVER READINGS

STATIONS	Height (feet)	Change (feet)	Stage (feet)	Stage (feet)
Umsalla	25	1.0	1.7	0.07
Esquon	20	1.2	2.2	0.07
Albany	20	1.1	1.6	0.21
St. Johns	12	1.0	1.4	0.23
Oregon City	12	1.0	1.4	0.23
Portland	15	9.4	0.3	0.23

RIVER FORECAST

The Willamette river at Portland will fall during the next two or three days.

GAS BOAT ANVIL NEARLY SUNK

Leaky Seacocks Caused by Freeze Let Water Into the Hold.

The 400 ton gas schooner Anvil almost went to a watery grave in the Willamette Monday night when, with seacocks leaking as a result of the freeze, water began pouring into the hold. The watchman discovered the condition about 9 o'clock, but within an hour the water had risen to 12 feet and the decks were almost awash.

The harbor patrol launch and the tug Thompson went to the scene and the latter's pumps were put to work. The Thompson was still working this morning and had managed to largely overcome the leak.

The Anvil listed over to 30 degrees and threatened to sink in about 40 feet of water. She is at Willamette moorings, in South Portland.

Interned because of alleged pro-German activities on the part of her operators, the Anvil has been the subject of litigation for months. J. J. McCarthy, manager of Willamette moorings, represents the owner of the vessel and has taken charge of salvage operations.

AT NEIGHBORING PORTS

Cristobal, Dec. 20.—Sailed, steamer West Jeffrey, from Portland for New York.

Esquon, Dec. 20.—Arrived, steamer Byfield, from Portland for United Kingdom.

San Francisco, Dec. 22.—Arrived, steamer Astoria, Dec. 22.—Sailed at 2 p. m., steamer Sanjam, from San Pedro.

Astoria, Dec. 22.—Arrived down at 6 last night, ship Falls of Clyde and steamer Brookwood. Arrived at 8:05 and left up at 10 a. m., steamer Wahkema, from San Pedro. Arrived at 10 and left up at 11 a. m., steamer Lansing, from Port San Luis.

San Francisco, Dec. 22.—(I. N. S.)—Arrived, steamer Yellowstone, from Marshfield, 4:30 a. m.; Centralia, from Marshfield, 7:50 a. m.; Tamahua, Grays Harbor, 8:55 a. m.; Arctic, Fort Bragg, 9:10 a. m.; Hoquiam, Grays Harbor, 9:45 a. m.

San Francisco, Dec. 22.—(I. N. S.)—Arrived 22.—Oleum, Astoria, 11:55 a. m.; Queen, Los Angeles, 1:25 p. m.; Chehalis, Grays Harbor, 2:30 p. m.; Euxine, Los Angeles, 3:30 a. m. (not called as previously reported); Santa Monica, Bakers, 8:40 p. m.; Sailed 22.—Motorship Lassen, Grays Harbor, 12:30 p. m.; Frank H. Buck, Everett, 12:55 p. m.; destroyer Evans, cruise, 4:25 p. m.; Geo. W. Elder, Vancouver, 5:40 p. m.; Spokane, Los Angeles, 5:45 p. m.; Sea Foam, Point Arena and Mendocino, 8:45 p. m.; Vancouver, Eureka, 9:30 a. m.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 22.—(I. N. S.)—Arrived.—Admiral Watson from Southwestern via Southeastern Alaska, 1 a. m. Sailed—Protector for Manila, 2:15 a. m.; Arrived December 22.—Admiral Schley from Tacoma, 11 p. m.; Governor from San Diego, 9:30 p. m.; Yosemite from San Francisco, 9 p. m. Sailed December 22.—Latouche from Southwestern via Southeastern Alaska at midnight; H. B. Lovjoy for San Pedro, 8 p. m.; Lyman Stewart for Port San Luis 10 a. m.

17 Petersburg, December 22.—Sailed.—Admiral Evans, south, 10 a. m.

Ketchikan, Dec. 22.—Sailed—Alaska, north, 3:30 p. m.; northwest, south, 3:30 p. m.

Shanghai, Dec. 22.—Sailed—Javary for Tacoma. Arrived—Empress of Russia from Vancouver, 18 a. m.; Sailed—Eliton for Seattle, Yokohama, Dec. 17.—Arrived—Katori Maru from Seattle.

Ryder, Dec. 12.—Arrived—Schooner Camo from Seattle, thence October 18.

San Pedro, Dec. 21.—Arrived—Admiral Farago from Seattle.

Alta Tells Story of Life Didn't Know Mother Love

Alta Brooks, 16-year-old girl who, in childish ignorance, took a great chance in a grim game and suffered defeat at every turn. She is a ward at police headquarters, where well-wishing friends are endeavoring to save her from the prison sentence that hangs over her.



"I have never known the joy of having a mother who cared for me enough to take me in her arms and love me. I have always wanted that."

Thus, in a brief sentence, uttered within the very shadows of the prison cell that would confine her from the forested hills for which her child heart cries, and which would deny her for 10 years any vestige of the mother love that her life has lost, Alta Brooks, 16-year-old follower of the broad highway of chance, told the story of the mistakes that have brought her finally to the prison door.

The little girl is today in charge of the Woman's Protective division at police headquarters, while more mature minds work out the riddle of her eventful, worldly young life with a hope of saving her from a prison sentence for the theft of an automobile in which, with childishly simple ambition, she sought to escape the snares that have made her old far beyond her years.

Alta tells story

Unfolding a tale which would tug at the heartstrings of the most hardened, it is small wonder that Alta looks forward to a prison sentence without compunction in comparison to her past experiences. But another reason why this youthful victim of circumstance does not rebel at the threatened loss of her free-

dom by prison confinement is her simple code of loyalty. Her friend, Eugenie McCool, companion with her in the automobile escapade, received a like sentence and is confined in the Washington state penitentiary.

Alta, when asked if she thought she really wanted to go to prison, held her little head high and said: "If Eugenie did wrong and must suffer, I must suffer, too, for we both did the same thing and I don't want to see Eugenie take all the blame."

Alta is a contradiction of all expectations as to type. Though youthful and spontaneous and at an age where she should be entering into the bloom of young girlishhood and looking forward in dreams to all the happiness of life, she turns her back on a living past which has shut out all the real things, the mother love and the home life, with only memories of hard realities which have driven hope from her heart.

Feeling that she had served her time one day she and Eugenie McCool walked out of the home and away once more into freedom. They had \$18 between them and did not care where they went. The first night of their flight led them to Troutdale. The following day they beat their way to Hood river. The third day found them taking the river steamer down the Columbia to Vancouver, whence they traveled to Battle Ground.

The loneliness was beginning to creep upon them as they wandered about the streets of the town at twilight, with a cold rain falling and no shelter or food. It was only an overwhelming desire to get off the streets and away once more into freedom, that prompted them to steal a small car at Battle Ground, which finally led to their arrest and conviction. After spending a night at a logging camp on their way to Walla Walla, where Eugenie's father lives, they found the highway closed and were forced to return to Portland.

Seeing numbers of machines headed southward, seemingly carrying tourists to southern winter resorts, the girls decided to "follow the crowd," Alta says. But "heading south" proved to be poor going. Their first mishap was in a collision with a business, where one wheel of his car was taken off, although the car driven by them was unharmed.

A short time later they were picked up by Patrolman Cache on Union avenue and were taken to the Vancouver police station and placed under arrest. ARE FOUND GUILTY

The man from whom their machine was stolen placed no charge against the girls, but a charge was filed by the district attorney. They were tried, found guilty and committed to the Washington state penitentiary, where Eugenie now is in confinement and from which Alta was released upon appeal from MacLaren, who notified the Washington court that the girl was under the jurisdiction of the juvenile authorities. Incidentally, during the trial, no reference was made to the girl's age, which would have divulged the fact that it was a case for the juvenile and not the county court. Neither girl had legal representation at court.

And so it is that Alta, hardly realizing the stigma which will enshroud her future if the prison sentence goes into effect, because she cannot realize the big things she might find in the world to live for if given her freedom, awaits patiently the decision which will either give her up to the law or to the sponsorship of MacLaren.

A hard fight will be made by MacLaren for her release from the Washington authorities, for he believes Alta can make good if given the opportunity. And in Alta's own little heart she wants that opportunity more than anything else—life, of course. "Eugenie doesn't have to take all the blame."

Elmira Student Is Drowned in Lake

Eugene, Dec. 23.—Ben C. Miller, a student of the Elmira union high school, was drowned Saturday evening while attempting to cross Silcocks lake. He was on his way home to spend the holidays with his parents.

RAD FOSTER PARENTS

The girl was adopted at an early age and lived with her foster parents on a farm near Gaston. There she helped with the housework and attended Laurelwood academy, going through the eighth grade. When her foster father was killed, she gave up school and went into a grocery and general store to work, taking her wages in food for her foster mother. High, strung and hard to manage, she was sent to the Louise home on a voluntary commitment, where her mother thought the discipline would benefit her.

And as Alta looked back upon that day in the telling of her narrative, when she was placed in the home, she stopped to remark sadly:

"I can remember that day as if it were yesterday. It just seemed like I had gone from one strange place to another, old friend Emma kissed me goodbye, it seemed only like kissing a stranger."

While at the home she showed application and brightness. A plea was entered that she be allowed to return home, so once more she went back to the farm at Gaston.

HAD NO COMPANIONS

Starved for youthful companionship, Alta did not handle her new freedom successfully, and after attending a dance, following which she stayed out all night, she was again sent to the Louise home, and this time ran away. She went to Astoria and became acquainted with Burt Ryder, 35 years old, married and the father of several children, who had been divorced and remarried to the same wife. Ryder had been a "buckaroo," said Alta, on the Mexican border for two years.

Ryder wanted to take the girl to Montana. With absolute faith in his sincerity, she consented to go. They made the trip by motor, with two other girls. In Montana Ryder secured a position as forest ranger at Yaak Falls lookout station. Alta worked at Leone, Idaho, living with and caring for an invalid woman.

Ryder soon tired of the girl, and at this point the Rev. W. G. MacLaren of Intermountain Protective and Protective society, who had known her since childhood, heard of Alta's whereabouts and determined to go to Yaak Falls and bring her back.

After her rescue if the girl were found, Ryder fled with her into the woods, and hid there in his cabin. Mr. MacLaren, with police, went to the woods to search for her. The girl was found, however, by the marshal, who opened fire, wounding him in the leg. Ryder returned the fire and disappeared in the timber.

ESCAPE IS THRILLING

He went to Alta's hiding-place, telling her that he would go to his mother's farm, nearby, to have his leg dressed, and return as soon as possible with food for her. This was Friday night. He did not return until Sunday. Alta, meanwhile, was without food, drink or shelter.

It was then the pair attempted the trip back to Astoria by crossing the Yaak river in a trolley basket which Ryder had brought to their side of the river after first carrying himself across the stream hand over hand, clinging to the wire. Their exploit was discovered and Ryder fled, probably to the Mexican border, where he remained in hiding. Alta then went back to Libby, Mont., after surrendering herself to the sheriff.

For several weeks she earned her board and lodging by helping with the housework and taking care of the children while at home, working in a laundry during the day. She earned \$25 a week. Encouraged, she wrote her foster mother, offering financial assistance, and even inviting her to Libby, Montana, for her support.

Rev. MacLaren felt that, being a charge of Oregon, she should be returned to Oregon. So she came to Portland, staying one week at a private home. She was permitted to write to Ryder, telling him she would be willing to go to Montana to be legally married to him. The letter was never answered.

She was sent to the Home of the Good Shepherd and was promised release

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