

OUT OF THE VAULT

Poor aim saves three lives in shooting fracas

The week running up to Christmas 1910 was an exciting one when a man ran amok in downtown La Grande with a gun. But not a single person was injured.

It was business as usual in the downtown La Grande shopping district on Dec. 23, 1910, when Earl West, a wood cutter, arrived on North Fir Street in front of the Dutley Bakery and across from the Julius Fisher saloon. He was carrying a .45-60 short-barreled Winchester and, according to the *La Grande Observer*, was “intoxicated and

mean and probably crazed by drink.”

West first aimed at a passing buggy carrying two women that was just a few feet away, firing off two shots in rapid succession. Passers-by gasped in horror, but somehow both bullets went wild, probably burying themselves somewhere in the nearby railroad yard.

Incensed by his failure, West then whirled around and set his sights on Ray Baun, who had frozen in his tracks when the first cannonade went off. Baun was just a few feet away when West jacked another shell into the

chamber and pulled the trigger.

But nothing happened. The third shell stuck in the breech.

While West frantically tried to return his weapon to working order, saloon owner Julius Fisher and a hastily formed posse overpowered him. West was taken to the city jail to sleep off his drunken rampage.

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Renee Struthers is the Community Records Editor for the East Oregonian. See the complete collection of Out of the Vault columns at eovault.blogspot.com

DEAR ABBY

Time allows man to see role he played in divorce

Dear Abby: After 16 months of casual dating, I married my ex-wife. We met through Facebook. Unfortunately, we couldn’t make the marriage work, and after two years we divorced.

That was two years ago. It was my first marriage and her second. I was angry that we couldn’t make it work, and I blamed her for it. I felt hate and disgust for her and blocked her out of my life.

One night I was bored and decided to go back through all my old Facebook posts. When I reached the year my ex and I began talking and reread the posts from after we were married, I realized that it was my fault our marriage failed. My ex-wife loved me so much you could feel it through her posts to me, but I didn’t reciprocate that love. I feel horrible that I didn’t recognize it during our time together.

She has since moved on and is getting married next year. I want her to know how sorry I am for giving up on us and apologize for all the hateful

things I said about her. My feelings have nothing to do with her moving on. I am truly happy for her.

Should I tell her how sorry I am, or must I continue to live with the shame I feel? It’s tearing me up, but I think it may be best to leave her alone. — **It Was My Fault**

Dear My Fault: I don’t think it is ever too late to offer an apology. You and your ex have both grown since the divorce, albeit in opposite directions. Write her a letter, tell her you are sorry and wish her well. It’s the right thing to do, but do not expect absolution.

Dear Abby: A few years ago, my two BFFs had milestone birthdays within a few weeks of each other. Wanting to do something special, I splurged for a weekend in Vegas for the three of us. I bought first-class plane tickets, high-end hotel rooms, spa appointments, the best seats at a show, and paid for all our meals — including dinner at an expensive steak house.

While I could afford it, the weekend cost me several thousand dollars.

Fast-forward a couple of years to MY milestone birthday. One of them sent me a card, and they split the tab for my lunch at a fast-food restaurant. There were promises of something more special to come. While I didn’t expect the extravagant experience I gave them (our financial situations are different), I thought they might plan lunch or dinner at a nice restaurant. Since then, nothing more has been said or done.

This was a couple of years ago, and I still can’t let go of my hurt and disappointment. We’ve been friends for more than 20 years, but I’m thinking of ending the relationships. Every time I see them, I wonder if our friendship is one-sided. How can I get past this? — **Disappointed In Dallas**

Dear Disappointed: Your mistake was going over the top with their birthday splurges. When you do something nice for someone, you shouldn’t EXPECT reciprocation. Concentrate on the positive aspects of your relationship with them, and let the rest go.

DAYS GONE BY

100 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Dec. 9-10, 1917

Young girls of Pendleton and vicinity have got to quit getting “mushy” over soldiers passing through the city. Chief of Police Roberts says so and declares that, if his word isn’t heeded, some girls are going to have a dose of humiliation. The chief’s edict comes as the result of a demonstration made last evening at the depot when soldiers, enroute through the city, stopped at the depot. A 14 or 15 year old girl, suffering from a bad attack of “soldiermania,” made a spectacle of herself by permitting the boys in uniform to hug and kiss her and become obnoxiously familiar. The thing went so far that the chief finally warned her to “make herself scarce.” Chief Roberts doesn’t want his edict interpreted to mean that girls cannot show their patriotic enthusiasm by

greeting soldiers but he declares they must conduct themselves as ladies while about it.

50 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Dec. 9-10, 1967

Ten little Pendletonians, standing on stage in Chicago. Violins tucked under their chins, they are giving a “String Learning Clinic Demonstration” to public school music educators attending the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic at the Sherman House Hotel. Standing by is their teacher, Shirlene McMichael, strings director in Pendleton Public Schools. At the piano is Jill Hodgen, PHS senior. This will be the scene Wednesday afternoon between 2 and 2:30. It will be the climax of months of preparation by Miss McMichael and her pupils. The invitation came from J. Frederick Miller, Orchestra Day chairman for the clinic, after he

had heard the presentation of the local strings program by Miss McMichael at the Northwest Music Educators’ conference in Missoula, Mont.

25 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Dec. 9-10, 1992

Fourth-graders at Lincoln Elementary School learned Wednesday that it pays to read. Trina Herd’s 23 students won a statewide reading fitness program and as a reward will get to watch the Portland Trail Blazers against the Chicago Bulls at Portland Memorial Coliseum Feb. 7. Each student read an average of 77 hours in the ninth annual reading program, which is sponsored by the Blazers and Avia athletic footwear. The Pendleton students beat participating fourth-grade classes in Oregon and southwest Washington. The contest involved 361 schools and 41,944 students.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 343rd day of 2017. There are 22 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Dec. 9, 1892, “Widowers’ Houses,” Bernard Shaw’s first play, opened at the Royalty Theater in London.

On this date:

In 1854, Alfred, Lord Tennyson’s famous poem, “The Charge of the Light Brigade,” was published in England.

In 1917, British forces captured Jerusalem from the Ottoman Turks.

In 1935, the Downtown Athletic Club of New York honored college football player Jay Berwanger of the University of Chicago with the DAC Trophy, which later became known as the Heisman Trophy.

In 1940, British troops opened their first major offensive in North Africa during World War II.

In 1942, the Aram Khachaturian ballet “Gayane,” featuring the surging “Sabre Dance,” was first performed by Russia’s Kirov Ballet.

In 1958, the anti-communist John Birch Society was formed in Indianapolis.

In 1962, the Petrified Forest in Arizona was designated a national park.

In 1965, Nikolai V. Podgorny replaced Anastas I. Mikoyan as chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, a job he would hold for almost 12 years. “A Charlie Brown Christmas,” the first animated TV special featuring characters from the “Peanuts” comic strip by Charles M. Schulz, premiered on CBS.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a \$2.3 billion seasonal loan-authorization that officials of New York

City and State said would prevent a city default.

In 1984, the five-day-old hijacking of a Kuwaiti jetliner that claimed the lives of two Americans ended as Iranian security men seized control of the plane, which was parked at Tehran airport.

In 1987, the first Palestinian intefadeh, or uprising, began as riots broke out in Gaza and spread to the West Bank, triggering a strong Israeli response.

In 1992, Britain’s Prince Charles and Princess Diana announced their separation. (The couple’s divorce became final in Aug. 1996.)

Ten years ago: A young man once affiliated with a missionary school shot nine people at the school near Denver and a megachurch in Colorado Springs; four of the victims died and the gunman killed himself. A British Columbia pig farmer accused of being Canada’s worst serial killer was convicted of six counts of second-degree murder; he was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for 25 years.

Five years ago: U.S. special forces rescued an American doctor captured by the Taliban in Afghanistan; a Navy SEAL, Petty Officer 1st Class Nicolas D. Checque, was killed during the rescue of Dr. Dilip Joseph. Same-sex

couples in Washington state began exchanging vows just after midnight under a new state law allowing gay marriage. Mexican-American singer Jenni Rivera, 43, and six others were killed in a plane crash in northern Mexico.

Today’s Birthdays: Actor Kirk Douglas is 101. Actor-writer Buck Henry is 87. Actress Dame Judi Dench is 83. Actor Beau Bridges is 76. Football Hall of Famer Dick Butkus is 75. Comedian-songwriter Neil Innes is 73. Actor Michael Nouri is 72. Former Sen. Thomas Daschle, D-S.D., is 70. World Golf Hall of Famer Tom Kite is 68. Singer Joan Armatrading is 67. Actor Michael Dorn is 65. Actor John Malkovich is 64. Country singer Sylvia is 61. Singer Donny Osmond is 60. Rock musician Nick Seymour (Crowded House) is 59. Comedian Mario Cantone is 58. Actor David Anthony Higgins is 56. Actor Joe Lando is 56. Actress Felicity Huffman is 55. Crown Princess Masako of Japan is 54. Country musician Jerry Hughes (Yankee Grey) is 52. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., is 51. Rock singer-musician Thomas Flowers (Oleander) is 50. Rock musician Brian Bell (Weezer) is 49. Rock singer-musician Jakob Dylan (Wallflowers) is 48. TV personality-businessperson Lori Greiner (TV: “Shark Tank”) is 48. Country musician Brian Hayes (Cole Deggs and the Lonesome) is 48. Actress Allison Smith is 48. Songwriter and former “American Idol” judge Kara DioGuardi is 47. Country singer David Kersh is 47. Actress Reiko Aylesworth is 45. Rock musician Tre Cool (Green Day) is 45. Rapper Canibus is 43. Actor Kevin Daniels is 41. Actor-writer-director Mark Duplass is 41. Rock musician Eric Zamora (Save Ferris) is 41. Rock singer Imogen Heap is 40. Actor Jesse Metcalfe is 39. Actor Simon Helberg is 37. Actress Jolene Purdy is 34. Actor Joshua Sasse is 30. Actress Ashleigh Brewer is 27. Olympic gold and silver medal gymnast McKayla Maroney is 22.

Thought for Today: “All sins are attempts to fill voids.” — *Simone Weil, French philosopher (1909-1943).*

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WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

_____ salad

Five five-letter words with OO

Two competing cola brands

Two opposites

“Put the _____ to the metal”

LOW / PEDAL

TUNA EGG / BROOK STOOD MOOSE ALPOOF BLOOD / PEPSI COKE / HIGH

Answers to Saturday's puzzle: SPINACH CHICKEN CAESAR POTATO SIDE COBB

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S T U N A L I Y N C H G

R I K V O S H E Z F G H

A L D O P C K D O E C J

S A R E A C O O J S O M

E D P N I O L V J O K C

A E I H T A L O W O E O

C P C S B L O O D M L B

S P O T A T O H I G H B

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES

1 Ski-Doo product (10)

2 walking on racket-like kicks (11)

3 early spring blooms (9)

4 unique ice structure (9)

5 covered in “powder” (8)

6 nimbostratus cloud in winter (9)

7 Olympian Shaun White (11)

SOLUTIONS

KE BILE DRO WFLA SNO

SNOW BESN WMO RDER PS

EING SNOW OWED SNO SNO

KER WSHO WBOA MA SNO

Today's Answers: 1. SNOWMOBILE 2. SNOWSHOEING 3. SNOWBOARDPS 4. SNOWFLAKE 5. BENSNOVED 6. SNOWMAKER 7. SNOWBOARDER

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ODDS & ENDS

Opossum breaks into liquor store, gets drunk as a skunk

FORT WALTON BEACH, Fla. (AP) — An opossum that apparently drank bourbon after breaking into a Florida liquor store sobered up at a wildlife rescue center and was released unharmed.

Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge officials say the opossum was brought in by a Fort Walton Beach, Florida, police officer on Nov. 24. A liquor store employee found the animal next to a broken and empty bottle of bourbon.

“A worker there found the opossum up on a shelf next to a cracked open bottle of liquor with nothing in it,” said Michelle Pettis, a technician at the refuge. “She definitely wasn’t fully acting normal.”

Pettis told the *Northwest Florida Daily News* the female opossum appeared disoriented, was excessively salivating

and was pale. The staff pumped the marsupial full of fluids and cared for her as she sobered up.

“We loaded her up with fluids to help flush out any alcohol toxins,” Pettis said. “She was good a couple of days later.”

Pettis says the opossum did not appear to have a hangover.

The store owner, Cash Moore, says he never had an opossum break in before.

“She came in from the outside and was up in the rafters, and when she came through she knocked a bottle of liquor off the shelf,” Moore said. “When she got down on the floor she drank the whole damn bottle.”

“But it just goes to show that even the animals are impressed with Cash’s,” he said.

The opossum was released on Thursday.

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