

IMPROVED 'PHONE SERVICE

Home System Installing New Facilities.

The Home Telephone Company is making a record for itself in the admirable manner in which it is handling its large volume of business at this important exchange, and its readiness to provide every possible facility for improving its service.

So rapidly has its business grown, and so great is the demand here for telephone communication, that the company is now installing a new switchboard, one of the most modern patterns now being made, this additional facility having arrived early in the week and as soon as it is properly placed and adjusted all the demands for new telephones will be promptly filled and the necessary connections made. There are now on file requisitions for over 100 residence and business phones that have been unavoidably held up, but with the installation of the new switchboard numbers will now be supplied in quick order and the inconvenience of party lines avoided.

To hasten the work a large force of skilled electricians is now busily engaged and competent linesmen employed to run the required extensions and make all necessary connections, while to provide the most prompt and efficient service at the exchange fourteen more operators have been secured for the central office, thus assuring the public every facility for the quick handling of business.

This additional equipment and working force has also made it possible for the Company to more advantageously handle its toll business than ever before and, in consequence, to reduce its toll rates between Corvallis and Portland. This new and lower rate will become effective January 1, 1909, and will be as follows: 35 cents for half-minute; 40 cents for three-quarters minute; 45 cents for one minute. All over time at the rate of five cents for each additional twenty seconds, the reduced rate being only for the city of Corvallis and not for Benton county.

As a modern and up-to-date public convenience the Home Telephone Company is certainly entitled to all due credit and the liberal patronage accorded it is an evidence that the people of this city and vicinity fully appreciate the courteous treatment and prompt and efficient service which it is now affording.

PAYS BIG PERCENTAGE.

Benton county, while far from being one of the largest in Oregon, has the marked distinction of contributing over one-forty-fifth of the total revenues of the state, a record, which for population alone is not equalled by any other county, but which is a telling illustration of property values in this section.

Last year this county paid into the State treasury over \$20,000, while for 1909 its quota to the public fund will amount to more than \$27,000.

SHEPARD HALL COMPLETED

Formal Opening Set for January Eighth.

After five years of indefatigable effort and earnest labor, Shepard Hall is finally completed and will be formally opened and placed at the disposal of the OAC student body on Friday, January eighth.

This event has long been looked forward to and will be appropriately celebrated by a reception and inspection of the building during the afternoon and by a specially prepared program of exercises at the Armory in the evening.

The decorations for this opening event will be both unique and elaborate, each society in the college preparing its own room for the festive occasion, while committees made up from the various societies will act as hosts to receive the guests. There will be music to enliven the hours and refreshments will be served in the banquet room.

Shepard Hall is the first building of its kind to be erected by the students of any college on the Pacific Coast, thus placing OAC in the lead in a project of this character. It is named in loving remembrance of Claybourne Shepard, who, during his college course, was foremost in Y. M. C. A. work and whose earnest efforts in behalf of starting the building made its present successful completion a possibility.

The cost of construction has been borne by the students, aided by liberal contributions from the faculty, the generous people of Corvallis and friends of the institution. It is a monument to faithful work and untiring purpose and will long endure as an illustration of what can be accomplished by unanimity of action and hearty liberality.

Gamblers Gathered In.

Chief of Police Wells, aided by the night watchman, made a raid on a party of gamblers about three o'clock Sunday morning, capturing three men, who pleaded guilty to the charge when arraigned Monday morning, and paid fines aggregating \$70. The evidence was secured by Chief Wells witnessing the game over the transom of the room, unknown to the players, and was quite sufficient to convict them although they tried hard to run the bluff of only being engaged in a friendly game. There are known to be several of these so-called friendly games going on in the city, where neither chips or money are in evidence, but where settlement is made in cash at some other place. The Chief is quietly going on a still hunt for these offenders and expects soon to have them in his clutches.

WANTED.—Carpet and rug weaving. Am prepared to do good work at reasonable prices. Give me a trial. Mrs. Lalal C. Cooper, 363, Fourth and B. streets, Corvallis. tf.

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HAPPY XMAS
AND
GOOD LUCK
FOR
1909**

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QUALITY STORE

GRAND HUNTING CONTEST

Three Days of Sport in Alsea Valley.

Arrangements are now being made for a grand hunting match over in the Alsea valley to be kept up for three days with fully forty veteran sportsmen on each side. The victorious party will be decided by a committee of citizens as judges and the prize will be a big banquet provided for the winners by the losing side.

The Alsea river will be the dividing line between the two hunting parties and the entire valley is deeply interested in the line up and possible result.

The banquet will be one of the finest feeds ever prepared in that part of the country, the menu to consist of the rarest delicacies captured by the sportsmen, the choicest cuts to be served to the victors by fair maidens and every dish tempting enough to satisfy the most exacting epicure, and bountiful enough to fill up the hungry hunters there assembled. Blood curdling stories will be told of the thrilling adventures in the chase, speeches made and songs of the grand jubilee will re-echo through the entire valley.

The hunting grounds chosen for the contest are considered the finest in this part of the state and the big game bagged on this great occasion will probably make President Roosevelt wish he had chosen Benton county for his last hunting trip, instead of the canebrakes of Louisiana, while the average eastern tenderfoot would likely exclaim: "Should I have stood where these hunters were and viewed the wild brutes o'er; I'd have got up and got to a safer spot, instead of making them roar."

Anticipations of the coming feed will make everybody wish they were invited to the banquet.

PEACH TREES.

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Gellatly-Archibald.

The marriage of Edward P. Gellatly to Miss Hettie E. Archibald was quietly celebrated last Saturday evening, December 19, at the home of the bride's parents in Philomath, Rev. W. F. Caldwell performing the happy ceremony. The bride is one of

the most popular of Philomath's charming maidens, while the groom is a prominent and successful business man of this city. After a bountiful wedding supper the happy young couple came to Corvallis where they will make their home.

See A. L. Miner for wall paper.

C. S. Butler, the wood dealer of Corvallis has on hand oak, ash, maple and fir wood, a slab wood. Either 4-foot or 1-inch lengths, as wanted. See in your orders. Office phone No. 553; residence phone 436. 12-18

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AND A
Happy New Year

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