

# Polk County Itemizer

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VOL. XXXIX.

DALLAS, OREGON, FEBRUARY 5, 1914

NO. 10

## WON'T PAY TAXES

### Southern Pacific Refuses Assessment on O. & C. Lands --- Changes to be Made in Postoffice

### Grand Jury Busy --- Lumber Dealer up for Embezzlement --- Mrs. Dalton Dead.

#### IN EARLY DAYS.

William B. Prather Tells of the Pioneer Times of the Willamette Valley.

"My father, William B. Prather, was two years on the road to Oregon," said James M. Prather of Corvallis. "He started from Virginia and got as far as Missouri, where he stayed until the spring of 1844, when he continued his journey to the Willamette valley. He and his brother Theodore settled in Polk County. My father was a man of great courage. He had trouble with the Indians several times in Polk county, and later he served in the Rogue River war. In those days surgery was not the science it is now, so to the end of his life he carried two of the bullets he received in fighting with the Indians.

"My mother's name was Barbara Derr Carter. She came in 1846. Her maiden name was Barbara Derr. She married Mr. Carter and with her husband and three children—two girls and a boy—they started for Oregon. Her husband, James Carter, died on the Humboldt river. David Guthrie, now of Dallas, was with him at the time he died. Left a widow with three children my mother settled nine miles north of Corvallis, where Tol Carter, Mr. Carter's cousin, helped her until she could become established.

"My father had a farm in Polk county at the mouth of the Luckiamute near Buena Vista. He, with some others, went down to the Rogue river country with provisions to help the emigrants of 1847, who had come in by the southern route.

"He met Mrs. Carter, and on December 29, 1847, they were married at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart at what is now Corvallis. They were the first white people to be married in Benton County. Guests came from Long Tom, La Creole and as far as Oregon City. Tolbert Carter was one who came from Oregon City, having

swum his horse over three rivers to get there.

"Mrs. Stewart who died a few weeks ago here in Corvallis, has often told me about the wedding of my father and mother. She prepared the wedding dinner over her fireplace and served coffee to her guests which was a rare treat. The marriage took place at 2 o'clock. Her small log cabin was crowded, but the doors were left open so that those on the outside could witness the ceremony. J. D. Boone a minister from Salem, married them. That evening the young folks got up a dance and danced until nearly morning.

"Next day my father and mother, with the three children, went to my father's farm in Polk county. Their first child they named Perry; the next child was a girl, whom they named Martha, and I was the third child. I was born on July 6, 1855. My sister Martha married John W. Simpson. Gene Simpson, who runs the state game farm, and who is a wizard at raising China pheasants, is their son. My mother died a few months later, dying on March 19, 1881. I have lived on my father's original donation land claim all my life, up to three years ago, when I moved to Corvallis to educate my children."—Oregon Journal.

#### Passing It On.

There is a man in our town And he is full of prunes; He has a rusty photograph And never changes tunes. —Cincinnati Enquirer.

There is a man in our town Who's even worse than that; He's teaching tango dancing on The floor above our flat. —Chicago Record-Herald.

There is a man in our town— A fiend, I do believe— Who toots the siphon on our floor From morn to dewy eve. —New York Evening Sun.

There is a man in our town, A ruffin sure is he— He sleeps out loud and through his nose, Across the hall from me. —Oregonian.

There is a man in our town, In despair I tell you, Who beats a tambourine and shouts: "Glory, hallelujah!"

#### TWENTY-SIX YEARS AGO.

Taken From the Files of the Itemizer of Saturday, February 8, 1888.

Sheep and cattle in eastern and southern Oregon were succumbing to the severe winter weather.

Potatoes were quoted at 75 cents per bushel; butter at 25 cents a pound, and eggs at 25 cents per dozen.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. John Guy, a boy.

George W. Bozarth died at Independence.

Peter Cook purchased the agricultural machinery business of L. D. Mulkey.

The telephone line between Independence and Monmouth was completed that week.

Dick Ennes' grocery store at Perrydale was burglarized.

Symmie Ellis Antle was brutally murdered with a butcher knife by her step-father, William Landreth, aged 61, at Independence. The murderer was arrested after trying to drown himself in a slough.

Roy Shinn Second Victim.

A special to the city papers from Walla Walla, Wash., says:

"The body of Roy Shinn, 28 years old, chief engineer at the sub-station of the Pacific Power & Light Company, who was killed late last night when he picked up a supposedly dead wire carrying 25,000 volts, will be sent to the home of his parents at Junction City, Oregon. Mr. Shinn's bride of six months will accompany the body. Mr. Shinn was killed by the same power line that caused the death of Reed Crews two years ago, the accident being within a few feet of the where the first occurred. Mr. Shinn came here early last season to try out with the Walla Walla Bears as short-stop and second baseman, but a sore hand and arm caused him to quit the team for the other job."

Roy Shinn was a brother of Mrs. Ed. Blessing, of Dallas, and a native of Polk county.

#### POSTOFFICE CHANGES.

A Number of Alterations to be Made for Betterment of Service.

Shortly after the new administration in postoffice affairs in Dallas, a number of changes will be made in the arrangement of our postoffice for more efficient and effective service from the back room and for the accommodation of patrons. Inspector Clemons was a caller last week and in consultation with Postmaster Coad and to-be-Postmaster Fiske, determined upon the alteration. Bids are asked for the release of the present building for the next five years or some other location. If the present site is used, larger and better lights will be installed in the lobby and kept on until midnight. The present stamp and delivery windows will be up to the front door in order to give the benefit of the light to the employees, the money order department will be placed next to them so that employees tending both windows will not have to chase around half a block to wait on customers and a new section of boxes will be added to where the money order department now is. An up-to-date pouch rack will be added together with new racks for the rural mail carriers.

#### WON'T PAY TAXES.

S. P. Company Refuses to Longer Pay on O. & C. Land Grants.

While in the city last Saturday, right or way and claim agent Colvig, of the Southern Pacific Railway Company called on County Assessor F. E. Meyer and informed that gentleman that his company had decided to refuse to pay any more taxes on Oregon and California railway land grants until the company's title to the same had been definitely settled by the United States Supreme Court. As a protection both to itself and the various counties of the state affected, the S. P. Company hoping the payment of the taxes ever, will put up a bond guaranteeing the payment of the taxes with 6 per cent interest, in case the final decision was in its favor.

This decision on the part of the railway company will mean that nearly every county in the state will be deprived of a considerable portion of its estimated revenue. Polk County alone being expected to the amount of \$13,487.76.

The Southern Pacific paid the last half of last year's taxes under protest and the decision to not pay it all this year, does not come as a surprise to those who were cognizant of this situation. The company of course, will pay its taxes on rolling stock and equipment without protest.

#### ESTIMABLE WOMAN GONE.

Passing of Mrs. E. V. Dalton Brings Sorrow to community.

While not altogether unexpected the community was shocked Tuesday evening to learn of the death about 4.30 that afternoon of Mrs. E. V. Dalton, wife of one of Dallas' most prominent business men. Mrs. Dalton had been in a critical condition for several weeks following an operation.

Funeral services were held at the Presbyterian Church at 10 o'clock this morning, conducted by the pastor, Rev. George H. Mitchell, and interment was in the L. O. O. F. cemetery.

Mrs. Dalton, whose maiden name was Eugenia G. Hurt, was born April 13th, 1868, at Keytesville, Missouri, and was married to E. V. Dalton in 1887. Three children only, one of whom, Morris, survives, came to this union. Besides the son and husband, deceased leaves one brother in Kansas City and another in Keytesville, Mo., also a sister in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

#### Quits Express Company.

After 25 years in the service of the Wells-Fargo Express company, the last four of which have been spent as agent in this city, James Braden is going into business for himself. This week he and L. J. Gohrke purchased the business of the Dallas Commission company from Henry Gohrke. The new firm will be known as Gohrke & Braden, and will retire from the express office as soon as the company checks him out and sends his successor.

#### NEW GRAND JURY.

Inquisitorial Body Having Busy Session This Week.

The new grand jury, which will serve all this year, when ever called into session, convened Tuesday and has been busy since then with its investigations. It is rumored that some very important matters are being considered and that indictments of a surprising nature will be made. It is probable the grand jury will visit the State Normal School at Monmouth as well as other public institutions before it adjourns its present session.

The grand jury is composed of L. Damon of Independence, foreman, L. C. Sherwood, Independence, John Palmer, Monmouth, Henry Clifford, Dallas, William Butterick, McCoy, C. W. Boyle, Dallas, W. H. Mixer, Suver.

#### Wants to Recover Land.

Alleging that the defendant wrongfully holds land belonging to the plaintiff, Seid Beck, a Chinese capitalist of Portland, has begun an action in Justice Webster's court against Phillip Arthur for the recovery of possession. Seid Beck alleges that he owns a farm of 300 acres located near East Independence and that he is entitled to the immediate possession of it. He says he demanded that the defendant vacate the premises, but that he refused. He asks a judgment of the court granting him immediate possession.—Salem Statesman.

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#### A FITTING EXAMPLE.



—Fox in New York Evening Sun.



#### LADIES DO JURY SERVICE.

One of the first juries composed entirely of women did service in this city last Saturday in a case tried before Constable J. S. Ashbaugh to determine the ownership of some personal property attached by the constable in a suit brought by Mrs. Winnie Davidson against D. W. Pickett. The jury, after listening to the evidence and the arguments of Attorneys W. L. Tooze and Jack Sibley for a couple of hours, rendered a decision in a few minutes in favor of the plaintiff. Above is a picture of the jury: Left to right: Top row—Hardy Holman, bailiff; Mrs. H. B. Cosper, Mrs. D. M. Metzger. Bottom row—Mrs. William Greenwood, Mrs. H. C. Seymour, Miss Bertha Serr, foreman, Mrs. Anna Coad.