OREGON NEWS ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Brief Resume of Happenings of the Week Collected for Our Readers.

Mrs. Mabel Best has been appointed postmaster at Suntex, Harney county.

The annual meeting of the Umatilla County Bankers' association was held in Pendleton.

J. R. Raley, a Pendleton attorney, has been chosen to manage the Portland Rose Festival this year.

The annual three-day convention of the Oregon Hardware and Implement Retail Dealers will open in Portland March 4.

Construction of a bridge over the Columbia river between Longview, Wash., and Rainier, was approved by the senate.

An extensive program of street improvements for 1925 in Oregon City has been tentatively outlined by the city commission.

Lebanon is inaugurating a building program for the coming season in which more than a mile of street paving will be a part.

The Portland Kennel club will hold its annual bench exhibition of blooded dogs in the Portland city auditorium April 2, 3 and 4.

March 3-8, inclusive, was announced as dates for the annual northwestern convention of the Christian and missionary alliance in Hood River.

The Deschutes river within the city limits of Bend will soon be spanned by a new bridge, if a move launched by residents west of the river materializes.

Wooden bridges, instead of concrete, will be built over the mill race at Patterson and Hilyard streets in Eugene, according to a decision by the city council.

Practically 75 per cent of the wheat in Umatilla county was killed by the December freeze and it will require about $750,000 to pay for wheat with which to reseed.

A special election will be held by 11 school districts in the northern part of Clackamas county February 28 to vote on the proposed union high school at Milwaukie.

The first passenger, freight and telegraph station to be added by the Southern Pacific Railway company on its Eugene-Klamath Falls line is now in operation at Westfir.

John M. Jones, Portland postmaster, has been named vice-president of the National Association of Postmasters to represent Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana.

Advices received at Ione state that an oil well drilling outfit has been shipped for the Ione Gas & Oil company and that drilling operations will begin not later than March 1.

The Hermiston high school debate team won the debate against Pendleton last week and thereby stepped on the first rung of the ladder that may lead to the state contest.

The Coos bay district, which is progressing rapidly in development of the cheese industry, is already laying plans for observance of "cheese week," dated for the first week of May.

John B. Bell Jr. of Eugene, has been appointed principal cadet at the United States military academy at West Point by Senator Stanfield, with Roy Jarman of Echo as first alternate.

George A. Neuner, Jr., of Roseburg, was recommended by the Oregon senators for United States attorney for the district of Oregon to succeed John S. Coke, who resigned some months ago.

An estimate giving Portland a population of 355,445, and, with the districts just outside, 450,000, was made by the industries department of the Portland chamber of commerce recently.

The state supreme court has handed down an opinion affirming the circuit court for Coos county in the case of L. W. Pearce, who is in the penitentiary at Salem awaiting execution for the murder of James Culver.

Work is expected to be started in a short time on the ten miles of railway to be built by J. H. Chambers, lumberman of Cottage Grove, from that city to a tract of timber beyond Lorane, where a large sawmill will be built.

Between 13,000 and 15,000 acre feet of water at present is impounded in the Ochoco reservoir near Prineville, and it is believed by H. M. Chadwick, assistant state engineer, that the reservoir will fill to capacity this winter and spring.

The house bill authorizing addition of certain lands to the Santiam national forest in Oregon was acted on favorably by the senate. A house bill transferring a tract of land in Lane county to the state of Oregon for fish hatchery purposes also was successful.

More than $500,000 will be spent in Portland, and a total of $3,000,000 in the entire state during the present year by the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company for extensions and improvements of plant and equipment.

Not so many sets of twin lambs as usual are being born this year in the corrals and sheds of Umatilla county sheep men, according to reports from growers. The single lambs are rugged and healthy, however, and promise to make excellent growth.

The basketball championship of district No. 2 of the Oregon State High School association will be decided in a tournament to be played in Pendleton February 26, 27 and 28. The district comprises Morrow, Umatilla, Gilliam and Wheeler counties.

The big state highway bridge across the Lewis and Clark river on the lower Columbia river highway, is nearing completion, and according to A. G. Skelton, resident engineer in charge of the work, the structure will be opened for traffic about March 1.

Two carloads of Irish Cobbler and Early Ohio seed potatoes have been purchased by the Umatilla county farm bureau and will be distributed to growers in the county, according to Fred Bennion, county agent. The seed was certified by the state of Minnesota.

So many sheep and goats have been killed by dogs in Polk county that the dog fund, from which stock owners are indemnified, is exhausted, and the court has instrucfed Sheriff Hooker to round up unlicensed dogs and demand that their owners pay the required fee at once.

Fifteen years in the state penitentiary and a fine of $1000 was the sentence imposed by Circuit Judge Leavitt on John Taylor, confessed leader of the robbers who on the morning of January 4 shot and killed Oscar Erickson during the robbery of a gambling house at Klamath Falls.

One hundred and seventeen mills reporting to West Coast Lumbermen's association for the week ending February 14, manufactured 95,608,917 feet of lumber, sold 92,786,333, and shipped 88,646,111 feet. New business was 3 per cent below production. Shipments were 4 per cent below new business.

The Pendleton office of the forest service has received formal notice from the government that an appropriation of $1200 has been allowed for construction of five sheep corrals on the southern part of the Umatilla national forest. The corrals will be used in counting sheep when they are brought onto the forest for grazing.

The appropriation of market road money among various market roads of Clackamas county has been made by an order of the county court. The amount to be expended totals $102,575 and will provide hard surface and road improvement for 18 market roads in the county in connection with the road development program for the year.

Gorden Nosker, charged with reckless driving, has lost his driver's license for life and must pay a fine of $250 and spent one month in jail at Bend as the result of a wreck several days ago when his machine left The Dalles-California highway and turned over. Ed Burdett and M. S. Magee were seriously injured in the wreck.

Labor conditions in Portland and throughout Oregon are brightening and unemployment in some lines is already reduced. This fact is pointed out by the report of the United States department of labor, which has made a survey of the entire Pacific division. In practically every part of the state extensive building programs are noted.

Eugene was again chosen as the next place of meeting by the Oregon Retail Merchants association at its closing session in that city. L. L. Thomas of Marshfield was re-elected president and O. F. Tate of Portland secretary; W. F. Kennedy, Corvallis, was elected first vice-president; J. C. Mann, Medford, second vice-president and M. L. Grant, Portland, treasurer.

A fine point of law is involved in the request of the Southern Pacific railroad, which proposes to advertise Oregon in its dining car service for several months this season and wants 100 pounds of clams from Coos bay in March to serve its passengers. The law forbids exportation of clams from Coos bay, but whether this means commercially or as gifts was not plain, and, so the chamber of commerce, to whom the request came, has asked the fish commission for advice.

The rivers and harbors bill as reported to the senate carries preliminary provision for practically every Oregon project urged before congress during the last year. The two most important relate to the deepening and widening of the channel of the Columbia and Willamette rivers from Portland to the sea and the improvement of Umpqua river and harbor. Both proposals are for preliminary examinations and surveys by the board of engineers.

GOSSIP

By THOMAS ARKLE CLARK
Dean of Men, University of Illinois.

THREE women were sitting across the aisle from me in a railway coach, talking. Their voices were pitched high. Their enthusiasm was evident. It was impossible not to hear what they were saying. They were not educated women, and the things they were saying were not pleasant things. They were discussing their friends, in fact, and their acquaintances, ridiculing them, laughing loudly at their frailties, repeating unsavory and unkind things that rumor had brought to their ears.

Their talk was full of "I understand" and "I have heard" and "You know they say," of "She said to me" and "I told her" and "You must not repeat it to a soul." Their stories were turgid with specific details to make more evident their truthfulness and reality, I presume. They recounted with meticulous accuracy the time and place and accompanying circumstances of the most trivial bits of scandal.

"Let me see, who was it told me; was it Mrs. Brown? No, I think it wasn't her, it was Mrs. Jones. We were standing at the corner of the street, and I think it was Wednesday—I remember now, it was Tuesday." It was, of course, not germane to the facts presented who it was or when, but the accuracy of the details helped to make the facts incontrovertible. They discussed the most private affairs of people; they tore to pieces and besmirched every reputation they touched, and they did it all with an appearance of personal propriety that was maddening. So far as I could make out, they did not say a kind word about any one, and they talked about nothing that was really elevating or any of their business.

It is interesting that a gossip never has anything to say about things or principles. His only topic of conversation is people, and the things he says about them are usually destructive. Gossiping is not confined to women; men are quite commonly addicted to it. It is not confined to men and women of the class I have been describing. Even in an intellectual community it is common, and the wider experience of the educated and their keenness of intellect, and their greater ability to utter sharp and cutting things, to ridicule everything that is good and holy, make them all the more dangerous. The older the person the more damage he can do by peddling vicious, foolish gossip. The character of an individual may be ruined and is being ruined every day by these scandal mongers.

It is a wise custom if you cannot say good about a person to say nothing.

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City Swallows Up Rural Mill of 99 Years Ago

Pittsburgh.—One year less than a century ago an iron mill was built on the outskirts of Pittsburgh. It was a small affair, constructed on the banks of the Allegheny river by the firm of Miltenberger & Brown. For 99 years it grew and played an important part in the city's industrial life, but now, instead of being on the outskirts of Pittsburgh, it stands within a few blocks of the very heart of the city's shopping and office center.

And this is the chief reason the oldest independent iron and steel mill in Pittsburgh is being torn down. The firm of Brown & Co., Inc., the present owners, is going out of business because there is too much business.

The site of the mill occupies about three acres, and if it continued operation it would be necessary to expand. And there is no room for expansion. On three sides are tall buildings and on the other is the river.

J. Stuart Brown, grandson of the founder, said he did not wish to assume the responsibility of erecting a new plant elsewhere, and he felt he deserved a rest. Consequently the business will be discontinued.

Decision to stop work in the mill was reached last June, and not a wheel of its machinery has turned since. When running at full capacity the plant employed between 400 and 600 men. Most of the old employees have found work elsewhere.

Harvests Wheat Crop From Ancient Seed

Tacoma, Wash.—F. S. Johnston, a farmer near Morton, Wash., has just harvested a bumper crop of wheat that he says came from seed taken from an Egyptian tomb. Mr. Johnston says he got the seeds four years ago and this year the increase was enough to plant 15 acres. He has just finished harvesting the crop, which netted 729 bushels for an average of 48.6 bushels to the acre. The grain is white and very hard, the straw short, the heads prolific, and Mr. Johnston says it is one of the best varieties of spring wheat he has ever grown. It was not learned from what tomb the wheat was obtained.

Leech Bests Snake

Fulton, Mo.—A group of fishermen from this city, fishing on the Auxvasse creek, near Fulton, witnessed a fight between a leech and a snake. The leech was between six and eight inches long and had landed on the head of the snake. The two fought around in the water quite awhile and finally disappeared down the creek.

CONGRESS GRANTS ITSELF MORE PAY

Salaries of Senators and Congressmen Increased from $7500 to $10,000

Washington, D. C.—Salary increases for members of congress and the president's cabinet were provided for, with adoption by the house of a senate amendment to the legislative appropriation bill.

The house, like the senate, avoided a roll call which would have put the members on record. It passed by a rising vote of 237 to 93. It will increase the salaries of senators and representatives from $7500 to $10,000 a year, effective March 4, and of the speaker, vice-president and cabinet officers from $12,000 to $15,000.

An hour of parliamentary maneuvering preceded the house discussion. Instead of sending the measure to conference, as is customary, Representative Dickinson, republican, Iowa, in charge of it, proposed that all senate amendments, including the salary rider, be accepted.

The largest attendance of any day during this session had been marshaled for the occasion to guard against the forcing of a roll call through lack of a quorum. Nevertheless, Representative Blanton, democrat, Texas, demanded a roll call but failed to receive a second from one-fifth of the members present.

NATIONS INVITED TO HONOR WASHINGTON

Washington, D. C.—An intention to invite the nations of the world to join the United States in observance of the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington in 1932 was announced by President Coolidge on behalf of the commission recently appointed to arrange for the celebration.

Setting forth the purposes for which the commission was created, the president in his statement, issued on the eve of Washingtons birthday, declared that "for the present it is impossible more specifically to suggest the purposes and character of the commemoration which it is expected to arrange.

"The 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth will be an occasion of such significance, not only to our own country but to the entire world, that it is manifestly fitting that the American nation should appropriately observe it," the president said.

"But beyond this, it is felt that as the life, the career and the achievements of Washington belong, not to a single nation, but to all humanity, it is proper that the nation founded under his leadership should invite all other nations and peoples to join it in the observance of this anniversary."

THE LOAFER

By THOMAS ARKLE CLARK
Dean of Men, University of Illinois.

"'Twas the voice of the sluggard,
I heard him complain,
'You have waked me too soon,
I must slumber again.'"

I HAVE never known what loafer it was who inspired these ancient lines, but I have always suspected that the fellow who wrote them had met Higgins. Higgins was a direct descendant of one of the seven sleepers; he was on the most intimate terms with Morpheus, and Somnus, and Ether and all the other gods and agencies which induce prolonged and refreshing sleep.

I have called him over the telephone at noon to be told by the friend who answered that he was not up yet. I have dropped in at his house at 9 p. m. to be informed that he was rather tired and had gone to bed early. I have found him dozing before the fire at three o'clock in the afternoon, a cigarette between his lips. A loafer always smokes, though of course a great many people who smoke are not loafers. I have often wondered what became of him; he's probably dead or asleep at the switch.

We read a great deal about the dissipations of youth today—of the real devils who drink and gamble and indulge in unnamable immoralities, but most of it is bunk. The real menace of life today is the loafer—the fellow who smokes himself into stupidity before the grate fire, who wastes his hours in billiard halls and ice cream parlors, at vaudeville and moving picture shows, and in strolling about the town imagining himself in love. It is the man who sits up late at night doing nothing worth while, and who sleeps late in the morning to get over it who is most worthless of all.

The loafer can't or won't work himself, and he is seldom satisfied to loaf alone. He is a procrastinator without enthusiasm or plan or system in his work. It has never occurred to him that he has a real business to which he should give his serious attention. He could not work regularly eight hours a day on a bet. There is no place for him in the world or out of it. His only salvation is to get a job where he will have to work hard 10 hours a day.

CECIL NEWS

Down 500 Feet on New Well —Many Reseeding Wheat Lands —Delivers Honey at Fossil

W. A. Thomas made his weekly visit in Cecil on Sunday. He is trying to decide whether to reseed his wheat or not. He was accompanied by W. G. Palmateer of "Windymook", who informs us he is going to reseed and is busy plowing and preparing while waiting for seed.

Walter Pope and Shorty Shaver, well drillers of Ione, are still busy drilling at "Hillside", ranch. They are now down nearly 500 feet, but Mr. Pope wants a bigger flow of water before he calls a halt.

Peter Bauernfiend, took a few hours holiday on Sunday and visited his nephew, Martin Bauernfiend, the genial and obliging postmaster and storekeeper at Morgan.

Mrs. George Henriksen of Strawberry ranch, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Farns worth of Rhea and Henry Streeter, of Cecil were among those doing business in Arlington during the week.

Miss Ermile [illegible] who has been visiting her parents at Ewing, left on the local on Friday to resume her work in Portland.

Mrs. Jack Hynd and daughter, Miss Annie C. Hynd, of Butterfly Flats ranch, were county seat visitors on last Wednesday.

Elvin Schafer of Butterfly Flats, left on Thursday for Sand Hollow, to bring more sheep belonging to the Hynd Bros., to their ranch at Cecil.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mulkey accompanied by Sax Morgan, all of Smythe's Siding near The Willows, were calling in Cecil on Wednesday before going on to The Eight Mile section.

Al Henriksen and son Clifford, were doing business in Cecil on Tuesday, Mr. Henriksen leaving for his ranch near Pendleton on Wednesday. Clifford and his men remaining on the Cecil ranch while attending to the spring work here.

Elvin Miller of "Highview" was in Cecil Sunday calling on friends.

Mr. and Mrs. T. W. May left on Thursday for Hood River, where they will visit with their daughter Mrs. Ison. Mr. May is receiving treatments from his doctor there.

Frank Turner of Heppner, was a busy man among the sheepman of Cecil on Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Dufur and family of "The Cot", spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Tyler near Rhea Siding.

Miss E. Gray of "Shady Dell", was calling on friends in Cecil on Monday, and we are pleased to learn all the members of the family are recovering from their serious illness.

Jim Furlong and Bob Lowe of Cecil spent several hours on Sunday evening with friends at Heppner.

Mrs. Jack Hynd was calling on Mrs. R. E. Duncan of Busy Bee ranch on Sunday.

Elmer Tyler was visiting with his Pal, Noel Streeter of Cecil on Sunday. They were talking over the latest in trapping.

Herman Havekost accompanied by Ray Barnett of Ione, spent Thursday visiting at the Leon Logan home in Four Mile.

Mrs. L. L. Funk, Mrs. Wm. Sexton, of the Logan Cotage, also Miss A. C. Lowe of the Highway house were in Ione on Friday.

R. E. Duncan of the Busy Bee, was in Fossil on Thursday of last week delivering a load of honey.

EIGHT MILE NEWS

Move to Ranch for Months of Spring Work in Fields —Sunday School Holds Regular Meetings

W. J. Heard and Raymond Turner both prominent farmers of this section made a business trip to Arlington on Wednesday.

C. F. McLaughlin of Roosevelt, was a visitor at the Asher Montague home on Sunday.

Frank Montague and family spent the day at the ranch of L. L. Montague on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Montague have moved out to their ranch to remain for a few months of the spring.

Those visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Asher Montague on Sunday evening were Leon Turner, Jas. Profitt, and Otto Spillman.

Mathew Ball of Eight Mile section made a business trip to Arlington on Wednesday.

Eight Mile Sunday school did not meet last Sunday but we hope that all will be able to attend next Sunday.

Germany's Champ Skater

Frau Brockhoeft, champion woman skater of Germany, who will represent her country in the international contests in Christiania on February 17 and in Manchester, England, on February 25.

Such Is Human Nature

Lots of men would never think of trespassing if they didn't see a notice to the effect that it wasn't allowed.

MAXWELL TOURING CAR

In good running order, for sale cheap or trade for air compressor or good second hand light direct current electric motor. Or what have you?

SEAMAN'S GARAGE

Irrigon - - - Oregon

OFFICIAL DESIGN OF THE OLD OREGON TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The design of the ox team and covered wagon symbolizes the spirit of the old west.

It typifies vision, endurance, hope, suffering and final accomplishment.

Over the Old Oregon Trail from the Missouri river the covered wagons came and won an empire for the United States.

The design is the work of Avard Fairbanks of the University of Oregon.