

POLK COUNTY OBSERVER

PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY

VOL. XX

DALLAS, POLK COUNTY, OREGON, SEPTEMBER 15, 1908.

NO. 31

FIRE DESTROYS RESIDENCE

Residence of G. R. Allen Burned to the Ground—Contents Are Saved.

The residence of G. R. Allen, lying in the outskirts of Dallas, south of the Willamette Valley sawmill, caught fire yesterday afternoon and was almost totally destroyed.

The fire is supposed to have started from a defective flue and the flames had gained considerable headway before it was discovered and an alarm turned in. The blaze was first seen by the men who were working in the lumber yard and had all of the furniture and other household goods carried out to places of safety before the fire department arrived.

Even with the enormous start that the fire had gained by this time, it might have been possible to have saved the building had it not been for the fact that it was located so far out that it took several valuable minutes of time to fasten together sufficient lengths of hose to reach from the nearest hydrant in the lumber yard to the burning house. When the firemen were at last able to reach the house with a single hose, the entire upper story was practically destroyed and the flames had already commenced to consume the lower part of the structure and to kindle on the outbuildings.

Although it was evident that the

house was hopelessly damaged, they found it an easy matter to check the flames and prevent them from spreading and destroying the buildings near by. The loss will not be heavy, as little of the furniture was injured and Mr. Allen carried full insurance on the house.

Mr. Allen was not at home when the fire occurred, being employed in carpenter work in Washington county. The unexpected catastrophe proved a severe blow to his wife, who was almost prostrated for a time.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen have been in Dallas only a little over a year, having moved to Oregon from Pennsylvania. The house which was burned was purchased by them only a few months ago.

Opening Date Postponed.

Owing to the necessity of improvements in the schoolhouse and the desire of many of the children to remain in the hopyards and prune orchards until the close of the harvest season, it has been decided to postpone the date for opening the Dallas public school from Monday, September 21, to Monday, September 28. In addition to the increased school room afforded by the temporary building, which is being erected just south of the main school building, the school board has secured and will have installed at once, a complete equipment of new seats and desks similar to those in use in the business colleges of the state.

HAS PROVEN A SUCCESS

Merchants Protective Association Is Proving a Benefit to Business Men.

The second regular monthly meeting of the Retail Merchants' Protective Association of Dallas was held in the County Courtroom in the Courthouse yesterday evening.

In a general discussion of the work of the Association since its establishment, the members present declared without a dissenting voice that the plan had thus far been a success. While it is true that the new system has resulted in many unpleasant episodes during the past two months, it has, on the whole, brought about a better and more friendly understanding between the merchants of Dallas and their patrons than ever before.

One of the surest signs of its success was seen in communications from merchants of Black Rock and Falls City, requesting membership in the association and intimating their intentions of bringing about a similar organization for those two places. The establishment of the new system in Dallas is already having its effect on other neighboring towns, and from all sides come reports of proposed organizations of a similar nature.

In reply to the communications from Falls City and Black Rock, the secretary of the Dallas Association was authorized to say that the local organization would gladly co-operate with a similar association in those places and would agree to exchange black lists with them, so that the merchants of both organizations might share equally the benefits of speedy and sure collection of accounts which is afforded by that system.

SEASON AT ITS HEIGHT

Hop Picking Will Continue Through This Week—Crews Large in All Yards.

The hop picking season is now fairly at its height and the season in this neighborhood will probably last throughout the present week and, in some yards, extend into the week following.

The crews in the yards about Dallas are large, but thus far it has not been found necessary in the most of these places to limit the time of picking, as the driers seem to be able to handle the hops almost as rapidly as they can be picked.

In the yards about Independence however, the reverse seems to be the case. It is reported that more than 1100 were on the grounds at the Krebs hopyard last Tuesday and that on the following day nearly 400 of them left for their homes in Portland. The throng of pickers was so large that they could be permitted to pick only about four or five hours a day and the expense of living was greater than the amount of their earnings.

The pickers in the yards about Dallas are nearly all residents of this neighborhood, the majority of pickers from outside places, Portland, Oregon City, and the Indian reservations, having engaged to pick in the yards about Independence.

Changes in Normal Faculty.

The Monmouth State Normal School opens this year with the personnel of its faculty considerably changed. A. F. Campbell, after being employed in the school for over 15 years, has resigned his position and gone to Eugene, where he will take up the practice of law. Mrs. Ellen M. Pennell will also go to Eugene, where she will have a position in the Department of English in the University of Oregon and will have charge of the ladies dormitory. Mrs. Pennell leaves behind her a record of ten years of faithful and efficient work in the Normal School. Professor L. A. Robinson has gone to Chicago, where he will take work in the Chicago University, and Miss Loretta Smith has accepted the position of Librarian at Weston. The new additions to the faculty are A. L. Briggs, formerly president of Drake Normal, and Professor Fargo, of the Pendleton High School.

Vaudette Opened to Public.

The moving picture theater on the corner of Main and Oak streets passed last week from the hands of its old management into the control of W. N. Brown, who has had the building remodeled to accommodate twice as many people as before, installed new equipments, built a neat and attractive entrance, and in a word, lifted the little theater out of the 5 cent class and placed it on the footing of a 10 cent theater, with a much longer and better program and many more conveniences for its patrons. Like other cities of the Pacific Coast at this time, Dallas seems to be infected with the mysterious germ of moving picture mania, and the little Vaudette, as the newly established theater is called, is admirably adapted to satisfy the demands of the public for this form of amusement.

W. R. Craven and Hood Craven have returned to their claims on Salmon River, where they will be engaged in laying in their supplies preparatory to spending the winter there.

DIES BY HIS OWN HAND

Coroner's Jury Attributes George Selby's Death to Suicide Under Temporary Insanity.

Crazed with sickness and weeks' of brooding over the fancied unfriendliness of his neighbors, George Selby, a well-to-do rancher living about three miles west of Dallas, met death by his own hand Thursday afternoon, having first fired his house, barn and outbuildings. Such was the purport of the verdict rendered by the coroner's jury Friday afternoon.

The whole truth of the strange tragedy will probably never be known, but enough testimony has been brought to light to prove substantially the theory of suicide and discredit the vague rumors of murder that were for a short time afloat.

Selby was a man about 50 years of age and came to Oregon from his native state, Virginia, about 25 years ago, settling on a small tract of land which he purchased from Judge Boise, where he lived until the time of his death. His sole means of livelihood was from the sale of cattle and of wood which he cut on his farm. An investigation of his bank account shows that after selling his livestock during the fall of each year, he deposited all of his money in the bank, drawing upon it only occasionally for the purchase of the necessities of life. There is no evidence of his having kept money in any large amount in his house.

The story of his death, as gleaned from the fragmentary testimony given at the inquest is as follows: On Wednesday evening Selby called at the home of George Medley, his nearest neighbor, and seemed to be very despondent, complaining that he had not slept for more than a week. He declared that he had no friends in Dallas and that all his neighbors were working against him, and bitterly upbraided Medley because he had stopped visiting him, accusing him (Medley) of being "just like the rest." Medley endeavored to soothe him, telling him that he was sick and suggesting that he come to Dallas for medical attention, but Selby refused to do so. Finally, however, he gave Medley a dollar and told him to get some medicine for him when he came to town the next day. His actions were all very strange, according to Medley's testimony, and all of his conversation was flighty and incoherent. Medley came to Dallas on the following morning and was still here when the catastrophe occurred.

At about 12:45, W. W. Miller passed by the Selby farm, driving into Dallas, and he says that everything about the place was apparently all right. He did not see Selby and drove on without stopping.

About an hour later Mr. Walter and Mr. Reed, Selby's nearest neighbors excepting George Medley, saw an immense volume of smoke rising from the direction of his farm and, surmising that the house was on fire, hurried to the scene as rapidly as possible. When they arrived, the house, barn, cowshed and several outbuildings were reduced to piles of embers. The woodshed which stood nearest the house, was only partially consumed. Selby was no where to be seen, and it was some time before they discovered his remains amid the smoking ruins of the house.

J. A. Coover's son hastened to Dallas and notified Coroner R. L. Chapman who drove to the scene of the fire immediately. When he reached the farm, the fire had died down sufficiently for him to walk across the ashes and embers to the ruins of the bedroom, where the remains of the dead man's body were located.

His head and limbs had been almost entirely consumed, and only a few fragments of the spinal column, the pelvic cavity, shoulder blades and a few charred portions of the viscera remained. Nearby lay a Winchester rifle with one exploded shell in the chamber. This shell had evidently been fired before the heat had become sufficient to discharge it, since the cap was dented.

The melted portions of his pocket-book, and melted slugs of money, amounting to about \$20, were found near his body. All of these circumstances seem effectually to remove evidence of a motive for murder and to point strongly and conclusively to the fact that the deceased had committed suicide. It is believed that the deceased in a fit of insane despondency fired the outbuildings and house and then shot himself, expecting the flames to destroy all traces of his body.

Selby had no relatives in Oregon and the authorities were for a time at a loss to know with whom they should communicate in regard to the disposal of his property. Mr. Stuart, one of his neighbors, however, said that he believed that the deceased had relatives living in or near Clinton, Henry County, Missouri. Letters were mailed at once to the Sheriff of Henry county and to one Dr. Salmon, residing in Clinton, informing them of the occurrence and asking information concerning the whereabouts of his relatives, if any there were, residing in that county.

Further clue regarding the relatives

of the dead man was received from an unexpected source Sunday. Judge L. D. Brown, local correspondent to the Portland Journal, sent a report of the tragedy to that paper Friday. On Sunday morning he received a telegram from the Journal informing him that the address of Selby's relatives could be secured by communicating with S. C. Jackson, Enoch, Middlesex County, Virginia. Mr. Brown placed the telegram in the hands of the Coroner, who mailed a communication to Mr. Jackson at once.

The Selby estate consists of his 50-acre farm near Dallas, a herd of about 60 head of cattle and other livestock, and an account with the Dallas City Bank, amounting to nearly \$400.

STATE CERTIFICATES ISSUED

Nine Polk County Teachers Have Made Grades Required For State Papers.

The results of the recent examinations for state certificates and diplomas have just been made public by State Superintendent J. H. Ackerman. The total number of manuscripts examined was 2570. Eighteen applicants received state diplomas, valid for life, among whom was Miss Ruby Reese, of McMinville, formerly a teacher in the public school of Dallas. Forty-four state certificates, valid for five years, were issued, and 18 other applicants made the required grades and will be granted diplomas as soon as they have the required teaching experience. The remainder of the applicants entered for the first or second trial, as the law allows a teacher three trials in which to complete the examinations.

The Polk county teachers who were granted state certificates are: Ada L. Belshe, Florence Bowden and Roma G. Stafford, of Monmouth; Edna H. Hayes, of Dallas; Edith E. Montgomery, of Falls City, and Lydia Wyman, of Independence.

Those who have secured the necessary grades and will receive state papers as soon as they have the required teaching experience, are: William E. Smith, of Monmouth; L. Carmon Sears, of McCoy, and Phillip F. A. Boebe, of Monmouth.

Eight Cent Sales Reported.

It was reported from Independence Friday that 8 cents had been bid for 110 bales of choice clusters. The offer was said to have come from Horst & Co., of London. If this news is correct it practically establishes the opening market for late hops on the 8 cent basis, which agrees with the predictions made by many hopmen. No actual transactions in the later variety have been announced yet. Baling has only begun and it is not probable that any complete crop has been baled yet. Five lots of Fuggles were reported sold at Salem, Friday, at bales belonging to J. C. Fletcher, at 7 cents, and 25 bales by Croisan at 7 1/2 cents. Enough samples of the new crop have been received to show that the Oregon yield of 1908 is the finest that has been grown in many years. Whatever prices rule in the Pacific Coast market, Oregon hops should sell at the very top.—Telegram.

Strong Company Coming.

On Thursday night, September 17, Miss Florence Stanley will appear at the Woodman Hall in "Her One Great Sin," a play that has been attracting wide and favorable attention on the Pacific Coast this season. The Company which is to play in Dallas comes with exceedingly high recommendation from the newspapers of the cities where the play has been recently given, and their appearance in Dallas will doubtless be greeted by a large audience. One of the special features announced by their advance agent, will be the appearance of Miss Stanley during the play, in the director's gown, the famous "sheath dress," which has lately occasioned such a flood of comment of varying nature in the United States. 9-15-11

J. H. Kruger Fined For Fraud.

J. B. Thompson returned Sunday from Corvallis, where he attended the trial of J. H. Kruger, accused of obtaining money under false pretenses. Kruger is well known throughout the Willamette Valley, where he has been working as a sales promoter for several years. He was arrested in Medford last week and brought to Corvallis by Deputy Sheriff McDevitt on a warrant sworn out by several prominent business men of that city whom he was alleged to have defrauded of about \$250. Although clearly proven to be guilty, the minimum fine of only \$50 was imposed. This he promptly paid and was released.

Will Organize a Republican Club.

A meeting will be held in the Court-house, Wednesday evening, for the purpose of organizing a Taft and Sherman club. All Republicans of Dallas and vicinity are urged to be present and lend their assistance to make the meeting a success.

"Mousing" underwear for ladies and children, also union suits—the most satisfactory line of underwear on the market. We are agents for Dallas. The Bee Hive Store.

NEW GOODS

New Arrivals in
SHOES
DRESS GOODS
UNDERWEAR
BLANKETS
KINGSBURY HATS

Campbell & Hollister
CASH STORE

Electricity for Lighting

Is only expensive to people who are wasteful and careless. To you, who are naturally careful, it does not come high.

It is economical because it can be quickly turned off when not needed. With gas or kerosene there is the temptation to let light burn when not needed to save bother of lighting and adjusting. In some homes the electric light bills amount to only one or two dollars per month. You can probably get some kind of artificial light for less money than electric light, but does it save you anything when it limits opportunities for work and recreation—ruins your eyesight—smokes your walls—mars decorations and increases household work. You could probably save a dollar tomorrow by going without your meals but it wouldn't be economy. It is not so much what you save, but how you save that counts.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY CO. RATES—Residence on meters, per Kilowatt 15c; Residence, flat per month, 15c per 50c. RATES FOR BUSINESS HOUSES—25c per drop and 5c per Kilowatt up to 10 drops; over 10 drops 20c per drop and 5c per Kilowatt up to 40 drops; over 40 drops 17c per drop and 5c per Kilowatt. A drop figures 15c or less. For power rates apply at the office. We are always ready to explain the "ins and outs" of the lighting proposition to you, call on us or phone to us, we are never to busy to talk business.

Willamette Valley Company

E. W. KEARNS, Manager for Dallas.

Office on Mill street, just north of the Court House. Phones Bell 421, Mutual 1297.

DALLAS COLLEGE

Places an education within the reach of every ambitious young man and woman. The earnings of vacation will pay a full year's expenses.

Offers advantages equal to those of any similar school in Oregon. Courses—Classical, Scientific, Elementary Academic and Musical. Special work for those preparing to teach.

TERM OPENS SEPTEMBER 23.

For Catalogue and information address the president.

C. A. MOCK

Dallas, Oregon

Clean, Fresh Groceries

We carry the Famous DIAMOND "W" brand of Extracts, Spices, Coffee, Tea and Canned Goods. Fresh Bread Every Day

SIMONTON & SCOTT DALLAS

BUILDERS ATTENTION

In connection with our Lumber and Shingle trade we are now handling LIME, PLASTER, CEMENT, BRICK and SAND. Lowest possible prices on all building material.

THE CHAS. K. SPAULDING LOGGING CO.

Capital Business College

A good school—none better. Well established reputation. Successful graduates. Skilful, painstaking teachers. Living expenses low. Many other advantages. Let us tell you about them. Write for catalogue.

SALEM OREGON - W. I. STALEY, Principal

Special at the Vaudette Tonight
"The James Boys in Missouri"

WEINHART'S MALT
TEA

An absolutely NON-INTOXICATING beer. Contains less than one-half per cent alcohol. Guaranteed under the Pure Food and Drug Act, June 30, 1906. Recommended by the medical profession for its unexcelled tonic qualities.

FOR SALE AT
HENLINE'S POOL ROOM

WOODMAN HALL
ONE NIGHT ONLY
Thursday, September 17
THE PLAY OF THE HOUR
Her One Great Sin
The "Directoire Gown" worn by Miss Stanley designed by Hale Bros., San Francisco.

"CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS"
says a noted proverb. Following out this line of reasoning we are missionaries to the good of the general public. We will call at your door for your soiled linen and will return it clean and white as Mt. Hood snow. We laundry Carpets, Rugs, Blankets, Quilts and Lace Curtains. Will wash and press your suits. In fact, anything that is done in a first-class laundry. Despite the vast superiority of our work our prices are the lowest. Phone in your orders to the DALLAS STEAM LAUNDRY. Mutual Phone 197.

A. E. THOMPSON Dallas, Ore.

Portland Business College
"THE SCHOOL OF QUALITY"
Tenth and Morrison, Portland, Oregon A. P. Armstrong, LL.B., Principal
We occupy two floors 65 by 100 feet, have a \$20,000 equipment, employ a large faculty, give individual instruction, receive more calls for office help than we can meet. Our school admittedly leads all others in quality of instruction. It pays to attend such an institution.
Said a Business Man: "Keep hammering away everlastingly on thorough work. It will win out in the end." Said an Educator: "The quality of instruction given in your school makes it the standard of its kind in the Northwest."
Open all the year. Students admitted at any time. Catalogue free.
References: Any bank, any newspaper, any business man in Portland.