

# The Polk County Observer

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DALLAS, POLK COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1915.

(TWICE-A-WEEK)

NO. 55

## EARLY DAY FIREMEN

### DALLAS HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY HAS HISTORY.

Many of City's Prominent Citizens Were Members of Pioneer Fire Protection Force.

On December 5, 1894, forty young men signed their names to a pledge to appear at a meeting five days later for the purpose of organizing the Dallas Hook and Ladder company. The village had grown beyond the old Terror Engine company and the erection of many buildings demanded a ladder equipment. It had been ten years since the organization of old Terror company and many of the members of that historic organization allied themselves with the hook and ladder company. J. M. Sears, B. H. Grant and H. B. Cospoer were appointed members of a committee at the first meeting, December 10, 1894, to draft a constitution and by-laws. At the second meeting a week later this committee presented a revision of the constitution and by-laws of the Salem company and these were adopted. A fine of 15 cents was set as a standard for absence from the first roll call and an additional 10 cents for absence from the second. U. S. Grant was elected president; H. L. Crider, secretary; C. E. Shaw, treasurer; A. V. R. Snyder, foreman; F. J. Coad, first assistant foreman; Al. Dray, second assistant; George Bowles, janitor, and H. L. Fenton, C. G. Coad and H. B. Cospoer, trustees. Robert Chapman, B. H. Grant and J. M. Sears were appointed members of a finance committee.

Plans were made on December 17 to celebrate the New Year with a grand ball in conjunction with Terror company. Mark Hayter headed a committee on arrangements for the ball, which failed to pay expenses. Like its contemporary organization the hook and ladder company existed not alone for the help it could be to its community, but for the pleasure of social association which the members found on such occasions as their New Year's ball. Such things helped them to hold up the enthusiasm of the organization, and the feeling that existed among them did much to make their work effective in fighting the many large and small fires that beset the Dallas of twenty years ago.

In April, 1895, a new set of officers was elected including B. H. Grant, president; E. D. Cospoer, secretary; T. A. Riggs, financial secretary; H. C. Dale, treasurer; George Bowles, janitor; R. L. Chapman, Charles Baker and B. F. Mulkey, trustees. Throughout the year 1895 there was very little activity in the hook and ladder company meetings, and very little business was transacted. Regular drills were held, however, and it is said by those who remember as far back as twenty years, that the organization was a most efficient one. On February 4, 1896, the annual election of officers brought out a large attendance of the members. At that time H. L. Crider was elected president, and a unanimous ballot was cast for E. D. Cospoer as secretary, making that gentleman's third year in the office. T. A. Riggs was re-elected as financial secretary and J. C. Uglow took the place of H. C. Dale as treasurer. B. H. Grant stepped down from the president's seat to the position of foreman, with George Richmond and Joel Shaw as his assistants.

At a meeting of the old Terror Engine company and the Dallas Hook and Ladder company, together with a large number of interested citizens, the two organizations joined hands as the Dallas Fire department on March 27, 1895. Neither company lost its identity because of the combination of energies, but Terror company ceased its separate activities to a great extent. The hook and ladder company held meetings from time to time until October 10, 1905, when the record book closes, and, as no information can be found to the contrary, it is to be presumed that the two organizations were so firmly welded in purpose and spirit that they lost their separate identities. In 1897 E. L. Collins was elected president and E. D. Cospoer was re-elected secretary. From that time on George Richmond, H. L. Crider, Joel Shaw, Hugh Black, Walter Coy, N. L. Guy and Al. Halderman were presidents of the company. E. D. Cospoer served until 1899 as secretary, when R. L. Chapman succeeded him and remained in the office for two years. Following Mr. Chapman, R. R. Hill was elected and in 1903 Roy Black took his place and was twice re-elected. Many of the original members of the company had served the required seven years as firemen before 1905, and they were excused by certificate from further service upon their own request. Some of the men who signed as charter members were buried by their comrades and a number of others found greener pastures for their energies.

Twenty years ago the hook and ladder company was organized. The time in itself is not beyond the memory of the majority of the older Dallas

residents, but time is fleeing and many of them do not realize that nearly a score of years cover the days when they drew, as younger men now do, the hose reels through the streets of the city that has grown a great deal since the protection of lives and property called them to their duties. The history of old Terror company, with its many years of honorable existence, brought to the mind of its veterans many fond memories, and a review of the life of the hook and ladder company may bring less aged recollections to the minds of its members. At the present time the Dallas Fire department exists as a unit, and is a good and efficient body, but the city and its citizens could not possibly be more proud of its efforts than they were of the work of old Terror Engine company and the Dallas Hook and Ladder company.

The charter members of the hook and ladder company were U. S. Grant (then postmaster), Mark Hayter, C. E. Shaw, A. L. Shreve, G. W. Bowles, H. L. Crider, B. H. Grant, Fred Elliott, Albert Dray, R. L. Chapman, A. V. R. Snyder, T. G. Richmond, H. L. Fenton, L. E. Adams, Marshal Blessing, T. A. Riggs, L. L. Shreve, H. C. Dale, Joel Shaw, B. F. Mulkey, H. B. Cospoer, E. D. Cospoer, G. L. Snyder, E. Hayter, C. G. Coad, Frank Muscott, J. H. Lawton, Charles Baker, Nes Dales, Edgar L. Collins, J. C. Uglow, D. B. McDonald, D. J. Riley, F. J. Coad, J. J. Fowler, Orrel Fowler, Clark Groves, J. C. Morrison, W. W. Ellis and A. F. Williams.

## COURT INSPECTS ROAD.

### Hard Surface Construction May Be Started in Polk Next Year.

Judge Teal, with County Commissioners G. A. Wells and C. W. Beckett made a trip into the Siletz basin on Wednesday to inspect the county roads and bridges in that district. The trip consumed the entire day and was made very interesting by the splendid views the trio had of the surrounding hills and valleys through a field-glass carried by the judge. The roads are in very good condition, according to these gentlemen, considering the country traversed, and no trouble of any kind was experienced by Commissioner Wells, who drove his automobile on the trip. In the Indian reservation the party inspected the recently completed suspension bridge which the commissioners say is very satisfactory. Yesterday the same party went to Salem and examined the hard surfaced roads in that district. It is entirely possible, in fact, very likely, that the court will advocate the construction of hard surfaced highways in this county next year. It is unofficially reported that the first hard surface construction in Polk county will be on the road from West Salem to Brunk's corner, through the Eola hills, and after that is done further development will be rapid until it eventually includes all the main traveled roads in the county.

## BENNETT MAY BE RETAINED.

### Resolutions Adopted at Quarterly Session of Methodist Board.

Resolutions were adopted at the quarterly conference of the Methodist church board on Tuesday evening asking that the Rev. G. H. Bennett be allowed to retain his charge in Dallas. These resolutions will be brought up at the annual conference of the church at Roseburg on September 25, and will probably mean that Rev. Bennett will remain in Dallas. Elder Moore, district superintendent of Salem, was at the conference and expressed the opinion that the Roseburg meeting would not reverse the wish of the Dallas congregation. Mrs. F. H. Morrison, secretary of the church board, presented a financial report which indicated the sound condition of the church treasury. Will Miller read a report on Sunday school work for the quarter, which showed a decrease in attendance during the summer months although the showing was very favorable for that period. Elder Moore announced his retirement from the office of district superintendent at the end of the present fiscal year. Mr. Moore has been in office for six years, which is the limit under the laws of the church organization.

**Landscape Gardener Coming.**  
J. G. Bacher, manager of the Swiss Floral company of Portland, accompanied by the plant foreman, will visit Dallas next Sunday for the purpose of viewing the city park and giving those in charge of the proposed improvement his idea of how it may best be accomplished at a minimum cost. While in the city Mr. Bacher, who comes here voluntarily to lend whatever assistance possible, will be the guest of his friend, J. C. Rickli, the local landscape gardener, who also is interested in developing this public playground. The committee from the Woman's club may visit the park with the gentlemen from Portland.

**Dies Suddenly at Eola.**  
While picking hops at Eola on Monday, Mrs. Flora E. Graham of Salem complained of illness, and was at once taken to the Salem hospital, where she passed away early Tuesday morning.

## NO ACTION IS TAKEN

### TAX COMMISSION DISCUSSES O. & C. ASSESSMENTS.

County Officials Express Doubt As to What to Do Because of Decision By Supreme Court.

At a meeting at the statehouse on Wednesday, attended by Governor Withycombe, State Treasurer Kay, Secretary of State Olcott and Commissioner Galloway, the state tax commission decided to take no action in regard to the assessment of Oregon and California railroad grant lands. Commissioner Galloway brought the matter up at the meeting, saying that assessors of the various counties in which the lands are located are puzzled and wanted to know what should be done. The big question was whether the lands should be assessed at their value, as in 1913 and 1914, or at \$2.50, that being the price at which the lands are to be sold, as some people construe the United States supreme court's decision.

The lands were assessed at \$21,225,435 in 1914 and the taxes for that year amounted to \$347,000 and \$459,733 in 1913. All the counties but Douglas assessed the lands in 1914. The railroad company has paid none of the taxes for the two years, and there is now due Polk county under the assessment approximately \$28,000. Commissioner Galloway said he had taken the matter up with Attorney General Brown, but the latter was not ready to give a written opinion. County board of equalization will meet next Monday and the assessors are anxious to have their rolls ready before that time.

Treasurer Kay said there was a question whether, following the court's decision, the lands could be assessed for more than \$2.50 per acre. He doubted if land which the court said could not be sold for more than \$2.50 per acre could be assessed for a greater amount. He said he would like to put the matter up to the conference to be held here September 16. Galloway said his understanding was that the railroad company contended it could not sell the timber off and sell it.

In answer to a question by Olcott, he stated that the lands had been assessed close to \$10 per acre, and that in Lane county the assessment was \$12 per acre. "These same people come down here and say that the railroad cannot sell the land for over \$2.50 an acre," Governor Withycombe remarked. "This shows the incongruity of the situation. My personal judgment is that the assessment should be \$2.50 an acre."

Olcott suggested that it might be well to advise the assessors to follow the practice of the last two years and assess the tracts at their full value, and Galloway believed that it would be easier to decrease an assessment than increase it. While this plan seems to meet with some favor, it was decided to take no action until after the attorney general files an opinion.

## VAGRANTS IN CARGEL

### INDEPENDENCE GUESTS FILL POLK COUNTY JAIL.

Jack Rogan Released After Serving Five Day Sentence for Assault.

Did anyone say Independence was not a regular city? Especially during the hop picking season, and more especially on Saturday night when the more careless ones from the many hop picking colonies start on their weekly rampages, the civic authorities at Independence double their vigilance and even then find their hands full in handling cases of vagrancy. The city jail is a haven of refuge for many men each night who find the straight and narrow path entirely too difficult to follow. On Saturday evening there are sometimes so many behind the bars that the marshal has to turn the most sober ones loose to make room for new cases. The jail holds about a dozen as a maximum, and the maximum is reached almost every week. Occasionally a flagrant case is found that demands attention from county authorities, and at such times Sheriff Orr shakes the culprit and brings him to the county jail, in which there are five prisoners at the present time awaiting hearings before the grand jury. Most of these prisoners come from Independence. The fact is not to the discredit of the city, because all styles and sizes of humanity work in the different hop fields, and disport themselves on the streets of Independence at night. The town is several times its normal size and vagrancy is ten times above normal. Jack Rogan, incarcerated last week for assault and battery committed at one of the hop yards near Independence, was released at noon yesterday after serving out the five day sentence imposed upon him.

## PRIZES FOR HORSE SHOW

### CHANGES MADE IN FAIR PREMIUM LIST AS ISSUED.

Several Special Cash Prizes Will Be Hung Up for Competition by Polk County Horsemen.

By an oversight the horse show and premiums mentioned in the catalog of the Polk county fair were not cancelled prior to publication but, most horse fanciers and exhibitors have been advised of a proposed change in the rules and of prizes for the contest. The fair board has just completed a special premium list which offers, for registered stallions of all breeds a first prize of \$10; second \$7.50 and third \$5. Draft horses will be exhibited in two classes, geldings or mares, three years old and over, first prize \$15; second \$10 and third \$5. The second class will be for yearling or two year old geldings and mares, for which the same prizes will be offered as for the first class. Harry Marshall offers a colt halter, C. L. Crider a fine robe and E. T. Evans a series of cash prizes for special entries. Ralph Savery will also post special cash prizes. Among those who have already entered animals in the contest are Tillman Cook of Monmouth; T. D. McLain of Buena Vista; B. T. Burge of Rieckrell; E. P. Evans of Monmouth; J. S. Sullivan and Mr. Rittner of Airlie; R. Coulter and R. Savery of Dallas, and Evan Evans.

The eugenic contest and baby show advertised in the catalog has been given into the charge of F. E. Davis, who will conduct the event at his store in connection with market day. Mr. Davis has posted a number of valuable premiums in addition to which C. B. Stone, C. H. Manno, H. A. Webster, F. E. Kersey, R. B. Reed and others will give special prizes.

## First Prunes Arrive.

The first shipment of prunes received at the Army's packing plant this year were brought in on Wednesday from the orchard of J. N. Conn, a short distance south of town. The consignment included 25 sacks, only a small part of the crop from this orchard, but it marks the beginning of the packing season. From now on for many weeks fruit will arrive at the plant and exportation will begin very soon. Manager A. C. Peterson intends to let the fruit that comes in accumulate in the bins for about two weeks, when packing will be started.

## Congressman "Pat" a Visitor.

Representative C. A. McArthur visited with his many friends in Dallas yesterday and took luncheon with his special friend, J. C. Hayter. Mr. McArthur was settling business here in connection with his very successful livestock sale at Rieckrell on Wednesday and remained only during the afternoon. He expects duty at Washington to call him about November 10 and he will visit the exhibitions in California en route east.

## MORE CONTRACTS LET

### PORTLAND FIRMS LAND JOBS AT MONMOUTH NORMAL.

Contracts Heating and Ventilating Systems and Light Fixtures Awarded by Board.

Appling-Griggs company of Portland has been awarded the contract by the Monmouth normal school board for the heating and ventilating system of the new teachers' training school, the bid being \$7249. Other bids were: T. M. Barr, Salem, \$7718; Rushlight & Hastorf, Portland, \$8297; McPherson company, \$8244. J. C. English of Portland was awarded the contract for light fixtures, his bid being \$485.50. Other bids were M. J. Walsh, \$575, and Morrison Electric company, \$764.25.

The bids for the construction of the school have been so favorable that there will be nearly \$7000 left for landscaping and other work. Snook & Traver, who have the building contract, on a bid of \$35,588, are pushing the work rapidly and the structure will be ready for occupancy January 10, the date set for its completion.

## Falls City Hotel Closes.

Messrs. Hutchinson & Abbott have closed the Madena hotel at Falls City, and moved to Scio, where they will engage in the same business. The hotel was closed on Monday. Since the mill closed down some weeks ago Falls City has been unusually quiet from a business standpoint, and the proprietors of the Madena sought another location.

## Saturday Concert Program.

An original march composed by Professor William Caldwell will be played in public for the first time at the regular Saturday evening band

concert on the court house lawn tomorrow evening. Director George Marsh has announced the following program: March, Prof. Caldwell; overture, Arcadia; popular, With Me; selection, Amorita; by request, Bohemian Girl; characteristic, A Day in the Cotton Field; waltz, Brides and Butterflies; selection, The Burgomaster; popular, I Want to Go to Tokio; march, Imperial.

## BARKING UP WRONG TREE.

### County Assessor Resents Court Cutting Deputy's Claim.

County Assessor F. E. Meyer takes exception to The Observer having made public mention of the fact that the county court at a recent session refused to allow the claim of his chief deputy, Mrs. F. E. Meyer, for a month's salary when, according to the commissioners, she worked but eight days during that period, for which time payment was allowed. The Observer, in giving publicity to this transaction of the court, had no intention of "attacking" Mr. Meyer's deputy, as the assessor evidently believes was the case, but was simply publishing the proceedings of the governing body of the county, which it holds it had a perfect right to do in its capacity of a newspaper. The Observer knows nothing of the circumstances surrounding the case, and cares nothing about it further than to record the action of the court. If other deputies have been slipping it over the court and drawing full pay for work not performed, as stated by Mr. Meyer in the columns of our democratic contemporary of yesterday, the court has not taken official cognizance of it, but should such be the case the public will be as fully informed as it was in the matter at hand. The Observer has made no "attack" upon Mr. Meyer's deputy, and consequently the gentleman's concluding remark, that for any attack made on Mrs. Meyer in the future he will hold the one making it personally responsible, does not apply to it.

## GRAND JURY CALLED.

### Docket Contains Five Criminal Cases Which Will Be Heard Next Week.

District Attorney J. E. Sibley has issued a call to the grand jury members to convene at the county court house on Thursday, September 16, to hear five criminal cases that are on the docket. In addition to criminal cases the jury will hear such cases as may come up in the meantime and will probably conduct several important investigations. The docket at present contains five criminal cases and in each case the culprit, now in the county jail, is charged with larceny in some form. Harry Hunnicut and J. B. Shea, charged with grand larceny; William McGinnis, larceny from a building, and Charles Anderson with his colleague, L. W. Carson, larceny from a building. The first three were taken into custody at Independence and the last two at West Salem. Mrs. Hunnicut, mother of Harry, was indicted at the last session of the grand jury in April and may have a hearing when the court convenes this fall. The members of the grand jury are C. C. Gardner, Dallas; Seth White, Rieckrell; E. E. Tripp, Independence; M. N. Prather, Buena Vista; F. H. Fawk, Dallas; O. DeHaven, Dallas, and William Mackie, Dallas. Grand jury sessions are strictly private.

## INJURED MAN DIES.

### Timber Man, Unconscious for Several Days, With Broken Back.

J. H. Full, whose back was broken between the shoulder blades last week, died at the Dallas hospital on Wednesday evening. Mr. Full was a timber-faller in the employ of the Spaulding Lumber company and was working near that company's camp above Black Rock when the fatal accident occurred. A heavy snag loosened from a tree he was felling and struck his back and shoulder, breaking the vertebrae squarely between the shoulder blades. The blow completely paralyzed the body below the break and he did not regain consciousness before his death. He leaves a wife and two children who are at their home near Eagle Creek in Clackamas county.

Dr. A. B. Starbuck, who attended the injured man, says that an injury such as this has resulted in death in ninety per cent of the cases he has observed.

## Field Crops in Oregon.

More than 40 per cent of Oregon's agricultural products are field crops, according to recent estimates. These consist chiefly of grains, hay, hops, root crops and green forage. They are important not alone for the income they produce, but because of their relation to other sources of income—livestock, dairy and poultry products, aggregating sixty millions of dollars. The importance of the field crop industries of the state justifies the policy of the United States Department of Agriculture and the extension division of the Agricultural college in placing a farm management specialist in the charge of farm survey work to learn how to make farming operation more efficient and satisfactory.

## JUDGE PUTS ONE OVER

### ATTORNEYS CLAIM THEY WERE BOOMERANGED IN MARION.

Holman and Tooze Allege Irregularities on Part of Officials in Mandamus Proceedings.

Attorneys Tooze and Holman of this city have instituted mandamus proceedings in Marion county to compel the county court there to pay pensions to eleven widows, and the hearing has been set for September 20. These widows had made applications for pensions under the law, which was denied them by the county court, it being the practice of Judge Bushey to disallow all such petitions for financial assistance. The action is probably based on the court ruling in this county, wherein Mrs. Zachary was granted a pension upon an order of the supreme court after having been denied payment.

A new angle in the widow's pension cases filed against the county court of Marion county on Tuesday to make County Judge Bushey comply with the law, appeared Wednesday. It seems that prior to filing the cases, Attorney Holman carefully examined the records in the county clerk's office and found that no orders of any kind whatsoever had been made in the cases by the county judge of Marion county. Acting upon this investigation, the petitions for writs of mandamus and the orders for the writs, signed by Judge Galloway, were filed with the county clerk, and, incidentally, the necessary filing fees in the sum of \$85 paid to the county clerk, \$25 in cash and \$60 by check. All seemed to be going merrily, until Mr. Holman later in the afternoon, in again going into the clerk's office, heard the name of one of his clients mentioned. Investigating the cause thereof, he learned, according to his statement, that as fast as one deputy clerk filed the petitions and orders for writs of mandamus, another deputy clerk was taking and entering orders in each of the original cases as dictated by the county judge. The purpose of the orders made by the county judge was to defeat the mandamus proceedings and compel the various widows interested to appeal their cases, says the attorney. The county judge evidently hoped in this manner to boomerang all the cases, feeling that the widows would be unable to get anyone to go upon their appeal bond, further says the attorney interested. The action of the court had the effect of defeating the mandamus proceeding, and Attorney Holman immediately asked to withdraw all the petitions and orders filed, and asked for a return of his filing fees. This the clerk refused. Acting upon the ground that the clerk's office and the county judge acted in a fraudulent manner in concealing from them the fact that the county judge was making orders in the cases as filed, payment upon the check for \$60 was stopped, and Mr. Holman and Mr. Tooze state that the end is not yet.

## NESMITH IS APPOINTED.

### Willamette Graduate to Be Deputy Revenue Collector.

Linn W. Nesmith, connected with a well-known Oregon family, received an appointment as deputy internal revenue collector. The appointment was made by Internal Revenue Collector Milton A. Miller upon recommendation of United States Senator Harry Lane. Mr. Nesmith is a grandson of the late James W. Nesmith, formerly United States senator from Oregon. At the last legislature young Nesmith was secretary to Senator I. N. Bingham of Lane county and had previously served as secretary of the state democratic central committee. He has numerous friends in Salem by whom his appointment will be received with approval.

## HORSES BURN IN BARNS.

### Serious Loss at Wirgich Ranch, Below Independence.

Two barns and five horses were burned at the Wirgich ranch, four and a half miles southeast of Independence, last night. The origin of the fire is not known at this writing.

## No Electric to Falls City.

A report that has been given some credence in Dallas is to the effect that the Southern Pacific company was considering the electrification of its lines from Salem to Falls City. Railroad officials said to The Observer yesterday that this rumor was absolutely false and that such a thing was not even thought of in Southern Pacific circles. The road to Corvallis from Whitson will be completed before further development is started, but new work will not be the constructing of an electric line from Salem to Falls City.

## Frank Mahood.

Mrs. Anna Mahood of Amity desires to learn of the whereabouts of her husband, Frank Mahood, who left his home July 7.