

# The Polk County Observer

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(THE HOME PAPER)

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(TWICE-A-WEEK)

NO. 65

## CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP

### CHAUNCEY CRIDER PURCHASES STOCK OF MERCANTILE CO.

Highest Among Forty Bidders He Becomes Possessor of Business on Tuesday Last.

About forty bids on the stock and fixtures of the Dallas Mercantile company were opened on Tuesday afternoon, and as a result Mr. Chauncey Crider, manager of the large establishment shortly thereafter. For several weeks, or since the proposed sale of the business was announced by the owners, bids have been entered by merchants in many cities in the valley as well as by a number of local buyers. There were nearly forty of these and Mr. Crider's was the highest. He had not thought much of the matter, however, and the announcement that he was the new owner came as a surprise to him. He immediately took charge of the store and started planning for the future of the business.

Under its new owner the Mercantile company will continue to do business along the same lines that have been followed by the former company. Mr. Crider will continue the price cutting sale until all the present stock is disposed of and he will then renovate and completely restock the store. He plans to enter to the business of farmers and workmen with the new stock, and will buy only well-known brands of good substantial clothing, shoes, dry-goods and other things that are found in a store of this kind and size. The business will not be allowed to conflict with the Crider grocery store, although the owner will personally manage both stores. The grocery store will remain where and as it is. It will probably be two months before the large stock that is now in progress, and immediately after that is cleaned up the new stock will begin to arrive.

Mr. Howe, the retiring manager of the company, has made no plans other than that he expects to retire to his orchard property, which he will improve. Mr. Howe was a member of a company of five which owned the Dallas Mercantile company. The other members were J. R. Riley, H. L. Panton, Mrs. M. M. Ellis and R. E. Williams. The company was organized several years ago and the store enjoyed a prosperous business career throughout most of that time.

### TEAM TO PLAY SILVERTON.

#### Fourteen Dallas High School Boys to Journey East Tomorrow.

The first football game on the schedule of the Dallas high school will be played at Silverton tomorrow when Coaches French and Rudder pit their light-weight warriors against the team representing the Silverton high school. About fourteen members of the squad, one of the coaches and Prof. W. I. Ford of the faculty, will make the trip, and the result of the game is expected to show the relative strength of the teams of this year and last. On the first three evenings of this week the boys were put through stiff scrimmage practice with teams made up of former high school players, and, according to the coaches, a number of the boys displayed surprising speed in their work. Those who will most likely make the Silverton trip are Captain Newman Dennis, Irving Balderes, Earl Cutler, Bud Hart, Webster Beebe, Forrest Martin, Arnold Wilson, Raymond Wilson, Virgil Broek, Ray Scott, Frank McCann, Edward Cutler and Ted Berg.

### POLK COUNTY AUTOS INCREASE

#### Heavy Registration of New Cars Within Past Year.

Until the last day of September and since January 1, five hundred and forty-six motor vehicles had been registered from Polk county with the secretary of state and, according to figures from that office, there are sixty-five motorcycles in the county. Of the thirty-two counties in the state Polk stands eighth in line in number of motor vehicles registered, and enjoys the same comparative standing in number of motorcycles.

From January 1 to September 30, 22,998 motor vehicles were registered in the state. The total number of motorcycles registered during the period was 3123; the total number of chauffeurs 3804, and the total number of dealers 171. The increase in the motor vehicle registration over the corresponding period last year is 6877, the increase in motorcycles 246, the increase in chauffeurs' registration 2085, and increase in registration of dealers 62.

#### Suffers Painful Injury.

While riding a bicycle down a hill on Monday, Chas. Rice, porter at the La Creole club, was thrown from the vehicle, suffering a painful though not serious injury to his right leg.

#### Poullas Steals Gloves.

William Poullas, a light fingered gentleman, picked up a stray pair of

gloves in the Sunrise hotel on Friday afternoon. Unfortunately the owner of the gloves, Mrs. A. Rayburn, was close at hand, and swore out a complaint. Justice Holman fined Poullas \$5 and court costs, amounting to \$2.50, when he pleaded guilty to the charge. Mrs. Rayburn is an employe of the hotel.

### BRIDGE TO BE INSPECTED.

State Engineer Cantine to Report to County Courts.

The Salem-Polk county bridge will be inspected for its safety this week by State Highway Engineer Cantine upon petition of the Polk county court and he will report to the county courts of Polk and Marion counties Saturday. The petition for the inspection was made by the Polk county court as a preliminary step to proceeding with arrangements for a new bridge between the two counties. Definite action on the bridge is expected following the report of Engineer Cantine—Statesman.

It has been asserted that the inter-county bridge is unsafe to travel, and hence the request of the Polk county court. If the condition of the structure is such that life and property are endangered the court wants to know it, but the simple statement will not suffice. If the report of the state engineer condemns the bridge the inspector must show conclusively where in it is dangerous. It is claimed that the life of such a structure is only twenty-five years, and that the steel is crystallized, yet it is proposed to erect a \$200,000 structure of the same material that will stand for a half century. The question naturally arises, how can it be done if the present bridge has only half that life?

## FRITZ CASE IS SETTLED

### THE PLAINTIFF RECEIVES \$8,500 WITHOUT COURT TRIAL.

#### Suffered Injuries Near Black Rock When Locomotive Plunges Through a Defective Bridge.

A settlement in the case of Joe Fritz versus the Southern Pacific company, asking \$30,000 damages for injuries received in a wreck near Black Rock a year ago, was made without bringing the matter to court, on Wednesday morning. The Southern Pacific company sent its special agents to confer with August P. Risser, guardian for Fritz, who is an inmate of the state insane asylum, and Risser's attorneys, and confessed judgment for \$8,500. Judge Belt went through the formality of declaring a verdict for the plaintiff on Wednesday afternoon.

Fritz was employed as a fireman on the engine that went through a defective Southern Pacific bridge near Black Rock a year ago, and the severe injuries he received at that time impaired his health and mentality to such an extent that a guardian was appointed for him, and he was committed to the asylum. The attorneys for Fritz had summoned witnesses locally, as well as from Portland, and had gone to much expense before the case was settled. It was set for trial at one o'clock Wednesday afternoon.

### THE NORMAL SCHOOL GROWS.

#### Registration at Monmouth Much Larger Than Ever Before.

The fact that the enrollment at the Monmouth Normal school is constantly increasing, until last week it reached the maximum of 342, speaks well for the institution and its future. Last year at this time, according to the report of President Ackerman, there were only 245 students in the school, so that the present attendance is almost a third again as large as it has ever been. The mid-year enrollment is usually very heavy, and it is at that time that the greater number of new students register at the school. Because of this fact the president predicts that before the close of school in June the student body will number at least 450. The exterior of the new training school building is practically completed, and workmen are hurrying the inside work to get the building in readiness for the second term work.

#### Elkins School Dedication.

Tomorrow afternoon Superintendent Seymour, accompanied by Assistant State Superintendent Carlton, will go to the Elkins school house, four miles south of Monmouth, there to assist in a re-dedication set for that date. An addition to the building has recently been completed. A splendid program has been prepared for the occasion, and a goodly attendance of pupils and patrons is expected.

#### New Business Firm.

The Friesen company, organized by members of a well-known family, is the latest addition to the business life of Dallas. The concern will engage in a general business, handling farm implements, oils, builder's supplies, seed, flour and feed. Wood and iron materials will be side lines.

## FIRE THREATENS M'COY

### HOTEL TOTALLY DESTROYED BY FIRE TUESDAY NIGHT.

Mrs. Clara Lantz and Son Barely Escape With Lives in Midnight Blaze That Causes \$2,500 Loss.

The little village of McCoy was saved from total destruction on Tuesday night by a timely rain, when the hotel, owned and operated by Mrs. Clara Lantz, was reduced to ashes and practically all the family's worldly possessions went up in smoke. The loss on the building alone was more than \$2500. Mrs. Lantz was awakened about midnight by the roaring noise of the flames that were rapidly consuming her building. She called her son, the only other occupant of the big building at the time, and they alarmed the community by ringing a large bell near the hotel. Soon shots from all directions aroused the neighborhood, but the efforts that were made to save anything from the blaze were ineffective. Mrs. Lantz managed to get a few clothes, a sewing machine and a trunk out of the fire-swept building just in time. So close was the call, however, that she was congratulated on getting out of the place alive.

The blaze had practically enveloped the entire building before the fire was discovered, and at that time a mid-night rainfall had soaked adjoining roofs and vegetation to such an extent that the heat of the hotel fire, and the flying sparks, did no other damage. In the immediate vicinity of the hotel were the J. K. Sears warehouses, filled with the season's grain, a new dwelling, the Odd Fellows' stable and the Odd Fellows' hall and store building, in addition to a number of smaller structures. The rain is said to have been all that saved these properties. Mrs. Lantz carried insurance partly covering the building and its contents, in all amount to \$1,350. The origin of the fire is a mystery. The blaze that destroyed the hotel building and threatened the entire town was spectacular, as it consumed the place rapidly, and on Wednesday morning everything that had been in the hotel and its contents was in fine ashes.

### ONSLAUGHT GOES MERRILY ON.

#### Hunters From Far and Near Seek the Chinese Pheasant.

The onslaught on the pheasant population of Polk county is simply terrible these days. And with rain to improve hunting, greater numbers will meet their fate each day until the season closes at the end of the present month. There appears to be at least an equal number of pheasants and hunters in many of the fields about the county. Very few individuals are getting the legal limit of birds, and the peculiar circumstance is that very few roosters are parading themselves before the sure and unsafe aim of the hundreds of hunters from all parts of the state who are exercising their marksmanship on the pretty birds in this county. Either they have been killed off or they display that particular rare quality of wariness characteristic of the beautiful mongolian importation and hide themselves where neither the work of the dog or the ingenuity of man can dislodge them. The bountiful fields of the county have attracted hunters from Portland and other cities in great numbers, and but few of the pleasure inclined of this community have failed to avail themselves of the chance to bring home a few birds. Last week the justice of the peace was busy with law breakers, and many bright and precious dollars were extracted from reluctant pockets. An average of two men were brought before the justice each day. In every case they either pleaded guilty or were convicted, being required to pay their fines, and in most cases to forfeit their hunting license.

#### Improvements Nearing Completion.

With the exception of about two blocks on Uglow avenue, street improvements for this year, which included twenty-one blocks, are completed. It will require about ten days to finish Uglow avenue, and Street Commissioner Greenwood, under whose supervision the work is being carried on, is hoping for good weather. Dallas has made more street improvements this year than during any previous year in its history.

#### Experting County Books.

Judge Wilson of Corvallis, an expert accountant, is checking the county books, and is now busily engaged in Treasurer Holman's office. When he completes the work in this department he will move to the other offices. The work will probably require a fortnight or more to finish.

#### Will Address Pioneers.

Joe Craven of Monmouth will speak at a gathering of men and women who came to Yamhill county fifty years ago, to take place in McMinnville next Saturday. Mr. Craven was captain of an emigrant train that arrived here in 1865.

## JURY OUT OVER NIGHT

### INSANITY PLEA FAILS TO KEEP STINNETT FROM PRISON

Convicted of Assaulting Wife With Dangerous Weapon—Tried for Murder Attempt.

Sentenced to a term of from six months to ten years on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon, the attorneys representing Charles E. Stinnett demanded an immediate trial on the second count in the grand jury indictment against him and yesterday he went through a grueling hearing on a charge of attempted murder of his wife. The jury in the second case was locked up at six o'clock last night and with the exception of an hour for supper, was out throughout the night or until nine o'clock this morning. It was dismissed for failure to reach a verdict. The jury was out just fifteen hours before being dismissed. The first trial took place on Wednesday and consumed the entire afternoon, the verdict being returned about eight o'clock. When sentence was pronounced by Judge Belt, Walter L. Tooze, Jr., representing counsel for the defense, asked that the verdict be set aside on the ground of insufficient evidence and asked for a trial on the second indictment. It had been the idea of the state to observe the behavior of the prisoner under the sentence that had been given him and perhaps drop the second indictment, but the demands of counsel for the defense made this impossible.

The habit of maltreating his wife and family, one that had been growing stronger on him year by year for the past twenty years, was interrupted by the law after the latest assault, which occurred on September 26 and 27. Stinnett got on a more than ordinarily vicious rampage at that time and, heated with liquor, threatened to kill his wife. This he evidently was attempting when the young son of the couple heard his mother's cries for help and ran to her assistance. The lad laid the father out with a blow from a baseball bat, and when the trouble came to the attention of the grand jury he was indicted and later arrested and lodged in jail by Sheriff Orr.

At both trials the counsel for the defense introduced a plea of insanity and asked that the case be thrown out of criminal court. Two doctors testified for the defense and two for the state, expressing contradictory opinions as to the man's sanity. The testimony introduced at each trial was materially the same, the defendant's reputable family telling of the man's brutality when on such rampages as he had just before he was indicted, and the word of farmers and expert witnesses contradicting as to his sanity or insanity. The jury which was out all night on the second trial failed to find a verdict and if the indictment is not dismissed a new trial will be held before the end of the present term of court. Oscar Hayter assisted District Attorney Sibley in the prosecution while Ed. F. Coad and Walter L. Tooze, Jr., appeared as counsel for the defense.

### COURT BUSINESS FINISHED.

#### Many Cases Disposed of at Fall Session of Judge Belt's Court.

The last jury trial before the circuit court was held on Thursday, and the jurors were dismissed with the exception of one man, who was held to form a nucleus for a new jury should it become necessary, for any reason, to call another jury during the present term of court. All jury trials have been disposed of, and the large number remaining are either equity cases or injunction suits that do not demand the presence of a jury. Many of the cases on the fall docket were dismissed, or non-suited, and a few were continued, for various reasons. The term has been uneventful and in no way spectacular. Law has taken its course in every case that has been tried, and the verdicts that have been rendered and the sentences imposed have met with the approval of everyone who heard the cases tried, or who knew anything of them. The circuit court will not convene again until spring.

The remaining cases before the court do not demand a jury trial, and will be heard by Judge Belt today, tomorrow and early next week. These cases are Odom vs. Polk county and Bush vs. Polk county, widows' pensions, this morning; Boehm and Nye vs. Dallas City bank, tomorrow; Loy vs. Loy, Hiatt vs. Hiatt, divorce, and Henry Voth vs. Polk county, injunction, tomorrow; Hart vs. City of Independence, injunction, and F. P. Smith vs. Van Walters et al, foreclosure of contract, Tuesday.

#### Siletz Indians in Court.

Isaac Rippen and Reuben Metcalf, young Indians, went down to Falls City and got a gallon of whiskey. At least that's what Robert R. Rankin, assistant federal attorney, says they did, and he is prosecuting the case be-

fore Judge Bean at Portland this week. But that is not all; Rankin says the Indians took the "firewater" back to the Siletz reservation with them, thereby breaking a federal law. The Indians are said to have bought the liquor from a white man, but not in a saloon.

### VALUABLE BOOKS FOR NORMAL

#### Edna M. Hawley Leaves Library to Girls' Dormitory.

"We die but we leave an influence behind us that survives," can be truly said of Edna M. Hawley of Salem, whose library has been recently presented to the Women's dormitory of the Oregon Normal school. Miss Hawley requested that her library, which consists of a number of rare and carefully selected volumes, be placed in an educational institution of the state, believing that it would there be most appreciated. Her friends, knowing the great interest she evinced in the erection of the Women's dormitory of the Oregon Normal school, making several visits to it while in process of construction, decided that the donor would feel this a fitting depository for her valuable library. P. Henry of Chicago, Miss Hawley's ward, was consulted and concurred in this selection, and the library will be installed in the large living room of the dormitory as soon as the cases arrive. The Oregon Normal school, and especially the women of the dormitory, express their appreciation of the gift, which possesses so many delightful and instructive hours for those living within its halls. In accepting this rare gift the board of regents expressed its keen appreciation and fully recognized the responsibility entailed. Resolutions directing the secretary of the board to attend to the details were passed and provision was made to so install this library that the students at the dormitory may make the most of it.

## THIRSTS ARE APPEASED

### DALLAS SODA WORKS ENJOYS GOOD BUSINESS SEASON.

#### Sparkling Liquid Refreshments Find Their Way in Every Section of the Surrounding Territory.

After a very successful season the Dallas Soda Works have practically suspended bottling soda water for the satisfaction of many hundreds of thirsts in this and adjoining counties. Business in the soda water line has not been quite so good this year as in previous years, but, according to Manager Peter Greenwood, Jr., this lack is made up by a very large sale of vinegar, which the company has had during the past year. A business was done in soda water this year amounting to about \$4,000, and that comes from practically every cross-roads store in Polk county, including those in little, out-of-the-way mountain hamlets, and those in the farming communities about the county, where the refreshing fluids are enjoyed as much by men and women as by the little folks. The company maintains a large auto truck which it loads up each day during the summer and sends to a different part of the county to distribute its products, and it is said that more than one youngster's heart has been gladdened by the sight of the automobile when the corner store had exhausted its supply of drinkables. There are very few demands for "ice cold soda pop" at this time of the year, so that the auto truck's chief occupation from this time on will be the distribution of vinegar.

The Dallas Soda Works is a completely equipped plant, where all extracts and flavors of carbonated waters can be bottled. The water is charged at the plant, too, which is a feature only found in the larger establishments. The local, and a number of out-of-town confectionery stores, send their soda fountain tanks to the Greenwood plant to be charged, and this is a remunerative side line with the regular business of bottling soda. The principal part of the output is bottled in the regular soda water bottle, but a number of special drinks are put up in quarts. The small saloon trade especially is supplied with quarts. This year coe cola was bottled at the plant for the first time, but its sale was small and it probably will not be included next summer. When loganberry juice is extracted so that it can be put up in soda water form, the Dallas Soda Works will be one of the first to undertake it. Loganberry flavors have already appeared in soda waters, but not the fine product that it is expected will be obtained from this berry. The plant will not close, but will only bottle on one or two days a week, just enough to fill the few orders that come in. The main energies of the force will be directed toward the selling and distribution of vinegar, but about the first of May, when the demand for the crystal clear, "ice cold soda pop" is renewed the Dallas Soda Works will be ready to supply the same good product in the same good way.

## BETTER TIMES COMING

### BRAIN AND BRAUN PLANNING NEW ENTERPRISES.

Polk County Must Necessarily Benefit By Capital's Investments in New Projects.

That a new era of prosperity for Polk county is dawning there can be no question in the minds of those who are familiar with conditions as they exist. The opening of the extensive limestone quarry by the Oswego Cement company, tracks to which are now being laid by a crew of workmen; the resumption of operations at the Falls City lumbering mills under an entirely new management, which will construct a logging railroad into the Siletz basin, where it has large timber holdings; the completion of the Valley & Siletz railroad from Airlie to Independence, and the probable building of a sawmill at the latter place, together with a number of less important enterprises, assured and prospective, a revival of business along all lines may necessarily be expected. About seventy-five workmen are now engaged in building a spur track to the limestone deposits, upon the completion of which the quarry will be opened and material therefrom shipped to the company's large plant at Oswego, thus giving permanent employment to a considerable number of men. It is the purpose of the company to erect living quarters at the quarry for several families.

The Falls City enterprise is of still greater moment, the plant there being one of the largest and most modern mills of the interior, providing work for upwards of 175 men in woods and mill when in full operation. The construction, or rather extension, of the railroad into the new company's timber will be prosecuted with vigor, and when this work shall have been finished there will be an abundant supply of fine timber to keep the wheels revolving for years to come. The building of the Airlie-Independence branch of the Valley & Siletz will have a tendency to open up much additional land to settlement, thus further developing the county and increasing population, while the main line will penetrate a timbered section directly tributary to Polk county, which in good time will become settled with thrifty tillers of the soil. The building of the proposed sawmill at Independence is the only enterprise mentioned regarding which there is any doubt, and those in a position to speak knowingly say that it is practically assured when the railroad is completed.

All these things, augur good for Polk county. And while plans are in the making for the development of these important enterprises every city and town within the county is showing signs of a bettered condition, and the rural districts are equally as progressive. Although the past year may be characterized as having been dull, Dallas, Independence, Monmouth, Falls City and the villages throughout the county have shown advancement, both in municipal and private improvements, keeping pace with their larger and more pretentious neighbors of the Willamette valley. While Polk county has no complaint to make concerning the past, it may expect even greater things for the future. A new era is dawning—better times are coming.

#### School House Dedicated.

The new school building at Zena was dedicated on Monday evening, when a splendid program was rendered by the pupils and others interested in educational work. Assistant State Superintendent Carlton, County Superintendent Seymour and Supervisor Parsons were present and participated in the ceremony, which was interesting throughout. The building is one of four new school houses erected during the summer vacation, the others being at Parker, Black Rock and Elkins, the two latter being two room buildings. The Zena building cost \$2,000, and was erected under the direction of Messrs. R. C. Shepherd, Frank Crawford and T. K. Simpson, members of the board, and replaces one burned last spring. Miss Elsie Taylor is the teacher.

#### Falls City Popular.

Falls City saloonmen are putting one over on their Independence brothers by selling seven bottles of the brown beverage that smells of the hop for a dollar, while the latter cannot see their way clear to deal out more than five bottles. As a consequence there is much travel over the Falls City road, and that highway is being socked much of the way.

#### Fine Hunting at Home.

Those who have had no luck at hunting pheasants in the fields about the county might try staying at home to hunt. A fine bird flew against the Grand theater building on Tuesday with such force that it was stunned and fell to the lawn in front of the library, where a passerby picked it up.