

The Polk County Observer

(THE HOME PAPER)

DALLAS, POLK COUNTY, OREGON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1917

(TWICE-A-WEEK)

NO. 28

SHUT-DOWN ENDS

CITY MILL STARTS TO RUN OR TOMORROW.

Idle For Year and a Half, Expected to Run Continuously From Now.

An almost continuous shut-down for a year and a half, the large Falls City mill will resume operation today or tomorrow. W. T. ...

... together with the thousands of standing timber west of the city, was formerly owned by the City Lumber company. The company has ceased to exist, all having been turned over to an organization—the Falls City Lumber and Logging company.

... mill pond at Falls City thought to have been piled up for the purpose of insuring a continuous operation of the mill commencing operation in the mountains to the west of Falls City is impossible owing to the fact that it is for the purpose of logging during these periods supply has been stacked in at this time.

... shortage existing has been due to the failure of the company to get up sooner. Falls City business men are elated over the prospects of a resumption of the mill company. Since nearly two years ago they have been bad in the lumber of Polk county. A large part of the population depends on the mill and the logging for their labor.

... a few sawmill plants in the valley of larger capacity modern than the institution city. It has a capacity of 75,000 feet a day, and invested in the equipment. It has 15 or 20 miles of intersecting its timber holdings maintains two logging

TO RAISE RATES.

Does Not Pay System's Upkeep.

Annual meeting of the Falls City mill tonight the new city will find it necessary to raise water rates immediately. A water system was authorized by ordinance, but that the income failed to cover the interest on the bonds, and the expenses of operation. Direct taxation was made a levy of 22 cents per \$100 of assessed value. There has been so much making up this deficit by the city council that it has been forced into the position of raising water rates.

For Father and Child.

Earl Burk, who charges that his son, Earl Burk, has kidnapped his child, is being cared for at the home of Earl Burk's mother and Mrs. Samuel L. Burk is searching for her son and grandchild. Mrs. Burk, unacquainted with her son, arrived at the Samuel Burk home Thursday morning and expected to find her husband and son. Neither were at the home. Airline and the father of Earl did not know where he was. They knew that he had married several years ago but had not met him. They did not know that he was having trouble. He lived in Dallas several years.

DEER PASSES AWAY.

... Burns, well-known and pioneer of Polk county, died at her home near ... Sunday morning at 2 ... had been in failing ... time. The immediate ... was leakage of the ... services were con- ... Burns home this morn- ... interment was made in ... near Lewisville. ... by her husband, and ... Mrs. Lavette Dodge ... and Eugene and Mag- ... reside at the old home

place. One son, Victor, preceded her in death. A sister, Mrs. Clara Potter of Newberg and two brothers, John James of Castle Rock, Wash., and Jesse James of Milwaukie, arrived yesterday morning to attend the funeral.

Phosa James was born in Lindley, Missouri, on January 17, 1857. In 1866 she crossed the plains with her parents, and arrived in Oregon in the winter of that year, settling on the homestead near Bridgeport. Her father, Rev. John James, was well known to Dallas people, he having been engaged in the jewelry business here for many years. His widow, Mrs. Margaret James, though of very advanced age, still survives the daughter, making her home on the old homestead near Bridgeport.

On November 30, 1876, deceased was married to James H. Burns and to this union four children were born, three of whom survive. Had she lived until the 17th of this month she would have been 60 years of age. She was well-known throughout all of Polk county and many friends, aside from the immediate family, mourn her demise.

Jack Eakin Is Basketballer.

Jack Eakin, a member of the O. A. C. cadet band which is touring eastern Oregon during the Christmas vacation, is also a star basketballer, according to the La Grande Observer. The item taken from The Observer is as follows: The basketball game played last evening between the Y. M. C. first team and a team picked from the O. A. C. band, was won by the Y. M. C. A. by the score of 46 to 12. While the game was quite one-sided it was just rough enough to be interesting, the large crowd enjoyed the whole game, there were few dull moments in the contest. Eakin was the star for the O. A. C. boys and he was one of the best players on the floor.

NORMAL ASKS \$87,520

IMPROVEMENTS MENTIONED AS MONMOUTH SCHOOL'S NEEDS

Millage Tax This Year Will Bring Less Money Whereas Students and Expenses Increase.

In a report submitted to the secretary of state last week the Oregon Normal school at Monmouth asks the legislature which convenes next Monday for \$87,520 for the next two years. It is estimated, says the report, that the one-twenty-fifth of a mill tax allowed the school will fall \$1000 short of the estimated running expenses, salaries of officers, and employees, etc. in the coming two years. The millage tax it is thought will bring the institution \$70,300 and the estimated receipts total \$16,400.

The bulk of the \$86,820 which the legislature is asked to appropriate is desired for permanent improvements. For enlarging the main building to give sufficient space for assembly purposes, and also for locker space for the gymnasium, \$25,000 is asked. A total of \$50,000 is desired for enlarging the women's dormitory to give the minimum space required for dormitory purposes and equipping the addition. For paving the streets about the normal grounds and for general improvements about the grounds \$5000 is requested, and \$6000 is asked for securing a school or schools in the vicinity of Monmouth to be operated by the state for practice schools.

One other of the old normal schools in the state asks for an appropriation. This is the Southern Oregon Normal school, which desires an appropriation of \$420 for a new roof on the old building.

Adeline Ridders Funeral Held.

The funeral of Miss Adeline Ridders, who died at the age of 37 at the Good Samaritan hospital in Portland on Thursday, December 21st, was held on Sunday, the 24th at 1 p. m., at the home place and the body was laid to rest in the family cemetery near Suver. Rev. Fr. Lane conducted the services, which were attended by a large number of friends. The family wish to thank the many friends for the many beautiful floral offerings and sympathy in their sad bereavement in the death of their loving sister.

Serr Sells His Hotel.

Henry Serr, who conducted the Hotel Gall in this city for a number of years, going from Dallas to Hood River about a year ago, has disposed of his hotel interests at that place, giving possession yesterday. The Observer is not advised as to Mr. Serr's plans for the future.

BODY FOUND IN RIVER

LILLIAN HRBAECK DISAPPEARED FROM SALEM DEC. 15.

Foul Play Now Suspected by Relatives—Strange Man Seen When Distress Cries Were Heard.

The body of Lillian Hrbacek, who disappeared from the home of former Senator Hal D. Patton in Salem early on the morning of December 15th, was discovered in shoal water of the Willamette river on Sunday by Walter Suckau and A. B. Kirby, duck hunters. The body was found on the rim of an island in the river about a mile above Lincoln and six miles from Salem.

The girl wore a house dress and shoes and stockings. The fact that she wore shoes came as a surprise, as it was thought at her disappearance that she left home barefooted.

In the minds of some members of her family has entered the glint of suspicion that the girl may have been the victim of foul play. This suspicion is based largely on statements made by E. F. Ainsworth, night superintendent at the Salem street railway car-barns, a short distance from the river.

The morning that the drowning girl floated down the stream and the bridge-tender made an ineffectual attempt to save her by throwing a rope, Ainsworth said he heard someone shout near the side of a house back from the river bank. He said these calls sounded like the call of a person in distress or fright.

He says he ran in the direction of the river at the third or fourth shout. When he reached the scene from where the shouting first seemed to emanate he heard similar calls from the river's shelving edge, about 20 feet below. Then he heard wails and moans apparently from the river itself.

He followed the sound along the river bank. In the dense fog and darkness he was unable to see the person. He said he saw no one else along the bank save a strange man, who appeared after Ainsworth had followed the calls down the river more than two blocks. He could not describe the man.

Officials and members of the Patton family are inclined to scout the theory of foul play. The girl was sent to the Girls' Industrial school about two years ago, but since her release she had led an exemplary life, all who knew her say. She entered actively into church work and her whole character seemed to be changed.

Miss Hrbacek is survived by her father, John Hrbacek, of Shaniko; her mother, who resides at Rosedale, a few miles south of Salem, and three sisters, Rose and Anna, of Salem, and Angie, of Portland. The father arrived at Salem a few days after the daughter's disappearance, and has been making every effort since to discover the body or some trace of the girl.

The funeral was held in Salem yesterday afternoon.

REPORT MADE OF 1915 TAX

Sheriff's Office Has Partially Completed 1915 Collection.

There is less preceding year's delinquent tax this year than usual, according to a supplementary report made Friday by the sheriff to the county court. The delinquent personal and real estate tax is \$8,971.12. The delinquent O. and C. land grant tax for 1915 is \$15,041.17. Of the 1915 tax \$1,085.57 has been collected.

Teach Typing in Schools!

Typewriters instead of pens for public school children were advocated by Professor Franklin Bobbitt of the School of Education of the University of Chicago, in addressing the Illinois Women's Legislative congress. He said that public schools were only 50 per cent efficient. "We have passed the quill pen stage in education. We are now at the typewriter stage. If our schools were properly equipped they could do in half a day what they now do in a whole day."

Many Employees Get S. P. Bonus.

Thirty-three out of the 40 men in the Dallas repair shops of the Southern Pacific have qualified for the bonus to be distributed by the company. Twenty-two men in Dallas and vicinity will receive the extra money. To get the bonus employees must have been in the service of the company for two consecutive years preceding December 1916 and must not have gone out on strike from the company's ranks.

UPHOLD COUNTY BUDGET

POLK TAXPAYERS COUNSEL WITH COURT FRIDAY.

Resolution To Abolish Office of Road Supervisor Defeated; Confidence In Court Evident.

Polk taxpayers at the budget meeting Friday morning in the court house approved the 1917 budget as submitted by the county court. Confidence in the present court was manifest. Not to tie the court's hands but to leave all questions to it, without suggestions, seemed to be the attitude of a majority of the people present. A resolution calling for the abolition of the office of county roadmaster and the placing of the roadmaster's duties in the hands of the county surveyor was defeated, 30 to 22. The resolution was introduced by A. H. Dennett of Crowley. I. L. Patterson and Leonard Starr spoke in opposition to the resolution.

The budget calls for a levy of 22.6 mills which will raise \$300,877.38.

Not a murmur of disapproval was uttered when County Judge Kirkpatrick told the taxpayers that it was the court's opinion that the inter-county bridge at Salem should be built in 1917 whether any other work in the county was done or not. Representatives listened to the judge's words that spelled no roads, no bridges, no new culverts for 1917—unless, the \$40,000 or more back taxes from the disputed O. and C. grant land assessments were received—and said nothing. All seemed agreed with the court that the bridge came first and must be built. Judge Kirkpatrick explained that it would be necessary to use all the money in the Salem bridge portion of the general fund, the bridge and ferry fund and the allowable 30 per cent of the fund raised by roads and highways levy. Even then, the judge explained, Polk county would not have its one-third of the proposed cost of the Salem bridge, \$250,000.

At the opening of the meeting Judge Kirkpatrick explained that the \$5,500 in the widows' pension fund and the \$9,000 in the "care of the poor" fund probably would not be enough to provide for the calls upon these funds, but the judge promised to endeavor to make the amounts go the entire way.

H. E. HARRISON SPECULATES.

Wells, Fargo Agent Takes a Flyer In Chickens.

That there is no royal road to learning H. E. Harrison, Wells Fargo agent, has discovered.

As witnesses: Dale Hill bought a dozen thoroughbred chickens from a man by the name of Riley who lives near Monmouth, and expressed them to Dallas. When the crate arrived in Dallas Harrison read the consignee as "Gail Hotel" and delivered it to Ping in the Gail kitchen. Now Ping isn't a chicken fancier and declares the blood of these fowls was no bluer than any other chicken that has come to his attention. And Ping knows about these particular chickens for he it was who acted as special executioner.

But Mr. Hill wanted the chickens for other purposes than "fries" and traced his property to the hotel. Charley Bilyeu paid Harrison at the market rate and Harrison added \$1.07 for his share and has the amount "charged to experience."

DALLAS WINS OVER CORVALLIS

Thirty to Four Is Score of Sigma Chi Downfall.

It took the Dallas basketball quintet the entire first half to get warmed up in the game against the Sigma Chi team of O. A. C. Friday night on the Dallas armory floor, but when the team did get going the scorer was kept busy. Two of the Sigma Chi players, Hi Blagg and Ira Mix, were the only basketballers on the visiting team that made things interesting for the local shooters, though Morris and Tyrell guarded closely. Blagg was able to break up the Dallas team work during the first half by jumping faster than Fenton. "Kat" Woods replaced Ballantyne at the end of the first half and was one of Dallas' principal scorers. All the Dallas players showed good flashes and gave promise that the team would be a good one when rounded into shape.

MARION LEVY TO BE 10.5.

Salem Property Owners Will Pay 30.9 Mills This Year. The county commissioners turned over to County Assessor West last

night the first tax levy for Marion county for the coming year, which will be 10.5 mills. State tax will be 8 mills, school tax 2.6 mills and county tax 4.9 mills. This will make the total levy for the city of Salem 30.9 mills.

The total expense to the county out of the general fund will be \$386,867.65, but it is estimated there will be \$186,646.32 in receipts from various sources.

Among extraordinary items included are \$264,000 for roads, bridges and ferries, and \$46,000 for the care of the poor. The latter item is \$21,000 higher than last year. Included in the amount is a sum of \$20,000 for widows' pensions. A recent decision of the Circuit court overthrowing a precedent established here of deducting the income value of all property held by those coming under the pension law from the amount of the pension paid is understood to be one of the reasons for this substantial increase. Among other levies, 8 of a mill is included for the high school tuition fund.

Gives Christian Science Lecture.

Paul Stark Seelye, C. S., member of the board of lecture-ship of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, Massachusetts, delivered a lecture on Christian Science to a well-filled house at the Orpheum theater last Sunday afternoon. The full text of the lecture is published on other pages of this issue.

S. P. Laying 80-Pound Rails.

The Southern Pacific company is laying 20 miles of 80-pound steel rails, replacing 50-pound rails, on the Yaquina branch.

J. Wiebe Buys Automobile.

J. Wiebe has purchased a Dort automobile from K. N. Wood, local agent, for spring delivery.

XMASCANTATA PLEASERS

"MESSIAH'S ADVENT" GIVEN IN ARMORY SUNDAY NIGHT

Local Men and Women Made Up Chorus and Took Solo Parts—D. V. Poling Conducted.

"The Messiah's Advent," a Christmas cantata, was sung Sunday night in the Dallas armory to an audience of about 500 people. The members of the chorus and the soloists were local men and women, coached the past two weeks by D. V. Poling. Mr. Poling conducted without a score.

One of the pretty features of the evening was the singing of "The Angels' Serenade." A double quartet of men in the balcony answered the serenade of a women's quartet from the platform with a "Gloria In Excelsis." The soloists, John W. Orr, R. U. Steelquist, Mrs. D. V. Poling, Miss Edna Morrison, Mrs. D. A. McKenzie and Mrs. Georgia Byers sang well.

Members of the chorus were: Messdames MacKenzie, Miller, Poling and Byers; Misses Morrison, Owings, Fiske, Coad and Grant; and Messrs. Orr, Snyder, Miller, Steelquist, Dinneen, Cerny, Ghorke and MacKenzie. Much of the credit for the success of the cantata is due to D. V. Poling, the conductor. Mr. Poling whipped the music into shape with five rehearsals and his knowledge of the score and his splendid directing that made the cantata what it was.

The chorus entered the room singing "Onward, Christian Soldiers." Misses Dorothy Bennett and Helen Poling accompanied on two pianos. Miss Bennett accompanied the individual singers.

CARD BUYS HIBBARD FARM.

Will Subdivide 120 Acre Gilliam Station Place.

Joe Card yesterday closed a deal for the 120-acre Hibbard place at Gilliam station through W. M. Ellis. Mr. Card plans to subdivide the property and sell it. Competition for the farm was keen as may be understood by the fact that a second buyer called at the company's office and offered to take the place as Card was making out his check. G. O. Butler assisted Mr. Ellis in the sale.

C. Stewart Is Transferred.

C. Stewart, apprentice boilermaker, has been transferred from Dallas to Brooklyn. With this transfer the changes of men in the Dallas shops to other points are ended.

Sheriff Makes Turnover.

Sheriff Orr made a turnover of \$1,003.69 to County Treasurer Holman.

BRIDGE NOT SAFE NOW

STATE ENGINEER MAKES REPORT ON COURT'S REQUEST

Recommendations Include Suspension of General Traffic But Would Permit Greatly Restricted Loads.

The inter-county bridge at Salem is no longer safe to general traffic; for a time the bridge is comparatively safe for "greatly restricted" traffic, yet, "while this bridge has outlived the period of its usefulness, it is difficult to predict the exact time, or under just what circumstances it will ultimately fail. No one can guarantee its safety even with the repairs which have been made, or under the restricted use above recommended"—such are the conflicting and puzzling findings of the state highway commission made upon the request of the county courts of Marion and Polk counties for a physical examination of the bridge. The report was submitted December 28.

The report is signed by State Engineer John H. Lewis and is based upon a physical examination of the bridge and a study of the stresses made by Joseph Weare, assistant engineer in charge of the bridge department, assisted by L. W. Metzger, designing engineer. The report recommends that Marion and Polk counties "take steps in the near future looking toward the securing of a ferry to handle the traffic at this point, and that as soon as it becomes practicable and safe to operate such ferry after the 1917 spring floods, that the present inter-county bridge be closed to all traffic." No mention is made why the bridge can be made to last through the stresses caused by high waters of the spring and heavy winds of the winter, yet should be abandoned as soon as the heavy stresses are over.

The report further recommends that the maximum total concentrated live load should not exceed three tons and then only when alone on a span. No loads should be allowed to pass during heavy winds. Long intervals between any but the lightest vehicles should be maintained. Drove of animals should be broken up. No considerable number of people should be allowed to assemble on the span nor under any circumstances be permitted to cross more than a few at a time."

Though the two requests of the two county courts, made December 9, asked for, first, a physical examination of the bridge with recommendations as to whether the bridge could be recommended for use by restricted traffic, and second, to recommend a site and type of a proposed new bridge, the report goes further and recommends that the bridge should be used until suitable accommodations can be made to secure a ferry.

When interviewed Saturday Judge Kirkpatrick would make no statement for publication concerning the report, saying that he and the commissioners preferred to wait until a joint meeting of the county courts of Marion and Polk might be held. The two courts can not possibly get together until the end of this week or the beginning of next.

"While the closing of the inter-county bridge would prove a great inconvenience to the residents of the West Salem district, inasmuch as the capital is the logical market place for that territory, I am firmly convinced that in its present physical condition it is a constant menace to life and that traffic across the structure should cease without unnecessary delay." These are the words of Mr. Chas. A. Parks, a prominent resident of West Salem, who was a Dallas visitor on Saturday last. Mr. Parks told a representative of The Observer that he had occasion to cross the inter-county bridge many times each week, and that he always felt a sense of relief when he touched terra firma. He coincided with the recommendation made by State Engineer Lewis that the structure be closed to traffic, notwithstanding the significant fact that his own interests, as well as those of his neighbors, would be temporarily jeopardized. It would be quite impossible for the counties to establish a ferry that would afford adequate facilities for the heavy travel, thinks Mr. Parks, but even such an inconvenience could be tolerated rather than to run the risk of losing lives with the collapse of the bridge, which seems probable at almost any time.

Rev. J. N. McConnell Ill.

Rev. J. N. McConnell, pastor of the McMinville Christian church, is seriously ill at his home in McMinville. Rev. Howard McConnell was with his father over the week-end.