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Monmouth is Located in the Best Section of the Best Valley of the Best State in the Nation

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Items of Interest At Oregon Normal

Normal students, alumni and faculty members were deeply shocked to learn of the very sudden death of President J. H. Ackerman at his home on last Sunday morning.

Mr. Ackerman, though a native of Iowa, has been identified with the educational history of Oregon since his coming to Portland in 1889. As a teacher, principal and superintendent in the city schools of Portland and as state superintendent of public instruction, he served the state of his adoption well and faithfully, and crowned his life-work by ten years of devoted service as president of the Oregon Normal School. To this position he brought the ripe experience and tried judgment of maturity, to which qualities he added a very real dedication of himself to his work in the highest sense of the words. Those who studied under him valued exceedingly his interesting lectures and clear-cut explanations and those who served on his faculty found his advice unflinchingly sound and helpful. Moreover, in a marked degree he made himself a real friend to all with whom he came in contact; all felt the close bonds of his personal interest and his friendship; all now feel distinctly that his loss is a very great one to each individual. Mr. Ackerman rendered durable services to his state; wrote his name clearly in the educational record of his time; and, above all, was ever kindly and loyal in his associations.

"That which should accompany old age, as honor, love, obedience, troops of friends", all were his.

Mr. Dunsmore of Independence spoke to the students at the chapel hour last Friday morning. He gave a most interesting account of his trip to the Holy Land.

There will be no motion picture at the chapel this week end as the Chautauqua will be in session at that time.

Mr. Butler spoke to the students at chapel hour on Wednesday of last week. He discussed in his usual stimulating manner, some present-day problems in educational circles.

Superintendent Strange of Astoria visited the Normal this week to interview teachers for the coming year.

Governor Olcott has accepted the invitation of the Normal to speak to the students at the chapel hour on Friday morning, July 15. Townspeople are invited to this chapel exercise.

Paralysis Takes Mrs. L. H. Treat

Mrs. L. H. Treat, an old resident of this city died at her home yesterday afternoon following a stroke of paralysis. She suffered a stroke some years ago and for years was helpless, being carried about in a wheel chair. Last winter she grew strong enough to walk again and was about quite a little at different places.

She was 73 years of age and was a native of Michigan. Her maiden name was Sarah Helen Fisk and she was married to Mr. Treat at South Riley, Michigan in 1871. The couple celebrated their golden wedding last January. Beside her husband she is survived by a son and a daughter, Gordon Treat of Salem and Mrs. Alta Rogers of this city. At the time of publication funeral arrangements had not been made.

Rev. Roswell was in Portland on business Thursday.

Chautauqua Season Is Opened Today

This afternoon is the opening date of Monmouth's second Chautauqua which continues in session for six days. The death of President Ackerman upset somewhat the plans for the week but by Wednesday night over seven hundred dollars worth of tickets had been sold and the prospect was good that the requisite amount would be placed in time. Miss Piaat of the Lincoln circuit has been in town for the past week assisting in getting things going. The tent man and Miss Cameron, who is to entertain the children, arrived yesterday and the tent was put up in the lot across from the post office. The superintendent is expected to arrive today from Ilwaco, Wash. We have a good program this year.

Neighbor Counties Becoming Resentful

Argument on Attorney Devers' motion to make more specific the complaint filed by Independence people in the highway matter, has been set for hearing July 18 in Dallas, according to a late report. In case the motion is not favorably considered, a demurrer to the complaint will be filed on behalf of the state. This would bring the suit to an immediate issue and guarantee its disposition without unnecessary delay.

Portland papers report that the counties above and below us on the west side in the Willamette valley are waxing indignant over delays in the highway matter in this county and have asked permission of the highway commission to intervene in the suit filed by Independence people in this county. Yamhill and Lincoln have acted and it is understood that Benton and Washington will do similarly.

However, at present there is no delay in the county. The contractor on the road south from this city is getting his plant ready for the moving of dirt on a large scale. The grading crew has been busy for some time on the Dallas-Salem road and the laying of asphalt is expected to start shortly.

Joint Installation

A joint installation was held by the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs last Thursday night when officers for the ensuing six months were inducted into their jobs without any abbreviation of the ritual. District Deputy Grand Master E. B. Pace was in charge for the Odd Fellows and Mrs. Cornelius, district deputy president of the Rebekahs performed a like duty for the ladies. The following are the newly installed officers: N. G., A. B. Saere; V. G., Clarence Grund; Secy., Paul Tacheron; Treas., F. E. Chambers; R. S. N. G., W. R. Graham; L. S. N. G., Herbert Evans; warden, R. B. Swenson; conductor, Ernest Riddell; chaplain, J. L. Murdock; I. G., W. G. Powell; O. G., E. N. Keeney; R. S. S., M. W. Jones; L. S. S., E. C. Pollan; R. S. V. G., James Gentle; L. S. V. G., Paul Riley.

The Rebekahs installed the following: Mrs. Siekafoose, N. G.; Mrs. Cole, V. G.; Mrs. Crofoot, secretary; Mrs. F. Murdock, treasurer; Mrs. Fore, R. S. N. G.; Mrs. Jones, L. S. N. G.; Miss Alice Butler, conductor; Mrs. Stanton, warden; Mrs. G. Boothby, R. S. V. G.; Mrs. McCollum, L. S. V. G.; Mrs. O. Butler, Chaplain; Mrs. Beckley, I. G.; Jessie Webber, O. G.

Following the installation, refreshments consisting of cake and ices were served and this was followed by a social time that lasted to a late hour.

J. H. Ackerman, Normal President Ends Long Career in Public Service



J. H. Ackerman president of the Oregon Normal School, died suddenly last Sunday morning following a stroke of apoplexy. He was stricken shortly after seven o'clock at the home of M. W. Jones where, with his daughter, Mrs. Carlton, he had just eaten his breakfast. He sat down to read a paper and very shortly after the stroke came, caused by the bursting of a blood vessel in the brain. Dr. Bowersox was summoned but the president was breathing his last when he arrived.

Mrs. Ackerman was in Salem at the time, at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Burton, recovering from the effects of an operation. The operation was a serious one but she was recovering nicely and planned to come to Monmouth on the Sunday the president's death occurred. For some time past Mrs. Jones had been assisting at the Ackerman's with the housework and when Mrs. Ackerman was absent in the hospital, to save work the president took his meals at the Jones' home. It was characteristic of him that he did not want to put any one to extra trouble to accommodate him. With his daughter, Mrs. Carlton, he attended the picture show at the Normal chapel the evening before and seemed in the best of spirits.

The news of his death spread like a shock over the community. People found it hard to believe that the familiar figure, so closely linked with the life of the town, was no more. Members of the faculty immediately took charge of the situation, notified absent relatives and the board of regents and prepared for the funeral.

The body was conveyed to Salem and prepared for burial. In the Webb & Clough chapel in Salem it laid in state until 11 o'clock Tuesday morning, when it was brought to Monmouth for funeral services which occurred in the Normal chapel Tuesday afternoon, starting at 1:30 o'clock. While in Salem the body was viewed by many old friends, for he had a wide acquaintance in Oregon, and especially in Salem where he resided during his three terms as state superintendent of schools.

In the Normal chapel the body reposed in its casket at the foot of the platform which was banked with many beautiful floral tributes. Some of these represented friends and relatives, the students, faculty and board of regents, the business men of Monmouth, the Masonic orders and one beautiful piece bore

the inscription, "Pendleton". Members of Washington lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Portland had active charge of the funeral program. The president was an enthusiastic Mason. He was raised to the master mason degree at Arcadia, Wisconsin, but joined Washington lodge when he came to Oregon and has since held membership in it.

The large auditorium of the new chapel was filled with people who came to attend the services. Many prominent people of the state were there. The honorary pall bearers were: Governor Olcott, Secretary of State Sam A. Koser, State Treasurer O. P. Hoff, I. L. Patterson, J. A. Churchill, W. J. Kerr, P. L. Campbell B. F. Irvine and Judge George H. Burnett. The active bearers were: Ira C. Powell, W. G. Beattie, J. B. V. Butler of this city, C. L. Starr and D. A. Grout of Portland and E. D. Ressler of Corvallis.

Mrs. Fairfax Parrish of Dallas rendered the beautiful solo, "Crossing the Bar" and the Normal chorus, under the capable leadership of Miss Schuette, sang "Lead Kindly Light" and "Send Out Thy Light" both of which were favorites with the late president.

Rev. W. G. Elliott, Jr., pastor of the First Unitarian church of Portland preached the funeral sermon. He had, he said, known Mr. Ackerman intimately for a quarter of a century. He was associated with him in the educational conference at the Lewis and Clark fair; he had known him in his home and had officiated at the weddings of his three daughters. He recalled three pictures that hang on the walls of the president's office in the Normal building. One depicts a storm, Nature at war, with the clashing of the elements; the second depicts mankind at war, rather, it was a scene that followed a battle but in it were the instruments and uniforms associated with civil strife; the third shows a young woman reading a book, and to him it was significant as depicting the weaker of the sexes, dispensing knowledge which in itself is stronger than any agency of physical power. It was hard, he said, to dissociate the personality of a man with his physical body; but the two were separate. The body was merely the instrument with which the soul signaled its desires and ideas and the spirit itself could not be laid away in the grave.

President W. J. Kerr of the Agricultural college followed with

a brief eulogy, the tribute to a man who he said had ideas and ideals. He had met him first at the Lewis and Clark fair and when, two years later, he came to Oregon, he had been associated with Mr. Ackerman, the latter being a regent of the Agricultural college at that time. Their associations had given him a high opinion of the late Normal president.

President P. L. Campbell of the university said he met Mr. Ackerman at a teacher's meeting when he first came to Oregon and felt immediately that a new power had been added to the state's teaching force. The impression had been strengthened with each succeeding year since that time. Such had been the power and capacity of the man, as exhibited during his years as state superintendent, that when the report came that he would decline to seek a re-election at the end of his third term, Mr. Campbell felt they had room for just such ability at the university and approached Mr. Ackerman with a proposal to this end; but the latter had already accepted the work in Monmouth. And, added Mr. Campbell, he could not quarrel with the decision. Because of his own early association with the school here, because of his interest in the elementary schools of the state, because of the unsettled status of normal training in Oregon at the time, he felt that the strong mind and the organizing genius of Mr. Ackerman could be applied to no more worthy cause. He knew he would succeed and he rejoiced in the splendid success which has attended the re-establishment of the Monmouth Normal.

Among the people who came to attend the funeral of President J. H. Ackerman were: H. G. Starkweather of Milwaukie, Miss Marvin of Salem, F. J. Miller, Albany Geo. Hug, W. M. Smith, E. E. Elliott, R. E. L. Steiner and wife and Miss Cosper of Salem, A. Strange of Astoria, J. Q. McLaughlin of Corvallis, Mr. Boettiker of Albany.

Following the services the body was taken to Salem where the impressive Masonic services were rendered by the Washington lodge of Portland, with the assistance of Salem brethren. Burial was in the Odd Fellows cemetery.

The following facts relative to Mr. Ackerman's early years were taken from a Willamette Valley biographical record published some years ago.

John Henry Ackerman was born in Warren, Trumbull county, Ohio, November 7, 1854. His father, John Ackerman was a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, and was a blacksmith by trade. His mother before marriage was Caroline Hartman, a native of Ohio. When J. H. was one year old the family moved to Toronto, Clinton county, Iowa. He grew up in Toronto, Iowa then was a pioneer state and he was early thrown on his own resources. Between the ages of seventeen and twenty he followed the trade of carpenter and when the financial panic of 1873 overtook the country he was working for a railroad contractor on the Northern Pacific railroad. He was thrown out of employment and went to Arcadia, Wis. where he had an uncle engaged as a contractor and builder. His uncle advised him to go to school and his teacher advised that he should teach. His exceptional ability in this line soon manifested itself. He received a certificate in 1875 and became a district school teacher at a salary of \$25 per month.

He taught district schools in Minnesota and Iowa and for six years was principal of the school at Arcadia. In 1888 he entered the state normal school at Milwaukee, Wis., and completed the course. Practi-

cally self taught his native ability had already attracted attention in Wisconsin but he saw greater opportunities in the west and came to Oregon shortly after he received his diploma. He located in Portland and was engaged as principal of the Holladay school in that city. A year later he was elected city superintendent of schools of East Portland. In the following year the schools of the whole city were consolidated and he was made assistant superintendent.

In 1892 the Republicans nominated him for county superintendent of Multnomah county and he was elected. In 1894 he was re-elected receiving the highest vote on the ticket. For four years he was not only county superintendent but was also principal of the Harrison street school. In 1898 the Oregon republicans nominated him for state superintendent at their convention held in Astoria and he was elected, taking up his duties in January of the following year. He was re-elected in 1902 and again in 1906.

He was a tireless worker, was ardent in pushing every educational move that appealed to him as practical. As state superintendent he visited every corner of the state and had friends and acquaintances everywhere. People say he could have been governor or U. S. Senator if he had stuck to politics, but schools and teaching were his lifework and he chose rather to retire as president of the Normal where his keen organizing ability is reflected in the present solid and substantial foundation on which the school now rests.

A review of the achievements that have come to the Normal within the past ten years must include the building of the girls' dormitory, the training school building, the gymnasium, the senior cottage, the enlarged chapel, the enlarged heating plant, enlarged sanitary facilities, the acquisition of the junior cottage and the present enlargement of the dormitory. The passage of the millage bill in May, 1920 is perhaps the most important achievement. Because of it the Normal now, for the first time in its existence, has financial backing somewhere near its necessities for carrying on the work of preparing teachers for the elementary schools of the state. In addition to this must be mentioned the city's progress in sidewalks, paving, the gravity water system and the high school building.

President Ackerman's early experience in the elementary schools inspired in him a tender regard for their welfare. Rural schools especially he wished to see put upon a higher plane of excellence. He used to say that the child in the remote corners of the state had just as good a right to proper instruction as the city child. For this reason he backed such measures as the two mill tax law and the county unit proposal. Educational legislation strongly interested him and he took an active part in furthering it wherever practical.

While in Arcadia, Wis., Mr. Ackerman was married to Miss Ellen Boorman, who survives him. They have three married daughters, all living close by. They are Mrs. Lillian Carlton of Eugene, Mrs. Caroline Burton of Salem and Mrs. Isabella Lunn of Corvallis.

Mrs. Ophelia Anderson a sister of D. M. Hampton, has been here the past week from Pendleton visiting the latter and family. With her is her daughter and husband, Dr. and Mrs. Idleman, also of Pendleton. Dr. Idleman has been appointed to a position as dentist for the home for feeble minded and the industrial school for boys in Salem and takes up his duties immediately.

Miss Neta Waller is visiting with friends at Gladstone this week.