



BUREAU HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Polk is Represented at Annual Gathering of Farm Organization

The Farm Bureau is a strictly cooperative organization and makes no exclusive credit for all the general improvement work that is done here. Due credit is given to the Farmers' union and other organizations, to the department of the college and other agencies for a large part of the work that has been done. A harmonious relationship exists among all the forces that are working for the betterment of the farm. This year's annual meeting of the Polk County Farm Bureau was held at the Polk County Hotel in Astoria, December 17th and was attended by the 140 members of the bureau. It was generally agreed that the progress of the county in the last two years, especially in the membership drive, has been a record. The bureau has built up to the 400 mark in membership and this is accounted for by the teaming of the several farm organizations in this territory.

The new features that the bureau has given to organized farming are the carefully considered plan of activities for the future annual meetings devote a large part of the time to plans and methods of county and local work. Work done for 1922 covers drainage, grain, grain certification, potato, fruit, livestock and other work, weed control, buying and marketing.

The speakers were Col. A. A. Aird, secretary, and Vice President of the Oregon Farm Bureau, with which the bureau is affiliated. W. L. Keadler, assistant county agent, represented the extension department of the O. A. C., and spoke of the importance of well planned and conducted work, pointing out that the organizations seem to rise largely in accord with the importance given work in the local community. Mr. Keadler mentioned that there is a tendency to forget that the cost of production is as important as a high price for products on the market. E. L. Hawley spoke on communicating and the essentials for success.

Agent Paul Carpenter reported on the work of 1921, but did not have a few of the "high spots" of the year saying that a summary would be mailed each month.

For the publication of the Farm Bureau was pledged and all farm bureau news sheet is continued.

Resolutions were adopted relative to support of the 1925 exposition income tax rather than by a property tax; enforcement of control of the Canada thistle; county agent work being supported by no contribution from private or organization.

A basket lunch was served cafeteria style. Members present from organized district of the county.

NEWTON IS INJURED IN AUTO CROSSING ACCIDENT

Chester Sloper received a mesdasy stating that her brother, Newton, had been injured that morning in Vancouver, Wash., when which he was driving was by a Northern Pacific train. Newton was in the employ of Northwestern Long Distance company as a trouble maker. The accident is said to have been caused by a storm preventing his approaching freight train. Newton is a former well-known of Independence.

NO FEDERAL AID FOR RIVER CONTROL

In the estimation of a government engineer, Independence will not be given federal aid in the control of the Willamette, basing his opinion upon the fact that the river is not being used for navigable purposes at the present time. This was the expression, after the official had made an inspection of the river at this point, a few days ago. Alarmed by the continued wearing away of the west bank, menacing the business district of the city, the matter has been taken up by the Retail Merchants' association through a committee of which Dr. O. D. Butler is chairman. In response to messages to Congressmen Hawley and McArthur, the matter was brought to the attention of the Portland division of the war department.

Starting at a point just south of town, the river is steadily swaying to the west. All told, it has cut away approximately 100 acres from the Hill property and has reached a point where it is feared that the main channel of the river will cut its way to the very edge of First street, and do an immense amount of damage here and farther down the river.

INDEPENDENCE BOY TAKES WRESTLING HONORS AT BENSON

Marshall Huntley of Independence, who is attending the Benson school in Portland, has won the elimination wrestling contest, at 125 pounds, thus becoming champion wrestler of the 1400 boys who are attending the institution.

In the final contest young Huntley pinned his adversary to the mat in two minutes, which is exceedingly rapid work.

Huntley is a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Huntley, former well-known residents of Independence, who are temporarily living in Portland while the son is attending Benson tech.

If the young man continues the wrestling game, "Strangler" Ed Lewis will have to guard well his laurels.

HARRIS SELLS RESIDENCE TO TOM BILL OF HOSKINS

W. H. Harris has sold his residence property in the southwestern part of Independence to Tom Bill, employed as section foreman by the Valley & Siletz at Hoskins. The property consists of a modern, six-room residence and 2.7 acres.

Mr. Harris will retain possession until after the close of the present school year. Mr. Bill has acquired the place in order that his children may have the educational advantages of Independence.

The deal was handled by J. E. Hubbard of the Independence Realty company.

FROZEN PIPES WRECK KITCHEN

J. J. Williams Residence at Monmouth Damaged to Considerable Extent

The kitchenette in the J. J. Williams residence in Monmouth was literally wrecked Tuesday morning by the explosion of the waterback in the range. Stovetops were hurled through the Dutch ebonards, windows of the room broken, and the range and an unlighted oil stove were torn to pieces. The trouble was due to frozen water pipes, but this was not known until investigation after the explosion revealed the cause.

That no one was injured is remarkable. When the crash came Mrs. Williams was in the front part of the house and Miss Irene Williams and Mrs. Walter Smith were just making an exit by the kitchen door for the garage when a couple of stovetops were hurled at them as a parting shot.

SANTA CLAUS VISITS IN INDEPENDENCE

(By Charles Bacon Hodgkin.)

The much mooted question of the existence of Santa Claus has at last been definitely—and settled satisfactorily to practically every little boy and girl in the universe.

Santa Claus has been seen and has acknowledged his identity. He appears as the younger mind has always fancied and painted him—white brushy whiskers and a red nose. Fat he is—weighing close to 200 pounds, and, as our conception has led us to believe, he "shakes when he laughs like a bowlful of jelly"—or else a tubful of gelatine. It has been proven without a doubt that many times he has been stuck in a chimney that was too small to admit a personage of his stature. It is hard to place the age of Santa Claus—even he does not know. But for years and years and years, he has been a close friend of the children and will be for years and years and years to come. In these modern days, when chimneys are small Santa Claus finds it harder year after year to negotiate their passage. But he has let it become known that if the children are good children, he will find some way to reach them on his annual pilgrimages. The number of annual calls that Santa makes in one night numbers millions and millions. When you stop to think that each call necessitates a stop of several minutes, you can easily see that he has to go on "high" to make the allotted number. He is good natured to a marked degree, but he has whispered to a few of us that the chimneys should be made larger, claiming that it detracts from his service when he is caught for 15 minutes in a chimney of small dimensions.

Santa Claus claims that the past year has been a busy one and a hard one for him away up there at the furthestmost point in the north country, where they have snow the year round and cold sleet and cold winds. Millions of toys for boys and girls have had to be made, and after that they must be sorted according to route so that unnecessary delays can be done away with. Some times it is not Santa's fault if some child does not receive a present—or receives one that is meant for some one else. "Mistakes will happen in the best regulated families," he tells us.

"Kiddies," says jovial Santa, "are my favorites and will be until the world ends. With the kiddies I am always just as you see me now, smiling, happy and just bubbling over with love and good nature. How could I be otherwise? The kiddies make me that way. There isn't a kid living that can make me mad—no matter what he does. He can walk all over me, pull my whiskers, twist my nose and ears, kick me in my round little leg—I mean to say my stomach, and I like it and grow fat over it. But believe me, with grown-ups 'it's a horse of another color,' I'm a surly old sonofasecok, I stand for no monkey business from them. That's me, all over."

It was difficult to believe this of Santa, but he assured us of all seriousness that it was the truth. Santa brings presents to both young and old, but he brings them with a better grace to the young.

We know for a fact that he has much to contend with and does a great deal of good. What especially ruffles his otherwise amiable temper is to be going along nicely in his sleigh and then have his reindeer bump into a maze of telephone and telegraph wires.

It is hard at first to get Santa Claus to talk, but when he once gets started it is hard to make him stop. Realizing that he had many more calls to make, we cut short his conversation, even at the risk of hurting his feelings. We did not wish to assume the blame for his non-arrival at some little youngster's home.

By the way, Santa Claus is making his headquarters in Independence, from appearances. At Craven & Walker's he has stocked up toys until it seems as if the shelves can hold no more. Everything the hearts of young and old can enjoy, and all at a most reasonable figure. The place is a paradise for the kids and a treat to their eyes. Watch the eager expressions on their little faces as they wish for this and that and that. It was here we had a few minutes' conversation with him.

"Since my last visit," said he, with that loving twinkle in his eyes, "I can see many changes for the better. I would like to remain longer on Christmas eve, but you know how it is with me. Especially am I pleased with your many modern stores and business houses. Not only with the stock displayed, but with the festive decorations and appearances. Appealing most strongly to me are the stores displaying toys. Quartier's is a toy heaven for the youngsters and his policy of popular prices is crowding the isles of his store. During my short visit there, many were the smiling faces I saw. My old friend, R. W. Baker, I see, is still on deck and doing business at the same old stand. He handles feed for stock and dispenses justice in an impartial manner and makes friends by doing it.

To me, one of the main attractions in your city is the street decorations—trees in abundance and placed in position by your Commercial club. Truly, they warm the cockles of the heart of the stranger within your gates and also your home people.

"Did you notice how Moss Walker has decorated the Hotel Beaver? Cozy, comfortable and home like, I'll say. It's a home away from home and a valuable asset to the city.

"Did you ever realize that practically every city of any consequence has what is called a department store? Well your city has one, and one that you should be proud of. Eddy & Carbray—that's the place. Up-to-the-minute in every particular. No shelf-worn goods in that establishment. 'Quick sales and small profits' is the slogan they go by.

"Max Goldman cut his store in half and installed A. L. Kullander, the jeweler in part of it. 'Shorty' as he is familiarly known, has evidently made a study of the public's wants and believes in catering to them. His stock would pass inspection in a good-sized city. Just because its a jewelry store doesn't necessarily imply that only a millionaire can patronize the place. Give his stock the 'once over' and you'll be surprised at the reasonableness of his prices—and the variety of gifts to choose from. If you want to purchase an appropriate gift for 'him' or 'her' give 'Shorty' a call.

"Even F. M. Leonard, the boot and shoe repair man, has 'perked' up his place of business and wears a juldide smile on his face.

"It really did my old heart good to again clasp the hand of my old-time friend, Joe Hirschberg. Year after year, 'since man wots not,' Joe and I have worked together and I've always enjoyed our annual talk-fest. If I told you of the good deeds Joe has done it would astonish you. He doesn't do them with a fan-flare of trumpets, but in an unassuming and quiet manner. When your city loses Joe Hirschberg it will lose a man's man and one whose good deeds will linger long in the memory of the residents.

I nearly forgot A. L. Keeney, the local funeral director. He's a new man—that is he has located here since last Christmas. It wouldn't be advisable for me to wish him an increase

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INDEPENDENCE CROSSING IS ATTRACTING ATTENTION

The Portland Journal of Tuesday says editorially:

"During the late flood period in Western Oregon the Independence bridge over the Luckiamute was the only one that could be used. The fact bears strongly in the contest which Independence is making to have the Pacific highway pass through that city. Not only has Independence the bridge efficiency in its favor but it is named in the law as one of the west side cities through which the highway must pass."

LEGION GETS EVEN BREAK IN BASKETBALL

By a score of 44 to 13 the Independence American Legion team was defeated by the varsity five of the Oregon Agricultural college, in the high school gymnasium here Wednesday evening. It was the second contest for the local boys—and while they are making very satisfactory progress under the direction of Coach Craven—they were not in as "fit" condition as the Aggies. Independence had no anticipation of walking away with the honors, and local fans were well satisfied with what was accomplished.

The college boys—10 of them under the guidance of Coach Rutherford—are doing some preliminary work before the opening of the season. They are in fine fettle, being exceedingly effective in team work.

The local boys drew the first blood, scoring on a foul, but this was soon evened and during the balance of the first half the visitors had things pretty much their own way.

With energy at the spouting point the locals entered the second half and the contest became fast and furious, but O. A. C. continued to increase its lead, and for the final part of the contest substitutes were sent into the battle with considerable less effectiveness.

The lineup for O. A. C.—Stinson (Capt.), Gill, forwards; Hjelte, center; Ross, Richards, guards; Fernley, Elderson, Lyman, Ryan, Perry, substitutes.

Independence—Mix, Addison, forwards; Schunk (Capt.), center; Archibald, Black, guards; Reynolds, McKinney, Fisher, substitutes. Referee, Rollo McKinney.

The Grande Ronde Indians were easily defeated by the American Legion five on the local court last Saturday night in the opening contest for the season. It was a one-sided battle, resulting in a score of 62 and 6. It was simply a case of where the visitors were outclassed. The gymnasium was well filled with spectators, and while it was too one-sided to create a great amount of interest, the clever work of the local boys was a source of much satisfaction.

The score: Grande Ronde—Fisher (4), Powell (2), forwards; Shirley, center; James, Johnson, guards; Hays, substitute. Independence—Addison (8), Mix (32), forwards; Schunk (10), center; Archibald (4), Black (2), guards; Reynolds (6), McKinney, Harris, Fisher, substitutes.

BUSINESS PLACES WILL BE CLOSED ALL DAY MONDAY

Independence business houses will be closed all day Monday, December 26th, for the observance of Christmas.

Oregon Agricultural College students home for the holiday period are: Opal Hewett, "Doc" Hewett, Lucille Craven, "Bob" Craven, William and Rollo McKinney, Charles Calbreath, Betty Stilwell, Ulla Dickinson, Cyril Reynolds, Wendell Denlinger.

TAX GASOLINE FOR EXPOSITION

Bill Is Passed to Divert \$3,000,000 From Highway to Fair

The special session of the legislature, which was convened Monday for the purpose of furthering the interests of the Portland fair, has been a fiasco, so far.

Several fair bills have been introduced—and about the only development is that the balance of the state is aligned against Portland and so strong is this sentiment in evidence that the proposed direct property tax scheme has been abandoned. Representative D. E. Fletcher of Polk-Lincoln introduced a bill by which \$3,000,000 to be derived from the two cents a gallon tax on gasoline be diverted from the highway fund to an exposition fund.

This bill, amended by adding another cent tax to the gasoline, and containing several other changes, was passed by the house Wednesday by a vote of 44 to 14. So far as Portland was concerned it was either a question of accepting a measure of this kind or having the project turned down flat.

One of the concessions of the amended bill is that 10 percent of the total funds accruing to the fair commission to the tax shall be returned to the counties in the proportion of the tax paid by them, and that the counties shall use such funds in preparing and placing county exhibits in the fair building.

This bill is now being considered by the senate. What action that body will take is purely problematical. However, it seems probable that it will be favorable and that it will then receive the signature of Governor Olcott.

Upstate members were in a belligerent mood from the outset. They were aware of the opposition by home folks of a property tax, and then there were many who felt that the date fixed for the session was extremely untimely.

If the gasoline bill is passed it will be necessary to amend the constitution and have the question submitted to the voters at the spring primaries.

The only other important legislation, so far, is the introduction of a resolution in the senate, asking for and providing the necessary machinery for securing a thorough audit of the financial affairs of the state.

ROYAL ARCH MASONS SELECT NEW OFFICERS

B. E. Smith was re-elected high priest of Independence Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, at the annual meeting last Friday night.

King—B. R. Wolfe. Scribe—Dr. F. G. Hewett. C. of H.—Dr. M. J. Butler. Secretary—Harvey N. Dickinson. Treasurer—H. Hirschberg. The high priest was installed and the others will be inducted into office the first meeting in January. Appointive officers: C. of H.—M. J. Butler. Principal Sojourner—A. L. Keeney. R. A. C.—J. B. V. Butler, Jr. M. of 3rd V.—M. H. Pengra. M. of 2nd V.—A. L. Kullander. M. of 1st V.—John Dickinson. Sentinel—Don Dickinson.

WILLAMETTE PLAYS HERE NEXT THURSDAY NIGHT

Willamette University is scheduled to meet the American Legion team in the high school gymnasium next Thursday night, December 29th.

Willamette is not deemed as fast as the Aggies, and the locals are anticipating a close contest.

