

# WEST SIDE ENTERPRISE

FIFTEENTH YEAR.

INDEPENDENCE, POLK COUNTY, OREGON, MARCH 10, 1904.

NUMBER 15

## POLK COUNTY BANK

Incorporated.

MONMOUTH, OREGON

J. H. HAWLEY, President. P. L. CAMPBELL, Vice President.

IRA C. POWELL, Cashier.

Paid Capital, \$50,000

DIRECTORS—J. H. Hawley, P. L. Campbell, I. M. Simpson, J. B. V. Butler, John B. Stump, J. A. Withrow, F. S. Powell.

Transacts General Banking and Exchange business. Drafts sold available throughout the United States and Canada.

## THE INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL BANK

CAPITAL STOCK, \$50,000.00.

H. HIRSHBERG, President. ABRAM NELSON, Vice President. C. W. IRVINE, Cashier.

DIRECTORS.—H. Hirschberg, D. W. Sears, B. F. Smith, J. P. Rhodes and A. Nelson.

A general banking and exchange business transacted. Loans made. Bills discounted. Commercial credits granted. Deposits received on current account subject to check.

## DRINK SALEM BEER

A HOME BEVERAGE.

Made of

HOME GROWN HOPS

SPECIAL BREW FOR FAMILY USE.

## IT BEATS THE DUTCH

## Josse & Bice, UNDERTAKERS

Fine Parlors in connection. Day or night calls promptly attended to.

Day phone 273 Night 393

Main St., Independence, Ore

W. L. BICE, Embalmer and Funeral Director.

## THE MONMOUTH LAUNDRY

H. D. WHITMAN, Proprietor

A Home Industry Institution

GOOD WORK, PROMPT DELIVERY  
OUR WATCHWORDS

Work Called for Tuesday Delivered Saturday

## LIVERY, FEED AND BOARDING STABLE

I. W. DICKINSON, Prop.

Good Rigs for Commercial Men a Specialty.  
Good accommodations. Horses well fed. Fine rigs. Horses boarded by day, week or month.

Telephone No. 293

Independence, Oregon

## IT MAKES A MAN FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE

To have his collars and cuffs show raw edges, and look like candidates for retirement, instead of fresh graduates from the laundry. What we can't make new might as well be thrown away. It's like a patient too far gone for the doctor. Spotless linen is an indispensable dress factor which you must have met to be among the outs.

## Salem Steam Laundry,

Orders left at Kutch's Barber Shop will receive Prompt Attention.

PHONE 411 230 LIBERTY ST.



## A DYNAMITE EXPLOSION WITH FATAL RESULTS

### Curtis Baker and Gilbert McCabe Blown Into Eternity While Thawing Out Dynamite on the John Burton Hop Ranch Saturday Morning

### Polk County Hills Shaken Up and People for Miles Around Aroused by the Terrible Concussion

Terribly torn and mangled, and blown into eternity is the fate met by Curtis Baker and Gilbert McCabe while thawing out dynamite on John Burton's hop ranch Friday morning, three quarters of a mile north of Independence.

There was an explosion of 125 pounds of dynamite and 100 dynamite caps that caused a tremor of the Willamette river and shaking of Polk county hills that aroused people for miles around.

The explosion took place while the victims were thawing out dynamite preparatory to blasting out stumps. A small furnace had been built by the side of a pig-pen about fifty yards from a tenant house in which lived Arthur Baker, brother of one of the victims. The pig-sty was blown from the face of the earth, a great hole was torn in the ground, and the bodies of Baker and McCabe, terribly mutilated, were blown nearly one hundred feet away. Their legs from the knees down were torn off and bodies otherwise mangled. Baker's eyes being torn out and a hole made in his side would indicate he was bending over the deadly dynamite when the explosion took place. The bodies were stripped of clothing, shreds of which were found in various directions. One shoeless foot was found 100 yards from the bodies and other pieces of flesh and bone were scattered over the premises.

An inexplicable circumstance in connection with the disaster is the fact that neither of the pigs in the sty were killed. One was left blinded but that is the only evidence left of injury to either, though the furnace was up against the sty which was shattered into fine kindling wood and distributed over acres of ground.

George Winkler's escape also is little short of the miraculous. Winkler had just driven a team into a hop-house only 100 feet away. Outside the hop-house and between it and the furnace, a horse, hitched to a buggy was tied. The building seemed to be in direct line with the full force of the shock, and shingles were lifted from the roof and plastering shaken from walls and ceiling but Winkler and the horses escaped unhurt.

A tenant house fifty yards away in which lived the family of Arthur Baker, brother of one of the victims, was occupied at the time by Mrs. Baker and her baby and neither received injuries beyond a severe shock though the window panes were broken out and furniture tumbled down.

The bodies of the unfortunate victims were sent toward the river

in divergent directions. Tracks of blood and shreds of clothing along the course of the bodies are evidence that they were forced along on the surface of the ground rather than lifted in the air.

It was mere chance that Willie Woods, another boy working for Mr. Burton, was not with Curtis Baker and Gilbert McCabe when the disaster occurred. With Mr. Burton he was working in the brush a few hundred yards away and had in mind to go with George Winkler to the hop-house with a load of wood a few minutes before but upon asking Mr. Burton what to do next, was directed to remain with him.

Scarcely fifteen minutes before the explosion C. M. Baker, a brother of Curtis, passed by where they were thawing out the dynamite. The brother observed Curtis opening caps and placing them in his vest pocket and Curtis was warned by his brother to exercise care in handling the dangerous explosives. These words of warning were the last words spoken to Curtis and it was the last time he was seen alive. The probabilities are the terrific explosion was caused by dropping of a cap into the fire while bending over the furnace. It was not caused by striking the dynamite box with an axe to open it as first reported as Mrs. Baker had observed the boys open the box earlier.

Gilbert McCabe was not working as a hand but merely visiting with his friend, Curtis Baker. He had stayed with Curtis the night before at Mr. Burton's home and walked down on the ranch to see stumps blasted out.

The disastrous explosion occurred shortly after 8 o'clock Friday morning and the concussion was felt by all Independence and for many miles away. The Polk county hills quaked in their place as though an earthquake was on and the shock was plainly felt across the river on the Marion county side. The greater force of the shock seemed to extend in a north-western and south-eastern direction.

At Perrydale, thirteen miles to the northwest, the neighborhood was aroused and Ed Richmond rode into Independence to learn of the results. Houses were shaken in Dallas and telephone messages were coming in from that point a few minutes after the occurrence, making inquiry into the cause. At McCoy, 18 miles to the northwest, spools of thread were shaken from the mantel. At Derry, nearly six miles northwest, window panes were broken out. "There has been a surface explosion somewhere" remarked George Harris, an old

miner who was shaken up at his home 5 miles north. E. M. Young plainly felt the shock as he was driving past Ab West's residence on the Hayden place, four miles north. "Are you trying to kill us?" asked Mr. West as he and his family came to the door to inquire into the cause of the disturbance, as Mr. Young passed. Steve Cooper, sitting by the stove at his home four miles north, reports that his house fairly reeled. Very few felt the shock at Monmouth, three miles west, but at Salem, eleven miles north and across the river, it was plainly felt.

Rickreall people, six miles to the northwest received a general shaking up and many from that vicinity came into town immediately afterward.

Curtis Baker was twenty-one years and six months old. He was a son of M. A. Baker, an old soldier who recently entered the soldiers home at Roseburg. He leaves four brothers and two sisters. Curtis Baker was well known and respected here where he has lived for a number of years. He was accustomed to handling dynamite and had often been cautioned as to its dangers. He seemed to be aware of the responsibilities of one entrusted with explosives and often explained under what conditions only he considered the thawing out or handling of dynamite dangerous. A brother of Curtis Baker was killed by a maniac at Oregon City two years ago.

Gilbert McCabe was 17 years old. His father was found dead, probably of heart disease, in the hay loft, about a year ago. The father was owner of the Independence tile factory and also of a 10-acre prune orchard near town which were left to the boy. His mother lives in New York and upon receiving notification wired that she would like to be here but could not.

The funeral services were held from the Presbyterian church Sunday afternoon and the remains were buried immediately afterwards in the Odd Fellows cemetery. The church was crowded to overflowing during the ceremonies which were very impressive. The services were conducted by Dr. E. J. Thompson, of the Presbyterian church, assisted by Rev. Edmondson, of the Methodist church.

### CANDIDATES NAMED.

The Prohibition Mass Convention Puts Out a Full County Ticket in Polk.

DALLAS ORE., Mar. 5, '04—Polk County Prohibitionists met in mass convention here today. County chairman Coff was elected temporary chairman and Prof. Forbes of Monmouth secretary. Resolutions urging the enactment of the local option liquor law were adopted. W. P. Miller of Dallas was chosen chairman of the County Prohibition Committee. Delegates to the district and state conventions were appointed and a full county ticket put in the field: The following were nominated:

State Senator, Prof. D. M. Metzger, Dallas College.  
State Representative, J. R. Fawks, Oak Grove.  
County Judge, J. R. Shepard, Tena.  
County Clerk, O. S. Clark, Dallas.  
County Treasurer, J. Rodabarger, Falls City.  
Co. Supt. Schools, Prof. G. A. Forbes, State Normal Monmouth.  
County Assessor, A. N. Poole, Monmouth.  
Co. Commissioner, T. J. Pettit, Monmouth.  
County Surveyor, Wm. Lee, Bridgeport.

## RANDOM SHOTS

Snap-Shot Interview Taken of Ben Hayden as he Passed Through Town Saturday

TOUCHED RIGHT AND LEFT

Respects to Scott, Boise and Myers. Governor Erred. - County Judgeship. District Attorney

There was no use in sending Harvey Scott, Whitney Boise and Jeff Myers back to Washington to get a Lewis and Clark fair appropriation. Scott's a smart man but Myers and Boise are not fit to go back there. It's a useless expense on the people. Neither Myers nor Boise could make a speech before the senate. It's merely a kind of admiration society. Myers nominates Scott for vice president and Myers is mentioned for something.

Governor Chamberlain is a bigger fool than I thought he was, else he would not have answered a letter from Woods. Woods was never in the Indian war. Chamberlain told me more than a year ago that Woods was the d—nest rascal in Portland. It was no information to me. I knew it and now Chamberlain has gone and answered him through the press. That's just what Woods wanted.

A county judge should know something. County judge is more important than circuit judge. Estates go through their hands. They appoint guardians and dispose of wards estates. I'd rather have a fool on the circuit bench than on county judge bench. Last year I paid \$300 taxes and have to pay the same this year. It's an outrage. I got just as good protection in '62 when the tax rate was 5 mills. It's time to elect a good man. It's all a farce to give commissioners \$600 a year to ride around in buggies. There's been a good deal of work done between Dallas and Salem and there's been lots of idleness while working the road. It's a bad law putting money in the hands of a court to distribute where it sees fit. It's a needless expense for it costs to collect and distribute again. Better let men work out their tax.

The district attorney's office is the best in the state for the amount of labor required. One term is enough for any man. Hart is very clever but he's a school teacher, not a lawyer. I say, Hart's a school teacher, not a lawyer.

### Edward Rosendorf Dead.

Edward Rosendorf died at 2:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon in Philadelphia where he was attending medical school. His mother Mrs. Rosendorf, formerly of this place but now of Corvallis, was on the way to his bedside when his death occurred. The remains will be brought back to Oregon.

### Dallas vs Willamette.

The Dallas college team defeated the Willamettes at a game of basket ball, Tuesday evening by a score of 4 to 16. The Willamettes were the heavier but deficient in catching the ball and in landing it in the basket. The Dallas team excels the Willamette in dexterity of action as it does most teams with which it has met.