

# WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS

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## FAULT LIES WITH CITY

### Communication to The News so Places the Blame, But Offers a Remedy.

Forest Grove, Ore., Oct. 15, 1907.  
MR. EDITOR:—In your issue of the 10th inst., your criticism seemed a little severe, at least so far as it applied to the undersigned.

About seven years ago as most of your readers in this city know, a contract was let for furnishing electric current to the city of Forest Grove. This did not include the distribution of the electric current to the citizens, but provided for bringing it on the city lines, and there the responsibility of the party contracting ceased. Previous to this contract the city of Forest Grove employed a man whose duty it was at all times to see that light and water was furnished to the citizens as they required; to see that the lines were always kept in proper condition and, in short, to see that every citizen received full value for what he paid.

In basing the rate of the electric current in that contract, the actual cost was ascertained, that is, the exact amount that it cost the city to furnish its own electric current, and the contract was let for several hundred dollars less. No part of the salary of the man who had charge of the lines was counted, as it was assumed that this man would still be required to look after the lights and water as before. However, soon after the contract was entered into the man taking that place was let out and no man has ever been employed to fill this position from that day to this, save and except at a salary of from \$10 to \$15 per month, some parties have been employed to do some of the work along those lines.

The fact is that part of the time during this term the city lines have been kept in fairly good order and part of the time little care has been given them.

The general public hold the undersigned responsible when anything goes wrong with the lights, as they do not know who else they should blame. Since the rains came this fall the lights in Forest Grove have been very poor, in fact, in parts of the city, especially so, and there is no wonder the citizens complained.

If you, Mr. Editor, would spend an hour with me, I can show you or any citizen of Forest Grove, where a large part of the trouble lies. In south and southeast Forest Grove on almost every circuit, both primary and secondary wires are in the trees and against the limbs, and when the trees are wet, instead of the current going to the consumer it goes to the trees and ground. Not only is this true, but in a part of the city the wires are so overloaded that the loss is very great.

During the last five years in this city I have never known of a copper wire being taken down because it was too small and a larger one replacing it. Now, we all know that the amount of light consumed is very much more than twice what it was at that time, so if the wires were none too large then, they are certainly very much too small now.

The city of Forest Grove has never owned a portable volt meter to test its lines and circuits when citizens complained to find out where the trouble was and some people have had just cause for such complaint.

We have gone over our lines from power house to city twice a year and have cut every branch that touched the wires. We have soldered every joint to prevent loss, but the branches have not been trimmed from the city lines this year at least, and not a joint on the copper wire has been soldered so far as I have learned since Joe Bailey left the service seven years ago.

We have a Standard Volt Meter in the central station here that any person can see at any time and read, and if the same fails to show 104 volts at any time, then we are at fault and are not furnishing the proper voltage; but, instead of this, on account of the loss, we never think of carrying less than 110 to 112 volts, and this can be seen at the car barn at any time. This loss and trouble from trees and branches not only affects the system in Forest Grove, but makes it impossible to furnish outside of the city.

When the aforesaid contract was entered into, the late Hon. David Smith, former mayor of this city, remarked, "That contract is all right but the party furnishing the current should be paid for looking after the distribution

of it in the city, then the people would know who was at fault in case of trouble. If anything goes wrong the general public will not know whether the fault lies in the furnishing of the current or in distributing it." This, Mr. Editor, was well said, and nothing has ever happened to cause any trouble with the lights in any part of the city that a large number of people have not felt that the fault was with us. Sometimes it was, but many times we had nothing whatever to do with it and had no authority to do the work that would remedy it.

If the city of Forest Grove will pay me a sufficient amount of money to employ a good competent man to look after the lights and water in the city for one year, I believe they would not see fit to change it thereafter. There is not another city of this size, I believe, in the state of Oregon that does not have a man who practically puts in his entire time looking after the lights and water of the city. Someone, perhaps, will say that the city cannot afford it, but the records will show that when the city run its own electric plant they ran behind and did not pay expenses, and under the present arrangement the city is receiving for light and water more than twice the amount they pay out for them each year. In fact, several years during this contract, the city has received more net revenue from this source than from its entire tax; and I believe it would be money in the treasury of the city to make such arrangement.

It has been intimated that the city could do better by furnishing its own lights and water. If they feel this is the case, they can secure the return of their contract at any time.

I make this statement simply to show that I do not feel that I am to blame for the conditions existing, and I do not wish to blame anyone. In fact, the matter has been allowed to go without proper attention and care. If they should not wish me to furnish this man, for the good of the city and the service, I hope they will select someone who will go over the entire system and place it in proper condition and put in his time in keeping it so.

Yours Truly,  
(Signed) E. W. HAINES.

## FUN ON FOUNDERS' DAY

### P. U. Students Celebrate Beginning of the Institution.

Many a moon has waned and full since the equal of the Founders' Day Exercises of yesterday at Pacific University. There was not a slow number on the program and the riotous laughter that followed the production of each number by the different classes caused the audience of college folks and townspeople to laugh until their sides were sore indeed. The yells of the four academy classes and those of the college vied with one another for supremacy until the whole auditorium was a veritable bedlam. Founders' Day is the big day for the students, in fact the biggest of the year and in ye olden times cane rushes and class scraps were not at all out of the ordinary.

This day is celebrated in honor of the founding of Pacific which was in 1848—the local institution is the oldest college in the northwest and the second oldest west of the Rocky Mountains.

The three big features of the day were, the take off of the Sophomore class by the Freshmen; the work of the Sophomores themselves; and the "Bride of the Gods" by the Juniors which was in fact the best bit of work that has ever been gotten off at the varsity as a laugh provoker.

About twenty freshmen marched on to the platform sucking their bottles and sticks of striped candy and all took their seats in a long row while Fred Knight called the role of the "fake" Sophomores. Each responded with a little original jingle which made some clever hits. Dick Abraham sang a parody and the whole bunch joined in on the chorus. The climax of their work, however, was the presentation of "Maud's" kind to the "Softy mores." The donk was exceedingly real as she was led upon the stage and hurried away with her hind foot when one got familiar with her hands.

Leo Amzi, alias C. Franklin Koch,

the clairvoyant and palmist, who read the hands of the take-off Freshmen furnished much fun for the audience. His Sophomore patients did some neat impersonating and clever skits.

But the big event was the take-off by the Juniors on the "Bride of the Gods" as dramatized and produced by the Senior class last year. Vergil Waterman took Sam Lawrence's part as chief of the Willamettes and extracted a bunch of loud giggles by his address to his tribe with the conclusion: "My words are ended, Sambo has spoken." His head gear—just a feather duster poked down into his nether garments, was neat Miss Helen Chandler as Minnie Heidel was extremely good in her love making with Herbie Witham—Herbert Armon impersonated—and his death was a side splitter.

Miss Bertha Homes—a la Miss Esther Silverman the seer—had a neat prophecy of the fall of the Seniors and the succession by the Juniors. The bridge fell and all crouching around in a circle with their Indian make-up on they gave the death wail, and all was over.

Herbert Armon presided at the exercises and the following representatives spoke besides the above program: S. B. Lawrence, The Index; Miss Gladys Hartley, Kappa Delta; Robert Imlay, Gamma Sigma; H. L. Bates, Social Union; Miss Jessie Hoge, Philos; W. E. Gwynn, Alpha Zeta; Miss Esther Silverman, Y. W. C. A.; Ralph Abraham, Y. M. C. A. and Vernon Gould, Tualatin Academy.

## MET DEATH BY STEAM WOOD SAW

Ruel M. Bisbee, whose right arm was completely severed at the elbow and whose left arm was badly mangled from the shoulder down last Saturday by being hurled upon a wood saw, died at his home two miles west of here Sunday morning from the effects of the injuries.

Mr. Bisbee had been in this city Saturday afternoon and left for his home about 4 o'clock. As soon as he arrived he began work with another man with a steam wood saw and it was but a few moments thereafter as he turned from the saw that he stepped on a rolling stick which threw him headlong toward the saw. He threw out his right arm for protection and it came in contact with the buzzing saw, being completely severed at the elbow. His left side was badly bruised which is thought to have caused a hemorrhage and his left arm was mangled frightfully. Doctors Hines, Via and Large were summoned and dressed the wounds and it was thought that he would easily recover but Sunday morning he passed away, the immediate cause of his death being due to a hemorrhage in the chest which was caused by the fall.

Ruel Bisbee was born in Clarinda, Iowa, and was 39 years of age. He came here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bisbee, in the eighties. He graduated from Pacific University with the class of '96 since when he had been running his father's farm on Gales Creek. He leaves a wife, his parents and a brother, Del Bisbee of Portland.

The funeral services were held Tuesday under the direction of the Knights of Pythias of this city at the Naylor cemetery.

(By Thatcher Correspondent.)

We are called upon to chronicle the death of our friend and neighbor, Ruel M. Bisbee, who was injured by being thrown across the wood saw which severed the right arm below the elbow and mangled the left arm. The shock of the accident proved too much for his system and he died Sunday morning, Oct. 13, about 6 o'clock. His wife was in Portland at the time of the accident, but on receiving a phone message secured a livery and accompanied by a brother arrived home in time to be recognized by her husband before he breathed his last.

He was a man of whom it can be said "He had not an enemy." He was a kind neighbor, always ready to grant a favor if in his power and will be greatly missed.

## Teachers' Institute.

Annual Teachers' Institute will be held in the court house at Hillsboro, October 30, 31 and Nov. 1.

Supt. M. C. Gase has been planning for some time to give the teachers of Washington county one of the best institutes ever held here and from the able corps of instructors engaged such is insured. Among the instructors and lecturers employed appear the names of the following prominent leaders in education:

Hon. J. H. Ackerman, superintendent

of public instruction, Salem; Dr. Clarence True Wilson, pastor of Grace M. E. church, Portland; D. H. D. Sheldon, instructor in state university, Eugene; Prof. L. R. Traver, principal of training department, Monmouth Normal; Prof. L. K. Alderman, superintendent of Eugene city schools, Eugene; Miss Cornelia Marvin, secretary of library commission, Salem; Mrs. L. V. Sweezy, instructor of music, Berkeley, California; Robert C. Yenney, M. D., secretary of the state board of health, Portland; Hon. W. J. Kerr, president of O. A. C., Corvallis.

On November 1, a meeting of the school officers of Washington county will be held in connection with the institute. This is the first meeting of school officers called in this county and it promises to result in much good toward promoting the interests of our schools.

George Claxson, a jolly sort of a fellow who had been with the circulation department of the Journal for several years and who had made this town often and was an especial friend of the LaCourse family, committed suicide by hanging himself in Portland a few days since. He had been in Eastern Oregon working on the special edition of the Journal that was recently got out and when he returned home he found his wife and daughter seriously ill with typhoid fever. He had just bought a couple of lots and put up a new house and got to brooding over the possibility of losing all he had which is assigned as the reason for his rash deed.

## LYDA'S SAW MILL BURNS THIRD TIME

William Lyda's sawmill located four miles north of here and valued at \$12,000 was completely destroyed by fire Sunday night about eleven o'clock. There was but \$3,000 insurance on the institution. This is the third time that Mr. Lyda has had his sawmill burned to the ground and the second time on the very same location and foundation. Both other times there was no insurance and the loss was complete.

There is no explainable theory as to how the fire caught only that some one has it in for Mr. Lyda and has determined to burn the mill as often as it is rebuilt, for the fire in the fire-box was completely out when Frank Ralston, the engineer, left for his home last Saturday night. When an employee passed through the building at ten o'clock Sunday night, there was not a sign of a fire, and the mill was in ashes by eleven. The work was that of a firebug evidently.

Two years ago Monday morning, April 10, 1905, at about half past two the Lyda mill was burned to the ground without a bit of insurance and that burned last Sunday was built on the old foundation. When the fire was discovered Sunday night at 10:45 two-thirds of the whole building was enveloped in flames and had it not been for a change in the wind from the west to the southeast all of the lumber would have been burned despite the desperate fighting of the men.

The only accident was suffered by Ray Northrup of Glencoe, who was returning from the Grove and stopped to fight the fire. In jumping from a slab conveyor 20 feet high he wrenched his back badly and strained the tendons of his ankles.

The output of the mill was 30,000 feet per day and there were 33 men employed by the institution—18 in the mill and 13 in the camp on the Killin place near Banks. Many orders were in to be filled, not only from the local trade but some big bills from the east. This has been a banner year for the Lyda sawmill and the demand has been better than ever before. The loss will not only be a severe blow to its owner but will be a serious loss to the community as well, as it is a very difficult thing to get lumber.

Mr. Lyda will not rebuild as he says there is a hoodoo hanging over his head and it seem as though he cannot shake it off. He has been in the sawmill business all his life and his father was the pioneer sawmill man of Washington County.

## Hawaiian Damsels Our Guests

There will be an informal reception this Thursday evening in Marsh Hall, to enable the citizens and students to meet the Company of young Hawaiian ladies whom Mrs. Edith Tozier Wethered is conducting through the state.

There will be music by the visitors and others and all are invited to come and welcome our Hawaiian guests. Eight to ten Thursday evening.

## PATRONS CELEBRATE!

### Second Annual Meeting at Condenser Big Success--Good Program.

In the neighborhood of 1200 dairymen from all over Washington county met at the Forest Grove Condenser Saturday last for the second Annual Patrons' Day Celebration, and the whole crowd went home after the program was over praising the event as the best and most successful meeting the dairymen of this county has ever held.

People began to arrive by ten o'clock and watched the demonstration of the milk machine and exchanged ideas as to the different phases of the dairy farm from their standpoint, and took pleasure in viewing the twenty fine registered Holstein bulls which were on exhibition.

The condenser was thrown open to everybody and there was hardly a soul there but what wore the badge of the Pacific Coast Condensed Milk Company. Many had not seen the machinery in operation and for these there was much interest to see the labelers in operation, the rapidity of the soldering girls and the precision and unity of the whole factory.

On entering a badge was pinned on each guest from the office and as they passed on into the next rooms a big barrel of cider served to lay the dust and slack the patrons' thirst.

Near noon-tide the throng of folks crowded their way up the stairway and into the large storage room, priming themselves for the feed. And Harry H. Stewart mounted the platform at the dot of time and gave the signal for lunch, prepared by Mr. Villiger of the Colonial Hotel. The guests ate, drank and were merry for almost two hours when cigars and ice cream were distributed, and then came the speech fest.

H. H. Stewart called the meeting to order and introduced Senator Edward Wright Haines who gave the address of welcome. Mr. Haines extended the glad hand from the rostrum to all present, and then spoke of the power the condensers have had in building up this city until now there are in the neighborhood of 3000 people living here. And while the town has grown rapidly the condenser has grown still more rapidly. Mr. Haines had formerly been in the mercantile business in this city and said that he was in a position to know the financial condition of the old line farmer and the dairy farmer. The old liner harvested once a year and got his pay check annually. He paid his bills at the end of the year and in many cases left them over for the next year. But the dairyman gets his check every month and meets his bills every month. He not only has enough to square all accounts but is loaning money to his neighbors. While Washington is now the banner dairying county of Oregon, the industry is yet in its infancy.

President Ferrin began his talk in a humorous strain saying that all were patrons for when the milk of the cow gets thin we always take down the Carnation can from the shelf. He stated the economic law that wealth comes from the producers, the miners, the lumbermen and the farmers. He quoted statistics showing that the farmers had produced \$7,000,000,000 the past year, more than the entire wealth of the nation fifty years ago. He urged the farmers to send their boys and girls to public schools, high schools and college.

Byron Hunter of the government experiment station at Corvallis, gave a splendid talk on "Winter Feeds" recommending kale as the most wholesome of winter feeds. But a few years ago only a farmer here and there grew kale but now there are many of the agriculturists raising it for their cattle. Richard Scott of Milwaukee, has been growing kale for the past 29 years. By forcing its growth by means of a hot bed early in the spring it will be ready for feed by August and will last until April. He urged the farmers to make use of the bulletins prepared by the government, for, said he, it is that man that can cut down his hours and make a success of his business. Three classes of bulletins should be had by the farmer: The one on Milk Fever, An Example of a Modern Farm, and Diseases of Horses and Cattle.

When H. H. Stewart introduced H. E. Farber vice president of the condensers, he said that all families have pets and that of the five factories of the company the one here is Mr. Farber's

pet. Mr. Farber further urged the dairymen to read and become intelligent in farming, saying that the intelligent farmer can raise twice the amount per acre as his uninformed brethren. Increase your dairy herd with the best breed. The company has imported two car loads of registered Holstein bulls from the east and intends to sell them out to the patrons of the condensers on easy terms, with part cash payment and the remainder deducted from the milk check. "Do not fear overproduction for the demand is far greater than the supply and is increasing at a rapid rate. Carnation Cream is shipped to Russia, Australia and a consignment has been sent to the Fiji Islands. The dairy business insures the farmer against any panic in this country as the foreign prices will preserve a market. We will buy all the milk you can produce and our salesman will boost and advertise Forest Grove and Washington county."

J. W. Bailey, state food commissioner, gave a capital address and said that in traveling the world over one could always tell the minute he strikes a dairying community by the thrift and prosperity of its people. The houses and buildings of the farms are always better and they are a happy people. He urged the farmers to increase their herds with better cows "as there is no danger of over production. There never has been a time when the state was producing more nor a time when there was a greater demand."

C. A. Malboef, general freight agent of the Southern Pacific, gave some interesting figures on the effect of the dairy on the freights on their line. The two milk condensers in Washington county, one at Forest Grove, the other at Hillsboro, furnish more cars of milk to ship in a year than there are cars of wheat shipped along their entire West Side line from Portland to Corvallis. In 1900 their freight receipts from Washington county were \$175,000, this year they will be \$1,000,000. No other county in the state has shown such an increase in business as Washington county, and it is today the greatest producing section of the state, judging by the freight furnished the Southern Pacific road.

## NEW DEMOCRATIC PAPER

### Washington County Democrats Want Representation.

Rumor was current in Hillsboro Monday that Washington county was to have a democratic newspaper. In as much as the Hillsboro Argus, since it passed into the hands of Mr. Guild, has been made into a republican paper, it is understood that it is for this reason that the democratic element feel the need of an organ that will exploit its side in this county. It could not be learned where the paper was to be located but it is thought that Hillsboro will be selected as the place as that would be the center of the political field. It is said that a conference was held last Monday in the latter city among the prominent democrats both from here and Hillsboro and all the arrangements were perfected to launch the new paper. Rumors have been current here and at Hillsboro for some time to this effect but it was not until Monday that any tangible evidence of the fact presented itself. And it was hinted, too, that one of the present county papers proposes to switch over into the democratic column.

## Died.

Richard M. Taylor, the 2 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Taylor of the Wagner Addition, died yesterday after an illness of about twenty days. The funeral will be held tomorrow.

## New Laundry.

James T. Newberry of Seattle, and former Forest Grove boy, will start a new laundry here. He was in the city today and made all arrangements to start in about a month. He will put in new machinery and conduct a first class laundry.

Mrs. McCune and her son Co-mar McCune and bride were visiting their friends Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Hoffman last week, and have returned to their home in Nebraska. Mr. McCune just got his bride in Seattle.