

# O'KANE'S LIFE IS CHECKERED

BUILDER'S CAREER IS EVENTFUL

Stowaway, News Boy, Tailor, Promoter, Hotelman, Miner, Packer and Globe Trotter, Make Up Part of Activities.

Stowaway, newsboy, tailor, promoter, packer, horseman, hotel proprietor, miner and globe trotter, sums up the activities of Hugh O'Kane, builder of the new O'Kane building. Mr. O'Kane is willing to tell almost anything about himself except his age, and that he refuses to divulge.

In his early youth, the pastoral scenes of County Antrim, Ireland, where he was born, no longer had fascinations for this youth O'Kane. At an early age he was besieged by the desire to go. He did not call it travel. He had a longing for the water and left his Irish home, stole away to Greenock and, as a stowaway, shipped from Liverpool, England. Several months were consumed in rambling about the Portuguese and Spanish coasts. Young O'Kane returned in a ship's hull again to Liverpool, and by the pedestrian route covered a considerable part of England. Still restless, O'Kane, with several lads about his own age, stowed away again at Liverpool. Thoughtless of any destination, the boys woke up one morning in New York harbor. They wisened themselves up as to the methods of evading the customs officers and landed ashore during the night. Even in those days New York was not such a small city, and youthful Hughie was compelled immediately to look for a livelihood, for he had no pennies in his pocket.

Shining boots on Bleeker street and selling evening papers was his first adventure. His first night in New York was spent at the Newsboys' Home, where he obtained supper, bed and breakfast for the lowest cost-of-living price of 11 cents. Young Hughie found boot blacking and paper selling sufficiently remunerative to enable him to take up night school work under the direction of an expert tailor. Under this man, O'Kane learned the trade of a cutter, which trade he plied during the early morning and afternoon

LOBBY AND OFFICE OF THE BEND HOTEL, HUGH O'KANE, PROPRIETOR



The O'Kane Building occupies the site of the Hotel, which was burned to the ground in August, 1916.

hours, and selling papers in the evenings.

O'Kane was only about 12 years old at this time and was capable of making his living in good shape, and was also successful in eluding the searchings of his parents, who were solicitous for his return to his home in Ireland, but Hughie remained in this country. As a cutter, he made a remarkable success and was sent on one occasion to London and Paris for a large American tailoring concern.

Late in the seventies and early in the eighties, the northwest was being opened and the Northern Pacific was pushing its way through the states of North Dakota and Minnesota. Again the desire to go obsessed the young Irish youth and he packed up his few belongings and left for St. Paul, later to go to Bismarck, North Dakota. The railroad construction through North Dakota was at that time at its height and young O'Kane found much to gratify his desire for pioneering.

Mr. O'Kane tells, with some regret, that early in the eighties he wintered on the site of the present town of Livingston, Montana, where he, with a party of packers, built a small cabin, having squatters' right to the land. They remained there during the winter, and when spring came they were visited by a horseman by the name of Innes, who made the proposition to O'Kane and others that he trade them horses for the cabin. O'Kane was the spokesman for the crowd and consented to trade the cabin and the squatters' right for a cayuse. Two years later the land was sold for \$5,000 and in the succeeding year the Northern Pacific took up the tract, paying the sum of \$15,000, and started the pres-

ent town of Livingston, Montana.

During the Custer-Indian war, O'Kane packed provisions for Major General Reno and recalls many exciting pioneer days in the wilds of Montana, Colorado and Nevada.

Along in 1881, Mr. O'Kane became identified with Tom Cannon, at that time champion Greco-Roman wrestler of the world. O'Kane was employed by Cannon to manage an extended campaign in Europe, which took him to many of the most important ports and cities in the Mediterranean Sea. He was away on this trip more than 14 months, returning to America later to manage a tour for Ed. Skinner and Marley Kettlemann, two crack sprinters, on their trip to Australia, where, under O'Kane's management, they won the famous Melbourne handicap.

Shortly after his return from Australia, Mr. O'Kane was married to Miss Helen A. Wright, of Helena, Montana. Mr. O'Kane admits that Mrs. O'Kane has had a hard time keeping track of him in his journeys and many adventures.

In 1895 Mr. O'Kane went to Grangeville, Idaho, where he opened a large hotel in the northern Idaho town just at the time when the north Idaho mines were in their palmy days. Mr. O'Kane says that he has made several stakes, some of them almost in a night and others in a brief space of time, and in addition has lost them, but in losing he was always willing to tackle another bet. While in Grangeville he made that place his headquarters for an extensive circuit for race horse men, who retained Mr. O'Kane as manager. This business took him to almost every state in the Union.

Mr. O'Kane came to Bend in 1903 and remained here a short time. He

left Bend and returned in 1904. In 1905 he built the Hotel Bend which was destroyed August 30, 1916, by fire. The Hotel Bend was one of the landmarks of Central Oregon and was a popular rendezvous for the commercial man, homesteader and many local people.

Following the fire Mr. O'Kane almost immediately entered into negotiations for the erection of a modern business block, which he said at that time when completed would be the finest business block in Central Oregon. The general belief is that he has fulfilled that promise in the erection in Bend of the O'Kane building at the corner of Oregon and Bond streets.

### The Elevator Boy Protests.

Did you ever stop to consider the feelings of an elevator boy in an office building? "How'd you like to spend your days in a cage, goin' up, comin' down, same bad air, same old shafts slippin' by, never nothin' to see? How d'ye like it on a sunny day when you were dyin' to play baseball?" says the elevator boy.

"I never thought about it at all," the passenger answered.

"Well, I have. I thought about it most of the time for four years. Even the fellows in Sing Sing gets out sometimes, but we don't. When I get to feelin' I can't stand it, I think of block after block of office buildings in this town, every one of 'em with fifteen or twenty cages, and a fellow like me in every one of 'em, spendin' his life goin' up, comin' down, goin' up, comin' down—and outside the world goin' on."—American Magazine.

## CALIFORNIA

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### Some Golf Shot.

A Glasgow golfer vouches for the following: "Playing over the Cathcart castle course one evening last summer with two friends, we were approaching the fourth green, which is of the plateau type. Having played my second, I was preparing to walk toward the green when the air was rent with loud laughter and shouting. On going forward to inquire the cause of the hilarity we learned that my shot had overrun the green, passed between the legs of the player who was at the moment in the act of driving from the fifth tee (the fifth being at right angles to the fourth), knocked his ball from the tee, and his club, descending, had made a perfect shot with my ball to the edge of the fifth green, 175 yards away."—Golfer's Magazine.

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Owing to our increase in business and our additional expense and equipment, we will be compelled to make wood deliveries only on a cash basis. We will be pleased to have it understood by our customers that orders henceforth can be accepted only on this condition. Oregon Fuel Company, C. E. Hamilton, Manager. 37-38c

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The season's earliest and best offerings will always be seen in our windows, and only the highest quality of Fruit and Garden stuffs will be carried.

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Nothing will be spared to give our customers the most exacting service that can be given. We will work incessantly toward this end.

### QUALITY---

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IT'S GOOD IF WE HAVE IT

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### Announcement

We wish to announce to the people of Bend that we have coming in direct from the jobber one car load of canned goods which comes fresh from the packers. This car is made up of goods that comprise the fall pack, and is the latest offering in this line available.

We hope that you will make use of the telephone when you are desirous of sending in your order. These requests will receive careful attention. Our number is BLACK 331

O'KANE  
BUILDING  
BEND, OREGON

# LOUIS BENNETT, GROCER

OREGON STREET

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BUILDING  
BEND, OREGON