

East Oregon Herald.

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NEWS IN GENERAL

FROM OUR EXCHANGES.

A Queer Kitty.

"Did you ever see a snake killing a cat? I had one once that had a regular passion for killing snakes. I was running a lumber camp in Florida. It was in a very sparsely settled county, plenty of marsh and rotten trees, and altogether an ideal retreat for snakes of all kinds. We never did know where that cat came from. It strolled into camp one day, although there was not a house within 10 miles of it. The next day we found it engaged in mortal combat with a rattlesnake. The snake did not last very long. After that the cat would kill every snake it found. It would begin by patting them softly with its paws, perhaps scratching the skin just a trifle. Its purpose seemed to be to irritate the snake to the striking point. When it rose to strike the cat would jump around it, and nip it in the back before the snake could turn its head. It would yank the snake by the tail, and keep on nipping it until its back was broken in several places. Then the cat would drag the dead snake to camp with great pride, and would purr and sing in great shape. That cat kept the camp itself clear of snakes. Before that time we were almost afraid to go to sleep for them. When we broke camp I tried to bring the cat away with me, but it would not follow. It stayed in its native woods, preferring hunting snakes to a civilized life."—Ex.

Murdered By Masked Men.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., May 25.—The striking miners at the Pratt mines are held responsible for a cowardly

assassination which occurred at that place Sunday morning. A mob of masked men went to the house of Walter Glover, a miner who had refused to strike, and called him out, telling him they were officers and desired to see him. Glover opened the door, when a volley was fired. Glover was riddled with bullets, and died instantly: His bed, wherein slept several children, was also riddled, but the children escaped by fleeing from the house. The mob fled, closely pursued by Deputies Hickman and Massey, who were armed with rifles. A running fight followed for half a mile. One of the murderers fell wounded, but the others lifted him up and the entire party escaped to the woods. When Sheriff Morrow arrived with reinforcements he arrested Con Sullivan, Jerry Hillery and John Driver, three strikers, who were brought here to jail. Dogs that were placed on the murderers' trail aided in locating the men who were arrested. Other arrests will follow, as there were a dozen or more men in the mob. Great excitement prevails at the Pratt mines. The strikers are highly indignant over the arrest of the men, and held an indignation meeting.—East Oregonian.

A Firecycle.

About the latest thing is a bicycle intended for use by fire departments. It carries a chemical engine and a light ax, instruments that in many cases are all that are needed to subdue a fire if they are at hand in time. In some cities of Europe a part of the fire department is a swift horse saddled and bridled and carrying a chemical apparatus for subduing fires, with an ax attached, and an expert rider ready to spring on the horse's back the moment the alarm is sounded and ride swiftly to the scene of the fire. He can reach it some minutes or seconds before the heavy lumbering engine can reach there, and often this saving of time is of the greatest value, and the rider's services are all that is necessary in checking what might otherwise become a disastrous conflagration. This feature of the Fire Department is one of the means by which so many fires in Europe are confined to the room or building in which they start.

A bicycle has advantages over a horse for this kind of service, as it can travel as swiftly, is more easily handled at the scene of fire, requires but little care and no food, and is especially adapted to small towns and suburban districts.

The Squeak.

"During a trip down the river in a steambot a few years ago," said H. G. Wareham, of Memphis, at the Laclede last evening, "I was greatly amused at a joke perpetrated by a ventriloquist who happened to be on board. The man had made friend with the engineer, and was permitted to enter the engine room.

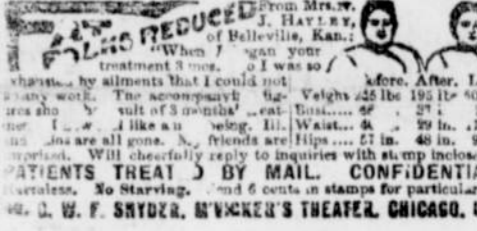
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He took a seat in the corner, and pulling his hat over his eyes, appeared to be lost in thought. Presently a certain part of the machinery began to squeak. The engineer oiled it and went about his usual duties. In the course of a few minutes the squeaking was heard again, and the engineer rushed, oil can in hand, to lubricate the same spindle. Again he returned to his post, but it was only a few more minutes before the same spindle was squeaking louder than ever. "Confound the thing! What in the d— is the matter with it?" yelled the engineer, as he administered more oil. Something about the ventriloquist's manner

just then seemed to arouse the engineer's suspicions, and he kept a close watch on him out of the corner of his eye. Pretty soon the spindle began to squeak again, and slipping up behind the ventriloquist the engineer squirted half a pint of oil down his neck. "There," he said "I guess that spindle won't squeak any more."



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