

Rogue River Courier.

VOL. XXV.

GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1909.

No. 19.

A TWO MONTHS TRIP IN CAL.

MAYOR H. C. KINNEY ARRIVED HOME SUNDAY NIGHT

A VERY PLEASANT OUTING

Four Thousand Miles Made by Automobile During the Two Months' Visit in the Sunshine State.

Mayor H. C. Kinney and party, who left here on their California tour on May 31, arrived home on Sunday evening, having traveled more than 4000 miles in an automobile during the time of their absence. The party consisted on the start of Mr. and Mrs. Kinney, their son Paul, and Mrs. Mary E. Dodge, and on the return, Miss Marjorie Kinney was added. The story of the itinerary of the auto travelers covers a period of more than two months travel through a beautiful, as well as picturesque country. On their way south they made short stops at Ashland and Dunsmuir. At the latter place they shipped their machine to Redding on account of rough roads. Then from Redding they ran to Arbuckle the first day and the next to Oakland. After some little delay they went on toward the south, passing many beautiful places, finally reaching Pasadena, a distance, the way they traveled, of practically 1000 miles from Grants Pass. They made the longest stay during the trip at Los Angeles, visiting the small towns near that place for some time. They were fortunate enough to be able to attend the commencement exercises of the Pomona college at Claremont, at which time Miss Kinney, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kinney, graduated in vocal and piano music. After this they covered a large part of the Southern California country, going as far as the borders of Mexico. They passed through a land of sunshine day after day, which showed the effect of capital, knowledge and energy in the way of making beautiful towns, cities, gardens and farms.

Mr. Kinney says that Southern California offers a fair illustration of what can be accomplished by unity of the people of both town and country. Every householder, he says, is a boomer for the country and public and private improvement in the city. He is greatly enthralled at the way Southern Californians do things, and the thorough-going style in which they boom their section. The party not only enjoyed the outing, but all are looking the very picture of robust health. Paul ran the big Winton car all the way from Grants Pass through California and back to this city managing it with perfect skill, and from first to last escaped accidents of any kind. Considering his years, it was in all re-

spects a triumph worthy of an expert runner.

Time for Final Spraying.

Fruit growers are hereby notified that now is the time for final spraying with arsenate of lead for codlin moth. Not later than the 15th of August spray all late fruits such as will not mature until after September 1.

Merchants have been notified not to buy or sell infected fruit. There is a penalty attached for selling or offering for sale diseased fruits in Josephine county.

Growers who desire to market their fruit should use every precaution to insure themselves against loss. I have been compelled to confiscate some apples this month infected with both scale and worms, and parties bringing such fruit to town to sell are again warned as to their liability to fine. There is no use in having laws unless they are enforced.

J. F. BURKE,
County Fruit Inspector.

SIX BIDS FOR REMOVING THE OLD BRIDGE

The county board opened proposals on Wednesday for bids for taking down the old bridge across Rogue river at the foot of Sixth street. There were six bidders and below we give the bids of each under the specifications given in the advertisement in last week's Courier. The propositions are as follows:

First, to remove the entire structure and place all of the material on the north bank of the river. Second, to remove the main span and place the material on the north bank of the river. Third, to throw the main span of the bridge up stream and then drag the material to the most convenient bank of the river. None of the bids to include the piers. The successful bidder will be required to give an indemnity bond in the sum of \$20,000.

The bidding was as follows: C. W. Tripplett and Henry M. Axtell, Grants Pass, (1) \$2300; (2) \$1950. J. B. Tillitson, Portland, (1) \$3144; (2) \$2893. J. T. Logan and W. E. Young (3) \$5000. E. G. Parham, (1) \$4850; (2) \$4500. (3) \$4600. Grants Pass Iron & Steel Works (1) \$3490; (2) \$2950; (3) \$3300.

Injured While Pulling Stumps.

Will Wheeler was brought to the South Pacific hospital last Friday with both bones in his left leg broken and other parts of his body badly bruised. He was pulling stumps with a team on his place on Jerome Prairie when a part of the harness broke, the whiffletree flying back and striking him a terrible blow. Dr. Coffey, of Portland, and Dr. Loughridge attended the man, and for a time it was thought he had sustained internal injuries also, but he is now gaining strength and no complications are arising to cause anxiety. Mr. Wheeler has been a resident of this place only about a year.

20 Per cent discount on Refrigerators at Hair-Riddle Hardware Co's.

A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY IN DEPTHS OF OREGON CAVES

Frank Ellis, One of Grants Pass' Most Popular Young Men, While Leading a Party Is Accidentally Killed.

A few minutes after the hour of noon last Sunday an accident occurred at what are known as the Oregon Caves in this county, which resulted in the death of one of the most popular young men in Grants Pass.

It had been planned by Frank Ellis a former clerk in the National drug store, who was married a little over three months ago, and Arthur Vinyard, a clerk in the grocery of T. B. Cornell, married less than a week, to go on a camping trip to the caves and they left here on Thursday of last week and arrived in the neighborhood of the caves on Saturday, on the Williams Creek side. They were accompanied by their wives and a sister of Mrs. Vinyard, also a sister of Mr. Vinyard. On Sunday morning they started for the caves, being supplied with a ball of cord and some candles. Ellis had taken with him from camp a 38 calibre revolver.

Near the entrance of the caves they met two strangers who told them they were from California and had been in that neighborhood for some time. These strangers showed some curiosity or interest in the party and asked them many questions and among others where their camp was located. After leaving, the strangers were the subject of comment by the party. Some one ventured the opinion that they were bandits and there were other idle speculations regarding these and other men who had, or might have, occupied the caves. Then they talked about cougars and bears inhabiting the caves. The speculations and stories were certainly calculated to make the women, all of whom were extremely young, decidedly nervous, but they entered the caves at the upper entrance using their ball of cord to guide them out of the dark cavern on their return. Ellis went ahead with a gun, and, as he expressed it, ready for any emergency. Vinyard carried the candles. From the entrance they slid down an incline for a few feet and then followed winding passages, passing through a number of chambers. At one place, about a hundred and fifty feet from the entrance, Ellis climbed a passage several feet above the floor of the room they were leaving. Suddenly a shot rang out on the confined air of the cave and Ellis fell back at the feet of Vinyard, who was nearest to him. The women screamed in terror. Three of them with Vinyard started for the entrance but one girl stopped and wanted to go back and not leave Mrs. Ellis. But Vinyard went on calling upon the girl to follow or she would be killed, and taking the candles with them they all fled leaving Mrs. Ellis and her dying husband in the dark cavern where not a ray of light penetrated. The wife groped her way to the side of her husband and taking two matches from his pocket, struck a light and by this means and the sense of feeling, found that the ball had entered the left eye and from that wound the blood was flowing. She tore up her undergarments with which she endeavored to staunch the flow of blood, and sitting down she took his head in her lap, calling him loving names and pleading with him to speak to her, but he had been unconscious from the very first. She pressed the cloths she had provided to the wound and felt his heart and found it beating weakly, but a moment later she imagined the throbs grew stronger and attributed it to her stopping the flow of blood. Finally after what seemed to her hours, the heart ceased and she became convinced that he was dead, but still she pillowed the head of the loved one in her lap and continued to do so until the body grew cold and the rigidity of death came on; then it was she arose and took off more of her garments

and placed them as a pillow under his head and then followed the string to the entrance of the cave. Once outside she went up the hill for more than three miles to the Fetzer camp where she arrived about four o'clock, a most pitiable sight. She was covered with blood and her clothing reduced to only her outer garments. When it was all over she broke down in her agony of grief.

The balance of the party who had fled from the cave ran all the way to the Fetzer camp, where they told a story of being attacked by robbers and reported Ellis killed. They claimed that numerous shots were fired. Mr. Fetzer at once went to a telephone office some miles away, and called up the sheriff's office, but that officer being absent, Deputy Sheriff Cheshire took charge of the matter and notified Dr. Stricker, the coroner, and these gentlemen, accompanied by T. B. Cornell, went out to the foot of the mountain with Mr. Olding in his automobile. They went within 9 miles of the cave and walked the balance of the way, reaching the Fetzer camp at four Monday morning. There they halted for information, then pressed on to the cave, which they entered and found the body of Ellis. The coroner made a careful study of the situation and became convinced that the dead man had been accidentally killed by a shot from his own revolver. He found the weapon above the rocks and it had a single empty chamber which told from whence had come the messenger of death. The body was taken out and carried to the road where Undertaker Hall's wagon met the party and conveyed the remains to the city, arriving here about 8 o'clock. The body was at once prepared for shipment and taken on the night train to Dallas, this state, where it was buried on Tuesday afternoon.

Dr. Smith and Edward Clanton, the brother-in-law of Mrs. Ellis, left here on Sunday to look after Mrs. Ellis, reaching camp at 3:30 a. m., returning with her on Tuesday.

Mr. Ellis, the father of Frank, arrived here on Monday morning and took charge of affairs and accompanied the remains to Dallas. The young widow and her sister and Mrs. Clanton also accompanied the father. Mr. Ellis, senior, formally lived in Grants Pass and some years ago became the purchaser of the National drug store and still owns the establishment, but it is run on a lease by J. A. Slover.

Frank Ellis was born April 20, 1885, and was married on his 21st birthday to Miss Victorine A. Pollock. He was a young man of many sterling qualities, an active member of the Christian church and was respected by all who knew him. He was a reliable druggist and was soon to become the head of a business of his own in another city. His life was insured in the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance company for \$2000 on favor of his wife.

Mrs. Ellis was a popular Grants Pass girl of a pioneer family of this county. She only a few months ago lost a brother, who met a tragic death in a mine at Galice. Her sad experience in the Oregon caves will be told by the future historian of Josephine county. The story of her devotion was stronger than threatening death. When called upon to flee from danger, love and duty held her to the spot; others might fly from the supposed attack of the bandits, but she remained to stop the flow of blood of the one she loved. Truly all the world is a stage, and on it are enacted the tragedies of human life.

Coroner Stricker was so well convinced of the accidental death of Ellis by his own hand that he did not deem it necessary to hold an inquest. Vinyard has been much

blamed for his craven, cowardly conduct, and bitter invectives have been hurled at him, but Coroner Stricker says that it is a well known fact that this young man is nervous to such an extent as to make him, on such occasions, totally irresponsible. This, he says, is called by the harsh name of cowardice. The Courier believes that the criticism of the public has gone to that extent that it is only fair now for them to hear his story of the tragedy and it has secured his statement, which follows:

He said: "We left camp that morning, Frank and his wife, my sister, my wife's sister, with myself and wife, and when reaching the caves there were two men, strangers to us. They told us that they had been running wild in the woods for the past two or three weeks, and questioned us about various matters relative to where we were camping, and whether it was better to go in the cave in the upper or the lower entrance. I then suggested that they go in through the upper end, which they did. When they were gone, Frank and I and the girls talked about the men and we all thought they might be bent on making us trouble. We went to the upper entrance and while we were getting our string ready to take in the cave with us in order to find our way out again, these men came up and went on in the caves and were in there but a few minutes when they came out and we started in and they watched us until we were out of sight. I suggested that I go ahead, as I knew the cave better than they and the girls seemed to be afraid and Frank suggested that he go ahead as he had the gun. After leaving the fifth room, going into the sixth room, we heard the report of a gun and Frank fell backward, dead. The women were naturally frightened so had that they came to the conclusion at once that some one had shot him, and began screaming and calling for help and ran from the caves with the hope of getting help. While leaving the cave Mrs. Ellis called out to me, 'Arthur! Arthur! don't leave me for Frank is shot.' My wife called to me to come as they might shoot us all and began screaming for me to come and get them out. I called Mrs. Ellis to come but she refused to leave the body of Frank and while she stayed there, I took the remaining ladies to Mr. Fetzer's camp, three miles away. I told the story to Mr. Fetzer and he started for the valley nine miles away to get help and asked me to stay at his camp with his family until he returned. In the meantime, Mrs. Ellis appeared at the Fetzer camp and we stayed there until help arrived in the person of Dick Lewman and Lester Halley. Later on a larger number of men arrived upon the grounds, who repaired to the scene of the accident.

"My reason for leaving Mrs. Ellis at this critical time is beyond my power of expression, as we were all more or less of a degree so bewildered at the sudden shock that we could hardly be held accountable for what strange things we might have done. There was no desire to desert Mrs. Ellis, but fear overcame me to such an extent that before I knew what I was doing I had left the cave and taken the other ladies with me."

A. M. VINYARD.

GETTING READY TO PAVE SIXTH STREET

A Committee of Five Appointed by Property Owners to Represent Them.

The committee chosen by the property owners on Sixth street to investigate the question of the kind of pavement wanted had their second meeting on Thursday night last at the rooms of the Commercial Club. Chairman R. L. Coe called the meeting to order and the regular secretary, Joseph Moss, read the report of the previous meeting. Chairman Coe explained the work accomplished by the committee and what remained to be done in order that the paving of Sixth street be commenced. After considerable discussion J. O. Booth moved that a committee of five property owners, of which the chairman should be one, be named by the chair to confer with the city council and do all other ne-

CLUB TO DISCUSS IMPROVEMENTS

THE SUBJECT WILL BE TAKEN UP MONDAY EVENING

AT THE REGULAR MEETING

Investigation of Opportunities to Run Boats from Grants Pass to Ament Dam.

The Commercial Club has given notice that the subject of improving the river for boating purposes from White Rocks to Ament dam will be taken up at the regular monthly meeting on Monday evening August 9. The subject generally will be talked over and if it is thought best a committee will be appointed to make an examination of the river and decide on the practicability of removing the obstructions so as to permit gasoline launches to go over the two or three riffles on that part of the river leading to the dam. This will permit the use for boating purposes of a distance of three miles up the river and a round trip of six miles, which would be of great advantage to the citizens of Grants Pass who are fond of boating, besides being of service to the people living here, and it will be an attraction of great importance to the homeseekers, many of whom would choose Grants Pass or its vicinity as a place of residence when it has been demonstrated to them that we have boating facilities of the greatest value, which no other town in this valley has to offer.

This is one of the important matters in which the Commercial Club can be of real service to this city and county. The facts are that if this slight improvement in the river is made and boats are permitted to make the six-mile trip, this fact alone will be a great advertisement for Grants Pass and will draw hundreds of people annually to this city. There are already more than a dozen boats of all sorts, including a gasoline launch on the river at this point, but they can only go up as far as the White Rocks, a distance of one mile.

When this matter comes up before the club next week it must be kept in mind that no time should be lost in doing the work of opening channels for boats through the obstructions. There can be no great cost in making these improvements and the benefits will be very great.

The scenic attractions of the distance between this city and the Ament dam will draw crowds when boats can go above the present limit. When these improvements are made and boats are running every advertisement issued by the club regarding Grants Pass or Josephine county must of necessity mention the boating advantages. It will be found to be the drawing card; and the one thing that will induce people to come to this point instead of going to localities that are on a dead, common level and are lacking in natural advantages.

cessary things in regard to paving the street. He explained that he would be entirely willing to have any five business men act for him for his interest would be their interest. Such a committee, he said, would be enabled to act promptly and it would not be necessary to call property owners together again if this meeting would instruct the committee as to the wishes of those present. There was considerable discussion and many questions asked when the motion to appoint the committee came up for action and was carried unanimously. The chair then explained that he would not like to appoint the committee without giving the matter some study as he thought it proper to have each section of the street represented.

The following is the committee appointed to take charge of the paving of Sixth street: R. L. Coe, J. D. Fry, L. B. Hill, J. H. Ament, Oscar Schmitt.

Carpets Carpets

O'NEILL, the House Furnisher,
is selling CARPETS

Carpets 35c Values 25c per Yard

GET IN! Sale lasts 10 days only

Only a few can get in on this Special Sale. Have 800 yards to sell; cannot be duplicated at above prices. Don't waste time. Get in while they last.

BE A PROFIT PICKER

O'Neill The House Furnisher