

Rogue River Courier

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GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 1912.

NO. 9

WOULD WRECK SO. PACIFIC TRAIN

ATTEMPT MADE TO DITCH NO. 16
AT MERLIN.

DYNAMITE ON THE TRACK

Six to Eight Sticks of Giant Powder
Ground Under Engine's
Wheels.

A dastardly attempt was made to wreck northbound passenger train No. 16 last Saturday evening, when some miscreant placed dynamite on the Southern Pacific track at Merlin, and only the fact that the powder failed to explode when the wheels of the engine struck it saves the recording of an accident that might have been horrifying in its results.

Following the passage of the first section of No. 16, due at Merlin at about seven o'clock, a brakeman on a freight train discovered dynamite on the track at the upper end of the yard, and near the upper switch. The wheels of No. 16 had ground the explosive into bits, showing that it had been placed directly upon the rails, but from the fragments left it is evident that from six to seven sticks of No. 2 Hercules giant powder had been used in the effort to ditch the train. The powder, which bears the date of manufacture, 1909, was evidently too old to explode from the grinding of the wheels. No cap or fuse was found with it, and it seems likely that the persons who placed it on the track expected it to be fired when the train ran over it.

Powder men say that good fresh powder will readily explode under such conditions if the weather be warm or if the powder be heated. Powder as old as that used at Merlin, however, is never sold, and miners and others who use tons of it in this district every year will buy only freshly made stock. The powder placed upon the track was evidently from some old mining prospect where it had been stored, possibly in a damp place, till its strength had been largely lost, to which fact can be credited the saving of No. 16 and its dozen or more coach-loads of passengers.

The amount of powder used would have been sufficient, say those versed in the action of dynamite, to have hurled the engine from the track, and thus have ditched the entire train.

There is no suspicion pointing in any direction, and no clue was left to aid in the apprehension of the party who endangered scores of lives by a deed that merits capital punishment if any deed does.

MANY PASS EIGHTH GRADE EXAMINATIONS.

In the June 8th grade examinations held throughout the county, the following were successful in passing the examination prescribed by the state, and have been granted state 8th grade diplomas:

District No. 3, Kerby, Elsie Turner.

District No. 4, Waldo, Elza Bagley.

District No. 7, Grants Pass, Thelma Hobson, Horace Hair, Harold King, Lauren Gale, Charlie Hansen, Lester Day, Franz Wickman, Jeannette Moss, Irene Gerould.

District No. 13, Williams, Zella Taylor.

District No. 14, Murphy, Marion Darnelle and Mary Ainsworth.

District No. 15, Placer, Evangeline Dahl.

District No. 18, Kerby, Lella Bryan, Pearl Bryan.

District No. 24, Merlin, Real Brockman, Susie Abell.

District No. 25, Grants Pass, Ruth Huck, Irene Eddy.

District No. 34, Leland, Josie Ruth-erford, Edith Klum.

District No. 42, Waldo, Lena Reynolds, Estra O'Brien, Ruby O'Brien.

District No. 55, Three Pines, Pearl Baer.

JAIL SENTENCES FOR CONVICTED KERBY MEN

Hogue and Akers, the Kerby men recently convicted in Justice Holman's court on a charge of allowing gambling in their establishment, and fined \$19 each and costs, amounting in each case to some \$56, on refusing to pay the fines have been remanded to the county jail to serve out the amount of the assessment against them. This will require their care by the county for some 27 days each.

They pleaded not guilty to selling liquor illegally, and that case will be set for trial some time after they have been released from jail on serving out the present sentence.

TO MAKE AGRICULTURAL SURVEY OF STATE.

M. O. Evans arrived in town Tuesday evening from Corvallis, where he has been attending the Oregon Agricultural College during the past year.

Mr. Evans is one of six young men who have been assigned to duty by the statistical bureau and heads of departments at O. A. C. to make a thorough study of all branches of agriculture in this state. Among the subjects to be investigated are cultural methods, markets, gross receipts and net profits, opportunities for increased production, chances for new settlers, conditions of roads, rural social conditions, etc. The territory assigned to Mr. Evans comprises Josephine and Jackson counties, Douglas county south of Roseburg, and certain districts near Portland. Starting at Ashland and working north, Mr. Evans expects to reach Grants Pass about the middle of July.

GARBAGE CAN MYSTERY SPOILED BY CORONER

Who knows what horrible tragedy may lie hidden from public view in the garbage can, or what deep-dyed villainy might be disclosed if proper inspection of city garbage were made an obligation upon the part of the authorities?

Visions of stretching, straining hemp, or of the vengeance of an outraged people thwarted by one Oswald West and his fountain pen, were recently dancing before the eye of Manager Sisson of the Dollar Ranch.

Mr. Sisson gathers the garbage from the byways and alleys of the town, and sundry swine find many a banquet from the savory (?) mess. Recently the Sisson swine were called about the banquet board, but a sudden halt was called when the chef in charge discovered what he at once identified as the forearm and hand of a murdered infant. This awful thing had been hauled out from Grants Pass in the garbage can that morning, and but for his eagle eye would ultimately have been transformed into good pork sausage.

The evidence of man's tendency to crime was at once collected in a newspaper and Dr. Stricker, county coroner, was asked to "sit" upon it.

All the Sherlock Holmes and Wm. J. Burns tales that the doctor had ever read were called into requisition and the unraveling of this crime of the century was commenced.

The doctor in qualifying for his profession, had learned that a bear's forearm is much like that of the human; he had read through a late copy of The Courier that a bear had but recently been killed, and he knew that the McKinnons, who were Bruin's undoing, were stopping at the Grants Pass Hotel. With bated breath the bearer of the cranny relic whispered that he had gathered the garbage back of the hotel and the mystery was solved, a sensation

YREKA NIGHT WATCHMAN SHOT BY GREEK.

YREKA, Cal., June 14.—Shot in the knee while attempting to arrest Theodore Dullen, a Greek, under a house in Sisson last Sunday, Night Watchman J. A. Daugherty of that city, died in a hospital here today. Dullen is in jail here.

FREIGHT RATES WILL BE LOWER

CHARGES FROM SOUTHERN OREGON TO EAST AFFECTED.

EFFECTIVE BY AUG. 28TH

Will Remove Much of the Discrimination That Has Handicapped This Region.

The Grants Pass Commercial club is in receipt of the good news that a material reduction of freight rates will go into effect in the near future whereby Southern Oregon will be released from part of the discrimination that has handicapped it in the past.

At Monday night's session of the club a communication was read from Edward M. Cousins, traffic attorney of Portland, to the effect that a preliminary adjustment of the freight rates from eastern points to Southern Oregon that this community has been working upon for the past two years would go into effect not later than August 28th, through which there would be liberal reductions in class rates.

Mr. Cousins, in his communication to the club, said:

"From Missouri river points such as Duluth, St. Paul, Omaha and Kansas City, the new class rates will be the same as the present terminal rates, a reduction running all the way from \$1.23 at Ashland to 46 cents at Eugene on first class freight and other classes in proportion.

"From Chicago and New York the rates will be cut proportionately, but not to as great extent as from Missouri river.

"While the reduction in the case of Southern Oregon points is quite material, a matter of much more consequence to the commercial welfare of that section, is the removal of the discrimination against those points in favor of Portland and other terminal points because in the future the class rates from eastern points will be the same as to Portland. This has been brought about by advancing some of the rates to Portland, but all of the class rates to Southern Oregon are materially reduced.

"The effect of these new rates will be that the interior cities will be able to purchase goods in the middle west at exactly the same freight rate advantage as the terminal points. This will tend to build up the jobbing trade in the middle west and the commercial and manufacturing enterprises in the Southern Oregon country as they will have an independent source of supply at no disadvantage in freight rates. From the Atlantic seaboard the coast will still have an advantage in freight rates because of water competition, but the interior may still enjoy whatever advantages there is in that competition also."

There can be no question that these new rates will permit a wide expansion in all lines of business and encourage the location of many new industries, but the attorney points out that there is still a productive field for constant endeavor in securing other favorable rate adjustments, and that the few petitions before the Interstate Commerce Commission would indicate that this portion of the northwest was not taking full advantage of its opportunity to protect its interests.

OREGON CITY, June 13.—Suing his wife for divorce, Carden Smith alleged he was practically isolated from human companionship because his life partner used so many "cuss" words the neighbors would not visit them.

PORTLAND, June 13.—"She needed exercise," explained George Smythe when asked why he chased his wife under the bed. "So do you," remarked the court genially, as he sentenced George to 90 days on the rockpile.

SALMON MAY BE SOLD IS NEW RULING MADE

With the closing of Rogue river to commercial fishing, the law was construed by the legal department of the state to mean that not only was commercial fishing with seines and nets prohibited at all seasons of the year, but that the selling of fish caught by legal methods of fishing was likewise tabooed. A recent opinion from the office of the attorney general of the state places a more liberal construction upon the law, however, and under this present ruling it will now be lawful to sell upon the open market salmon caught during the open season, by legal angling.

It is still unlawful to sell trout at any season of the year. Rogue river is open to fishing with hook and line at all times, but under the former construction placed on the law fishermen have not been permitted to dispose of their surplus catch of salmon, and tons of that toothsome fish have been shipped to Grants Pass from Portland, notwithstanding the fact that the river here during the greater part of the year swarms with chinooks, silversides and steelheads. Local markets can now, however, sell salmon, fresh caught from the Rogue, and thus keep hundreds of dollars at home that has been going to Portland under the former construction placed upon the law.

Legal angling in the Rogue means the catching of trout or salmon at any season of the year with hook and line held in the hand. Set lines, nets, gaff hooks, spears, and all other methods of taking, are prohibited.

A run of chinook salmon is now on, and many of these fish, ranging from ten to fifty pounds are being caught, the successful lure at present being a No. 4 brass spinner. But if success does not attend your casting of the brass spinner, it will now be lawful to use the "silver hook" that has caught many fish in the past.

GRANITE HILL CEMETERY TANGLE IS UNSETTLED

The county court in session Friday considered the matter of the Granite Hill cemetery property, a portion of which, included within the fence and containing burial plots belonging to many local people, the county has no valid title.

The purchase of that part of the disputed property belonging to the Dimmick estate has already been provided for, it being included in the twenty acres that the county is now obtaining at a price of \$100 per acre. A proposition was made to Mr. Hood by which he was to be paid at the same rate for the 1.11 acres of his land included within the cemetery, but he declined to accept unless the county would buy also some five or six acres lying outside but adjacent to the cemetery property, at the rate of \$100 per acre. The county court concluded that it could not use this other ground for cemetery purposes, and made another proposition to Mr. Hood, offering to trade him nearly double the amount of ground lying to the west of the cemetery for the 1.11 acres. Mr. Hood declined the trade, and no settlement has yet been arrived at. As the matter now stands, the county offers \$100 per acre for the disputed strip; Mr. Hood will sell for the price if other land he has in the vicinity to the amount of five or six acres is included also.

Judge Jewell, in discussing the matter Saturday, said that those people who were most deeply interested through having dead loved ones buried within the questioned territory need have no fear that the plots would ever be disturbed as it would certainly be continued a part of the Granite Hill cemetery. He expressed no doubt on the subject, but was positive in his statement that regardless of what the outcome of the negotiations with Mr. Hood might be, the county would retain possession of the 1.11 acres. Judge Jewell himself has a son buried in the portion of the cemetery in dispute.

G. W. Kroh left Friday morning for Redding, Cal., where he will be in the employ of the Terry Lumber Co., surveying. He will later go to Kansas City.

COUNCIL AWARDS MORE CONTRACTS

ALBERT ANDERSON TO PAVE TWO
MORE STREETS.

ACCEPT CITY HALL PLAN

Bids Will Be Called for, But Cost of
Construction Must Be Under
\$10,000.

Albert Anderson was the successful bidder again last night for the street paving contracts being awarded by the city council, his bids for the work to be done on Washington Boulevard and Evelyn Avenue having been accepted.

Five bidders competed for the work either in whole or in part, and while the Anderson bid was not low on some of the features, in the aggregate it was much the best. The other bidders were M. C. Ament for the excavation and fill, Leonard, Wiles Co. on cement and sewer work, Schell & Schell on macadam and Smith Bros. on cement work. Mr. Anderson bid on all classes of the work, with a four per cent discount if the job entire was awarded him. When this discount was figured off, there was no combination of bids that was lower. The Anderson bid for the completed work on Washington Boulevard was \$6,834.79, while the lowest combination of bids against him was \$6,911.62. On Evelyn Avenue the Anderson bid was \$4,027.41, the next best combination being \$4,059.90.

The committee appointed from among the property owners affected on the streets to be improved was present and considered the bids with the city engineer, recommending the acceptance of the Anderson bids.

The property owners along the alley in block 32, the contract for paving which was awarded to Smith Bros. at the last session of the council, were represented before the council last night by Attorney Norton, himself one of the affected owners, asking that the contract given Smith Bros. be annulled and the contract given to Albert Anderson. Mr. Norton stated that the property owners who would be assessed to make this improvement were a unit in asking that the contract be given Mr. Anderson regardless of the fact that his was a higher bid, the cancellation of the Smith contract being advocated because the contractors had failed to sign the contract within the five days specified by the council. Smith Brothers, who were present, protested against such summary action on the part of the council, asserting their ability and responsibility in the matter, and guaranteeing their work to be as satisfactory as that of any other contractor. The city attorney was appealed to, and his opinion to the council was that the contract given the Smith Brothers was binding, notwithstanding the fact that the contract was not formally signed within the time limit, this being a minor consideration, and not in his opinion affecting the legality of the Smith award.

Architect W. E. Bowen was present with the plans for the new city hall changed to meet the demands of the council and come within the \$10,000 available for the purpose. The plan as changed was accepted by the council, contingent upon certain changes in specifications, and the city auditor was authorized to advertise for bids for the building of the structure as soon as the changes had been made in the specifications to the satisfaction of the committee in charge. No bid involving the expenditure of more than \$10,000 will be considered by the council when the award is made. Mr. Bowen's estimate is that the hall can be built within the sum available, although he says that "it will make a pretty big hole in that \$10,000."

The accepted plan calls for a building 50x60 feet in size, two stories in height, the first floor with 14 foot ceiling and the second with 12 foot

CHICAGO EX-FIRE CHIEF LOCATES IN VALLEY

(From Friday's Daily).

For a quarter of a century with the fire department of the great city of Chicago as department chief, now liberally pensioned by the municipality he so faithfully served, J. Franzen has chosen Grants Pass as his home for his remaining days, and yesterday made investments in Rogue river property, the development of which has already been commenced.

The old Chicago fire-fighter was interested in this portion of Oregon by J. W. Lucas, of the Riggs-Lucas Land Co., on his recent trip to the east, and with his son, Jack Franzen, and the other members of the Franzen household, arrived in this city the early part of this present week. Wednesday the Henry Huck farm of forty acres in Fruitdale was purchased by Mr. Franzen, and the young man, Jack Franzen, with his wife, have already taken possession and moved to the property, and commenced development work that will be most extensive. A new 8-room house is to be built, and a modern dairy barn constructed at once, the first purchase of the new owner being seven head of dairy cattle.

Mr. Franzen, senior, has returned to Chicago, where he will close up his affairs, and with his wife will return here in about sixty days to become residents of the city of Grants Pass, where they will either build or purchase a modern residence. Mr. Franzen stated that several other Chicago families, friends of his, who were looking for a congenial country and pleasant climate in which to make permanent homes, would follow in the near future.

MEETING OF NATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE.

PORTLAND, June 13.—The National Livestock Exchange held a brief business session today. Election of officers and selection of next year's meeting place will occur tomorrow.

Common brick laid in colored mortar will be the construction. The first floor will contain the fire department room, city engineer's room, recorder's office and jail with three cement cells. The second floor will house the council chamber, club room, library, three firemen's rooms and the fifty foot hose tower.

The petition of James Marsh, asking that the alley in block 46 be opened was granted. Mr. Marsh to construct a suitable bridge over Gilbert creek, which cuts the alley.

Councilman Herzinger, for the street committee, reported that no definite action had yet been taken regarding the opening of the cross street from lower Sixth street to Fifth street, but that further investigation would be made, and an attempt made to purchase property for the cross street.

Attorney Wurtzbaugh addressed the council on behalf of a client regarding the construction to be placed on a section of the dry license ordinance. Under this ordinance, which establishes a system of licenses to be paid by draymen and teamsters within the city, business houses doing their own delivering of merchandise are exempt from the tax. The merchants, instead of doing an individual delivery business, hire a common deliveryman, and this man felt that the exemption should apply to him. City Attorney Colvig construes the ordinance to bring this man within the license-paying class, and thought the way for the deliveryman to settle the contention would be to submit to arrest under the ordinance and let the police judge decide the question for him.

What to do with the surplus dirt from the streets now being paved was a disturbing question before the council, but the engineer thought that there would be no difficulty arising, as there had always been plenty of demand for whatever dirt there was over that needed for fill. The engineer was instructed to find places for the dirt excavated which was not needed on the street, or which the property owners did not desire at the price of nine cents per yard, which the contractor charges for moving it. The adjacent property owner has first call for the surplus dirt at this figure.