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SEMI-WEEKLY

BANDON RECORDER

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SEEK MARSHFIELD FIRE BUG

Two Suspects Are Examined. One Held in \$3,000 Bail. Kept Wealth in Socks

Smouldering suspicions of arson in connection with the lodging house fire at Marshfield, took definite form Wednesday when Charles Skerrett was arrested and charged with the crime. He was arrested before Justice Pennock in the Bay city Wednesday afternoon, pleaded not guilty and was held in \$3,000 bonds. His hearing was set for the following Friday.

The evidence against Skerrett is circumstantial. He was formerly proprietor of the Bunker Hill auto stage line which he sold out a few days before his garage and two machines were destroyed in the fire of January 14th.

One thing that threw suspicion on Skerrett was the fact that while he was alleged to have numerous debts he seemed to have plenty of money and had announced his intention of going to California. Although he continually pleaded poverty it was shown that he had given \$50 each to Mr. and Mrs. Craig, the boarding house proprietors, the day after the fire. The Craigs, themselves lost a considerable sum of money in the fire. When Skerrett was examined by the police, he said all the money he had was a \$5 gold piece. After a search the police located a purse with \$570 concealed in his socks.

His interest in the fire is alleged to be books on which he carried insurance.

What seems to be the most tangible bit of evidence that the authorities have against Skerrett is that he was the last one seen on the scene of the fire before the blaze started and that the first sign of fire was discovered close to his room.

Prior to Skerrett's coming to the bay he was a member of the I. W. W. local at Portland. Upon his arrival in Marshfield he went to work for the C. A. Smith company and was with them until two years ago when he started the auto stage line between Bunker Hill and Marshfield. He is about 40 years old, unmarried and is said to have no bad habits.

At the time of the Marshfield lodging house fire it was found that there was one man unaccounted for. At first it was thought that he had been sacrificed in the ruins but as his body was not discovered it was quickly surmised that he had disappeared for a reason and that reason might be connected with the origin of the fire.

The man, James Brugger, was located in the Smith-Powers logging camp at Wagner and he was brought to Marshfield and duly examined Tuesday.

It turned out that the man was a Swiss, somewhat eccentric in his character. When the fire fight was in progress the crowd was ordered back. Having no other place to go, Brugger went to the depot and stayed there for a while. He saw that his lodging house home had been destroyed, he started out on foot up the railroad and finally found his way to Wagner where he obtained work. This is the story he told at the examination.

SMITH IN THE LIME LIGHT

Coos County Senator Aids in Defeating Big Appropriations

Salem, Oregon, Feb. 24.— Senator I. S. Smith of Coos county, scored one of the big feats of the closing days of the legislature when with the aid of Senator Dimmick, he defeated the resolution asking Congress to appropriate \$450,000 for the Central Oregon irrigation project on condition that the state of Oregon would spend a similar amount. Mr. Smith held that the state could not afford such an expenditure. Only nine senators voted in favor of the measure after Senator Smith had spoken against it.

MORE FIRE PROTECTION

Interviews with Prominent Bandonians on the Subject

William A. Legore, of the firm of Bowman, and Legore, has some ideas of his own in regard to fire protection for Bandon but is slightly reticent about expressing himself.

"With the tug, the water pressure and the hose we now have, the business district is in a fair position to protect itself," is the way he has it sized up. "It is the residence district that needs protection. A few more fire plugs on the hill would help, but we need more than that.

"No, I am not in favor of installing a pumping plant. I would rather see the money expended in improving the water system to such an extent that it would afford ample fire protection. Any fire can be put out if you have enough water where no time is lost in putting it into play.

"The proposition to keep the tug steamed up all of the time is all right but that will protect only the business district and even then, the tug is not always here."

THE LAST. LIKEWISE BEST

Game to be Played Tomorrow Night. Will Attract a Large Patronage.

Will there be 300 paid admissions to the basketball game between Bandon and Coquille Saturday evening? This is the question which is confronting the high school students in their endeavor to make the attendance at this game the largest yet recorded.

Under the management of the Coquille high school, an excursion is to be run, bringing a crowd down in the afternoon and returning after the game. Already they have sold 100 tickets and the indications are that twice this number will come down for the game that will decide Coquille's championship aspirations.

"It is going to be a close game," said Coach Quigley, "and without a good backing by the local people Bandon is going to be at a disadvantage."

So far this year the boys have not lost a game on their home floor and it is a safe bet that Coquille will not administer another defeat like the one Bandon suffered on the floor of the county seat. Every man in Quigley's squad is in prime condition and there is no reason why they should not put up the game of the season. The coach has not yet decided just what the lineup for the game will be, but it is likely that there will be several shifts during the game.

The boys promise one thing however, that all those who attend this game will get their money's worth of the fastest basketball ever played in this county.

PARAMOUNT PICTURES

MAKE A HIT

The Introduction of Paramount pictures at the Grand Tuesday night, was greeted by a full house. Everybody was there with his best girl and the crowd was so large in the first session that some stood in the rear to see. "The Squaw Man" seemed to be a popular subject and many who never were able to see the play on the legitimate stage were glad to see it in pictures. In some respects the pictures were better than the original for many scenes which could not be naturally reproduced on the stage were shown in their actuality in pictures. The pictures were exceedingly good and all who saw them were satisfied. The good impression they made Tuesday will materially help to make popular other offerings in this branch of moving pictures.

Paramount pictures represent the highest quality of photo plays in the world. The feature shown at the Grand every Tuesday—*The Squaw Man*—is entitled, "The Squaw Man" is a society drama. Tuesday, March 2nd.

NEW OFFICERS ARE CHOSEN

Library Board Formally Organized and Prepares to Promote Finances.

Organization of the newly appointed library board was completed at a meeting of the members at the public library last evening, and some of the activities for the coming spring were mapped out in a general way. Mrs. J. L. Kronenberg is the newly elected chairman and Miss Pearl Walker, secretary, while the office of treasurer is being filled by Miss Henry, the librarian. A by-laws committee consisting of Miss Henry and J. W. Mast were appointed and will draw up the regulations of the board.

In order that advantage may be taken of the offer of the Extension department of the University of Oregon, to send out lecturers on different subjects, a committee was appointed to secure this service and arrange for a series of addresses in the near future. Mrs. Henry and Walker and N. J. Crain will make such arrangements as are necessary in this matter.

Another committee was named to have supervision over the entertainment activities of the library.

BASKETBALL INDEPENDENTS ARE BADLY BEATEN

Coquille Make a Bad Host and Trim Them by a Score of 54 to 11

Coquille basketball teams are the Jonah of all Bandon basketball shooters when they visit the county seat, it appears. Last evening Bandon's independent team was trimmed there to the tune of 57 to 11 by the independent team of that city.

Playing five men who had not been on the floor together before, Bandon was badly lacking in team work when it came to shooting baskets. Bowman was the high point man for the visitors, scoring three field baskets, while Laird threw four out of five tries from the foul line. Not once did Bandon catch sight of the long end of the score although their men stood the grueling better than the up-river men.

Owing to the fact that Sparks was unable to enter the game on account of a sprained wrist, Simason of River-ton, was called on to fill the vacancy.

A return game between the two teams will be played on the local floor some time in the near future.

Bandon's line up at the game was Laird, center; Bowman and McNair, guards; Sweeney and Simason, forwards.

DRUNKEN MAN MAKES TROUBLE

A drunken man terrorized a popular young lady of West Bandon while she was on her way home at ten o'clock one evening of last week. The girl pluckily defended herself with an umbrella and got away.

Earlier in the same evening a man answering to the same description entered a home in the same part of the town and demanded food. The people of the house were first disturbed by a noise on the front porch and as the husband opened the door between the sitting room and the hall the intruder walked in at the front door. Disconcerted at the sight of a man, the supposed assaulter said he wanted food and would not leave the premises until literally kicked off.

Death of Gold Beach Pioneer

Chas. D. Dewey, the oldest inhabitant of Gold Beach, was found dead in his bed early last Wednesday morning, Feb. 17th. Mr. Dewey was born in Jenness Co., N. Y., in 1838. Came to Curry county in 1860 and has lived in Gold Beach since 1862. He has had ill health for years and for the past two years has scarcely left the house. He was cared for by relatives who ministered to his needs although he lived alone. At no time was he unable to wait on himself.

He was buried in the Gold Beach cemetery.

A. C. Kinley, who has been visiting his parents for a few weeks, left on Wednesday for Portland.

LIVES IN OREGON A HALF CENTURY

Mrs. Lucy Lynch Cox who Died Tuesday was a Pioneer. Eleven Children

Lucy Lynch Cox was born in Pike County Missouri, March 5th, 1847. She died February 23rd, 1915, aged 67 years, 11 months and 18 days.

Mrs. Cox was one of the early settlers of Oregon, having crossed the plains with her parents in 1853. They settled in Polk county, Oregon where she resided until her marriage to Richard F. Cox, Oct. 17th, 1863. Shortly after marriage they moved to Southern Oregon and settled on a farm in Coos county where they have resided almost continuously ever since.

She was the mother of eleven children, nine of whom with the husband, still live to mourn her loss, namely: Mrs. Ginnie Chandler, William W. Cox, Mrs. S. J. Willson, Mrs. G. E. Willson, Cecil G. Cox, Charles L. Cox, Mrs. C. L. Foster, Mrs. W. T. Allen and Mrs. E. M. Davis, all of Coos county. About 8 years ago Mrs. Cox suffered a paralytic stroke, since which time she has been an invalid. About ten days ago she received a second stroke which caused her death.

Funeral services were held from the residence on Thirteenth street with Elder A. B. Reese of the Baptist church in charge.

BOND MARKET IS SLUGGISH

These are busy days for the mayor and city recorder who are negotiating with several different bond buyers concerns relative to floating the \$48,000 water bonds at a better price than the Bandon Water company offered. According to the terms of the deal made with the water company, the city reserves the right to dispose of the bonds to other bidders, providing a more advantageous bid was received before the first of April. As a usual thing the bond market takes a slump during the winter months, picking up again in March and it was hoped that such would be the case this year. So far, however, no definite bids have been received, although numerous inquiries have been received and answered.

A "THANK YOU" PARTY

As an expression of gratitude to those who participated in the comedy "And Peabody of Peabodyville" Staged at the Grand last week, the Seaside Circle of the Women of Woodcraft gave an entertainment to the title characters and to those who assisted to make the entertainment possible. Old fashioned games were the order of the evening and many of the rising generation demonstrated that they were just a little bit familiar with the good old ways. In a guessing game "Songs Without Names" Ella Maxwell won the first prize and Alice Gallier the second, while Katie Conrad, Alta Hansen and Dick Crain proved to be adepts in the art of hunting and were awarded the prizes for discovering the hiding places of scores of tiny hearts hidden around the hall. Juggling peanuts on a knife while walking across the room proved to be a pastime worth while and Earl McNair and Mrs. Anna Tucker were declared the most proficient in this line.

Dainty refreshments were served at the close of the evening and those who were fortunate enough to be there, declare that they had a "bully time."

Here's a Poser

We are informed that the tax levies of the Coos county cities run as follows: Eastside, 56.2 mills; North Bend, 53; Marshfield 51.1; Coquille 50; Bandon, 50; Myrtle Point, 45.5; Empire, 39. There is something wrong here somewhere, Coquille and Myrtle Point are "dry" and we have been taught that direct taxes are bound to be higher in a town deprived of revenue from liquor licenses. Yet the two towns mentioned have the lowest taxes except Empire, which is simply exempt, preserved in alcohol. It is very confusing.—Coquille Herald.

A DISPUTED PAY CHECK Case Being Tried in Justice Court This Afternoon

The case of C. T. Fieger vs. John Rumbles is being tried in the justice court this afternoon before a jury composed of Chas. Bowman, Jr., W. L. Davidson, Wm. Lindquist, E. H. Fish, J. H. Gould and Harry Allen.

The case originates from the fact that Rumbles was appointed by the sheriff to have supervision over the woolen mill during the period it was held by the sheriff under a writ of execution. Rumbles, by the sheriff's direction, hired Fieger to help take an inventory of the personal property. There is a misunderstanding as to whether or not Fieger's time extended on after the taking of the inventory to the day the plant was sold by the sheriff.

The sheriff has forwarded a check to Rumbles for his services and Fieger has attached the check.

The trial began at 1 p. m. this afternoon and will probably not be finished until late in the evening. The amount involved is \$90.

Mr. Feeney and Mr. Treadgold are the attorneys.

As we go to press the report comes that the jury decided in favor of the plaintiff.

SHERIFF COLLECTS TAXES OF COUNTY

Legislature Undoes Work of Previous Session and Takes Job from Treasurer.

Sheriff Alfred Johnson, Jr. is beginning preparations to resume the collection of taxes in his office, a new law enacted by the legislature last week transferring the collection of the taxes back from the treasurer's office to that of the sheriff. The law will not become effective for ninety days, so for that interim County Treasurer Dimmick will handle the collection. The Legislature which adjourned Sunday after a few days' deadlock, first sought to attach an emergency clause to the measure, to make it effective at once and thus have the sheriff's offices handle all this year's collections, which was not done.

This will add considerably to the duties of the sheriff's office and he will have to increase his clerical force considerably. Treasurer Dimmick now has several assistants aiding him.

Makes Change.

In consequence of this, Sheriff Johnson has made a slight change in his appointments. L. W. Oddy, who has been second deputy, the first of next month will be appointed chief clerk and given charge of the office work. A. P. Davis who has been looking after office work, will be appointed second deputy, Geo. Laird continuing as first deputy. This will mean that Messrs. Johnson Laird and Davis will handle the criminal work and outside work and Mr. Oddy will look after the office work.

During the past month, the Sheriff's office has collected more than \$5000 in back taxes.

Sheriff Johnson wishes it known that in his appointment of J. C. Doane as Deputy Sheriff it was with the strict understanding that Mr. Doane was not to receive any salary as Deputy Sheriff his entire remuneration coming from the merchants' patrol. Furthermore Mr. Johnson says that he instructed Mr. Doane to pay attention strictly to his duties as night watchman and not to interfere in any way with the police of Marshfield. He said that as Deputy Sheriff, Mr. Doane should only make arrests in cases of felony.

Reward Offered?

Lost, strayed or stolen, one person answering to the name of Jack Hickox. Last time seen when leaving the city last night and reported to be making tracks for Marshfield.

Police announce that a reward will be offered for the best idea to help him going.

ADVANCE AGENT OF NEW ERA

F. H. Tichenor Tells of Big Changes in Local Conditions that are to Be.

Frank B. Tichenor, advance agent of prosperity for Coos and Curry counties was a visitor in Bandon Tuesday and Wednesday, and incidentally a visitor at the Recorder office Wednesday. Mr. Tichenor is making an effort to wake up the people of this section to the fact that there is a Golden Era at hand and to get them in readiness to take advantage of it. He asks them to get acquainted with themselves, to take stock of their own capacities and resources and to be prepared to answer for the faith that is within them. A part of his program is to infuse vigor into the commercial clubs of the cities and villages of the two counties. One of the meetings for this purpose was the one held in the city hall Tuesday night at which he met a number of enterprising citizens of our city.

Mr. Tichenor is certain that a number of important things are going to happen to Coos and Curry in the near future.

Principal among them is the connection with the outside world by rail. He says the Southern Pacific will be completed to Marshfield by fall. Also that the unspanned portion of the road from Marshfield to Eureka is only one hundred fifty miles. Among other things he says

That an electric railroad will be built from Roseburg to Bandon.

That an excursion party of five-hundred people is being made up in the east which will visit San Francisco Fair and from there come up the coast on the Bear-Beaver line, stopping at Port Orford, Bandon and Marshfield.

That Port Orford has a population of three hundred now but will have five thousand in two year's time. That it has the only deep water harbor on the coast.

That coal is the most important product of the two counties, dairy products second, truck gardening third and timber last, in part reversing the usual order given.

These are a few of the many bright prospects which Mr. Tichenor sees in store for Coos and Curry. He says this country will be self sustaining. That now it makes him boil inwardly to see the freight steamers unload California garden stuff for the local market. That he has seen crates of squashes unloaded at Coos Bay when tons of the same vegetable rotted in the fields a few miles from Marshfield. That they shipped potatoes and hauled them overland to Langlois when the soil in the vicinity of that town is especially well adapted to the growing of potatoes. He would like to have the land owners get the idea of timber out of their heads and begin to make the soil produce that of which it is capable. A start in the right direction is to establish community markets and Marshfield promises to lead off in this respect. He hopes that the inhabitants of Bandon and the other cities in the district will provide likewise.

Mr. Tichenor is filled with enthusiasm as to the future and says that any community which does not prepare and don its dinner garments will fare ill at the feast. He deprecates everything in the way of local animosities and says the inhabitants of the different sections should forget their jealousies and work together for the common good. The counties are big enough for all and in their development will not only contribute to the growth of such towns as are in existence now but will foster and develop new towns as well.

Mr. Tichenor is a native product of this section, having been born at Port Orford, of which town his parents were residents since the days when it was first peopled by the gold seekers. He says his grandmother told that on occasions she washed fifty dollars in gold in a single day from the sand at the foot of Little Rock after having done her household work for the day.