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Athena, Oregon

MAIN STREET FIRE

Flames Devour Athena Cafe With Contents and Leave the Cox Building a Charred Shell.

The clang of the fire bells brought out the fire department and Athena's populace shortly after 1 o'clock Tuesday morning. The department was quick to respond, but by the time the hose was connected and three streams of water were flowing, the Worthington building on Main street, where the fire originated, was a scorching mass of flames and the west side of the Cox house was scorching hot.

The fire started in the kitchen of the Athena Cafe, owned by Chas. Grant, and so rapid was the progress of the flames that not one article was saved, and in less than an hour after the fire was discovered, the Worthington building in which the cafe was located, was but a smouldering heap of ashes.

The firemen began work with a stiff pressure of water in the main, which was kept stationary by direct pressure from the pumping station. The regular firemen were materially assisted by old time members of the department, and the fact that no wind was blowing made it possible to confine the fire to the two buildings. As at was, sparks and firebrands in dangerous quantities were hurled precariously throughout the neighborhood contiguous to the fire. For a time the McBride livery stable and the Athena hotel property were in grave danger and the grass near the Knights of Pythias-Odd Fellows building, over a block away, ignited from sparks.

The fire in the Cox building was confined to the rear room, though the upper rooms and the roof are so badly damaged that it is a question whether the building will ever be repaired. In this building, B. E. Richards city recorder and justice of the peace, W. J. Ghosson, marshal, and J. C. Burke, expressman, had their offices. Those who were first on the scene forced entrance to the building and carried the city records and the justice court papers, including the docket, into the street at a safe distance from the fire. Fortunately, the flames did not reach to the front of room, which contained most of the effects, and but little loss there will be suffered.

The fire was discovered by night watchman Haworth and Will Jamieson, who were going to the night train. Haworth had passed the building on his way to awaken Mr. Jamieson, and when on the way to the depot, looked back and saw the fire. Henry Piorard, who was one of the first to discover the fire, ran to where Mr. Grant resides in the south part of town and awakened him. The cook and dishwasher at the cafe were just retiring for the night in a tent behind the Worthington building and Miller's furniture store when the glare of the flames startled them. So fast did the wooden structure burn that they had no time to enter from the front and attempt to save anything whatever.

Mr. Worthington's loss is total, as he carried no insurance. Mr. Grant had \$1000 insurance on the contents of the cafe. The Cox building, which was formerly a dwelling, was insured for \$400. The heavy iron shutters protected the Masonic lodge hall and McEwen & Sons' hardware store.

Lyle Bryan in Trouble. The Milton correspondent of the East Oregonian has the following to say: Fred Small, proprietor of the cleaning and dyeing works at Milton was robbed of \$30 in cash last night by a bed fellow whom he had befriended. Small retired about 12 o'clock taking with him Lyle Bryan, whom he had met some time ago at Weston. When he awoke in the morning he found his room mate gone, but supposing he had gotten on early and was out on the street, Small proceeded to dress, when he discovered

his trousers missing, with \$30 in cash. A hasty search resulted in finding the trousers in the woodshed with the pockets rifled. Officers were soon notified and the young man, Bryan, was located at Tum-a-Lum park. He denied taking the money, but told Small if he would go with him to Walla Walla, he would get the money for him rather than have Small think he took it. At last reports the man had not returned, so it was impossible to ascertain whether he got the money or not.

Sheep vs. Streets.

Two big bands of sheep were driven through Athena Tuesday evening to the Northern Pacific yards for shipment to the Sound markets. The sheep were driven through Main street and out Third. The macadamized surface on the latter street was badly torn up by the treading of sharp hoofs. The surface of Main street was not damaged, for the reason that it receives regular service from the sprinkler.

A. B. McEWEN KICKED BY HORSE

Face Lacerated and Side and Leg Injured in Accident Monday.

Mayor A. B. McEwen was kicked by a horse and seriously injured Monday noon at his farm north of Athena.

Mr. McEwen was engaged in watering horses at the well when one of the animals in fighting for a place at the trough, whirled and kicked, the hoof blows striking Mr. McEwen in the face, on the side and leg. Dr. Newson was called and was rushed to the McEwen place by Fay Le Grow in an automobile.

Mr. McEwen's face was found to be lacerated, and it was necessary to take several stitches in a cut on the nose. His side was badly bruised, one leg was injured and a thumb knocked out of place.

Reports from the farm are to the effect that the mayor is getting along as well as could be expected, though he is thoroughly sore from the effects of the rough experience. He has been at the farm for some time, and has been getting harvest operations under way.

Lost an Arm.

Dat P. Smythe the well known Pendleton lawyer and sheepman, is in the hospital at Hot Springs, Wash., as the result of a railway accident. Mr. Smythe loaded a train with sheep in Athena Wednesday morning for shipment to the Sound. He accompanied the shipment and the startling news that he had been seriously injured in an accident was received in Pendleton yesterday. An operation was performed and the left arm was amputated. The information is meager, and it is believed that the young man was badly injured and the loss of his arm is but a part of his injuries. Smythe is the law partner of Charles Carter at Pendleton and is heavily interested in the sheep business.

The Walters Combine.

John Walters' new combine, which he has constructed at his farm west of the city, is being put through preliminary tests before putting it into the regular harvest run. This machine differs materially from the regular make of combines now in use in this section of Umatilla county's farm on wheat belt. A forty-horse power gasoline engine is used for power on the machine. The engine runs the separator and also the header attachment leaving only the weight of the machine to be drawn by horses. Mr. Walters combine is made with the view to having even power and light draft.

Big Team Runs Away.

The big mule team drawing the Dudley combine and consisting of 32 head took two turns at running away with the machine this week. The first instance transpired when the header tender tipped over a box, the noise from which frightened the team and a short run was made without damage resulting. Monday morning the team took another whirl, and before it could be stopped the cylinder was badly damaged, causing the crew to lay off for repairs.

Closed Out at Baker.

Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Stewart were in the city Tuesday on their way to Spokane from Baker City by automobile. Mr. Stewart, who was formerly one of the proprietors of the Athena Department store, has closed out his stock of merchandise at Baker City and will seek a location in the Coos Bay country.

Barley Hay.

An exceptionally fine field of barley hay is being cut below town on the land of the Athena Land & Trust company. The grain was sown this spring and has matured to perfection for first class hay.

Back to Athena.

It is reported that Bern Bannister, who left for Wallowa county with his family several weeks ago, is contemplating returning to Athena in the near future.

THE HARVEST FIELD

Forty to Fifty Bushel Yield Around Athena—Good Priced Expected, 75c. Now Being Offered.

Harvest operations became general in the wheat fields near Athena this week, and the general report is around forty bushels per acre, and upward to fifty. One field on the Sam Pambrun place south of town will scale 55 bushels per acre. But few fields close in to Athena will fall below the forty bushel average. The weather has been ideal for harvesting, and the crews are making the most of it, and with continuance of present conditions the 1910 harvest will be one of short shift. There is ample machinery equipment to handle the crop of this section in short order, with proper weather conditions.

That good prices will be obtained is the universal opinion of the wheat growers, and the fact that the market has opened at 75 cents per bushel would indicate a strong demand and, necessarily, higher quotations.

Advises Farmers to Sell.

Theodore Wilcox, president of the Portland Flouring mills and the biggest wheat buyer on the coast, said today the farmers who sell in July and August will receive more for their grain than those who hold. He said the situation was just like last year when people became too excited over high prices, when local and foreign conditions did not justify them. He intimated there will be another slump at the season's close like last year. Wilcox would profit by a sharp advance in wheat as he holds a million bushels for which he paid a high price last year.

Harvest Notes.

John Walter is giving his new combine a preliminary workout. This machine is the product of Mr. Walter's inventive ingenuity and is equipped with a gasoline motor, which has the function of operating the header and separator mechanism.

A fifty acre field on the Sam Pambrun place yields 55 bushels per acre, the balance of the farm going about 40 bushels per acre.

Wheat on the John Rothbrock place averages between 40 and 45 bushel.

On his home place Lowell Rogers had returns of 45 bushels per acre and hopes to have an average of 40 bushels all around.

Tacoma grain buyers purchased 20,000 bushels of new crop bluestem wheat at Walla Walla. The price was 90 cents f. o. b. Walla Walla. This is the first sale of new crop.

As usual the Kirk place at the edge of town, always reliable for a good crop, this year comes to the front with a 50 bushel yield.

Lowell Rogers' combine harvester was driven 26 miles one day this week, and in that distance threshed 739 sacks of wheat.

From two-14-foot headers Sam Bannister's Garr-Scott machine threshed 1505 sacks of wheat Tuesday. The Bannister crew is a good one and Tuesday's run is the best reported so far this season.

Alleged Swindlers.

Two self-styled representatives of the Williams Grocery company of Boston, are in bad standing in the Echo vicinity, though they have made their escape from the country, taking with them considerable money. It seems that they have been soliciting among the farmers, taking orders, offering premiums and collecting in advance for the orders. Two ranchers from near Nolin, one of whom had given the men \$13 and the other one \$33, became suspicious and went to Echo in search of the solicitors. Learning that the men were working the Butter creek territory, they went on to Stanfield and caught the men as they were boarding the train to leave the country. They recovered their money and the solicitors went on.

A Very Sick Man.

The condition of Dale Prestou, who is afflicted with Bright's disease, remains practically unchanged, though it is reported that he is resting somewhat easier than when first going to Wenaha springs. He sleeps a great deal of the time and when aroused complains of weakness and blindness. Attending physicians give no hope for his recovery.

Maimed in Machine.

Dr. Sharp was called to Lowell Rogers' place near Adams Thursday, where Mr. Rogers' foreman was caught in a chain on the combine harvester and badly injured. The man was severely bruised and one arm was broken as a result of the accident.

Democratic Committeemen Named.

At the meeting of the county democratic central committee held in the Pendleton law office of Peterson & Wilson Saturday afternoon, the following committeemen were named to fill the existing vacancies: Albee, W. M. Howard; Echo, Louis Scholl; Gibbon, R. C. Hagar; Encampment,

Ben Martin; Ferndale, J. W. Chastain; Milton, Scott Riebeck; South Pendleton, Theodore Howard; Pilot Rock, Fred Lienallen; East Weston, J. P. Lienallen; Stanfield, William Reeves; Hermiston, J. M. Soarborough. Will M. Peterson will continue as chairman of the committee until after the primary election while Boone Watson will continue as secretary.

Wreck at Baker City.

A freight train of 22 cars piled up at a cut six miles east of Baker City Tuesday morning, and blocked the main line of the O. R. & N. for 24 hours. The wreck, in which no lives were lost, was caused by a broken flange on a heavily loaded coal car.

Blaze at Pendleton

At the same time fire was raging in Athena Tuesday morning, the home of Mrs. Sheridan at Pendleton was nearly burned up. The origin of the fire is attributed to defective wiring.

KERN FOR REPRESENTATIVE

Pendleton Dentist Will Enter the Political Race.

The subject of politics is rapidly taking its place among the chief ones for discussion in Pendleton, says the E. O. The latest aspirant for political honors to make known his ambitions is Dr. M. S. Kern of Pendleton. He stated that he would be a candidate for the republican nomination for state representative and that he would subscribe to Statement No. 1.

This makes Kern an opponent to Col. H. G. Newport who announced his candidacy some time ago, but who is not a Statement No. 1 man.

Dr. Kern has been practicing dentistry in Pendleton for several years. He was the first captain of Company L, and has land and lumber interests in the west end of the county.

Aside from Newport and Kern, the only other republican aspirant for legislative honors thus far is the present incumbent, Representative L. L. Mann. He is also an anti-statement man.

Bear in Camp.

A black bear took possession of a camp the other day on Cable creek, near Lehman springs. The families of C. J. Mitchell and Charles Cole were huckleberrying and when the ladies of the party returned to camp bear's bear was sampling the goodies in the larder. A small dog belonging to Mrs. Cole was put hors de combat, after which the bear ambled off into a thicket and disappeared beyond the range of rifle bullets.

Smith Is Agent Again.

Athena people are pleased to welcome the return of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Smith and family, who arrived in the city Sunday evening from Madras. Mr. Smith will again enter the employ of the O. R. & N. company as agent at this point. Mr. Smith has land near Madras in Gilliam county, and when he left here a month ago it was his intention to remain on the farm.

Sheepshearers Home.

Athena's contingent of the northwest army of sheep shearers have completed the season's work and are at home again. Millard Kelly, Fred Flint and Clayton Luna took in the rounds from Oregon to Montana, and had an exceptionally successful season. Weather conditions were ideal for shearing, and the only time lost was in going from one range to another.

Washington Apples.

Commercial orchardists in Washington estimate the apple crop in that state this season will be between 3,400,000 and 3,500,000 boxes or about 6,500 cars, the bulk of which will go to New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Paul and other points in eastern, central and southern states. Export shipments will also be larger than ever before.

Hay Sales at Echo.

The East Oregonian reports that one of the largest sales of hay ever made in Umatilla county was made at Echo. It took place on Butter creek and by the terms of the sale, Lonergan & McIntosh of Portland secured 2500 tons of alfalfa hay. The price paid was \$6 per ton in the stack and it is to be fed out to stock on the ground this winter.

G. W. Linsner Dies.

George W. Linsner, the well known stockman living 15 miles south of Pilot Rock, died at his home last Monday. He had been ill for some time but his death came as a great surprise to his many friends. Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon and interment took place in the Pilot Rock cemetery.

McManus in Town.

J. P. McManus, publisher of the Pilot Rock Record, was in the city last night. Mr. McManus is lord and master of "Appleburg," which is valuable acreage property famous for apple production.

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