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# The Athena Press

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Entered at the Post Office at Athena, Oregon, as Second-Class Mail Matter

VOLUME 48.

ATHENA, UMATILLA COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 18, 1927

NUMBER 11

## Young Prospectors Find Pure Gold Ore

### Rich Surface Discovery at Weepah, Nevada, May Prove Bonanza.

Tonopah, Nev.—The desert wastes of Weepah were giving up their hidden bonanza as lumps of ore, almost pure gold, were dug from the badger hole, opened up by two youthful prospectors more than a week ago.

Work on the claims of Frank Horton Jr. and Leonard Trainor, who made the strike and precipitated the greatest modern gold rush in the history of the west, has started.

Weepah, 37 miles from here, has begun to assume the appearance of a permanent habitation, as wooden shacks began to replace tents in the new gold city.

The spectre of trouble hovered in the offing at Weepah when the gold boom camp woke up and found itself potentially twice as rich as was first supposed.

Discovery of rich surface deposits by a red shirted prospector here, who came quietly back to camp after a day of work in the hills became known and he failed miserably in attempting to keep secret the fact he had found surface gravel worth about \$50 a pound.

The development electrified Weepah. Prospectors and even Sunday visitors scattered over the country almost in the twinkling of an eye, hoping to locate claims or at least fill their pockets with gold.

The presence of surface values holds the possibility of trouble for, under state laws, locators may file placer claims on areas already staked out for quartz or lode mining. This means two classes of claims may be filed on one area, and the placer miner is entitled to all the gravel down to the regular lode.

## WILL NOT HOLD UP INDIAN LUMBERING

Washington, D. C.—Lumbering operations on Indian reservations in the Pacific northwest will not be held up by the failure of congress to pass the second deficiency appropriation bill, which carried \$90,000 for the pay of workers and other incidental expenses.

Representatives Sinnott of Oregon and Johnson of Washington were informed by the bureau of Indian affairs.

Under an opinion by Controller-General J. R. McCarl, receipts from timber sales on reservations in Oregon and Washington can be used to meet current expenses, which will offset the loss of the appropriation.

The Klamath and Quinalt reservations now have large logging operations in progress, which were threatened with suspension by the failure of the deficiency bill to pass.

## M'NARY PLANS NEW BILL

Washington, D. C.—Although defeated twice in an effort to obtain farm relief legislation, Chairman McNary, of the senate agricultural committee, already has turned his attention toward drafting a new measure for presentation to congress when it convenes in December.

He plans during the summer to confer with agricultural leaders from all parts of the country in an effort to devise a proposal that will meet the needs of the farmers and at the same time avoid another presidential veto.

The Oregon senator will make a particular effort to get around the controversial equalization fee which he believes caused the failure of the last two bills which he introduced jointly with Representative Haugen, republican, Iowa.

**Thugs Use Bombs, Wreck Pay Cars.**  
Pittsburgh—Planting bombs expertly under a highway, nine bandits wrecked two armored automobiles by setting off the explosives as the machines passed and escaped with a \$102,000 payroll of the Pittsburgh Terminal Coal company.

**Minnesota Defeats Evolution Bill.**  
St. Paul, Minn.—By a vote of 55 to 7, the Minnesota state senate overwhelmingly defeated a bill that would prohibit the teaching of evolution theories in tax-supported schools of the state.

## After Surviving Four Major Operations Elmer Merritt Himself Again

Elmer Merritt, after having survived four major surgical operations at St. Mary's hospital, Walla Walla, returned to his home in Athena last Saturday evening, after an absence of ten and a half months, spent in the hospital.

He is glad to be back and with his old friend Pete Sorson, is whiling away much of the time up at his home on Fourth street.

Merritt was the victim of rank carelessness, when he was run down by an automobile while driving a band of sheep over on the Washington side of the line. He was removed to the hospital, where his right leg, badly fractured was set. It never healed and an operation was performed and silver plates inserted. Still the break would not heal and a second operation took place, then, a third, and finally the fourth and last, when the limb was removed just above the knee.

A suit for damages was brought by Merritt against the driver of the automobile, but the case was compromised without going to trial, but what the man got, in no way compensated him for the injury he received.

## Modiste's Bill High Says R. N. Stanfield

A Washington special says that a difference of about \$300 in the amount of the bill of New York modistes for the trousseau of Barbara Stanfield, and the sum of which Mrs. Stanfield claims is correct, is responsible for the suit for \$1121 brought by Wallace and Annie Grantland against him, ex-Senator Stanfield explained. Except for the belief that Mrs. Stanfield is right, he would not have allowed the matter to reach the courts, the former Oregon senator said.

Mrs. Stanfield was married January 22 to Henry P. J. Dunn of Jacksonville, Florida.

The itemized account of the bill, filed with the court, is as follows:

- One green chiffon evening dress, \$150.
- One black net evening dress, \$118.
- One rose satin evening dress, \$125.
- One rose flat crepe street dress, \$85.
- One wedding gown, \$200.
- One green satin crepe street dress, \$100.
- One blouse, \$25.
- Alterations on gowns, \$25.
- Mrs. Grantland's cartage to Washington \$20.
- Other alterations, 13.
- One suit, \$125.
- One coat \$125.
- Total, \$1121.

None of the items have been paid for, "notwithstanding many demands for such payments," the suit says.

Senator Stanfield said that the suit results from a difference of about \$300 in the amount which Mrs. Stanfield claims is correct and the sum named in the complaint, and except for the belief Mrs. Stanfield is right, he would not have allowed the matter to reach the courts.

## Men's League Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of Men's League of Athena at the Baptist Church on Friday March 25 will begin with a dinner at 6:00 o'clock, interspersed by music given by the Jolly Joy Makers. After dinner a program will be given including readings, and talks by Mr. Hadley on School Text Books; and by Mr. Holt of Pendleton, Umatilla County Agricultural Agent on agriculture. All the men are invited to bring their wives and sweethearts. Secure your tickets of a representative early at 50 cents each.

## Two Teachers Retire

Two faculty members of the Athena grade schools, Miss Rodman and Miss Terry will retire from school work for awhile with the closing of the present term. It is announced by both teachers, who have given notice of their retirement to the school board, that they will attend college next year. Miss Terry teaches the third and fourth grades and Miss Rodman the fifth and sixth grades in the Athena schools, having been here for two years.

## Infant Son Dies

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hand have the sympathy of this community in the loss of their newly born infant son, which occurred Sunday. The remains were interred in Weston cemetery.

## Tax Commissioner Tells About Change

### Taxation Equity Is the Aim of a New Law Given County Assessors.

It is not the purpose of the new law granting increased powers to county assessors, nor the intention of the taxing officials to impose any unreasonable burden upon any taxpayer or class of taxpayers, Earl Fisher, state tax commissioner, declared at Salem, commenting upon the operation of house bill No. 72, of the last legislative session.

"The sole aim of the new law is equity in taxation," Fisher said. "The act was passed in response to an insistent demand for better equalization of taxes. It imposes additional powers and duties upon county assessors and the state tax commission in order to bring about this result.

"Since its passage the law has received much favorable comment and is generally considered to be the most constructive tax legislation passed in this state in many years.

"It is not a revenue measure but purely an equalizer and should have the hearty support of everyone who is interested in a just and equitable apportionment of taxes. Due to an emergency clause the act is in effect. "It is the duty of every county assessor, under the provisions of section No. 5 of the new law, to require taxpayers to furnish, under oath, information concerning their capital, assets and liabilities, earnings and such other appropriate facts for determining value. This information is to be furnished the assessors through confidential reports made on uniform blanks prescribed by the state tax commission.

"The blanks, to be distributed within the next few days, are simple in form and require nothing that cannot be readily obtained from the records of the taxpayer.

"In pioneer days, when taxable wealth consisted chiefly of visible property and the cost of government was not a material expense, the limited authority delegated to the assessor was sufficient to provide a satisfactory distribution of taxes. Half a century ago a stock ledger with four or five hand-ruled columns served as a tax roll and all the information deemed necessary for an equitable assessment was recorded therein. Modern business development requires a more comprehensive and business-like method of assessment.

"Heretofore assessors have had to rely to a great extent on very meager statements of the taxpayer in valuing business personality. As a result, serious inequalities have grown into the tax rolls. Similar and competitive business concerns have been assessed at vastly different percentages of value and the local assessors or taxpayers have no intelligent means of knowing just how far such discrimination extends.

## GRANT B. MILLER



Grant B. Miller, Chicago post office inspector in charge since shortly after the \$2,000,000 Roundout (Ill.) robbery, has become national chief inspector.

## Rodeo Rider Lectured When Man Goes to Jail

Alice P. Wilson, known to Round-Up and rodeo fans of Cheyenne, Pendleton, Calgary and other places as a trick rider, who was the government's principal witness against W. T. Fellows, charged with violation of the Mann white slave law, was denounced by Judge J. Stanley Webster in federal court at Walla Walla.

The occasion was the sentencing of Fellows, who was found guilty on two counts and acquitted on one. The court gave Fellows a sentence of six months on each count, the counts to run concurrently, but declared that in his belief the usual situation in cases of this type was reversed and that the woman in the case was the designated one.

He pointed out that the woman claimed to be 29 years of age and acknowledged having a child 16 years old, while the convicted man was only 22 years of age. The man was charged with transporting the woman from Yakima to Portland for immoral purposes.

## Electric Grinder

An electric grinder, recently made by Forrest Zerba for use at the Zerba Garage is a fine piece of workmanship. The grinder comprises an emery wheel, driven by an electric motor. The mounting is on a steel frame which is attachable to the lathe and operates in a four-way position. The grinder is used principally for dressing valve seats, although there are a number of uses for which it is adaptable.

## Boys In Trouble

Three Weston boys were brought before Judge Richards Tuesday by Marshal King of that city, charged with larceny of money. One of the boys is on parole at the present time, and all three will probably have a hearing in the juvenile court at Pendleton.

## Mother Sees Tots Die in Snow Storm

### Hunger Drives Mother and Three Into Hills When Food Runs Out.

A Lakeview, Oregon, special says: In the timbered and thicket-covered mountains between here and Paisley, two children were found frozen to death. Trembling and exhausted beside them was their mother, frozen to the knees, fighting to the end to save the remaining infant of her little brood from the slow death that was creeping upon them.

The woman, Mrs. D. W. Amburger, had been driven by hunger from the mountain cabin that had shielded her and had started out on a forage for food for the hungry children. The husband and father had been gone for several days.

The frantic mother, whom the posses found in a delicate condition and on the verge of hysteria had visited one farm home shortly after noon on Saturday and had obtained some food there. When Amburger, returned to his cabin Saturday night, it was vacant. It was not until Sunday that he reported the matter to authorities and they took up the search.

A searching party made up of mill workers, forestry officers and members of the American Legion joined in the hunt. The party scoured the hills spreading out from the cabin but were not successful until Monday night.

For the last 48 hours it had been storming almost constantly in the hills. The country is covered with thickets and timbered areas. Men at the mill of the Chevaucan Lumber company where Mr. Amburger went for help on Sunday said that he told them that there was sufficient food in the house but they said that they did not find anything to eat there when they visited the place.

The men went to the Amburger cabin, where, they reported, they found a still ready for operation but no food in the house.

Amburger has been placed under guard pending his return to Lakeview.

## Pendleton and Milton Here

Pendleton and McLaughlin high school debating teams are locked in a tie for first place in the district contest and have selected Athena high school auditorium as the neutral place for deciding the contest under judges from Portland. The contest will take place this Friday evening at the auditorium beginning at eight o'clock.

## Legion Dance March 26

The carnival dance given at Legion Hall Saturday night was well attended. The next dance given by the Legion Post will be on Saturday night, March 26.

## County Agent Joins With Farmers In War Against Pesky Squirrel

Walter A. Holt, new county agent is generalissimo of the war now being waged over the county against the ground squirrel army.

Mr. Holt was in Athena Saturday and stored his war munitions at the Rogers & Goodman store, where they will be sold at actual cost to squirrel fighters.

These munitions consist of poisoned grain, put up according to the formula of the extension department of O. A. C. in two and one half pound and seven pound packages. The poison may be placed indiscriminately wherever squirrels may be, without endangering fowl life or bird life.

Mr. Holt is anxious that the poison be used at this time, for the percentage of squirrel destruction by its use is far greater right now than it would be later in the season. Young squirrels arrive in April, and every female destroyed now is equal to five destroyed later.

As it takes about a bushel of grain to board a squirrel, it is easy to see why Mr. Holt is anxious for the battle to begin at once.

## The County Agent Has Garden Pest Bulletins

At this time of year the problem of pest control in gardens is attracting a lot of attention. Many persons are unfamiliar with the best and most economical practices in the control of these pests and are interested in obtaining help on the subject.

The County Agent's office at Pendleton and the Assistant County Agent's office at Freewater will be glad to provide copies of an O. A. C. Bulletin on pest control to any persons in the county who will make their wants known. This bulletin is very complete in describing the various pests and pointing out the best methods of control.

In this connection it might be mentioned that the County Agent's office is equipped for the free distribution of many kinds of bulletins dealing with agricultural subjects and a postcard or a letter will bring them to persons interested.

## Officer and Attorney Mix

Federal Officer Rogers and Attorney Watts of Athena had an altercation in the office of Justice Berkeley at Pendleton, Wednesday morning as the result of changing the case of Frank Lavador, Watts' client, from the Justice court to a hearing before Commissioner Newberry, without the attorney's knowledge of the change. The attorney alleges that the officer attempted to assault him and in protecting himself held Rogers until a member of the police force arrived. The attorney, Rogers and witnesses were taken to the police station. Attorney Watts asserts that at no time during the altercation did he strike or attempt to strike the officer.

## Death of Mrs. Brown

The death of Mrs. Charles Brown, a former resident of the Athena neighborhood, occurred at Redlands, California, March 11. Mrs. Brown was 74 years and seven months old at her death. She spent the summer in Athena two years ago, at the home of her foster daughter, Mrs. Lou Hodgen. She is survived by her foster daughter and the following nephews and nieces: Fred Hodgens, Lando Hodgens, Will Hodgens, Will Hardesty; Mrs. J. F. Free and Mrs. M. B. Atkinson.

## Addressed Kiwanis Club

M. L. Watts, who recently addressed the Men's League of Athena on the subject of banking, was the principal speaker before the Kiwanis club at Pendleton, during the weekly luncheon Tuesday. R. Alexander introduced Mr. Watts, who talked again on banking. Mr. Watts said that a banker aside from having capital must also have confidence in his community as well as the confidence of his patrons and furthermore must be a psychologist.

## John Day Cattle

The Pilot Rock Record says that its town presented a sight for old eyes the other day, when Ben Colvin and Porter brothers unloaded 909 head of cattle there, and trailed them over to the John Day ranges in Grant county. The cattle were shipped to Pilot Rock from Idaho. The outfit was all pepped up with chuck wagon and real cowboys.

## Britain and Japan Are Formally Invited

### Arms Conference Bids Sent by State Department to Two Governments.

Washington, D. C.—Formal invitations to participate in a naval arms conference at Geneva have been transmitted to the British and Japanese governments, both of whom previously had advised the state department that they would accept.

The invitations, transmitted to the British and Japanese ambassadors here by Acting Secretary Grew, proposed that the Geneva naval discussions begin June 1 or soon thereafter, and expressed regret of the American government that France and Italy had seen fit to decline the suggestion that they also participate. Hope was expressed, however, that both European governments would be represented informally.

Publication of the formal invitation served to disclose that all three governments now have expressed hopes that France and Italy would find it possible to take some part in the Geneva negotiations.

As anticipated, the invitation leaves the door to the fullest discussion at Geneva wide open. No suggestion of any kind as to ways and means for extending the theory of tonnage limitation to other than capital ships and aircraft carriers is presented, nor is any of the three governments committed in advance on any phase of the questions that will arise at Geneva.

## PACT PROPOSED BY DIAZ IS DISLIKED

Washington, D. C.—Such a treaty as that proposed by President Diaz of Nicaragua, setting up virtually an American protectorate over that country for 400 years, is not the sort desired by the United States under its policy to help stabilize conditions in Central America, in the belief of President Coolidge.

Announcement of his position at the White House clearly foreshadowed a rejection of the Diaz proposal.

It was emphasized that the president's policy still was to permit Nicaragua or any other Central American country to work out its own salvation, although the Washington government stood ready to aid in any way it could and also intended to maintain its own rights in Nicaragua and the rights of its nationals.

Withdrawal of American marines from Nicaragua, which preceded the political disturbance that grew into the civil war still distressing the country, was in line with the desire of President Coolidge that the Central American states find for themselves a means to avoid continuous revolution with attendant disorders and destruction of property.

## LAWMAKING COSTS HIGH

### 1927 Session More Expensive Than Any Before.

Salem, Or.—When all bills for the late legislative session are paid, the session will prove by far the most expensive in the history of the state.

To date, according to Secretary of State Koser's records, \$107,723 in legislative bills has been paid.

This does not include the cost of printing the bills and calendars, the house and senate journals, the session laws, the cost of correcting and editing the house and senate journals and various other items which, it is expected, will run the total cost up between \$140,000 and \$145,000 as compared to \$121,391.41 for the session of 1925.

The \$5 per day expense allowance which the legislature voted to themselves accounts in itself for an item of \$20,210.

## Bill Expected Passed by Court.

Washington, D. C.—The government won an important victory in the trial of Harry F. Sinclair, wealthy oil operator and sportsman, for alleged contempt of the senate when a defense motion for an instructed not guilty verdict was overruled.

## Home, Sweet Home Goes Under Sale.

East Hampton, N. Y.—Home, Sweet Home, is for sale. The farmhouse in which John Barton Payne spent his boyhood, the inspiration of the famous song, is to be disposed of to settle an estate.

## Enter—Exit

