

# The Athena Press

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## A BIG JOB, BUT ITS DEAD EASY

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## Washington Legion Elected Alexander

### Army Officer Named Commander at Spokane Convention.

Spokane, Wash. — Major-General Alexander, retired, ex-commander of Camp Lewis, was elected department commander of the American Legion of this state at the concluding session of the ninth annual convention here.

Centralia was awarded next year's convention.

General Alexander, whose world war command included the famous "lost battalion," was unopposed for the office of state commander.

Other officers elected were William D. Welsh, Port Angeles, a navy man, vice commander; Stephen M. Chadwick, Seattle, national committeeman; Captain Storey, Fort George Wright, departmental chaplain, and Dr. Owen Taylor, Kent, Wash., departmental historian.

Delegates to the national convention at Paris will be Dr. S. E. Rosenthal, Spokane; A. F. Brunkow, Spokane; Sol Zwang, Marcus; R. C. Angle, Shelton, and Past Commander Rattis, Colville.

Resolutions adopted by the convention favored preparedness on the basis of the 5-3 naval ratio; increased personnel for the navy, and immediate work on the battleship to be assigned to the Bremerton navy yard; universal conscription of man power and wealth in the event of another war; adoption of a national code for flag salutes; exemption of legion property from taxation; greater interest in Memorial day, and fraternizing with the Canadian legion.

Mrs. William Scales of Centralia was elected state president of the legion auxiliary.

## ESCAPED MURDERER KILLED BY SHERIFFS

Everett, Wash.—Edward Sickles, 24-year-old murderer, who escaped from the Snohomish county jail while under sentence to be hanged, died here early Sunday from wounds sustained in a gun battle with two deputy sheriffs who had been trailing him for weeks.

Sickles shot and killed Percy Brewster, Sultana marshal, in the Sultana jail March 2. He was convicted on March 23 and sentenced to be hanged May 13. He escaped 13 days before his sentence was to be carried out.

Sickles was located in a shack in the woods 20 miles from Everett by Deputy Sheriffs Youngblood, Johnson, Ryan and M. B. Waller. The outlaw had driven to the cabin in an automobile which he had stolen in Seattle.

As Sickles left his car after driving up near the cabin, Deputies Youngblood and Johnson, with sawed-off shotguns trained on the fugitive, advanced and ordered him to surrender. Sickles reached for his pistol and both deputies fired. As Sickles reeled he succeeded in getting his gun clear of the holster and fired one shot, which was ineffectual.

## AUTO KILLING HEAVY

Motor Fatalities for Eight Years Are Higher Than Army Casualties.

Washington, D. C. — More people have been killed by automobiles in the United States during the last eight years than the American soldier dead in the world war, according to the National Automobile chamber of commerce.

From January 1, 1919, to December 31, 1926, 137,017 persons were killed by automobiles while the total casualties of the war in the American army forces were 120,050. The injured in automobile accidents, however, were 2,500,000 since the armistice.

Twenty-six per cent of the killed and injured were children under the age of 15 years, according to the figures. Last year it was estimated 23,000 persons were killed, an increase of 1000 over 1925 and the largest death toll ever recorded by automobiles for a year.

Dublin.—Ireland paid unusual honor to Frederick Sterling, first minister from the United States. Sterling was given a military escort and proceeded between rows of buildings decorated with American flags, when he went to present his credentials to Governor General Timothy Healy.

## Mrs. John Walker Died at Her Home After a Long Illness

Death relieved the suffering of Mrs. John Walker, at her home south of Athena city limits, Saturday evening, after a long illness. Death was due to paralysis. Mrs. Walker was born in Ontario Province, Canada, August 12, 1862, and at death was aged 64 years, 11 months and 18 days.

She is survived by her husband, one son and three daughters as follows, Clifford Walker, Athena; Miss Jennie M. Walker, Athena; Mrs. J. R. Booher, Pendleton; Mrs. R. Richmond, Walla Walla. Also a sister, Mrs. F. Snyder of Pendleton, three brothers in Canada and one brother in Montana, survive.

Mrs. Walker had been a resident of the Athena neighborhood for 37 years, residing with her family on a farm Northwest of this city until two years ago, when she removed to the present home. She had been in failing health for a long time and bore her illness with marked bravery and fortitude.

Funeral services were held at the Christian church in Athena, Wednesday afternoon at 2:30, interment taking place at Weston cemetery.

## Lindbergh Comes to Standard Tomorrow

As a special offering on tomorrow night's program, the Standard Theatre will present a one reel feature picture comprising important scenes of Lindbergh's non-stop Atlantic flight. This feature will be shown promptly at 8:15, preceding the showing of Peter B. Kyne's "The Understanding Heart," with Joan Crawford, Rockcliffe Fellowes and Francis X. Bushman, Jr., in the leading roles.

Sunday night the much talked of Cosmopolitan production, "Captain Salvation," a stunning story of the sea, starring Lars Hanson, Pauline Starke and Ernest Torrence, will be shown. The usual comedies, news reel and Review, will appear on the programs.

## State to Buy Bridge

Steps were taken Monday by Walla Walla and Pasco citizens for a Northwest-wide celebration of the purchase by the state of the Pasco-Burbank bridge. This bridge was built by Walla Walla and Franklin counties in 1921 and has been operated as a toll structure since then. The last legislature approved funds to purchase it and the last step in making the structure toll-free is expected shortly.

## Superintendent Meyer Here

Lee A. Meyer, superintendent of Athena schools arrived in the city Tuesday from Marshfield, where he has been spending the summer. Mr. Meyer recently underwent a successful operation for relief from appendicitis. Mr. Meyer returned to Marshfield today. He has secured the Sherman residence on the West side to live in and with his family will return to Athena about August 28.

## Meteorite Sets Forest Fire

Umatilla forest rangers report that a flaming meteorite set fire to the timber in the Walla Walla district of the forest. The meteorite broke off a tree about 20 feet from the ground, lodged in the remaining stump, and the fire, attributed to lightning, resulted.

## Boy Keeps Pledge

Roy Biggins, 17, arrested for stealing, upheld the faith County Judge I. M. Schanep placed in him when he reported that he has arrived safely at the state training school at Salem. He was placed on his honor by the judge who allowed him to go alone to the school.

## A Miniature Waterspout

The highway at Blakeley Station, west of Athena was under water for a short time Monday afternoon as the result of a local cloudburst, which struck in that vicinity. Only nominal damage to crops in a few fields where the water fell in torrents, is reported.

## Cal Tells 'Em

Here's what the world has been waiting for: "I do not choose to run for president in 1928," was written on small slips of paper and passed out to newspaper representatives at the summer capitol, by President Coolidge.

## Machine Fires From Grain Dust Curtailed

### Number of Explosions Have Been Reduced Since Cause Known.

Once a half-million dollar farm hazard, grain dust explosion has been lowered in the past decade to a potential damage of from \$15,000 to \$75,000 a year, the United States bureau of chemistry avers.

The bulk explosions occur in the Pacific northwest, during the threshing season. Sometimes there is a loss of life, the separator is destroyed and large quantities of straw and grain are burned.

While a number of causes are assigned for dust explosion, greatest danger lies in the threshing of smutty wheat. Scientists advance the theory that small particles of smut, found more abundantly in fall wheat, become electrified when the kernels are broken up by the cylinder teeth.

Supporting the theory, investigation has shown that 76 per cent of the explosions originate back of the cylinder, or near it.

Explosions occur in separators of all types and sizes. Danger reaches a peak from 1 P. M. to 7 P. M., and is present particularly on hot, dry days conducive to electrostatic ignition. Sometimes friction sparks, caused by gravel, flint or metal striking the cylinder knives, are responsible for explosions.

It generally is conceded that danger exists chiefly when grain dust is dry, suspended in the atmosphere, and so diffused that the mixture of dust and air will ignite with sufficient rapidity and violence to propagate explosion. Frequently two detonations are heard. The first is sharp and quick, the second a loud roar, giving rise to belief that heat and flame of a probable light smut ignition stir up sufficient dust on various parts of the type generally followed by serious fire.

Machinery wired in grounding scheme tests have operated through entire seasons without an explosion. Blower fans to keep the separators dust-free are in wide use.

"To prevent dust explosions," the department of agriculture says, "it is necessary either to eliminate the dust cloud, or the source of ignition, or to change the atmospheric conditions in such a way that combustion cannot occur."

Tests show that heavy charges of static electricity are present in many machines, not infrequently more than 50,000 volts.

Miss Jeanne Bell of Pendleton, won the eastern Oregon woman's singles titles by scoring over Mrs. Fox of Union, 8-6, 3-6, 6-3.

## PROF. K. D. GLINKA



Prof. K. D. Glinka, director of the Soviet agricultural experiment station at Leningrad and one of the foremost agricultural scientists in the world, has been chosen president of the International Congress of Soil Science, composed of delegates from 30 nations.

## Manual Training Will Be Re-Established at Athena High School

The manual training department will be re-established at Athena high school during the coming year. The members of the school board have decided to purchase additional equipment for this department and establish it on a thorough, practical basis.

The board has secured the services of Harold Frederick of Chehalis, Washington to instruct the manual training classes. Mr. Frederick taught manual training at Newport, Washington, last year, and comes to Athena very highly recommended.

Several years ago Athena high maintained a manual training department, and there is at the present time quite a lot of equipment available. With the purchase of additional equipment by the board, it will be possible to carry out this branch of school work very successfully. In addition to high school students, it is proposed that scholars of the seventh and eighth grades will qualify in manual training.

## Wheat Theft Charged

Two brothers named Maynard, conducting a dairy at Mission, on the Umatilla river are under arrest, charged by officers with the theft of wheat. Some of the sacks of wheat have been identified as the property of John Todd and Sam Bitner.

## Captain Sumpkin in a Portland Pow-wow

### Says Palefaces Not Traveling on the Real Oregon Trail.

Says the Morning Oregonian: Wearing two shirts, smoking a cigarette, his white locks in two braids in front of his ears, his feet encased in moccasins and a masonic ring on his little finger, Captain Sumpkin, 89 years old, head man of the Cayuse Indians, held a p.w.-wow with the state highway commission the other day.

"Tourists think that they are riding on the Old Oregon trail, but they're not. They step on the gas and rush along, not looking for the sections of dirt road at the side which was the real Oregon trail," spoke the sage of the Umatilla reservation, through Leo Sampson, interpreter.

The highway commission wants to preserve the natural surroundings of the highway. A number of Indians, principally members of the Skiffall family, own the land along the roadside, and they are cutting the timber and selling it in Pendleton for \$15 a cord. The commission, through an arbitration committee, supposed it arrived at a settlement until in walked Captain Sumpkin, Allen Patawa, Tom Shallal and Leo Sampson. The arbitrators figured that \$8 an acre, with \$1 a 1000 for poor timber and \$3 a 1000 for good timber, would be about right. The Indians refused these terms, nor would they consider leasing the land to the commission nor exchanging the acreage for a similar body of land along the northeast boundary of the reservation.

"I come with an open heart," spoke the venerable wiseman of the tribe. "I come as a friend; not as an enemy. The Indians do not want to lose their land. The Old Oregon Trail leads up to Cayuse and then down the river. Travelers do not know this for they step on 'er."

And Captain Sumpkin should know, for he was born in 1838, several years before the covered wagon, oxidation, rumbled and creaked and boiled up clouds of dust through the Blue mountains. It has been a long, hard journey for a man of his years, but he took it because his friends asked him to. Negotiations were still in the air when the aborigines filed out of the council in the courthouse.

## Pendleton Girl Weds

Miss Mildred Berkeley, prominent Pendleton girl, became the bride of Fred Merryfield, instructor at Oregon Agricultural college. Miss Berkeley is a graduate of the University of Oregon and a member of a pioneer family of eastern Oregon.

## Combine Engines Fires Grain and a Machine Near Myrick Station

A grain fire started by backfiring of the gasoline engine on John Planting's combine, destroyed about 75 acres of grain near Myrick station, west of Athena, Monday afternoon. Mr. Planting had cut about 40 acres on the Mumford place and the sacked grain from this cutting was destroyed in addition to standing grain on the Mumford place.

The fire crossed the road and burnt a small lot of the standing wheat on the farm of Mrs. G. W. Planting. So rapidly did the fire spread after starting that the stock was released from the burning machine with difficulty. The machine was totally destroyed, as was also 700 empty grain bags.

The grain was insured and was averaging about 37 bushels per acre. Over a hundred persons responded to fight the fire, otherwise the loss would have been much greater.

## Tube Into Stomach Increases Appetite

Frank Lewis, a lifer in the Washington penitentiary, is making up for lost time in his eating. For several weeks Lewis has been unable to eat because of a cancerous growth in the esophagus. At first his condition was not ascertained, but after an x-ray picture by Dr. J. W. Ingram, prison surgeon, had disclosed the trouble, Lewis consented to an operation which permits his being fed through a tube in the stomach.

Lewis declares his appetite is the greatest in the 66 years of his life and that he thoroughly enjoys his meals. Lewis was sent to the prison from Spokane in 1921.

## Shick-Whited

Lorain Shick of Athena, and Miss Helen Whited of Portland, were united in marriage by the pastor of the Christian church of Walla Walla, at that church, Sunday afternoon. Miss Whited has been the guest of friends in the vicinity of Athena for some time. The groom is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Shick of this city. He is employed by the Pendleton Trading company, and the couple will make their home in that city.

## Round-Up Material Selected

Returning from Frontier Days at Cheyenne, R. E. Chloupek, secretary of the Round-Up Association, reports that he was successful in contracting for the appearance of nationally famous performers for the annual Round-Up show next month. The Irwin and McCarthy racing and ducking stock, riders, ropers, bulldozgers, bronc busters and trick riders have been engaged, in addition to a large number of independent rodeo stars.

## Grain Thieves Busy

The East Oregonian reports grain thieves active in Umatilla county, according to growers who have been missing sacked grain from stacks in their recently threshed fields. Under cover of darkness the thieves find it easy to back a truck into the fields unnoticed and take several sacks from a pile. One farmer reports a loss of 47 sacks.

## Round-Up Queen

Mabel Strickland, cow girl, skilled in relay riding, trick riding, bronco busting, who is the only successful woman steer-roper in the world, will be queen of the 1927 Pendleton round-up on September 14, 15, 16 and 17, according to the announcement made by the directors.

## Athlete Killed

John Mackenzie, 22, college athlete, of Spokane, was killed six miles west of La Grande on the Old Oregon Trail highway late Saturday. He was found dead beneath his overturned truck.

## Pool Hall Robbery

The sheriff's office is investigating the robbery of a pool hall at Free-water. The robbers left fingerprints behind them, and officers are working on that clue.

## Hunnish Invasion

Huns were a Mongolian race who invaded Europe during the Fourth century of the Christian era. They waged war with the Goths, then inhabiting central Europe, and drove them south into Spain, Italy and the Balkan peninsula, thus indirectly causing the destruction of the Western Roman empire. The Huns reached as far west as Gaul, now France.

## Coolidge Announces He 'Does Not Choose'

### Decision of President Made in Statement at Summer White House.

Rapid City, S. D.—President Coolidge Tuesday issued a statement saying:

"I do not choose to run for president in 1928."

The statement, which was typewritten on small pieces of paper, was handed out at the summer White House by the president on the fourth anniversary of his becoming chief executive of the United States, without comment.

Calvin Coolidge Tuesday ended four years as president of the United States to which he succeeded upon the death of President Harding.

One year and seven months remain in the four-year term to which Mr. Coolidge was elected as president in the fall of 1924—a little more than a year after he first took office.

In this period it will be decided whether he will or can succeed himself for another election term of four years which would entitle him to the office of president for a longer period than has been served by any other chief executive of the nation—and two regular terms totaling eight years added to the year and seven months of Mr. Harding's term completed by him.

## AIRMAN FLIES FROM DECK OF LEVIATHAN

Curtis Field, N. Y.—The first demonstration flight intended to show how two days can be cut off the traveling time between New York and Europe succeeded here Monday when Florence D. Chamberlin landed in a Fokker biplane at 9:30 a. m.

Chamberlin took off from the decks of the liner Leviathan 150 miles out from New York at 8:14 and flew through fog to Long Island.

Hashbrouck Heights, N. J., was his original destination but because of the poor visibility he found the field here a better landing place.

"I was in the air before I reached the end of the runway," Chamberlin told officials of the United States Lines, regarding his takeoff. "I had no difficulty in reaching land and the plane, after inspection, shows no ill effects from the takeoff or the flight."

Officials of the steamship line expressed pleasure at the success of the flight. Chamberlin arrived at the field sooner than was expected. It was supposed he would not land before 10:14, two hours after his takeoff.

Announcement will be made later by steamship officials of the exact effect Chamberlin's flight will have on the inauguration of ship to land service.

## CHURCHES LOSE YEARLY

An Alarming Drop in Membership Reported by Committee.

Philadelphia.—An "alarming" falling off in church membership in Protestant communions at the rate of 500,000 a year is noted in the report of the continuation committee to the inter-church conference made public here by the offices of the Presbyterian church in the United States of America. The conference was held here April 19 last.

The report of Dr. H. K. Carroll, Plainfield, N. J., the committee secretary, has been issued in anticipation of a movement in which all churches affected by the losses are expected to join in an effort to relieve the situation.

"In 13 communions with a grand total of 15,160,170 members," the report summarizes, "the losses aggregate 268,055. As the total of evangelical membership is upward of 29,900,000, the total yearly loss, if other communions besides the 13 were included, would approximate about half a million."

## High Court Seals Death of James.

Olympia, Wash.—Wallace C. Gaines must pay the death penalty for the murder of his daughter Sylvia on the night of June 15, 1925, the supreme court held in an en banc decision, written by Justice John F. Mann, affirming judgment of the King county court, which found him guilty of first degree murder.



The pony express of frontier days was revived in the Black Hills of South Dakota when horsemen delivered an invitation from Gov. Frank C. Emerson of Wyoming to President Coolidge, at the summer White House, to visit the Frontier day celebration at Cheyenne. Photograph shows Clyde Jones, head of the Custer State park rangers, delivering the message to the President.