

The Athena Press

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
F. B. BOYD, Owner and Publisher

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Athena, Oregon, January 13, 1928

There is no disputing the fact that cost of education is high, all along the line from public school system up to and including the maintenance of universities and colleges. In this respect the cost of operation of the public schools is perhaps more noticeable than other avenues of tax expenditure, due to the reason that administration of school affairs is local. The cost of maintaining the public schools in Umatilla county is no greater than in other counties of the state, and from a cost statement published elsewhere in today's Press, it will be seen that the Athena school is run for less money than any other school in the county—\$157.60 per pupil per year—and that Helix is the highest, at \$401.55 per pupil per year.

One of our big time industrial writers says that what farm relief is in need of more than all else is less restriction on immigration, so that cheap labor may be had on the farms. He also terms this view to be practical farm relief, and he says: "High prices for farm products will not help the farmer unless he has products to sell. Production requires labor. Lack of farm labor causes loss to the farmer, abnormally high prices and increased living costs." To which we will add that it has been our observation when the farmer gets the price first, he has no trouble in finding farm help and to pay for the work. On the other hand, no price, no money to pay for labor.

"Street railways are still an integral part of American life," declares a writer who is supposed to know his stuff. Maybe they are, and so is the motor bus and city taxi cab. In favor of the latter mode of transportation it may be said there are no tracks to be torn up in case they go blooey.

The senate commerce committee, sponsoring a bill by Senator Jones of Washington state to build up the merchant marine and keep it under supervision of the government through the shipping board, has indirectly and directly locked horns with President Coolidge.

Since the war the price of silver has gone down, and again we hear that the economic burden on gold is becoming unbearable, and that it is time an international conference give the matter serious consideration. But this time there will be no "crown of thorns," etc.

To be an American-mining engineer in Mexico is like being a moth fluttering around the candle flame. To insure his safety he should be provided with ransom money in his pocket, or be escorted to and from his work by a regiment of soldiery.

If a hundred dollar Ford smashes another hundred dollar Ford, the occupants of the flivvers may claim personal and property damages running into thousands of dollars. How come?

Irene Castle has turned her attention from dancing to the welfare of homeless dogs in Chicago. Such an philanthropic act, initiated as it is, at Chicago, is all the more commendable.

Reading of the maiden trip of Uncle Sam's gigantic airplane carrier "Lexington," which cost \$50,000,000 and took seven years to build, we are nudged with the glaring fact that "we're in the navy now!"

The Rankin flying school at Portland has an enrollment of 208 students, which leads to the prophecy that sooner or later they'll all be up in the air.

Who said corn would not grow in Oregon? At Grand Island, near Dayton, nine acres of land produced 900 bushels, and there were but few nubbins in the crop.

The kids have exchanged use of their sleds and skates for the kiddiecar and the coaster wagon—but then maybe snow will come again.

We read that one sure way to increase lawlessness is to increase the number of laws. And that is saying a mouth full.

Cal is going to Havana, but full enjoyment of the trip is lost, for he doesn't smoke the filthy weed.

Sit tight; there remains a mouth and a half before spring is due.

The snow is gone—and without any aid from Jupe, either.

ADA BLACKJACK, HEROINE (Oregon Journal)

Two years on an uninhabited island in the bleak Arctic and much of that time utterly alone, facing death bravely, has been the experience of an Eskimo woman, Ada Blackjack of Nome, Alaska. She was the last survivor of a party sent to Wrangel island in the summer of 1921 to ascertain how long one could live there, writes a contributor to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

It was an August afternoon in 1921 when the Silver Wave from Nome pushed her way through the ice, lowered a dory and landed four men and a woman at Rodgers Harbor, on the bleak shores of Wrangel island, 110 miles north of Siberia, in the Arctic Ocean.

Primarily the party had come to claim the island for the British and also test Vilhjalmur Stefansson's theory that any armed man could live on any of the Arctic islands for one year at least. And after the supplies had been unloaded and the new comers had hoisted the British flag, the Silver Wave sailed away while the five on the island known as "the graveyard of the Arctic," waved farewell, the men knowing it was to be their last contact with the outside world. Of that party only one woman survived and perhaps she is the only Eskimo woman who will go down in British and American annals as the outstanding heroine of her race, for Ada Blackjack's heroism is of the unusual type.

From the time Ada was able to toddle in her dismal home in Kodiak the little wisp of humanity knew nothing but the harder side of life. Only for a brief spell did she have any real comforts, and that was while she was in a Christian mission in Nome, where she learned to read and write as well as speak English, and to cook white folks' food. Here, too, she learned to sew. But, like most Eskimo girls, she became a bride at 16, marrying Blackjack, erstwhile hunter and musher, and to him she bore three children. When two of her babies died and Ada could endure Blackjack's brutal treatment no longer, she divorced him. With her son Bennett, she found lodging in Nome and there eked out an existence as a seamstress.

But the sewing business was dull when, in July, 1921, Alan Crawford, a young Canadian; Lorne E. Knight, from McMinnville, Or.; Frederick W. Maurer, from New Philadelphia, Ohio, and Milton Galle, from New Braunfels, Tex., arrived in Nome. They were the party named at the suggestion of Stefansson to occupy Wrangel island and to claim it as a British possession. A native seamstress who could fashion clothing quickly from the skins of animals was deemed indispensable, and Ada was engaged. The fact that she not only was able to speak and understand the English language won her a place with the expedition. So, sending her son to her mother in Kodiak, Ada, who was then 23, set sail on the Silver Wave.

The party took with them provisions and ammunition to last at least one year, having been assured that additional supplies would reach them the following year. And an attempt to carry out this plan was made in 1922, but the ice was so heavy that the ship could not approach within miles of Wrangel island and was forced to abandon its mission.

Two years almost to a day from the time the expedition had been landed on Wrangel island Harold Noice, a young Scotsman, at the head of the Wrangel island rescue expedition, pushed the nose of his gasoline schooner Donaldson against the icy shore at Rodgers Harbor. He saw the tents the Crawford party had erected and hoped that he had arrived in

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FRED H. BROWN, Jeweler
Pendleton, Oregon

time. But there were no whites there to welcome him. He was greeted only by Ada Blackjack, who, half running and half leaping, half crying and half laughing, rushed down to the water's edge to embrace a living human being.

Her first question was regarding Crawford, Maurer and Galle. Had he seen them? And then Noice learned that eight months before Crawford, Maurer and Galle had set out to make a dash over the ice to Siberia and never had returned. Somewhere in the silent Arctic the bodies of these three youths are frozen in the cold, solitary wastes.

As Ada led Noice to her tent he saw that only meager rations remained, and realized he had come in time to save only one life. For in the big tent of the white men, the one adjoining Ada's, lay the dead body of Knight, clad in his deerskin sleeping bag, in which he had died six months before. His three white companions had left him, stricken with scurvy, assuring him they would return. They left him alone with the Eskimo woman, and she had nursed him as tenderly as though he had been her husband. Then she kept her lone vigil beside the body of the dead.

And so, alone on that bleak island, Ada Blackjack wrote her diary, probably the only one in English ever penned by an Eskimo woman.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Umatilla County.
In the matter of the Estate of Martha J. Shick, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed executor of the last will and testament of Martha J. Shick, deceased, by an order of the above entitled Court. All persons having claims against the said estate are hereby notified to present the same to me at Athena, Oregon, or to my attorneys, Watts & Prestbye, at their office in Athena, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice. All claims must be verified as by law required.

Dated at Athena, Oregon, this 13th day of January, 1928.
ARTHUR E. SHICK,
Executor of the Last Will and Testament of Martha J. Shick, Deceased.
Watts & Prestbye Attorneys for Estate, Athena, Oregon. J13F10

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Bank Statement
Reserve District No. 12
Charter No. 4516.
Report of the Condition of the First National Bank at Athena in the State of Oregon, at the close of business on December 31, 1927.

RESOURCES		
1 a Loans and discounts including rediscounts, acceptances of other banks and foreign bills of exchange or drafts sold with endorsement of this bank (except those shown in b and c).....	\$ 643,880.08	643,880.08
Total loans.....	7.10	7.10
2 Overdrafts, secured,.....unsecured,		
3 U. S. Government securities owned:		
a Deposited to secure circulation (U. S. bonds par value).....	12,500.00	
b All other United States Government securities (including premiums, if any).....	45,500.00	58,000.00
Total.....	10,583.48	10,583.48
4 Other bonds, stocks, securities, etc., owned:		
6 Banking House, 6,062.00 Furniture and fixtures, 338.00		6,400.00
8 Lawful reserve with Federal Reserve Bank.....	31,708.38	31,708.38
10 Cash in vault and amount due from national banks.....	58,353.04	58,353.04
Total of Items 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13.....	58,353.04	
15 Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer and due from U. S. Treasurer.....	625.00	625.00
Total.....	\$809,557.08	\$809,557.08
LIABILITIES		
19 Capital stock paid in.....	50,000.00	50,000.00
20 Surplus fund.....	60,000.00	60,000.00
21 a Undivided profits.....	5,436.40	5,436.40
b Reserve for.....	5,436.40	11,750.00
22 Reserved for taxes, interest, etc., accrued.....	12,500.00	12,500.00
23 Circulating notes outstanding.....		
26 a Amount due to State banks, bankers and trust companies in the United States.....	381.71	381.71
27 Certified checks outstanding.....	4.49	4.49
28 Cashier's checks outstanding.....	5,354.55	5,354.55
29 Dividend checks outstanding.....	3,560.00	3,560.00
Total of 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28.....	9,300.75	260,804.04
30 Individual deposits subject to check.....		5,075.59
31 Certificates of deposit due in less than 30 days (other than for money borrowed).....		23,412.21
32 State, county or municipal deposits secured by pledge of assets of this bank or surety bond.....		
Total of demand deposits (other than bank deposits) subject to Reserve, Items 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34.....	289,291.84	323,778.09
35 Savings deposits (including time certificates of deposit other than for money borrowed).....		
Total of time deposits subject to Reserve, Items 35, 36, 37, and 38.....	323,778.09	323,778.09
39 United States deposits (other than postal savings, including War Loan deposit account and deposits of United States disbursing officers).....	47,500.00	47,500.00
Total.....	\$809,557.08	\$809,557.08

State of Oregon, County of Umatilla, ss.
I, F. S. LeGrow, Cashier of the above-named Bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 10th day of January, 1928.
F. S. LEGROW, Cashier.
Correct—Attest:
M. L. WATTS
M. W. HANSELL
HENRY DELL, Directors

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