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A TRAIL BLAZER CROSSES DIVIDE

Ezra Meeker of Oregon Trail Fame Succumbs at Age of 97 Years.

Seattle.—Ezra Meeker has set out on his last pilgrimage.

The patriarch of the pioneers of the once untamed West, who goaded an ox-team across the continent over the Old Oregon Trail three-quarters of a century ago and lived to cover the route by airplane in 1924, died here at 4:05 a. m., Monday after the first serious illness in the 97 years and 11 months of his eventful life.

Stricken in Detroit, Mich., several months ago with a digestive disorder while on his way to the east coast to retrace the Old Oregon Trail again, Meeker recovered only sufficiently to be brought back to Seattle eight weeks ago. His physicians despaired of his life several weeks ago, but as recently as Saturday the aged man rallied so well that it was thought he might get on his feet again.

Meeker died in a hotel room near the spot where 20 rude huts of the original settlers of Seattle stood when Meeker brought his young wife and a seven weeks old babe to the West in 1852. His wealth consisted chiefly of the affection and respect of his family and large numbers of friends. A son three daughters, 15 grand-children and 20 great-grand children survive him. His wife died in 1909.

Among the first few hundred men to cross the American continent by ox team and actually the last man to make the journey by that mode of travel, Ezra Meeker also was among the first passengers to cross the continent in an airplane. The last trip was made when he was within two months of being 94 years of age.

The venerable pioneer's first exploit in crossing the continent by ox team came about through necessity and love of adventure. The second, more than half a century later, was undertaken in an effort to perpetuate the history of the early migrations and to suitably mark the course of the once famous Oregon trail.

The airplane trip, made in October, 1924, was taken as a means of contrasting the first mode of travel across the country with the most modern way and Mr. Meeker attained the distinction of being the only person to make the journey by ox-team and airplane.

Whereas Mr. Meeker's pilgrimages by ox team, particularly the first, had been slow and arduous, on the occasion of his airplane trip 24 hours of actual flying brought him from Seattle to Washington. He arrived at the national capitol Oct. 6, 1924, having attended an aviation meet at Dayton, Ohio, en route. He was piloted by Lieutenant Oakley G. Kelley.

At the age of seventy-six years and after an active career of fifty-four years in Oregon and Washington Meeker formed the plan of duplicating as nearly as possible the outfit with which he had crossed the plains in 1852 and proceeding therewith alone over the same route to its terminus at the Missouri river and thence on to New York and Washington. In February 1906, he made the actual start east.

Meeker's outfit consisted of a yoke of steers, selected with the greatest care and a wagon made up of parts of three wagons which saw service on the plains in the early days. With this, he drove all the way to Washington, consuming twenty-two months on the way. As far as the Missouri river he traced every mile of the Oregon Trail and succeeded in interesting the residents of a large number of towns and villages in the erection of permanent markers. The journey on to Washington was for the purpose of inducing congress to make an appropriation to aid in the work.

At Washington, Meeker was received by President Roosevelt, who expressed great interest in the undertaking.

New Office Building

The Harstad building in Freewater has been completed and the Steinhardt-Kelly offices and Dr. Harstad's dental office are now occupied. Up to date equipment, and electric heating systems have been installed in both.

Adjudicating Water Rights

A group of state engineers and their secretaries are in Milton for the adjudication of water rights of the Walla Walla river. The meetings are being held on Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday in the basement of the library.

The Athena dancing club, known as the Benedict club, has reorganized for the winter season and will enjoy dancing every two weeks. Fletcher's orchestra of Pendleton has been engaged to furnish the music.

Bible Conference Being Held Nightly, First Baptist Church

A bible conference for this week and next began at the First Baptist Church of Athena, Monday evening. Two prominent speakers, Rev. H. L. Kempton of the White Temple Walla Walla, and Rev. W. H. Robins of the First Baptist church, of Pendleton, have subjects for each evening.

The conference opened Monday evening, with Rev. Kempton taking for his subject, "As to the Old Testament," and Rev. Robins, "As to the New Testament."

Both speakers are heard nightly, the meeting beginning at 7:30. Tonight the topics are: The Death of Jesus Christ, by Rev. Kempton; The Resurrection of Jesus Christ, by Rev. Robins. For next week the subjects will be:

Monday—"The Gospel of Satan," Rev. Robins; "The Holy Catholic Church," Rev. Kempton.

Tuesday—"Baptist Policy," Rev. Kempton; "The Apostolic Church," Rev. Robins.

Wednesday—"Is the World Growing Better?" Rev. Robins; "The End of the World," Rev. Kempton.

Thursday—"The Return of Christ," Rev. Kempton; "When the Lord Returns...What?" Rev. Robins.

Friday—"The Great White Throne," Rev. Robins; "The Lake of Fire," Rev. Kempton.

Farmers Again Offered Gold Brick Swine Plan

Oregon State College.—The old Spanish prisoner hoax, the three shell game and the gilt edge swine raising scheme are three confidence games that are constantly killed off only to appear elsewhere in all their glory. Only six months ago the animal husbandry department of the state college broadcast a warning that the swine raising promoters were "at large" in two eastern Oregon counties, yet similar gentry are now reported at work in another county in the state.

The plan as presented sounds plausible enough, as the promoters agree to sell a pure bred brood sow considerably above the market price to a farmer who in turn may sell all gilts from the first two litters back to the company at \$36 each. The catch comes, say legal authorities, in that several loop holes are left for the company but none for the farmer.

As soon as the scheme was exposed last spring, the promoters at work then faded away suddenly, one even neglecting to settle a hotel bill. The new ones reappeared in a county where the county agent was being changed, hence the farmers' "watch dog" was temporarily absent.

"The Noose" Coming To Standard Theatre

Broadway's most famous stage drama, "The Noose," in which Richard Barthelmess has the leading part will be seen on the screen at the Standard Theatre tomorrow night. Barthelmess is supported by an all star cast, led by Alice Joyce. Not for many months has the screen blazed forth a drama so realistic, so appealing, so vivid as "The Noose."

Fred Thomson and his wonder horse, Silver King, features the program Sunday night in Paramount's fine outdoor picture of "The Sunset Legion." The story is a snappy Western one, with some new twists. It is clean, wholesome and entertaining in high degree.

The Standard has been successful in booking "Old Ironsides," Paramount's screen version of Wendell Holmes' immortal poem, for showing on Christmas night. Charles Farrell, Esther Ralston, Wallace Beery and George Bancroft are the featured players in the cast.

First Basketball Game

The first basketball game of the season to be played in Athena gymnasium, will take place tonight, when the Adams high school boys and girls teams meet Athena high school in a double header. Adams has been playing for sometime in practice, and last week played a close game at Cocha Walla with the Eagles' team. Coach Miller has his players well in hand as the result of strenuous practice and the games tonight should be closely contested. Admission price to the game will be 35 cents.

Icy Road Takes Toll

Ice covered roads along the Columbia highway route have taken heavy toll of wrecked automobiles, and have resulted in the death of one man and the possible fatal injuries of another. More than fifty automobiles have piled up as wrecks in the ditches along the highway with resulting injuries to their occupants. Most of these injuries have been slight.

Walla Wallaia Killed

Ira McCollough, 35, formerly of Walla Walla, was instantly killed in Portland, Tuesday, when he was run over by a railroad switch engine.

JUDGE W. H. ATWELL



Federal Judge W. H. Atwell of Dallas, Texas, who has been sitting in New York, handled liquor cases without gloves. His removal from the bench was asked by a meeting of negroes and by an attorney whom he severely rebuked.

The Spud Market Is Slumping In Depression

Chicago.—Pursuit for the elusive slim figure is depressing the potato market nearly 25 percent, Governor H. C. Baldrige of Idaho, declared at the opening session of a two day conference on potatoes of the agricultural council of the central west shippers advisory board here, Growers from all parts of the country are attending.

One of the major problems of the conference is increased consumption to reduce the large surplus of production.

"Practically the entire reduction in consumption is chargeable to woman," Governor Baldrige said. He declared individual consumption has dropped from an average of three and three-quarters bushels to three bushels.

A surplus of 80,000,000 bushels remained out of last year's production of 361,000,000, bushels according to Russell B. Shepherd, an Idaho member of the advisory board. The surplus for 1928 will be 96,000,000 bushels, it was estimated.

Commercial alcohol makers provide one of the best markets for potatoes at present, Shepherd said, while livestock breeders, food, paste and starch makers also use large quantities.

Street Fair and a Church Bazaar

The young women's class of the Christian church will hold a street fair and bazaar in the lower room of the Masonic building on next Wednesday, December 12, beginning at 5:30 p. m.

There will be a program, comprising musical numbers, negro songs with the singers appearing in costume, funny skits, etc. Along the "streets" may be found booths containing the ever present hot dog stand, the hamburger den, the chili bean shack, and the merry, old fashioned fishing pond where you can get more fun for a nickel than you ever had in your life.

The bazaar will have an art booth, crammed full of many pretty and useful articles which will be sure to please the eye and deplete the purse. Cut flowers in all their gorgeous beauty and fragrance will be on sale.

Bridge Tea

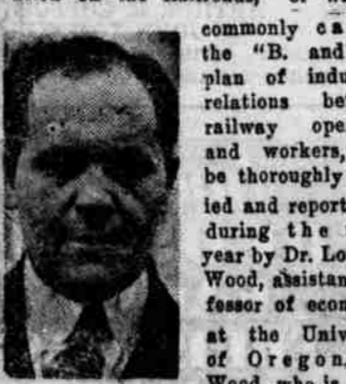
The 3 o' 4 Bridge Club and the Athena Bridge Club and additional guests sufficient to make up nine tables were entertained at the home of Mrs. M. L. Watts Tuesday afternoon. Flowers and shrubs suggestive of the winter season were used effectively about the attractive rooms. Bridge was the diversion of the afternoon, Mrs. H. A. Barrett holding high score, Mrs. Dave Stone second and Mrs. F. B. Boyd the consolation. Following the play the hostess served a dainty collation further accenting winter and the holiday season. Guests other than members of the two clubs included, Mrs. Chase Garfield, Mrs. Theresa Berlin, Mrs. Bryce Baker, Mrs. Lee Hiteman, Mrs. James Creswell, Mrs. Penn Harris, Mrs. Marion Hansell, Mrs. Roseberry, Mrs. Bert Logsdon, Mrs. Dave Stone, Miss Pearl Ramsay, Miss Hilda Dickenson, Mrs. Fred Pinkerton, Mrs. Alex McIntyre, Mrs. F. B. Boyd and Mrs. Fredericks of Weston.

Chapter Elects

At the regular meeting of McKenzie Chapter, O. E. S. Wednesday evening, the following officers were elected to serve the coming year: Worthy Matron, Mrs. Alta Kirk; Worthy Patron, Mr. A. R. Coppock; Associate W. M., Mrs. Grace Rogers; secretary, Mrs. Persenphone Watts; treasurer, Mrs. Eva Richards; conductress, Mrs. Anna Littlejohn; associate conductress, Mrs. Virginia Watts. An invitation from Dolph Lodge A. F. & A. M. to have installation of officers jointly with that lodge was accepted, the date to be announced later.

Railroad Study Due

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene.—"The Union-Management Cooperation on the Railroads," or what is



Dr. L. A. Wood

commonly called the "B. and O.," plan of industrial relations between railway operators and workers, will be thoroughly studied and reported on during the next year by Dr. Louis A. Wood, assistant professor of economics at the University of Oregon. Dr. Wood, who is a specialist on labor problems, has been granted a Sterling Research fellowship in the graduate school of Yale University for the year 1928 and 1929, and will devote all his time to the study of the railway project.

The study will receive cooperation from the federal department of labor of the United States, and officials of the American Federation of Labor are also expected to be interested.

Christmas Presents Go By Air Mail Routes

Air mail planes, Santa, and the Postoffice Department will join forces this month to help the Pacific Northwest say "Merry Christmas" to all the United States, it is seen in holiday mailing plans announced by the U. S. Air Mail Information Bureau.

This year postal authorities are redoubling their efforts to prevent holiday train mail congestion from delaying the northwest's Christmas greetings to distant friends and relatives. To gain this, says the information bureau, everyone is urged to "Send Santa Mail by Air Mail."

Aware of the part they soon will play, the nation's 27 air mail routes are literally preening their wings in anticipation of a tremendous volume of holiday mail—greeting cards, letters, and even small gift packages. Millions are being spent in purchasing new and larger planes, and every route is preparing to throw its reserve planes into action to carry the bumper crop of Christmas cheer.

The recent air mail postage rate reduction more than any thing else will influence the volume of holiday air mail leaving the Pacific Northwest for the east and middle west, according to Claud V. O'Callaghan, traffic manager of the northwest division of the transcontinental air mail.

Farm Aid Measure Is Presented to Senate

Washington.—A farm relief bill without the controversial equalization fee was given to the senate Tuesday.

Chairman McNary of the senate agriculture committee, the co-author of the twice vetoed McNary-Haugen bill, sponsored the new farm relief measure, which, except for being shorn of provisions, resembles the old proposal.

Establishment of a federal farm board of six members to be appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the senate, would be provided by the new measure. A revolving fund of \$200,000,000 would be given the board with which to finance, through loans, stabilization corporations composed of cooperative marketing associations and producers. The corporations would be used for the purchase of surplus crops in order to prevent a glutting of the market and of prices.

Wallowa Has Big Fire

More than half of a business block at Wallowa, Ore., was destroyed by fire early Tuesday. Flames, starting in a vacant frame building destroyed the two-story brick Northern hotel, the Fisher barber shop, the Tully store, Baird's Variety store, and Poole's Jewelry store. The total loss was estimated between \$20,000 and \$25,000. The fire was not extinguished for three hours. The postoffice, bank and pharmacy escaped. The origin of the fire was unknown. Cold weather hampered fire fighters.

No Community Tree

Announcement was made some weeks ago of the proposal of Mayor Stephens to have a community Christmas tree and appropriate exercises in Athena this year. The mayor took the matter up with the churches for co-operation, and the announcement is made by him that no community effort in that direction will take place this Christmas time.

Poultry Show

Final arrangements for the seventh annual poultry show of the Walla Walla Poultry Breeders association have been made. The show, which is to be held from Tuesday, Dec. 11 to Saturday, Dec. 15, will be one of the best ever put on according to the committee in charge.

Walla Walla Learns That Camp McDougal Road Will Be Graveled

From several sources information has reached Walla Walla, reports the Bulletin, to the effect that six miles of highway in Umatilla county connecting with the forest boundary at Camp McDougal will be graveled in 1929. Forest service officials already have announced that the four and one-half miles from Camp McDougal to Tollgate will be cleared and graded next year.

These reports, according to Albert Baker, forest ranger, mean that a first class highway will be available next summer all the way from Weston to the summit of the Blue mountains, a distance of 21 miles. The sector within the forest from McDougal has been slashed and is to be cleared of logs this winter.

With the Skyline road completed along the summit of the mountains from near Dayton to Tollgate, a first-class approach is expected to make the loop trip over the summit a highly popular one next summer. An all-day jaunt of about 160 miles will be provided by this loop, which includes paved highway from Dayton to Weston, slightly more than 50 miles, and 20 mile approaches to the forest from either Dayton or Weston, with about 70 miles of road within the forest.

Reports last week were that the bottom of Langdon lake, near Tollgate, is being cleared of debris, stumps and dead trees and that Kidwell brothers, who have recently taken hold there, will have the nucleus of quite a resort for the coming summer. A good road to their property will be a boon to the drivers of small cars, Mr. Baker said, and tend to popularize the forest for recreation.

Dudley Rogers and Miss Gross Married

On Wednesday, November 28, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ben F. Dupuis in Pendleton, the marriage of Margaret E. Gross and Eugene Dudley Rogers was solemnized.

Beautiful chrysanthemums were used with decorative effect in the pleasant living room where the ceremony was performed by Rev. Walter Payne. At 12:30 Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Gross were host and hostess for a very enjoyable luncheon at the Grice Cafeteria. Later in the afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Rogers left by motor for Portland. They have been at home to their friends in Athena, since December 3.

Mrs. Rogers is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Gross of Washtucna, Washington. She is a high school graduate and is a graduate of Behnke Walker business college.

Mr. Rogers is a Weston-Athena boy, a graduate of Class of '23, Athena High School. Wedding guests were: Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Gross, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Rogers, Emery and Kenneth Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Dupuis, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kirk, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Payne, little Miss Grace Strong, Masters Robert and Kelly Strong.

Dogs Run Horse Into Wire Fence; Badly Cut

A good saddle horse owned by F. S. LeGrow is perhaps permanently crippled as the result of being run into a barb wire fence by dogs, sometime Tuesday night.

The horse finally freed itself from the entanglement when the wire broke. Fearfully gashed, some of the cuts penetrating to the bone, it is doubtful whether the animal will ever again be useful for service. Dogs have been driven away from the enclosure before during the night time by Mr. LeGrow and also by R. A. Thompson who lives near. Recently the howling, barking pack, so annoyed Mr. Thompson, that he sent a charge of shot at them.

A fine colt of Mr. LeGrow's was in the lot with the saddle horse but kept clear of the wire and fortunately escaped unhurt.

Convict Still Out

Nathan Clevenger, the trusty who walked away from the prison farm Monday afternoon was still at large according to prison authorities. Police in all parts of the northwest are looking for the man and his apprehension is expected shortly. He is serving a sentence for forgery.

Prominent Hermiston Farmer

John W. Leek, prominent Umatilla county farmer, died suddenly Tuesday afternoon at his home one mile north of Hermiston. Mr. Leek had been a resident of the Hermiston district for the past 18 years and had taken an active part in community affairs.

Tests 40 Pounds Butterfat

In the butterfat producing contest for the month of October, James Duncan has a cow in the four year old class that produced over 40 pounds of fat.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON NEARS

Early Purchasers Will Get Best Selections And Save Time.

The Christmas holidays are drawing near. In seventeen more days all shopping will have to be done, and fortunate is the early buyer, for to him goes the best selection in purchases made.

"Shop early" is the slogan throughout the length and breadth of the land, and while many heed it, there are always thousands who wait until the last minute to satisfy demands made on the family in observance of the Santa Claus spirit and yuletide festivities.

Merchants are bringing their Christmas stocks forward in display, and they reveal countless novelties. In the large cities it is possible to view floor space given over to veritable toy lands, but all can not have the privilege of these trading facilities, and residents of Athena and vicinity are fortunate indeed in having the opportunity to make their selections of Christmas goods from good stocks in Athena stores.

At the Athena Department store one finds several lines of staple articles that make splendid Christmas gifts, and at the same time are very much on the practical order. In neat arrangement is also displayed fancy pieces of glassware, shoe tree sets, games, toys, etc.

Steve has a corking good line of mechanical toys this year. Also on display is a superb array of dolls, dishes, games, toys and Christmas tree decorations. Then there are sweaters, shirts, mackinaws, gloves, socks, ties n'everything.

McFadden's Pharmacy is displaying novelties such as was never before shown here. They embrace Zechoslovakian art in vases and other articles in glass, together with a fine assortment of beads. Kodaks, smoker's sets, toilet articles and perfumes are to be found there together with toys.

Rogers & Goodman offer fine selections in silverware, aluminumware, gasoline lamps, heaters and ranges, washing machines, firearms, etc., all suitable for Christmas presents.

Influenza Epidemic Hits Over Country

With 8,213 cases of influenza reported in California, and 15,000 in the country as a whole, the United States public health service warned physicians and health officers to be especially vigilant to forestall another widespread epidemic.

State health officers reported the following numbers of cases in their states for the week ending Dec. 1: Montana 3,372; Oregon 296; Utah 258; Arizona 300; South Carolina 2,718; Georgia 334; Alabama 198; and Indiana 261. Several other states had less than 100 cases. In every state it reported, there are at least a few cases.

The first cases reported were in San Francisco, several weeks ago. Apparently, the health service explained, the disease spread to Hollywood, thence west, and less extensively south and east.

Dr. R. C. Williams, cautioned against mingling with crowds and advocated sleeping in open air, and the usual necessary precautions to prevent coming in contact with the disease.

A Touch of Winter

Umatilla county and the Inland Empire felt its first touch of winter Friday morning, when a light snow fall visited this section. The snow soon disappeared however, except on the mountain crests where the white blanket still remains. At Meacham six inches is reported, and the first report of zero weather came from there Monday night, when the mercury registered two below. Eight above zero is the minimum reported for Athena.

Christmas Health Seals

The 21st annual sale of Christmas health seals is now under way. Mrs. James K. Hill of Pendleton, is chairman of the county sales organization, and Mrs. Homer I. Watts is the Athena chairman. A slide announcing the Christmas seal sale is shown on the screen at the Standard Theatre, and other means of advertising the annual sale will be made.

Bridge Club Honored

Mrs. E. C. Presthye honored the Athena Bridge Club when she entertained at her home Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. R. B. McEwen held high score and Mrs. W. S. Ferguson received the consolation. Mrs. Bert Logsdon was an additional guest. At the tea hour the hostess, assisted by Mrs. H. I. Watts, served appetizing refreshments in two courses.