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F. B. BOYD, Owner and Publisher

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THE FIRE HAZARD

An editorial writer says a black spot on the record of American progress and prosperity is fire waste. For two years, since the high mark of over half a billion dollars was reached in 1926, losses have declined, an indication that fire prevention work is bearing fruit. Yet we have the greatest per capita loss of any country in the world. The tragic part of the waste is that at least eighty per cent of all fires are preventable and inexcusable. We sacrifice thousands of lives and millions of dollars in property, merely because of carelessness or ignorance. Fire prevention organizations, both public and private, have labored unfruitfully to instruct the people in the menace of fire and the means of prevention. It is a common occurrence for losses to greatly decrease during the annual "Fire Prevention Week," only to rise again when the period is past. Fire is the most hopeless and terrible of all wastes. Property and lives destroyed can never be completely replaced. And the indirect loss, in time and business and employment, is inestimable.

Adverse growing conditions in early season, is attributed as being the principal cause for the short bean in the Athena neighborhood. During the latter part of May and the fore part of June, cold, wet weather retarded growth of the plants. On the higher ground south of Athena and on the foothill ranches, the yield is much better than on the lower wheat lands, where the plants are smaller and the pods not so well filled. Tim McBride's statement that "soil which will grow garden truck will produce beans," seems to be verified in results that have been demonstrated by the experimental crop grown here this season by the Eickhoff Products company, and next year's soil selection may be on higher lands, exclusively.

The Oregon State Board of Health has asked of the physicians outside of Portland to become health officers. The campaign of getting ready for school is a co-operative movement between the physicians of the state and the parents of the school children. The board points out that thirty-five children died of diphtheria in 1928; most of the defects were correctable; all of the cases of smallpox could have been prevented; there was no need for the deaths from diphtheria; these are the dangers that the preschool child must face; all children should receive preventive treatment. Every school child should be examined for defects; every school child should be protected against diphtheria and smallpox.

Trust are not the boggy man they once were and those who don't believe it can have a look at J. P. Morgan's new \$450,000,000 power combination. A final opinion by the New York state attorney-general, rendered to Gov. Roosevelt, says the combination was formed without violating any state law. As far as that state is concerned, the big merger of power companies is legal. Trusts aren't the terror to government they once were, it seems. Not in New York, anyway.

An exchange taking capitalism for an editorial text, concludes with the assertion that capitalism forwards democracy in that it encourages private initiative to the extent that yesterday's newsboy is today's millionaire. Well, er, not exactly. A newsboy would have a helluva time penetrating the armored crust of a number of "public utility" concerns we have been reading about.

A Hood River resident the other day informed the News that his brand new car had been struck by an old vintage model of some kind; that the old car was worthless and the owner broke, and he wanted the News to tell him what to do about it. The News promptly suggested that he buy himself a cigar and forget all about it.

Trucks and buses have been speeding over Idaho highways 50 and 60 miles an hour, in some instances crowding passenger cars into the ditch, so the secretary of state has instructed patrolmen to pinch the big vehicles found exceeding 45 miles an hour. Passenger cars come before trucks and buses in Idaho hereafter.

The Jefferson Review finds that a Michigan judge decided that when a woman engaged to marry, makes home brew this is sufficient grounds for her fiance to commit breach of

promise. However, the Review is of the opinion that usually in a case like this it is the home brew itself that commits breach of promise.

Independent Republican and Democratic senators will endeavor to put a crimp in the proposed tariff measure at the coming session. Sure enough. There always has been and there always will be scrapping over the tariff, and it makes no difference whether a schedule on sugar is to be considered or not.

Four-wheel brakes, non-shatterable glass and steel bodies have made the automobile one of the safest vehicles in the world. The manufacturers are doing their part to safeguard the riding public. Now if lawmakers and courts will hogle the reckless driver, we'll be able to go somewhere once in a while.

Forgetting, perhaps, that when a boy he capered as boys do—stole a few cherries and a watermelon now and then, Craig Hoffman, irony old New Jersey farmer fired on three boys in his corn patch and killed one. Hoffman is where he should be; in jail, charged with first degree murder.

It appears that Russia and China are to come to grips in war. With no apparent respect for the Kellogg pact which both belligerent nations signed, we shall perhaps soon see what effect the pact really has in outlawing war between nations who have recognized it.

The jazz distance racket has been superseded by the rocking chair marathon. Jazzing was hard on corns and bunions, while rocking affects the eyes; one of the participants was disqualified when he finally rocked himself to sleep.

Jap hospitality made a hit with Graf Zepelin passengers and crew. The nation of little brown men knows how to do things and is steadily outgrowing oriental customs.

The Western Oregon and Washington prune crop is not so heavy as last year but the price of nine to nine one-half cents per pound, will make up for the shortage.

A fashion note says that men soon will be wearing blue shoes. "Men" is the word one of our editor friends objects to.

Sixty-seven hours, forty-nine minutes is the record from Tokio, Japan to San Francisco, and the Graf Zepelin holds it.

That two-gun bandit who fell asleep while holding up a crowd in a Chicago cafe, must have had the dropsy.

It appears to us that the ladies can put about as much pep in an air derby as the men fliers do.

The softest job in the world? Picking blooms off a century plant.

Here's to the Portland Ducks; long may they swim!

TO SAVE THE OLYMPIA
(Walla Walla Union)

Whether Admiral Dewey's flagship Olympia shall be preserved as a national relic or sent to the scrap heap is a question now agitating the Navy Department and many citizens of the country. The old vessel is no longer of use for naval purposes and has been out of commission since 1922.

Two proposals for preserving the former flagship have been made, one embodied in a bill introduced in congress providing for maintaining the vessel as a memorial at Washington; the other being from the chamber of commerce of Olympia, Wash., for which the ship was named, offering to preserve it there. The fate of the Olympia will be decided by Congress.

Built in San Francisco and placed in commission on February 5, 1895, the Olympia has seen service in many parts of the world. From one of her 8-inch guns was fired the first shot at the Battle of Manila on May 1, 1898, when Dewey destroyed the Spanish fleet under Montejó. No Americans were killed and only six wounded, while the Spanish losses in killed and wounded totalled 650 or more. It is only fair to say that the Spanish fleet was overwhelmingly outclassed in the battle and fought gamely in the face of certain defeat.

However, Dewey became through this victory the outstanding hero of the Spanish-American War, and his sturdy little flagship is affectionately regarded by the people of the United States. The Olympia should be preserved, and doubtless will be.

ACTORS ARE SERIOUS
(Oregon Labor Press)

Doubtless most persons think acting is not strenuous and movie actors and actresses are envied by millions. News from Hollywood, where a virtual strike condition exists in this great industry, should dispel a lot of the illusion. In making talking or sound pictures men and women frequently work 10 or more hours under blazing lights and in terrific heat. A double shift is not uncommon. And every now and then someone goes down under the strain. It will not be easy, however, to dispel the glamor that has been woven over the movie industry by hokum writers and beautiful dumb bells who have got rich because they couldn't help it. Actors' Equity is putting up a hard fight and newspapers that would give page one to a Hollywood divorce are silent while the great struggle goes on.

21 Years Ago

Friday, September 4 1908

Harry McBride is sole proprietor of the McBride livery and feed stable in this city, having purchased Henry Stamper's interest. In the deal, Mr. Stamper assumes proprietorship of the Weston livery stable. All accounts due the Athena end of the business conducted by the firm in the past, are payable to Mr. McBride.

The Taylor-LeGrow string of horses that are to be worked in the relay race at the Walla Walla fair this year, was taken to that city Tuesday where the fleet saddlers will at once be put into training. The owners of the horses have secured an expert rider and expect to again win the race this year.

The O. R. & N. company has a force of men employed in digging a channel across Main street in the yards for the purpose of draining water caused by freshets coming from above town.

Miss Carrie Stone left the first of the week for Thornton, Wash., where she will teach school.

Mr. and Mrs. Ora Rhodes, Mrs. George Beadle and Mr. James Foss, spent Sunday in Walla Walla.

Miss Glen Parkyn, of Lewiston, Idaho, is a guest of her cousin, Miss Eva Rider, having accompanied Mrs. H. H. Hill home from Lewiston.

Dr. Heisley, the osteopath, finds his Weston practice increasing to the extent that three days of each week are entirely taken up with patients in that city.

Attorney S. F. Wilson returned Tuesday evening from his eastern trip. He spent five days at his old home in Burnsville, N. C., and put in the time pleasantly.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Pinkerton and son and daughter, went down to Hood River Tuesday. They will be gone a couple of weeks and will visit the State fair at Salem.

The ladies of the C. W. B. M. met Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. David Taylor. The officers for the ensuing year were elected and a short program was enjoyed by all.

Emil Blevins of Weston, has accepted a salesman position at Jarman's store in this city. Mr. Blevins is a Normal school graduate and comes highly recommended to Mr. Jarman.

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Kirk and Mr. and Mrs. Thos. DeFrees returned Monday from a short outing trip. They went to Wallowa Lake and had the rare privilege of experiencing an August snow storm.

A. G. Gilliland, telegraph operator at the O. R. & N. depot, left this week to take a similar position at Starbuck. Mr. Mitchell fills the place made vacant by Mr. Gilliland, whose mother will follow him to Starbuck later.

Miss Velma Wilkenson was the guest of Mrs. I. M. Kemp of Weston Wednesday.

Dr. and Mrs. A. B. Stone of Portland, arrived in the city yesterday for a short visit with relatives and friends. The doctor and family have been taking a three weeks' vacation the most of the time having been spent with relatives in Washington.

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Reduction In Electric Light Rates

The following reduction in Electric light rates will be in effect on and after March 15, 1929:

Residential Rates

First 30 KWH hours used, per month.....10c per KWH
Excess over 30 KWH used, per month.....3c per KWH

The above rates apply when bills are paid in full within 10 days from date of bill. Otherwise, the rate will be increased by 10 per cent on each item.

Commercial Rates

First 100 KWH used per month.....10c per KWH
Next 200.....7c per KWH
Next 300.....6c per KWH
Next 400.....5c per KWH
Next 1000.....4c per KWH
Excess over 2000.....3c per KWH

The above rates apply when bills are paid in full within 10 days from date of bill. Otherwise, the rate will be increased by 10 per cent on each item.

Preston-Shaffer Milling Company

Announcement

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ATHENA, OREGON, Announces that it has completed the organization of a

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