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GOVERNOR WILL PARDON AUTOISTS

Will Hold License Law At Bay for 30 Days by Halting Prosecutions.

Salem.—An unconditional pardon at the hands of Governor Meier awaits any and every Oregon motorist who might run foul of the state law for failure to get new license plates within the next 30 days. This offer from the governor followed a letter Tuesday to Secretary Hoss urging that enforcement of the law be set aside temporarily for the benefit of motorists who are not financially able to get their plates at this time and for those who might be away from home on vacations.

"If Hoss does not suspend the operation of the law as I suggested in my letter, I will grant an unconditional pardon to any person who might be arrested and convicted for failure to get his plates during the next 30 days," the governor told newspapermen.

Figures in the office of the automobile registration show that 140,000 sets of license plates had been issued up to Monday night. This figure includes plates issued over the counter in both Salem and Portland offices and indicates that a little over one-half of Oregon's motoring population has provided itself with the new blue and white tags entitling drivers to operate their automobiles over the public highways after midnight.

No comparisons are available on the total number of license plates issued, but mail applications are running slightly behind those of a year ago with 51,512 mail applications received this year compared to 60,085 last year.

Expressing his appreciation of the intense interest which the governor has shown in the welfare of the motoring public, Hoss, in a reply to the governor's letter requesting a moratorium, points out that he has no authority to set aside the law covering this subject and which requires that new license plates be displayed on and after July 1.

"Please be advised that I do not make the laws, that I have no right to set them aside and that I have never set them aside in previous years as intimated in your letter," Hoss declares. "I can get no authority from the attorney general or any other source to modify an act of the legislature.

"From the press I understand that you can handle the situation by granting pardons to those who might be arrested. I already have requests from people who made considerable effort to purchase their licenses, asking that I return their money inasmuch as they wish to take advantage of your mandate.

"You have asked me to urge sheriffs and police officers to not enforce this license law. As chief enforcement officer of the state you should assert that prerogative yourself, and in any event I shall not do so.

"Your action will have the very material effect of stopping purchase of license plates, throwing my organization into a bad situation and interfering seriously with the collection of money now badly needed by the highway commission, according to their statement.

"I appreciate your intense interest in the people of Oregon for whom you plead but under the Oregon law I have no authority to postpone the effective date for the purchase of motor vehicle licenses."

Harvest Will Soon Be Under Way Near Here

Harvest operations will soon be under way on the farms in the light soil district north of Athena. R. B. McEwen expects to commence threshing wheat on the old Beal Pine creek ranch Monday, and other machines in that part of the county are ready to begin work next week.

In the Pilot Rock country the grain is ready to cut, and the yield is expected to exceed estimates made several weeks ago.

In the vicinity of Milton grain has been ripe for several days but the straw has been tough enough to hold off cutting, but next week should the weather be right a number of combines will begin work.

Conservative estimates place the time of beginning the harvest of the crop in the Athena-Adams-Weston section of the Umatilla wheat belt around July 15th. Cool weather has held back ripening process in the straw and the grain heads have filled perceptibly under favorable weather conditions.

Hughie Steel Visiting Here

Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Wood have returned from a motor trip to Idaho. They also visited their daughter Mrs. Steele, whose home is a ranch in the Yakima valley five miles from Selah. Water for irrigation was scarce in that vicinity until haying operations were in full swing, when the country was visited by heavy rains causing considerable damage to the hay. Mr. and Mrs. Wood were accompanied home by their grandson Hughie Steele who has recently completed the 8th grade and in the fall will enter high school. The consolidated district school of Selah is said to be the largest in the United States. Hughie who lived here with his grandparents and attended the first and second grades will be here for several weeks.

World Fliers Home

Post and Gatty, 'round the world hiers landed at the home field in New York Wednesday evening after circumnavigating the world in eight days, 15 hours and 51 minutes. Although they took almost nine days to make the 16,000 miles, they actually spent only four days, ten hours and eight minutes of this time in the air.

George Strand Chosen

The vacancy left by the death of the late H. P. Whitman on the board of directors of the Pendleton Round-Up has been filled by the election of George Strand. Mr. Strand, who in the past has been identified with the association as an assistant in the arena, will hereafter have charge of non-competitive events.

Elm Trees Destroyed

A parasite is destroying the elm shade trees in some parts of town. A couple of elms on Third street, near the Athena Hotel are almost denuded of leaves, and other elms in town are in like condition.

Youths Quickly Apprehended After Auto Thefts

Officers allege that it took three stolen automobiles to convey two Walla Walla embryonic car thieves from the Garden City to Echo and return. The stunt was pulled Sunday evening by the two lads one 11 and the other 13 years of age, and by a dip of fate a nine year old boy tipped the pair off to officers.

Officers allege the two stole a Ford touring car at Walla Walla, drove it to Echo and back to Pendleton, where it was abandoned. There they took a Chevrolet, drove it to this city and then discarded it for a Ford coupe, owned by J. B. Knight, traveling man from Yakima.

Knight was in the Athena Service Station. The Ford was close by and when the two boys entered it, they were seen by 9 year old Artie Kilgore, who gave the information to Knight.

Marshall Miller was called and Knight and the officer speeded off in pursuit of the stolen car after notifying the sheriff's office at Pendleton. Walla Walla officers were called by the Pendleton office and the two lads were net a short distance out on the Oregon-Washington highway.

They are being held in the juvenile ward of the Walla Walla county jail, and officers state that they have been in trouble before.

Walla Walla for Cannery

Three things necessary for the Walla Walla valley to obtain a cannery to handle its surplus products have been secured. First, promises of growers of sufficient tonnage to justify establishment have been obtained; second, a reduction in freight rates which will permit entrance into competitive markets has been promised by the railroads, and third, promises from canning interests to investigate thoroughly this territory, the only major one in the Northwest, where there is no cannery.

HERO GETS COMMAND

Harry Manning, remembered by all for his heroism under Capt. George Fried when he assisted in rescuing the crews of the Florida and Antioch, standing on the bridge of the S. S. American Trader as he took command of the vessel just before she sailed.

Quilt Drawing July 11

Wanna group of Campfire girls is actively engaged in redecorating the house recently taken over by them for headquarters. The girls wish to express their appreciation to Mr. Justin Harwood who generously papered two rooms. An attractively patterned paper was used and the rooms are taking on a cozy appearance. Thanks are also due the guardians Mrs. Bert Logsdon and Mrs. C. M. Eager who have worked untiringly. Mrs. Lloyd Michener and C. M. Eager have also lent valuable assistance in the work. Preston-Shaffer Milling Co. donated the use of electricity while the papering was in progress and the City of Athena is donating water for the flowers recently planted. The girls will meet next week to paint woodwork and floors. They would appreciate the donation of five window blinds and two light fixtures and any pieces of furniture not in use. The drawing for the quilt will be held at the Athena meat market at 9 o'clock Saturday evening, July 11th. Until that time tickets may be procured at the market.

A Lot of Fine Trout

Fay LeGrow, who spent a portion of last week on a fishing trip with Byron Hawks on the Yak river near Bonner's Ferry, Idaho, returned home with the finest lot of trout seen here this year. In the catch were a number of big Rainbows with fine markings and all were taken from the cold waters of the Yak on the fly, no bait fishing being done on the trip.

Foster to Klamath Falls

Walter Foster, state traffic officer who came to this district from Klamath Falls some months ago and who has been registering his visits to Athena at the Athena Service Station, has been transferred back to the Klamath Falls district for duty there.

U. of O. Sculptor Models Mythical Hero



This model of the statue of Paul Bunyan, mythical hero of loggers and lumbermen all over the country, has been made by Oliver Laurence Barrett, sculptor at the University of Oregon. It is shown superimposed on a background to give a perspective of its ultimate size, which Mr. Barrett hopes will be approximately 35 feet in height.

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New Rates in Grain Discounts Are Approved by the Portland Dealers

Portland.—The schedule of grain discounts for the 1931 crop as recommended by the grain committee of the Portland Merchants' Exchange, was ratified by the members of the exchange in its entirety and became effective Wednesday morning. The schedule shows some reduction from the previous season, and is the first change made in the rates since 1927.

In changing the schedule the sacked basis was established at 2 cents over bulk, instead of 3 cents as last season. The resacking charge was reduced from 10 cents to 7 cents per sack, and bad order sacks are discounted 2 cents instead of 3 cents.

Smutting charges on bulk wheat remain unchanged, but on sacked wheat have been reduced 15 cents per ton. The interest rate on drafts will be 6 per cent instead of 7 per cent.

Discounts on export classes of wheat running 25 to 50 per cent admixture are reduced 1 to 2 cents, according to the test weights. On milling wheat testing from 50 to 52 pounds, the discount is reduced 1 cent. On all other classes and grades, the discounts are the same as in the previous season.

The new lists will be ready for distribution to the trade Monday.

River Road Is Open

The new Mission-Thorn Hollow river road is now open for travel. The road which is 12 miles in length was constructed throughout the late fall and winter months and gave way to a large number of men, when employment was most needed. The high flood waters of early spring delayed the work and damaged the road grade to some extent. Only a portion of the new road has been gravelled, but recent rains have settled the ungravelled part so that automobiles are passing over it with fair speed and comfort to travelers.

The Fourth at Ukiah

Beginning last night with a dance in Jazz Canyon, the two-day Cowboy convention an annual rodeo exhibition will be in full swing today and tomorrow. With improved highways leading to Ukiah, and the hospitality of that community well known, a large crowd will be there to assist in the big celebration. Bryce Baker, who assisted in the arena last year, is taking part again. Mr. and Mrs. Baker left for Ukiah yesterday.

To Celebrate Fourth

Tomorrow in observance of Independence Day, Athena stores and business houses will be closed. There will be no celebration in Athena and the populace will virtually move away to other cities, to streams and mountain resorts in quest of Fourth of July pleasures. Langdon Lake, Bingham Springs, Ukiah, Walla Walla and mountain picnic nooks will attract their quota of celebrators, picnickers and campers from here.

A Visit From Sea Gulls

Athena was visited by three sea gulls, which flew above the tree tops, surveying the town, Monday evening. The gulls presumably were from Hermiton reservoir, for after circling around for some time they headed back in that direction.

Autopsy Shows Bidwell Was a Murder Victim

An autopsy revealed that Homer Bidwell, Baker county farmer and stockman who was well known to a number of Athena people, and mentioned whose death appears in another column of today's Press, was shot in the head with a .25 bullet.

Bidwell's body was found Saturday night in a field near his home. It was believed then he had been fatally injured when his team became frightened and ran away. The search for Bidwell started when the team ran into the barnyard dragging a broken cart.

What at first was taken for a slight abrasion under Bidwell's left eye, thought to have been caused by the breaking of his eye glasses, was found to have been the point where the bullet entered. An autopsy revealed the bullet, presumably fired from a .25 caliber automatic pistol, had lodged in the rear of the right lobe of the brain.

Deputy sheriffs believe Bidwell's slayer shot from a distance of six feet.

A search was immediately started for Willard Sullivan who was to be questioned in connection with the shooting. Last year, deputies revealed, he is alleged to have made threats against the rancher. Police said they learned, too, that at 5:30 p. m. Saturday he told a man named Berrick, near Telocast, that Bidwell was dead. Several hours later the body was found. Neighbors of Bidwell said Sullivan blamed him for trouble between Sullivan and his wife.

Cavity Under Street Is Discovered by Workmen

Workmen repairing a water pipe line at intersection of Third and Jefferson streets Monday afternoon, uncovered a cavity four feet in diameter and about six feet long running at right angle to the excavation they were making.

The hole or tunnel, rather, was about two feet below the rockfilling base of the pavement. How or when the excavation was made, is a matter of conjecture. It is improbable that at one time a cellar was made there, unless it was a temporary one used for winter storage of potatoes when that part of Athena was a field.

In making repairs to the pipe line it was necessary to cut the asphalt pavement in two sections. The leak which sent water oozing up through the pavement was fortunately discovered before damage resulted to the base construction of the thoroughfare.

Membership of the Golf Club Continues Increase

Membership in the Athena golf club continues to increase, with the enrollment now at thirty-six. Considerable interest is manifested by the local members and the course is being well patronized by outside players.

Sunday the links attracted the largest crowd of players since Mr. Pinkerton, the proprietor, opened the course three weeks ago. A number of carloads of players from Pendleton, Freeewater and Milton played and practically the entire club membership was represented.

Mr. Pinkerton has the fairways in good condition. He recently purchased a machine which cuts the grass close to the ground and he is constantly employing methods to further improve the course.

Missionary Meeting

The Missionary society of the Christian church met Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. F. B. Boyd with eighteen present. Mrs. M. M. Johns presented an interesting program relative to missions in India, papers being read by Mrs. J. W. Pinkerton, Miss Glea Sias, and Mrs. Boyd. Devotionals were led by Mrs. G. R. Gerking. Light refreshments were served by Miss Elsa Ringel, assisted by Miss Gias. Guests other than members were: Mrs. Hulda McKinney, Mrs. Margaret Banister, Misses Mary and Esther Berlin, Joyce and Margaret Pinkerton. Flowers carrying out color schemes of red, white and blue, were used in decorating the rooms.

Violators Arrested

Several state traffic patrolmen Wednesday arrested 30 or more autoists for operating cars with old plates at Oregon City, Justice Catro, before whom most traffic cases are tried, said he would fine the violators in accordance with his usual custom, but intimated that the fines would be lighter than customary. He usually assesses \$25 for violation of the motor code.

At Langdon Lake

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Pinkerton will join the Frazier family reunion picnic at Langdon Lake tomorrow.

Annual Athena Picnic, Portland Last Saturday

The following account of the annual picnic held by former residents of Athena at Portland, is given The Press by Mrs. Alma Koontz:

Saturday, June 27, was the date of the annual Athena Picnic held each year in Portland, but owing to the many days of rain, very few had the courage to venture out, some 25 or 30 being in attendance.

From a time it seemed as if the sun would be victorious over the rain but not so. It was not an "Oregon mist" that came but an "Oregon downpour." However, we found a sheltered nook to spread our lunch and I am sure the few who were there enjoyed themselves, though we were a little damp. The inclemency of the weather was a great disappointment as we had planned on a large attendance.

We had the pleasure of having with us several from a distance which always adds a great deal to our picnic. Our visitors were:

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dell from Athena, Mr. Ernest Koepke of Seattle, Mrs. Feral McBride Clark and son James Edward of Chicago and Mrs. Mabel Barnett Chrineuto of Seattle. Others in attendance were Mr. and Mrs. W. McBride, 638 Birch St.; Mrs. J. E. Gorman and daughter Bernice, 973 Brooklyn St.; Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Wescott (Ruby Callender) 653 E 66th N.; Mrs. Ella Callender; Iva Callender Kilthan, James and Roy Kilthan, 1621 Kliekittat St.; Mrs. Nora Barnett and Flora Kemp, 545 Tillamook St.; Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Swaggart and daughter, Mrs. Blanch Peterson, R4 Box 1793; Mrs. Maurine Akers Smith and daughter Betty same address; W. P. Leach and Etta Leach Penneul, 9915, Foster Road; Mrs. H. McArthur, 681 E. Ankyne St.; Alma Koontz, 1116 E. Stark St.

The president, Mrs. Osburn presided and the officers of the past year were reelected.

Baptist Sunday School Classes Enjoy a Picnic

A most pleasant outing last week was enjoyed by members of the Sunday school classes of Mrs. Clarence Zerba and Kohler Betts.

The party, chaperoned by Mrs. Ross Payne left Wednesday morning by motor for Cold Springs in the Blue Mountains, where camp was made in cabins, and regular routine established. Squads of three were appointed for the preparation of meals but each person was responsible for other work about the camp.

Hikes were the most popular form of amusement and Thursday a trip was made to McDougals Camp. Friday the party hiked over the old stage road to Bingham Springs. The day was spent in camp Saturday.

The group was augmented by a number of friends Saturday night.

Sunday morning remaining members of the B. Y. P. U. joined the party and Sunday services were held. A pot luck dinner was enjoyed at Langdon Lake and the next trip ended at home.

The girls who spent the five days in the mountains were Genevieve and Helen Barrett, Annabelle Payne, Mildred and Bonnie Alkire, Laura and Velma Ross, Roberta and Valerie Cannon, Jean Zerba and Mary Jane Miller.

Charged With Rustling

Charged with rustling and slaughtering cattle and transporting the meat with pack horses, John Darling and Carl Davidson of the Government Mountain district in the northeast corner of the county, are under arrest. Darling was taken at Waitsburg, Davidson who is 70 years of age, ex-government packer and all round mountain man, gave men from the sheriff's office a merry chase of 300 miles over side roads and trails before they apprehended him.

New Golf Course

Teddy Miller has made himself another miniature golf course, considerably larger than his first one. Ted is something of an artist when it comes to making "hop-o-my-thumb" golf links, and in this instance he has utilized some clever hazards that point to marked originality. The course is an excellent one, brightened with painted fairway enclosures and a center rock plot, surrounded with potted plants.

Has Cabin at McDougal

Mrs. Raymond Geissel of Milton, who has been ill for some time is now at Camp McDougal in the Blue Mountains, having taken cabin accommodations there. Mrs. Geissel's mother, Mrs. Bern Banister, is with her daughter.

Repairs at Elevator

Repairs have been under way for the past two weeks down at the Farmers Elevator, where spouts, machinery and other equipment is being overhauled, repaired and put in condition to handle the new crop of grain.

SUB-STATION BEING CONSTRUCTED HERE

Huge Transformers to Control Transmission Voltage of 72,000.

The Pacific Power & Light company has had a force of men employed here in the construction of a new transformer sub-station, which is located on Hunt Avenue, on the corner west of the Preston-Shaffer Milling plant.

The new installation will control a current of 72,000 voltage as against the capacity of the old sub-station's 25,000 voltage. The new station is of the out-door type, there being no part of the equipment housed.

During the past two years the Pacific Power & Light company has made vast improvement in its equipment and service in the Inland Empire and especially in its transmission capacity through this part of Eastern Oregon. New lines were constructed last year, bringing increased high voltage via Pendleton and Athena to Walla Walla.

Formerly Walla Walla and intervening towns between that city and Pendleton inclusive, depended on power generated by a steam plant in the Washington city and the water power plant located on the south fork of the Walla Walla river in Umatilla county. With the construction of the new high line last year an interchangeable hook-up with other power plants owned by the company became available, so that abundance of power required in the territory it serves is assured at all times, even though one or more power sources may be put out of commission from any cause.

Increased voltage will also insure more even power which should be noticeable in lighting, heat and motor service. The Pacific Power & Light company has spent huge sums of money in perfecting the facilities of its service and even through the period of depression it has carried on an improvement program that began several years ago.

Church Indorses Council's Action on Birth Control

Seattle.—With only two dissenting votes from 110 members, birth control was indorsed here by the seminar on "the family and youth" at the national convention of the Congregational and Christian church.

The seminar voted its approval of the statement on birth control given in the majority report of the committee on marriage and home of the federal council of the Church of Christ, and recommended the general council of the Congregational and Christian church in its message to the church body, commend the federal council's committee report.

A resolution adopted by the seminar on "National Life" said public schools and churches should "redouble their education on the physical, social and economic evils which result from the use of alcohol."

The resolution also advocated "the maintenance of the present law" and declared that the "law enforcement and conscientious observance should be held a citizen's duty."

Red & White Picnic

The annual Red & White picnic occurred at Meacham Lake Sunday. A group of Athena people motoring to the lake for the event included Mr. and Mrs. Ed Montague, Clarence and Melba Montague, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Cornell, Mr. and Mrs. Will Campbell, Bob and Myrtle Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. George Sheard and Mr. and Mrs. Harve Roseberry. Guests numbering 395 registered and dinner and amusements were furnished by the Red and White corporation. Contests with suitable prizes in addition to prizes given for being the oldest person, guest, member coming from the longest distance, Red and White store having the largest representation. Clarence Montague received a 3 1/2 lb. can of coffee for being the 150th person registered. A musical program, baseball game and horse shoe contest were also features of entertainment.

Firecrackers Banned

Pendleton has put a ban on firecrackers, potassium sulphide caps or fireworks of any description in which explosive inflammable materials are used and prohibited their use within the city limits. An ordinance to protect the city from fire prohibits their use in the city limits at any time, Fourth of July included.

Indians Will Celebrate

Indians on the Umatilla reservation are making preparations for their annual Fourth of July celebration at Cayuse. The Nez Percés will join with the Umatillas, Walla Wallas and the Cayuses in a celebration which will be of several days duration.