

If you are not satisfied with Messick's administration, sign the Recall Petition

# EAGLE VALLEY NEWS

VOLUME 5, NO. 15

RICHLAND, OREGON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1917

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## Recall for Messick and Ritter DEATH CALLS ANOTHER

Hundreds of Taxpayers Attend Mass Meeting at Baker on  
Last Saturday--Startling Facts Made Public

### Taxpayers Money Being Recklessly Spent Grand Jury Investigates Affairs and Recommends Change

The city hall at Baker was crowded to the limit last Saturday afternoon at the taxpayers mass meeting called to take decisive action in regard to the manner in which the county court had been conducting business. The meeting was the result of an investigation made by the grand jury and also by experts employed by a band of forty representative taxpayers of the county who contributed \$5 each to defray the expenses.

The meeting was called to order by John Hoke, chairman of the committee, and after the reading of the report made by the grand jury, a synopsis of which we give below, J. B. Messick secured the door and for over two hours held the floor without in the least showing when his actions were justified. He was finally asked to bring his talk to a close and was followed by Mr. Stockman, city engineer of Baker, who showed by figures that the county lost approximately around \$450 on each of the nine 50-foot bridges purchased by the county last year. Henry McKinney then made an impressive talk, among other things saying:

"Without animus against any member of the court, we feel that there should be a change. We know the county is in debt beyond its legal rights and the taxpayers feel that their money is not being rightly used. Judge Messick, in his remarks, assumes full responsibility for his actions and for the actions of Mr. Ritter. They should not object to going before the voters for endorsement or disapproval of their administration, and I move that it be the sense of this meeting that we resort to the recall to get this question before the people to let them approve or reject."

The motion was carried, after which a motion was made that the chairman be empowered to name a nominating committee of five to nominate candidates to fill the offices of county judge and commissioner in case Messick and Ritter were recalled. This motion also carried and Chairman Hoke named Ed Coles of Haines, Henry McKinney of Lower Powder, Norman Elliott of Upper Burnt River, Lovell Gover of Richland and George Johnson of Pleasant Valley, after which the meeting took a recess for 10 minutes while the committee were in session.

When the meeting was again called to order the committee reported that Wm. Doby was the man to take Judge Messick's place and John Fraser that of

Commissioner Ritter. The meeting then adjourned.

Many startling facts were unearthed by the investigation of both grand jury and the experts employed, a number of which have not yet been made public. The arrest of J. T. Bickers, a road supervisor in the district south of Baker and an appointee of Messick's, on the charge of padding his pay roll, was the result of an indictment found by the grand jury.

The grand jury report stated that in July, 1915, the county court advertised for bids for the construction of two bridges, and that the contract was let to the Coast Bridge Company for the steel alone, the price being \$1525, but that at the time the bids were opened "our information leads us to believe that the Coast Bridge Co. was the only bidder that knew that the County of Baker contemplated building other than the two mentioned." That later on the county court made a memorandum that they would accept the bid of that company and would buy all bridges needed from them at the same price, but that no written contract could be found. That between July 9, 1915, and July 9, 1916, the county court purchased from the company thirteen (13) steel truss

(Concluded on Editorial page)

### Flying High

In these days of flying machines it will soon be no novelty to sail off through the atmosphere. Flying may become as common as driving an automobile, who knows?

But there's such a thing as flying too high, whether in aircraft or every day life. The higher you fly, the farther you may fall. The man who wants to live too fast is figuratively at least a "high flyer" and stands as great a chance to fall as the real "dare devil" flyer who loops the loop. It pays to live within your income. It pays to save a little from that income and deposit it in a reliable bank like ours. It will make a soft place on which to alight in case you take a tumble.

ad EAGLE VALLEY STATE BANK

### Questions We Cannot Answer

When will spring arrive?

Chas. Barber asks "Does an optician ever make a spectacle of himself?"

Eli Chandler says: "My watch has not run for three days. Is it a stop watch?"

Bert Bennehoff wants to know if it is only the grain of the wood that is used for breakfast food?

In spite of all that was possible for mortals to do had been done, little Hazel Bodah peacefully passed away at about 8:30 Tuesday morning, as a result of the ravages of that terrible disease, tuberculosis.

Hazel Edna Bodah was born at Hewitt, Wisconsin, on July 22, 1903, and came to Eagle Valley with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Bodah about five years ago. For the past seven years she had been afflicted with the disease that caused her death but had only been confined to her bed a few weeks. She was a quiet child of lovable disposition and an earnest student in both the public and Sunday school.

Her mother died about four years ago and the remains of little Hazel will be laid at her side in the beautiful Eagle Valley cemetery, the funeral being held this afternoon.

She leaves a father and brother to mourn her departure, and it is needless to mention that the bereaved ones have the sympathy of the entire community.

### Prominent Pythians Coming.

On next Tuesday evening, Feb. 27th, Eagle Valley will be visited by two of the most prominent Knights of Pythias in Oregon, viz: Grand Chancellor Harry Wortman of Medford, and Grand Keeper of Records and Seals Walter G. Gleeson formerly of Baker.

Irvine Lodge has made arrangements to entertain the gentlemen in royal style and it is to be hoped that every Knight of Pythias, every Pythian Sister, together with their families will be at the castle hall on Tuesday evening and lend all assistance possible to make the occasion one of much pleasure as well as benefit to the fraternity.

The pupils of the fifth and sixth grades gave their teacher, Miss Maggie Dickie, a surprise party last Saturday night in honor of her --? birthday. A most enjoyable evening was spent and Miss Dickie was the recipient of many tokens of the esteem in which she is held by her pupils.

Our White Sale is still on, you should take advantage of this opportunity to buy your spring wardrobe, laces, embroideries, muslins, raincoats, linens, muslin underwear and hose at cut prices.

—ad E. & W. Chandler.

The Ladies Aid Society gave a surprise party on Mrs. Fred Seavers yesterday afternoon. The affair was in the nature of a farewell reception, as Mrs. Seavers will soon leave for Albany.

Just received a fresh supply of ginger snaps in 25c packages, also Graham crackers in 10 and 25c packages, Raley's.—ad

Fred Cooper was a visitor in Richland Monday evening.

## The Idle Hour Pool Room

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