

The Observer

MORO, OREGON.

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A Blue Mark here will answer an inquiry, when entered upon our calendar, giving the date of the paper as the date at which your current subscription expires.

30-POUND BILLY

By HELEN TRACY.

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Nella had been weighing babies all the day. Her muscles ached with lifting the heavy toots and steady hand the fragile ones. Her voice was husky from overuse, cajoling, comforting, soothing.

"The next one shall be the last for today," she stated just as Billy toddled in.

"Well, little man," Nella exclaimed, lifting him, "what is your name?"

"Ylii tum dum," babbled Billy.

"He can't speak yet, man. Billy's only two," explained the girl, watching Nella closely, as she sought an even balance. "How does he weigh, ma?"

"Exactly thirty pounds on an ounce. We shall have to nickname him 'Thirty-Pound Billy' won't we, ma?"

Billy displayed a row of pearly teeth; his large blue eyes wrinkled with merriment; he gave a joyous squeal, and held out eager hands to Nella.

"Oh, you darling," she cried, clasping him tightly in her arms. "Is he your brother?" to the girl.

"No, he don't belong to us. His ma's dead and his pa travels. He lost boards with us."

Nella lifted Billy in the girl's care and hastened back to her desk. For a long time she was busy with statistics, finding average weights, the greatest and the smallest. The sun was low when she bade her companions-in-labor good night, and hastened down the street towards home.

At the corner crossing she hesitated, the clamor of bells warning her that the fire engines were approaching. A second later she gazed in horror at a tiny, tottering figure that was wandering aimlessly into the middle of the street. Somehow, in spite of her half-view of the very dirty infant, she recognized the baby at once.

"Billy," she screamed, waving to the child. "Come here—come!"

Billy grinned; it was the same beaming, comradely smile—but he continued onward. Nella glanced wildly up the street. The heavy chemical was charging down upon the child. She hesitated no longer. Dashing across the pavement, she pulled the limping Billy out of danger.

What had seemed an eternity was really but a second. Seated on the curbstone, her heart beating loudly, her hands gripping Billy so that he was sheltered with pain, anger surged forth in a tempest. And when the girl who should have been taking care of the tot returned for him, Nella poured a flood of accusations upon her.

"It's a shame. You are not fit to take care of children. Where is his father? What's his address? He ought to know how Billy is being neglected. Look at his clothes. They are filthy. It's a wonder his body is as clean as it is."

She stopped after a while, out of breath. Stimulated by the frightful experience she had passed through, she determined to follow the matter up.

"When ma wants to write to Mr. Noble she uses 'Rochester—General Delivery' for an address; that's all. Sometimes he's there and sometimes he isn't," the girl admitted reluctantly.

"Very well. Take Billy home now and do clean him up. Good-by, Thirty-Pound Billy."

Nella wrote to Billy's father. "He'll say it's none of my business," she said to her mother, "but I've fallen in love with his son and can't see him neglected."

A week passed, and when the girl had almost forgotten the Billy episode a blue-coated individual left a telegram at the door. "I'm in for it now," Nella groaned, reading the message. "Billy's father is calling tonight. He will probably pitch into me with all kinds of maledictions. But I don't care! I'll face him, no matter what he is like."

In the evening he came—a big, strapping young man, full of life and good cheer, his large blue eyes twinkling just as Thirty-Pound Billy's did, yet with a wistfulness in them that wrung Nella's heart. "I wish you'd help me," he came to the point at once. "I'm frantic about the boy. My parents are dead and the wife—who died at his birth—across the continent. There's no one to leave Billy with. I've tried him in three boarding houses already. But the people take him in because they need the money, not because they need him. Perhaps you won't believe me, Miss French, but I worry more over that tike than I do over anything else."

Nella's mother offered a solution. "Let me have him. I'm alone all day, with Nella off at the settlement house. I'd love to have him here."

So it was settled. Thirty-Pound Billy was installed at his new home, where he was cared for and loved, and where Billy's father spent many hours with his son—and Nella.

The doctor had weighed the baby. He placed it in big Tom's arms, who laid it tenderly beside the waiting Nella. "The little lady weighs eight pounds, sweetheart," he whispered, kissing the white lips lovingly.

"My, but she's got to gain some before she can catch up with our Thirty-Pound Billy!"

"Thirty pounds! Nearly sixty now—the buster."

"I like to think of him as the little two-year-old baby. I owe so much to him," Nella mused.

"No do L." Tom gripped Nella tight. "All I have that makes life worth living I won through him and his thirty pounds."

WHAT BOYS SAY ABOUT RED CROSS

Since the soldiers overseas have been informed by their officers that the American Red Cross will play Santa Claus this Christmas for all the boys in khaki who have no relatives in the United States, Red Cross Headquarters at Washington has been receiving hundreds of appeals. Incidentally the men at the front have taken this time to express their appreciation for the work done by the Red Cross "Over There."

Following are a few excerpts taken at random from letters inclosing Christmas Package Coupons:

"Dear Mr. Miss or Mrs. Red Cross—I would appreciate it tremendously if you would send me a Xmas package. I have no relatives, and a little something from a good old U. S. A. would be appreciated. I have received so much from the Red Cross and it is raining. The Red Cross has sent a package to us over here, and you don't know just how we appreciate it beyond everything else."

An Italian thus addresses his Christmas appeal:

"To Whom It May Concern—I am in service in France and, having no people in the U. S. A., would like to receive a little package from the Red Cross on Xmas. I am in No. 1000's Band in a big wood, and it is raining. I have no relatives, and a little something from the Red Cross will send me his Xmas package. I have received so much from the Red Cross and it is raining. The Red Cross has sent a package to us over here, and you don't know just how we appreciate it beyond everything else."

"I have no one else to send my Xmas coupon to, so am sending it to you, as per notice on our bulletin board. If you send a package I would appreciate it if you would inclose a bill for same, for I would gladly pay it. I don't want to impose on you. The Red Cross is the best friend we have."

One Red Cross nurse writes:

"Am inclosing the coupon, but please be sure all the boys at the front get their packages first, then if one is left I will appreciate it. I suspect all the others will have something from home which will make me a little lonesome. Words cannot express our appreciation for the Red Cross."

"We of the A. E. F. are constantly being shown evidences of the wonderful work the Red Cross is doing and are extremely thankful."

"Dear Red Cross Workers—After we left dear old America we thought we were traveling away from your kindness, but we did not. We cannot praise you too highly for your work. I have no folks at home to send me a Christmas package."

"Words cannot express the obligation we are under for the work you are doing to help us along."

"I know they would greatly appreciate a little remembrance. I wish to most sincerely thank the Red Cross for all the kindnesses and benefits they have bestowed upon our boys."

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DELIGHTED IN HIS FREEDOM

Youngster's Chief Enjoyment of Vacation Came From His Defiance of All Conventionalities.

The best sort of vacation and the only kind that really is a benefit to the one taking it, according to Lewis Weisenberger, is the one on which all conventional rules of conduct are broken. To enjoy a vacation one must do absolutely as he pleases, Mr. Weisenberger continues.

In proof of this contention Mr. Weisenberger tells the following story on a young lad with whom he fraternized in the wilds of Michigan for several weeks this summer.

The campers had taken a large supply of towels with them, as bathing was expected to feature the holiday events. On arrival at camp each member of the vacation party received his allotment of the towels and the lad was duly included in the division.

On the second day of the vacation week Mr. Weisenberger was surprised to find the young lad's supply of towels packed securely away in one corner of the cottage, thus far untouched. He immediately summoned the lad and inquired whose towels he had been using, since his own supply was undiminished. He was not a little taken back by the lad's reply: "Aw, I didn't wash my face yesterday."

Even with face unwashed and towels untouched, the young lad probably enjoyed the vacation trip more than did any other member of the party. Mr. Weisenberger says. And the reason for the lad's enjoyment, he believes, is the fact that he violated all rules of personal etiquette and lived one entire day with his face innocent of ablutions—Indianapolis News.

REALLY NO TROUBLE AT ALL

Possibly American Colored Cook and French Baker Belonged to the Same Lodge.

The American Red Cross canteen at Dijon, France, boasts the possession of Tom, a colored cook from the state of Georgia. Saturday nights Tom makes "something special." The last Saturday in August the special was chocolate layer cake. Thomas had no suitable oven, and so without the aid of a single word of French he induced a nearby French baker to loan his idle oven.

"How did you do it, Tom?" Miss Field, the directress, asked him.

"Oh, I jes' told him that these here boys of ours would certainly appreciate it if he would bake a little cake for 'em. An' he didn't make no fuss 'bout it. 'Certaintime,' he says, and so I put the cakes in the oven, an' that's all there is to it."

"Tom," replied Miss Field, "you are a wonder."

That is what our boys said when they ate the cake.

Deserves a Better Job.

We climbed into a motor accompanied by Marcus Marcus, by the way, is one of the characters of the unit, Major Theodore Waters writes in the Christian Herald. He is more than that; he is an institution, is Marcus—a product of the peculiar stress through which Jerusalem has passed.

He says he is 14 years old. But he looks much younger and acts much older. He can read and writes English, Russian, French and Arabic, and he has taken full of each in the acquiring of languages and bakasheeh. Yet, strange as it may seem, he is both industrious and honest, and is the sole support of his widowed mother. If you would know what he looks like, imagine a gnome about three and a half feet high, as broad as a brownie and as brown as a berry, with two big dark eyes that shine out of the middle of a perpetual smile.

New Motive Power for Barges.

In a novel English method of propulsion for canal barges, a small air pump driven by the engine creates a vacuum in the chamber containing the propeller, and this draws the water above the level of the canal. This arrangement is claimed to lessen the power effects making increased speeds practicable. A barge of 32 tons was prepared for trial by mounting on it an old motor car engine of 18 to 20 horse power, and from preliminary tests was expected to run about five miles an hour when loaded, and eight or nine miles when empty.

Heroic Frenchman.

Lieut. C. Coulter, French ace, twenty years old, and who has brought down 17 Boche planes in France, has given onlookers thrills by his nerve performances at all fields in the United States. He came over from France a few weeks ago as instructor. His favorite pastime is to execute all sorts of long, low, and acrobatic stunts, such as spiraling nose dives, loops and Immelman turns with 200 feet of the ground. The average flyer, even if expert, prefers to try this game several thousand feet higher, where he is safe.

Golfing Prospects.

An artillery officer, who had been a fairly well known golfer and a keen enthusiast, was looking out across a rolling plain in France that only recently had been heavily pounded by shell fire.

"I've seen some well trapped courses," he said, "but I must say this is the best bunkered course I've ever run across. There's a pit every 20 feet. Par here must be about 200."

Aerial Compasses.

Many difficulties had to be overcome in the production of a satisfactory compass for aerial work. Chief among these was that of neutralizing the magnetism of the engine (and in particular the magneto), and of preventing the effect of centrifugal force, which caused the card or dial inside the compass to swing in a direction quite independent of north when the airplane was banking on a turn. However, a truly excellent compass is now in use.

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Briefly Sketched for Information of Our Readers.

Benjamin Brannan, a pioneer race horse owner of Eugene, died at his home there at the age of 85.

For the first time in history, Christmas turkeys sold in the wholesale market in Roseburg for 41 cents a pound.

All members of the S. A. T. C. of the Oregon Agricultural college, with the exception of a few students on the sick list, have been discharged.

Edwin B. Hatch, of Portland, was named a member of the state board of pharmacy to succeed Frank S. Ward, of Salem, secretary of the board.

Ira Langley, a well-known cattleman of Dixie creek, near Rye valley, was shot and killed by an unidentified person who was hidden in the brush near the road.

The top notch price for cattle in Lake county was reached when W. D. Robinson, of Summer lake, sold 33 head of beef stock to W. G. Moon, of Lakeview, at 10 cents a pound.

State teachers' examinations in Walla Walla, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Jackson, Coos, Douglas, Yamhill and Polk counties were cancelled because of prevalence of Spanish influenza.

Five very large telephone poles and many large trees, some of which were more than two feet in diameter, were torn up in the vicinity of Eugene when a small cyclone visited the section.

Gold Hill recently relieved the ban on influenza by quarantining all cases, closing all public meeting places, pool rooms, and prohibiting the assembling of more than five persons in public places.

A tax levy yielding \$550,782 will be required to maintain the public schools of Multnomah county during the coming year. The school census shows 63,085 children of school age in the county.

All logging camps in Coos county, numbering about 30, closed Saturday night and will not resume until after New Year's, save the six at Powers, which shut down the 24th and reopened on the 26th.

While it is said no case of influenza at the state hospital for the insane threatens to terminate fatally, Dr. Steiner, superintendent of the institution, is contemplating closing the hospital to visitors.

The total assessed valuation of the state is \$987,532,896.97, an increase of \$55,725,326.01 over last year, when the assessed valuation was \$931,807,570.96, according to figures given out by State Tax Commissioner Galloway.

All restrictions on the serving of food by hotels, restaurants and other public eating places were discarded Monday, in conformity with instructions received from Washington by the Oregon food administration.

Labor and industrial problems in Oregon during the reconstruction period will be the special subject of investigation and consideration of a convention of the state's leading interests called for January 1-10-11, at Portland.

It is reported from the lower Umpqua river that the Hubbard sawmill, being rushed to completion for opening about January 1, is to be abandoned, and no further work will be done upon it until the lumber situation develops.

The food administration has announced the cancellation of flour milling regulations. This will throw the market wide open to millers and dealers to make such prices as they see fit on flour and mill feed, subject only to the laws that pertain to profiteering.

The new lease of the Pacific Chemical company on Summer lake was approved by the state land board and Jason Moore has forfeited the \$10,000 which he had deposited to cover the former lease. Under the new lease the first payment of royalty money is due January 15, 1919.

Mining for gold and platinum will be undertaken at Whiskey Run, a locality a few miles above Bandon, on the ocean beach, where H. M. Axtell is assembling machinery and apparatus for the work. Whiskey Run is one of the places that were famous for gold production in early days.

In instructions sent out to all district sealers of weights and measures Deputy State Sealer Spencer Wortman countermanded his order of September 27, when the district sealers were told to waive the enforcement of the gasoline law as far as the gravity of the gasoline is concerned.

All bonds of state officials should be written yearly; they should be required to have the written approval of the attorney-general, and with the exception of the bonds of the treasurer and secretary of state should all be kept on file in the office of the secretary of state. These are recommendations which will be included as a part of the forthcoming biennial report of Secretary of State Olcott, which is now in the course of preparation.

State Treasurer Kay, in his biennial report to the legislature, expresses the belief that added duties should be given to the sealer of weights and measures, or the sealer and his work should be transferred to the jurisdiction of the public service commission.

Complaint is being made regarding the present train service between Albany and Lebanon and petitions are being circulated in Lebanon asking for a rearrangement of the schedule. People of Lebanon assert that that

city has not had such an unsatisfactory train schedule for 25 years.

La Grande again has gone into rigorous quarantine as a result of spreading of the influenza. At no time has the situation been as bad as now. Many deaths have occurred and new cases are developing rapidly. Theaters, dances, churches, lodges and all public gatherings are affected by the closing order.

One of the problems with which the next state legislature will be confronted will be a deficiency of \$480,168, representing the difference in the amount that can be levied by the state tax commission under the 5 per cent limitation amendment, and the requirements of the state institutions and departments.

Thirty-four delegates from 17 farming communities of Deschutes county met at Redmond with the county agent and state leader of county agents and organized the Deschutes County Farm Bureau. The meeting was an enthusiastic one, and the organization will take an active part in the development of central Oregon.

While the bill closing the Willamette river to commercial fishing south of Oswego is now in effect, it does not repeal a law of the 1917 legislature, which allows abutting property owners along the stream to take salmon for themselves and families. Attorney-General Brown has advised the state fish and game commission.

The expenditure of state road funds during the last biennium amounted to \$2,283,257.68, and 59 miles of hard surface, 111.5 miles of broken stone or gravel, 134.5 miles of graded roads and 40 bridges were constructed, according to figures contained in the advance sheets of the biennial report of the state highway commission.

Fourth class postmasters have been appointed in Oregon recently, as follows: Alfalfa, Deschutes county, Lucy M. Smock; Big Eddy, Wasco county, Harriette E. Ward; Huber, Washington county, Elizabeth H. Thompson; Maplewood, Multnomah county, Ida E. Crawford; Mohawk, Lane county, Vance H. Seavey; Willows, Gilliam county, Augusta O. Parker.

Disastrous fires occurring just at the close of the 1918 season made the forest loss in Oregon the greatest in its history, according to the report of State Forester Elliott, now in course of preparation. The loss is estimated at 1,107,748,000 feet damaged or destroyed, representing a monetary loss of \$784,992.95. Of this amount he estimates that 544,553,000 feet may be salvaged.

Between 2,500,000 and 3,000,000 pounds of fruit a month, or about 10 carloads a week, in an evaporated condition, are moving out of the Salem Fruit Union, which expects to get its immense orders cleaned up by February 1 at the latest, according to an announcement made by Manager Robert Paulus of the union. Growers will receive as high as \$160 per ton for their prunes this year.

Oregon will be entitled to receive \$357,587 from the federal government each year for educational purposes under the provisions of a national educational bill introduced in congress by Senator Hoke Smith, of Georgia, according to figures which have been submitted to School Superintendent Churchill, of this state, by the National Education association. The measure, in a general way, has for its purpose the elimination of illiteracy, and the general development of the physical, mental and moral wellbeing of young citizens.

The rivers and harbors bill will include Oregon projects that call for more than \$1,250,000. Immediate appropriations call for \$953,000, and \$318,000 will follow later for the Yaquina river project. New projects, with the amounts appropriated, are as follows: Coos bay inner harbor, \$22 feet, \$120,000; Yaquina river, \$100,000; Coquille river bar and entrance, \$54,000; maintenance of present projects at the Columbia river entrance, \$130,000; lower Columbia and Willamette, \$424,000; Coos bay, \$74,000; upper Willamette, \$37,000; Clatskanie river, \$20,000.

State Historian Cornelius Marvin has well under way the gigantic task of compiling the names of all Oregon men who entered the country's service during the great war. County historians have been appointed in each county by the state council of defense, to co-operate with Miss Marvin and facilitate the work. Bulk records available so far show that 6000 men of the O. N. G. entered the regular army as a unit; 7500 volunteered from July, 1917, to March, 1918; 15,000 men were drafted; 3400 enlisted in the navy; 3000 enlisted in the United States marine corps; 4000 enlisted in the S. A. T. C. and officers' training schools.

The general staff of the Oregon militia has authorized preparation of plans for the new armory at Marshfield, for which the last legislature made an appropriation of \$20,000. Coos county furnishes about half of the cost, which is not to exceed \$40,000.

Prospective peace is not reflected by declines in prices for state supplies, as indicated by a survey of the bids made for the next six months for state institutions. Indications are that the first quarter of the coming biennium will see current expenses of state government higher than ever before.

Six counties of eastern Oregon are to meet in a district conference and century institute at La Grande December 12 and 13, to inaugurate the movement known as the joint century campaign, designed to meet the new demand made upon the church for Christian leadership in all parts of the world by the rapid advance of democratic ideals.



Special Rates

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Room with privilege of bath, single, 75c up; double \$1.00 up.
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Auto Motel Trains. Street cars from Union Depot pass our doors.
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Porcelain Bath Tub.

Everything First Class and up to date.

Agent for Model Steam Laundry of The Dalles

Shop in Brick Building next Observer Office

J. C. WRIGHT, Proprietor.

Moro, --- Oregon.

There's a Salesman from Virginia



who was chewing and swapping yams with the men on the Post Office corner. "Have a chew," says he to Jake. Jake doesn't think he's chewing unless his cheek bulges out like he had the mumps. "Call that a chew?" he snorts. "Sure!" says the

salesman. "This is Real Gravelly. That small chew satisfies, and the longer you chew it the better it tastes. That's why it doesn't cost anything extra to chew this class of tobacco."

It goes further—that's why you can get the good taste of this class of tobacco with one extra chew.

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Real Gravelly Chewing Plug

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