

Sherman County Observer

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OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Assembled for Information of Our Readers.

Automobile sales were 22 per cent greater in Oregon in 1929 than 1928.

Portland bank clearings for 1929 increased more than \$90,000,000 over 1928.

Income tax collections in Oregon increased \$400,000 last year over the preceding 12 months.

Rhododendrons are blooming at Marshfield in some localities, while buttercups and violets are common in parts of Curry county.

Two employees of the General Construction company employed on the Owyhee dam were killed when a skip upset a car on the track.

Ludvik Matocha, 1-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Matocha, Willamina, was scalded to death when he fell into a tub of boiling water.

Linn county's consolidated tax levy for 1930 will be 5 mills less than 1929. This reduction is accomplished by a slight cut in property valuations.

Farmers living along the Lane-Benton county boundary are planning to work out a plan for improving the drainage of surface waters from their fields.

James and Mrs. Kamin lost their home on Smith river, western Douglas county, when a slide demolished the residence during their absence in Reedport.

The city council of Medford will support Mrs. H. L. Barto, recently appointed police matron to supervise dances in the city. The ordinance has long been inoperative.

The beacon light for the air mail service installed on Creswell butte initiated its first service a short time ago, spreading a circular spotlight over the entire valley.

A pine tree 467 years old, according to rings, that stood in the city limits of Bend, has been cut down and converted into cordwood for the Bend fire hall and city offices.

D. J. Buckner, 55, watchman at the mill at West Port, east of Astoria, was killed when he fell from a ladder as he was boarding a vessel, which was tied up at the mill dock.

Farmers in the Medford district are turning their cattle on pastures of winter bluegrass, the newly developed forage crop in that section. Recent rains have given it excellent growth.

Fire loss in Eugene during 1929 was \$22,930, according to the annual report of W. E. Nussbaum, fire chief, submitted recently. A total of \$45,075 insurance was carried, it was stated.

Snowdrifts three and four feet deep in the big cut near the summit of the McKenzie pass and a general blanket of snow 24 to 30 inches in depth has blocked the pass road for the winter.

Scaling a ladder to rescue one of his cats which had been chased to the roof of an adjoining building by a dog, J. B. Mesack, mayor of Baker, fell 14 feet and suffered a sprained ankle.

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Dooley, said to be the oldest couple in eastern Oregon and parents of the first white child born in Baker county, have celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary.

Extensive improvement of central Oregon's mountain resorts, including new construction on the old William Brock site on the southwest shore of Odell lake, is planned for the coming year.

The Marshfield chamber of commerce has asked the support of other Coos county communities in securing \$29,000 from the county funds for a shorter road to Empire and to the beaches.

THE MARKETS

Portland

Wheat—Big Bend bluestem, \$1.39; soft white and western white, \$1.27; hard winter, northern spring and western red, \$1.25.

Hay—Alfalfa, \$23.50@24 per ton; valley timothy, \$20.50@21; eastern Oregon timothy, \$22.50@23; clover, \$20; oat hay, \$19; oats and vetch, \$20@20.50.

Butterfat—32@37c.
Eggs—Ranch, 29@37c.
Cattle—Steers, good, \$10.50@11.50.
Hogs—Good to choice, \$9.75.

Lambs—Good to choice, \$10@11.
Seattle

Wheat—Soft white and western white, \$1.26; hard winter, western red and northern spring, \$1.25; Big Bend bluestem, \$1.37.

Eggs—Ranch, 29@33c.
Butterfat—40c.
Cattle—Choice steers, \$10@11.
Hogs—Prime light, \$10.50@10.65.
Lambs—Choice, \$10.50@11.

Spokane

Cattle—Steers, good, \$8@9.
Hogs—Good and choice, \$10@10.25.
Lambs—Medium to good, \$9@10.

Through cooperative action of seven Lane county seed dealers, orders for 8500 pounds of alfalfa seed are being placed in Idaho to be distributed among Lane county alfalfa growers. The highest grade of seed is being purchased.

Approximately \$1,359,400 was expended in new building in Salem during the year 1929, according to a report of the city building inspector.

Although a few days late, the county court recently gave taxpayers of Umatilla county the best Christmas present of all. When it made the annual levy it was 12.2 mills, the lowest in ten years.

An agreement was reached among cantaloupe growers of the Umpqua valley recently which will result in all melons from that district being marketed under one label and through one organization.

Four hundred thousand cases of fruit and vegetables were canned at the plant of the Eugene Fruit Growers' association during 1929, according to J. O. Holt, manager. This is a record for the plant.

Inheritance tax receipts in Oregon for the year ending December 31, 1929, exceeded \$1,000,000, or approximately \$300,000 more than in 1928, according to a report prepared by T. B. Kay, state treasurer.

Chicken Creek siphon, one of the big tasks of the Vale irrigation project construction, is being completed. It is 450 feet long and 13 feet in diameter. Contractors will have the system ready for use before spring.

The Marion county court will ask the state highway commission to cooperate in the survey of the proposed north Santiam road over the mountain to Sisters, according to an announcement made in Salem recently.

Harvesting the crop of late cabbage in the Grand Island district is now in progress and it is being hauled by truck to market in nearby cities and towns in the Willamette valley. A great deal is also used locally for sauerkraut.

Construction of an elevator at Myrick station near Pendleton was seen as a possibility after a meeting of grain growers of that section. Formation of a grain growers' corporation to take advantage of the federal farm board loans was discussed.

Purchase of the Central Oregon bank by the Lumbermen National bank, both of Bend, was announced by C. L. Isted, president of the Lumbermen, and G. S. Hinsdale, president of the Pacific Bancorporation, owner of the Central Oregon.

Cupid had a good year in Multnomah county in 1929. There were 192 more marriage licenses issued than during the previous year. The total for 1929 being 2536, and for 1928, 2344.

Divorces filed were fewer by 23 in 1929 than for the previous year.

Albany's postoffice was restored to first-class status by a tremendous volume of business during December. Postmaster Torbet announced. The Albany office was rated as first class in 1928, but the following year business dropped below the required \$40,000 mark.

The new law enacted by the 1929 legislature increasing the gasoline tax in Oregon from 3 to 4 cents a gallon became effective January 1. The additional 1 cent tax will raise approximately \$1,750,000 annually, according to officials. The yield from the 4-cent tax was estimated around \$7,000,000.

A watermelon from a Cottage Grove garden for Christmas is the "Believe It or Not" record for that section of the fruitful Willamette.

The melon was served on the table of J. M. Davidson, who picked it just before the recent heavy rains and put it away to save for the Christmas feast.

A complete test for tuberculosis and contagious abortion in progress in Hood River county may result in that area being the first in Oregon and possibly in the northwest to have 100 per cent of its dairy cattle tested, according to report by County Agent A. L. Marble to the state agent leader at Corvallis.

Taxpayers of Nehalem grade school district voted 29 to 3 in favor of the construction of a modern natatorium upon the school grounds at an approximate cost of \$30,000. If plans are carried out, the building, which will measure about 50 by 90 feet, will not only house an up-to-date natatorium but will provide for four class rooms as well.

Portland's export business for the year ending December 31, attained a valuation of \$53,161,663, registering a gain over 1928, when the total of foreign shipments were valued at \$50,222,276. General cargo exports had a value of \$14,586,862, whereas \$11,384,094 represented the value in 1928.

While the 1927 business was cleared at \$10,199,948, and valuations were \$12,105,171 in 1928.

Moses J. Reeves, 104, died recently in Salt Lake City. He had lived in Baker until about two years ago. He attracted considerable attention July 4, 1926, by dancing a jig at the celebration in Baker. He was then 101 years old.

SACKETT TO GERMANY



Frederick M. Sackett.

Washington.—President Hoover has chosen Senator Frederick M. Sackett, Republican, Kentucky, to be the new ambassador to Germany, and his name has been sent to Berlin for approval.

ITALY WOULD SLASH ARMAMENT PROGRAM

Mussolini Willing to Go 50-50
With Other Nations.

Rome.—Dino Grandi, Italian foreign minister, announced that "Premier Mussolini has formally declared that Italy is ready to reduce armaments to the minimum provided other countries do the same, and Italian policy at the London naval conference will be based on the above principle."

Grandi said he was impressed by the idealism and practical ideas of President Hoover's Armistice day speech. He considered Mr. Hoover's proposal to give food ships immunity in wartime of enormous interest to Italy.

Though Grandi considers disarmament "perhaps the most important, but at the same time the most difficult problem ever faced by humanity," he indicated he felt "optimism concerning the outcome of the conference."

"I see no reason for pessimism," said Grandi. "Conversations between the five interested powers show several points of contact exist, though divergencies also are not lacking."

"This is natural. It would be unreasonable to expect all difficulties connected with disarmament to be eliminated in preliminary conversations. Contacts between the chancelleries have helped clarify reciprocal viewpoints. I have been glad to see that American ideas harmonize with ours."

Signor Grandi said President Hoover's speech to the American League November 11 had been useful in pointing out similarity of American and Italian viewpoints.

"The speech interested me enormously, as it did the whole Italian public opinion," said the minister.

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Idaho Mayor, Councilmen, Guilty in Liquor Plot

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.—Twenty-four of the twenty-nine Molten office and others accused of wholesale liquor law violations were convicted by the federal court jury here.

Sheriff R. E. Weniger of Shoshone county, Mayor Arthur Harwood of Mullan, the city council, and police officers were included in the convictions.

In the main, the government's contention that city officials and others conspired to violate the liquor laws through a system of licensing which amounted to quasi-official sanction of dry law nullification was upheld.

Reports 1929 Rail Net Highest in Ten Years

Washington.—A report made public here by the American Railway association shows that net income of the principal railroads of the United States reached a total this year of \$1,282,000,000. This total represents a return of 4.99 per cent and is the highest in ten years, according to the report.

It was explained by R. H. Alston, president of the association, that hill figures given in the report were based on official figures for the first ten months of the year and from estimates by the bureau of railway economics for the last two months.

Favor Same Grid Rules

New York.—Resolutions were adopted here at the meeting of the National Football Coaches' association that the present football rules should remain intact, after several proposed changes had been discussed.

China to Discuss Foreign Rights

Nanking.—The willingness of China to negotiate with interested powers regarding extra territoriality was affirmed in a statement by C. T. Wang, Nationalist foreign minister.

MOVIE PLANES CRASH; 10 PLUNGE TO DEATH

Stunt Ships in Flames as
They Fall Into Sea.

Santa Monica, Calif.—Kenneth Hawks, movie director and sportsman, and nine other stunt men engaged in the filming of a venturesome air "shoot," were buried to death in the Pacific ocean in two tangled, blazing movie planes off the Palms Verde hills, 25 miles from Los Angeles. In addition to Hawks, those killed were: Max Gold, twenty-eight, assistant director former handball champion and basketball athlete. Conrad Wells, head camera man for the Fox Film corporation. Ben Franklin, assistant camera man. Hal Rouse, pilot. Ross Cook, pilot. George Basse, camera man. Hank Johnson, property man. Otto Jordan, assistant camera man. Tom Harris, property boy.

The two planes, big, high winged Stinson-Detroit cabin craft, each powered with a Wright 300 horse power motor, working at the time for the Fox Film corporation, collided at an altitude of 3,000 feet, exploded, and fell into the sea.

Pilots Rouse and Cook never had a chance to save their lives or those of any of the passengers. A third plane, the "movie" biplane, piloted by Capt. Roscoe Turner, Hawks' good friend, was close by as the burning planes fell, with men tumbling out of them from a great height and plunging into 200 fathoms of water. Turner could do nothing to help. The picture on which the planes and the men were working was entitled "Such Men Are Dangerous."

Eyewitness descriptions of the tragedy said that one of the two planes poised above the other and then, as if the pilot had lost his vision, the piercing rays of the setting sun, had darted down and struck the top of the lower plane. After a momentary shudder a wing broke and one of the planes exploded.

The other plane, tangled in the debris of its stricken, blazing companion, became engulfed in flames and the two swept down to the depths of the ocean. As the planes fell men jumped or were hurled from them. The bodies which were recovered showed that some of those on the planes were perhaps merely struck dead or unconscious at once, for the bones of the recovered dead men were broken.

Turner was flying some 500 feet to the left of the ill-fated planes with a parachute jumper for a passenger. The jumper was watching for a signal from the other planes to leap. The camera man who perished were to have photographed his descent to the sea.

The tragedy exacted the heaviest toll in the history of motion pictures. In one former picture, "Hell's Angels," three aviators lost their lives. Hawks' widow is Mary Astor, "movie" star who was known in Illinois during her girlhood as Lucille Langhanke. Miss Astor was playing a role while her husband flew over the sea, and was not located for some hours. She collapsed, when informed of his death.

Members of the cast in the picture, besides Warner Baxter, include Katharine Hepburn, Hedda Hopper, former wife of De Wolf Hopper; Albert Conti, and Bela Lugosi. None was in the air at the time of the crash.

Leaves for Launching of
\$100,000,000 World Bank

Chicago.—Launching of the \$100,000,000 Bank for International Settlements is scheduled for next month, according to Melvin A. Traylor, president of the First National bank and American member of the organization.

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"The speech interested me enormously, as it did the whole Italian public opinion," said the minister.

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SAYS MEN SHOULD RULE

Washington.—The ship of state now, and a hundred years from now, should be guided by men, in the opinion of Mrs. Pearl Peden Oldfield, one of the eight women in the house of representatives.

That is one reason Mrs. Oldfield will not seek re-election next year. She plans to return, with her aged mother, to Batesville, Ark., where she lived with her husband, William A. Oldfield, Democratic whip in the house, before his death in November, 1928.

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MURDER IS PUZZLE TO FRENCH POLICE

Mother and Son Slain in
Mysterious Way.

Paris.—Edgar Allan Poe could not have easily conceived anything more grisly and mysterious than a crime which is now occupying the attention of police all over France and which has sent a thrill of horror through the entire nation.

A few days after a trunk in wicker had been deposited in the baggage department of the station at Lille, in the north of France, some attendants complained of an unpleasant odor arising from the basket.

Each day it became worse. The trunk was finally opened. Pressed tightly in the wicker box was the body of a man. The legs had been bent over the chest and tied there, arms and hands were missing; the face was unrecognizable.

Police were not long in identifying the victim as Francois Rigaudin, age thirty-three, living in Paris. They found, too, that the trunk had been sent from Paris to a nonexistent address at Lille.

Linking threads of the story together with the thorough method for which the French Surete Generale crime experts are renowned, the detectives made the startling discovery that the victim was the son of an elderly woman, who had herself been murdered some months before without the murderers being discovered.

The mother, Mme. Marie Blane, had been killed by bullet shots at midnight in her son's home.

Belief had been expressed that Mme. Blane had been the victim of a band of international revolutionaries, since it was known that at one time she had been congregate to Almeraya, one of the noted Bonnet Rouge gang of anarchists. Almeraya himself had committed suicide in prison after the arrest of members of the gang, being a bootlace around his neck. After the break up of the Bonnet gang, mother and son were stated to have lost sympathy with the revolutionary movement.

The theory that both Rigaudin and his mother were struck down by vengeful former companions was strengthened when it became known that a day or two before the murder of the son, four men called upon him at the house where he was staying and asked him to join them in a business deal. The co-op, as planned will buy and sell anywhere there appears to be an advantage for the member co-operatives.