

Sherman County Observer

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OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

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

G. E. Finnerty, superintendent of Albany schools for the past eight years, has been reelected for another year by the school board.

All guests of the Gold Star hotel, suddenly destroyed by fire last week, were believed accounted for after a careful checking at Astoria.

More building will be done on Redmond's main street this year than in the history of the town. It will exceed 1928, when the \$200,000 hotel was built.

The Medford barbers' union at a recent meeting decided to increase the price of shaves from 25 cents to 35 cents after July 1, and of haircuts from 50 cents to 65 cents.

A resolution adopted by sheep shearers at Pendleton recently was approved by a group of plant men and shearers, which called for 15 cents a head, with board, for shearers wages.

According to reports coming into Ashland numerous deer have been found dead in the hills of the Green-springs district. State game officials are investigating the cause of the mortality.

The Monitor State bank of Monitor, Marion county, has been purchased by the Coolidge McClain bank of Silverton, which will liquidate and discontinue operation of the Monitor institution.

Final arrangements for the installation of a power pump and the necessary piping to carry water to the new ponds at the McKenzie river hatchery are announced by the state game commission.

Sale of 2,000,000 board feet of western yellow pine in the Green Buttes area is announced by the supervisor of the Deschutes national forest. The purchaser was Grover C. Grimmet of Chemult.

Four male students of the University of Oregon, all residents of Sherry Ross hall, have been suspended for the remainder of the academic year as a punishment for having liquor in their possession.

April 1 to 6, inclusive, will be the city dress-up week in Corvallis, and "paint-up" and "clean-up" will be the slogans of local residents during the week, making for city beautification and fire prevention.

A proposal for the construction of a new East Side school and an addition to the Kenwood school will probably be submitted to the voters of Bend in the form of a \$115,000 bond issue about the middle of April.

The city council of Medford has voted to subscribe \$500 for the balance of the year to the fund of the Northern California and Southern Oregon Development association for promotion of the Crescent City harbor.

Two cougars and a bobcat were killed with a bow and arrow by Captain C. H. Styles of Berkeley, Cal., during a game hunt in the Caps IIIa-hue district. Perry Wright, Roseburg trapper, acted as guide during the expedition.

Improvement of 2 1/2 miles of the Nelson mountain road will eliminate about five fords on this route, reports P. M. Morse, Lane county engineer, who has returned after an inspection trip. This work is planned for the coming summer.

County road crews throughout Lane county have been put to work again with the advent of good weather. It was announced by members of the county court. Crews are patching the piled roads preparatory to spreading another coat of oil this spring and clearing the right of way for new road projects in under way.

THE MARKETS

Portland
Wheat—Big Bend bluestem, \$1.16; soft white and western white, \$1.05; hard winter, northern spring and western red, \$1.03.
Hay—Alfalfa, \$21.50@22 per ton; valley timothy, \$20.50@21; eastern Oregon timothy, \$23.50@24; clover, \$18; oat hay, \$17; oats and vetch, \$13.50@19.
Butterfat—32c.
Eggs—Ranch, 20@23c.
Cattle—Steers, good, \$11.75@12.25.
Hogs—Good to choice, \$10@11.25.
Lamb—Good to choice, \$9.75@10.50.
Seattle
Wheat—Soft white and western white, \$1.08; hard winter and northern spring, \$1.07; western red, \$1.06; Big Bend bluestem, \$1.18.
Eggs—Ranch, 21@25c.
Butterfat—35c.
Cattle—Choice steers, \$10.80@12.
Hogs—Prime light, \$11@11.50.
Lamb—Choice, \$9@10.
Spokane
Cattle—Steers, good, \$10.75@11.50.
Hogs—Good to choice, \$11.35@11.50.
Lamb—Medium to good, \$9.50@10.

ANTI-GOD MOVEMENT SPREADS IN RUSSIA

Soviet Plans Demonstrations for Easter Week.

Moscow.—With the approach of Easter and Catholic and Protestant days of "intercessory prayer on behalf of Christian Russia," Soviet atheist officials are busily formulating an intensified assault upon God and religion.

Ignoring the worldwide outcry against Communists for their attitude toward the church, which they say is only a cloak for an economic blockade against the Soviet union, these leaders issued instructions to members of the League of Communist Youth, numbering 2,500,000, to have "special shock brigades and groups of light cavalry" during Easter week lead the anti-God movement and investigate schools, universities and clubs, to see how the anti-religious education of the young is being carried out.

Members are directed to organize mock religious carnivals, atheistic meetings, torchlight processions and lectures and also to fight for extermination of the kulak, the complete collectivization of farms and fulfillment of the five-year industrialization plan.

On Easter day huge bonfires of icons will be made in all large cities and towns, around which unbelievers will celebrate the "extinction of religion."

Suicide Ends Convict's Battle for Freedom

Trenton, N. J.—Charles Evans, twenty-nine, a trusty at the state prison here, after an hour of furious gunplay with half a dozen guards died by his own hand—a suicide with his last bullet.

The battle—also cost one other life—that of Frank Butcher, a guard. Two other guards were injured. Ernest Gordon with a bullet wound in the shoulder and Thomas F. Soren with a possible fractured skull.

Evans went to prison for life in 1919, when he was eighteen years old, for shooting two policemen in Jersey City.

"Young Pact" Received Sanction of Hildenburg

Berlin.—The Young plan, proclaimed in Germany as "the liquidation of the past," was signed by President van Hildenburg.

This act makes possible the evacuation of the Rhineland and the freeing of Germany from foreign control. An urgency clause makes the plan immediately effective, so beginning the liquidation of Germany's debts to the allies arising out of the World war. A few hours later the President signed the separate debt accord with America.

Supreme Court to Hear Attack on Prohibition

New York.—The opinion of the special committee on the Eighteenth amendment of the New York Lawyers' association that the Eighteenth amendment has been illegally ratified in defiance of the Tenth amendment will be tested before the United States Supreme court within a few weeks, for Chief Justice Charles E. Hughes announced. Specifically, permission will be asked of that court to appear in a test case as "amicus curiae," a friend of the court.

Ukrainian Leaders in Anti-Jewish Movement

Moscow, U. S. R.—The Jewish telegraphic agency reports that an anti-Jewish plot vying pogroms in the Jewish agricultural colonies was revealed at the trial of 45 Ukrainian leaders in Kharkov. The Ukrainians are charged with organizing an illegal "association to free Ukraine," to overthrow the Soviet government and conspiring with Polish groups to occupy the Ukraine.

Figures of Germany's Debt to United States

Washington.—Ogden Mills, under-secretary of the treasury, estimated before the house ways and means committee that Germany owed the United States \$193,936,705 for the cost of the American army of occupation maintained in the Rhineland after the armistice.

He also estimated the claims of American citizens against Germany would amount to \$290,637,578 additional.

Orders Gambling Houses Closed Mexico City

Mexico City.—President Rubio sent instructions to the governors of all provinces to close all gambling houses. The president plans to abolish public gambling throughout Mexico.

Would Modify Jones Law Washington

Washington.—The Christopherson subcommittee of the house judiciary committee made a report recommending that congress modify the drug Jones law penalties for prohibition violations.

Railroad Executive Dead Chicago

Chicago.—Samuel Morse Felton, dean of Chicago railroad executives and chairman of the Chicago Great Western railroad, died here. He was seventy-seven years old.

DOHENY'S TRIAL BEGINS



Edward L. Doheny.

Washington.—Three women and a colored garage man are included in the district Supreme court jury chosen to try Edward L. Doheny, multi-millionaire oil man, on a bribery indictment charging he gave Albert H. Fall, former secretary of the interior, \$100,000 for a lease on the navy's Elk Hills, Calif., oil reserves.

SENATE VOTES FARM BOARD 100 MILLION

Large Sums Added to Deficiency Bill.

Washington.—Immediate appropriation of more than \$173,000,000 for multiple government projects was voted by the senate in passing the first deficiency bill.

The senate added to the measure as it passed the house the \$100,000,000 requested by President Hoover for the farm board; \$150,000 to continue the American delegation at the London naval limitation conference; \$7,000,000 for seed loans to farmers in storm-stricken states.

The \$100,000,000 fund for the farm board gives this newly established government organization a total of \$500,000,000 of the \$500,000,000 authorized for its revolving fund by congress. The additional fund was approved without opposition, but Senator Smithe W. Brookhart (Rep., Iowa), demanded that the board co-operate with the Canadian wheat pool against what he believes to be a combination by England, France and Italy to depress the American market. He estimated that the board would really need \$1,500,000,000 to carry out the purposes of the act.

Woman Lays Claim to New Altitude Record

New York.—Elinor Smith, girl flyer, nearly lost her life flying over Roosevelt field. She fainted from exertion and lack of oxygen—but declared she had set a new women's record for altitude.

Miss Smith said one altimeter recorded 32,000 feet, the other 30,000 feet. The official record is 23,500 feet, made by the Mrs. Marvel Crosson of Los Angeles, who died last year in the Santa Monica to Cleveland woman's air derby.

Figures Show British Exports on Decrease

London.—The British board of trade figures disclose the fact that Britain's exports for February were the lowest of any month since the month of January, 1929, with one exception. The month of February, 1929, was the lowest of any month since the month of January, 1929, with one exception. The month of February, 1929, was the lowest of any month since the month of January, 1929, with one exception.

New York Civic Leaders to Fight "Red Menace"

New York.—The New York Chamber of Commerce announces it has organized a number of civic groups to fight what it termed the "red menace."

Explosion of Mine Gas in Shaft Is Fatal to Five

Salt Lake City.—Five miners were dead and two others were suffering from burns and the effects of gas as a result of an explosion in the Peers Coal company's mine near Castle Gate, Utah.

Winders Succeeds Shumaker Indianapolis

Indianapolis.—The headquarters committee of the Indiana Anti-Saloon league announced the election of Dr. C. H. Winders superintendent of the organization to succeed the late Dr. E. S. Shumaker.

Americans Enriching Canada Montreal

Montreal.—American tourists left last week \$200,000,000 in Canada during the year 1929, according to an estimate made public by the Dominion bureau of statistics.

USE PIGEONS TO SMUGGLE DRUGS

New Problem Presented as Birds Bring Dope Over Mexican Border.

San Antonio, Texas.—Carrier pigeons have been added to other dumb smugglers which must be watched by federal customs officers along the Mexican border and narcotic officers here. The birds are being extensively used for smuggling narcotics into this country. It was declared by customs inspectors here, and are proving the most difficult problem for the officials to solve.

Dogs, donkeys, and even cattle have been used to smuggle "dope" in the past, but it was declared that only recently have pigeons been employed to any extent. Of course, the amount of the drugs that one bird can carry is small, but a small aluminum capsule attached to each leg is said to contain from \$5 to \$10 worth, depending on the kind and the undercover market prices.

The officers' attention was first attracted to the birds when a San Antonio pigeon fancier, whose name the officials declined to divulge, informed them that a pigeon sold by him several months ago had returned home, with a capsule attached to each leg. Investigation showed the capsules contained cocaine. The fancier explained that he had sold twenty pigeons some time before to a Mexican whose name he did not remember. No record was made of the sale.

One Avoids New Home.
The fancier added the officers in attempting to trace the birds without success. He explained that the purchaser no doubt had taken the birds to some place in Texas and confined them in a loft until he believed they would "break" to the new home and would return there when released. They were then sent to Mexico, there laden with "dope" and released.

The bird which returned to its former owner's loft in addition to being an old one, and these were declared to be very hard to "break" to another loft. The others were younger and had returned to their new home, each with its cargo of "dope." It is believed.

The fact that San Antonio is the center of an active pigeon smuggling operation complicates the work of the officers. No races are flown from Mexican points, it is said, on account of fast-flying falcons in that country which have caused the loss of many birds in former years when San Antonio and Monterrey fanciers had two-way races. These races were abandoned on account of the falcons.

There has always been some trade with Mexico in homing pigeons. In spite of the danger from falcons in that country, and shipments across the Rio Grande from San Antonio caused no suspicion until it was found that they were being used for smuggling. Even now officers said it is hard to keep track of shipments of birds, although Mexican officers co-operate in the work. Birds shipped to border points are easily smuggled to other points and released.

Birds Sound Alarm Clock.
Once the birds are released, intercepting them is said to be impossible. A dying pigeon in a common sight anywhere, and the homing instinct does not stop until it reaches its home loft. It enters the loft through a trap equipped with an alarm clock, and the owner can detect the contraband immediately, and it is usually hidden.

Shotguns would not avail against the birds, even if the border patrol should see them while in flight. The carrier on long flights is always out of range of even heavy shot, and even in range their speed would make them a difficult target.

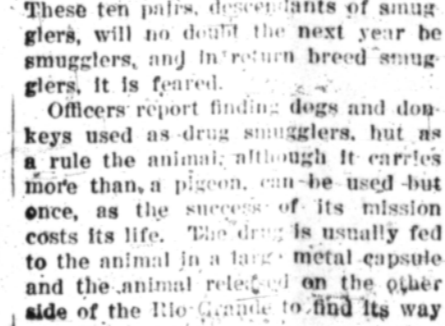
The border is being watched for shipments of pigeons but officers are confident as many are smuggled across as are shipped openly. It is an easy matter to confine 100 birds in a basket and slip them across the Rio Grande, it was declared. Once across, the work is easy. The homing instinct of the pigeons does the trick.

Officers point out that as far as they know only one bird had been found with the goods on board that was the one that returned to its former home. Thousands have been shipped across the border, it was declared. The more trips the birds make, the better for the smugglers they become. After a pigeon has been flown over the same route two or three times, it will be off like a shot as it is released. If the territory in which the bird is released is strange to it, some time will be lost in getting oriented.

Smugglers Raising Own Birds.
Officers here have requested pigeon fanciers to keep records of sales, which is being done, but it is believed that many smugglers have established lofts and are now breeding their own pigeons. The birds are profitable, and it is not uncommon for a pair to raise as many as ten pairs of birds a year. These ten pairs, descendants of some fancy, will no doubt the next year be smugglers, and in return breed smugglers. It is feared.

Officers report finding dogs and donkeys used as drug smugglers, but as a rule the animal, although it carries more than a pigeon, can be used but once, as the success of its mission costs its life. The drug is usually fed to the animal in a large metal capsule, and the animal released on the other side of the Rio Grande to find its way back home. When it arrives across the river, where it has been kept for some time and well fed, it is killed to obtain the drug.

JUSTICE 89 YEARS OLD



Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Find Lost City of Apollonia in Albania

Ponya, Albania.—Few readers are young enough to have studied the geography of the new kingdom of Albania left by the war. This young country is trying to drain the fever-taken marshes by the blue Adriatic sea and make good farming land of them.

Hope of the imperial armies had all that here 1,500 years ago. Their imperial city of Apollonia was here—somewhere near the present wretched hamlet of Ponya.

Ancient carved and inscribed stones are found encaused in the cabin walls of the peasants shacking with chills and fever. There is also a Greek monastery with brick Byzantine arches of early Christianity and carved stones of the Mateodon of Alexander the Great. The Austrian bombs of the war made short work of what time and fever had not ruined utterly.

So human curiosity has been looking here for Apollonia, lost imperial city. There were cavernous sounds from underground. "There the monks buried us and their own dead," whispered the over-stricken peasants.

A trench was dug—and, lo and behold, the lost city of the great Alexander and Roman emperors! Foundations and carved columns, statues of lovely goddesses, all mixed in with tombs of 2,000 years—and the canals to drain the marble basin of the waters which have made the marshes by age-long neglect.

M. Leon Rey is directing the excavations of the French archeological mission here.

Wolf Bounty to Keep Public Library Going

Toronto.—Hungry wolves are about to take over the maintenance of the only public library in the Dominion which owes its existence to the price of a bear skin.

Bears are neither as profitable nor as plentiful as they used to be on St. Joseph's island, up near Sault Ste. Marie, where the bearskin library flourishes. The exchequer of the library has run low and the library board has issued a call for volunteers to join in a wolf hunt, pool the \$20 bounty paid for every wolf killed on the island and buy more books.

The library was formed at the village of Hilton Beach when a hunter with literary leanings shot a bear and used the money to buy the first books. More bear hunts were organized and the library flourished.

Hilton Beach had the books and no place to put them. Also it had a jail and no prisoners. So the bearskin library was moved to the lockup and still is the only public library behind the bars.

Though it is a library, the lockup is still a prison. The constable holds the keys as well as the librarian. Every year or two a man is arrested on the island and spends a night in a cell lined with reading matter.

Owl Battles Engineer on Swedish Express

Stockholm, Sweden.—A struggle between an owl and the engineer of an electric express train has just been reported at Linköping, in southern Sweden. The bird, probably attracted by the headlights of the locomotive, burst against one cab window and broke the glass.

Well inside, it sank its claws into the shoulder of the motorman and attacked him with its bill. The engineer could not leave his grip on the switch, and a fierce battle ensued while the train raced on its way. At last the motorman succeeded in strangling the bird, which was an unusually large specimen.

Foch Statue in London

London.—Plans to erect a statue in London of Marshal Foch are now in progress. A committee under the direction of Lord Derby, president of the United Associations of Great Britain and France, is handling the project.

If John D. "Wants" Coffee He Gets It

Ormond Beach, Fla.—Michael Morrissey, favorite butler of John D. Rockefeller, knows that his employer abstains from coffee and governs himself accordingly. One morning, however, when "Michael" was passing coffee to other guests, "John D." remarked: "Michael, I'll take coffee."

The butler went on, serving, unmindful of the request, so Mr. Rockefeller repeated: "Michael, I'll take coffee."

The efficient "Michael" paid no attention, but when Mr. Rockefeller was passed up for the third time, he said, firmly: "Michael, I want coffee." And he got it.

CAMPAIGN TO FORCE BRITAIN FROM INDIA

Gandhi in Open Defiance of Government Rule.

New Delhi, India.—Mahatma Gandhi's historic "march to the sea" in furtherance of the campaign for civil disobedience began from the leader's headquarters at Ahmedabad, and demonstrations for were usually orderly were reported from various parts of upper India.

Gandhi defied the British government to arrest him and warned his followers that they must be prepared, "for the worst, even death, in plans for defiance of the salt tax." Production of salt in defiance of the government monopoly is the first disobedience step of the Indian program.

At the beginning of the march thousands of men and women accompanied Gandhi for several miles, rich and poor marching side by side, while thousands lined the roadside. Most of them dropped out eventually and Gandhi continued with eighty or more. Demonstrations in other places were mainly limited to hoisting the National flag and making speeches. At Rawalpindi the president of the Youth League was arrested and charged with sedition, but business went on as usual.

Gandhi's party has planned to take twenty days to reach the Gulf of Cambay, where it will attempt to produce salt in violation of the government monopoly, thus inaugurating a program which has for its ultimate ends nonpayment of taxes and nationwide nonparticipation with the British government in India.

New Zealanders Extend Royal Welcome to Byrd

Dunedin, N. Z.—Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, American explorer, and the members of his Antarctic expedition returned to Dunedin after producing more than a year at the bottom of the world.

There was tumultuous enthusiasm as the expedition borne by the bark City of New York and the steamer Eleanor Bolling, entered the harbor of Dunedin. Dunedin was the last city to bid Byrd good-bye when he set out for the Antarctic in December, 1928.

The explorers will remain here about ten days and then sail for New York by way of the Panama canal.

Immense Steel Merger on Eve of Completion

New York.—Negotiations to merge the Bethlehem Steel corporation and the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company have reached such a stage that the plan to form this \$1,000,000,000 company is ready for submission to the directors of the Youngstown company, it is announced. The preliminary negotiations have been carried on for several weeks between Eugene G. Grace, president of the Bethlehem company and H. G. Dalton, a director of the Youngstown company and also a director of the Bethlehem concern.

Supreme Court Vacancy to Hold Over Thirty Days

Washington.—President Hoover probably will withhold his nomination of a successor to the late Associate Justice Edward T. Sanford of the Supreme court, who died here March 8, for thirty days.

The president having proclaimed a thirty-day period of mourning for the passing of former President Taft, appointment of a successor to Justice Sanford will wait until this period ends.

The body of Justice Sanford left Sunday night for Knoxville, Tenn., where the jurist was buried.

Hans Luther New Head of German Reichsbank

Berlin.—Dr. Hans Luther, a former chancellor of Germany, was elected president of the reichsbank to succeed Dr. Hjalmar Schacht, whose violent opposition to the Young plan led to his resignation.

Doctor Luther is fifty-one years old. His actual banking experience has been limited, although he is recognized as a good administrator. He was finance minister of the German republic in 1923. His downfall as chancellor of the reich came in 1925.

Report Discovery of Immense New Planet

Cambridge, Mass.—Discovery of a ninth planet by the Lowell observatory at Flagstaff, Ariz., lying beyond Neptune, was announced by Prof. Harold Shapley, director of the Harvard observatory. Doctor Shapley declared it was the most important discovery since that of Neptune in 1846.

The new planet is 45 times as far from the earth as the earth is from the sun.

Davis Given Veto's Support Philadelphia

Philadelphia.—William S. Vane formally announced his withdrawal as a candidate for the United States senate and asked his friends to support Secretary of Labor James J. Davis for the nomination.

Informers Not Accomplish Denver

Denver.—An informer cannot be regarded as an accomplice in the purchase of intoxicating liquor as evidence against a seller of liquor, the Colorado Supreme court has ruled.

Liquor Buyer Case To Supreme Court

Highest Tribunal to Determine Purchaser's Liability.

Washington.—The Supreme court was asked by the Department of Justice to settle the controversial question of whether the purchase of liquor is a criminal act punishable under the national prohibition law.

The department brought the matter to the attention of the court by filing an appeal in the case of James E. Farrar, Watertown, Mass., resident recently freed in Boston after being indicted on a charge of purchasing liquor. In that case Judge James M. Morton quashed an indictment against Farrar and handed down a decision holding the purchase of liquor is not a crime under the Volstead act.

Final action by the Supreme court on the issue raised in the Farrar case would provide a clear-cut decision on the question of whether the buyer of beverage liquor can be prosecuted under the Volstead act for that one act alone.

Young Plan Definitely Accepted by Germany

Berlin.—Germany definitely accepted the Young reparations plan which provides for final liquidation of its war debts, when the reichstag ordered its final adoption on third reading by a vote of 235 to 192, or a majority of 73. The pact for settlement of disputes with Poland was approved by a majority of only 19 votes, while the German-American agreement was passed by a rising vote.

World War Veterans in Urgent Need of Relief

Washington.—Eighty-four thousand disabled veterans of the World war are in urgent need of relief provided in the new veterans' committee omnibus bill pending in the house, National Commander O. L. Bodenhamer of the American Legion said in a statement urging immediate passage of the measure.

Doctor Cook Released From Federal Prison

Kansas City.—Dr. Frederick A. Cook was released March 9 on parole from the federal prison at Leavenworth, where he was serving a sentence for using the mails to defraud.

After spending some time in Chicago, the physician said he intended to return to Texas to make his home.

Gold Star Mothers Organize New York

New York.—A hundred women who lost one or more sons in the World war met and organized the American Gold Star Mothers, hoping to make it a national society.

Bridal Party of 36 Drown Warsaw, Poland

Warsaw, Poland.—Thirty-six persons were drowned in Naroch lake in the Vilna district when a wedding party on the way to the church detained on thin ice.

Pinchot Would Be Senator Philadelphia

Philadelphia.—Gilford Pinchot, former governor of Pennsylvania, announced that he will be a candidate for the gubernatorial nomination at the Republican primary election in May.

Oppose Labor Injunctions New York

New York.—Opposition to the use of injunctions against labor unions fighting for recognition by employers was expressed in a statement by the Federal Council of Churches.