

OREGON NEWS ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Brief Resume of Happenings of the Week Collected for Our Readers.

Heavy taxpayers of Yamhill county are forming a branch of the Taxpayers' Equalization League of Oregon to obtain a more equitable equalization of the tax on real property, now bearing 80 per cent of the tax burden.

Albany's rainfall during 1930 was almost a third less than the average during the last 15 years, F. M. French, local United States weather observer, said. The 1930 total was 26.66 inches. The 15-year average is 39.18 inches.

How to meet the crisis of the present panicky condition of the dairy products market occupied the chief place of attention at the 35th annual meeting of the Oregon Dairyman's association held at Redmond recently.

Retail business in Portland in excess of \$211,000,000 is shown by the bureau of the census in the release of the returns from the 1930 distribution census now being compiled. The 1930 population of Portland is \$1,190.

Edward Clow, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clow of Uniondale, was in the McMinnville hospital recently with a fractured skull. The youth ran behind a barn while a blast in a stump was exploded. A piece of the stump was thrown over the barn, striking him on the head.

Engineers appointed by the public service commission to study traffic conditions on the Pacific highway at the northern entrance of Albany have recommended an underground crossing that will serve both the Pacific and the Santiam highway by eliminating existing grade crossings.

Marion county with an infant mortality of only 35.3 per 1000 during 1929, is one of the most favored regions in the entire nation in this respect, according to Dr. Vernon A. Douglas, county health officer. Births in the county during the year totaled 933, compared to 810 in 1929.

The Oregon Packing company of Salem notified growers that no contracts for pumpkin acreage will be taken for next year. The company generally took contracts for 3500 to 4000 tons of pumpkins at this time of the year. No pack will be made next year, however, directors said.

Oregon dairymen must develop and maintain an aggressive spirit if they are to curb the increased use of oleomargarine and other dairy substitutes and a corresponding decrease in the use of butter and dairy products, J. D. Mickle, state dairy and food commissioner, declared recently at Eugene.

The national forest service and Lane county will co-operate in building a road over the summit between the headwaters of Indian creek and those of Ten Mile creek in the northwestern part of the county, it was announced. The county will obtain the right of way and the forest service will grade the road.

All timber lands are to be assessed for fire protection, regardless of resident exemption, unless the specific areas to be exempted are designated and are patrolled by the owners, according to a legal opinion handed down by the attorney-general at Salem recently. The opinion was requested by the state forestry department.

The construction of a telephone line into the Chetco river district has been announced by officials of the Siskiyou national forest. Action taken by the forestry department in allowing residents of the district access to the government lines is a part of a plan which will afford better fire prevention during the summer months.

Milling facilities for the new \$10,000 addition to the Farm Bureau Co-operative warehouse at Hermiston have been purchased, and will be installed within the next few days. When completed and ready for operation the warehouse will be one of the best of its capacity in the northwest, with the best milling equipment available.

Curry county's tax levy for this year will be 23 mills, one-tenth of a mill lower than for the past year and the lowest tax for many years. The county commissioners feel highly pleased that they have been able to keep down the tax levy when there is such great demand for public expenditures. Curry's levy is probably the lowest of any county in the state.

The temperature of the water in the well being drilled at Lakeview to obtain hot water with which to heat the entire city jumped to 200 degrees when the bit reached a depth of 62 feet. One hotel, a hospital and three homes now are being heated by a well that was drilled several years ago. If the present well will provide 1000 gallons a minute at 200 degrees, that will be a sufficient amount to heat the city of 200 inhabitants.

Residents of the upper Chetco river, in southern Curry county, where there are large areas of fertile bottom land and thousands of acres of grazing, are asking the county for an extension of the highway to a point ten miles farther up the river.

Representatives of the Rogue River valley fruit industry will name a committee composed of three members of the traffic association and three members of the Fruitgrowers' league to study the advisability of merging the league and traffic association.

Reading of advertising is worth while.

INVENTOR OF BOMB TURNS TO BULBS

Mills' Story Forms Interesting Bit of History.

London.—In a beautiful garden on the French Riviera, Sir William Mills, inventor, is forgetting the World war, whose horrors were multiplied by the bomb his brilliant brain devised.

More than 75,000,000 Mills bombs were used during the war and military authorities said their effectiveness threatened to replace the rifle. However, the seventy-four-year-old inventor got little but thanks and a knighthood for his work. He maintains he lost money through his invention.

The story of the bombmaker is an interesting one. In April, 1915, after he had spent thousands of dollars in experimental work, government experts were convinced of the effectiveness of the bomb and ordered 50,000 supplied quickly. By working day and night Mills was able to deliver 8,000 the following month.

In 1921 Mills asked one English penny for each of the 75,000,000 used as a commercial royalty, but the royal commission on awards to inventors granted him approximately \$138,000.

Two years ago, in contesting a tax action by the government, Mills said he had been given orders for the manufacture of only 4,000,000 of the bombs, from which he derived a net profit of \$390,485. On this amount he paid an income tax of \$80,205 and an excess profits tax of \$360,710, leaving an excess of taxes over profits of \$57,490 and in addition was paying a surtax of \$50,000.

The master of rolls expressed his sympathy with Mills' predicament, but said sympathy could not affect the question of law and Mills was ordered to pay.

The change from bombs to bulbs was an easy one for the inventor, who has maintained an interest in floriculture for years. He is a collector of art and books, of which he has an extensive knowledge.

To Divide Five Pups Is Odd Issue Up to Jurist

San Francisco.—The judge who hears the divorce suit of Mrs. May Ellen Bruton will have to be a Solomon. He's going to be obliged to divide five pups between two persons.

The five small fox terriers were named as community property by Mrs. Bruton in her suit for divorce filed by Attorney S. M. Modry.

Mrs. Bruton charged Arthur J. Bruton, a roofer, with cruelty. He falsely accused her of associating with other men, was jealous, and failed to provide for her, she claimed. Also, he made her nervous when they went automobile riding, by driving too fast and cutting off, she says.

The Brutons were married October 6, 1928, in Reno, and separated September 18, 1930. The plaintiff asks a divorce and half the community property, which consists of furniture and automobiles—and the five pups.

Scottish Schools Ban Stories of the Flood

Glasgow.—The story of the Garden of Eden will in future be omitted from the religious teaching given to pupils on the elementary schools here.

Stories dealing with Noah and the flood, the sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham, and other Old Testament subjects also are to be banned as unsuitable for young children. They will be given instead a simple story based on the life of Christ. It is to be told sympathetically and left to make its own impression.

The narrative of the fall of Adam and Eve is to be omitted from the teaching of junior pupils. Senior pupils will be taught the story of Jesus as a hero, then as a friend, and finally as the Saviour.

The new teaching is based on the revised code agreed between the Church of Scotland and the Educational Institute of Scotland.

University Builds Model High School for Students

Columbus, Ohio.—A model high school, which will employ the newest methods in efficient instruction and will embody an economical arrangement of classrooms, laboratories and offices, is being built on the campus of Ohio State university for \$450,000. The new building will be a teachers' training school and an experimental plant. It will offer high school and preparatory instruction to 450 pupils, assuring them the most advanced principles of scientific teaching. It will be completed by January 1, 1932.

Halve Diamond Output to Maintain Price Level

Paris.—The chief diamond producers of the world agreed to cut their output in half to maintain the existing price level.

The decision was reached at Amsterdam recently by the international diamond commission and was ratified by the Amsterdam Diamond association. Hereafter diamond cutters will work only one week out of two.

"Kissing Booth" Barred at Carnival for New Gym

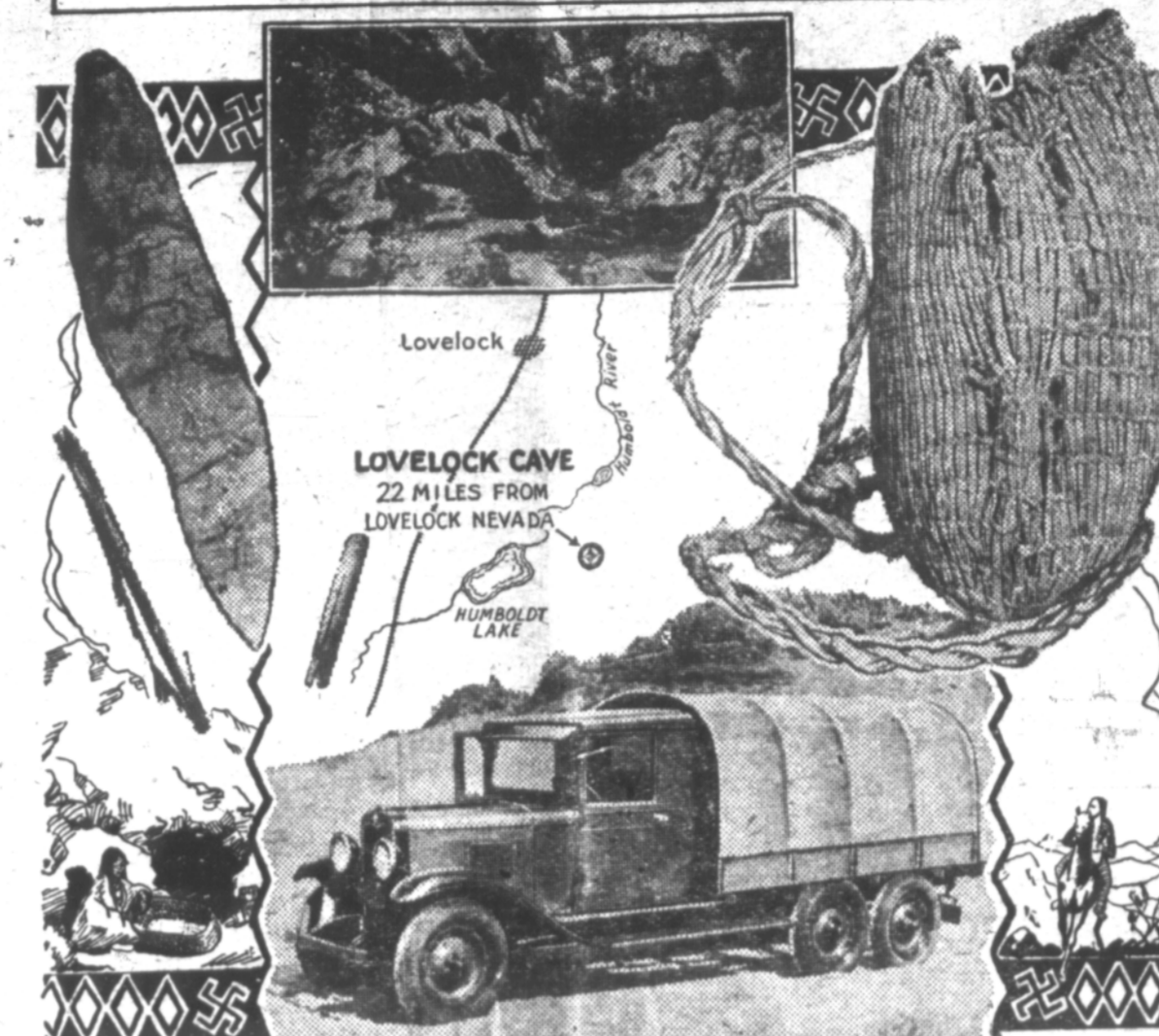
Palo Alto, Calif.—They called it a "mystery maze that promises to be intriguing," but authorities held that Stanford university girl students, seeking to raise \$20,000 for a carnival for a new gym, could not maintain "an old-fashioned kissing booth."

William Otto, a Wisconsin farmer, got his trousers caught in a machine of his own invention, which stripped him with the exception of his shoes. He was not injured.

Some natives of Isabel Island in the Pacific live in trees, among the branches of which rude huts are built.

Read and subscribe for the Observer.

Ancient Civilization Unearthed at Lovelock Cave



Evidence pointing to the oldest civilization in America has been unearthed at the Lovelock Cave, located on the Nevada desert. The cave was once the home of a tribe of Indians, legend of which says were cannibalistic. Entrance to the cave is shown at the top; to the left is a flint knife, and at the right is a basket which contained two fur blankets in a perfect state of preservation. The six-cylinder truck found the sand road to the cave not difficult. The tandem rear wheel construction affords easy traction.

LIGHTS OF NEW YORK

By WALTER TRUMBULL

One great trouble New York department stores have is with returned goods. Either things look more attractive to persons at the time they buy them, or when they get home, they figure they really couldn't afford to buy what they did. Then the purchases are sent back. They tell me that one big department store has many thousands of things sent back each week. It is, of course, harder to return things at stores, which run no charge accounts, but customers get around this by having goods sent collected. Then, if they decide they don't want them, they merely decline to pay for them, and back they go.

It seems there is a class of customer who orders things while never having the faintest idea of keeping them. Merchants think they often do this to make an impression on the people they are with. These shoppers will ask the price of an expensive article and then languidly order it sent to them collect. When the purchase is delivered, they refuse to receive it.

At stores where charge accounts are run, there are cases on record where dresses have been sent back, which showed unmistakable signs of having been worn. Nor is this always done by poor customers. Some women, whose account has been valuable to the store, orders a dress and wears it, only to have somebody tell her it is not becoming. If this type of customer returns an article, the store has to stop and figure whether the account is valuable enough to let the customer get away with it.

Henry C. Smith, of Duttons, told me of a case where a customer returned five books on bridge, for credit, after having kept them five weeks. An even stranger case was that of a man who came in and inquired for some unusual scientific books. The store didn't keep them in stock, but at the man's request, ordered them. A couple of weeks later, he came in and the books were there. He said, that he would like to examine them, so the clerk seated him at a table and left him. The man sat there for several hours, looking through the books and making notes. Then he quietly walked out of the shop and has not been seen since. The books are still on hand.

The hotel he had given an address reported that nobody of that name had stopped there. The queer part of the whole proceedings is that he probably could have obtained the books at the public library.

But the existence of a book store is not all grief. One day a man entered a shop and asked that a collection of books on a certain subject be assembled. He would come back in a couple of days. The collection was made for him and he did come back and looked over the books carefully. They did not expect him to take them all, but when he laid three books aside, that were disappointed, as they thought that those were the only ones of the large lot he intended to buy. But he asked how much the remainder amounted to. When it was figured out, the bill came to \$4,800, as there were some rare and expensive books among them. The man drew his check for the amount and ordered the books delivered. That was a good sale.

There are some rare books in the circulation department of the New York public library. One book, for example, which may be taken home, just like any other volume, is listed in catalogues at \$900. My informant didn't tell me its name.

Just as stewards on shipboard always try to seat Dean Cornwell, the mural painter, with church and college deans, so many persons intro-

Odd Beliefs Long Held

Concerning the Sneezes

The Greeks, when they ask for a blessing upon those afflicted by sneezing, "claimed to follow the example of Prometheus, who stole celestial fire to animate the beautiful figure he had made of clay; as the fire permeated its frame, the newly formed creature sneezed, and the delighted Prometheus invoked blessings on it." According to Aristotle, the first man who conceived the idea that the head was the principal seat of the soul, regarded the sneeze with great respect because of the fact that the most manifest operation of the head, hence the compliments of the Greeks and Romans, "Long may you live; may you enjoy health."

Some rabbis explain the custom by declaring that not long after the creation, God made a general decree that every man should sneeze but once, whereupon his soul should depart from his body without previous warning or indisposition. Jacob got the decree withdrawn so that man can sneeze as often as he chooses without danger. Therefore, whenever a man finds himself still living after a good gusty sneeze, people should express their gratitude with a blessing.

Birth Rate of Leaders Found Below Average

Except under very favorable conditions, such as that in royal families, the successful sections of society have always tended to die out. Just now our college graduates are easily demonstrated to be vanishing as a human breed. From them have sprung nearly three-fourths of our leaders, and in the future nearly all our leaders will secure some form of higher instruction.

In addition, Dr. Raymond Pearl of Johns Hopkins has shown that all occupational classes, which he divides into nine categories, are disappearing as groups, owing to insufficient birth reproducing themselves, namely, the farmers, factory workers and miners. The other six, namely the professional, clerical, trade, domestic service, public service, and transportation groups, are not maintaining themselves.—Albert Edward Wiggam.

Great Early American

Stephen Girard of Philadelphia was at first a seaman, working up until he became a master of the coasting trade. He then settled in Philadelphia as a merchant and ship owner, who invested largely in the shares of the old Bank of the United States, 1810, and in 1812, on the lapsing of its charter, purchased a controlling interest in the building and reopened a bank under the name of the Stephen Girard bank. He retained the old officers of the bank and made it one of the foremost financial institutions of the country. His fortune at his death was about \$7,500,000, and he left to Girard college about \$5,250,000.

Test for Posture

An excellent test for correct posture, says Marguerite Agnel in the Pagan's Magazine, is to stand facing the wall, placing the hands against the wall in front of the thighs so that the palms point upward. Now notice which part of the body strikes the wall first. If it is the chest, well and good; if it is the head, it is not so good; but if the stomach touches first, something is wrong. To attain correct posture stretch the arms above the head until the back is arched and the chest high. Then with elbows pulled all the way down, draw the hands down to the shoulders, head back. Now retaining the general position of the body, return the hands to the sides and you will find yourself standing perfectly. Exercises for correcting bad posture include pushing up with the arms from a reclining position and raising the trunk from the same position without lifting the feet.

HE IS EVER DOWN, BUT NEVER IS OUT

"Worm-Man" Bucks Fate 32 Years on Hands and Knees.

Kimbolton, Ohio.—Down on his knees, the Guernsey county worm-man has crawled the mud trails of the hill wilderness around here for 32 years.

Humping along on knuckles and knees, through briar and mire, snow and summer dust, Homer Shipman has made his lowly, heroic way. Through it all he has earned his bread and has fed and reared his family of six children.

It was just 32 years ago, just a few days before Christmas, that the husky bridegroom was caught beneath a fall of rock in one of the gloomy little mines burrowing for coal in his backwoods.

They carried Homer to his bride, his back broken and legs crushed. The doctors told him he could not live the few days to Christmas.

Christmas came and went, and bleak months stretched ahead. Then the young wife told him of the new life that quickened within her.

Homer set his jaw. Quietly he made himself leather pads for his knees. He put heavy leather over the toes of his dragging boots. He whittled out wooden buffers to keep his knuckles off the earth.

Then one day he set out for the mine again. Thereafter awhile he found that he had an edge on the others. His shoulders and arms and hands grew mighty, bearing the burden of his crippled legs. He got so he could lie on his back and hack away all day with a hand-pick under the shallowest veins of coal.

His first child was born. Through the years others followed. The strange figure became familiar to the scattered families along the trail between his cabin and the mine.

But the last few years his age—he is fifty-five now—has begun to tell. No longer can he struggle with the long trail to his cabin. He now has a little shack close to the mine, which he and his son-in-law have rented. His wife brings meals to him. He spends the night in the shack alone.

And every morning at dawn he lowers himself into the mine, not to come up again until darkness has arrived.

Reclamation Payments Dodged by Settlers

Washington.—The federal government is handicapped in its development of reclamation projects by politicians who aid settlers in avoiding their annual payments, according to Reclamation Commissioner Elwood Mead.

Mead explained to the house appropriations committee, that while the government advances money to build reclamation projects under contracts with settlers to repay, that "many users do not regard these contracts as serious obligations."

"They expect and demand the aid of their senators and congressmen to help them escape payment. The result is that reclamation is a warring combination of politics and business."

Mead reported that, otherwise, conditions on reclamation projects were excellent. Crop values on reclamation projects increased \$17,008,810 in 1929 over 1928, the total in 1929 being \$101,179,880. The irrigated area in 1929 was 2,718,130 acres, an increase of 41,030 over 1928.

Minneapolis Man Thanks Judge for Five Years

Minneapolis.—Julius Johnson had his wish.

For the next five years he will be safe from the toils of women.

When Johnson appeared in District court, facing the charge of abandonment, he voiced the hope that Judge W. C. Leary would not place him on probation, but send him to jail.

"I'm through with women and want to go somewhere where there aren't any," he said.

Judge Leary sentenced Johnson to serve up to five years in Stillwater prison.

His Nom de Plume Not Original With Clemens

Original With Clemens

The name "Mark Twain" was first used by an old Mississippi river pilot named Isham Sellers, who used to write items for the New Orleans Picayune, in which he told of his adventures in a quaintly egotistical tone.

The paragraphs usually began, "My opinion for the benefit of the citizens of New Orleans." They were signed "Mark Twain," which, in the parlance of pilots, is a leadman's call, meaning two fathoms—twelve feet. Samuel Clemens, then a cub pilot, wrote a burlesque on Captain Sellers' articles, and published it in a rival paper over the signature "Sergeant Fathom."

Sellers was so hurt by the burlesque that he never wrote another article. In 1868 Clemens was working for the Enterprise, published in Virginia City, Nev. He wanted a good pen name. While he was trying to think of a good one, he received news of the death of Sellers. This suggested to him "Mark Twain," the name Sellers once used, and he signed it first to a letter from Carson City to the Enterprise under date of February 2, 1863.

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Bank Notes of Sweden Defy the Counterfeiter

Swedish bank notes offer practically insurmountable difficulties to counterfeiters, because of a secret process used in the manufacture of the bank note paper, at the ancient paper mill of Tumba. The Swedish riksbank, which has been in existence for more than 200 years, and is the oldest institution of its kind in the world, in 1755 purchased the Tumba mill for the manufacture of its bank-note paper.

Since then this paper has been manufactured there by workmen whose craft passed along the secret of their craft from father to son. A number of processes, which are guarded by the strictest secrecy, are used in the making of the paper, and the bank notes are very carefully printed to avoid all possibility of forgery. Through certain chemical ingredients in the bank-note paper it can even, if burned, be identified from the ashes.—Montreal Family Herald.

Chinese Wisdom

Recent after-dinner speeches, one of the most popular London diplomats was sitting next to his Chinese colleague at a big dinner in London, which was being followed by the usual interminable after-dinner speeches. After listening a while, he turned to his Chinese neighbor, and casually asked:

"And what is your opinion of after-dinner speeches? Do you have them also in China?"

Whereupon the Chinese diplomat calmly and politely replied:

"Oh, yes, of course, we, too, used to have them—but we abolished this habit some 1500 years ago."

Having attended quite a few dinners, and accompanying speeches, we think this story well worth repeating.—London Chronicle.

Ear-Piercing Dying Out

According to the statement of a doctor quoted some time ago, ear-piercing still prevails, but to only a limited extent. "At one time it was believed that piercing the ears and wearing tiny gold rings was a preventive for eye and other troubles. As a matter of fact, however, it is just simply a survival of the period when we were savages and indulged in a primitive style of decoration by mutilation. Between piercings in the healed-up holes is but a whisper from the present practice of African savages of slitting the lips and by a gradual increasing in the size of objects soon having a hole big enough to slip a plate into."

Origin of "Blue Blood"

Although blood has never been blue, the term "blue blood" has denoted aristocracy for more than 400 years, observes the Golden Book Magazine, which explains the origin of the term.

"Those who claim aristocratic descent have 'blue blood' in their veins, which is meant to be complimentary in a manner of speaking. The expression comes from Spain where, after the expulsion of the Moors, who were dark skinned, people with light skins claimed pure descent from ancestors who lived before the Moorish conquest. The light skins permitted the blue veins to show more vividly."

Still a Surprise

Wilson & Webster received a letter from a London firm. It read: "We are very much surprised that the money we have so often demanded has not yet arrived."

"What shall we do?" said Mr. Wilson.

"Write them a letter," said Mr. Webster.

They wrote a letter, and when the manager of the London firm opened it he read: "You do not need to wonder; we have not sent the money."—London Answers.

Extreme Affection

New expressions of love always brought a repetition from Bobby, to the delight of his father on returning home each evening.

"Bobby," the father greeted him, "I love you so much, it hurts."

Bobby laughed, bestowed a kiss and ran to play. A little later he dashed up to his father and said: "Daddy, I love you so much, it's sore."

Thomas Allen of Montreal, aged 98, has located his sister Elizabeth, 102, and his brother James, 103, in the United States after 50 years of separation.

Effective at a height of three miles, a new anti-craft machine gun shoots between 500 and 600 shots a minute.

Reading advertisements is worthwhile.