

# Story of Big Bandon Fire Told By Witness

(Editor's Note—The following letter was received this week by Mrs. Ethel Fleischer, from Miss Lottie Franklin, former teacher in the Central Point schools and well known here. The letter is of special interest on account of it being a first-hand account of what really occurred during that dreadful night. The many friends of Miss Franklin will be very glad to know of her escape.)

So sorry you had not heard from me earlier. I should have written you but there were so many things going on. Sorry to have caused you such anxiety.

It was surely a great experience but one I do not care to experience again.

All day Saturday we could see the smoke from the fire just east of town but did not feel any alarm as one so often does. Yet the air was so hot and everything so dry that combined with all the smoke it made one very nervous and anxious. The very houses creaked and cracked. I had worked hard all day cleaning and canning some green tomato preserves. About five o'clock some friends from North Bend drove in. They had brought some meat so we fixed some supper.

While we were eating my neighbor lady came up saying that her men were out at their cranberry bog which was in direct line of the fire. They had sent out several parties but couldn't find them and said that everything was afire. She said it would be in town in an hour. It was dark and there was a great red glow. We had some friends who lived out that way so I went to call their daughter who lived in town. They had come in town and left their home. We went up there and talked a bit but were not at all alarmed.

We kept watch and soon saw the flames leaping. Soon they were just billowing. I started for home to get my car out. This lady's grand parents were going down to stay all night with me. By the time we got home the flames were roaring only a few blocks from town.

My home was only three blocks from the edge of town. Even then we didn't realize it would burn us out. A man told me that he thought I had better be ready so I started to pack. The lights were out. I had just purchased a flashlight the week before. Was I glad. How we packed. I got all in my car that I could. We filled the back of my friend's car. A young fellow whose mother comes to church came with his car and loaded it.

By then houses were burning. They didn't smolder and then start but seemed to burst out all over. We knew we had to get out. My trunk was on the trunk rack but we had no rope. I dashed back in the house and grabbed a handful of old silk stockings and we tied it on.

It just seemed as if the whole world was ablaze. We started out but didn't know which direction to go. We thought of the beach but fire was headed that way and we didn't know what to do with the car. As we went out a house burned just

a block from us.

Everywhere were cars loaded with this and that. We went out a few miles and stopped to talk over plans. Officers soon stopped the traffic so we were very fortunate to get out. We didn't know but that we would run right into fire again but found out from a state policeman that the road was clear to Coquille. He didn't know what was best.

While we were waiting two cars had a wreck and several were badly cut. You know how I would like that.

Finally we started on and arrived safely in Coquille at one o'clock. That was the first conception I had as to the time. I had friends there. They said that one hour and a half after the fire hit the buildings it had covered the city so you can imagine how fast it went.

There was no sleep that night. At five the next morning five engines started out in Coquille. By eleven the smoke and cinders were flying. A warden told me that a slight wind would drive the fire into Coquille. Most of my friends in this area live in North Bend and I was anxious to get there. So at eleven by myself I started for that place.

There was dense smoke all the way. I was some worried. When I pulled in there—to and behold a fire was sweeping in on them. In a short time we were ready to move again but just in time, the wind shifted, the humidity went up, and the fire was at a standstill. The smoke was terrific. You had to drive with your light on. Things eased up a little altho it was like sitting on a volcano, just waiting. Then there was the terrible anxiety of trying to hear from the folks at Bandon.

I'm teaching a little one room school just two and a half miles from Bandon. Most of my flock lived in that district called Prosper. The papers and radios said that it was all burned and yet I didn't hear a word from any. Finally I found that none had burned there. They fought all night to save the school.

Tuesday I came down to Bandon. In Coquille the smoke was so dense that all had lights burning. My, what desolation! I never saw such a ruin. There were no homes, no business section. Not even walls left. Just chimneys here and there. It's the most tragic sight I ever beheld.

The Red Cross has erected tents for homeless until they can build temporary wooden shelter. The high school was left so they fixed the gym for a grade school.

Everyone seemed to be making the best of everything. I had two grave side funerals. They were pitiful. No mourners. Just three or four who went to help.

Indeed, I do thank God for my fortunate escape. The night on the beach was horrible. I got out most of my valued possessions. I saved my pictures, hand work, clothes, bedding, dishes, etc. Of course, I lost many things but my choice things were saved.

Just tonight we had a fresh scare. The smoke is still very thick out here at Prosper. There is still dan-

ger all around. Our fear is wind. Oh, if it would only rain.

I've taught this week. It has been so hard to get settled. Everyone is nervous and keyed up. I'm staying in a home near the school.

Please tell all my friends that I'm fine. Must quit and get to sleep. I still keep my church work.

Love to all,  
LOTTIE FRANKLIN

## Turkey Show To Be Largest in History

BY EARL F. STRONG

Prospects for another record-breaking Northwestern turkey show at Oakland, Or., December 8 to 12, are excellent. For four years the Northwestern has been the largest turkey show in the world with entries from 1000 to 1200 birds, live and dressed.

Judges in the live show will be H. P. Griffin, Salt Lake, and Harry M. Lamon from Adams Center, N. Y. Mr. Griffin is field manager for the Northwestern Turkey Growers' co-operative. He has judged at the Northwestern show for three years, and is now recognized as one of the foremost judges west of the Rockies.

Mr. Lamon is an international poultry authority and for ten years was head of poultry enterprises in the department of agriculture. He has judged two years at the All-American show, at the New York turkey show and other eastern events.

The last 12 months has brought great fame to the Oregon turkey raiser. The Oregon-Washington bronze market bird has established itself until it is recognized as the greatest commercial breed in the entire United States.

Dome's White Holland strain has also reached a similar peak for this breed. Other breeds are rapidly being recognized as leaders in their respective fields. Leatherwood famous black turkey breeder, this last year made shipments to England. Various Narragansett and Bourbon Red growers have shipped eggs from one end of the United States to the other.

## Golden Link Class Meets With Mrs. Wood

Mrs. J. C. Woods entertained the Golden Link Bible Class at her home Friday afternoon. About twenty-five guests were present. Mrs. Lacy and Mrs. Scott had charge of the entertainment after the regular business session.

Mrs. Mattie Smith won first prize for answering the most bible questions correctly. Three jelly beans and three toothpicks were passed to each lady. She was to make an animal out of them. Mrs. Powell won first.

Delicious refreshments of sandwiches, cake, ice cream and coffee were served by Mesdames Tethrow, Hugger and Reames.

All present enjoyed the afternoon very much.

## Hunter Gets License While Buck Waits

ELMA, Wash., Oct. 11.—E. S. Avey, Elma Lawyer, asserts this is a true story.

An Oakville farmer was returning home to his ranch from town when he saw a fine buck in his ranch near the Chehalis river. The hunter returned to town, bought a hunting license and deer tag, returned to his house and, slipping into the field, shot the buck, which was still waiting for him.

## Teachers To Meet At Ashland Normal

Teachers from Lake, Klamath, Jackson and Josephine counties will gather at Southern Oregon Normal school, Oct. 30 and 31 for a teachers institute and conference. Dr. Walter Redford, president of the school, said today.

Dr. Redford said the purpose of the sessions was to stimulate interest of elementary teachers and aid them in keeping abreast of educational developments.

Distinguished Oregon educators and speakers are on the program. Approximately 700 teachers are expected to attend.

## Legal Notices

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY AUGUST 24, 1932.

Of Central Point American published Weekly at Central Point, Oregon for October 1, 1936, State of Oregon, County of Jackson.

Before me, a Notary Public in and

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for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared A. E. POWELL, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Publisher of the CENTRAL POINT AMERICAN and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and a daily paper, the circulation), etc. of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher A. E. POWELL, Central Point, Oregon.  
Editor A. E. POWELL, Central Point, Oregon.  
Business Manager A. E. POWELL, Central Point, Oregon.

2. That the owner is: A. E. Powell, Central Point, Oregon

3. That the known bondholders, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none so state.)  
A. A. Galt, Modesto, California.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities.

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than as so stated by him.

A. E. POWELL  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3rd day of October 1936.  
GUY TEX  
Notary Public for Oregon. My commission expires March 1, 1939

**NOTICE**  
In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Jackson County  
In the Matter of the Estate of J. Frank Gregory, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed her Final Account and Report in the above entitled matter, and the above entitled Court has fixed October 23rd, 1936, at 10 o'clock A. M., in the County Court Room, in the Court House in Medford, Jackson County, Oregon, as the time and place for hearing objections to said Final Account and for the settlement thereof.

**SUMMONS**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR JACKSON COUNTY.

WALTER E. MESSECAR, Plaintiff,  
vs  
INEZ MESSECAR, Defendant.

TO: INEZ MESSECAR, the above named defendant:  
IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON, you are hereby notified and required to appear in the above entitled court and cause and answer or otherwise plead to plaintiff's complaint within four (4) weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons upon you, which is the 1st day of October, 1936, and if you fail to appear and answer within the time required, for want thereof, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief prayed for in his complaint, to-wit:

For a decree of the court nullifying and setting aside the marriage heretofore on June 25th, 1936 had between plaintiff and defendant in Jackson County, Oregon.

This summons is served upon you by publication once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in the Central Point American, a newspaper of general circulation, published in Jackson County, Oregon, by order of H. D. Norton, Judge of the above entitled court, which order was made on the 25th day of September 1936.

GUS NEWBURY  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
Medford National Bank Building  
Medford, Oregon

43—Oct. 1-8-15-22

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