

DASTARDLY PLOT IS DISCOVERED

Plan to Blow Up James R. Misner and Family Frustrated By Suspicion.

TRIGGER BOMB IS RECEIVED BY MAIL

Misner Discovered Hooker Under His House in 1915, But Knows No Enemy.

That James R. Misner and family were not blown to atoms last night by a bomb which he received in the mail is due to the caution displayed in opening this particular Christmas package. An infernal machine, containing a powerful explosive, was received at noon yesterday, and when it was set off last night it tore a hole in the earth a foot deep and two feet in diameter.

James R. Misner is the man who discovered Otto Hooker under his house at Eighth street and Broadway in Albany, 1915, after Hooker's sensational escape from the State Prison, his shooting the Marshal in Jefferson and a few hours later killing Warden Harry Minto three miles north of Albany, and ending in Patrolman Long, of Portland, shooting Hooker under Misner's house. Misner had not completed his house at that time, the floor being but partly down. Misner was sleeping in the unfinished house and heard a cough, which led to the end of the man hunt.

Misner is unable to account for an attempt on his life, unless it was for the part he played in informing the officers of the law of Hooker's whereabouts. He knows of no enemies, at least none who could have a deadly grudge against him, and is a quiet, peaceable man.

The only reason that Mrs. Misner did not open the package and receive the full charge is that Luffy Bilyeu, the mail carrier, forgot it on his first trip in the morning and brought it back at noon just as Mr. Misner was returning for lunch. Mrs. Misner had opened all other packages received.

The box was addressed to "John R. Misner," instead of James. But the correct street address is given. At the time of the Hooker escape, the papers reported Misner's name as "John R." This may have had something to do with the address on the bomb package.

Misner unwrapped it carefully, thinking at first that it was a joke; for four or five Seattle and Tacoma papers covered the box, which was about four inches square, and originally contained chloride of potassium. Then Misner became suspicious, and sliding the lid back a little discovered a second lid glued inside. It could be seen that through a slit in the inside lid a copper wire ran to the inside of the package. Here Misner became scared and, warning his family to get out, laid the box aside until evening.

At 7 o'clock with his brother, W. W. Misner, the box was taken outside, a screw fastened into the lid and the box tied to an oak tree. With a 50-foot wire the lid was pulled off, and an explosion resulted that was heard ten blocks away.

Postmaster C. H. Stewart was notified and is working on the case. Government detectives from Portland are also here, but hope of tracing the sender down seems slim. Misner is doly frightened and is taking no chances after dark these nights.

U. S. MAY ENTER EUROPEAN ALLIANCE

If the Agreement to Enforce Peace Operates Will Be In It.

By Robert J. Bender, United Press Staff Correspondent.
Washington, Dec. 23.—Secretary Lansing made the statement today indicating that the United States may enter into a European alliance if it enters an international agreement to enforce peace. He said the discussion is somewhat premature, but held that the United States will naturally join with the South American nations and also certain European powers in the event an alliance is necessary.

ARABIA NOT TRANSPORT By Carl D. Groat, United Press Staff Correspondent.

Washington, Dec. 23.—The British Government informed the State Department that the steamer *Arabia* was not a transport and was not in Admiralty service. It was an ordinary passenger liner when submerged without warning. It is admitted she carried a few government passengers.

DRESDEN FOOD RIOTS (By United Press)

London, Dec. 23.—Rotterdam dispatches reported serious Dresden food riots yesterday and Tuesday. Military forces fought a hundred women. Three policemen were seriously wounded Tuesday. Mobs attacked the shops and paraded past the palace demanding food. Sharpest fighting occurred on Tuesday.

CITY NEWS

Will Go to Lebanon— Miss Sue Breckenridge and father will go to Lebanon tonight to remain until Tuesday evening. Miss Breckenridge will be in her hemstitching shop in the Democrat building again Wednesday morning.

No Democrat Monday— According to a custom since its establishment the Democrat's force will observe Christmas Day, and there will be no paper issued Monday.

Humphrey's Appointment— The appointment of Lester Humphreys as minister to Siam has been announced, and will probably be confirmed. He will succeed Hon. W. H. Hornbrook, owner of the Democrat, now on his way to Cherokee, Iowa, for a visit with his father and other relatives before returning to Albany. Mr. Humphreys is a brother of J. A. Humphreys of the P. O., a former student of the O. A. C. and a partner of Senator Chamberlain in the law business.

From Myrtle Point— Roy Worley and family, of Myrtle Point, are in the city on a holiday visit with Mr. Worley's sister, Miss Myrtle Worley of the public schools, and friends.

Will Go to Coquille— Mrs. Chas. Prochnow and daughter Ulline will leave tomorrow morning for Coquille to spend the holidays with Mr. Prochnow, who has a shoe shop there. The expect to return on New Year's Day.

Library Closed Xmas— Mrs. F. G. Franklin announces that the library will be closed all day Monday. There will be a special concert at the library between 4 and 5 o'clock tomorrow on the Star phonograph kindly loaned by W. O. Nisley, and operated by J. W. Barton.

Will Have Operation— Wm. Van Nurden, a mechanic at the round house, received a severe rupture while lifting at the torntable this week. The S. P. physician, Dr. F. E. Beauchamp, has advised that Mr. Van Nurden go to the company hospital at San Francisco at once and undergo an operation. He has not decided just when he will go down, but it will be soon.

Not So Many Packages— Yesterday only 228 packages were received at the local postoffice for insurance. This was not up to the record of the day before, but is greater than the 175 received in 1915 and 123 the same day in 1914.

Body Found— The body of Oliver Lundgren, drowned in Mary's River on Thursday, was found this afternoon by Tom Graham and other firemen, after a long search, a ways below where he went down.

Ridder Funeral— The funeral of the late Adeline Ridder will be held from the family home near Suver tomorrow, Sunday, at 1 o'clock.

VILLISTAS ARE NEAR CHIHUAHUA

May Attack City Any Time, According to Report From El Paso.

CONTINUOUS FIGHTING GOING ON NEAR CITY

Learned That Former Taking of City Was Secured Without a Fort.

(By United Press)
El Paso, Dec. 23.—The Americans connected with foreign enterprises escaped to Aguas Calientes before Gen. Villa captured Chihuahua. It is learned that Villa took the city easily. The government forces were prepared to evacuate when the bandits appeared. Following one clash the Villistas waited until the evacuation was completed. They entered unopposed. General Salazar, Villa's chief lieutenant, is occupying a strategic position south of Chihuahua City. Continuous fighting is reported between Salazar and Murguía, and another attack on Chihuahua is imminent.

NOTED PUGILIST CAME TO U. S. AS STOKER

(By United Press)
New York, Dec. 23.—Les Da rey, Australian middleweight and heavy-weight champion, arrived aboard the Standard Oil tanker Cushing. He worked his way from Australia as a stoker. He used the name of Lester Dawson. He went immediately to a hotel. He denied evading military service. He declared that he intended to join the British army after meeting several American fighters. He is most eager to meet Mike Gibbons. Darcy recently mysteriously disappeared from Australia, and it was reported he was dodging military service.

REMAINS GILBERT PARSONS TAKEN TO CRABTREE

The remains of Gilbert Parsons, who died in San Francisco on the 20th, were brought to Albany this morning, and sent to Crabtree, where the body will be buried tomorrow. Young Parsons recently joined the U. S. Army as a recruit. He was taken with pneumonia, living only a short time. He was a son of F. M. Parsons of Crabtree, and leaves, besides a mother, four brothers and a sister, besides other relatives, to mourn his death.

The funeral service will be held at the Free M. E. church, Crabtree, tomorrow afternoon at 1 o'clock.

ENTENTE ANSWER TO GERMANY IS DELAYED

Will Not Be Presented For Ten Days; Wilson's Note Perhaps Responsible.

(By United Press)
London, Dec. 23.—From sources close to the Foreign Office it is divulged that the entente answer to Germany's peace proposals will probably not be delivered before ten days. President Wilson's peace note will undoubtedly be partially responsible for the delay. It is stated the delay is chiefly due to the fact that the allies must exchange views before framing an answer.

The Globe has suggested that President Wilson wrote the note because Germany threatened ruthless frightfulness unless the United States made a supreme peace effort. It declared such an event was from a complete explanation of Wilson's note and Secretary Lansing's indiscreet comment.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Miss Georgia Thompson, Albany College student, left this morning for her home in Moro, Sherman county, to spend the holidays.

Shirley Smith, manager of the furniture factory, will go to Portland this evening to spend the holidays.

Dean G. H. Alden, of Willamette University, who was one of the judges in the Lebanon-Albany debate at Lebanon last night, stopped off in this city on his way home for a Christmas visit with Prof. and Mrs. F. G. Franklin.

Miss Pearl Craft has gone to Moscow, Idaho, to spend Christmas with her sister.

Mrs. L. A. Hurst went to Portland this morning to spend Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Coffee. Mr. Hurst will follow tonight.

Prof. W. W. Hodge, of Albany college, left yesterday for Walla Walla, Wash., where he will spend the holidays with a former classmate at Yale, who is now at the head of the department of chemistry at Whitman College.

Walter D. Brown, Geary E. Garrett, Chas. E. Fullerton, Mark S. Skiff Jr., George Vilas and Lloyd Kyle, all students of O. A. C., attended the Military Club dance last night on their way home for the holidays.

Oscar Tinkle, former night clerk at the Hotel Albany, but now of Eugene, is in the city. He will be joined by Mrs. Tinkle and baby today and leave for McMinnville where they will spend Christmas.

R. K. Hartsock and family went to Eugene this morning to visit over Christmas with Mr. Hartsock's parents.

Miss Anna Dawson arrived in the city from Eugene last evening to spend the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dawson.

Miss Hazel Hockensmith is at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Hockensmith, during the Xmas holidays at Willamette University.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Reeves will go to Portland tomorrow where Mr. Reeves will have a slight operation on his hand.

Carleton Logan, chief decorator at the Oregon Electric depot, has fittingly decorated that edifice for the holiday season.

Francis Tolles, Albany College student, left yesterday for his home in Idaho to spend the holidays.

Miss Nelson McDonald went to Portland last evening to spend the holidays.

FEDERAL AWARD FAVORS R. R. MEN

Switchmen's Union of North America Is Granted Demands.

TO RECEIVE TIME AND HALF FOR OVERTIME

Eight Hour Days Is Recognized and Five Cents Hour Increase.

(By United Press)
New York, Dec. 23.—The Federal Arbitration Board filed the award of the Federal Court partially granting the Switchmen's Union of North America demands. The switchmen asked that 13 Eastern and Middle-western railroads pay time and a half overtime. The board granted five cents an hour increase to conductors and helpers from today until Dec. 23, 1917, eight hours a day and prorata overtime.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT BODY GOOD ONE

According to a high school student the Albany high school has three state championships this year: the best high school football team, the best student body and the best orchestra and band.

The meeting of the student body yesterday afternoon was declared the best yet, not only on account of the fine program rendered, but as well because of the splendid spirit and good order.

The following program was rendered: Music by orchestra. Piano Duet—Elepha Cummings and Laverne Hofflich.

Reading by Jean Salisbury. Vocal Solo by Frank Eastburn. Awarding of official A's to members of football team.

Piano solo by Jennings Bowers. Vocal solo by Miss Lewis. Song by Girls' Glee Club. Holy Night by Student Body.

Address by Rev. Morgan, a fine talk. Vocal solo by Miss Paynter. Song by Boys' Glee Club. Song by Boys' and Girls' Glee Clubs.

Music by orchestra. The members of the football team to whom letters were awarded are: Louis Schultz, captain and right half; Zed Groves, fullback; Ralph Bilyeu, left half; Roy Eastburn, quarter; Merrill Gibson, left end; Pete Miller, left tackle; Roland Allen, left guard; Loren (Tub) Davis, centre; George McBride, right guard; Paul Miller, right tackle; Francis Beals, right end; Fred Michelson and Kenneth McCune, subs.

NEUTRALITY CASE (By United Press)

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—The case of Franz Bopp, German consul accused of violating neutrality, is expected to go to the jury Thursday. Bopp's cross examination will be concluded Tuesday. Three more defense witnesses are scheduled to testify.

DEATH OF MRS. LONGBOTTOM AT KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

Albany Woman Taken Ill While on a Visit and Died From Pneumonia.

Mrs. Winnie Worrell last evening received a dispatch from Knoxville, Tenn., telling of the death of her mother, Mrs. Longbottom, there at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. She was born near the place 58 years ago, and came to Oregon with her family about 24 years ago, and to Albany several years ago, residing with her daughter, Mrs. Worrell. Four children survive her; Ben, whose present address is not known; Burney, of Seattle, and Mrs. Worrell and Miss Lucille Longbottom, of this city, besides other relatives.

She was a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church for many years, later of the Presbyterian church, a Christian woman of exemplary character, beloved by her family and all knowing her well.

It is thought the body will be shipped here for burial, but as yet no dispatch has been received in reference to the funeral.

AFTER CHRISTMAS (By United Press)

Washington, Dec. 23.—The State Department believes that the European powers will not frame a peace answer until after Christmas. It is not known definitely when the allies will answer the German proposals. They believe the allies' opinion of President Wilson's note will change later.

CITY NEWS

No Christmas Dinner— There will be no Christmas dinner at the St. Charles Hotel. The regular Monday dinner will be served, but there will be few frills to it. The reason is that Mr. and Mrs. Grant Pirtle, the genial host and hostess, are going to Portland to take Christmas dinner with Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Anderson and family. Their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Anderson, are there. They will go down Monday morning.

Here From Seattle— Edward Lee and Mrs. Kate Lee Blair and daughter, Mary Lee Blair, arrived in the city today to spend Christmas with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Howe Lee. Mr. Wm. Blair will arrive Sunday.

Wreck Near Turner— This morning all trains were held up between here and Turner on account of a freight wreck at that place. Details of the affair are lacking, but the trouble was sufficient to cause a delay of several hours and much annoyance to passengers.

Weather Report— Yesterday's temperature ranged between 31 and 43 degrees. The rainfall was .39 in., the snowfall .25 in., and the river rose to 8.0 feet.

Four Christmas Brides— County Clerk Russell issued four marriage licenses today, one of whom, Richards-Copsey, was married by Judge McKnight this morning. They are: Lucas G. Vogt, 20, railroad man of Salem, and Ina Martin, 22, of Shelburn; Albert Richards, 25, logger, of Mill City, and Elsie Copsey, 16, of Albany; Lloyd L. Gabriel, 23, a mechanic, of Corvallis, and Irma L. Barkman, 21, of Brownsville; and to Clarence Underwood, over 21, a horticulturalist, of North Yakima, and Vera Margaret Forster, over 18, of Tangent.

From California— After an unbroken absence of nearly five years, Albert Gloor, son of Mrs. L. Pautmeier of this city, will return tonight on No. 14 from California, accompanied by his niece, Agnes L. Inglerock. Albert will visit with his parents a few weeks, then expects to return to Sutter Co., Cal., and engage in fruit growing. Little Agnes will probably remain here and go to school and take advantage of better facilities here for a musical education. She is the daughter of C. S. Inglerock, formerly a well known S. P. Co. conductor now engaged in the raising-growing industry in the Sacramento Valley near Yuba City.

Left for Florence— Irvin D. Custer, of the Y. M. C. A., left today for Florence for a Christmas visit with Miss Ruth Knowles, a former fellow college student.

Divorce Is Granted— Judge P. R. Kelly today granted a divorce to Lulu Piper from Wm. S. Piper, on grounds of desertion. The couple formerly lived over near Nashville on the C. & E.

ALBANY H. S. WINS DEBATES

In Triangle Contest Defeats Scio at Albany, Lebanon at Lebanon.

COMPULSORY HEALTHY INSURANCE WELL HANDLED

Albany Will Next Tackle Debaters From One of Other Districts.

Winning both the affirmative and negative in the triangle high school debates last night the teams of the Albany high school made a splendid start for the championship of Oregon. In both cases the decisions were unanimous.

Under the splendid coaching of Miss Burch the two sides of the question were searched to the bottom, resulting in effective arguments, backed by the talents of the students.

In the Albany debate Rev. G. H. Young presided, giving a short sketch of the debating organization, with the question and debaters.

The question proved a very interesting one, one that must be settled by state legislatures, here as well as elsewhere, for it is a modern proposition: Resolved that Oregon should adopt a health insurance law embodying the essential features of the standard bill of the American Association for labor legislation.

Miss Velma Kizer, leader for the Albany high school, opened the debate, stating the essential features of the proposed law, under which the employer carries two-thirds, the employee two-thirds and the state a third in a sick benefit risk. There are provisions for funeral expenses and maternity.

The other speaker for the affirmative was Miss Mable Anderson. They based their arguments on three main things: The system is more effective than anything now in use, giving facts; second, it is the best that has been conceived, and third, it will be practical. Their arguments were strongly presented, with force, both good speakers.

The speakers for the negative were Lavina Bauman and Florence Smith, who put up a good defense, which lacked effectiveness. Miss Smith, leader, had a strong rebuttal; but it was prepared beforehand and read in anticipation of the arguments of the affirmative. Her delivery is uncommonly good. The arguments of the negative were that the proposed system takes independence from workingmen, that it advances class distinction, that it is socialistic, that it is too expensive, that it is promoted by men not themselves interested, and would operate in the interests of politicians.

Miss Kizer made an uncommonly strong rebuttal, which played a big part in the unanimous decision rendered by the judges in favor of the affirmative. The judges were Dean Straub, of the U. O., and Profs. Berchtold and Baldwin of the O. A. C.

Three things are considered by the judges in their decision, argument, rebuttal and effectiveness.

An interesting fact in connection with the work of the judges is the fact that this was the 13th debate Prof. Straub has officiated in within a few years, every decision being according to his vote.

In the Lebanon debate Miss Artis Pittman and Harold Michelson were contended against Chris Kowitz and Herschel Graves, putting up convincing arguments with effectiveness, receiving the unanimous decision of the judges.

The next debates will be on January 12 with the winners of the Corvallis-Philomath dual debates last night.

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Merry Christmas

to the steadily increasing company of Readers of the Democrat, and to All the Rest of the World, though not fortunate in being members of this family paper's circle

