

GRADE CROSSINGS TO
HAVE WARNING SIGNS

The public service commission has notified all Oregon mayors that the new law regulating warning signs near grade railroad crossing is now in effect and that the signs, must be placed within six months from May 21, 1917. The signs must be placed beside the highway or the street, 300 feet from the crossing. It shall consist of a metal disk 24 inches in diameter, with a white field, and a black border line one inch wide with a black perpendicular and horizontal cross line two and one-half inches wide; the reverse side of such disk colored black. In each of the upper quarterings shall appear the black letter "R" five inches high, three and three-quarter inches wide, lines one inch stroke.

Any city failing to place such signs is liable to penalty, unless released from the requirements of the law by the public service commission, according to a letter received by mayor Sadler from the commission.

INDUSTRIAL CLUB NOTES

Any club desiring aid in their work should apply to Jay V. Fike, local club leader for Marion county, at Woodburn.

Local Industrial School fairs will be held Sept. 19 and 20 at the following places: Stayton, Aumsville, Donald, St. Paul, Aurora, Woodburn, Gervais, Mt. Angel, Scotts Mills, and Silverton.

Miss Helen Cowgill, of O. A. C. came to Marion county for a week, beginning July 16, to demonstrate home canning to various industrial clubs. Yesterday she was at the home of Mrs. Eugenia Davidson at St. Paul. Today she is at the home of Mrs. Stevens at Gervais, and of Mrs. Bittick at Woodburn. Tomorrow she will be at the Mt. Angel home of Mrs. J. J. Keber.

NEW OREGON SENATOR
ASKS VIEWS OF PEOPLE

In a recent letter to the editor of the Observer, Senator McNary says, "I want you to know that I appreciate your kindly reference to my appointment, and I hope no act of mine either of omission or commission will ever cause regret for the friendliness expressed."

"You are aware that much important legislation is pending before congress which demands full and careful consideration on account of its far reaching consequences, and for that reason I shall appreciate a frank statement of the views of my constituents at any time upon questions before congress. To err is human, but to reduce those errors to a minimum will be my ambition."

"I enjoy the work except the delays in enacting emergency legislation, caused by the long discussions which are too often apart from the subject under discussion. This condition is difficult to remedy, yet it appears a wanton sacrifice of the rights of the people who are demanding and are in need of remedial legislation."

PUPILS GET DIPLOMAS

County Superintendent Smith has announced the awarding of Eighth grade diplomas to the following pupils in this part of Marion county, as a result of the last 8th grade examination:

Lyell B. Yergen, Donald; Virgie Zahner, Lois Marjorie Melvin, Ralph E. Sumas, Kathleen Hall, Wayne Mack, Thelma France, Eldon Lankins, Rudolph Paulson, Olin Weltz, Ivan Fish, Melvin Newton, and John Lauer, all of Hubbard; Gladys Keil, Aurora.

Mrs. Al Newman was a visitor here Monday from the Butteville neighborhood.

MIDNIGHT FIRE
ALARMS CITYAurora Harness Shop Destroyed Tuesday
Night By Blaze of Unknown Origin. Only Partially Insured.
Building a Total Loss.

Fire broke out Tuesday night about 12 o'clock in the Aurora Harness Shop owned by P. H. Miller and destroyed the building owned by Mrs. Rose Giesy, and the household goods of A. W. Elliott, in the rooms above. By hard and skillful work by the firemen, the loss was confined almost wholly to the Harness Shop building. The Will building adjoining being only somewhat badly scorched and a few windows broken. How the fire originated is unknown. It was first discovered by Miss Katie Giesy, who aroused her brother A. H. Giesy. He gave the alarm, and the fireman responded quickly, and did the rapid and efficient work that undoubtedly saved thousands of dollars worth of property, as the spread of the flames to the Will building would have meant certain destruction of several other buildings and residences. Confining the fire to the Giesy building certainly gives the town confidence in its fire fighting apparatus, its firemen and its water system. Two streams playing on the fire brought it under control within 15 or 20 minutes in spite of the inflammable nature of the building and contents.

The Woodburn automobile fire truck arrived within half an hour after a telephone call for assistance, making the run in a little more than 15 minutes. Several people came from both Canby and Hubbard to offer their aid, all of which Aurora people greatly appreciate. The presence of Mr. Williams, a former fireman, of Oregon City was also a very fortunate circumstance, as his knowledge of fire fighting greatly contributed to the checking of the fire's spread.

Mrs. Giesy's loss on the building is about \$500, with no insurance. Mr. Miller's loss was about \$2000 and was only partially covered by insurance, and Mr. Elliott's loss on his household goods was complete.

When the control of the fire appeared doubtful most of the household goods were removed from the living rooms next to and over the printing office, as well as the books and some of the equipment from the printing office of the Observer. Preparations were made for the removal of goods from the Geo. Kraus home and the Chas. Snyder home, but it was found not necessary. The automobiles were run out of the Miller garage as a precaution.

RAVAGES OF RATS.

Why and How Man Should Strive to Exterminate the Rodents.

The only wild animal that lives under the same roof with man is the rat, says the Literary Digest. We pay for its keep, although we are not on friendly terms with it. In return it plagues us in many ways. It gnaws our walls and furniture, steals our food and, above all, is active in the spread of disease. The annual rat bill of the United States for food alone is estimated by Mary Dudderidge, writing in the Forecast, at \$160,000,000.

The rat not only disseminates bubonic plague, but carries tape-worms, trichinae, flukes, round-worms and other parasites, besides being suspected as an active agent in communicating leprosy and infantile paralysis. It can gnaw through any common building material except stone, hard brick, cement, glass and iron. It destroys whole fields of grain, climbs trees to steal fruit, eats both fowls and their eggs and destroys game. It steals costly furs and laces for its nests when it can get them. Much of our annual loss by fire is due to the rat, and it also starts floods by burrowing in dams and levees.

The modern way of attacking the rat, this writer says, "is to build it out." The ratproofing of buildings is described as "a cheap form of insurance against fire and pestilence."

Miss Dudderidge continues: "When rats get into ratproof buildings we have to resort to traps and poison to get them out, the former being the least objectionable. In the use of traps it must be borne in mind that the rat is extremely cau-

tious and will not enter strange looking contrivances in search of food if plenty of other nourishment that is not open to suspicion is available. The trap should be strong enough so that the rat cannot force its head between the wire and escape and should be dipped in boiling water or smoked before being set, to kill the human smell or that of rats previously caught. It should not be placed in an open space, but along the wall or in a narrow runway, for the rat's vision is somewhat defective in the daytime, and, depending on its whiskers as a guide, it has to keep close to some wall or other boundary. Fish makes an excellent bait, but any odorless edible different from the animal's customary diet is likely to attract it. Poisoning should not be resorted to in dwellings, and some of the most efficient poisons are so dangerous that they should be used only by experts."

William Murdoch, the inventor of the gas jet, first burned the gas simply as a flame from the end of a pipe. One day in an emergency he wished to stop the illumination. Hurriedly looking around for something, Murdoch seized his wife's thimble and thrust it over the light, which was immediately extinguished.

There was a strong odor of gas, however, says the Popular Science Monthly, and the experimenter applied a light to the thimble, discovering that it was full of holes, through which tiny jets of flame appeared. The importance of the result was that the illumination from those two or three tiny jets was much brighter than had been given by the great flare from the end of the pipe. Acting on the principle which this chance discovery revealed, he constructed what was known as the Cocksfoot burner.

FORMER BUTTEVILLE
MAN DEAD AT PORTLAND

W. E. Iler, who formerly lived at East Butteville on the place now owned by A. D. Yergen, was found dead Friday at his home in Portland. Death was due to a asphyxiation by gas.

Captain Delano, of the Portland fire department was investigating the cause of a fire at a neighboring house, and his investigation led him to the Iler home to make inquiries. Finding the door locked and the odor of escaping gas about the house, he broke into the dwelling. He found the body fully dressed in the kitchen, and the room filled with the suffocating gas.

Mrs. Iler was visiting in Salem at the time. Mr. Iler was about 70 years old. The body was brought to Butteville Sunday, where interment took place at the Butteville cemetery.

BRIDGE CONTRACT LET

The county has awarded the contract to build the new inter-county bridge at Salem, to the Coast Bridge company and Robert Wakefield. The price is \$237,901.

The old bridge, now condemned, will be moved 40 feet up stream and placed on piling for temporary use. The new bridge is to be completed by August 1, 1917 and Marion county will be fortunate if the old bridge shall serve another year without mishap.

CALL FOR BIDS

Bids will be received by the undersigned, for the ceiling and repairing and painting of one room of the Butteville school house. Bids will be opened July 23, 1917 at two o'clock p. m. The Board of Directors reserve the right to reject any or all bids submitted. By order of the Board of Directors of Joint District No. 57 Marion and 308 Clackamas county, Oregon.

M. O. DAVIS, Chairman.
ELMA DENTEL, District Clerk.

DOG LAW STILL UNDER FIRE

District Attorney Max Gehlhar has rendered an opinion that constables are subject to a penalty if they fail to collect dog licenses or neglect to kill dogs on which licenses have not been paid. He is also of the opinion that the law provides no method of enforcing the payment of the license tax other than the seizure and destruction of the dog. Also the only compensation a constable is entitled to is 10 per cent of the licenses collected, and if the dog is seized and killed there is no compensation provided for the catching or killing. Neither are burial expenses provided for the deceased canines.

All of which makes it quite interesting for the constable. Apparently he (and the dog) are the only ones who can possibly violate the law. Nevertheless dog owners refusing to pay the license will have to take their own risks, as the law has not yet been tested out in court.

THRIFT THOUGHTS

Jars worth as much as ever in winter; vegetables worth more than ever. Home canning pays.

Don't allow those fruits, peas and beans to rot. Can or dry them. You may need them next winter worse than you imagine today.

Don't throw away the stale bread, dry it in a slow oven until crisp, crush with a rolling pin, and serve the fragments with milk or cream and sugar, as a breakfast food. It much resembles some of the commercially prepared breakfast foods, and is certainly less expensive.

Save all kinds of seeds that you can this season, and "beat the seedsmen to it" next spring. There is no reason why you should buy beans, peas, sweet corn, cucumber, melon, squash, tomato, pepper, radish, lettuce seeds for garden next spring. Save them from this year's garden.

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