

Local Happenings

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Buschke were visitors in the city Tuesday from their farm in the lone section. For all the years that Mr. Buschke has been farming, he has used horses, but is now convinced that the proper system is the tractor, and he is contemplating adopting the gas machine for the farm work. It is yet a little too wet to go into the fields for plowing, but conditions are shaping up so that spring work may be undertaken quite generally in Mr. Buschke's neighborhood.

G. L. Bennett, formerly of Alpine, where he put in some eight years raising wheat, was up from Portland Saturday to attend to some business affairs in the county. He made Heppner a short visit. Mr. Bennett, since going to Portland last fall, has engaged in the real estate and auction game, but reports to this paper that it has been pretty hard sledding. He is rather anxious to return to Morrow county and engage in farming again.

"I'm going into the poultry business," announced Tim Rippee who was seen on the street Monday with several Mammoth Bronze turkeys which he had just acquired from Chas. Acock of Irigoin, in the tonneau of his automobile. His special pride was the big tom, weighing 41 pounds. Mr. Rippee expects to raise a number of chickens as well as turkeys.

F. M. Lovgren of Eight Mile was looking after business here Tuesday. He reports it just a little too wet out his way for doing any farming just now. The grain fields have been well soaked by the snow and rain of the winter and he hopes that more may come later, to insure a good yield. He was accompanied to town by Mrs. Lovgren.

Among interested farmers and others attending the tax league meeting here Saturday were Henry Smouse, John Louy, Bert Johnson, H. O. Ely and Raymond Crowder of Lone, R. B. Rice, R. B. Wilcox, Chas. Valentine of Lexington, E. E. Rugg and Clyde Wright of Rhea creek.

E. S. Duran who returned to his Black Horse home recently from Heppner hospital after undergoing a major operation, is recovering slowly, according to the report of his friends. He is still confined to his bed and enjoys visits from his friends.

R. L. Bengel, in from the Rhea creek farm Tuesday, states that it had just got about dry enough so they could get around when the big rain hit again on Monday, and most everywhere it is mud again. The rain out that way was a soaker.

Mrs. Isabelle Corrigan and daughter, Mrs. Wilbur Gorley were visitors here on Tuesday from the Corrigan ranch below Pine City. Lambing is reported to be very general down that way, with good weather conditions prevailing.

E. E. Rugg was here from the McKinney creek ranch Saturday and was hoping to see the weather turn warmer. He put up a lot of ice during the cold winter weather, and remarked that it was still keeping well.

Bert Johnson drove up from the farm Saturday afternoon to attend the tax league meeting and hear the address of Mack Hoke of Pendleton. Farmers about Lone are busy with spring farming just now.

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Olden of Fairview and Mr. and Mrs. Tyndall Robison of Hardman were south end people doing business in the city Tuesday.

Oscar Keithley, in the city Monday morning from Eight Mile, reported showers for Sunday night, and it was raining when he left home. Farmers are appreciating the change for warmer weather.

Harry Duval, south Lexington farmer, was in the city yesterday on business. He announced that the Wells Springs Gas and Oil company expected to start drilling operations again shortly.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Neill, with members of their family, were in the city Saturday from Pine City. They report better conditions on Butter creek, with more spring-like weather.

Chas. J. Anderson was attending to business here Saturday afternoon. In the lower Gooseberry section the farmers are very busy with spring plowing, and crop prospects seem good.

Charley Becket reports spring slowly approaching at the Eight Mile farm, though still somewhat like the end of our depression, it is still just around the corner.

Howard Anderson is visiting with relatives in Morrow county. He came up from The Dalles the end of the week and spent a few hours in this city Monday afternoon.

H. O. Ely, who is residing in Lone this winter, visited Heppner with others from his locality Saturday. Farming is moving along rapidly in his part of the county now.

Oscar E. Peterson, who farms in the Lone vicinity, was in the city Tuesday on business. Crop conditions are looking good, he said.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Becket and Mr. and Mrs. Harley Anderson were among Eight Mile farmers in this city Saturday afternoon.

Harvey Miller and family spent a few hours in Heppner Saturday afternoon from their Swiggart Buttes farm.

Adrian Engelman was here from Lone Saturday afternoon, being called to town by matters of business.

Add A Stitch club will give an apron bazaar Friday, March 25th, at Slocum building, Main street.

George R. White, extensive grain grower from north of Lexington, was a Heppner visitor Saturday.

Otto Ruhl, wife and young son were among Lexington folks in this city Saturday afternoon.

To Rent—3100 acres of range land on Wall creek, good grass and plenty of water. H. C. Robertson, Box 529, Heppner. 51-n2p.

For Sale—S. C. R. I. Red baby chicks. Hardy farm stock. Heavy layers. Blood tested. Sunny Slope Hatchery, Baker, Ore. 52-3.

Crime of Kidnapping Becoming More Popular

By CALEB JOHNSON.

Never before since the world began has the interest of so many persons been focussed upon a single individual, and that individual a child less than two years old. The kidnapping of Charles Augustus Lindbergh, Jr., from his crib in the country home of his parents, the famous flier and "Anne," on the slope of Sourland Mountain near Hopewell, N. J., instantly crowded all other news off the front pages of the press of the entire world. The trouble between China and Japan, the vitally important activities in Washington looking toward the revival of business and industry, every other kind of news which ordinarily takes first place was relegated to the background.

The only thing people all over the world wanted to know was: "Has the Lindbergh baby been found?"

Presidents and Kings telegraphed their sympathy to the stricken young parents. Nurse-girls in Paris and London, mothers in San Francisco and Berlin and Tokyo, every human being charged with responsibility for a child, felt a new fear, guarded the little ones as they had never been guarded before and joined in the world-wide prayers for the safe return of the little son of the "Lone Eagle." The police resources of the nation were mobilized with a single purpose, the discovery of the child and the capture and punishment of his kidnapers. In Congress a bill to make kidnapping across interstate lines a Federal offense punishable by death was already under consideration, and its discussion took precedence over measures of the greatest economic import. There was hardly a place of worship in the whole world, Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Mohammedan or Buddhist, in which prayers for the Eagle's safe return were not offered during the week-end following the night of March First, when the little one was taken from his crib and carried down a rough ladder which had been placed at the window of his sleeping room.

The kidnapers left a note demanding \$50,000 ransom money for the return of the little boy. For once public sentiment swept aside all considerations of cold law and abstract justice and applauded Col. Lindbergh's announcement that he would pay the money and make no effort to capture the criminals if they would only bring back his baby boy. Not even the most legalistic minds could find it in their hearts to criticize. The kidnapping of a little child is the foulest offense against society and the individual that it is possible to imagine, and its perpetrators deserve the worst punishment that society has power to mete out; but of greater importance than the punishment of the criminal is the life and

safety of the child itself. So the Lindberghs felt, and the world agreed with them. Kidnaping for reward is a form of crime which has become increasingly prevalent with the rise of gangsters and racketeers in recent years. There have been many scattered instances of this crime in the past to be sure, but it is only lately that organized criminal gangs have made it a source of revenue on a large scale. It is one of the easiest of all crimes to perpetrate, whether the victim be a child or an adult, and the detection of the kidnapers and the rescue of the person kidnaped is peculiarly difficult because of the danger that the criminals, if cornered, may kill their victim, or leave him or her locked up to starve while they make their escape.

Probably the most famous child kidnaping case of all time, certainly in the United States, before the abduction of little Charlie Lindbergh, was the kidnaping of Charlie Ross. That occurred on July 1, 1874, and the mystery of the little boy's fate has never been satisfactorily solved. Charlie Ross was four years old when he was taken from his parents' home in Germantown, Pennsylvania, by two men. His captors were seen but never accurately identified. They tried to extort ransom from the boy's parents, but were never clever enough to devise a plan whereby the money they demanded could be exchanged for the boy without themselves being caught. Two burglars who were killed in Brooklyn a few months later were thought to be the kidnapers of Charlie Ross, but that was never shown to be definitely true. For more than fifty years men have turned up from time to time with "confessions" of being implicated in the Charlie Ross kidnaping, and there have been numerous cases of men who knew nothing about their own pasts, each believing that he might be the missing Charlie Ross. But no definite news of that boy's fate has ever been discovered, and no dependable information about his captors has ever been discovered. The name of Charlie Ross became a household word, and there is hardly an American over fifty who has not some memory of the furore which that crime caused.

The word "kidnap" has its origin in London thieves' slang. "Kid" is slang for "child" of course, and "nap" is a corruption of "nab," a slang expression meaning to steal or snatch. The word came into use in America's colonial days. There was a great demand for labor in the American colonies. Before the effort was begun to solve

the labor problem by the importation of Negro slaves from Africa, it was the practice to sentence convicted English criminals to deportation to the colonies to work without pay, in practical slavery, for planters who bid for their services. The records of the English courts in the late 1600's and early 1700's are filled with the names of men and women who had been convicted of crime and were thus sent to America; many of these names, moreover, are those of families now proud of their Colonial descent! But the criminal courts did not supply enough labor for the American demand, so organized bands of "crimps" in London took up the practice of waylaying young boys and selling them to unscrupulous shipmasters who would bring them across the Atlantic and sell them at a profit to the Colonial planters. This practice became known in the slang of London's underworld as "kidnaping." In the early law books the word is used only when a person is sent out of his or her native country, but it has come to mean any forcible capture and imprisonment of any individual

by another without process of law. Most modern kidnappings, however, have had adults rather than children as their victims. According to Col. Robert Isham Randolph, head of Chicago's "Secret Six," an organized gang of kidnapers has recently succeeded in many cases in abducting wealthy men, or men with wealthy connections, and in extorting huge sums of money in exchange for their lives and liberty. Similar gangs are said to have operated in Detroit and elsewhere. Charles M. Rosenthal, a young New York broker, was kidnaped by a gang which released him when his mother paid the \$50,000 ransom demanded; but the four members of the gang were later captured and sentenced to 60 years each in prison.

Kidnapers have sometimes been let off lightly. Pat Crowe, who stole young Eddie Cudahy at Omaha in 1900 collected \$25,000 ransom, confessed his crime and lived to write a book about it, but was acquitted when placed on trial. But the record of most kidnaping cases is the same sad story; no trace of the child ever found and the identity of the kidnapers never discovered. No trace has ever been found of ten-year-old Grace Budd, who went away from her New York home in the summer of 1928 with a man known in the neighborhood only as "Frank Parker," nor has "Parker" ever been seen in the vicinity since or his real name discovered. And that is only one of thousands of similar cases.

The earliest record of kidnaping is found in the Bible, when Joseph's brethren sold him to the Egyptians. That was a clear case of kidnaping for money. Human nature being what it is, and differing little today from what it was thousands of years ago, it is certain that there will be kidnapings in the future, as in the past. But while society cannot protect itself against the individual, occasional offense of this kind, it certainly seems as if something could be done to wipe out the criminal gangs who make a business of this most vile of all crimes.

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