

OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Assembled for Information of Our Readers.

The Grangers of Oregon took in 2611 new members the past year, but lost 118 by death, 186 by demit and 1487 by non-payment of dues.

Killing of a cougar just as it sprang on the back of a deer is reported by J. A. Walsh, of Marshfield, Coos county district fire warden.

A new bridge has been completed across Deep creek at Sandy ridge by the county bridge force. The structure is called Botano bridge.

Twelve cars of celery have gone out of Quinaby since the beginning of the season in June and two other cars are loading for eastern points.

Fire in the business section of North Powder caused estimated loss of \$4000. It partly destroyed a brick building occupied by a restaurant and shoe shop.

Governor Patterson appointed Donald S. Riches justice of the peace of the Turner district in Marion county, to succeed H. L. Earl, who died recently.

Pioneer history of Oregon and the northwest was linked with the life of Josephus Thompson, 90, who died at the home of his son on Grand island last week.

Lewis O. Leach, 58, was killed in the Connie Dye camp on the Netarts road in Tillamook county when a log fell on him as he was at work bucking logs in the camp.

Thrown out of his wagon, which was piled into the ditch by a car, W. J. Stowe of Eugene suffered a fractured skull and six broken ribs when kicked by his horses.

Umatilla county business men and farmers are urging the acquisition of a tract of land by the county court in the immediate future for crop rotation experiment purposes.

W. W. Rankin, 54, county road supervisor, was killed and L. J. Casey and son Leslie were injured when a touring car driven by Rankin left the grade at Rocky hill, near Butte Falls.

C. L. Barrett of Bend has paid John Moran of Ashwood \$12 for each of seven sheep he killed when his car plunged into a band being driven to summer range in the Cascade mountains.

Frank Shepherd, 24, who had been employed but two weeks, was killed last week at a Powers logging camp when a sapling sprang back from a falling tree and struck him in the neck.

Members of the new Baptist church recently formed at Salem by former members of the First Baptist church, have selected the name "Calvary Baptist" for their organization, it was announced.

The Bowman-Hicks Lumber company's sawmill in Wallawa resumed operations last week, following a 90-day shutdown. In addition to the old crew, 40 new men have been placed on the payroll.

The fourth annual picnic of the Cove old folks given by the Woman's Improvement club in Ascension grove brought together 70 persons of 60 years; the oldest, Mrs. Mary P. Chambers, 85, was guest of honor.

A state highway department crew is placing a two-inch surface of bituminous macadam on the highway between Coquille and Myrtle Point. Fifteen men are at the work, which will occupy about three weeks' time.

Wheat that yielded 66 bushels to the acre has just been harvested from a 36-acre field belonging to W. T. Crook, nine miles southwest of McMinnville. The same field in clover last year brought \$125 per acre.

The warehouse at Fayetteville, belonging to Shultz Brothers was totally destroyed by fire, burning not only the grain stored therein belonging to many of the farmers around Peoria, but a lot of machinery was also destroyed.

Before calling a special election to again vote on the question of selling the electric light and power and water systems, the town of Canby has decided to employ an engineer to determine the actual value of the property.

The onion harvest will begin in about three weeks in the Labish Center district. About 500 acres of beaverdam land are devoted to this crop, which is expected to have at least an average yield of 300 sacks to the acre.

Work has been started on the three new buildings to be occupied by the Four-H clubs of Lane county at the county fair grounds in Eugene. The cost of the buildings will be low, as much of the material and labor has been donated.

Irrigated spring wheat of the federation variety has yielded an average of 58.6 bushels to the acre over a seven year period on the Harney branch experiment station at Burns, where irrigation by pumping has been tried extensively since 1919.

Song Popular Among Rovers of Caribbean

The sea-song of the pirates with its weird refrain of "Fifteen men on the dead man's chest" which Robert Louis Stevenson introduces into his famous book "Treasure Island" is in part at least authentic and was sung by the pirates and buccaneers who roved the Caribbean sea in the late Seventeenth and early Eighteenth centuries. Dead Man's Chest was an island of the Virgin group, which has been christened "Dead Chest Island," thereby losing much of its piratical flavor. To this island the pirates used to repair, to careen their ships, stretch their legs drink rum, sing their buccaneering songs and make merry after their own fashion. Curiously enough there is a little church on the Chilean coast which is obviously built of ship's timbers. Recently a traveler of an inquiring mind, reasoning that if the church were built of ship's timbers, the bell would also come from a ship, determined to investigate. A climb among the rafters did not reveal the name of the ship, as he had hoped, but around the edge of the bell were inscribed the words: "Fifteen men on the dead man's chest." All that the clergyman knew was that the church bell came from a ship that was wrecked in 1722, which was just the time when the West Indies were getting hot for pirates, and many were being driven into the Pacific.

Odd Forms of Prayer for Parching Fields

Many countries hold odd ceremonies to end drought. The Chinese take their dragon god around in a procession, and beat him soundly when he ignores their prayers for rain. The Bantus of Delagoa bay sing songs at their dried-up wells and make mothers who have twins carry the children around the parched fields. In Greece they send children marching round all the wells and springs, under the leadership of a girl adorned with flowers, who sings at each halting place. The same custom prevails in Yugo-Slavia, where a little girl called the Dodota is clothed from head to foot in grass and flowers, and leads her companions through their native village, stopping at each house, so that the housewife may pour a pail of water over her, and singing the good news that the rain has come, even though it is usually far away.

"Traveling Stones"

"Traveling stones," from the size of a pea to 6 inches in diameter, are found in Nevada. When distributed upon a floor or other level surface within 2 or 3 feet of one another they immediately began to travel toward a common center, and there they huddled like a clutch of eggs in a nest.

A single stone, removed to a distance of 3 1/2 feet, upon being released, at once started with a wonderful and somewhat comical celerity to join its fellows.

These queer stones are found in a region that is comparatively level and little more than bare rock. Scattered over this barren region are little basins, from a few feet to a rod or two in diameter, and it is in the bottom of these that the rolling stones are found.

The cause for the strange conduct of these stones is doubtless to be found in the material of which they are composed, which appears to be lodestone or magnetic iron ore.

Natural Query

The stroller happened to be present one evening when a young hopeful of six years returned home after a hard day's play and received a quarter left by his grandmother, who had called to see him, but who, fearing the night air, as grandmothers do, had had to leave before his return.

The boy had heard grown persons talk about "when the old lady is gone Junior will get quite a sum," and always when she came to see him she had placed a dime in the chubby spendthrift hand.

He stood with the quarter almost covering his palm, then looking up with great mysterious eyes, asked in awed tones: "Is she died?"—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Work of Volta Bureau

Volta was a famous French electrician. The Volta prize, created by Napoleon, was conferred by France upon Dr. Alexander Graham Bell for the invention of the telephone. Doctor Bell took this money, 50,000 francs, added to it a large sum received from other electrical experiments, and founded the Volta bureau, "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge relating to the deaf." This bureau prints and distributes every year hundreds of leaflets containing helpful information for the hard of hearing, or for the parents of deaf children.

"Chowder" Really French

Chowders, although considered American, did not originate in America. They are supposed to have been made first by the fisher folk of Brittany. For them, everyone in the village brought their contribution for the dish and added it to the common cauldron and the name "chowder" comes from the name of their cauldron, which was chaudiere. Our early colonists learned this dish from the French and so chowders are associated with the history of New England and are thus linked with America in general.

Matter of Accuracy of Greatest Import

I do not know that there is anything, except it be humility, which is so valuable as an incident of education as accuracy. And accuracy can be taught. Direct lies told to the world are as dust in the balance when weighed against the falsehoods of inaccuracy. These are the fatal things. And they are all-pervading. I scarcely care what is taught to the young if it will but implant in them the habit of accuracy.

Now, look at the matter in this light. Take the speech of any man for any given day. For once that he wilfully gives a wrong color (with an eye to his own interests) to anything which he states or narrates, he mistakes or misdescribes 20 times, on account of his inability to tell anything accurately.

Besides, there is this important result from a habit of accuracy, that it produces truthfulness even on those occasions where a man would be tempted to be untruthful. He gradually gets to love accuracy more even than his own interests; at last he has a passion for accuracy.—Arthur Helps.

Kitchener in Retreat From Official Cares

Kitchener island is a real lotus island of tropical beauty in the middle of the great River Nile, not far from the great cataract.

When Lord Kitchener lived near Assouan, he loved to leave the haunts of mer and steal quietly in a small boat to this island, which he made his own. It was entirely uninhabited and was a perfect wilderness when he took it over, but he brought to it tropical Indian trees and planted there fig and banana trees and made beautiful and picturesque palm groves with seats made from palm leaves.

In the center of the island he built a small kiosk for himself, and resting there, away from the busy town, he could see the stately white-sailed feluccas wending their way through the various islets and could hear the Nubian boatmen chanting as they sailed along. In the distance he could also hear the peculiar droning of the water wheels and the hum of innumerable insects.—Weekly Scotsman.

Surely Kitchen Treasure

A lady was many weeks without finding a cook. In despair she at last answered an advertisement in an Irish paper. She had a reply and appointed an interview, defraying the woman's fare over.

"Can you cook?" asked the lady. "Yes, marm," was the reply. "Do you understand French cooking, as my husband likes dainty little dishes?"

"Why, lor, yes, marm," said the cook. "I understand all furrin dishes." "Really!" cried the lady, whose delight knew no bounds. "What can you do?"

"Well, marm, I can cook French beans, German sausages, Brussels sprouts, Jerusalem artichokes, Spanish onions, Dutch Cheese."—London Answers.

All Potential Cowards

While I think that the three classes, cowards, fearless men and courageous men, embrace all males on this earth, including the insane, I do not hold the categories iron-bound. The coward in a corner may become brave and run amok. The courageous man is essentially a coward at heart, and the fearless man may, in a bad enough situation, be either courageous or cowardly. Personally, I am a great physical coward, but get a quart of hooch in me and I'll fight a saloonful and have, to the best of hazy recollections, attempted it.—G. D. Eaton in Plain Talk Magazine.

Sand Pictures in Bottles

Forming pictures and designs of colored sands on the interiors of bottles is the interesting art hobby of a California man who got the idea from a natural group of "painted rocks." The grains are carefully arranged with special instruments to achieve the effect and the bottles are packed full and sealed so that the sand will not become loose and spoil the pattern. Fifty-six shades, all of natural colors and of samples sent to the artist from different parts of the world, are employed in making the designs.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Better Conduct

Better conduct should be the first ideal of every man and woman; it is the most important aid in living. This is true not because better conduct is recommended by religion, but because it is recommended by Nature. A man who behaves better in his feeding is rewarded; so is the man who behaves better in associating with his fellows, in his business, in his family affairs. Behave better is the one maxim that all should accept as the greatest in the world.—E. W. Howe's Monthly.

Valuable Hardwood

Birch is Canada's most important hardwood. Of the seven Canadian species, the yellow birch (Betula lutea) and the paper birch (Betula alba or papifera) are the best known. The former is used for flooring, furniture, cabinet work, and vehicle stock, while the tough, resinous bark of the latter has supplied the aborigines for centuries with the material for covering their famous birch-bark canoes.



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