

COLUMBIA NEWS

By Mrs. Bob Woodward

Mrs. H. J. Ott has requested that the notice regarding the Farm Bureau Auxiliary meeting be repeated in this column.

Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Schaeffer of Condon visited during the week-end with her sister, Mrs. John Knox and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Verne Dunham, former residents of this district, now of Elgin, announce the birth of a son on September 8.

Mrs. John Mittlestadt of Albany and her father, Fred Stuber of Lebanon were Friday night guests at the George Liebe home.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Garberding made a trip to Grandview on Monday and to Outlook, Washington, where they attended a sale by Noel Hart.

Myrtle Caldwell returned Monday from a four-day hunting trip in the John Day country.

Miss Marian Ott was pleasantly surprised by a group of the Epworth League members who gathered at her home Sunday evening following the regular league meeting.

Floyd Wilson of Puyallup, Washington, was a visitor Tuesday morning at the Liebe home.

Miss Helen Jendrzewski spent the week-end at home from La Grande, where she is a teacher in the home economics department of the La Grande high school.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Wilcox of Portland spent the week-end in Hermiston and visited at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Wilcox.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Knox of North Bend were here during the week-end to visit their son, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Knox, Jr., at the John Knox home.

Along the Diagonal: Late blooming flowers making a gay splash of color here and there.

SPRAGUE URGES WORK CAMP HERE

Governor Charles A. Sprague this week requested Walter A. Duffy, Portland, regional director of the farm security administration, to establish a migratory work camp near Hermiston.

The governor also asked the state board of health to put into effect as soon as possible a set of rules and regulations governing housing in the Hermiston-Stanfield area.

NEW DOCTOR TO OPEN PRACTICE

Dr. Stewart S. Merrill, physician and surgeon, recently of Wallowa, will open a practice in the former Mrs. N. W. Bloom residence beginning next Monday.

Dr. Merrill is a graduate of the College of Medical Evangelists of Los Angeles, California.

REVIVALIST



Frank L. Freed is holding a series of revival meetings at the Pilgrim Holiness church. Services will continue from October 5 to 19.

HERMISTON DEPOT ROBBED SATURDAY OF U. S. MAIL BAGS

NO TRACE FOUND OF GUILTY PARTY

The first major crime in many years was staged in Hermiston late Saturday night or early Sunday morning when seven first class mail pouches were stolen from the depot between the hours of 9:00 p. m. Saturday and 1:10 a. m. Sunday morning.

At 1:10, the time when the mail is taken to Umatilla for distribution, it was discovered by Sammy McCracken that seven bags were missing.

Entry to the building was made by prying the hasp off the door of the depot room in which the mail was stored.

Postal Inspector Dunham arrived in Hermiston Sunday and with the cooperation of other officers is investigating the robbery.

The exact amount of the loot will probably never be known. Postmaster W. E. Logan stated Sunday that the amount could vary all the way from \$2,000 to much more.

The robbery completed a hilarious week-end in this little hamlet, beginning Thursday with a triple murder, a service station holdup ending in one death and then the mail theft.

LEMON FRUIT IS GROWN BY LOCAL AUTO SALESMAN

Amidst all the turmoil and strife in Hermiston, Charles Hodge, manager of the Hermiston Auto Co., comes forth with the refreshing story of raising lemons on his front lawn.

Mr. Hodge failed to state where he would market his "crop" but will very likely settle for one lemonade.

GEORGE BEDDOW BURIED TUESDAY

George W. Beddow, 79, pioneer plumber in this area, passed away Saturday after a long illness. He had resided in Umatilla county since 1898, and was for several years a farmer in the Hermiston district.

Funeral service were held Tuesday from the Bomboy chapel in Pendleton with Rev. Ware of Oregon City officiating.

Surviving are his widow, a son, George Beddow, Jr., a sister, Mrs. Maggie O'Connor, Battle Creek, Mich., and three brothers, Charles Beddow, Edgewood, Ia.; John Beddow, Butthen, Ia., and Frank Beddow, Pendleton.

LICENSE EXAMINER SCHEDULED HERE

A traveling examiner of operators and chauffeurs is scheduled to arrive in Hermiston Thursday, October 9th, and will be on duty at the city library between the hours of 10 a. m. and 5 p. m.

All those wishing permits or licenses to drive cars are asked to get in touch with the examiner during these hours.

ELECTRICITY HERE FOR EVERYONE



Typical of the \$88,000 construction program Pacific Power & Light company has already completed in the Hermiston area are these new facilities built to serve Tertletown, the new 83-house addition to Hermiston built by the ammunition depot contractors.

UMATILLA SERVICE STATION ROBBED SATURDAY EVENING

One person is dead and two others are in jail as a result of a service station holdup at Umatilla Saturday evening. Dead is Bill Brown, negro, and in jail are two Cherokee Indians, Floyd Ward, 33, and his half-brother, Fred V. Stevens, 25.

Saturday night the trio, with Brown hiding in the back seat, held up the Ferdinand Hanson service station in Umatilla at gun point and obtained \$38.50.

The car, which had been stolen in Portland earlier in the week, overturned, killing Brown and injuring the Indians. Passersby brought them to Hermiston. State officers recognized the Indians as the ones who had pulled the robbery job at Umatilla and placed them under arrest.

The men admitted their acts, stating that they had stolen the car from a parking lot in Portland. They recently came to this state from California. No sentence has been given in their case.

School Cafeteria To Open Soon

According to Supt. W. G. Kersbergen, the high school cafeteria will open for business Monday, October 13. The venture is operated on a "non-profit" basis in order that students and teachers might enjoy hot noon lunches.

SCHOOL FUNDS ARE SIGNED BUT NOT DELIVERED AS YET

The long-awaited arrival of school funds to aid in the hiring of teachers, purchasing of school books and other incidentals took one step nearer the goal this week when word was received from Representative Walter M. Pierce and Senator Chas. McNary that the president had signed bills allowing the sums of \$11,340 for the high school and \$20,160 for the grade school in Hermiston.

District 61, Stanfield, has been allotted \$9,418. Although the above announcement is taken as official notice, local school authorities are not spending the money until it arrives upon the scene.

NEW LAUNDRY TO OPEN NEXT WEEK

Hermiston will welcome a brand new business next week when the Hermiston Laundry and Dry Cleaning establishment will open for business. The concern will be managed by Alvin Elkins. He states that his equipment is modern and up-to-date.

The firm is located in the Dr. W. L. Morgan building.

SHORTCUT WORK BID IS CALLED

According to news reports the state highway commission will call for bids at Portland on October 16 and 17 for "grading, surfacing and oiling of .70 mile of the South Hermiston section of the Old Oregon Trail highway in Umatilla county."

This is the section from Stewart's service station to First and Main street corner or the First National Bank corner.

THREE LOSE LIFE AT HANDS OF YOUTHFUL GUN KILLER

POWER COMPANY MEETS EMERGENCY IN THIS REGION

Pacific Power & Light company has already spent more than \$88,000 rebuilding the former Hermiston Light & Power company system to improve service throughout the Hermiston-Echo-Stanfield-Umatilla area and supply the tremendous demand for electricity that has resulted from construction of the army ordnance depot, according to A. M. Thrasher, local power company manager.

Tent dwellers, those who live in trailers and families that built new houses all have electricity as the result of additional facilities the company provided this year.

The big 66,000-volt P. P. & L. transmission line that brings power here from a system of interconnected generating plants had ample capacity to easily supply the skyrocketing demand, but other facilities here had to be geared to the tempo of national defense.

Crews are now rebuilding a mile of 6600-volt line along the highway through Umatilla and working on primary circuits in Hermiston, Echo and Stanfield.

CHILD CLINIC IS SCHEDULED HERE

Notice has been received of an immunization clinic to be held in the Hermiston high school October 21st, from 11 to 12 a. m. and from 1 to 3 p. m.

Those children who received their first shot of toxoid for protection against diphtheria at the clinic held the first week in September, are urged to return for their second injection. Vaccination against smallpox will be given to children of any age.

School Uses Church Basement

The Hermiston Methodist church basement is now being utilized for school purposes. Seats and other equipment have been installed to accommodate a number of students.

The move was made in order to care for the large increase of students brought on by the construction of the Umatilla Ordnance Depot.

MRS. CORA TOBIN KENNETH GORSUCH AND M. ADAMS SHOT

One chapter in John Sota's life would read something like the following:

John Sota, who claims to be about 16 years of age, but who officers think is several years older, came to Hermiston about 10 days ago apparently seeking work. Somewhat erratic of nature but quite friendly, he soon made several friends on the streets here. Tuesday, September 23, he found his way to the Cora Tobin ranch approximately 3 1/2 miles west of this city.

Mrs. Tobin, a kindly person, offered him lodging in spite of the fact that her own abode was extremely limited. Mr. Sota spent Tuesday and Wednesday roaming about the countryside, visiting various farmers, making an occasional trip to Hermiston. Close friends noted that he carried a gun at all times, Sota claiming that he was an undercover man and was seeking employment at the Umatilla Ordnance Depot.

Among others who made the acquaintance of Sota, were Mrs. L. T. Murray, Mrs. Charles McKenzie, H. V. Mettner, neighbors of Mrs. Tobin, James Todd, local mail carrier, and several others. To all he told a very similar story, namely that he was seeking employment at the Ordnance Depot. Officers later checked this tale but found that no applications had been made.

Thursday morning, after Mrs. Tobin's son, Kenneth Gorsuch, and a nephew, Marvin Adams, 35, had left for work, Sota again began his daily tour of the countryside shooting at various articles. According to his later confession, Sota returned to the ranch shortly before noon on that day. Mrs. Tobin, who had gone into a nearby cellar for some butter, was followed by the would-be killer. Stating that she knew too much about him, he deliberately shot her through the head. Then he covered her body with boxes and shut the cellar door.

Following this act, the murderer went to the tent which he had shared the previous night with Mr. Adams. He calmly waited there until about 5:30 until Mr. Adams returned from his work from the farm of Wayne Mulkins, where he was helping in the haying. Adams went to the barn lot to milk the cows, when Sota approached from the rear. After a short conversation in which Adams inquired as to the whereabouts of Mrs. Tobin, Sota committed his second murder. He shot Adams through the head as he was leaning against the cow with his head while milking. Adams apparently was unaware of the fact that the murder was carrying the weapon.

Sota then proceeded to cover Adams' body under some alfalfa hay and calmly awaited the return of his next victim, Kenneth Gorsuch. The latter soon appeared on the scene and after making some inquiry as to the whereabouts of the others, went to the hog pen to feed his pigs. Sota walked up behind him and shot Gorsuch several times through the head from the rear. He removed all the money and several papers from Kenneth's body and returned to the tent. Here he took a suit of clothing and other personal belongings.

He placed his loot aboard the Gorsuch car, a '29 Model A Ford coach, and drove to Hermiston. He stopped for a short time on the street, going into Hale's Confectionery he purchased a box of shells for his gun. He then started for Pendleton. Not wishing to remain there, he took the Cold Spring cutoff road to Kennebec, Wash.

He arrived there about midnight and registered at the Kennebec hotel under the name of John Johnson. Apparently he did not sleep well that night, as he spent most of Friday sleeping in his room. However, in the afternoon he left his hiding place and went to a movie and had something to eat. Prior to that time he had left his car at a used car lot in that city.

Upon returning to his hotel room, he was confronted by a large group of officers. He had no time to put up a battle and was soon safely in custody. (Continued on Last Page)

The Great National Pastime

