

GREAT FOREST FIRE NEAR GRANTS PASS

Aftermath of Sane Fourth is Far-reaching in Effect — Ranchmen Fight Flames for Several Days — Large Barn Burned.

The aftermath of a sane Fourth at Merlin brought a forest fire of great magnitude which has been burning all the week and has so far covered 25 square miles of territory, extending from a point near Merlin up to the very gates of Grants Pass on the west. The real origin of the fire is not satisfactorily known. Some claim it was from Merlin proper and there is a report that some passengers on a passing train threw fire-crackers out of the window of a coach, and these resulted in the terrible forest fire. There was little real heavy timber burned, most of it being cut-over land, but the cutting had been done years ago and there was inflammable material on the ground at this time and the fire made a mad rush mostly on a direct line east toward the county seat, says the Courier.

The ranchmen within the prescribed territory fought the fire with determination, but on it came in mad glee and laughed at the puny efforts of man. Then, determined not to be outdone by the roaring elements, the settlers started back fires to save their property, and this, as it turned out, did more damage than the original fire. The timber through which it passed was second growth oak and some fir and pine. There were ranches interspersed and the families occupying these were much frightened. There were some barns and outbuildings and many miles of fences destroyed by the conflagration. When it reached the big barn of A. G. Hood two miles west of town it destroyed his large barn filled with grain and hay. Forty tons of the latter was burned with a considerable amount of farm machinery on which there was small insurance. Mr. Hood's loss will be great and he will have the sympathy of many people.

Ever since Sunday the citizens of Grants Pass have been anxious about the fire and several times a day the fire bell rang for recruits to go out and do duty on the fire line, and many feared that a favorable wind might carry the fire to the city itself, and had it not been for the devotion of volunteers who stayed night and day, a disastrous conflagration would have been reported. Ranchers to a considerable number suffered considerable loss, but no figures are at hand. On Wednesday night the volunteer fire fighters did good service. A considerable number of these returned to the city and reported that the fire along all lines was under control, when nervous people, who had been watching the smoke on the west, were greatly relieved. During the evening W. B. Sherman loaded his auto with coffee, bolted ham, many loaves of bread and other substantial such as tired and hungry men need on such an occasion and hurried out to the fire line and distributed his load among the fighters. His thoughtfulness was thoroughly appreciated. As we go to press there is considerable smoke, but the fire, it is thought, has been subdued.—Rogue River Courier.

RAILROAD COMPANY FILES ITS INCORPORATION

BOISE, Idaho, July 16.—According to information reaching here today articles of incorporation of the Butte, Boise & San Francisco Railroad company have been filed at Butte.

According to the documents, State Senator W. H. Haviland is named as president. The capitalization of the company is given at \$25,000,000.

According to the route outlined in the incorporation papers, the terminals of the projected railroad are to be San Francisco and Butte. It is proposed to run the railroad diagonally through Montana, Idaho, Oregon and California.

Railroad men are speculating as to what interests are backing the project. In the face of the activities of the Hill and Harriman lines in the northwest, it is not believed that either of the two great systems has anything to do with the new venture.

COMMUNICATIONS.

To the Editor: In the Tribune of the 13th you call on every user of water to help solve the water problem. I am one of many in the southwestern part of the city who don't use city water, although we petitioned the council last summer to extend the water main on

Eleventh street, and also to lay a pipe on South Hamilton street, and we had every assurance that it would be done, but it failed to materialize up to this time. While there has been new additions laid out since that, water and sewers put in and very few, if any, to take water, while if our petition had been granted it would have furnished at least 20 families with water, and the city would have raised a revenue. I want to ask the honorable mayor and council why this discrimination in favor of real estate agents? Another thing, why don't you adopt business principles instead of guesswork. The only just and honest way to sell any commodity is by weight or measure. Therefore the meter system, in my judgment, is the only correct system and I can't see why any honest man should object to it. If the city had 300 inches of water today under the present system there might be a scarcity of water, as now. W. J. DUNNILL.

ROCK SPRINGS COAL.

The first car sold like hot cakes and right from the car, and by so buying the purchasers save money. The second car arrived this morning and unloading commences tomorrow. People are buying ice now instead of coal, but remember you will want some of this coal this winter, and now is the time to get it. It will be higher in price and harder to get next month. See Burbridge, the drayman, now, and place your order. 103

DR. GOBLE'S OPTICAL PARLOR REMOVED TO 235 E. MAIN STREET, OVER STRANG'S DRUG STORE.

Chickens

Wanted—To buy, full blooded White Leghorn and Barred Rock laying hens, 10 to 12 months old, in small or large lots

R. H. Wilson

CENTRAL POINT, OREGON. Care W. G. Goffe.

Granite City Hospital

Most modernly equipped hospital between Portland and Sacramento. Shows each doctor the same courtesy and gives all patients the same care. In charge of Ostrom & Nelson, graduate nurses.

OSTROM & NELSON, Props of Granite City Hospital, Ashland, Oregon.

We Have For Sale

73½ acres, with good buildings, about four miles from Medford. There are on the place 8½ acres in Bartlett pears, 9 years old, with a good crop in sight, and 1½ acres of Anjou pears in their second year. There are also 22 acres in alfalfa. If taken soon, the pear crop and the hay go with the place. Price \$14,000; \$6000 cash, balance on or before five years, with interest at 6 per cent.

32 acres, across the road from above place. Three-room house and small barn. On this place there are ten acres of 8-year-old Newtowns and four acres in 1 and 2-year-old peaches. Price \$7500; \$3000 cash, balance on or before five years, with interest at 6 per cent.

These places are worth the price asked and the terms make them especially desirable.

W. T. YORK & CO.

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O. W. Murphy. O. M. Murphy. MURPHY BROS. AUTO LIVERY. 1910 Chalmers Detroit. Phone 1861, Valley Auto Company, Medford, Or.

Quick Service. Easy Riding. Prices Right.

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No job too small, none too large. Twenty-five years practical experience.

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That you can buy fruit and strawberry land like this in Shasta county, California, with perpetual water right; for \$50 per acre? Unimproved only \$25 per acre. Write for booklet.

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We have on hand a large stock of men's shoes and oxfords, ranging from \$2.50 to \$4.00.

Late shipments of men's negligee and golf shirts, summer underwear, neckwear, fancy hosiery, and make a fine display in above lines.

NEW SHIPMENT of ladies' slippers, oxford and soft easy shoes adds greatly to our ladies' shoe department.

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THE HOME OF GOOD SHOES.

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FOR SALE BY ALL GROCERS.

Robert F Maguire

Late special agent U. S. General Land Office, announces that he has opened law offices in the Medford National Bank Building, for general practice before state and federal courts and the Department of the Interior.

A SNAP

FOR SALE BY OWNER.

80 acres improved land; several good springs; house, barn, etc.; 5 acres in bearing fruit; 5 acres good corn; 6 tons hay; if sold at once, \$40 PER ACRE TAKES IT.

Good Terms

Inquire 720 West 12th.

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The finest Sample Rooms in the city. Single rooms or en suite also rooms with bath

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Big machinery is now excavating the ground, northwest corner Main and Ivy streets, for the new HOTEL MEDFORD Watch the dirt fly and hurrah for Medford.

A COOL CUSTOMER

will buy more goods than a warm one will in hot weather.

A cool customer will buy with less palaver.

He—or she—will be better natured, less cranky and easier to sell to; and you know it.

Moreover, you yourself, and your employes, will be in a better selling mood—if your store is cool and pleasant than if it is sticky and suffocating and savors of a boiler-room in its stiflingness.

The Electric Fan is a blessing and a cheer which you can ill afford to ignore.

Life in the dog days is a question of degrees.

Make your place of business habitable and inviting to the people, and the trend of trade will be in your direction.

It stands to reason—it's logical—it's apparent.

Why not invest a little money in trade-winning coolness?

Electric Fans will create a tempting and delightful breeze, and in every breeze there'll be dollars for you.

May our representative call and take it up with you?

Don't wait until it's 90 in the shade. Phone us today.

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P. S.—How about that Electric Sign you've been thinking about?