Newsy Notes from Rogue River Valley Towns

Ashland Notes

E. G. Owen and family of Washington, Ind., are visiting in the home of C. L. Cunningham.

Second crop strawberries are being offered on the markets in limited quantities and are said to be of very fine flavor.

Harry Tuttle, of Medford filled the pulpit of the First Baptist church Sunday morning and was greeted by a large congregation.

Ashland's publicity fund has now reached over $3,000, and the certainty of raising the $5000 desired has now been practically assured.

It took a passenger train of seven cars to accommodate the crowds who went from Ashland to Medford Monday to attend the Barnum and Bailey circus.

Mr. and Mrs. Benton Bowers and their guest, Miss Leslie Hankins, of Bellingham, Wash., have returned from an outing at Union Creek, on the upper Rogue River.

M. C. Bressler has begun the construction of a cement business building on A street and it will be so constructed that a second story can be added if needed.

Misses Jean and Gertrude Churchman, of Portland, were in the city the last of the week to attend the funeral of their brother, the late John A. Churchman.

Southern Pacific engineers under the direction of Russell Chase and S. E. Anderson were here the last of the week surveying the proposed motor line to the business center of the city.

Mrs. T. K. Bolton returned Monday afternoon from Portland, accompanied by her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Simpson, of that city, who will rusticate in Ashland for time.

No trace has been found of Meikle & Payne's driving team which disappeared from the Filson pasture some time ago and it is now thought that it was stolen and run out of the country.

tors in the Training squad for bakers and cooks, in the detachment of Uncle Sam's soldiers which stopped in Ashland Monday, enjoyed a visit with the family of B. W. Talcott, whom he had known in Iowa.

Mrs. W. E. Campbell of Indiana, who came to Ashland in June last, in the hope of relief from tuberculosis, succumbed to the disease on Thursday and the remained were shipped to her old home in Indiana for burial.

Fred Tracy, Ernest Roy, John Hicks, Glenn Simpson, and Driver Perry returned a day or two ago from a two weeks' outing at the Dead Indian Pelican bay and Crater lake districts. They report a very pleasant time.

A party of eighteen officers of the American druggists' syndicate of St. Louis, arrived in the city yesterday afternoon for a twenty-four hour stay. They are making a tour of the Pacific coast states in a special car.

Prof. H. H. Waldrip, of San Barnidino, Cal. left for his home this week accompanied by Mrs. Waldrip, after spending their vacation here. Prof. Waldrip was formerly in the Normal school here, but is now engaged in educational work in the California city.

The Commercial club will unite with the Ashland Fruit and Produce Association in making a display at the district fair at Grants Pass which will be a credit to the city and to Jackson county. It is expected that about $400 will be expended in gathering and caring for the exhibit.

A party of 150 United States regulars was in Ashland from Sunday night to Monday noon on their way from American Lake to Atascadora, Cal., for further maneuvers. The party consisted of Company E, of the signal corps and the training school for bakers and cooks.

There will be a series of four weeks meetings at the church of the Nazarene, commencing September 5. They will be conducted by Rev. Fred St. Clair, known as the Georgia Cyclone. Mrs. Delance Wallace, of Seattle, district evangelist will assist in the meetings and will have charge of the singing.

Word has been received here of the death of J. E. Patrick, formerly of this city, who died at Sacramento Friday as a result of injuries received in a railroad accident at Boca a few days before. Mrs. Patrick, who was visiting at the home of her mother, Mrs. Nancy Mills, 586 A street, in this city, at the time of the accident, left Thursday noon for Sacramento. Mrs. Patrick was a member of Ashland lodge of Elks at the time of his death.

The dedicatory exercises of the new Elks Temple in Ashland have been set for September 22, 23 and 24, and a three-day session and the Elks of this vicinity are planning to make it the most notable event in the history of Elkdom in the history of Southern Oregon if not in the entire state. Their temple, which is a handsome four-story concrete building, is one of the handsomest in the state and will be the high water mark in lodge buildings in this section for many moons to come.

Eden Precinct Items

C. E. Houston is getting better of his throat trouble.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Stancliffe were in Phoenix last Tuesday.

Andrew Calham was delivering peaches in Phoenix Monday.

There was another fake show in Phoenix last Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Peckham of North Talent were in Medford Tuesday.

E. R. Oatman of Medford was in Talent on a business call last Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Stephens of North Talent did trading in Medford Tuesday.

Mrs. W. E. Anderson of North Phoenix did trading in Ashland on Monday.

Mrs. Millie Furry was visiting her daughter-in-law, Mrs. A. S. Furry, last Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Graffes of North Talent were up to Ashland Monday trading.

The new residence of Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Coleman of Phoenix is beginning to loom up.

The Weeks planing mill at Phoenix is being rebuilt on a smaller scale than the one burned.

A. S. Furry has gone to Dead Indian to round up his cattle for the fall drive to the valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Isaacs of Medford were visiting relatives in North Talent last Sunday.

Mr. George Elfers of Phoenix returned from a trip up in Washington on business last Sunday.

There will be a wood cutting bee at the Presbyterian church in Phoenix Wednesday. A basket dinner will be served.

Donald Turnbow, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Turnbow, formerly of Phoenix, but now of Applegate, has been very ill. Dr. Malmgren of Phoenix is in attendance and he is reported out of danger.

Emitt Besson of Wagner creek returned from a business trip to Klamath Falls last week and has commenced on his new residence. Mr. and Mrs. Beeson have spent a pleasant and profitable year in Klamath county.

Central Point Items

William A. Cowley was in Portland on business Monday.

T. J. Neff is home from a vacation at Crescent City.

J. F. Williams returned recently from a vacation at Crescent City.

Floyd Green of Portland visited relatives in Central Point yesterday.

Work is progressing on the residence of E. C. Faber, on Manzanita street.

J. D. Parker and little grandson have returned from an extended visit throughout the eastern states.

Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Jones have returned from Crescent City, where they have been camping for some time, and report a pleasant time.

Mrs. Robert Kyle and sons have returned from Leebanon, Or., where they have been visiting relatives and friends and looking over the old home.

Marshal Holmes was called to the merry-go-round Monday to quell a riot started by some bold, bad mountaineers, and it did not take him any great length of time to accomplish the desired end.

Mrs. Reinhardt of Summerville, Or., worthy matron of the Order of Eastern Star, was here Monday making an official visit with the local lodge. While in the city she was entertained by Mr. and Mrs. I. C. Robnett.

Sam Baxter is contemplating matrimony and has filled his bachelor quarters with new stoves, cooking utensils, beds and baking powder. Sam denies the allegation, but he really is contemplating the employment of a lady cook, as he has two big painting contracts, and time is money.

J. C. Weir of Seattle, owner of the famous Weir springs, which at one time furnished Georgetown—now a part of Seattle—with water, was in the valley Tuesday accompanied by his family. Mr. Weir is going to locate in this part of Oregon, desiring to establish a permanent home in Medford or near that point.

Tells Story of O'Gara's Success

Grand Rapids Free Press Contains Following Special Article From Washington Dealing With O'Gara's Battle With Jack Frost.

Washington, Aug. 13.—Grand Rapids may become the center for western Michigan of the frost-fighting industry. The outlook is that within a decade the weather bureau station at the furniture city will send out frost alarms reduced to a fine point. Orchardists will be warned just how low the temperature is likely to go and will be told at approximately the time of the night to pile out and start their orchard fires.

The department of agriculture is taking this subject up with a vengeance. Following reports from the western country about heating orchards with coal oil, developments have been coming along rapidly. P. J. O'Gara, a department expert, has reported remarkable success in frost-fighting in the Rogue River valley, Oregon.

And the department, stirred by the reports of undoubted success, has resolved upon extended experiments next spring. Experts in many parts of the country will be instructed to conduct frost-fighting tests. They will determine what fuels are best adapted to frost-fighting, their relative cost and whether, under varied conditions, orchard crops can actually be saved by building fires in the orchards.

What May Result for Michigan.

A glimpse of what may result for Grand Rapids and the surrounding fruit country is indicated by Mr. O'Gara's report for the district surrounding Medford, Or. Mr. O'Gara was located at this point during his frost-fighting experiments. Through the months of May and June, 1909, he made observations in the evening to determine whether frost was probable for the coming night. He was not only able to predict with much accuracy the lowest temperature, but he could tell approximately when the low point would be reached.

At his service was an excellent telephone system, and at a fixed time in the evening he put himself in touch with most of the orchardists within a ten or twelve-mile radius. In two or three instances the reports were sent thirty miles. The orchardists came to put almost complete reliance in these predictions. While during the early stages of the experiment they lighted their fires on a chance that frost would come contrary to prediction, let yater they remained in bed, if O'Gara said it was safe. But if he said frost would come at 3 o'clock in the morning, they arose in time to have their fires going before that time.

How Orchardists May Protect.

Pending the establishment of such a central system at Grand Rapids, Mr. O'Gara gives a hint of his methods which may be worth the investigation of Western Michigan orchardists. The instrument upon which he chiefly relied was a psychrometer. A homemade psychrometer may be constructed from two ordinary thermometers of fair accuracy, which always registers the same under the same conditions.

The two thermometer frames are fastened together, back to back, and the bulb and scale of one of them is lowered, so that the bulb projects below the bottom of the frame. The lower bulb is surrounded by a wet cloth and then the combination is whirled rapidly. The wet bulb thermometer registers lower than the other, and when it is at its lowest possible point a comparison is made between it and the dry-bulb thermometer.

The difference between the two is referred to a table which is published by the weather bureau. This table shows, for instance, that when the dry bulb thermometer registers 40 degrees and the wet bulb registers 5 degrees lower, the dew point is 28 degrees. That indicates quite closely the minimum temperature which may be expected during the night when the evening reading of the dry bulb thermometer is 40 degrees and the reading of the wet bulb thermometer is 35 degrees. The department of agriculture has literature describing this psychrometer quite fully, as well as the manner of using it.

It is quite likely that some of the frost experiments of next spring will be conducted in Western Michigan. The department usually has two scientists near Saugatuck and the plan is to utilize men who are also engaged in other work. When this plan is carried out the orchardists of the United States will have their first official and thoroughgoing information about frost-fighting.

The reports heretofore made seem to be regarded by the department as somewhat elementary and preliminary. Although Mr. O'Gara, writing about his experiment in the Rogue River valley, says: "There is no doubt that frost injury may be prevented by the use of fires and smudges." Yet G. H. Powell, his superior officer, commented thus: "Notwithstanding the favorable results obtained, it must be acknowledged that there is still considerable doubt as to the possibility under varied conditions of warding off the damage from frosts by fires and also some question about its practicability in open orchards."

One Man Saved $6000.

Probably Mr. O'Gara did not enjoy the cautious comment of his superior, especially in view of the results which he saw in his field, according to his report. For instance, W. H. Brown of the Rogue River valley stated that, with a cost of $6 per acre for the season, he was able to save ten acres of apples. He estimated the value of his crop at $6000. The previous year one freeze wipedout his entire crop. G. E. Marshall of the same fruit section is quoted in saying: "The entire quantity of material used for the season wasfive pounds of crudee oil,, used principally in saturating shavings and other material, 1000 old rails, 300 old stumps, one ton of waste bituman, 3 tons of coal, 800 bundles of old tree prunings,,, 25 loads of manure and twenty loads of plaining mill shavings. With this material I saved the entire crop of thirty acrees of orchard. I did not smudge three acres of comic pears as they were all nearly killed.

In this expeeriment in the Rogue river valley, wood was the principal fuel, coal was relied upon less and crudee oil was not used hardly at all. The Rogue river peoplee did not have success with crude oil. Perhaps one reason was that the oil had considerablee of water in it. Anyhow the valuee of oil compared with wood, is one of the things that the department wants to learn next spring. Although some of the experiments made with oil seemed to have had excellent results, like thosee recently described in the Press,, yet in other cases it is claimed that the experiments have rested too much in the hands of companies that have burned for sale.

Test Oil, Coal and Wood.

The Rogue Riveer valled test indicates that oil rails makee good frostfighting firees. Somee farmesre lacking old rails useed good cord wood, paying substantial prices for it. Prunings weree used someewhat to start the firees, also paper bags filled with shavings and saturated with oil. In case of protracted coal lignite coal, found near at hand, was placed on to wood fires. It gav good heat and lasted well.

The piles of wood were commonly placed between every four trees —that is, a pile in every other tree rowin each direction of the orchard. Each pile was small,consisting of four or fivepieees of cordwood. Large firee, it was considered,might injurethe blossomsand might induce cold air eurents. Forty or fifty of these small piles of wood were placeed on each acre off orchard. When the cold was not severe, it was necesary only to light every other fire. In the usual season probably not more than one or two fires would be neceessary.

Anything to Make Smudges.

In Mr. O'Gara's experiments, the fruit farmers did not give it up if the fires did not keep the temperature above the frost point. In that case thew fed the fires, in many instances, with damp straw or manure. Piles of this material were in some cases kept along the edge of the orchard. The purpose of this sort of firing was to make a smudge and keep the sun from getting at the buds too soon. The smudge postponed the swelling effect of the sun's warmth and gave the buds more time in which to adjust themselves to the higher temperature.

In the southern part of western Michigan it is possible that wood is now so scarce that oil or coal may prove to be the cheapest material for frost-fighting. Toward the northern limits of the orchard area wood is cheaper and more plentiful. But under any circumstances the orchardists along the lake short have the satisfying knowledge that their trees are in one of the most frost-free areas of the United States, while those farther inland have frost conditions at least as good as the average; perhaps a little better.

The Frost Rolls Off.

One of the striking things about the O'Gara experiments is that they were conducted on the floor of the Rogue River valley. Some of the most valuable orchards of that section had been planted on that lowest level, probably before fruitgrowers had learned anything about air drainage. The orchards on higher levels in the same section did not require firing or smudging to avoid frost damage.

In the real fruit sections of Michigan the air drainage is usually good without the orchardists paying any particular attention to it. But it is possible that in selecting land for new orchards back from the lake shore orchardists may gain a distinct advantage by investigating the question of air drainage. It is desirable to plant the trees on land higher than other land in the immediate neighborhood. Thus the tendency is for the cold air, being heavier, to "flow" down and away from the fruit trees to the lower levels.

BRIDGE NEAR PHOENIX IS NEARING COMPLETION

Winter floods will no longer isolate the farmers who live across Bear creek, north of Phoenix. The new county bridge, which is rapidly nearing completion, will allow them to pass to and from their homes dry shod.

In past winter seasons high water on Bear creek has been a source of great discomfort to the farmers on the east side of Bear creek, as the only way across was by fording. At times they have been cut off from supplies for weeks at a time.

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For State Senator

Statement No. 1 Candidate.

I am a Republican candidate for state senator at the primary election September 24, 1910. I favor statement No. 1, good roads, progressive education and the Southern Oregon state normal school. For eleven years a resident of Ashland, Or.

tf J. J. COMBERS.

READ SEPTEMBER SUNSET.

READ "ARIZONA THE 47TH STAR" By Governor Richard E. Sloan, and "Fremont and the Bear Flag," by William Simpson, in Sunset for September, now on sale at all news stands, 15 cents. tf*

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