

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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With Medford Stop-Over

DILLER EXAMINES VOLCANO AGAIN

REDDING, Cal., July 22.—Professor J. S. Diller, government geologist, who investigated Mount Lassen on June 20 for the United States geological survey, making an official report to Washington, is back in Redding to make another trip to the volcano and make a more detailed examination.

TOO FEW MARINES TO FILL DEMAND

WASHINGTON, July 23.—With 25 full regiments of marines now affoot on expeditionary work, in addition to the many men of the same service scattered throughout the Philippines, Guam and elsewhere the marine corps is having difficulty in meeting the demands made upon it for a full fledged army to carry out the policies of the administration in regard to Haiti and San Domingo.

HIGH SALMON PRICES ASSURE PROSPERITY

PORTLAND, July 23.—Oregon is destined to enjoy the best year in its history, or at least in the last decade, after the first of January, in the opinion of Robert S. Farrell of the firm of Everding & Farrell. He bases this statement upon the tremendous wheat crop, the extraordinary demand for salmon and the accompanying high prices.

SAFE DYNAMITED BY YEGGMEN AT GOLD HILL

That gangs of burglars are at work about Medford is proved by the robbery of Mrs. Water, 1024 West Eleventh street, last night, the fourth robbery about Medford in a week. At Gold Hill a more desperate gang blew the safe in the M. S. Johnson saloon and made away with \$15 at 2:15 this morning.

Valuable jewelry was stolen at Mrs. Water's. One ring containing three opals and three emeralds, one solitaire amethyst ring and one plain gold ring marked with the letters E. W. and H. R., are among the missing things. It is not known whether the job was the work of a single burglar or a gang.

At Gold Hill a gang dynamited the safe of the Johnson saloon at 2:15 this morning. Six dollars and a half worth of nickels was taken and fifteen half dollars. The thieves were foiled in their attempt to make a large haul, as they apparently were working under the idea that Mr. Johnson kept a large amount of money in the saloon safe.

A week ago Mr. Johnson's home was burglarized, the burglars apparently thinking that Johnson had the supposed large sum in his house. They stole two valuable nuggets and the revolver. Unable to make a big haul, they decided to rob the saloon. The work was cleverly done, apparently by a gang of expert cracksmen.

The policemen have no theories as to the gang. Some think that the numerous burglaries are the work of floaters, a large number of which pass through Medford every day. The work is thought too bold and desperate for this class of thieves, and another theory is that a gang of cracksmen is making the rounds of the southern Oregon cities.

MANY SMALL FIRES IN COAST FORESTS

SEATTLE, Wash., July 23.—Fires, most of them started by campers or berry pickers, are reported in King, Clallam, Snohomish, Mason and Kitsap counties, Washington, but only small damage has been done. The fires originated in logged-off land, and have not spread to green timber. The state fire warden and the Washington State Forest Fire association have about 150 men in the field. The national forests have not been attacked.

The most serious of the fires is at Covington, a dozen miles southeast of Seattle, where the sawmill of the Covington Lumber company, a rancher's house and two barns containing livestock have been burned. This fire began in a slash fire fired by loggers. The Puget Sound navy yard's magazine has at no time been threatened, but yesterday 100 sailors from the yard were sent to quench a fire near the town of Manette.

SEVERAL COMMIT SUICIDE ON ACCOUNT GREAT HEAT

CHICAGO, July 23.—The whole middle west and Great Lakes region sweltered today in mid-summer heat that reached a maximum at Concordia, Kansas, with 100 degrees and ranged generally above 95 at all points of observation. Phoenix, Ariz. alone was hotter than Concordia. Six deaths and as many prostrations were attributed to the heat here. Two of them were suicides believed to have been the result of mental derangement by the heat. The temperature here was 96 degrees and there was no movement of air to give relief.

SEVERE GRILLING OF LAND SWINDLER BY OUR CLARENCE

PORTLAND, Ore., July 23.—Severe grilling of John W. Logan of Tacoma, one of the defendants facing land fraud charges in the United States district court here, by United States District Attorney Clarence L. Reames, occupied the entire morning.

Logan's attorney, J. C. Dennis, finished the direct examination soon after court convened, and from that time on Reames pursued a sharp cross examination.

Judge Robert S. Bean was forced to caution Logan repeatedly to answer directly the question put to him.

Logan, together with E. J. Sellers of Tacoma and W. F. Minard of Portland, is charged with misusing the mails to sell fraudulent location to settlers on the Oregon-California railroad land grant.

Reames questioned Logan about a certain letter the latter had written while in Grand Rapids, Mich., asking Minard to send him a letter boosting the land grant locating work. Logan denied making such a request and when the alleged letter was produced by Reames, the witness failed to identify it.

After asking him to detail all the titles which he had held with various companies, Reames handed Logan a letter signed as district agent of the Oregon and California company. Logan protested that the signature was probably a mistake on the part of the stenographer.

Miss Kate Stine has returned from Corvallis where she has been visiting friends and going to summer school.

PLAGUE CLAIMS FOURTH VICTIM, NEW ORLEANS

NEW ORLEANS, La., July 23.—Bubonic plague claimed its fourth death victim here today. The death occurred at the same address from which Helen Snell, aged 10, developed the disease last Saturday, and the victim was the child's grandmother, Regina Schmidt, aged seventy three.

VICTIMS OF AUTO ACCIDENT ON WAY TO RECOVERY

C. P. Helmroth, a ranchman of Griffin creek, who was injured in an automobile accident Tuesday evening near Steinman is reported to be resting easy and has more than an even chance for recovery. Dr. Porter who is in charge of the case states that his right frontal bone was fractured and two ribs in his right side were broken. The car was badly damaged. The brakes were broken and the top damaged beyond repair.

MEDFORD YOUTHS VISIT KLAMATH COUNTRY

(Klamath Northwestern) C. W. Munson, Bob Verbiak, Bill Wolgamott and John Heckert, four Medford youths, rode into this city yesterday afternoon by motorcycle. They left their home town last week with the intention of visiting Crater Lake, Klamath Falls and take in the principal cities and beauty spots in California. Yesterday they came from Crater Lake.

FOUR YEAR OLD TROTTER MARK BROKEN IN CLEVELAND

CLEVELAND, July 23.—In a special event Wednesday in the third day's races at North Randall, Etawah, Ill., owned by Frank G. Jones of Memphis, trotting a mile in 2:04, established a world's record for four year trotter of either sex. The old record 2:05 1-2, was made in 1893 by Director. Geers drove Etawah and was paced by a runner. In the morning Geers drove Anvil, another Jones horse, a mile in 2:02 3-4, the fastest mile trotted this season. Anvil also became the fastest record trotter in training.

EQUALIZE TAXES PLAN FOLLOWED IN SOMERS SYSTEM

There will be a public meeting of persons interested in lower taxes, equalized values and just assessments at the public library Friday evening at 8 o'clock, when the Somers system, now being used in Portland and other cities, to equalize realty values will be explained by M. A. Grant, who is visiting Medford.

Mr. Grant represents the Manufacturers' Appraisal company of Cleveland, O. This company originated and places in communities what is known as the Somers system. He describes the plan as follows:

"We are frequently asked how an outside man could place values on property and our answer to that is that he could not. Our plan of work is to divide a town into convenient sections, make a blue print map of each section, get a few men who know the local values to meet, discuss and put the tentative values on one inside lot in each block in the city; then a detail map is prepared of each section, and these tentative values are marked on this detail map, after which each and every property owner in each section is asked to come to a special meeting at which these property owners discuss, criticize and definitely settle what the actual cash values are of each inside lot. In other words, what each lot would bring at a normal sale, under normal terms and conditions— not what it would bring at forced sale or on long time, or because some man wanted it for a special purpose. Then our expert land man proceeds to teach the assessor, his deputies and the force of local men whom we employ to do the work, how to arrive at the values of the different sizes and shapes of lots. Our percentage tables (giving a definite percentage value to each foot of ground in a lot) being applied to all the lots in the town treat every property owner fairly. To arrive at the added value of a corner lot we first explain why a corner is more valuable than an inside lot, which is on account of the sunshine, air and light it gets which the inside lot does not get, the means of ingress and egress it has which the inside lot does not have and the added value on account of the traffic that comes around it from the side street. After finding the front foot value of the side street and of the front street we divide the side by the front and reference to our percentage tables find the added percentage which applies to the corner over the adjoining inside lot. In this way— by using a definite percentage table on all corner lots we treat every corner lot fairly.

"These percentage tables are the invention of Mr. Somers and the result of thousands of calculations made in different cities. "The method of finding the real value of buildings is as follows: We send an expert building valuation man who has under his charge the assessor and his deputies and a force of local men whom he teaches how to do the work. First they make a ground floor plan of every house in town, showing what lot it is on, its size. Then we have a card which is filled out by these local men, which card is really an architect's preliminary specification of each building. It shows how many stories there are to the house, what material it is made of, whether plain or ornamental trimmings, the kind of a roof, the inside finish, etc. Then we figure the floor square foot space in it and show exactly what it would cost to reproduce the house at the present price of material and labor. This gives the reproduction's cost from which we proceed to depreciate, on account of age, usage and then environment; for a house 20 years old is not worth as much as a new one, a tenement house not so much as one the owner occupies and a residence in a business or semi-business district is not worth so much as one in a strictly residential district.

"After the work is completed we

have systematically valued every square foot of ground and every building in the town; we have taught the assessor, his deputies and other local men how to apply the system, and we leave with your county and city officials, the blue prints and detailed maps, as well as our percentage tables, so that you are ready to follow up our work with our system year after year.

"We have never failed by this system of equalization to place more money in the treasury, the first year than we have taken out, while the city and county continues, year after year to reap the benefit. As examples, in Houston, Texas, we increased the taxable values more than \$33,000,000 giving the city a reduced tax rate and an amount of cash in the treasury in excess of \$450,000 more than the cost of installation. We have applied the system in nearly forty cities in the United States and Canada and not a single one of them have discarded the system after it was installed. While here he will talk the system over with the county assessor, the county court and the city officials.

SEATTLE TO SEGREGATE SCHOOL BOYS AND GIRLS

SEATTLE, Wash., July 23.—The Seattle school board has adopted a resolution instructing the superintendent of schools to arrange for separate classes for boys and girls in Broadway high school, and to assign so far as possible, men as teachers of the boys' classes.



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