

COMMERCIAL CLUB PREPARES MERGER WITH MERCHANTS

The inauguration of holding monthly meetings of the Commercial club, to which the entire membership is invited, is resulting in marked optimism. The attendance was doubled over the meeting held in March. A committee was appointed to confer with other organizations and ascertain if all could not be merged into one large, powerful central body with a system that will handle all civic and community interests for the greatest good to the greatest number. This was the first meeting to which the ladies were invited, and about fifty were present.

Following a splendid supper, the regular business of the club was attended to. The secretary's report was submitted, communications read and twenty-six persons voted into membership.

To Entertain Editors

The National Press association, on their western trip, will arrive in Medford, July 3, and a committee of our local newspaper men—George Putnam, S. S. Smith and Robert W. Rahl—were appointed to act with the club's automobile committee, Ben C. Sheldon, J. T. Sullivan and Guy W. Conner, and invite the association to stop at Medford at least two hours and be taken through the orchard districts.

E. N. Strong of Portland gave an interesting talk on their recent campaign, which resulted in establishing in Portland the strongest chamber of commerce in the world, now having a membership of 5000. His eulogy of the beauty and progressiveness of Medford and the valley was roundly applauded.

Various Speakers Heard

D. M. Lowe had the close attention of the audience for fifteen minutes, describing Ashland's success in increasing her club's membership four-fold; also his plan to place in the agricultural palace at the exposition at once a combined display of agricultural, horticultural and sportsmen's exhibits from Jackson county, something to attract the attention of everybody.

Mrs. H. H. Sargent entertained with a well-prepared historical number concerning the early days in Oregon.

The Federated Women's clubs will meet in Portland this summer and Mrs. Charles Schieffelin suggested that the Commercial club aid the Greater Medford club with a contribution for advertising the Rogue River valley on the official programs. It will be favorably considered by the club.

C. C. Hoon advocated the plan of having one or two suitable camp grounds near the city for the accommodation of summer tourists.

Musical Numbers

The musical numbers by Mrs. Bert Anderson, Fletcher Fish, Conist Middleburger and the Elks' quartet were appreciated and call for encores.

The Medford concert band with thirty-two of its forty-five members, were invited guests and rendered three selections. Bandmaster Curns, as organizer, instructor and leader, will once more give to Medford a band that will have more than local reputation.

The attention of the councilmen and county commissioners was called to the growth of mustard in town and fields from Ashland to Gold Ray. It does not look good to the eastern man where commissioners are appointed to keep it under control.

STOLEN GOLD BRICK FOUND IN CACHE

BAKER, Or., April 8.—That the \$7000 in gold bullion which was taken from a stage near Rye Valley Monday by two masked bandits has been found was the information brought here today by Sheriff Price Anderson. The gold had been cast into a solid brick, and according to the sheriff was found in a badger hole not far from the scene of the hold-up.

It is believed that the highwaymen had gone only a short distance from their burden when they decided to hide it and return to the Rainbow mine. Sheriff Anderson is confident that the robbers were employed at the mine.

The sheriff came into Baker to get some information about suspects which could not be given over the telephone, and arrests are expected before night. He got his information in a few moments and went directly back to the district surrounding the hold-up scene.

A THIN RIBBON OF RAILROAD BY WHICH THE CZAR HAS BAFFLED BERLIN



The new war route to Russia. Since mines have made the Baltic Sea too dangerous for navigation the czar has resorted to the railroad route shown in the map above to keep in touch with the western world.

Karungi, a Hamlet Almost in Arctic Circle, Now Only Door to Russia, Pictured in Words by a Woman Writer.

By Mary Boyle O'Reilly, Staff Correspondence.

KARUNGI, Sweden, March 16.—This tiny frontier hamlet is since the war began, the most important point in the thousands of miles of Russian border and in this story I will tell you why.

When in Stockholm I had hoped to save three days time by taking a boat across the Baltic to Finland. But the lanes through the Baltic ice fields which are kept open by Canadian ice crushers are full of drifting mines.

Of eight boats which set sail recently five will never make port again. So the Scandinavian government in consultation with shipping interests and diplomatic representatives decided that all sailing must be cancelled and now would-be travelers must go to Petrograd via the shores of the Baltic.

Here is the route: From Bergen in Norway south to Christiania, east by north to Stockholm, thence along the western shore of the Baltic to Karungi in the northern part of Sweden, then to Tornea on the Finnish frontier and then down through Finland to Petrograd—miles and miles of desolation, leagues and leagues of ultimate cold.

This is the new war route to Russia, crude as yet in organization, but withal fairly comfortable.

My companions on the train were a little group of pioneers, greatly daring, wrapped to their eyes, gulping boiling tea hourly, speaking many tongues but arriving at a final understanding through French.

Every three hours we stopped at a tiny station buried in the snow. We had to dash through newly swept snow tunnels to the "feed room" where eager girls, too shy to accept tips, rushed up to serve us.

There is no menu, no price list. One eats all one chooses and pays a nominal price for the meal.

"It does not seem right to take money for food," apologizes the maitre d'hotel.

This in Europe on the eve of a world famine.

When the only train that links Russia with her western allies clanged into Karungi I found a raw little hamlet of half a hundred houses, three shops, a bank, and a moving picture theater. Imagine, almost in the Arctic circle!

From a frost bound carriage 26 pioneer travelers descended fur clad for the coming sledge journey.

Five hundred porters, Norwegians, Lapps and Russians, all wearing huge fur boots and pointed caps, swarmed about mail vans and freight cars. Finnish women in wadded winter dress swept the station platform for the "highborn."

In slow, shy phrases, one who spoke Swedish advised the three women to seek shelter.

"It will take four hours to load the sledges. God did not create hurry," said the Finnish woman. Diffident, but determined she indicated a warm resting place.

Southward for a thousand miles stretched snow covered Sweden, northward Lapland and the Arctic circle. The sky was curtained with drifting snow. The railway station was a mere shed, the wooden hamlet hardly a month old.

Tiny Karungi is a boom town of war.

Grateful and philosophical we accepted the offered hospitality. Only a chimneyless cot banked with snow, its low door protected from drifts by a wigwag of fir poles, a single room dimly lighted by two tiny frosted windows, the brick stove half filling the floor space.

But neat mats of pine tips made the air aromatic and from the rafters a snow baby bagged in white fur hung amid garlands of "ragbrod" (black bread) and "reustek" (smoked reindeer meat).

Primitive and pitifully poor the little hut was a home.



In the picture above a Lapland woman is shown milking a reindeer. The reindeer furnishes food and drink to the Lapp for he drinks the milk and eats it made into cheese.

Since floating mines have made the Baltic Sea unsafe Russia's only link with the western world is the railroad through Finland to northern Sweden. But from the Finnish border there is a gap in the connections of some 30 miles to the Swedish railroad at Karungi. To bridge this gap the Russian government is using sledges drawn by Lapland reindeer transport freight and mails.

It is at Karungi that the Swedish railroad stops and one must travel 40 versts (a verst is two thirds of a mile) to Tornea in Finland where you can connect with the Russian railroads.

The trip must be made by sledge and the Russian government have brought down Lappers from the north who transport freight and mails from Karungi to Tornea in sledges drawn by reindeer. This is how Russia baffled Berlin and kept from being cut off from the world.

For the use of his services, sledge and reindeer each man is paid two roubles (\$1.00) a day.

After four hours stay in Karungi I was wrapped in furs, ready to be whirled to Tornea, and a railroad to Petrograd.

Across a frozen lake, through fir forests, and along the most notable road in the world today I must travel in a sledge drawn by reindeer—through living pictures from Klim.

In another story I will tell you of that journey.

SURMISE OVER SINKING OF U-29

BERLIN, via London, April 8.—

The press of the capital is virtually unanimous in declaring the fact that the British admiral has not made public details of the sinking of the submarine U-29 looks "highly suspicious." The Tages Zeitung says that although the British made their first report regarding the submarine on March 26, nothing has been given out as to the time, place or manner of its sinking. The paper believes this probably is because the methods employed by the British were "reprehensible" and adds:

"We can imagine no other reason for this delay than that the British vessels surprised the U-29 while it was rescuing the crew of a steamer."

WILLARD HAILED BY FLORIDA CROWD AS CONQUERING HERO

DAYTONA, Fla., April 8.—Jess Willard, the new heavyweight champion, continued northward today on his journey to New York with throngs of curious and excited persons flocking to each hamlet and village along the Florida route to greet him.

Whether the train was scheduled to stop seemed to make no difference—the stations were crowded and the roads blocked with automobiles, wagons and carriages of many who had come miles to catch a glimpse of him.

Wherever the train stopped the car in which Willard rode was stormed by scores, who tried to enter to shake his hand. In nearly every instance spectators outside demanded a speech. Willard tried to meet all demands, with the result that he was extremely busy every time the train stopped.

Just before the train left Key West the engineer, an elderly man, came to Willard's car and introduced himself, saying:

"Mr. Willard, I want to congratulate you. I am proud to shake your hand. I have hailed several presidents over this line in my time, and never took the trouble to shake their hands, but I'm mighty glad of this opportunity."

At another station where there was some delay Willard got off and walked up and down the platform.

TRAWLER ZARINA BLOWN UP AT SEA

LONDON, April 8, 6:20 p. m.—The Grimshy trawler Zarina was blown up in the North sea today. It is feared that the nine men on the trawler were either killed by the explosion or drowned.

It is unknown whether the Zarina was destroyed by a mine or a submarine.

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C. E. GATES

News From Our Neighbors

WILLOW SPRINGS

Mr. Lange of Central Point is out every day doing his spring plowing on his fifty-acre ranch.

Mesdames Norwood and Blackburn were callers at Scenic Heights orchard Tuesday.

Mrs. C. A. Cochran has been seriously ill for the past week.

Mrs. Byerly was in Medford on business Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Taylor took advantage of the inclement weather and enjoyed Saturday at the Williams dairy.

Merritt Hoagland purchased a fine piano this week and is now in search of an attractive music teacher.

Mr. Davis and sons have been busy hauling hay and grain to the Ray ranch the past few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Johnston of Sanburn, N. Y., on their return trip from the California fairs, visited Mr. and Mrs. Frank Thompson, the latter part of the week. Mr. Johnston was an old schoolmate of Mr. Thompson's.

Several parties were in this vicinity Saturday gathering greenery for the decoration of the various churches for the Easter services.

J. W. Elden returned from his home in the east after remaining several weeks.

Will Clarke returned from Seattle Wednesday morning.

The Mesdames R. W. Elden and Davis were hostesses to the Parent-Teachers' club Saturday afternoon. Mrs. J. W. Elden read a selection from "Aunt Jane of Kentucky," and was greatly enjoyed. Easter cards were used for place cards and small yellow chickens decorated the ice cream.

During the business meeting the members voted to purchase a valley hall for the school children. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. W. D. Clarke and it will be the annual election of officers, and all members are requested to be present.

The program for the grange on Saturday, April 10, will be as follows: Music, arranged by Miss Ethel Dean; reading, Mrs. Birkholz; "Home Economics," paper, "How to reduce the cost of living by raising poultry and other livestock so as to be able to dispense with the butcher," by Mrs. R. W. Elden; solo, to be announced; paper, "Silos and Ensilage"; reading, Miss Pickard; musical selections to be announced; discussion on silos, Messrs. Thompson, Dean, Palmer, J. W. Elden and Mrs. McKee; closing song; refreshments.

EDEN PRECINCT

Among the many pleasant times that the Phoenix ladies have had since they have been meeting at the different homes was a surprise breakfast upon Mrs. Joe Rader Wednesday morning, April 7, the occasion being both Mr. and Mrs. Rader's wedding anniversary and Mrs. Rader's birthday.

The ladies have been giving birthday surprises, especially among the Aid members, for the past two years or so, but the one given Wednesday morning was surely the most complete, and one among the most pleasant. The affair was turned into an all-day gathering by request of the host, and the husbands were invited to come in the evening, when a dinner was served. To say that all had a most enjoyable time is expressing it mildly. All remained until a late hour and when they departed wished the host and hostess many returns of the happy occasion.

FLOUNCE ROCK FRILLS

Easter Sunday being rainy, the picnic on the river was postponed. The preceding Sunday the young people from Prospect and vicinity went to Middle Fork on a picnic.

Miss Ida Lytle returned Thursday from Prospect, where she had been visiting friends. While at Mr. Grives she became quite ill and her mother went up Tuesday to care for her.

James Emby went to Medford last week to have some dental work done.

Mrs. Julia Higinbotham and three daughters spent Easter with Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hollenback at Red Bluff.

Will Mansfield had the misfortune to run several nails quite deeply into his foot.

Frank and Hobart Ditsworth, Mrs. Guy Cobley and Mrs. Carl Richardson and son ate Easter dinner with Violet Vaughan.

Margery Eskine spent from Friday to Sunday at home.

John Higinbotham and family and Bert Higinbotham spent Easter with their father, T. B. Higinbotham.

Miss Clara Caster is visiting with her sister, Mrs. Ed Higinbotham.

Miss Ted Manning is staying with Mrs. Mansfield for a few weeks. Jas. Payton also has a steady job there. The pupils and teacher of the Landerhurst school had an egg dinner on Good Friday.

Mrs. Mansfield spent several days of last week in Medford.

Robert Gordon is transacting business in the valley.

GRIFFIN CREEK

Mrs. Ira Goodpasture returned to California last week after a several months' stay in the neighborhood. Several from here attended the social at Oak Grove last week. They report an enjoyable time.

Rev. Charles Hoxie returned to his home at Wilderville Friday after a several days' visit with friends here.

Mrs. J. W. Bonar has returned from a visit with Ashland friends.

Owing to rainy weather the girls' basketball team did not play Oak Grove, as planned. The spelling and cyphering contests were held, with honors divided.

Mr. and Mrs. McDaniel were visitors in Medford Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Darby had as Sunday guests Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Wilson and Mr. and Mrs. John Darby.

William Fields left Monday morning for a visit to the northern and eastern parts of the state.

Miss Hattie is at home again for a several weeks' stay.

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Bonar and daughter were guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Fisk Sunday.

The Test of Actual Service

Letters from motorists everywhere on the Coast tell of the good service they are getting from Zerolene. All makes and sizes of gas cars are mentioned. All sorts of road and working conditions are recounted.

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