## A.R. WILLITS KILLED IN LOCAL FIRE

Medford Business Man Is In-Falls in Page Theatre Fire-Fire Chief Injured-Playhouse Is Completely Destroyed By Blaze.

As a result of a spectacular fire, which originated from an unknown cause and which was practically in full blast when first discovered, the Page theater was completely gutted Sunday, and Amos R. Willits, volunteer fireman and popular young business man and partner in the Presto-Lite Battery Service and Electrical Supplies Station, was instantly killed and Fire Chief Roy Elliott was badly injured, when the stage fire wall collapsed and fell on them.

Amos Willits was 33 years old and

lapsed and fell on them.

Amos Willits was 39 years old and leaves a wife and son, Billy, about one year and a half old. He was of exceptionally pleasing character and disposition, and his tragic end is mourned by a wide number of friends, while the sympathy of the entire com-nunity goes out to the widow. The funeral services will be held

kota, to attend the funeral.

Estimate Loss \$100,000

The loss on the building and its equipment is about \$100,000, in the neighborhood of \$50,000 each on the building and its contents. It is understood that the building, which is stood that the building, which is owned by the Dr. Frederick Page corporation, is fully insured, but that the George A. Hunt Theater company, which held the lease on the Page, is not anywhere near fully insured. The Hunt company owned the seats, scenery, pipe organ, film machine and other equipment.

Manager George Hunt, because of

Manager George Hunt, because of all office records having been de-stroyed in the fire, and the absence of R. S. Antie of the company in Pasadena, Calif., where he recently went to spend the winter, has as yet been unable to get an exact line on the loss suffered by the company, or to ascertain the exact amount of insur-

He estimates the loss at about \$40,-

The film of Potash and Perlmutter. valued at \$3500 was taken to the ex-press office after the performance Saturday night, and as the film "Six Days" did not arrive until after the

fire, there was no loss as far as films are concerned. When the attaches left the building When the attaches left the building at the close of the last picture show about midnight Saturday night there was no sign of fire. About 5 o'clock Sunday morning John B. Palmer and George Corum, who were en route for a duck hunt, when driving past the building saw smoke and flames pouring from the east end of the front of the structure. They drove at once to the city hall and gave the alarm. About the same time the father of About the same time the father of Frank Gerdes, the restaurant man, discovered the fire, and gave the

The fire department, which hurried

that the fire was all out and that there was no further free danger from the smoldering ruins on the inside. Fire Chief Roy Elliott and his close friend, Amos Willits, who had responded with the other control of the control of the

(Continued on Page Eight)

#### 2 Oregon Bank Yeggs Plead Guilty, Get 20 Years in Pen

EUGENE, Ore., Dec. 31.-Tom Murray and Eddie Walker, ared guilty today to holding up the 4 Lane County State and Savings 4 bank at Florence, Ore., and were sentenced to twenty years in prison by Circuit Judge Skip- 4 worth. They were taken at once + to the penitentiary at Salem. An + attempt to escape the jail by cut- ting the bars of their cell, discovstantly Killed When Wall \* ered yesterday, accelerated this \*

## BLIZZARD AND **COLD SNAP HITS** NORTH OF STATE

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 31.-Light snowfall last night with whistling wind gave Portland a blizzard but the snow ceased before enough had accu mulated on the ground to produce drifts. Sub-zero temperatures prevailed throughout the state with temperatures ranging from eight above a Baker to 32 above at Roseburg. Portland's minimum was 19, Umatilla' 11, Eugene and Albany both reported The funeral services will be need 11, Eligene and Albany both reported Thursday at 2 p. m., at the Perl Funeral 2; and Salem 20. The forecast was for occasional snow tonight, with fair and occasional snow tonight, with fair and continued cold tomorrow. The sun was shining here this morning. brother occasional snow tonight, with fair and orth Da- continued cold tomorrow. The sun was

> ASTORIA, Ore., Dec. 31.-inches of snow fell here Sunday. The sky cleared last night, an east wind brought the temperature down to 22. snow fell at North Head, Wash, Snow is deep in the coast range in this vicinity.

of snow five inches thick, the first snow of the winter, lay over the Wil- few nights ago. lamette valley this morning. temperature stood at 18 above, the coldest of the season.

PENDLETON, Ore., Dec. 31.-The official weather report shows a seven found in a room of the Garfield inch snowfall at Pendleton with a minimum temperature of nine above zero. Unofficial reports from the hills to the north of the city show thermonther was a seven found in a room of the Garfield school burned. Police to the north of the city show thermonther schools in the city. 000, and only partially covered by in- to the north of the city show thermometer readings below zero.

> SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 31.—Rain which began in the early morning hours, continued through noon and promised to give this city oral weeks ago of the grammar a wet New Year's eve, bringing to a at Esprto. 15 miles from here,

# **3 BANK ROBBERS**

The fire department, which hurried to the scene, after blowing a general fire alarm, however faced a hopeless task in trying to quell the flames, but nevertheless poured streams of water from hose lines, through the doors and windows of the big structure until after several hours the interior had burned itself out.

There was little danger to other buildings as there was no breeze and a heavy fog was on, and because the burning building stood isolated on the west bank of Bear Creek at the edge of the business section.

For the purpose of making surthant the fire was all out and that there was no further fire danger from there was no further fire danger from the colland framework.

There was all out and that the fire was all out and that there was no further fire danger from the collenge true the prisoners could have obtained the saw was through trustles or a woman there was no further fire danger from the visited them last week.

For the purpose of making surthant the fire was all out and that there was no further fire danger from the collenge true the prisoners could have obtained the saw was through trustles or a woman the prisoner further the fire was all out and that there was no further fire danger from the prisoner of th

REYNA BELASCO, HURT

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—Reyna Belasco, eleven year old daughter of Walter Belasco of this city and niece Fire the the symbol of the character of the character of the columner fire department, when the volunteer fire department, when the volunteer fire department, when the general alarm had been sounded, the general alarm had been sounded, was fatally injured tonight by an aubegan a tour of inspection about 10 began a tour of inspection about 10 tomobile driven by James R. Mason, was arrested a bond broker. Mason was arrested on a charge of manslaughter.

### SPOKANE CLUB WOMAN WOULD MAKE LEAP YEAR A PERMAMENT AFFAIR

#### NOW A MASS OF RUINS



Above is shown the Page Theatre, the best and most modern playhouse in southern Oregon, which was completely gutted by fire early Sunday morning at a loss estimated at \$100,000, partially covered by insurance. The origin of the fire is still a mystery, but it undoubtedly started in the normeast corner

## MANY INJURED IN CALIFORNIA SCHOOL

score firemen were injured, one perhaps fatally, in a fire of supposedly incendiary origin which destroyed the Cole grammar school here today with a loss estimated at \$100,000. It was the second school fire of possible SALEM, Ore., Dec. 31.—A blanket a week's time, the Lincoln school in Alameda City being burned down a

> William Thrasher, truck No. 3 was the most seriously injured fireman. He and a number of his companions were caught beneath a falling wall.
> Two men were injured.
> A bunch of ell-scaked rags was

WOODLAND, Cal., Dec. 31 .- A fire supposedly incendiary origin de-stroyed the Woodland high school to-day with a loss estimated at \$30,000. The fire followed the destruction several weeks ago of the grammar school

a wet New Years eve, fringing to a at Eaprto, 16 miles from here, by a close the dryest December the state fire which also gave evidence of hav-has experienced since 1917.

C DAMI/ DODDEDO

O DAMI/ DODDEDO

O DAMI/ DODDEDO

A Eaprto, 16 miles from here, by a close second story of the building and dis-appear. Later firemen said that appear. Later firemen said there was a strong odor of keroser the second story during the stages of the fire.

# JAIL IN EUGENE CANNERY PACK IN

glutted condition of the market for these canned fruits early in the year account for the greater part of the shortage.

The pack of strawberries, 117,939 cases for 1923, was nearly double that of last year. The royal anne cherry and prune packs were also nearly twice that of 1922.

Grade Exam. Papers, Salem SALEM, Ore., Dec. 31.—County chool superintendents of the state met here today to grade papers sub-mitted by the teachers of the state mitted by the teachers of the state following the state teachers' examinations two weeks ago. Most of the week will be required for the reading The superintendents will also hold their annual convention while here.

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#### Postmaster's Health Much Improved By Raise in Salary

The chief prescription today for e Postmaster James E. Power, who is ill with influenza was written on a postoffice book-keeping slip and read that his salary was to be raised from \$6000 to \$8000 a year as a result + of the San Francisco postoffice

of the San Francisco postoffice passing the \$7,000,000 a year \$\displaystyle mork in receipts this year. \$\displaystyle mork in receipts this year. \$\displaystyle mork in receipts this year. \$\displaystyle mork figure placed the post \$\displaystyle office in the same class with \$\displaystyle New York, Boston, Philadelphia \$\displaystyle office in the playstyle office in the same class \$\displaystyle of Mr. Power's condition is re-

## CONVICTS IN DARING ESCAPE

most sensational jail delivery in the history of the Atlanta federal prison four convicts, one a partner of Gerald Chapman, million dollar mail bandit were at liberty today after having wormed their way through a narrow tunnel under the fifty foot concret wall encircling the prison, late yes terday. Of the quartet the most no-torious of the fugitives is George An-derson, who was serving a 25 year sentence for participation in the \$1.000,000 New York mail delivery for which Chapman was convicted. Anderson was thought to have engineered the escape.

Three of the men were thought to Three of the men were thought to-day to be hiding near Macon, Ga.
Prison officials believe Anderson will attempt to make his way east. With Anderson were Hiram Lepper, 50 years of age, sentenced in Balti-more in 1915 for fifteen years; Lud-wig Schmidt, a German sallor, senwig Schmidt, a German sallor, sen-tenced in Rochester, New York, fif-teen years for mall robbery, and Frank Haynes, sentenced in Chatta-nooga, Tenn., for eighteen months.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 31.—Ludwig Schmidt, the German sailor, who escaped from the Atlanta, Ga., prison yesterday with three others, was one of three bandits who robbed a mail truck of \$300,000 in negotiable paper at Niagara Falls, N. Y., on April 19.

#### STATE POULTRY CROP GETS ENOUGH NAMES

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec.

# SALEM IS FLOODED

Ore., Dec. 31,-For reason that today is the final day for making initial applications for the ex-service men's cash bonus under the state bonus and loan act, the ex-ser-

tions for loans may be made up to and San Antonio. Including June 30, 1927, which also the last date for filing a final application for the loan. Both applications for the loan may be filed at any time prior to that date. In the initial application the applicant designates with

ing to \$4,635,977.22. Loans paid total

# FATTY ARBUCKLE IS

sen-fif- The divorce will become absolute size and months from today.

#### Death Toll of the Automobile

SANTA BARBARA, Calif., Dec. 31

-Major George W. Fishback, formely in the United States diplomatic se vice in South America, and his wife were instantly killed near this city today when their automobile was de-molished by a Southern Pacific train. The couple were in a closed car and were driving toward this city from

their suburban home. Mrs. Fishback was at the wheel while the punjor wa on the back seat. The car ran onto a crossing of the main line of the railroad just as the fast northbound passenger train reached it. The couple came here from San Jose, Cal.

#### Local Phone Rate Increase Is Held Up for Sixty Days

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 31.-The state public service commission + this afternoon ordered suspended for sixty days the proposed in- crease in rates of the Home Tel- ◆
 ephone and Telegraph company ◆ of Southern Oregon pending an ◆ investigation and hearing. The ◆ + date of the hearing has not been 4

The increased rates would oth- & ◆ erwise have gone into effect to ◆
 ◆ morrow.

# U. S. A. ACTION

La Huerta faction in Mexico today filed' with the state department a active steps to being about the capformal protest against the plan of the ture of the brigands and the libera-United States to sell war materials to tion of Mrs. Kilen. The Chinese govthe Mexico City government of Gen- ernment has offered a bounty for the

ral Obregon.

The protest was signed by the De leader.

The protest was signed by the De leader.

The three missionaries are La Huerta confidential agent at New

the state department.

war department officials continued

The exact quantity of material to be sold has not been revealed but it thoows, a station about forty miles from Likwankia and a little further from Thaoyang, the station most remained in the continuity railed, abandoned their establishment and sought safety in a larger time prior to that date. In the initial application the applicant designates nection with an assertion by representatives of the De La Heerta faction farm property, but if he desires to change from one to the other, a final application is necessary.

Some ex-service men are refunding cash benuses previously paid so that the Collection in the Washington in the Washington of these have been approved.

Total applications received up to detrakes not to dispatch by gift, sale and including December 29, were 33, or other mode of transfer any vessel.

change from one to the other, a final application is necessary.

Some ex-service men are refunding cash benusces previously paid so that they may apply for loans. About 256 of these have been approved.

Total applications received up to and including December 29, were 35, and including December 29, were 35, and including December 29, were 35, and including December 21,250 are cash bonuses that have been paid, amounting to \$4.655.97.722. Loans paid total response a vessel of war in the offering of actual physical violence to Professor and Mys. Hoff.

The contracting powers undertakes not to dispatch by gift, sale of the professor and mys. Hoff.

The contracting powers undertakes not to dispatch by gift, sale of the professor and mys. Hoff.

The contracting powers undertakes approximately \$5 miles from Likewankia. Taso Yang is approximately \$5 miles from Likewankia. Taso Yang is approximately \$6 miles from Likewankia. Tas navy of any foreign power."

### have of any foreign power." As27, announting to \$12,237,300. Beneficiaries have paid back on interest \$331,234.71 and on principal \$268,972.18, or total repayments of \$600,296.94. HUSBAND'S LIFE

BACRAMENTO, Cal., Dec. 31.—
PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 31.—
Minth E, Arbuckle, wife of Roscoe (Fatty) C. Arbuckle, was granted a divorce in the superior court here today. The case was heard before today. The case was heard before today as the fundand, who consists and was granted on the ground of neglect to provide and desertion. The divorce will become absolute six months from today.

BACRAMENTO, Cal., Dec. 31.—
Governor Pierce returned to his office today, feeling encouraged over the market outlook for beef cattle. The governor said there is no doubt that the market is starting an up-ward trend and that the beef cattle. Mrs. Kels informed the governor of her belief that her husband, who considered the murder of an itinerant worker at Lodi, September last, was insane.

Arizona Defeats Colorado SACRAMENTO, Cal., Dec. 31.-

# ARE TAKEN

Mrs. Julia Kilen Is Captured and Professor and Mrs. Hoff Wounded in Raid By Chinese Bandits On Siang Yangfu-Victims Are U. S. Missionaries-U. S. Consul Protests

PEKING Dec. 31 .- Followers of he notorious bandit leader, Lao Yoaen captured an American missionary, drs. Julia Kilen and wounded Professor Bernhard Hoff and Mrs. Hoff in a raid upon the town of Isao Yang, in northern Hupeh province near the border town of Sinng Yangfu, according to advices received here today.

capture, dead or alive, of the bandit

sentatives of the Church of the Luth York.

The Obregon authorities alone are and were conducting a mission at Teao recognized by the United States in Yang when the town was raided, this dealing with Mexico and there Warned of activities of the bandits in this dealing with Mexico and there
was no indication what consideration the vicinity, they had vacated their
the communication would receive at
the state department.

WASHINGTON Doc. 21—State and
WASHINGTON Doc. 21—State and been suppressed they returned to the mission.

war department officials continued the state bonus and loan act, the ex-service men's state aid commission has an exceedingly heavy mail today.

The fact that today is the final day for this class of benefits under the act does not har those ex-service men whose letters asking for application blanks are on file with the department, though the actual application may not have been received. In such cases the bonus may be paid at any time.

It is explained that initial applications for loans may be made up to and including June 30, 1927, which also is the last date for filing a final applications. The exact quantity of material to the Obregon government of Mexico.

Secretary Hughes discussed the subject with Secretary Veelts who said afterward that several points remained the southwestern line of Honan proventies. It was his band which last November raided the town of Likwan-commanding June 30, 1927, which also is the last date for filing a final applications today over details of their consultations today over details of the plan to sell a quantity of equality of the plan to sell a quantity of equality of the plan to sell a quantity of extent of the plan to sell a quantity of equality of the plan to sell a quantity of equality of the plan to sell a quantity of equality of the plan to sell a quantity of equality of the plan to sell a quantity of equality of the plan to sell a quantity of equality of the plan to sell a quantity of equality of the plan to sell a quantity of equality of the plan to sell a quantity of details of the plan to sell a quantity of equality of the plan to sell a quantity of equality of the plan to sell a quantity of equality of the plan to sell a quantity of equality of the plan to sell a quantity of equality of the plan to the Obregon government of Mexico.

Secretary Hughes discussed the subject with Secretary Weeks who said afterward that several points remain the eastern border of Hughe province. It was his band which last November raided the town of Likwan-cases the bonus may be paid at

#### PIERCE IS ENCOURAGED BY CATTLE OUTLOOK

trip to his Union county cattle ranch Governor Pierce returned to his of-

No statement was forthcoming from the governor after the interview, but The University of Arizona's polo team

the governor after the interview, but it was understood that he informed Mrs. Kels that any proof of her claims of insanity in the part of her husband should be presented to Warden J. Smith of Folsom prison.

The University of Arizona's polo team is strongly favored for the southwestern intelcollegiate polo championship today as the result of an easy 10 to 0 victory over the Colorado Agricultural college team here Saturday.

### FRENCH DIVERS TO SEE IF THEY CAN FIND LOST AIRSHIP AT BOTTOM OF SEA

SPOKANE. Wash. Dec. 31.— life without marrying is that they are before tight man," Mrs. Barnhart said; theoretically hers during 1924, should be accorded her in fact, not only during leap year but at all times, Mrs. Barnhart president of the Spokane Women's club, declares in answspaper interview today.

W. E. Barnhart, president of the Spokane Women's club, declares in answspaper interview today.

"The reason many girls who would up wonderful homes go through."

"The reason many girls who would up wonderful homes go through."

SPOKANE. Wash. Dec. 31.— life without marrying is that they are duday it has been ducers announced today it has been auccessful in its dryle to received under the commander beyond a doubt whether the distribute diving operation of the spot declared in list dryle to received under the promator of the same to the press.

The polityrprom of Oregon and successful in its dryle to received under the determines to the same the right to propose the full beyond a doubt whether the distribute diving operation.

Store to Close

By agreement of the Medior stores will beyond a doubt whether the airship then week the beyond a doubt whether the airship then whether the airship then whether the airship then whether

PARIS. Dec. 31.—(By the Asso-| mander of the lost airship Dixmude, clated Uress)—As soon as the gale off was brought to Falermo today accompanied by a guard of honor. It the coast of Sicily abates, the French authorities will institute diving operations of the lost airship Dixmude, was brought to Falermo today accompanied by a guard of honor. It will be sent to France tomorrow. The authorities will institute diving operations.