

FEWER APPLES IN NORTHWEST DEC. 1 THAN LAST YEAR

WENATCHEE, Wash., Dec. 19.—(AP)—Apples held in storage in the Pacific northwest were considerably less in volume on Dec. 1 than they were a year ago, reports received by the Wenatchee Valley Traffic association revealed. Apple holdings in the Wenatchee district are only slightly less, being 6882 cars compared with 6931 a year ago. The Yakima storage holdings, however, are more than 900 cars less and storage holdings in Walla Walla, Spokane, Hood River and western Oregon points are also much smaller. Yakima holdings on December 1 included 7921 cars compared with 7974 cars on Dec. 1, 1928; 6948 cars in 1927; 6242 cars in 1926; and 7162 in 1925.

The holdings in the Wenatchee-Okanogan district for the past five years have been as follows: 6382 cars in 1925 to Dec. 1; 6931 in 1926; 5217 in 1927; 4389 in 1928 and 4232 in 1929. Total fruit shipments from the local district this season to December 5 were 13,976 cars, compared with 16,717 cars last year, 11,991 two years ago and 14,923 cars three years ago.

Hood River has shipped 646 cars of apples this season to December 5 and 424 cars of pears. Rogue River has shipped 437 cars of apples for the same period and 3663 cars of pears.

Total fruit shipments from the Yakima district this season to December 5 were 11,792 cars compared with 16,944 cars to the same date last year, 8252 two years ago and 14,923 cars three years ago.

Pear shipments from the local district this season to December 5 were 891 cars, compared with 1192 cars last year. Yakima shipped 2375 cars of pears this season to December 5, compared to 2777 cars last year.

DOUGLAS SENDS OUT BIG TURK SHIPMENT
ROSEBURG, Ore.—(AP) The largest shipments of turkeys ever to be moved from the Umpqua valley were sent out the week of December 11-17. The Douglas County Turkey Growers association loaded more than three carloads during the first half of the week.

Some of the pool birds are sold on consignment while other cars went at prices varying from 28 to 32 cents. After all returns are in the average prices will be established and the growers will receive a further payment. The turkeys are of exceptional quality, running nearly 70 percent prime grade.

CROSS STATE LINE NEEDED DECLARES PORTLAND C. OF C.

PORTLAND, Dec. 19.—(AP)—Declaring that "public interests will be served by compliance with the order" of the interstate commerce commission in ordering the Union Pacific railroad to construct the Crane to Crescent Lake cross-state railroad, Raymond B. Wilcox, president of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, today in a formal statement reiterated the chamber's position on the situation.

"The Portland chamber of commerce," Mr. Wilcox said, "has been interested from the inception of the idea, in the construction of an east-west road across Central Oregon, which the inter-state commerce commission has now ordered built. I believe it is the overwhelming desire of this community that the Union Pacific railroad proceed with the execution of the commission's order, without the long delays consequent upon a test of the commission's authority to issue such an order."

LODGE BROTHERS CONTINUE SEARCH

ST. HELENS, Ore., Dec. 19.—(AP) Lodge member friends of R. H. Dehn and C. G. Scarberg, St. Helens business men, lost 10 days in the wild of Clark county, Washington, today announced plans for a new search of the Siousson river country for the men who have been given up by others as dead.

Dehn and Scarberg disappeared a week ago last Sunday when they went into the Clark county country to inspect a mining claim. Dehn's automobile was found where the pair left it alongside a highway.

At one time more than 100 men beat the brush of Clark county. SEATTLE, Dec. 19.—(AP) Thomas Gittins, Seattle business man who disappeared several months ago, died in a lonely trapper's cabin near Kennedy lake on Vancouver island and was buried there December 13, a telephone message from Vancouver island to Mrs. Gittins revealed today.

Sentence Klamath Men.
PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 19.—(AP) Ray Eades, 33, and John Wright, 21, both of Klamath Falls, pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing an automobile and today were sentenced to one year each in the county jail.

The Secret of Mohawk Pond

By Natalie Sumner Lincoln

SYNOPSIS: An ironic fate brought Lena, Edgar Stanton to his death at the hand of Peggy Prescott, related by marriage to Anne Sinclair Basile, with whose love she trifled. Peggy makes this discovery with the aid of Julia and an old Bible, proving Stanton was the treacherous lover of the sister of Goum, Jamieson Sinclair, named to inherit Herbert Prescott's estate if Peggy forfeits her rights. Philander Chase, executor of Prescott's will, visits Peggy to tell her that of the estate left by her uncle, only Yew Lodge remains.

CHAPTER 21.

HER HOUR OF CARDS

THE shock of the news stunned Peggy and Philander Chase looked at her sympathetically. Her fortune vanished or at least that part of it with which she had planned to make her father and mother happy in their declining years.

A moment of silence and then Peggy looked up, anxious for further details.

"When did you discover this, Mr. Chase?"

"When I was making an appraisal of the estate for my report to the probate court. So that you will understand, perhaps I better start at the beginning.

"As I told you when I saw you in New York, your uncle was a very wealthy man. When he retired, he placed a small fortune in building and furnishing this place. After it was built, he turned all other real estate holdings into negotiable securities. These he put into a lock box in his vault in the Guarantee Trust company in New York. I was not only present but an official of the bank, the vice-president to be exact, was present also.

"Well?" questioned Peggy; her throat felt dry and parched. "Go on, please."

"Prescott's fortune was estimated, then, and we have a list of the securities, at more than \$1,000,000.

"Thursday, in the presence of an official from the registrar of wills' office and the vice-president of the bank, I opened the safe deposit box and found not one security—not so much as a dime."

Peggy eyed Chase in despair. "But," she exclaimed, "Uncle must have put the securities in another box."

"His will, Miss Prescott, states that in that box would be found all his earthly possessions," broke in Chase, "and the will, remember, was drawn up two months before his death."

"But then, someone must have broken into the box—gained access to it in some way—by trickery—forgery," as Chase shook his head. "Utterly impossible," he declared, with disheartening firmness. "A thief could as well break into the Rock of Gibraltar as get into a safe deposit box in the vaults of that company. Besides," he paused and took an envelope from his pocket; from it he withdrew a slip of paper. "This paper was lying in Prescott's box—all that it contained. Read it, Miss Prescott."

Peggy stared at her uncle's legible handwriting: "The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

She repeated the quotation in a hushed voice. "Oh, Mr. Chase, what does it mean?" she asked. "Was Uncle—?"

"Mad? I presume so." He looked at her pityingly. "I was most reluctant to tell you this—"

"Oh, but it was right to do so," quickly. "I—" she swallowed hard. "It's hard to comprehend."

"Surely; to have a fortune slip away," he sighed. "It's devilish tough, Miss Prescott."

Peggy closed her eyes; Chase must not, should not see the blinding tears. Oh, the man did not know how dreadful it was; her plans for her father—her invalid mother—and Jim, Chase's voice came to her from far off—what was that he was saying? Gammely, desperately, she pulled herself together.

claimed. "If I do, Jamieson Sinclair inherits Yew Lodge." Chase regarded her dubiously. "I believe any court would excuse your absence on such an errand," he explained patiently, "and that it would not invalidate your claim to the inheritance under the will, which, if your uncle was mad, would be set aside anyway."

Peggy stared at him. "And who would inherit then?" "Your uncle's next of kin—" "That's father," interrupted Peggy; she hesitated.

"You are sure the property would not go to Commander Sinclair if the will was set aside or broken?" "Quite sure; Sinclair is Prescott's wife's relative, and she predeceased her husband."

Chase rose with some abruptness. "However, before I send for you on Monday—and I'll phone the exact hour of the meeting that afternoon in time for you to reach the trust company—I will consult an eminent lawyer, E. H. Blair, regarding your uncle's will and ask if your absence for such a cause will jeopardize your inheritance. Now I must go."

"Can't you wait for supper? Julia, my maid, will be back shortly." "Your maid is out?"

Chase put the question with a quick, nervous twist of his head. He drew a step nearer, a queer gleam in his eyes.

"Miss Prescott, I—" Bang, went the knocker on the front door—a second time its imperative summons echoed through the house before Peggy recovered sufficiently from her surprise to answer it. Obadiah Evans faced her on the threshold.

"Howdy," he exclaimed heartily. "I've brought the milk and cream; sorry it didn't get here this morning but Jim and I were both away and Deborah forgot to remind Simon. Let me carry the pails to the kitchen; they're heavy."

And he stepped into the room. Peggy closed the front door and followed him toward the dining room.

"Wait, Mr. Evans," she exclaimed. "Have you met Mr. Philander Chase?"

Deliberately Obadiah transferred both pails to one hand before facing the other man. "I heard Mr. Prescott talk about you," he said, extending a huge hand, "and I know your brother; 'taint any doubt about you being twins," regarding Chase closely.

"Our mother had difficulty telling us apart." Chase rubbed his hands together, this time tenderly to feel his fingers which still felt the pressure of Obadiah's grip.

"I'll say she had," Obadiah chuckled. "We missed meeting at Phelps' Tavern last night."

Chase smiled wryly. "I'd have been wiser had I stayed there instead of trying to make Stone Tower; as it was I stopped overnight at Goshen and then missed Aquila this morning."

"Sure; he was down my way, so Debby said." Obadiah clicked the pails together. "Soon I'll put these in the kitchen, I'll take you back with me."

"But I must return to Stone Tower—" "It's bad going over Mohawk pass after last night's rain," broke in Obadiah, quickly. "Besides, Debby said your brother left word he'd be back."

"In that case," Chase turned to Peggy as Obadiah disappeared into the pantry; "I'll go with Mr. Evans. I'll get in touch with you without fail. Don't worry," he held her hand in a firm clasp, "and, above all, keep your own counsel."

The advice was given in little above a whisper and Obadiah failed to catch it on reentering the room. "I'm ready, now, Mr. Evans," and snatching up his hat Chase accompanied the farmer out of the front door.

Peggy watched them go, giving but a mechanical reply to Obadiah's last words, then closed the door. Half across the room, she stopped and picked up the slip of paper found in her uncle's safe deposit box.

LAWYERS FLAYED BY SALEM UNION

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 19.—(AP)—Members of Sheet Metal Workers' Local No. 681 of Salem, at a meeting last night, took cognizance of the Joseph-Mannix disbarment trials and expressed their opinion of lawyers in general by adopting the following resolution:

"The members of this union, residents and taxpayers of this city and state, most emphatically protest against the use of our state house building and the drafting of three members of the judiciary at the taxpayers' expense, to listen to and referee the attempt of one drone to drive another out of the beehive."

KLAMATH WANTS RAIL TERMINAL

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., Dec. 19.—(AP)—The Union Pacific railroad, which the interstate commerce commission ordered to construct a cross-state rail line from Crane to Crescent, will be invited to make this city its western terminus.

The invitation will be extended by the chamber of commerce. Klamath Falls had neither promoted or opposed the cross-state line.

Chamber directors argued it would be uneconomic for the Union Pacific to stop at Crescent lake when the Klamath Basin tonnage is available. The city, according to the directors, stands ready to co-operate.

KENO SITE SOUGHT FOR WATER POWER PLANT

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., Dec. 19.—(AP)—Plans for the Klamath irrigation district to procure a site on the Klamath river, near Keno, Ore., for the government for a power plant, were made known here yesterday.

MURDERER RESOLVES TO DISPLAY BRAVERY

SAN QUENTIN PRISON, Calif., Dec. 19.—(AP)—Mario Groce, 46, confessed slayer of his divorced wife in Mendocino county last December, resigned to his fate on the gallows, which he mounts Friday, said to Warden James B. Holohan: "If I must die, I will die bravely. He will be taken to the death cell today."

Echo.—Road from this city to Butter Creek will be improved immediately.

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COTTAGE GROVE VET GETS BELATED HONOR

COTTAGE GROVE, Ore.—(AP)—George W. Sweet, this city, has received a citation "for gallantry in action" 30 years after he had won it. Sweet is a veteran of the Spanish-American war. It was discovered by clerks in the war department and conferred on the veteran who did not know he won it.

PAISLEY BANK ROBBERS OVERLOOK RICH BOOTY

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., Dec. 19.—(AP)—Robbers broke open the vault in the Paisley bank at Paisley, Ore., early Sunday, escaped with \$64 and left \$2000 which was

lying in plain sight, it was learned here upon return of a private detective from the Lake county town. The robbers gained entrance by breaking a window.

LEGION SETS DATES BAKER CONVENTION

BAKER, Ore.—(AP) August 14, 16 and 16 have been set as the dates for the American Legion's 1930 convention which will be held here. The announcement followed a conference between S. S. George, department commander, and Carl H. Moser, department adjutant.

Report Highway Bill
WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—(AP)—The house roads committee today reported the Dowell bill to provide for an annual increase from \$75,000,000 to \$125,000,000 in the federal highway aid fund.

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