

WHISTLING WILLIE KNOCKED OUT BY TINY MEXICAN BOY

Fort Lewis, Wash., Dec. 28 (U.P.)—Whistling Willie—a 70-mm. Japanese howitzer—has checked in at Fort Lewis, along with the tale today of a heroic little soldier who jerked the fangs out of one of the fatal monsters.

The story comes from Sgt. Eugene Pruett, Boise, Idaho, a combat engineer veteran of Salamaua, Biak and Wakde on New Guinea. Pruett recently returned to the United States after three years in the southwest Pacific with the "northwest's own" 41st division.

"In the battle of Salamaua," Pruett recounted, "one of these guns had been shelling our perimeter. It caught a couple of jeeps and was zeroed in perfectly on our beach supply roads. The thing was shooting us to pieces.

Long Pole Used
"A little Mexican boy—I've forgotten his name, but it should be on a gold plaque—fastened a packet of dynamite on the end of a long bamboo pole. Creeping up the hill until he was near the emplacement, he lit the fuse and pushed the pole through an opening under the gun muzzle.

"There was not much time to hang around, but if he had stood up to run he would have drawn all the fire they had. So the kid just lay on his back and started rolling down the hill.

"About the time he reached the bottom," the sergeant concluded, "a terrific explosion sprayed him with dirt and pieces of Japs."

Whistling Willie—so called because of the peculiar whine of its shells—is one of a collection of enemy weapons on display at Fort Lewis. The exhibit is said to contain all known Jap light arms.

ASHLAND WOMAN TAKEN BY DEATH

Ashland, Dec. 28 — Funeral services are being held today in San Francisco for Mrs. Edna Ackley, formerly Edna Wells of Ashland, who passed away Christmas day at the home of her sister, Mrs. Catherine Cole, in San Francisco.

Mrs. Ackley was born in Ashland, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Wells, well-known pioneer family. She received her education in Ashland schools and was prominently identified with southern Oregon schools as a teacher. She served as superintendent of Klamath county schools for a time.

Mrs. Ackley was a member of D.A.R. and active in work of Eulalia chapter. She was affiliated with the Christian Science church.

Imported Wheat Is Put In Stockpiles, Spoilage Is Denied

Los Angeles, Dec. 28 (U.P.)—Two million bushels of Australian wheat have been imported into California during the last 12 years, it was disclosed today, but 700,000 bushels have been stored here in an outside stockpile because of lack of other warehouse facilities.

The 700,000 bushels have been piled into a stack 175 feet long and 75 feet high near a Los Angeles maling company plant but Harry A. Brickham, grain broker and consultant to the government, owner of the wheat, denied charges that the grain was spoiling.

"The wheat has a protective covering that will prevent any serious damage," Brickham explained, "although there will be some sprouting and a little mildew."

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X-TRA PROFITS IN EGGS
Today's record-breaking prices for eggs demand that you get the maximum production from your flock. For better results, feed Triangle X-TRA Egg Producer—a palatable, carefully built, balanced ration.
Your local feed dealer has a fresh supply.



Promoted By S. P.



Promotion of Carl E. Yeargain to district passenger agent Southern Pacific in charge of the Willamette valley with headquarters at Albany was made known today by J. A. Ormandy, general passenger agent, Portland. Yeargain who has seen 24 years' service with the Southern Pacific comes from San Francisco where for the past eight months he has been handling system passenger train service.

PIONEER WOMAN DIES IN ASHLAND

Ashland, Dec. 28—Mrs. Belle Dannels-Songer, one of Ashland's well-known pioneer women, a resident of this city for the past 80 years, passed away at her home December 26.

Mrs. Songer was born in Yreka, Calif., on January 10, 1862. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Dannels Slade crossed the plains in an early day coming to Yreka, where her father was one of the proprietors of its first newspaper. From here the family went to Centerville, Idaho, where her father died and later they came to Ashland to make their home.

On April 27, 1886, her marriage to Dr. S. T. Songer took place and during their residence here, they had prominent part in the upbuilding of the community.

Mrs. Songer formerly was a member of the O.E.S. and belongs to Hope Rebekah lodge. The deceased is survived by one son, Slade Songer, her husband having passed away December 25, 1931.

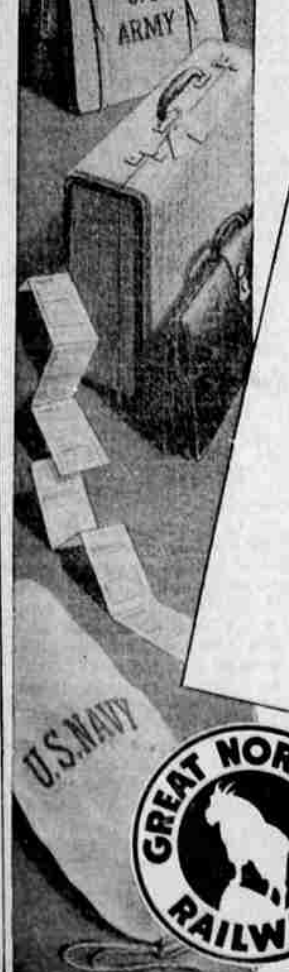
Funeral rites were held at Litwiller Chapel at 1:30 p. m. today.

Interment will be made in the family plot in Mountain View cemetery.

ASHLAND LEGION POST FAVORS HOME PURCHASE

Ashland, Dec. 28 — Ashland Legionnaires, in special meeting last night, voted unanimously in favor of purchasing the Minkler building as the future home of the Post, but, due to the fact that many had not inspected the building, no positive action was taken last night.

Instead the next regular meeting of the Post will be held in the Minkler building so that all can actually see and examine it, when it is hoped that a definite and final decision can be made.



THEY'RE WELCOME
It has been another trying year for railway travelers, military and civilian.
And, trying, too, for those who have faced across ticket counters an unprecedented demand for train accommodations.
Yet, the wartime travel problem Northern's passenger representatives. They are serving many old friends, and doing their level best to assist new patrons who must travel from the Pacific Northwest to Eastern points.
Old and new, they're welcome! As welcome as news of victories from our battlefronts!

C. L. BISCHOFF, Trav. Pass'r Agt.
530 American Bank Bldg., Beacon 7273
Portland 5, Oregon

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY
route of the **EMPIRE BUILDER**

Between PORTLAND • TACOMA • SEATTLE • SPOKANE
MINNEAPOLIS • ST. PAUL • CHICAGO

ARMY EMPLOYEES RECEIVE AWARDS

Capt. Leonard R. Appleton of the Medford Ordnance Service command shop, located at the fairgrounds, announced awards to three employees for suggestions made to the suggestion committee on civilian awards.

Harold E. DuMont was awarded \$125 for his suggestion of a tire flap washing machine. William G. Davis was given \$75 for his suggestion of a top bow and stake puller while James E. Bishop was awarded \$5 for his suggestion of a battery strap holder.

The "Ideas for Victory" is a program currently given a great deal of attention and encouragement since it is the medium through which suggestions may be made available to other government installations to speed up war progress to contribute to morale, health and safety.

ROXY ANN GIVEN FIRST SNOW CAP

Snow appeared for the first time this winter on the summit of Roxy Ann today. For several days Mt. Ashland's top has been white, giving hope the present storm would bring a snow blanket to the lower mountains. Up to this week there has been snow only on the higher range, and to no great depth, according to County Watermaster Clinton Smith.

Manager Ed Judd of the Medford irrigation district, reports the precipitation so far has been normal, and that heavy snows cannot be expected in the high hills until after mid-January. The heaviest falls come in February and March and provide irrigation water.

MAY UP GAS TAX

Sacramento, Calif., Dec. 28 (U.P.)—Hearings on the possibility of increasing the California state gasoline tax two cents a gallon will be held here starting Jan. 11, the senate fact-finding committee for highway revenue announced today.

Daily Weather Report

Forecasts
Medford and vicinity: Partly cloudy to cloudy with rain, showers tonight and Friday. Colder tonight and Friday.

Oregon: Intermittent rain tonight, but snow over and east of Cascades. Slightly colder in east and south portions tonight. Light showers Friday.

Local Data
Temperature a year ago today:
Highest, 49; lowest, 32.
Total monthly precipitation, .38 inch.
Deficiency for the month, 2.18 inches.
Total precipitation since September 1, 1944, 5.86 inches. Deficiency for the season, 1.19 inches.
Relative humidity at 4:30 p. m. yesterday, 49%; 4:30 today, 74%.

Forecast
Sunrise 8:39 a. m. Sunset 5:48 p. m.
Past 24 hours: High Low Prec.
Boise 41 35 .09
Boston 36 22 .14
Chicago 19 2 .—
Denver 39 13 .—
Eureka 54 45 1.03
Havre 21 4 .—
Los Angeles 61 47 .05
Medford 54 43 .01
New York 38 28 .098
Omaha 2 2 .—
Phoenix 64 .— .—
Portland 45 34 .35
Reno 52 40 .14
Salt Lake 41 25 Trace
San Francisco 40 31 .—
Seattle 52 43 .17
Spokane 29 27 Trace
Washington, D. C. 31 .34
Yakima 32 15 .—

Ration Calendar

Gasoline
Stamps No. 14 in A book valid through March 21 (4 gals. each).

Meats, Fats
Red stamps Q5 through S5 in ration book No. 4 valid, with no expiration date set. Each stamp worth 10 points. Next validation Dec. 31 (T5 through X5). Take used fats to your meat dealer. He will pay 4 cents and two red points for each pound.

Processed Foods
Blue stamps X5 through Z5, and A2 through B2 in ration book No. 4 valid, with no expiration date set. Each stamp worth 10 points. Next validation Jan. 1 (C2 through G2).

Sugar
Stamp No. 34 in book No. 4 valid, with no expiration date set (5 pounds).

Shoes
Airplane stamps Nos. 1, 2 and 3 in ration book No. 3 valid indefinitely if not detached from book (each good for one pair).

Fuel Oil
Period 4 and 5 coupons (1943-44 series) and new period 1 and 2 coupons (1944-45 series) valid through Aug. 31, 1945.

MEXICAN LABOR REQUEST FILED

A request for continuance of the present program providing for Mexican national farm labor for the Rogue river valley farms and orchards has been filed with the government for the year, County Agent Robert G. Fowler reports. No difficulty is anticipated. The past season approximately 600 Mexicans were engaged in local orchard work at the peak.

Signs now indicate the labor shortage on the farms and orchards will be worse than last year, due to many farm workers

being called into military service, the county agent says. Throughout the nation many deferments are scheduled for cancellations, it was further explained.

At the present time, approximately 160 Mexican nationals are working in valley orchards, principally in pruning.

Pvt. Cecil Clafin Serves With B-25 Crew in Corsica

At a 12th A. A. F. B-25 Base—Pvt. Cecil R. Clafin, 19, of Medford, Ore., has been assigned to a B-25 Mitchell bombardment group in Corsica, it is announced from headquarters of the 12th air force in Italy.

Now serving as an engineer

gunner, Pvt. Clafin went overseas in July, 1944. Before his induction into the army in July, 1943, he was employed as a mechanic at the Spokane army air depot, Spokane, Wash.

Pvt. Clafin's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Clafin, reside on route 1, Medford, Ore.

The Medford gunner's group, in action recently against road and rail targets in northern Italy, has played an important part in tactical air force operations in Italy since the allied landing at Salerno. It helped

blast German opposition at Cassino and Anzio, and in mid-August supported American assault troops in the successful battle for southern France.

Closing time for Sunday Too Late to Classify 5:30 Saturday afternoon—Please remember

MONEY TO LOAN!
On JEWELRY, CAMERAS and MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS. Used and unneeded jewelry at great savings.
PEOPLES LOAN CO.
229 1/2 E. Main Street
State License P-137

PENNEY'S PRE-INVENTORY CLEARAWAY

We're getting ready for year-end inventory—your chance to save on odds 'n ends, slightly soiled and shop worn items that we don't want to count—Shop Penney's this week.

What Values
Every Remaining
WINTER COAT
Cut Deeply to Clear
15.00 20.00
and
Out they go!—Over 100 beautiful Winter Coats. Chesters, fields, boxy boy coats, fitted princess styles. Some fur trimmed. We don't want to inventory them. Get your size early. Penney's Second Floor

GIRLS' WINTER COATS
Reduced!
5.00 10.00
Over twenty fine warm fleece Coats, lined and interlined—excellent values at regular prices and what a buy at these. Sizes 3 to 6 and 7 to 14.
Penney's Second Floor

Not Rationed!
Men's Sturdy WORK RUBBERS
1.00
Heavy sole, wide toe, heavy rubber uppers. We don't want to inventory them. Your chance to save. Sizes 6 to 11.
Penney's Main Floor



Odds and Ends
5 tables of odds and ends, slightly soiled, and shopworn merchandise reduced to a mere fraction of their former prices. Below are listed just a few of the many:

- Men's Work Slickers... 1.50
- Boys' Wash Pants 1.00
- Women's Handbags 50c
- Large Glass Tumblers... 5c
- Soiled Collars, Reduced 50c

Women's Leather
JACKETS 9.90
Repriced!
These came in too late. Regularly priced much higher. Fine smooth capekin mackinaw coats, belted, with large patch pockets. Fully lined. Tan and brown color. Sizes 12 to 20. What a value!
Penney's Second Floor

Slightly Soiled
INFANTS' DRESSES 2.00
Dainty little Batiste and Nainsook Dresses, embroidered and some with smocking. Reduced to clear.
Penney's Second Floor

Slightly Soiled
SOFA PILLOWS 1.50
Large plump pillows with bound edges. Rayon and Tapestry covered.—Penney's Balcony.

WOMEN'S WOOL SWEATERS
Slightly soiled all wool sweaters. Repriced to clear before inventory. Penney's Second Floor **2.00**

BETTER HANDBAGS
Out they go! At just a fraction of their former price. Lots of reds and greens. Your chance to save.—Penney's Main Floor. **1.00**

RAYON CREPE HOUSECOATS
Full sweeping skirts, Rayon floral prints. A real buy at this reduced price. Most all sizes.
Penney's Second Floor **5.00**

Repriced To Clear
DRESSES
That Must Go Before Inventory
2.00 3.00
You'll be amazed at these values. We must clear our racks for inventory. 3 large overflowing racks of beautiful Rayon Crepes, Velvets and Woolens at these ridiculously low prices.
Penney's Second Floor



Women's Rubbers
Reduced!
50c
Out they go! Not rationed! Top quality storm rubbers for women and misses. A real value! Stock up with your needs now.
Penney's Main Floor



MILLINERY
Lovely little felts drastically reduced before year-end inventory. Others reduced to 1.00 and 2.00.
Penney's Second Floor **50c**

FIREKING CASSEROLES
Large 1 1/2-quart Casserole for baking and serving. Two-piece set at a fraction of their regular price.—Penney's Main Floor. **25c**

A Clean Sweep
Women's Style
SHOES
2.77 3.77
Pumps, Ties, in medium and high heels. Drastically reduced for year-end clearance. Not all sizes, but every pair a whale of a bargain!
Penney's Main Floor



Women's Better Winter
SLACK SUITS
9.77 11.77
Smartly tailored, long sleeve, two-piece Slacks Suits in Rayon Gabardines and Flannels. A real buy at these reduced prices. Sizes 12 to 20.
Penney's Second Floor

WHAT YOU SAVE AT PENNEYS... SPEND WITH UNCLE SAM!