

MERRILL BLOCK WIPED OUT BY MORNING FIRE

Fire, starting at 3 o'clock this morning in the rear of Frazier's candy kitchen from unknown cause, wiped out the largest part of the opera house block at Merrill before finally brought under control by firemen.

The flames spread from the candy kitchen to the pool hall in the same building, thence to the opera house and along the street until checked by the fire fighters just short of the Merrill Mercantile company's store. The places wiped out were the pool room, owned by Frank Bloomingcamp, the Frazier candy kitchen, the opera house, owned by J. A. Houston of Klamath Falls and leased by Terwilliger & Patrick of this city, a small restaurant and the old building next to the Merrill Mercantile company, which was formerly Murphy's saloon.

The bank of Merrill, the postoffice and the White House store, on the opposite side of the street from the corner where the fire started, had plate glass windows which were all shattered by the intense heat, entailing a loss of about \$300 to each building.

The owners of the buildings which were destroyed were unable today to give an exact estimate of their loss. The Frazier confectionery estimated that its insurance was \$2500 short of actual loss in stock and fixtures. The opera house value is placed at \$5000. It is believed that all told the loss will reach \$15,000 or \$20,000, with comparatively light insurance.

The water pressure was good, otherwise the entire town would have been wiped out, it was stated today by Merrill business men. Only the ample supply of water and the skill of the fire department in applying it saved the Merrill Mercantile company, and the postoffice, bank and buildings adjoining were in serious danger. Had the flames leaped across the street and ignited them it was said that nothing could have saved the town from total destruction.

PERSONAL MENTION

E. R. King who has made his home in this city for the past nine years will leave in about a week for Wichita, Kansas, where he will engage in the manufacture of tools with relatives who are already established in this line of business.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Paul Johnson are spending the week in San Francisco on business and pleasure.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Jacobs and son, Rudolph, came in on last night's train from Alameda where Mrs. Jacobs and son have been spending the winter. They will make their home in the new residence recently purchased from H. H. Van Valkenburg at the corner of Pine and Cedar streets.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Beals who reside on the West side are happy over the arrival of a little son at their home this morning.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Miller this morning, a son.

The Rev. S. J. Chaney and family have moved from 727 Pine street to the new Methodist parsonage at 1005 High street. They got moved in yesterday and expect to be comfortably settled within a few days.

E. C. Ream who has recently returned from several months spent in California, came in from his ranch on the Merrill road today on business.

Mrs. J. W. Siemens left for Fort Klamath yesterday to spend ten days at the home of her son, Jesse, who resides on their big ranch there.

John Siemens, Jr., and Judge Wade, who represents the Bankers' Mortgage Corporation, are spending the day in Langella valley looking over the loans of the company in that section.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Giacomini and daughter of Merrill are spending the day in the city.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Goldwate of Chiloquin are spending the day in town.

PORTLAND TO CALIFORNIA LINE 15 HOUR AUTO TRIP

SALEM, May 6.—From Portland to the California line the trip over the Pacific highway can be made easily in 15 1/2 hours, according to Herbert Nunn, state highway engineer, discussing conditions of the road after completing the trip from here to the state border.

He said the trip from Portland to Pendleton can be made this summer in one day and that the road will be open all winter.

POSTAL FORCE PASSES TEST

J. J. Burke of San Francisco, chief clerk of the railway mail service, is in Klamath Falls today on his annual inspection trip. Mr. Burke is the man who tests the postal clerks yearly regarding geographical knowledge and sleight-of-hand ability. If a clerk can shuffle through a hundred letters a minute and deal them into their respective receptacles, keeping the Brooklyn, N. Y., stack separated from the Brookline, Mass., bunch—and the Columbus, Ohio, mail from mingling with the Columbus, Georgia, lot—he or she passes. It is all very simple when one is used to it, so the local force will not draw a great deal of credit for having passed with flying colors. The public naturally expects its servants—when it is paying such munificent salaries as \$100 and even \$125 a month—to make good on the job.

Incidentally, the foregoing example of the depth of a clerk's knowledge, is very elementary. He is expected to be as swift with his fingers as a high class faro dealer, and as geographically adept as the organization manager of a national advertising agency—and usually he is. So is she.

Anyway, the local boys and girls stood the gaff. The final word is reminiscent that Mr. Burke is an ardent Waltonian. He is making good use of his enforced leisure between train times today and expects to have a 10-pound trout, at least, to show the natives of San Francisco when he gets back home again.

HEALY SCORES GOVERNMENT HEADS AS UNFAIR TO LABOR

WASHINGTON, May 6.—Assailing what he described as "despicable propaganda against labor," Timothy Healy, president of the brotherhood of stationary firemen and oilers, charged before the railroad board today that "high officials of the government have been used to more thoroughly decide people into believing that if a man works for wages he is an enemy of our government."

CONNECTICUT DEMOCRATS FAVOR LIGHT WINES, BEER

NEW HAVEN, Conn., May 6.—The revision of the Volstead act to permit the manufacture and sale of light wines and beer was favored by the state Democratic convention here today.

The platform plank in relation to Irish affairs says "we sympathize with the aspirations of the Irish people for the formation of a government of their own choosing, and favor recognition of the republic of Ireland."

MARKET REPORT

PORTLAND, May 6.—Cattle, sheep and hogs, steady, unchanged; butter, weak, unchanged; eggs, unchanged.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Davis and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Davis left this afternoon for their summer home in Swan Lake valley.

Mrs. Emma Wing has returned from Ashland where she has been spending the winter and has taken an apartment at the Heidrick Apartments.

Mrs. J. S. Elliott who has been at the Warner Hunt hospital for some time expects to return to her home tomorrow very much improved in health.

Mr. and Mrs. James Fader of Chiloquin are the happy parents of a baby daughter born at the Warner Hunt hospital this week.

ALLEGED CHECK RAISER JAILED

M. Bennett, said to have come here recently from Sacramento and employed for a short time by the J. J. Steiger mill near Chiloquin, is in jail charged with altering and passing a check received from Mr. Steiger in payment for labor. He was arrested this morning by J. F. Morley, county detective, and will be arraigned before Justice Chapman tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. Bennett is a young man.

The check, Mr. Steiger stated, was drawn for \$6.70. It was cashed by the Chiloquin Mercantile company for \$89, its purported value at the time it was presented. The mercantile company alleges that Bennett, while the check was in his possession, made the alteration which increased its apparent value more than \$82.

Of all the criminal cases with which local courts have to deal those involving fraudulent and worthless checks are the most frequent and the most troublesome. It is stated that this is the fourth check that has victimized the Chiloquin Mercantile company since the first of the year and the remainder of the business community has not escaped scot free during that period.

Carelessness in filling in the blanks, in leaving check books exposed and other forms of negligence that men with bank accounts are guilty of often afford an opportunity for criminals. Alteration such as was apparently practiced on the Steiger check is one of the hardest forms of criminality to guard against, but numerous checks are issued every day in lead pencil, easily susceptible of being changed if they fall into improper hands. The experienced alteration expert is not balked by protectographs, acids or special inks or any of the many forms of check protectors on the market, and the penciled check is so readily changed that it is a direct invitation for criminal effort.

NEXT SUNDAY IS MOTHER'S DAY

Churches of the city will hold special services next Sunday, May 9, commemorating Mother's day. The Methodist, Christian and Presbyterian churches will join Sunday evening in a union service at the Christian church.

Mrs. E. T. Ludden, chairman of the flower committee of the Presbyterian church, announces that anyone wishing to send flowers to this church in honor of their mother, may send them Saturday afternoon. They will be taken to the hospital to brighten the rooms of the invalids there Sunday afternoon, unless the donors wish to take them home, a privilege that is reserved to them.

For the mother who is living colored flowers are worn in remembrance. Those who have lost their mothers wear white flowers.

ROBINS, ROSE-BUDS AND OTHER THINGS ANNOUNCE 'TIS SPRING

J. H. Garrett dolled up for spring this morning and gets the newspaper decision for sporting the first Panama so far in evidence on the boulevards. J. H. modestly disclaims the honors and says he saw Fred Houston and some of the other boys sporting spring millinery yesterday and thought he'd blossom out a bit himself. The alibi has been investigated and found baseless. The pristine headgear is believed to have been an original idea on the part of the garage man and perpetrated with malice aforethought.

BANK HOLDING CONVERTED BONDS FOR OWNERS

Permanent bonds have been received by the Klamath State bank to replace the temporary second and third issues and the bond holders who entrusted their temporary bonds to the bank for forwarding to the federal reserve bank and conversion may get the permanent certificates by calling at the bank.

CARRANZA FAST LOSING CONTROL

WASHINGTON, May 6.—Official interest in the development of the political phases of the sweeping revolution in Mexico has been stimulated here by continued government reports indicating the rapid weakening of Carranza's grip on the situation.

WASHINGTON, May 6.—Advises received today by agents of the Mexican revolutionary movement here said the Carranza garrison of Torreon under General Pesario Castro had revolted and that the city was under control of revolutionists.

NOTED SPEAKER HERE SATURDAY

Paul Turner, organizer for the Hiram Johnson presidential campaign, who has arranged for a meeting of Johnson supporters at the city hall at 8 o'clock this evening, late this afternoon received a telegram from headquarters announcing that Raymond Robins, a political expert of international fame, will be here Saturday, May 8, to address a Johnson mass meeting.

Mr. Robins is widely known as a diplomat and author, both in America and abroad. He was one of the advisers of President Wilson at the peace conference, and chosen by the President because of his ability and diplomatic knowledge to head the first mission to Russia, which has since been known as the Robins mission.

As an authority on Russian political conditions Mr. Robins is known to readers of a number of leading magazines, to which he is a regular contributor.

He is not a politician in the accepted sense of the word but his political knowledge, in the scientific sense, entitles him to rank among the highest authorities here and abroad. He has the reputation of being as interesting a speaker as he is a writer.

Mr. Robins was one of the leading speakers for the Johnson forces in Michigan before their victorious primary, and also covered Indiana in a campaign tour for the California senator.

ELKS WILL INITIATE CLASS TONIGHT; "EATS"

The Elks will initiate a class of eight candidates at tonight's meeting and all members are urged to attend the ceremonies. Refreshments will follow the meeting.

PRODIGAL SON OF BONANZA IS BACK

W. F. B. Chase arrived last evening from Marysville and left today for Bonanza, where he will reside. Mr. Chase is not a new comer in the strict sense of the word—he is just one of the old timers who has seen the light and, like the prodigal son, returned home. This decision he reached last fall when he came back to Bonanza and really "settled," returning to Marysville to wind up his affairs there. This he has just completed and is now back to stay. Mr. Chase has a host of friends among the early settlers who will be glad to see him back and he will no doubt get just as cordial a welcome from those who have come during his absence.

POE VALLEY MAN TO INSTALL PUMPING PLANT

C. E. Van Meter of San Francisco was in the city yesterday making arrangements for the installation of a pumping plant on some land he owns in Poe valley. Mr. Van Meter was for many years a resident of the Poe valley section and returns every few years to look after his interests and renew old acquaintances. It has been four years since his last visit and was amazed at the changes that have taken place in Klamath Falls during that time.

It is Mr. Van Meter's intention, in the installation of his irrigation system, to use concrete or redwood pipe instead of overhead flume and part of his mission yesterday was to arrange for this material.

JOHNSON'S CALIFORNIA MAJORITY IS 157,000

SAN FRANCISCO, May 6.—Complete returns from 5,259 out of 5,710 precincts of the state give the Johnson group of delegates 360,269 votes and Hoover 293,011 as the result of yesterday's primary election.

JOHNSON MEN MEET TONIGHT

Supporters of Senator Hiram Johnson of California as the Republican candidate for president will hold an organization meeting tonight at 8 o'clock at the city hall, to select a county chairman of the Johnson campaign and choose a county committee if it is deemed advisable by the meeting.

Paul Turner, of Portland, a representative of the Johnson state headquarters, has arranged for the meeting. Mr. Turner is known here, having been foreman for the Warren Bros. during last year's street improvement work here. He left the employ of the company last year and is now in the insurance business in Portland.

The close of the California primary campaign has released several speakers of national reputation who have been stumping the neighbor state for Johnson and within a few days it is expected that a good speaker will be available for a Johnson mass meeting here, to explain to the voters of Klamath county the Johnson platform and principles and seek to gain support for them.

Tonight's meeting is preliminary to the general campaign in Johnson's behalf and is open to all, regardless of political beliefs or prejudices. Mr. Turner is sanguine that despite the short notice given the meeting that there is plenty of Johnson support in the community to bring out a good crowd.

Johnson adherents contend that the California senator has been a consistent champion of equal rights for women throughout his political career, and Mr. Turner especially invites the women voters of Klamath Falls to attend the meeting this evening.

CAL.-ORE. CREW BUILDING PLANT

Forty men arrived last night and were taken to Keno to reinforce the crew that the California-Oregon Power company has at work on an additional plant there. The California-Oregon company now has 100 men at work on the construction of the plant.

George J. Walton, local manager of the California-Oregon Power company, stated today that the employment of the construction crew by his company to work on the Keno plant did not signify that the California-Oregon company has taken over the Keno Power company, which was recently sold by the Kerns Bros., its original owners, to W. D. Parker, manager of the Klamath Development company.

It is a move influenced by expediency, said Mr. Walton, to develop an available source of power, and the California-Oregon Power company expects to profit by it through a ready source of supply to draw upon should transmission from their plant at Copco be interfered with.

The California-Oregon Power company has done considerable construction on lines in the Keno company's field since the latter company was acquired by Mr. Parker and his associates, and connections have been made which make the two systems virtually one.

FLOUR TAKES ANOTHER JUMP

MINNEAPOLIS, May 6.—Flour made a new record high price here today with an advance of 50 cents a barrel. Today's quotation on 16 barrels represents an advance of \$2 a barrel for standard number 1 in the past month.

POSTOFFICE IS HANDICAPPED BY LABOR SHORTAGE

Postmaster W. A. Dezell has a labor turnover problem on hand. Better wages in private employ make it hard to keep clerks and carriers satisfied with government pay and the postmaster is constantly breaking in new assistants. This in itself makes the situation bad enough but its complexities are greatly increased by the neglect of many patrons to properly address their letters and packages. Postmaster Dezell has prepared a statement outlining the difficulties and asking for considerable co-operation from the public, which explains his troubles fully. It is as follows:

"Owing to several vacancies in the regular force of clerks and carriers at the postoffice and the employment of temporary help in their stead we are again urging our patrons to co-operate with us in relieving the situation.

"When regular employees are offered more pay in other lines they cannot be blamed for doing what you would do—they take the better job. Postoffice salaries are fixed by congress and are not subject to local changes. These salaries are doubtless ample for many localities in the United States but not for conditions here. It is a condition we cannot change but must meet as best we can. There is only one way to do it, that is to employ temporary help until regular appointments can be made from the civil service list. These temporary helpers are doing their best to give the service required. Some of them are entire strangers to the city. Is it not asking too much of them to expect them to make prompt delivery of letters bearing no other address than just "City" or "Klamath Falls;" no street number, box number or other specific address?"

"The mails are steadily increasing in volume and for the past few days have been heavier than any since Christmas. The first of the month our merchants mailed their thousands of monthly statements. While many of these letters are fully addressed yet it is simply astounding the number of them that are mailed with nothing but "City" for the address. All these letters must be delayed and hours of clerks' time used in patiently supplying the deficient address from our directory if possible. A task that meant only a few minutes for the mailer becomes a most burdensome task when done at the office.

"No merchant would expect a new deliveryman to deliver a customer's parcel promptly if all the address he gave him was "Somewhere in Klamath Falls or vicinity," yet that is just what you are asking of us when letters are mailed without full address. If all will co-operate with us, address all your mail with street and number, box number, or route number, we will be able to render much better service. With new, inexperienced men there will be errors of course, but co-operation is the remedy.

"Klamath Falls has grown past the village stage when the postmaster handled all the mail himself and personally knew all of his few hundred patrons. We are a city, and getting bigger every day. Just as well get the habit now. Use your street number on all your mail, and insist on your correspondents using it too."

MAKING READY FOR SCHOOL PROGRAM

The entertainment program to be given by the grammar schools of the city Friday and Saturday, May 7 and 8 at Houston's opera house, will start promptly at 8 o'clock each evening, Miss Evelyn Applegate announced today.

The program consists of selections by the school orchestra, numbers by the girls and boys glee clubs, folk dances and other numbers. All of the schools, Riverside, Central, Mills and Pelican city will take part.

VERMILION, May 6.—Turkey's delegates to the peace conference arrived here early this morning.