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KLAMATH FALLS

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FIRE INQUIRY REPORT SCORES CITY COUNCIL

Below is the complete report of Deputy State Fire Marshal H. H. Pomeroy and G. W. Allen, regarding their investigation of causes of the Houston hotel fire and findings relative thereto:

Re: Houston Hotel Fire and Conflagration, Klamath Falls, Ore.

Acting under the provisions of the state fire marshal law and the direct request of the executive department, which latter was prompted by a telegraphic appeal from Mayor I. R. Struble and City Health Officer, Dr. A. A. Soule, of Klamath Falls, we, your deputies who conducted an official inquiry into the cause and results of the fire which occurred at Klamath Falls on the morning of Monday, September 6, 1920, beg to report our findings and conclusions as follows:

Findings Of Fact

The fire started at the Houston hotel, Second and Main streets, at about 3:17 o'clock on the morning of September 6th and so rapid was its spread that it assumed the proportions of a conflagration, in consequence of which nine (possibly ten) persons lost their lives; five others were seriously injured and the Houston hotel and nine other public buildings and dwellings were destroyed. The loss of property is estimated at approximately \$100,000.

The list of persons who were burned to death, some of them charred and dismembered beyond the hope of positive identification—those burned and badly injured, and the list of property destroyed are set forth in the newspapers, extracts from which are submitted herewith and made a part of this report.

Cause of Conflagration

The indications are that the fire started in the rear of the Houston hotel, evidently from rubbish that was known to have existed there from time to time, but just how it originated is at present a mystery and, perhaps, may never be known. Whether it could have been prevented by judicious legislative safeguards or, after having started it could have been subdued before it had exacted such terrible toll of death and property loss, may best be judged by the transcript of testimony taken at the coroner's inquest and our private hearing which are hereto appended and form the basis of these deductions.

The Houston hotel, a three-story frame structure, owned by Z. G. Harris and lately tenanted by Mrs. Goldie Houston, has long been known as a veritable fire trap altogether without facilities or furnishings in the nature of fire protection, prevention or escape—even without exit signs in its numerous hallways or any kind of signs whatsoever in the entire structure, except one in the office, which, according to the testimony of one of the seriously burned victims who told his story between agonized groans in his hospital bed exhorted the patrons to "Pay In Advance." There were some knotted ropes dangling from the third story front balcony railing which masqueraded as emergency fire escapes but they were known to have been so utterly rotten and unsafe when the emergency arose that none trust them.

The building was three stories front and two back having been constructed on sloping ground. It contained about 50 rooms, 40 of which were furnished and rented singly while there were six apartments besides office and parlors on the ground floor. On the fatal night preceding a big Labor day celebration, every room was occupied some with two or more occupants while four cots were provided and all occupied in the office. Some of the regular tenants conducted light housekeeping in the rooms and apartments.

Should Have been Condemned
According to the report of your Deputies, G. W. Allen and Geo. W. Stokes, who made an official survey of Klamath Falls in September, 1919, at the request of Mayor Struble, a copy of which is now on file in your department, it was a dilapidated and

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NO GAME IN WORLD SERIES PLAYED TODAY

CLEVELAND, Oct. 8.—The streets leading to the Union station were lined with crowds who cheered Cleveland players and fans who returned today from Brooklyn for the Fourth game of the world series which will be played here tomorrow.

The series now stands Brooklyn two victories to Cleveland's one.

TOMORROW FIRE PREVENTION DAY

Tomorrow is Fire Prevention day throughout the state of Oregon by proclamation of Governor Olcott. Most cities and towns have arranged to devote the day to discussion of fire prevention measures, and to practically apply them by a general clean-up of alleys, cellars and rubbish piles, inspection and repair of flues, chimneys, furnaces, etc.

Klamath Falls will join in the general program. Schools and organizations are showing much interest and, following so closely upon the Houston hotel tragedy, Fire Prevention day will have more attention this year than ever before and undoubtedly accomplish more good.

All school children, by appointment of A. C. Barber, state fire marshal, are junior fire marshals and will take an active part in the day's work. Every citizen is requested by proclamation of Mayor Struble, recently published in the Herald, to co-operate to the fullest extent in the movement to reduce the city's fire hazard.

At the high school this afternoon Robert Goetz, principal, gave the assembled students a short talk on fire prevention and urged them to aid in the general observance of Fire Prevention day.

THREE FILE FOR CITY COUNCIL

With nomination petitions of three candidates for councilman already filed with the police judge, and several others definitely and indefinitely in the political limelight, municipal politics are beginning to assume an interesting aspect.

W. S. Conkling and Paul Bogardus, opposing candidates in the first ward, and Charles Colvin, incumbent, in the fifth ward, are the men who have filed petitions. Colvin is the only one of the present council in the race so far.

The non-partisan political campaign committee of the central labor council will hold a meeting this evening to consider further, and it is expected reach final conclusion, in their selection of candidates.

Judge A. L. Leavitt, incumbent, has his petition for re-election in circulation and will probably file it today or tomorrow.

RECEPTION FOR TEACHERS TONIGHT AT M. E. CHURCH

The Ladies' Aid of the M. E. church is giving a reception this evening, October 8, in the church auditorium, in honor of the teachers of the city schools. All members and friends of the church are invited to be present.

NATION'S FLAG WILL BE HALF MASTED NOVEMBER 14

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8.—President Wilson today directed that the flag throughout the nation shall be half masted on November 14, as a token of memorial services for the men who died in the world war.

MARKET REPORT

PORTLAND, October 8.—Cattle steady; hogs higher, \$18.50 and \$16.85; sheep weak; eggs and butter firm.

Under the laws of Argentine an unmarried son is compelled to leave his parents two-thirds of his property.

SCHOOL PLANS TO KEEP FIRE PREVENTION DAY

Below is the third of a series of contributed articles on the progress being made by the Central school in its work this term.

Fire Prevention Day

Saturday, October 9, has been proclaimed as "Fire Prevention Day" by Ben W. Olcott, governor of Oregon. In order that our boys and girls may realize more fully the need of fire prevention, State Fire Marshal, A. C. Barber sends greetings and reminds them that they are "junior fire marshals," and asks them to spend part of Saturday, October 9, in inspecting their homes. He suggests that on Friday, October 8, each school have a program. In compliance with the same, our classes have planned short programs in which many of our pupils will give a number of two minute fire prevention addresses. In every room, one would find evidence of "Fire Prevention Week."

Establish School Bank

Realizing the importance of establishing the habit of thrift in the growing boy and girl, we have planned for a savings bank account in our school with the government as security. The boy or the girl may bring his pennies or a larger amount to school to deposit the same with his teacher. Whenever he has deposited 25 cents the teacher may buy a stamp and give it to him, or she can purchase four stamps at one time when he has deposited \$1. We hope to offer a prize to the pupil, or to the room that has saved the most money by the first of the year. In making a survey of the classes, we found that in the advanced grades more than half the pupils have a savings bank account. One girl in the seventh grade has more than \$500 in savings. We will be interested to know how much she will have saved by the time she competes her high school course.

Beth Wright, having left Klamath Falls, the eighth grade called a special meeting Monday to elect an officer to take her place as president of the class. Vale Lindsay, former vice-president was unanimously declared president, and Bruce Perkins was elected vice-president.

Glad to See Visitors

Since the opening of school, Mesdames Borge Mason, Fred Cofer, Misses Nellie Johnson, Vida Moore, Mrs. Jensen and Mrs. Gaddis have shown interest in us by visiting various rooms of this building. We should be glad to see more of our friends, for our boys and girls will then feel that a greater interest is taken in their school work.

The pupils of grade seven are happy over the fact that they are in the lead for the highest per cent of attendance, 98.7 during the past month. They are closely followed by grade six 98.6, and grade eight 98.5.

Reception Tonight

Invitations were received Tuesday by our teachers to a reception in the auditorium of the Grace M. E. church, tonight, given in honor of the teachers of the city schools.

At a business meeting of the fifth grade, Wednesday, Herd Wainio was elected president of the class to fill the vacancy caused by the transfer of the former president, Howard Taylor, to the Fairview school. Virginia Richmond was elected to the office of vice-president.

With this week begins industrial work in the third and fourth grades. For a time the third grade will review work in free hand cutting while the fourth will make hot plate mats in raffia.

Domestic Science Work

Canning, preserving and jelly making are still in progress in the advanced classes. Our seventh grade girls are making aprons and caps to be used for cooking classes. Our eighth are making pillow cases and night dresses. All are glad to return to work after a week's vacation in domestic science and art.

Friday morning, at its regular meeting the seventh grade elected Jimmy Elendahl as librarian and Marie Yaden, assistant librarian. Before that time we had no editor and feeling the need of such an officer, the honor was given to Lester Thom-

WILEY TO BE CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR

Yielding to the solicitation of many friends in many quarters, Wilson S. Wiley, local attorney, today announced to a Herald representative that he had definitely decided to enter the race for mayoralty.

Mr. Wiley has been mentioned for the position many times in the past two weeks, in street caucuses, and it seems to be unambiguously conceded that "he would be exactly the right man for the place if he would run." His statement today gives his backers a chance to rally to his support in practical fashion.

All the pressure that has been bearing on the candidate for the past two weeks crystallized this afternoon when a committee of representative citizens waited upon Mr. Wiley and secured his pledge to enter the race.

"I am in the race," said Mr. Wiley today, "without reservation. I did not seek the office and would not turn my hand over to obtain it, realizing fully that it means sacrifice of time and money, but many people seem certain that I can serve the public welfare in the position of mayor and I cannot, as a good citizen, do otherwise than accede."

CLEMENCY FOR SLAYERS SOUGHT

PENDLETON, Oct. 8.—Elvin R. Kerby, alias Owens, and John Laffeban, alias Rathie, were today sentenced by Judge Phelps to be hanged at the Salem penitentiary on December 3, next, for the murder of Sheriff Til Taylor.

The verdict will be appealed by local women sympathizers of the condemned men, who have raised a fund of \$600, it was said today by Attorney Bolin, who defended Kerby and whose motion for a new trial for both men was denied.

The Rev. Mr. Cox, local Baptist clergyman, is assisting the women in the attempt to secure a lighter penalty, Bolin said.

IMPORTANT MEETING BOY SCOUTS TONIGHT

Local Boy Scouts will hold a business meeting this evening, October 8, for the purpose of organizing a football team, for which there is plenty of available material. Patrols will also be organized and plans laid for the winter program of scout work.

All the boys who wish to qualify as tenderfoot scouts must be present at this meeting, and as so much important business is to be transacted it is desired that every scout turn out and lend assistance to forward the general program.

He is now filling the position with credit.

Flower Shower

Friday afternoon, the boys and girls of grades five, six, seven, and eight tendered their teachers, Miss Bond, Mrs. Brian, Miss McAndrews and Mrs. Carr, a flower shower which was a complete surprise to the recipients. In each instance the class president addressed his teacher expressing appreciation in behalf of the class for what she had done for them. There were asters, sweet peas, zinnias, nasturtiums, gladiolas, goldenglow and carnations, from which at the close of school many bouquets were taken to the hospital to make someone else happy.

Football Saturday

At 1:30 Saturday afternoon the football team of the grammar grades in the city schools will play the freshmen high at Modoc park. Belonging to the team are the following from this building: Homer Garlich, quarterback; Bruce Perkins, center; George Condry, right tackle; Harry Molatore, right end; Angus Walsh, left guard; Loren Sharp, left end; Gerald Fitzpatrick, right guard; Herbert Wilson and Leland Guill, substitutes. Show your school spirit, every one, and see our boys play a good clean game.

ONE DEAD, SIX WOUNDED, MORNING RIOT IN CORK

CORK, Oct. 8.—A civilian party today attacked a military lorry with bombs and one soldier was killed and three others wounded. Two soldiers who escaped injury fired on the attackers. The street was filled with a morning crowd of persons on their way to work and bullets struck two men and one woman, wounding them all in the legs.

GRID WARRIORS WILL CLASH

Tomorrow on the Modoc park grounds the Medford county high school team meets Klamath county high in the first football game of the season for Medford and the second for Klamath. While the Medford team is an unknown quantity the Klamath boys feel sure they can take their number, although in all the history of the game between the two schools, Klamath has never defeated Medford. This year, however, it is felt that the outcome will be different.

Klamath has protested the use of two Medford players, Jeff Gentry and Winton Vance, on the ground that they are above the age limit fixed by the state athletic association's rules.

Following is a list of players of the opposing teams:

Klamath Falls

Ted Montgomery, Russell McCullom, Robert Flackus, Frank Peyton, Aard Ady, Junior Wagner, Rudolph Milan Kenneth Case, Forrest Cooper, Ernest Miller, Norman Mann, Fred Grobe, Harold Wortley, Pat Montgomery, Albert Moorhead, Jennings Washington, Wallace Short, Seshi Peyton.

Medford

Russell Sherwood, Ser Watson, Francis Prescott, Jeff Gentry, Hugh Brown, Philip Young, Elbert Coleman, Irvin Carroll, Will Stockan, Mike Merriman, Everett Rawlings, Winston Vance, George Mansfield, Richard Payne, Ramson Webster, Westernman Whitlock.

RUSSIAN REDS PLOTTED ARMED REVOLT IN U. S.

CHICAGO, Oct. 8.—Discovery was made of quantities of radical literature in the possession of Nicolai John Jazinsky and Joe Holoony, declared to be two of the most dangerous radicals in America, who were arrested last night, was announced today.

Nearly half a ton of communist articles, including samples of a new pamphlet advocating an armed revolution by the foreign elements in this country was found in Jazinsky's possession. One hundred thousand of these pamphlets are said to have been shipped by express from Chicago to other cities Tuesday.

Detectives said that chief among the documents was the proclamation of a union of Russian workers, calling upon all members to rise and overthrow the government of the United States by force of arms, utilizing murder and destruction to gain its ends.

This proclamation, printed in Russian, federal agents say, revealed a complete plan of the revolution.

The arrests of six more radicals at St. Paul and Milwaukee is pending, the department of justice announced. The alleged plotters, it is said planned to assassinate the more important officials of the state.

WEATHER REPORT

OREGON—Tonight and Saturday, rain.

CATHOLIC SERVICES AT MERRILL SUNDAY MORNING

There will be services in the Catholic church at Merrill next Sunday at 8:30 o'clock. Rev. Father Malloy will officiate.

BETTER CITY GOVERNMENT LEADS BALLOT

Sentiment of the community in regard to matters of community interest that are in need of attention is revealed in the referendum ballot taken by the chamber of commerce, results of which were announced at yesterday's forum luncheon.

The number of members voting was 127. The proposal standing highest—need of a strong chamber of commerce—received 103 votes. Need of an improved city government came next with 94 votes. Completion of the Natron cutoff got 87 votes; investigation of the Link river dam and Upper lake storage matter, 81 votes. Three or four members expressed the belief that it was not the province of the chamber of commerce to investigate this matter.

Better highways got 74 votes; city parks and playgrounds 71; better freight service 69; city plan with a view to adopting a zone system 66; better sewers 64; more factories and payrolls 64; development of agricultural resources 61; taking care of present industries, housing problem 61; beautification of city and county 53; better schools 49; opening of Klamath reservation 49; advertise Klamath county 46; settle court-house problem 46; improve county government 37; plan for civic auditorium 34; secure lava bed national park 17.

The ballot submitted to the members asked for suggestions for subjects for forum discussion. The request produced plenty of results. Following are subjects advocated:

City Election Problems, County Schools, Fire Protection, Homesteads for Soldiers, Playgrounds, Housing Conditions and Problems, Beautifying City, Get Together Dinner at Night With Out-of-Town People as Guests, Power Company to Explain Position, Sensible Parking Ordinance, Road Building, Why Are Redlight Districts Given a License by City and Why Is the Law Against Them Not Enforced?, Klamath Falls Schools, Better Freight and Passenger Service, Do You Know Your Neighbor Socially, If Not, Why?, Make Klamath Known to 50,000,000 People, Rail Transportation, Present and Future, Sanitary Inspection of Foods.

NATURALISTS HERE TO GATHER DATA

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Bailey are in the city from Washington D. C. Mr. Bailey who is in the employ of the government, is one of the distinguished naturalists of the United States, while Mrs. Bailey is a well-known ornithologist and has published a book on birds of the United States.

It is in an official connection that they are in Klamath at the present time. They will make a trip to the Lava Beds some time this week for the purpose of studying the traces of the big horn sheep and mountain goats that inhabited that part of the country at one time. Captain O. C. Applegate said today that he remembered seeing bands of the big horn at the time of the Modoc war.

Mr. Bailey is also preparing to publish a report on Oregon mammals and while here he will gather final data for this report that will come out soon.

POLITICAL STRENGTH GAINED BY WEST

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8.—The west and south will gain proportionately more in a political way than the east or middle west through the population increase shown by the census by increased membership in the house of representatives, electoral college and national conventions.

Oregon is entitled to one more congressman if the size of the house is increased.

SUES TO RECOVER ON FROBENIUS HOTEL, \$425

A. L. Parkhurst, manager of the Crater Lake hotel, is defendant in a suit filed today in the circuit court by J. F. Shea to recover \$425, which he alleges is due on a note.