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THE KLAMATH NEWS

United News and United Press Telegraph Service

The Klamath News

Official Paper County of Klamath

Vol. 4, No. 40—Price Five Cents

KLAMATH FALLS, ORE., WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29, 1926.

(Every Morning Except Monday)

Congress Takes Up Nicaragua Situation

President Confers With Secretaries Following Late Developments in Central America.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28, (U.N.)—President Coolidge conferred with Secretary of State Kellogg and Secretary of the Navy Wilbur late Tuesday, following late developments in the Nicaraguan situation.

Secretary Kellogg denied that Nicaragua was discussed and said that the conference was to consider a reply to the recent British suggestion for more liberal dealing by the powers in China. It was not explained what required Wilbur's presence in such a conference on diplomatic matters affecting China.

Kellogg, after the conference, said that instructions to Rear Admiral Latimer, in charge of naval forces in Nicaragua, do not cover the imposing of a censorship, although dispatches from Nicaragua report that such a censorship has been established. Kellogg said he knew nothing about this.

After the conference had been in progress forty-five minutes Secretary Kellogg said: (Continued on Page Four)

Teachers Favor Free Text Books

PORTLAND, Dec. 28, (U.N.)—A declaration in favor of free text books in public schools in Oregon marked the first session of the Oregon State Teachers' association, as the association gathered in annual assembly here today.

The approval carried with it, however, a recommendation that the books be privately printed rather than printed by the state, and that districts with a population of more than 1,000 be permitted to select their own textbooks.

The action came through adoption of a report of the committee on free textbooks, of which A. C. Hampton, of Astoria, is chairman. It was maintained in this report, that compulsory school attendance laws and free textbooks should go hand in hand, as is the case in many states.

The fact that all pupils would have the same grade and quality of school equipment also was stressed.

The committee reported that its investigation in California and other states proved that state printing was unsatisfactory both from educational and economic standpoints.

The report was preceded by elections of officers: H. E. Inlow, city school superintendent of Pendleton, was elected vice president; Mrs. Suzanne Holmes-Carter, Jacksonville county superintendent of Jackson county, automatically moving up from vice president to president of the association.

Members of the executive committee elected were: Mabel Wilson-Church, Roseburg, District No. 3, C. W. Boettcher, The Dalles, district 4, and R. R. Turner, state superintendent, Dallas, from the state at large.

Nine Men Hurlled Into Blazing Sea

WILMINGTON, Cal., Dec. 28, (U.N.)—Hurtled beneath the waters of the harbor by an explosion that covered the surface with blazing gasoline, nine men were injured, two probably fatally, and another missing, following a blast and fire beneath the American-Hawaiian line wharf here Tuesday.

The body of a man known only as Jaeger, who is believed to have fallen into the water in the midst of the blazing gasoline fumes, is being sought by divers.

E. C. McLeod and Tom Davis are not expected to recover from burns suffered when they came up for air after being plunged into the water by the force of the explosion caused when a gasoline pipeline being replaced beneath the dock was ignited by a blow torch.

AMERICA'S OLDEST CITY THREATENED WHEN HOTEL BURNS

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla., Dec. 28, (U.N.)—Fire threatened St. Augustine, America's oldest city, this afternoon, when flames destroyed the Magnolia hotel, popular headquarters for southern tourists. Prompt action by the fire department prevented the flames from being swept by a fresh wind to adjacent business buildings.

Shasta Division Men Will Renew Seniority Fight

Invasion of Portland Crews Into Local Territory May Be Investigated by Vice-President of Brotherhood.

Backed by the full support of the board of directors of Klamath county chamber of commerce, railroad men affiliated with the Shasta division of the Southern Pacific will fight for their seniority rights between this city and Crescent Lake, according to indications yesterday.

Communications sent to, and received by the chamber from D. R. Robertson, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, indicate a possible struggle that may result in victory for the Shasta division men who are losing positions, and needed work through the invasion of the Portland division crews into this territory south from Crescent Lake. According to word received by President Robertson, it was suggested: (Continued on Page Four)

Canton Underworld Defends Henchman

CANTON, O., Dec. 28, (U.N.)—The Canton underworld, blamed for assassination of Don R. Mellett, militant newspaper editor, is now reaching out for the life of C. D. McClintock, county attorney who prosecuted Mellett's slayer. Special police guards have been thrown around McClintock's home following receipt of letters threatening to have him killed "if any harm comes to Pat McDermott."

McDermott, the first of the three men to be tried for the Mellett killing, was found guilty of first degree murder on Christmas eve. He is to appear in court Wednesday to be sentenced to Ohio penitentiary for the rest of his natural life.

The threatening letters, bearing Canton postmarks, were delivered at McClintock's home. They are in the same handwriting as similar letters which were sent to the prosecutor two months ago, when he first undertook the McDermott prosecution.

Bad Fire Leaves Family Homeless

A man, his wife and several children, whose names could not be learned, were made homeless early yesterday morning at 6 o'clock when the Square Deal Service station three miles west of Pinehurst on the Klamath Falls-Ashland highway, burned to the ground.

The fire apparently started from defective chimneys as the father had built a fire shortly before. With little or no facilities for fighting the fire, and the flames eagerly licking against the huge tanks that contained oil and gasoline, it was but a moment until the little structure which served as a store, service station and home to the family, was a mass of flames.

Nothing was saved. The family, it is understood, were taken to the valley where they were cared for by friends.

Ski Experts Head For Tall Country

Boy, page the Alps! Because a quartet of hardy mountaineers yesterday left their local headquarters to brave the rigors of mountain fastness in the vicinity of snow-bound Crater Lake, and if the intrepid winter sportsmen return here with all skis present they're slated for higher steepness than the Cascades offer.

Holling out of this city yesterday in an automobile the four young men expected to drive as far as the entrance to Crater Lake National park, where the car and most other signs of civilization will be left behind.

From this point the party will proceed on skis straight into the mountains whose pin-clad sides form the fortress for Crater Lake. In the group who are attempting a journey of formidable aspect, are Howard Barnhisel, Osmond Hauge, Dick Barth and Leslie Wright. They will return when possible!

Strangler Believed Active In Mid-West

Pacific Coast Murderer Suspected of Heinous Crimes Perpetrated in Kansas City Homes.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 28, (U.N.)—The fear that the strangler murderer who invaded Pacific coast homes recently is prowling about the streets of Kansas City was intensified tonight when the bodies of a young mother and her eight months old baby were found in the bedroom of their home, strangled by rags knotted around their necks.

The victims, Mrs. Germaine Croquet Harpin, 28, and her son Robert, died under circumstances similar to those under which another young woman, Mrs. Bonnie Pace, met death 26 hours ago.

The infant son of Mrs. Pace was playing in another room when his mother was strangled, and so escaped.

The bodies of Mrs. Harpin and the baby were found after Marius Harpin, 32, the husband and father, (Continued on Page Five)

Aimee Will Speak In Leading Cities

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 28, (U.N.)—A two months' "vacation tour," during which she will probably hold revival meetings in many of the principal cities of the United States soon after January 10, was announced Tuesday by Aimee Semple McPherson.

Her itinerary will include Denver, Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Boston and other Atlantic coast cities. The evangelist said she would "quite likely" hold meetings in all of those cities mentioned.

Mrs. McPherson said she had been urged by eastern members of the church of the Four Square Gospel to hold a series of meetings at the Sesqui-centennial exposition grounds at Philadelphia.

Ben Laska, Denver attorney, also urged her to conduct meetings in the Colorado metropolis. She intimated that she would accept both invitations during the vacation.

The evangelist will make no reference to Los Angeles court troubles during her eastern tour, she said.

Mrs. McPherson was "too busy" Tuesday to discuss the state's latest move for a joint trial of the evangelist and Kenneth G. Ormiston, former Angelus temple radio man, on charges of perjury and conspiracy.

Despondent, Boy Commits Suicide

OAKLAND, Cal., Dec. 28, (U.N.)—Despondency over failure to receive hoped for Christmas presents is believed to have prompted the suicide of Henry L. Kornhans, Jr., 13 year old schoolboy.

The lad's mother found his body, hanging by a clothesline from a rafter of the back porch at the family home when she returned from a shopping trip Tuesday.

Efforts at resuscitation failed. The only motive that the family could give was that the boy had been disappointed with his Christmas gifts.

Federal Building Aid is Promised

A letter, received by the Klamath county chamber of commerce yesterday, stated that the San Francisco chamber of commerce board of directors, through the efforts of Robert Newton Lynch, executive vice president and manager, would augment the efforts of Klamath Falls in the campaign for a federal building.

This was the word which reached here yesterday from the south telling that the southern chamber would be sought to put forth all efforts in assisting the city of Klamath Falls with which it has been so closely connected for many years.

BORN ABOUT 1800, MEXICAN DIES AT AGE OF 126 YEARS

EL PASO, Texas, Dec. 28, (U.N.)—Jesus Holguin was 126 years old when he died here Christmas day, a death certificate filed today showed. His birth date was given as June 20, 1800.

Death Toll Rises Higher as Floods Devastate South

Thousands Homeless and Loss of Property Estimated at Many Millions As Waters Continue to Rise.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 28, (U.N.)—At least 13 persons are dead, thousands are homeless and property damage is mounting to millions of dollars while flood waters in four southern states continued to rise Tuesday, abetted by a general down-pour of rain.

A survey by the United News shows that six persons have been reported dead in Arkansas, five in Mississippi and two in Tennessee. Most of the deaths have been caused by automobiles skidding or being swept into swollen streams.

Many streams in the flood zone in Mississippi, Kentucky and Arkansas, which gave promise Monday night of receding, have started on another rise from Tuesday's rain.

A rough approximation obtained by the United News, in conference with public officials in Nashville, places the number of homeless at more than 10,000. Although no attempts have been made to estimate the damage, with the flood still rising, Nashville bankers ventured that several millions of dollars of crops, merchandise and household effects had been destroyed.

Storm Warnings

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—Storm warnings are displayed on the Atlantic coast from Eastport, Maine to Norfolk, Va., and additional flood warnings have been issued for the Tennessee river over Florence, Ala., the United States' weather bureau announced tonight.

The atmospheric disturbance that was over the Texas coast Monday night has advanced rapidly northward, being now central over Richmond, Va., while the disturbance that was off the Virginia coast Tuesday morning is now over Long Island, it was stated. The outlook is snow in northern New England Wednesday and Thursday.

Murderer Tells Story of Brutal Family Killings

TEXAS, N. M., Dec. 28, (U.N.)—The calling of a grand jury will probably be the next action taken to determine what is to be done with George Hassel, 45, confessed slayer of 13 people.

While the man lies on a hospital cot in the little jail, surrounded by guards to keep away an angry countryside, recuperating from self-inflicted wounds, his deeds have been discussed by a nation.

But George Hassel, seems little moved. Only once in all the questioning did he express regret for killing his wife and eight step-children, then he said only: "My God almighty, I wish I hadn't started it."

Voluntarily he told of killing another woman and three children. In this section of New Mexico and the panhandle of Texas, where Hassel was a rancher, feeling is rabid against the man. A double quota of guards surround the jail while others have been sent to mingle among the citizenry to sense any possible uprisings. All cars entering the village are closely scrutinized.

The crimes committed by Hassel are many and varied. According to his story he has broken the law in every respect from drunkenness to murder. He told of desertions from the army and navy, running "skin games" and dodging the draft. It was for the latter he killed the woman in California, whom he said was his wife, and her three children, because she reproached him for the act.

His version of the killing of his wife and eight stepchildren is a gruesome affair. Mrs. Hassel accused him of ill-will relations with their 14-year-old daughter, Maudie, when she learned the girl was to become a mother.

Hassel wanted to "make the best of it," but Mrs. Hassel upbraided him. They quarreled until 12 o'clock one night, Hassel finally dressed and went to the barn and got a drink of whiskey. When he came back Mrs. Hassel continued the quarrel. Picking up a hammer he hit her in the head.

The youngest child screamed and Hassel choked it to death. Then, (Continued on Page Three)

President C. M. Levy Will Not Quit Job

Western Pacific Head Denies Rumor that he Will be Succeeded by Ralph Budd Soon.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 28, (U.N.)—"Not a word of truth in it," said C. M. Levy, president of the Western Pacific railway, when he was questioned late Tuesday night, regarding his reported retirement in the near future.

A news story emanating from a Portland newspaper stated that Levy was to retire soon after the end of the year, and that Ralph Budd, now president of the Great Northern railway would succeed him.

Reports from Portland Tuesday evening said that no railroad official there would confirm the reported switch of presidents from the Great Northern to the Western Pacific. The story, as outlined, was said to have originated in San Francisco, but inquiry tonight failed to uncover any person in well informed railroad circles who had heard that Levy was to retire because of old age, and be succeeded by the aggressive Great Northern president.

When Levy was finally found he was most emphatic in his denial that he contemplated retirement.

Resignation of Teachers Asked

PORTLAND, Dec. 28, (U.N.)—Lack of harmony between Portland music teachers was climaxed Tuesday, when R. R. Turner, superintendent of public instruction, requested the resignation of 19 members of the state music committee. The latest rift was occasioned by alleged personal and discriminatory action by the committee in accrediting music teachers to permit them to give high school credits under the state system.

A majority of the committee members have refused to resign, it is said, having requested a meeting with Superintendent Turner in order to have the question settled by peaceful means if possible.

Those asked to resign are: Dr. John J. Landsbury, dean of music at the University of Oregon; Frederick W. Goodrich, Portland, secretary; Henry L. Bettman; E. O. Spitzner; Rex Underwood; Otto Wedemeyer; Pauline M. Chapman; P. A. Ten Haaf; Mrs. Jean P. McCracken; David B. Campbell.

40 Homeless When Poor House Burns

SAN MATEO, Cal., Dec. 28, (U.N.)—Forty inmates of the San Mateo county poor farm were routed from the building by fire today and tonight were being cared for by neighboring families.

The relief home, a wooden structure, was destroyed. Several of those forced to flee the flames suffered from exposure. All of the inmates were persons of advanced age.

The fire broke out first early in the day and was thought to have been extinguished, but a second fire developed from smoldering embers in the basement and the home was in ruins before the San Mateo fire department could respond. The home was three miles from here.

Boy is Killed in Playful Gun Fight

PENILETON, Dec. 28, (U.N.)—James Lowry, 16, was fatally wounded Tuesday afternoon when he and Bob Meyer, 13, engaged in a duel which was supposed to be in fun.

According to the story told the prosecuting attorney, the boys, in separate groups, approached each other on hunting trips and the Lowry boy, in a spirit of fun, fired at Meyer.

Meyer returned the fire, and the other boys in the gathering scattered. Meyer's bullet entered Lowry's left side and ranged down into his heart. Meyer is being held for questioning.

BEAUTY ONLY SKIN DEEP, JUDGE BEAN

PORTLAND, Dec. 28, (U.N.)—George Lawrence's dislike for the countenance of a defendant in federal court was deemed sufficient by Judge Bean to excuse him from jury duty for all time.

"We don't want any juror who forms a prejudice from mere sight," said the judge.

Men Have Narrow Escape When Car Goes Into Canal

Near Victims of Icy Death Unable to Explain How They Managed to Crawl From Submerged Auto.

W. M. "Billy" Webber, 425 North Ninth street, cook at the Club Cafe, and an unidentified companion slipped from the treacherous Rock Creek highway just below the California Oregon Power company dam on the west side of Link River, into the branch canal of the Keno Irrigation company and narrowly escaped death by drowning when their car sunk to the bottom of the canal.

Walter Foster, state traffic officer, returning to Klamath Falls from a trip on the west side of the lake, came upon the two standing in the highway, shivering from the exposure. They had climbed the bank and succeeded in swimming out of the icy waters before the car filled. Foster brought the two men, and their Lewellyn setter into Klamath Falls and took Webber to his home. (Continued on Page Four)

Pair Found Guilty Of Liquor Charge

William Wilson and H. P. Traverssey, alleged Klamath bootleggers, were found guilty by a jury in justice court yesterday afternoon, of possession of intoxicating liquor, the charge preferred against them on October 22 by prohibition officers Bennett, Short and Swindler.

The jury was out but a short time when they brought in the verdict of guilty. Sentence will be pronounced at 10 o'clock Thursday morning, December 30.

The raid which netted Wilson and Traverssey last October was conducted against Traverssey's house at 451 Commercial street. The two gallons of illicit liquor was found in the yard and in a tent near the house officers discovered six cases of empty jugs, bottles and other paraphernalia. The men were unable to give bond yesterday.

Boy Scouts Will Get Merit Badges

Boy Scouts of Klamath Falls, who have earned honors since the last meeting of the Court of Honor, will receive their award of merit badges tonight in the circuit court rooms of the Klamath county court house at 7:30 o'clock according to announcement made last night.

In the absence of W. E. Lamm, chairman of the Court of Honor, R. C. Groesbeck will preside at this session of the Court. An interesting address is being looked forward to by Rev. M. L. Petelle of the First Christian church.

Visitors from other localities are urged to attend the meeting and to witness the ceremony in order to gain an insight into the organization which is doing such excellent work among the younger boys of Klamath Falls and the remainder of the county.

Youth Kills Chum In Auto Accident

MARSHFIELD, Dec. 28, (U.N.)—John Whitty, 19, son of Mayor and Mrs. R. T. Whitty, was almost instantly killed here last night, when he was struck by an automobile driven by Floyd Fields, 29, of Marshfield.

Young Whitty, who was an employee of a Marshfield garage, was walking home from work early in the evening, when he was struck by the car driven by Fields, who was one of his close friends. Impaired vision due to fog is said to have been responsible for the accident.

Local Girl Named As Honor Student

EUGENE, Dec. 28, (U.N.)—Seventy six students are on the honor roll of the University of Oregon according to an announcement of faculty officials. Being named on the honor roll requires an average grade of better than two in all subjects.

The honor roll includes Edna Emily Dunbar, Klamath Falls, Ore.

Highway Work Is Promised Klamath

Improvement of County Roads Hailed as Fine Factor in Future Development.

As a result of efforts of a delegation of Klamath Falls business men and members of the county court, to the state highway commission meeting in Portland last week, Klamath county will receive oiling, surfacing and improvement of long stretches of arterial highways which will open up this territory to unlimited tourist travel and probable settlement according to a report made at the chamber of commerce board of directors' luncheon yesterday.

Definite ordering of oiling during the coming spring and summer from Algona Point to LaPine, five miles north of the Klamath county line in Deschutes county, is assured and in addition it is possible that the roadway from Chilloguin to the Dalles-California highway may also be improved to such an extent that oiling can also be promised that section.

Charts, maps, figures and general traffic data were presented to the (Continued on Page Four)

Fall's Condition Is "Satisfactory"

EL PASO, Texas, Dec. 28, (U.N.)—Albert B. Fall, former secretary of the Interior, taken off a train while enroute to his ranch in New Mexico yesterday, was resting easy tonight.

His physician, Dr. H. T. Safford, attending Fall here, where he also maintains a home, issued a bulletin late this afternoon to the effect that his patient's condition was "satisfactory."

He said the pneumonia, which developed in one lung, had shown no disposition to spread.

Safford said the only fear is that an already weakened condition had been aggravated by the recent trial at Washington from which Fall was returning when he was taken sick.

"Everything in A. B. Fall's condition points to a favorable outcome," stated a bulletin issued by the former secretary's doctor at his home here tonight.

"Judge A. B. Fall's condition is progressing satisfactorily," continued the bulletin. "In all probability it is an influenza pneumonia, which has a rather indefinite course. Every thing in Judge Fall's condition points to a favorable outcome. It is to be hoped that in a few days he will be out of danger. A low blood count rather confirms the belief that the process is an influenza pneumonia and not lobar pneumonia."

"The sputum is to be cultured out to determine the character of the organisms present. His general condition is very good. He seems to have a good resistance to the disease."

Dr. Safford further stated that in most recent cases here influenza pneumonia has lasted about two weeks and the death rate, except in certain malignant years, such as those during the world war, has not been high here.

Fall contracted a bad cold while on the train enroute here from Washington and was taken from the train Sunday night. First medical attention took place Monday.

Dr. Safford said every precaution was being taken to prevent the spread of the infection.

Surprise Luncheon Is Feature Today

A surprise forum luncheon of the Klamath county chamber of commerce is on tap this noon when the fifth annual New Years' luncheon will be the order of the day.

Members of the Pine Tree orchestra have promised to be present with all their musical talent, but the numbers which they will give have not been announced.

As for the speakers, they too will constitute a surprise feature, and an entirely different program is scheduled for the day.