

GAS MAIN EXPLODES, 17 KILLED

Klamath Sawmills To Close One Day

Firm Lumber Market Indicated. No Long Shut-downs Contemplated. Xmas Off

Indicating the firm market for pipe lumber, Klamath mills, with few exceptions, will close down for Christmas day, and no shut-downs are contemplated, according to advices received last night from officials of each lumber company.

Shaw-Bertram will close their mill for two weeks for repairs beginning Monday. They will reopen the mill January 7. During the shut-down a repair crew of 20 men will overhaul all machinery. The box factory operated by that company will continue to operate with the exception of Christmas day, according to W. J. Bertram.

Shaw-Bertram, Evanna.
The Shaw-Bertram camps will be idle from now until March 1. At present there are more than six million feet of logs in the river at the mill, sufficient to keep the mill in operation while the camps are idle.

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OVER-WORK CAUSES DEATH

Believed to have been caused from over-exertion, Mark Sweney, employed with the Huil and Greenbe Construction company, now operating at Beatty, dropped dead at a late hour last night.

Few details of Sweney's death could be learned since the Whitlock Funeral Home was not notified until nearly ten o'clock last night, and the News had gone to press before the undertaker returned with the body at an early hour this morning.

Ballard Confers With Henderson

F. L. Ballard, county agent leader, from Oregon State Agricultural college, conferred yesterday with County Agent C. A. Henderson and Assistant County Agent Wray Lawrence on plans for the coming year's program in the county.

Will Try Youth On Deer Charge

Trial of Molar Donnelly, 15-year youth, accused of hunting deer out of season and having deer meat in his possession out of season, will take place today in justice court.

YESTERDAY'S HAPPENINGS IN CONGRESS

(By United Press)
Senate.
Passed interior department appropriation bill.
Passed \$15,000,000 hurricane bill for South Atlantic farmers. Agreed to take up naval cruiser bill and Kellogg anti-war treaty on January 3, after holiday recess.
House.
Passed justice, state, labor and commerce departments appropriation bill.

UNFORTUNATES TO GET CHEER ON CHRISTMAS

Christmas cheer in needy families is guaranteed this year, for lodges and city organizations are cooperating to furnish funds and articles of need throughout the city. The big thought of the kiddies in these families who have infinite faith in all chimneys looking alike to Santa is really behind the good deeds of citizens at the Yuletide season.

Besides the community chest which is so widely advertised at this time of year but really operates throughout the year, a number of organizations have raised money in various ways for this purpose, and two big Christmas trees where Santa Claus will preside in person will be held the day before Christmas.

Some of the funds which the Elks lodge obtains from their Western Nights are used for charity work at Christmas time. The Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion sponsored a tur-

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Underwood to Be Host to Kiddies This Afternoon

"The Bugle Call," featuring Jackie Coogan in the role of a bugle boy who was with the cavalry on the plains in the days of Indians and massacres, will be flashed upon the screen at the Pine Tree this afternoon at one o'clock, while hundreds of pairs of eyes will watch the picture unfold.

These hundreds of eyes will belong to the hundreds of children of the city grade schools who are at the theatre as the guests of C. H. Underwood of Underwood's Pharmacy, who is holding his seventh annual Christmas theatre party for the children of the city.

At three o'clock the show will end long enough for the theatre to be emptied of one large group, and another bunch of boys and girls will fill it up. Each school child was given a ticket at school, but Mr. Underwood has announced that any student who did not receive one may get one this morning by calling at Underwood's Pharmacy.

Chiloquin Masons Install Officers

On Tuesday night, installation of officers for the ensuing year was held by the Chiloquin Masonic lodge in Chiloquin.

Those installed were: Dr. B. E. Peden, worshipful master; A. L. Anderson, senior warden; C. Larson, junior warden; H. Davis, secretary; O. Buell, treasurer; R. E. Farmer, senior deacon; C. Steiger, junior deacon; George Chastain, chaplain; L. Burton, senior steward; W. Mirardi, junior steward; O. Johnson, tyler; W. Zimmerman, marshal.

After the installation ceremonies a buffet luncheon was served the officers and members of the Chiloquin Lodge and visitors.

The social program for the year was read. A dance will be given at the Community Club on Friday evening, January 18.

Mrs. S. Obenchain Injured By Fall

Falling down the basement steps at the family home Wednesday afternoon Mrs. Silas Obenchain, wife of County Commissioner Obenchain, elect, sprained both of her ankles.

Mrs. Obenchain is resting comfortably at the family home where she will be confined for some time because of the accident.

Just a year ago at holiday time, Mrs. Obenchain fractured her arm.

TWO COUPLES TO MARRY.

Two marriage licenses were issued at the office of the county clerk yesterday. Ernest W. Sessler and Ella Willett both of Klamath Falls were licensed to marry. Another license was granted to Henry Havelhurst of Aberdeen, Wash., and Dena Reimertson who gave her address as "North Dakota."

Radical Tax Law Changes Advised

Tax Relief Commission Makes Important Decisions. To Recommend to State

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 20. (UP)—The afternoon session of the Carkin property tax relief commission held here today was fraught with important decisions and recommendations destined to affect the pocket-books of nearly every active and potential property owner and taxpayer in Oregon.

Included in the recommendations voted today to be recommended to the next session of the state legislature were:

Personal Property.
To place all personal property and household goods such as furniture, jewelry, clothing, etc., in excess of \$200 of assessed value exemptions, on the tax roll.

To tax municipality owned utilities, such as water and light systems, and all municipally owned property, such as city lots held for delinquent taxes.

To substitute a one cent gaso-

TACNA-ARICA FUNDS MISSING

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20. (UP)—Six thousand five hundred dollars of the funds deposited by the governments of Chile and Peru to defray expenses of the special Tacna-Arica boundary commission have disappeared from the commission's treasury in New York, according to information reaching the United Press from authoritative sources here today.

H. A. Grote, acting disbursing officer of the commission and secretary to the United States delegation, is reported missing and the bonding company with whom Grote was bonded is said to have been attempting for nearly six weeks, to locate the missing man.

The bonding company is responsible for replacement of any missing funds, it is said.

Mother of Ten Gets Life For Violating Liquor Law



Mrs. Rita Mae Miller of Lansing, Mich., mother of 10 children, of whom four are living, faces a life term in the penitentiary for selling liquor. Mrs. Miller was convicted under Michigan's habitual criminal code which makes a life sentence mandatory for four felonies. State Senator Seymour Person, who defended Mrs. Miller, announced he would appeal the case and act in the next legislature to have the law repealed. Mrs. Miller's husband is serving a two-year prison term, and she is the sole support of her children, the youngest of whom is 13.

Forest Legislation Plan For State Is Recommended

A report, following a two-year study of the matter, on the basic principles of forest legislation to perpetuate the growing timber crops is released today by the Forestry Committee of the Portland chamber of commerce.

The committee plans to recommend that the findings be embodied in a law at the coming session of the state legislature in order that timber, Oregon's greatest resource, may be protected to the fullest extent at the earliest date.

The report follows:
We recognize that the present property tax system of assessing logged-off land and land covered with saplings or other immature forest growth, by which both the land and the growing timber crop are taxed year after year when there is no income from the land, discourages owners from taking any steps during logging to keep the land reforested or from holding such land for future crops, and is actually leading to the abandonment of such lands. On that account Oregon faces a logged-off land problem of serious potentialities. The tax forfeiture of land means the loss of the annual taxes therefrom, it means that the public must assume the expense of abating the fire menace on these lands, but most important it means non-producing acres unless the state go to the heavy expense of reclaiming these lands for forest growth.

We further recognize that the public is vitally interested in having lands that are chiefly valuable for forest production kept productive, both that they may continue to be a direct source of tax revenue to the state instead of a liability and that the lumber and paper industries may be permanent here.

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Palmer Is Found Guilty By Jury

Parole Recommended for Indian Who Passed \$3 Worthless Check on Barber

"Guilty with a recommendation that he be paroled, was the verdict returned yesterday by the jury which heard the case of State vs. J. H. Palmer, accused of passing a check for \$3 without an account at the bank upon which it was drawn.

Palmer, an aged Indian, gave a check for \$3 to J. B. Rice, Chiloquin barber, in return for a haircut, shave and \$2.10 in change, on November 19. He was charged with obtaining money under false pretenses. Conviction on the charge carries a minimum sentence of one year.

Lack of Intent Defense.
U. S. Ralenth, defense attorney, brought out that on the evening that Palmer gave the check he had been drinking, that Palmer's wife had an account in the bank on which the check was drawn, and that there was a lack of intent to defraud the barber.

The state, represented by Deputy District Attorney Caleb Jones (Continued on Page Four)

RIO TO GREET HOOVER TODAY

ABOARD THE U. S. UTAH, Dec. 20. (UP)—Herbert Hoover expects to reach Rio de Janeiro, last stop on his South American tour, a few hours after noon Friday.

The Utah was moving up the Brazilian coast at cruising speed tonight. The weather was warm and clear and the seas calm.

There was considerable satisfaction among members of the official party that Hoover had decided to go straight to Florida from the Brazilian capital. Most of the officials have felt the severe strain of the long South American tour.

Two Brazilian cruisers, the Bahia and Rio Grande de Sol, are expected to meet the Utah Friday morning and escort her to the capital.

PROGRESS OF KING NOW ON FIRM BASIS

LONDON, Dec. 20. (UP)—King George's condition remained favorable tonight and his progress is now established on a firm basis, an official statement signed by five physicians and issued at Buckingham Palace said.

For the first time in four weeks no official bulletin was issued at the palace tonight, but an official announcement said the king's condition "remains satisfactory." It was explained that no bulletin was issued because of the lengthy statement during the late afternoon.

As a result of the favorable progress during the last five days and the attitude of the court physicians as expressed in the announcement, the British Empire accepted the belief that King George at last had "turned the corner" in his critical illness and a continuance of his progress might be expected.

Lives of Witness, Judge in Ranieri Trial Threatened

CHICAGO, Dec. 20. (UP)—Direct threats and insidious hinting at death, enlivened proceedings today in the trial of three Italians charged with conspiracy in the kidnaping of Little Billy Ranieri for whom a ransom of \$50,000 was demanded.

Before the state rested its case, it was disclosed that veiled threats had been sent through the mail to Judge Robert E. Gentzel, presiding at the trial, and Mike De Vito, one of the principal state witnesses.

The note to the judge, scrawled on wrapping paper, in large grade capital letters, stated: "Judge—you or I, late. You are die now. Quit our case."

The disclosure of this threat came shortly behind the report of a court attendant, attributing to Pettit the remarks that "De Vito will be the next to die."

"Pettit made a threat to kill De Vito in the presence of a bailiff," Assistant Prosecutor Mueller told the court today. "De Vito is the only complaining witness against Pettit. Scully, who is the only complaining witness in another indictment. He has been put out of the way and De Vito is to follow."

Jacob A. Leech Heads Royal Arch

At the regular convocation of Klamath Chapter, Royal Arch Masons held in Masonic hall Wednesday night, officers recently elected were installed by Past High Priest George Wilson, assisted by Past High Priest Oscar Peyton, acting as marshal.

The following officers were installed for the ensuing year: Excellent High Priest, Jacob A. Leech; King, Charles Griffith; Scribe, Herbert A. Key; Treasurer, Marion Hanks; Secretary, Frank L. Evans; Captain of Host, Willard L. Smith; Principal Sojourner, Milford W. Harbison; Royal Arch Captain, George P. Taylor; Master of 2nd Veil, Geo. D. Grizzle; Master of 1st Veil, Andrew Auer; Master of 1st Veil, John G. Bormont; Sentinel, Hans Hanson.

Children To Sing Christmas Carols

The singing of Christmas carols in the open, just outside the Central school, will be featured this morning between 11 and 11:30 o'clock.

The children of the school will all take part in the program to which parents and friends are cordially invited.

STRANGLES ON FOOD.

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 20. (U. P.)—Agustin Soto, 45, of Jimenez, Mexico, died of strangulation in a Juarez restaurant today when food he was eating lodged in his breathing passages.

EXPLOSION KILLS SIX.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 20. (UP)—Six persons were killed and eight injured in an explosion of fireworks in a shop near the center of the city tonight.

\$750,000 Damage, Street Is Wrecked

Fires Shoot from Great Gaps in Pavement. District Resembles Shelled City

LONDON, Dec. 20. (UP)—A half-mile long triangular area in the heart of London presented the appearance of a shelled town in wartime tonight as the result of a series of the most disastrous gas main explosions in the history of the capital.

Two severe explosions and a series of minor blasts rocked the West End retail district this morning and this afternoon, injuring 17 persons and causing damage estimated at \$750,000.

Homes Deserted.
Yellow flames ten feet high were still rising volcano-like from jagged holes in one street after darkness fell, throwing the deserted houses and cracked and crumpled sidewalks into weird relief. The light flickered over groups of workmen armed with batteries and pneumatic drills, who invaded the gas-filled dis-

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REFUEL PLANE WHILE IN AIR

DALLAS, Tex., Dec. 20. (UP)—Many exhibitions of daring and skill have been performed at Love Field, near here, but today's performance in which five army fliers risked their lives and successfully transferred 200 gallons of gasoline from one plane to another at 1,500 feet above the ground has no parallel for bravery in these parts.

The feat was witnessed by three ship loads of spectators hovering near the army planes and a large crowd on the field. As the transfer was being made the crowd held its breath, fearful lest some accident occur which would ignite the gasoline and blow the daring performers to bits.

Pelican Bay Mill Erect Fuel Shed

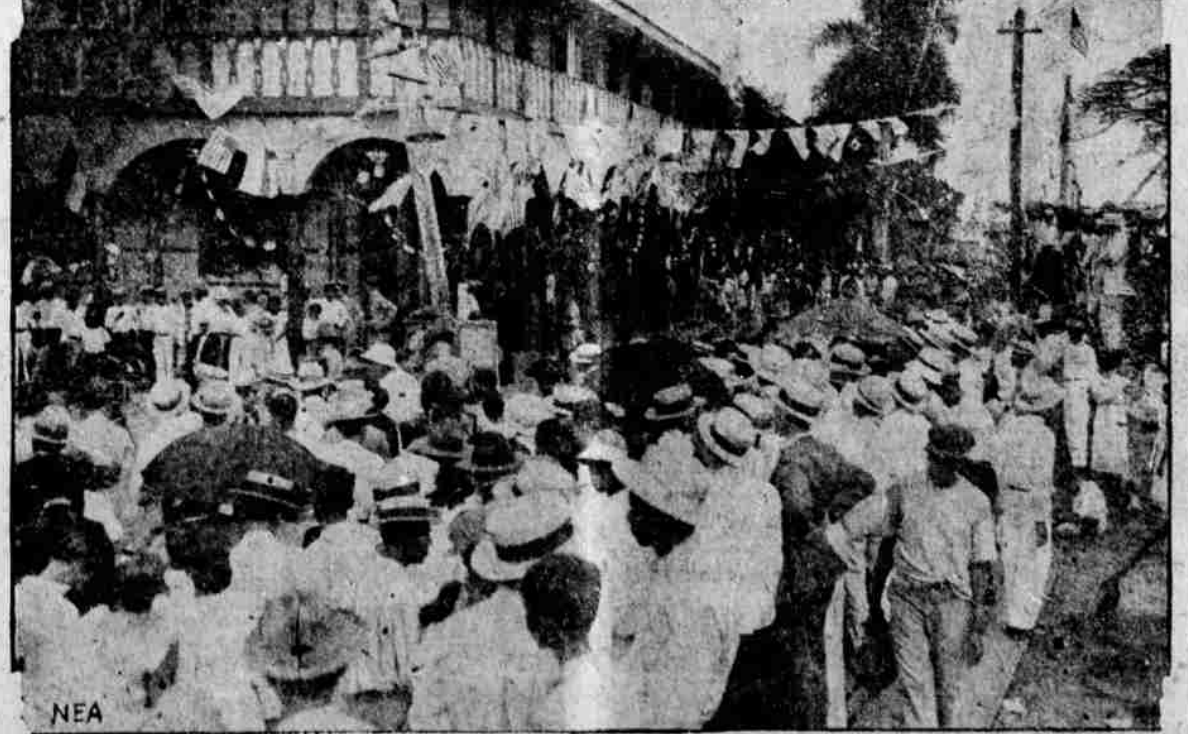
The Pelican Bay Lumber company at Pelican City has recently completed the construction of a \$10,000 fuel storage extantor. The building is 740 feet long, 39 feet high and about eight feet wide, according to E. H. Pike, superintendent.

Flapper Fanny Says:



It's easy to entertain a talkative girl, if you're a good listener.

THOUSANDS JAM CORINTO TO WELCOME HOOVER



Thousands of citizens jammed to Corinto, Nicaragua, to welcome the man whom the United States has chosen for its next president. This colorful photo, by NEA Service, shows the throng in a narrow street as the Hoover party came ashore for the general reception. The city was decorated with American and Nicaraguan flags. Visible in this picture are some of the marines now on duty there. In this building, Mr. Hoover observed in a speech: "This occasion represents a growing and united Nicaraguan people; a consolidation of forces for domestic peace."