

St. Helens Mist

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COLUMBIA RIVER CLAIMS VICTIM

BABY ESCAPES FROM MOTHER AND IS DROWNED

BODY IS AFTERWARD RECOVERED

Year Old Baby Opens Gate While Mother Rests, and Falls Into River

The Columbia River has claimed another victim. This time it was little Clarence McConkey, 13 months old, the bright baby boy of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence McConkey, who resided on a boat house on the point of Sauvie Island just opposite the mill. Mrs. McConkey had been working hard during the day, and at 3 o'clock she put the baby in the bedroom on the bed and she went to the front room to lie down on the couch for a rest. About ten minutes later she heard a noise, and getting up, found the baby had crawled off the bed and was missing. Search throughout the house failed to reveal the child. Going outside she found that the board which was used to fasten the gate had been moved aside, and Mrs. McConkey immediately gave the alarm. Before aid could reach her she had jumped into the water, which was not over four or five feet deep around the house, and was wading frantically around in an effort to recover her baby. Before many minutes some men arrived in answer to her cries and began to drag the water. At 5 o'clock they were rewarded by pulling up the body a considerable distance from the house. Mrs. McConkey was prostrated. The body of the baby was taken in charge by Undertaker T. S. White, and prepared for shipment to the old home at McMinnville. Funeral services will be held tomorrow at McMinnville.

STREETS LIGHTS ARE BADLY NEEDED

Railroad Addition Clamoring For Street Lights

There is a portion of St. Helens where nearly 100 families live that is not lighted at all on the streets. Railroad Addition and the western portion of Columbia Park is in total darkness, and without side walks, it is most inconvenient and dangerous for residents of that section to get around after dark. Many of the men living in that neighborhood work at the mills and shipyards and never get home these winter evenings until after dark. With so many people living there it would seem that at least a few lights should be placed along the main thoroughfares. The people of that section are demanding lights and their demands should be granted. In order to better get the ideas of how badly these lights are needed it has been suggested that next Monday night after Council meeting the Council retire in a body to make an inspection of Railroad Addition. The result will no doubt be the ordering of a few lights for this thickly settled portion of the city.

PROMISE BETTER SERVICE

Rainier, Ore., Nov. 18.—Officials of the S. P. & S. Railroad met with the City Council Monday night, to arrange for the right to establish a turntable at the west end of the city. Heretofore the engine of the Rainier local backed into Globe from here, there turning for the rest of the run into Portland. This difficulty the company desires to obviate. Land was purchased from the Rainier Land Company for the turntable site, and the City Council will draft an ordinance permitting the turntable to be put in. The railway company will use gas engines on the local as soon as the new turntable is completed, and the train will then make much faster time.

MURDERER OF GIRL CAPTURED

Sheriff Close, of Kalama, Nabs Trausen Yesterday

Last Monday evening Fred Trausen, an elevator operator, of Portland, shot and killed Miss Emma Ulrich, a stenographer of that city. The slayer escaped and search has been kept up for him since, until yesterday afternoon when Sheriff Ed Close, of Cowitz County, Washington, located the murderer between Kalama and Kelso, making his way to Tacoma. He was arrested and taken back to Portland last night. Trausen admitted having killed the girl and seemed to have no regret.

CANDIDATES' EXPENSE ACCOUNTS

What They All Spent Would Not Pay Many Printers Salaries

SOME HAVE NOT FILED

Successful and Defeated Tell What It Cost Them to Run for Office.

Some of the candidates for office at the late election have filed with the clerk their campaign expense statements. Judson Weed spent \$11.50 in his campaign for commissioner. E. C. Stanwood paid out \$106 during the time he was running for sheriff. N. O. Larabee spent \$29.10 running for county treasurer. Gus Lange parted with \$9.50 in his efforts to be elected commissioner. B. J. Keelan, conducted his campaign for re-election to the office of commissioner as an independent, without spending anything. U. W. Clark paid out \$9.50 for the privilege of running for sheriff on the Democratic ticket. T. S. White only paid \$8.50 as his quota to be elected coroner. A. F. Barrett parted with \$45.00 of his last month's salary in convincing the people that he was the proper man for clerk, while Miss Mary Maclay for the same office spent \$29.50. O. Henry Oleen took \$2.75 worth of campaign in his effort to be elected clerk. Mr. Oleen was the only Socialist on the county ticket who made any expenditures, the others being content to have their names appear on the ballot. Several other candidates for office have failed to file their campaign expense statement yet, and the time has already expired.

ASSESSORS WANT THE COUNTY RATIOS MADE HIGHER.

Salem, Ore., Nov. 17.—Complaining that there has been a slump in the valuation of property generally in the state, a number of assessors appeared before the State Tax Commission yesterday and urged that the tentative county ratios suggested by the commission be made higher. The ratios suggested are practically the same as last year, and are used by the commission in equalizing the state tax, and in apportioning among the counties the assessment on public service corporations. Since then the valuation of property has depreciated, declared the assessors here yesterday, and they desire a higher ratio for the next year. All of the week will likely be consumed by the commission in listening to assessors. Those who appeared before the commission yesterday were Assessor H. E. Reed, of Multnomah County; Assessor J. J. Wells, of Morrow County; Assessor E. L. Fisher, of Linn County; Assessor C. W. Blakesley, of Columbia County; Assessor Frank E. Meyer, of Polk County, and Assessor Frank L. Calkins, of Douglas County.

VIEWING COUNTY ROADS

County Surveyor Van Orshoven and Road Viewers H. J. Southard and Wm. Pringle, were viewing roads in the Nehalem country this week.

COUNTY IS MADE PARTY IN DAMAGE SUIT

S. P. & S. Railway Company Sues County and Contracting Company Jointly.

ACTION IS FOR ALLEGED DAMAGES EXCEEDING \$21,000

Contention That Construction Work on Columbia Highway Is Faulty, and That Serious Consequences Will Result to Roadbed.

In a suit filed in the United States District Court, at Portland, this week the S. P. & S. Ry. Co., against Consolidated Contract Co. and Columbia County, the Railroad Company asks for \$21,303.30 damages done to its property and right of way, and prays that a permanent injunction issue to prevent any more work on the Columbia Highway that will interfere with the property of the plaintiff. The complaint as first filed was against the Contract Company alone, but that company appeared in a motion before Judge Bean and asked that Columbia County be also made a party and the Judge so ordered and required the county to make an answer or appearance before December 4. Some of the allegations of the complaint disclose some remarkable conditions and, if true the Contract Co. or the County will have to pay some damages. Among the allegations in the complaint there appears as follows:

The said trespasses and depredations consist in shooting down earth, stones and debris, with stumps and timbers, upon the tracks and right of way of the complainant, placing debris upon the right of way and erecting retaining walls supporting large quantities of earth and stone and road material, so close to the complainant's right of way and so insecurely constructed as to endanger persons traveling upon complainant's railroad and so that the material will fall upon the right of way and block the operation of the said railway line."

"That on or about July 1st, 1914, between Clatskanie draw

bridge and Mile Post 64, the defendant in wasting material in the grading operations upon the said highway, placed such material on the right of way of the complainant, filling up ditches, and made it necessary to bulkhead in order to keep material from falling on the complainant's rails. At this point the defendant constructed dry retaining walls, made without mortar or cement and built principally of stone, that readily disintegrate when exposed to the weather in such manner as to cause the walls to crumble by reason of the action of the rains and exposure to frost, and to permit the said material, on the breaking and settling of said wall, to slide down upon the complainant's railway tracks.

Then follows a number of allegations citing instances of damages or damage done by blasting and throwing trees and rocks on the tracks, trains, depots and cars, some of which caused broken windows, knocked holes in the roofs, tore down telegraph wires and poles and many other things, causing damages to the railway company.

Altogether the damage claimed by the Railroad Co. amounts to \$21,303.03.

The prayer of the Railway Co. is for an injunction restraining and prohibiting the building of retaining walls of such character that there is danger of sliding down on the right of way, and prohibiting the placing of debris on the right of way. Also that the Railway Company be awarded damages in the sum of \$21,303.30 and costs.

NEW BUSINESS CENTER MORE SHIPYARD WORK

Business Houses Springing up in the Center of Town

Fruit and Vegetable Cannery Under Construction—Now Feed Store

That portion of the city near the Italian Importing Co. store is fast becoming to be a business center. In addition to the building of the fruit and vegetable cannery which is now well under way, there is now being also built a large feed warehouse where feed of all kinds, hay and grain, will be kept on sale and commission. Some machinery will also be installed where grains can be chopped. We have not learned who the promoters of the enterprise are, but have been assured that they have the means, and have already secured the property, and that clearing has already started preparatory to the erection of the building.

ELECTION AND DEBATE.

Friday, November 13, the higher grades and intermediate department at the Yankton school had an election of state and county officers. The red sample ballots were used and as far as possible the election was conducted like a regular state and county election.

Saturday evening, November 14, a debate, consisting of debates from the school and Grange, was given at the Grange Hall. The subject was: "Resolved that country life is pleasanter than city life." On the affirmative were A. B. Owen, Mr. Walker and Mr. Jeffries; on the negative were Miss Lillian Merritt, Mrs. Oliver and Mrs. Brown. There was a good attendance and all enjoyed the debate. Another subject will be debated in about a month.

Local Company Will Do Wood Work on Santa Catalina

Material All of Mahogany and Teak Will be Shipped in.

In the securing of the contract for the repairs of the Santa Catalina, the Willamette Iron Works, of Portland, bid in conjunction with the St. Helens Shipbuilding Co. The St. Helens Company will furnish all the wood work on the big liner to be repaired at Portland. This wood will all have to be sent here from abroad, as it is principally mahogany and teak. The work of repairing has already commenced, the boat now being on the dry docks of the Willamette Iron & Steel Co. It will take several months to finish the boat so it will be seaworthy again. Damage was mostly done amidships, both the ends escaping with little damage, although the wood work on the entire boat was completely destroyed.

FARMER'S WEEK POSTPONED

Oregon who are planning to attend Farmer's Week at the Agricultural College are hereby notified that the date has been postponed to February 1 to 6, 1915. The changed and enlarged character of the exercises have made this change necessary. Many conventions of leaders of the various agricultural interests of the state will be held at that time in addition to the special technical instruction and demonstration commonly given. Leaders of National reputation from various parts of the country and from the U. S. Department of Agriculture will be present to address these conventions.

WORK WILL START NEXT MONDAY

St. Helens Amateur Athletic Club Fully Organized

Material has all been purchased, carpenters have been employed and a lot has been secured by the St. Helens Amateur Athletic Club. The boys purchased the Southard lot on the corner of Willamette and Oak streets, and will start in next Monday to erect their building which will be 48 by 38 feet. Stock is being subscribed and already enough money has been secured with which to put up the building, so that early completion of modern club rooms is assured. This will be an addition to the city and the fire boys are to be commended for their enterprise.

INTERESTING BOXING BOUTS HELD

Well Known Sporting Men From Portland Mix Things

ONE IS KNOCKED DOWN

Special Train and 20 Autos Bring Crowd of Fans From Portland.

About 300 fans assembled at the City Hall last Wednesday, where Master of Ceremonies Jack Root had built a squared circle on a platform upon which some exceedingly interesting boxing bouts were staged. A special train from Portland brought a number of the followers of the boxing game from the city and perhaps 15 or 20 automobiles loaded with fans came also. In addition to the Portland people, there were quite a number of visitors from various parts of this country, who came to witness the exhibition.

The first preliminary was a battle royal between four negro boys in a free for all match, hit and run game or something of the sort. Any way there were 4 coons entered the ring with gloves on, and took after each other, fall over the other fellow and seemed to be having a jolly good time, all to the delight of the spectators.

The first exhibition of the evening was a six round bout between Jack Tracey and Kid Brooks which went the full length, but the exhibition lacked steam and seemed to be quite tame. The honors were about even.

Next came the real clever boys of the evening, Yost Schmeer, of Portland and Dick Wayne, of San Francisco, who were introduced, and started in on a six round go. Schmeer seemed to have some the better of the argument right from the start, apparently on account of his perfect condition, but Wayne proved to be lightning fast for the greater part of three rounds, this was an exhibition worth seeing. During the 3rd round Schmeer landed a right to the jaw, which sent Wayne to the floor. He got up smiling, however, and was not hurt. It being one of the rules of the evening that a knock down would end the bout, this ended the classy exhibition of the evening.

Dave Wheelies and Joe Henney then took the center of the stage to box six rounds, which they did. The exhibition was fairly good, but too much clinching, after the brilliant work of the preceding bout, made this last affair look rather tame. However it looked like Wheelies had the best of the argument all the way through.

The exhibition of boxing was a clean one all the way through, and the crowd very orderly. The fans present enjoyed the evening very much.

NOVEMBER RASPBERRIES

M. Saxon walked into the Mist office this week carrying a box of nice ripe red raspberries which he had picked from the bushes in his garden that same day. The berries were of delicious flavor and nicely colored. Mr. Saxon says he has had berries ever since the season started and that there are still good berries on his bushes.

PENDER GETS LIFE SENTENCE

GOVERNOR WEST SAVES CONVICTED MURDERER FROM GALLOWS

WILL NOT TEST THE NEW LAW

Sentence is Commuted After Hearing Plea of the Attorney

Governor West yesterday commuted the sentence of John Arthur Pender, convicted of murder in the first degree for killing Mrs. Daisy Wehrman in this county, several years ago, to life imprisonment. The governor made his decision for leniency after listening to the argument of Pender's attorney, John F. Logan; to Sheriff Tom Word, of Multnomah County, and to members of the Spanish-American War Veterans.

Governor West commuted the sentence with the understanding that Pender's attorneys were not to take advantage of any flaws which the bill abolishing capital punishment might have, should it be found to have passed. This measure contains no saving clause, and the governor desired that it be understood that his attorneys would not take advantage of this, in order to obtain absolute freedom for Pender, and they agreed that they would not, but would go before Governor Withycombe for a pardon, should the evidence later be found, which would conclusively show that Pender was innocent.

Mr. Logan made some very interesting charges to the governor when he said the conviction of Pender was secured through perjured testimony, and a made up case by the officers for political effect. All of which reminds one that he put up the same kind of an argument to the jury which convicted Pender. The argument did not have much effect on the men who heard the evidence and brought in a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree, but it evidently had some weight with the governor, or what is more probable, the governor already had his mind made up to commute the sentence anyway. Before commuting the sentence to life imprisonment the governor exacted a promise from Mr. Logan, for Pender, that no advantage would be taken in case there was a flaw in the capital punishment law if such was abolished. Today the count on this question shows that capital punishment has been abolished in Oregon, so that it was well that the governor took the precaution to exact a promise of that kind. If Logan had waited another day he would not have been bound up on such a pledge.

As to the people of this community having any interest in the sentence of Pender, the sentiment is evenly divided, with perhaps a general feeling that no particular objection would be made if the sentence was commuted, but it would seem that the governor, before doing so should have given the prosecuting attorney of this county a chance to be present and make a statement.

However the case is now at an end. Pender will go to the penitentiary for his life, and unless some future governor pardons him there he will stay. It is to be hoped that no more will be heard of it in Columbia County.

RAILROAD STATION WANTED

Salem, Ore., Nov. 17.—Alleging that the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railroad Company has failed to provide Columbia City with adequate station facilities, that place has filed a complaint with the State Railroad Commission. The nearest station now is McBride, more than a mile distant, it is alleged.

J. H. Price returned this week from San Francisco where he has been for some time on business connected with the St. Helens Shipbuilding Co.