

St. Helens Register

OFFICIAL PAPER OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

VOLUME XXXIV.

ST. HELENS, OREGON, FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1915.

NO. 11

RETAIL MERCHANTS FORM AN ASSOCIATION

AN IS TO COMBAT THE BAD BILL EVIL.

Merchants are Carrying Heavy Loads and Sustain Severe Annual Losses by Credits.

For the very popular reason and the natural purpose of self protection the retail merchants of St. Helens and Houlton have organized in that purpose in view a largely attended meeting of the retailers held in the recorder's office at City Hall, in St. Helens Wednesday night.

Several reasons may be assigned for such an attitude on the part of the retail dealers, but pre-eminent of all is that desire and determination to fight the professional default. The retail merchant is today the first victim of this general evil.

It seems to be the common experience of every crook, professional and otherwise, who happens to get himself located in the community. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are annually by the retailers of the country through the operations of this class of people, and the honorably upright and conscientious citizen is made to suffer.

Organization is a perfectly natural condition. The dealer must have a profit on his wares. The cost of doing business is naturally high these days, but to increase the cost are the accounts of people who never had any idea of paying a dealer is compelled, by force of circumstances, to place a price on his wares sufficient to give him a profit, even after losing these bad debts, and the honorable citizen victimized; he pays the penalty for the reason of those who practice the crook's profession.

Especially in these piping times of business paralysis and financial uncertainty, the attitude of the merchant is entirely proper. The load these men are carrying is staggering. The wholesaler, as a rule, extends little sympathy. He is naturally removed from the scene of these retail dramas. He ships the goods to the dealer, and at the end of thirty days demands his pay. Perfectly natural, perfectly right. The dealer, out of the goodness of his heart, parcels out his wares to Tom, Dick and Harry. The first he pays promptly, the other one is entirely honest and sure, but is slow, and the other fellow does not pay at all. In the course of time there is just one thing left for the merchant to do. That's to close the doors of his establishment and tell his creditors to take what remains.

It too often happens that the public looks not only with disfavor, but with suspicion, upon any sort of a combination, and in a great many instances the public is right, but an organization of retail merchants, composed of men engaged in handling all lines of goods, where there could not possibly be any community of purpose further than the protection of the dealer against the default, is right and proper. With just this understanding of conditions and with the one object—to combat the evil—the local organization has been created.

There are hundreds of worthy and honest people in every community who, by force of circumstances, are unable to pay promptly. We believe such people have no difficulty in being taken care of by the local dealers. The fly-by-night, the here yesterday and some other place tomorrow, who makes no pretense of ever paying for anything, is the element of people who have to be combated.

It is just for this purpose that the local organization has been formed, through which an exchange of information as to the reliability of people can be had. Organizations of this character are very common and through the state organization effective work and valuable information is exchanged.

The meeting Wednesday evening was attended by L. R. Merrick, secretary Oregon Retail Merchants Association, A. M. Gregg, state organizer, Arnold Keller, city organizer, of Portland, and Thomas C. Watts, of Reuben, treasurer of the state association.

The name chosen is St. Helens Retail Credit Association, and the (Continued on page 6.)

ASSESSORS BEGIN ANNUAL CRUSADE

Begin the Quest for Property Values and Ownership.

With the beginning of this week also began the busy season of the field force of the county assessor's office. Deputy Harry Wood began the search for property values on Monday in the vicinity of Clatskanie, and Deputy White took the extreme southern end of the county for his field of research, beginning on Sauvie's Island. Assessor Blakesley joined Mr. Wood later in the week, and together these officials will hunt out ownership and valuation as far south as Rainier. To systematize the work the county has been divided into two zones, with Goble as the dividing line. Deputy White will assess all property south of Goble. The work of assessing in this county is annually involving more labor. The many smaller sub-divisions emanating from the parceling of the logged-over areas, in many instances, in tracts as small as five acres, renders the search for ownership more tedious and exacting.

GOOD WORDS SPOKEN BY A STOCKMAN

Tells of Popularity of Our Breeders and Dairymen.

We want to acknowledge a call on Tuesday of this week from Mr. John W. Cook, secretary of the Clover Hill Farms, at Deer Island. Mr. Cook is a thorough stockman and fairman, in addition to being a very affable gentleman. He has made for Clover Hill Farms a reputation which has spread not alone all over Oregon, but is well known in eastern states. Mr. Cook informs us that no other county in Oregon received such widespread advertising at the recent farmer's week meetings at the State Agricultural College as Columbia county did. This was due to the fact that such breeders as Harry West, of Scappoose, Philip Prakes, of the same place, and other stockmen and dairymen, not excepting himself, were present, and took important parts in the proceedings and discussions. Mr. West represented the Jersey cattle people, Mr. Prakes, the Holstein breeders, being president of the state association of breeders of that stock, and himself having been elected secretary and treasurer of the state association of Jersey breeders, three of the best records in the nation. Mr. Cook told us a good many other things, which we are holding in obedience. We are going to talk more about him and his farm some of these days.

NEW COUNTY ROAD HAS BEEN SURVEYED

Clatskanie Heights Route Will Probably be Authorized.

County Surveyor Van Orshoven last week surveyed a route for a road leading to the Neuhouses Acre tracts, popularly known as Clatskanie Heights. The new route is an extension of the G. A. Kelly road, leading toward the Nehalem Valley from Clatskanie, and will be about two and one-half miles in length. Clatskanie Heights is located four and one-half miles in a southerly direction from Clatskanie. The new road will serve about twenty families. The present term of County Court will take the final action on the matter.

OPERATION SUCCESSFUL, PATIENT LIVES

Popular Court House Janitor Survives Surgeon's Knife.

Percy W. Harrison, the long-time faithful janitor at the county court house, was operated upon at St. Vincent hospital, Portland, last Monday, to overcome intestine complications. Mr. Harrison's host of friends will be pleased to learn that he is recovering rapidly, although the operation was considered quite a serious one. The patient is expected to be sufficiently recovered to be able to return to his home in about ten days.

Scappoose Sawmill to Resume.

I. G. Wikstrom, of Scappoose, was in the county seat Thursday. Mr. Wikstrom is contemplating starting his sawmill in operation very soon, perhaps by the middle of this month. This sounds good from an industrial and commercial standpoint.

CHANGES MADE IN JUDICIAL DISTRICT

COLUMBIA AND CLATSOP TO BE A DISTRICT.

Washington and Tillamook are Combined, and Clackamas County Now One District.

The recent Legislature created a new order of things regarding judicial matters, and the territory included within the judicial districts in Northwestern Oregon. The fifth district, which for so many years has been composed of Clackamas, Washington, Columbia and Clatsop counties, has been divided into three districts. Clackamas county will be a district within itself, Washington county, with Tillamook annexed, will constitute another district, and Columbia and Clatsop will remain as judicial district No. 5, with Judge Eakin, presiding. Judge J. U. Campbell will preside over the Clackamas county district and Judge George Bagley has been appointed to preside over the Washington-Tillamook district. The fifth district was one of the early-created districts of the state, and until within very recent years the business was handled by one judge. Since 1880 there have been but four presiding judges in this district, being in order with A. S. Bennett, now of The Dalles, who was succeeded by Judge Frank J. Taylor, of Astoria, now deceased. Judge Taylor was succeeded by Judge Thomas A. McBride, who presided continuously until his appointment to the supreme bench. Judge Eakin and Judge Campbell have jointly handled the work since that time. The law creating the new districts becomes effective May 20th, of this year.

POPULAR MAYOR OF RAINIER RE-ELECTED

Fellow Townsmen Ching to Their Tried and True.

Some people's popularity never seems to wane. This is particularly so with "our old college chum," Thomas J. Flippin, of Rainier. Mr. Flippin has just been re-elected mayor of the city of Rainier for the third time. He has served the city faithfully in that capacity for three consecutive years, and his fellow citizens seem determined to hang onto a good thing while they have it. Mayor Flippin is a sawmill man, and a good one, too, as he is also a good mayor. He has resided in Columbia county for a great many years, locating first at Clatskanie, where he was a successful business man and an influential citizen. If Mayor Flippin will just pass the word to his chief of police we'll venture down to his city some day to extend further congratulations. Other officials chosen at Rainier's election Tuesday were: W. Symons, recorder; James Jensen, marshal; A. L. Paller, treasurer; Felix Debaet, C. A. Evans, G. W. Russell and J. W. Rice, aldermen; W. C. Lee, water commissioner.

REPAIRS ON BURNED LINER ARE COMPLETE

Santa Catalina Will be Ready to Receive Cargo Next Week.

Repairs on the steamer Santa Catalina have been completed at the plant of the Willamette Iron & Steel Works at Portland, and the big liner will be ready to begin receiving cargo for her outward trip to New York next week. The iron and steel work was done by the above firm and the wood work was done by the St. Helens Shipbuilding Co., under the supervision of J. H. Price. In celebration of the completion of repairs the contractors are giving a big luncheon aboard the steamer tomorrow, to which a great many people have received invitations, several from St. Helens included.

On her journey from the sea to Portland in October of last year, the Catalina was discovered to be on fire, and she was beached at Columbia City. Her repairs have required a great deal of time, but she is said to be in as thorough condition now as when first launched. Her interior finish is of teak wood, and the character of the work is a credit to the local shipbuilding company. She will load lumber and general freight for her Atlantic destination.

CITY ELECTION TIME IS NEARLY AT HAND

The city recorder has a notice in this issue of The Register calling for a mass meeting of the citizens for the purpose of nominating a city ticket to be voted for at a general city election to be held on Monday, the first day of April, at the City Hall. The polls will remain open from 5 o'clock in the morning until 8 o'clock in the evening. A matter of public concern in regard to the city election is the fact that none but duly registered and otherwise legally qualified voters will be permitted to cast their ballot, so do not overlook this very important matter. There should be no hesitation on the part of any citizen to present to the meeting the name of anyone, whom, in their judgment, would be a suitable person to fill any of the various positions. As a rule city officials occupy a mighty thankless place. Mayor Mueller has asked us to say that under no circumstances would he be a candidate for re-election.

PUBLIC RECORDS SHOW COUNTY'S BUSINESS

Circuit Court Will Be in Session Next Week.

Israel Spencer, of Vernonia, on March 3, had a notarial commission granted and recorded. John Farr, of Warren, has been appointed by Judge Clark as administrator of the estate of W. D. Case, deceased.

County Commissioners' Court has been in session since Wednesday, with all the members of the body present. In all probability an adjournment will be possible this evening.

Judge Eakin will convene an adjourned session of Circuit Court next Monday morning. There are several important matters to come on for hearing.

Treasurer Hattan reports tax collections coming in at the rate of about \$500 per day. Up to the first of March there had been a little over \$16,000 collected. The total collections up to Thursday were slightly in excess of \$18,000. This is a very good showing in consideration of the fact that the total amount due on the roll is over \$390,000. Mr. Hattan reports that a great many half payments are being made. The treasurer's office force will probably be swamped with remittances during the last few days of the month.

CUCUMBER CROP ON DELTA GARDEN TRACTS

Twelve Acres Will be Utilized This Season for Their Culture.

Cucumbers are to be extensively grown on the Delta garden tract at Clatskanie this season. A Portland firm is encouraging the enterprise, and no doubt the undertaking will be eminently successful. The culture of cucumbers, especially the field crop, has proven very profitable as a general rule, where knowledge of the business has entered into the work. Properly cared for and under otherwise proper conditions this crop will yield from \$300 to \$500 per acre. For pickling purposes the stakes are selected in three grades. Delivered at the plant these grades command approximately \$40 per ton for the No. 1s, \$30 for the No. 2s, and \$20 for the No. 3s. It is said that the Portland firm encouraging the industry at Clatskanie finds use for the product of about 125 acres of cucumbers annually.

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOY IS HONORED

Appointed to Place on the Metropolitan Police Force

Another Columbia county young man has appeared in the effulgent rays of the spotlight recently. Mart S. Hazen, who has resided in Portland for several years, was, on Wednesday of this week, appointed to a position on the Portland police force. The new preserver of the peace and dignity of the metropolis was raised in this county, spending his childhood days with his parents on the farm, near Warren. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Hazen, of St. Helens. Mr. Hazen was one of three to head the eligible list for patrolmen as certified by the civil service board, of Portland.

COUNCIL ATTENDS TO MUCH BUSINESS

PROPERTY OWNERS ASK FOR IMPROVEMENTS.

Drainage System Being Installed at Public Expense. Bills are Ordered Paid.

The city council met in regular session Monday evening and transacted the following business:

A petition was presented by the property owners along California street praying for the improvement of the street beginning at a point in the center of that street, opposite block 129, where the present county road leading to West St. Helens, crosses said street, thence in a southerly direction along California street to its intersection with the present traveled county road leading to Warren. The petitioners pray that the said street be improved by clearing and grading a strip about 12 feet wide. The plans and specifications on file provide for surfacing said improved street with crushed rock to depth of eight inches in the center. The council ordered that the petition be printed in accordance with the provisions of the charter. The petition is signed by a majority of the property owners. The estimated cost will be \$1145, which must be borne by the property owners.

A resolution was adopted to request the County Court to repair the walk over the approaches to Milton creek bridge in West St. Helens. The Recorder was instructed to interview the Court on the subject.

The work of draining the lakes on the hill, under the supervision of M. Saxon, was begun last week. Mr. Saxon reported that he was employing a force of eleven men. The work will require about three weeks to complete. The pipe line is being laid practically the entire distance through private property, for which rights-of-way have been secured.

The following claims against the city were presented and allowed: W. C. Morley, drayage, \$3.00; Frank Wilkins, supplies for crosswalk, \$5.60; H. McCoy, hauling fire hose, etc., to fire, \$4.50; Pacific Telephone Company, phone rental, \$2.50; Chas. Olsen, installing block crossing at St. Helens and Columbia Streets, \$44.40; Columbia Contract Company, crushed rock, \$9.35. A number of claims for labor on the drainage ditch, totalling \$29, were ordered paid.

GENTLEMEN OF LAW PROFESSION COMBINE

Editor and Judge Join Forces in the Legal Field.

The latest new local combination to launch itself here is that of Judge W. A. Harris and M. E. Miller, the latter just having retired from the editorship of this paper in order to devote his entire time and attention to his business. These gentlemen have associated themselves together for the practice of law. Both are widely and popularly known and will make a strong team in their chosen profession. Judge Harris has an intimate knowledge of people and conditions in the county, while Mr. Miller's work here, both as an editor and lawyer, has brought him into touch with a vast number of people, who recognize his ability in both professions. Offices have been opened in the Harris building, on Strand street, where they will be pleased to meet and wait upon their many friends.

PASSING OF A WELL KNOWN CITIZEN

Former Merchant of Nehalem Valley Dies at Cornelius.

R. W. McNutt, a veteran of the civil war, and aged 79 years, died at his home in Cornelius, Tuesday. There are many residents of this county who knew Mr. McNutt intimately. In 1888 he established the firm of R. W. McNutt & Co., general merchandise dealers, at Vernonia, where his sons conducted the business for a good many years. The Vernonia store was a branch of their big mercantile establishment at Cornelius. He is survived by a widow and two sons, R. U. McNutt, of Grants Pass, and C. S. McNutt, of Forest Grove.

LOGGER IS KILLED AT CLATSKANIE

Young Man's Skull Crushed and His Neck Broken.

County Coroner T. S. White was called to Clatskanie Tuesday evening to take charge of the remains of a workman who had been killed at the Benson Timber Company's camp late in the afternoon. The unfortunate young man was H. B. Lyder, and was employed as rigging rustler. He had just placed the choker on a long log and given the signal to pull. In starting the log a small tree was caught in the rigging and pulled downward with such force that it struck the young man it both crushed his skull and broke his neck. The coroner states that it was one of those unfortunate accidents for which no blame could be attached to anyone. Mr. Lyder had come here just recently from South Carolina, and his first employment was in the Benson camp, where he had been employed for about nine months. He is a brother of Thomas Lyder, who formerly resided at Houlton, and who is present hook tender in the Benson camp.

PYTHIANS WILL HOLD CONVENTION

District Convention to be Held in St. Helens Soon.

The district convention of the lodges at Rainier, Seaside, Hammond and St. Helens will be held in the castle hall of the Knights of Pythias at St. Helens on Tuesday, March 16. These conventions are held for the purpose of bringing together the members of the fraternity in a business and social way, to promote fraternity and an exchange of ideas for general good of the order. They are usually attended by the grand lodge officers and a goodly number from the several subordinate lodges. The forthcoming meeting will be one of unusual interest, and it is desired that all members of the local lodge attend. The business session will be held in the afternoon and the social and fraternal part of the convention will be held in the evening, when the rank work will be exemplified and a banquet enjoyed.

GRADING ON COUNTY ROAD IS RUSHED

Work on St. Helens-Pittsburg Highway is Progressing Rapidly.

E. J. Mills, who has the contract to construct four and one-half miles of roadbed on the highway leading from St. Helens to Pittsburg, was in St. Helens last Saturday. The section of road Mr. Mills is constructing begins in Milton Creek bottom, about seven miles west of St. Helens, and extends westward four and one-half miles. According to the statement of the contractor the work will be complete in about thirty days. When this section is surfaced there will be over twelve miles of good road on the Pittsburg lateral.

LOCAL PEOPLE IN PORTLAND HOSPITALS

All are Victims of Accidents or Surgery

It is by no means any discredit to the locality that so many people from St. Helens are in Portland hospitals, there being five patients from this town there at the present time, having been operated upon or treated for injuries. The physicians here report that the health of the community is "distressingly good," a natural enough statement for any reputable physician to make when there are no epidemics laying hold of the populace. The list includes St. Tucker P. W. Harrison, Hiram Kinney, Ira Barton and John Cooper, and all are reported doing well under the circumstances.

JOINT SCHOOL MEETING AT WESTPORT

Superintendents of Two Counties Meet in Clatsop City.

A joint meeting of the school superintendents of Columbia and Clatsop counties was held at Westport Wednesday by W. J. Allen, of this county, and O. H. Byland, of Clatsop county. The Westport district is a joint district, and the superintendents aid each other in the conduct of school matters there.