The Oroville Weekly Gazette

ELEVENTH YEAR. No. 27. OROVILLE, WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 24, 1915. $1.50 PER YEAR

HOT STUFF.

The committee in charge of the smoker to be held under the auspices of the Commercial Club which is to take place at the Orpheum next Tuesday evening, have framed up a program that is bound to please and interest the patrons. No member of the committee has reported so this paper cannot go into particulars, but it feels safe in saying the smoker will be the most interesting event of the kind ever given in the county. The hall should be filled to capacity. Everybody is invited, and everybody is assured of a jolly good time.

LAST OF THE TAX ARTICLE.

(By the Assessor.)

Summary.

In the conclusion of these sketches it should be born in mind that the work of assessing taxable property is just like many other occupations; it can not be learned and mastered in a short space of time and in fact the whole subject of revenue and taxation is in itself a life study. Laws are constantly changing, methods change, values and conditions change, and each year brings with it some new and unforseen phases. The assessor, like any other official, encounters certain difficulties and overcomes these difficulties with varied degrees of success. In some instances it may be said that the work shows a lack of good judgment; other instances may indicate carelessness. No one man can superintend and personally inspect all of the details involved, and therefore it is essential that an able corps of assistants is employed. Great care and constant application are required to assess equitably in all sections of the county. Description of land are easily confused; ownerships are easily entered against the wrong property and names are easily mispelled. This year an earnest effort has been made to rid the tax rolls of such errors and upwards of seven or eight hundred discrepencies have already been adjusted. These errors are not necessarily a reflection upon past administrations. The difficulty is very largely due to the fact that no assessor has been retained in office long enough to give opportunity for a thorough examination and remedy of defects in the records. As a business proposition and for the best interests of the tax payers a competent official should be retained in his office at least during the four years permitted by law. The assessor's office is a public one and the records are public and subject to inspection by the public at any time. The office would invite the cordial co-operation of every taxpayer to the end that discrepencies may be eliminated as much as possible and that difficulties of whatever nature may be given timely attention. The expense budget for 1915 was estimated by the former assessor as $6,892.00. Up ot December 1st, the records show an expenditure of $5,973.44 during the year of 1916 the work will entail considerable more expense due to the fact that a reclassification of all real estate must be made. During 1914 (a reclassification year same as 1916 will be) the assessor's office expended the sum of $8,071.42. The 1916 budget was estimated as $9,000.00. In allprobability this amount will not all be required. However, approximately three-quarters of a million dollars valuation will be added to the tax rolls over 1914. It is the aim of the present administration to give the county full value service for every dollar expended.

It is sincerely hored that these tax sketches maybe appreciated and that the tax-payers of the county may have derived some benefits from them.

GIVE HIM A HOME.

Here is a letter from a bright little lad, without parents or relatives, now in the Washington Children's Home, at Seattle, appealing for a permanent home for himself. There are families in the country who could take a child of this age, and give him the protection and pleasant surroundings of a home. He would appreciate such a home and make himself useful in many ways to more than repay for his support. The letter has the right ring, and we trust the applicant may find kind and considerate foster parents in this neighborhood:

To the Man Who Prints the newspaper:—

Dear Sir:—Do you know of anybody who wants a boy? I am eleven, and just now I am in the Washington Children's Home at Seattle. The Home is a good enough place to stay for a while, but I don't like the country, there are so many trees. I like the sage brush country. I was there with some folks on a homestead and I liked it but they had bad luck and couldn't keep me.

I am in the 5a grade at school and I can carry wood and do chores and I can wash dishes. There are more than 20 other boys at the Home. Mostly the people who come ask to get a girl. I don't know why. I can wash dishes as good as any girl and I try to be a good boy.

If you know of any one who wants a boy, tell them to write to Mr. Covington at 19-20 Lippy building, Seattle and ask for Charlie, so no more.

Your friend,

LOCATED AT LOOMIS.

Father Sherman, who was here several weeks ago looking over the valley with the view of sizing up the situation as to its attractions for colonies, arrived from St. Louis Thursday last, remained over until Saturday and continued on to Loomis. Father Sherman, so far, has accomplished little in the way of assembling colonies, for although the idea is an excellent one in theory, it is difficult to work out in practice. He is not discouraged, however, and believes that he will yet be able to organize and install colonies in the upper country. If the colonies are not to matrialize immediately we are at least to have Father Sherman permanently, as in his ecclesiastical position he has been assigned to the Catholic mission at Loomis, and his jurisdiction will include the Sinlahekin valley. He came directly from St. Louis to assume his duties, and is now permanently established at Loomis. That camp is fortunate in having assigned to it such an able priest and a gentleman of such charming personality.

OF INTEREST TO STOCK MEN.

Grazing meetings at which applications to graze stock on the Okanogan National Forest for the season of 1916 will be received, are to be held at the following dates and places:

Loomis, December 28, 10 a. m.
Conconcully, December 29, 10 a.m.
Olema, December 31, 10 a. m.

These dates are the ones on which the regular meetings of the Loomis, Conconcully and Chiliwist Cattle and Horse Raisers associations hold their regular quarterly meetings and a full attendance of all members is expected, as several items of the greatest importance will come up at each meeting.

Mr. McDaniels of the Okanogan Forest office, will be present, in addition to the district rangers, to assist in making out applications and furnishing any information in their power.

GONE NUTTY.

Last Friday evening, Phillip Walsh, 39 years of age, was examined before Court Commissioner Geo. S. Lee, in this place, and a medical board composed of Drs. Efner and Lewis, and upon examination was adjudged insane. He was taken to Okanogan on Saturday and there committed to Medical Lake asylum by the superior court judge. Walsh had been working on the irrigation ditches near Tonasket and walked up to Oroville Thursday last, and his erratic actions and rambling talk attracted attention. He called at Dr. Lewis' office and his general appearance and expressions of apprehension from imaginary enemies at once indicated that he was demented. The unfortunate man has no relatives in the country so far as could be learned. He is a native of Ireland according to his statement.

WILL TRY SEED GROWING.

There was not a large attendance at the meeing of the farmers to consider commercial seed growing, called for Saturday afternoon, but none the less those who have taken up the matter in earnest proposes to make a start at the industry in the spring. Discounting figures given as possible returns from seed growing for the market 50 per cent and the business opens up a more profitable field of effort than almost anything that can be produced from land in this valley. The promise of returns justifies careful and thorough experiment upon a scale that will demonstrate its feasibility. Should the result meet the expectations of those who are advocating commercial seed growing subsequent years will find a large number planting a large acreage to vegetables for the seed harvest. It is a new industry that land owners should look into, as the soil and climate are especially adapted to the production of the best and most hardy seed.

FATAL ACCIDENT.

Chas. E. Johnston, pioneer livery man of Oroville, and an all around good fellow, met with a very painful and serious accident last Thursday evening that resulted in his death the following Tuesday. Mr. Johnston was in the hay loft of his livery stable on the south side of the track, about six o'clock in the evening, throwing down hay to the stock. He was pulling the hay out of the mass with his hands near the open door of the hay mow, when a handfull coming out suddenly while Mr. Johnston was pulling hard, caused him to lose his balance and fall backward out of the door to the ground beneath, a distance of some 20 feet. The injured man was at once taken to the hospital and Dr. Efner summoned. Upon examination it was found that the sternum, or breast bone was badly fractured and the right shoulder dislocated. For the first few days after the accident, although the patient suffered greatly, Mr. Johnston's condition was not considered dangerous, and his physician felt satisfied that he would recover. However, unforseen complications set in which proved fatal, death ensuing about 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon.

The deceased was born in Minnesota some 58 years ago, and came to Oroville with the advent of the railroad in 1895. He opened a livery stable and followed that business up to the time of his injury. Charlie Johnston was a popular citizen among all classes, and in business relations with his fellow men upright and honorable. He was liberal and generous to a fault, with a genial personality that made him a host of friends. His death is deplored and regretted by all woh knew him, and he will be sadly missed and long remembered by the people of Oroville with whom he has associated for so many years. The funeral took place Thursday afternoon and there was a large attendance at the service. He leaves a wife, but has no other relatives on the coast.

THE FIRST GAME.

The first basket ball game of the season was staged in the high school gym last Friday evening, when teams representing the Molson and local schools skidded around on the concrete in a lively tussle for supremacy, giving the spectators a fair imitation of the game as it should be played, and supplying excitement enough to keep the crowd busy with articulative muscles. Molson was very much outclassed, although neither team showed up any too strong in team and general work, yet the visitors never weakened in their efforts to put the sphere through the loop. It was not so bad from the view point of the gallery for the first game of the season, and deficiencies in the initial attempt will be rectified as the boys have more practice and experience. There was plenty of action, and some lively skirmishing, that verged at times on Greco-Roman wrestling. It was good natured contention, however, and no one was hurt. The score was too one sided to provide any special thrills for the result was never i ndoubt for a minute after the locals commenced finding the basket which they were backward in doing at the commencement of proceedings. The first half ended 18 to 3, favor of Oroville, and in the second half Oroville piled up 23 points while Molson was registering 6. The totals were 41 to 9, with Oroville on the long end. In the excitement of play fouls were numerous, but little was gained on the score from this source, for in most of the trials for the net on fouls were missed. The attendance was far better than could have been expected considering the weather, and judging from the interest taken future basket ball games at the gym will draw big crowds.

Cooper	c	Cole
Cody	rf	Bair
Fread	lf	McMahan
Mitchell	rg	Mallory
McDowell	lg	Ashby
Rounds	sub	Johnson
		Nagy

The following was the line-up:

Umpire—S. B. Starrett; referee, Cliff Warren; timekeeper, T. B. Nance.

ule other games are to be taken on

After the game a reception was tendered the visitors by the pupils, the domestic science class providing the refreshments.

MASONIC PUBLIC INSTALLATION.

All Masons and all Eastern Stars and their families are invited to be present at a public installation of Aurora Lodge, December 29th, at 9 p. m., at the Masonic hall, in the Sigrist building.

W. G. RISTE, W. M.

BOLD HOLD UP.

The boldest robbery that has ever taken place in Oroville was when two unknown men knocked down Albert Johnson, Monday evening, about 7:45 o'clock on Railroad avenue, between the Spokane Saloon and the Farmer's store, relieving the victim of some $170. It was an hour when more people are on the street than at any time of the day, a crowd was at the depot meeting the incoming Spokane train, not over 200 feet away, and Marshal Doty and Deputy Kruger were standing on the depot platform directly opposite to where the hold up took place. Johnson was knocked out by a terrific blow from a blunt instrument on the back of the head, and he never uttered a sound. The thieves went through his clothes, taking a sack that contained the money, immediately disappearing in the darkness, running east on railroad avenue. When Johnson regained consciousness he reported his loss to the officers. He was taken to Dr. Efner, who dressed the wound, which was in the nature of a gash in the scalp some three inches in length. Only a skull of boiler plate resistence could have stood such a blow without fracture.

Johnson is a large, massive, powerful Swede. He worked in the harvest fields near Molson during the fall, and the irrigation ditch up to Saturday night. He decided to go to Seattle, and expected to leave Tuesday morning. Monday he drew his money out of the bank and also the pay coming from the contactrors, the total amounting to some $190. He started in celebrating on the eve of his departure, and two men he met while making the rounds of the saloons became very friendly. They induced him to take a walk with them on some pretext, and immediately after leaving the Spokane saloon one of the new found friends struck him from behind. As he can give no connected description of his assailants the officers have no clue whatever to work on. Johnson had to postpone his jaunt cityward, and returned to work on the ditch. Whisky is a dangerous companion in this town just at the present time for the man with a roll. He is a temptation that the professional crook cannot resist.

NEW OFFICERS.

At the last meeting of Aurora lodge F. A. & A. M., of this place, the following officers were elected to serve during the ensuing term: C. A. Potter, W. M.; W. C. Jones, J. Warden; J. M. T. Williams, J. Warden; Alfred Voligny, Sec., F. S. Beale, Treas. Since its organization the Oroville Masonic lodge has grown steadily, and is now one of the strongest and most flourishing lodges to be found in any of the small towns of the state. There has been much talk of building a Masonic temple next year, which would be an important addition to the town if the plans could be carried out.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

There will be the annual Christmas service on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. There will be special music rendered by the quartet: Mesdames Sterritt and Nance and Messrs. Sterritt and Murray. The subject of the sermon will be "The First Christmas present."

Sunday school at 10 o'clock. We invite you and your children to make a special effort to be with us in our Sunday school.

OUR AIM—"To be a church of the Bible and for the people: A Sabbath home for the stranger: A working church: A church attractive and hospitable where each is for the other and all for God: A church declaring fearlessly and persuasively the whole counsel of God in Jesus Christ. The co-operation of all who sympathize with us in our aim and who will help us to realize it is earnestly invited." Come and worship with us.

A. W. BOND, Pastor.

BASKET BALL SCHEDULE.

The following is the schedule of basket ball games arranged for by the Oroville high school team for the season:

January 7—Republic at Oroville.
January 14—Conconully, at Conconully.
January 21—Okanogan, at Okanogan.
January 28—Republic, at Republic.
February 4—Okanogan at Oroville.
February 11—Molson, at Molson.

Besides these on the regular schedule other games are tobe taken on during the season. One is billed for January 1st with a team picked up around the Chesaw country, in which are those two old Oroville high school favorites Roy Vincent and Cliff Warren.

Ditch employees were paid Monday and the local bank paid out more money than in any one day during the past year.

R. Greiger was called to Chicago Tuesday by a dispatch announcing the death of his brother Julius, who died Friday last.

The big siphon that is to carry the water across the Similkameen river is partially in place and a fine piece of work it is.

Anticipating a long dry spell more liquor was consumed in town Monday night than during the same number of hours any time this year.

We have it from very good authority that work on the Golden Zone will in all probability start up again in the early spring. There is hardly a better ore showing any where in this part of the country than on the Zone, and if exploration is carried on under the direction of an experienced mining man there can hardly be any question as to the results. The ore is there judging from every indication and systematic mining will uncover it.

Col. A. M. Dewey and family were arrivals in town Monday, on their way to Loomis and their ranch home near the Q. S. mine, in the Sinlahekin valley.

Guy Harpham, who is now located at Wallace, Idaho, was in Oroville, Tuesday, called here on business requiring his presence only for a day or two.

W. V. Champneys, the pioneer cattle man of the Similkameen valley, was in town Wednesday. He reports stock in his neighborhood to be in prime condition.

The band is giving the public a chance to dance the old year out and the new year in next Friday evening. There will be fun galore and everybody will be there.

Sheriff Harry Stark was in town Tuesday evening looking into the case of hold up. There was no evidence obtainable, and the guilty parties are still at large enjoying their ill gotten gains.

A. D. McDougall, first vice president of the contracting firm of A. Guthrie & Co., was in Oroville several days this week looking over the irrigation project that his company is constructing in this part of the valley.

Geo. Engel recently received word that his youngest brother had been killed in France. He was a member of the German army. How many, many, hearts have been made sad by such reports from the scenes of hostilities.

Tuesday night Marshal Doty and Deputy Kruger roundedup six drunken floaters. One big Macedonian tried to put up an imitation of an European scrap, but the officers coaxed him into submission with clubs.

It is snow yesterday, slush today and mud tomorrow. That is the way the clerk is dishing out the weather in this valley. After the big storm Sunday a chinook and rain sifted along Monday, and most of the beautiful has disappeared.

Lew Hendrix has installed a vulcanizer at his harness shop, opposite the Radbourn hotel, and will make the reparing of auto tires a specialty. This means longer life to an expensive accessory to a car, and Mr. Hendrix should build up a large business in that line.

Art G. Parker, son of Geo. W. Parker of this place, was married at Mandan, North Dakota. The bride and groom are old school mates. Young Parker visited with his father in Oroville for some time last year, and has a number of friends here who will wish him joy in his new departure.

The funeral of the late Charles E. Johnson took place from the M. E. church Thursday afternoon, Rev. A. W. Bond, of the Presbyterian church officiating. Most of the business houses were closed from 2 to 3 o'clock out of respect for the old pioneer, and the funeral was one of the largest attended ever held in Oroville.

Chas. Peterson, a worker on the ditch, was run in Monday evening, paralyzed drunk. When he was searched by the marshal he had no money on his person. Tuesday morning Peterson came to to find that he had been rolled for the residue of $40, the wages he drew Monday and a part of which was spent accumulating the jag.

When the state goes dry on the 31st A. J. Wickersham will open his place as a cigar and tobacco store, with soft drinks and tables for card playing, thus supplying a resort for those who have heretofore depended upon the saloon. An establishment of that kind will be needed to accomodate those who have no place to spend their evenings.

W. A .McCrary, once station agent at Nighthawk, for the past few years holding the same position at Plentywood, Montana was registered in town Monday, as from Ellisforde. That means that Mack has returned to Okanogan county to live and we are glad of it. He owns an orchard tract on the Ellis-Forde tracts and expected to make that his home when he invested.

Mrs. J. A. Silkwood, of Seattle, was a visitor in Oroville Sunday and Monday. Mr. Silkwood owns a tract of orchard land at the Ellis-Forde Orchard tracts, and Mrs. Silkwood was here looking after the property. She was most favorably impressed with the appearance of the valley, even under a coating of snow, and she and Mr. Silkwood will no doubt eventually make their home on their land.

There are a number of land pirates hanging around Oroville just at this time making a fat living rolling the drunks. Many working on the ditch, working hard on a small stipend, invariably celebrate on pay day, and it is a common occurrance for some of them to wake up in the morning without a cent to their name. Two such cases were reported Monday night, in which the loss ran into considerable money.

John M. Jones and Vera M. Krause were married in the parlors of the De Grubb hotel Tuesday, December 21, Judge James Ferguson performing the ceremony. Mr. Jones has resided in the vicinity of Nighthawk and Loomis for past six months and the bride is the daughter of Herman Krause of Palmer Mountain. The young people will reside on Mrs. Jones' homestead adjoining her father's farm on Palmer Mountain. May happiness and long life go with the young couple.

WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

While digging a cesspool in the rear of F. V. Covert's brick block last week the workmen uncovered a nail at the depth of five feet from the surface. The walls of the excavation show that the deposits are made up of alternate stratums of clay and sand. For three feet and a half the workmen went through clay, then a foot of fine sand, and about six inches below the sand the nail was pulled out of the clay. It was evidently the size of a 10 penny nail, so corroded and eaten with rust as to be almost destroyed, and attached to the metal was a hard substance that had the appearance of silver. The head and point of the nail were almost intact. How did it get there? Where did it come from? How long has it been embedded in the earth where found? These are questions unanswerable that opens a large field of conjecture. There is no evidence that the ground has ever been disturbed, and so far as known there has never been any building at that particular spot. From the condition of the nail it must have been under ground a great many years. The regular deposits of clay and sand, with lines of demarkation as true and distinct as though laid in place in mathematical order by the hand of man, would indicate that the entire valley at some remote period has been a vast lake, gradually filling in and building up from the deposit of silt for centuries. There is no indication in the bed of clay that the nail had ever been attached to any foreign substance, such as wood, but it got there just the same as it did not grow. It is a mystery and problem that the reader can work out to a solution to suit him or herself. The fact remains that the nail was five feet under ground, embedded in the second layer of clay. Take it and make of it what you please.

MORE RESTRICTIONS.

The following is an extract of a letter from Clay Fruit, of Tonasket, chairman of the county game commission:

The game commission at a meeting held November 24, closed the game preserves between Oroville and Tonasket to duck shooting, or shooting in any form. Shooting on this game preserve is absolutely prohibited and contrary to law from and after December 1, 1915. This has been made necessary by the continued abuse of the privilege of duck shooting. Both prairie chickens and Chinese pheasants have been slaughtered in numbers by people claiming to be duck hunting, and this action is taken at the request of many of the people living along the river who wish this preserve to be protected. If it becomes necessary to shoot rabbits, or similar pests, then a permit must be procured from the commission or the game warden."

This is an illustration of the old saw, give a man an inch and he will take an ell. When the preserve was set aside for the protection of game birds the commission granted the privlege to shoot ducks along the river and adjacent lakes and sloughs. But to the average man with a gun in his hands the temptation is so great to kill that he cannot resist when prohibited birds fly up within easy shooting distance. The commission is in earnest in their determination to close the reserve to all shooting and the man who insists upon breaking the rules laid down is laying out trouble for himself. It is easier to refrain from shooting on the preserve than paying stiff fines now days, and the man who does not wish to see himself and his money parted will heed the warning.

CHRISTMAS PARTY.

On Friday afternoon at 3:30 there will be a Christmas party given by the Presbyterian Sunday school in the church. There will be a short program and plenty of games and a Christmas tree laden with good things. It will be a time of good cheer and all are invited to come and have a good time.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

(Rev. G. H. Severance, M. A. Vicar.)

Special Christmas services will be held next Sunday morning. Services and sermon at 11 a. m. Sunday school at 12. Evening services and address at 7:30.

The Sunday school Christmas entertainment and tree will be held on next Tuesday evening at 6 o'clock. All are cordially invited to attend these services.

MIDNIGHT MASS.

There will be midnight mass at the Catholic church this, Friday, evening.

H. H. Granger left for Davenport Tuesday morning, where he will spend the holidays with his family.

It is going to be so dry a week from Saturday that the town is liable to increase the price of water service.

Gene Judd made a shipment of hogs from this place to the Seattle market this week.