

# Kootenai County Republican.

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## KOOTENAI COUNTY NEWS ITEMS

### Gleaned From Our Exchanges and Other Sources

At a stockholders' meeting held in Harrison recently the St. Joe Lumber Company increased its capital stock from \$25,000 to \$75,000.

The Maccabees of Harrison have decided to build a public hall on their lot adjoining their lodge hall. This order is evidently prospering.

The saw mills of Harrison are still running, says the Searchlight, but will no doubt shut down for the winter by New Year, to make repairs for the next season's run.

George Roper and Miss Selma Bloomberg, both formerly of Bonners Ferry, were married in Kalispell Thanksgiving. The bride is a sister of Mrs. S. W. Bigger of Bonners Ferry.

Post Falls can boast of three public Christmas trees, one each by two Sunday schools and one by the L. O. T. M. All Post Falls children have no doubt been remembered by old St. Nick.

The Harrison Searchlight states that the work of improving the St. Maries river is progressing nicely, and if the weather does not get too severe the river will soon be in good shape for driving.

William Dollar the Coeur d'Alene banker, contemplates the erection of a two story brick on the site now occupied by the bank building. Construction will begin after the completion of his corner brick.

The Kootenai Herald reports a death at Copeland a week ago Sunday. A Mr. Osborne, who lived at Bonners Ferry several weeks last summer, died at the home of his son near Copeland, death being due to extreme old age.

The Catholics were holding mission services at Bonners Ferry all last week beginning Monday evening. The services were conducted by Father Hopper, a Paulist priest of San Francisco, assisted by Father Purcell of Rathdrum.

While at work excavating at Harrison last week a laborer made a gruesome find. About 18 inches from the surface he unearthed a human skeleton. The skull had a round hole in the top about one inch in diameter. It is believed to be the skeleton of an Indian woman.

When Janitor Knight arrived at the public school building in Harrison last Monday he was surprised to find that the fires had already been kindled. Some hoboes had spent the previous night in the building and had left a meerschaum pipe as a souvenir for the school children.

Dr. H. V. Scallon of Coeur d'Alene will build a two story brick block on the lot which he recently purchased, says the Press. The building will have a frontage of 50 feet on Sherman street and the first floor is to be fitted up for store rooms. Work will begin on the building early next spring.

When one sees the carpenters and masons working on new buildings in their shirt sleeves and without gloves, it is hard to realize that east of the Rocky mountains the weather is from 20 to 50 degrees below zero, says the Coeur d'Alene Press. This is a favored climate and the winter so far has been very mild. On the coldest night the thermometer has not registered lower than 20 degrees above zero.

A letter has been received by Superintendent Van Duzer from State Superintendent French in which she calls attention to the law requiring three per cent. of all moneys annually appropriated to school districts to be used in purchasing library books. Since only \$185 have been apportioned in this county since the law became operative, the amount is small yet, but the January apportionment will bring it up to several hundred dollars.

By the accidental discharge of a 40-70 Winchester, Randolph Poston, a young man, was instantly killed while out hunting in the vicinity of Bonners Ferry a week ago Monday. The unfortunate young man was accompanied by his father, Charles H. Poston, and a man named Charles Wyrick. The bullet entered the abdomen and

came out at the right shoulder blade. He expired in about five minutes. The funeral occurred Tuesday. The Poston's are recent arrivals from Virginia and came here with a view to locating. Several members of the Poston family are still back in Virginia.

This is being told for a true story. A Harrison Christian scientist was talking to a crowd of other women a few days ago when she said: "My faith in Christian science has been increased ten-fold of late and it came about in this way: We woke up one morning and heard considerable of a commotion in a closet, and upon investigation we found our cat with seven newly born kittens. The kittens were perfectly formed in every way except that they were blind, every last one of them. I hated to see the poor little things blind and began demonstrating. I demonstrated with all my might and at the end of nine days the poor little things were given vision, and their eyes were perfect, too. Wasn't that a triumph for Christian science, and doesn't that show that I am studying under the right teacher?"

It has been two years since Dr. Eldeckin's office—the little log cabin on the corner—was broken into and a speculum stolen from his case of instruments, says the Coeur d'Alene Press. The speculum did not walk away of its own accord, for there were blood stains on the floor and case as an evidence that the burglar had cut himself in gaining an entrance through the window. No trace of the instrument or the light fingered gentleman who abstracted it from its proper place in the case was found, and the incident had almost been forgotten until the other morning, when the doctor was astonished to find the speculum in a small sack tied to his office door knob. There was no note of explanation, but it was there and somebody's troubled conscience is evidently relieved of nightmares of speculums and other things.

### NEW KOOTENAI FOREST RESERVE

Large Amount of Lands in Northeastern Kootenai County to Be Tied Up.

The following news item, which appeared among Thursday's dispatches, is of more than passing interest to the people of this section:  
"KALISPELL, Mont., Dec. 23.—The register and receiver of the local land office have received a letter from the commissioner of the general land office notifying them of the withdrawal of lands in northern Montana, being all lands north and west of the Kootenai river in Montana and east of the Kootenai river in Idaho, from settlement, preserving the rights of all actual settlers who were on lands prior to date of order, which is December 18, 1901. When the surveys are completed this vast area of land, comprising about 4,313,000 acres of land, will be thrown into the new Kootenai forest reserve. All but 276,480 acres is situated in Idaho."

If this is true, and there is very little reason to doubt its authenticity, the order will be a severe blow to the people of Kootenai county, and particularly to the town of Bonners Ferry. It was hoped that Commissioner Hermann's recommendation in his last report to the effect that no more reserves be created until the defects in existing laws could be remedied would be respected. These defects are of such a nature that whenever a reserve is created within the boundaries of a railroad land grant the people have excellent reasons to be suspicious that the company or companies directly interested have had something to do with promulgating the "order." The reserve in question embraces a lot of worthless land that is not owned by the government. The owners of this worthless land will, under the existing law, be given the right to select good lands from the public domain in lieu of the land embraced in the reserve. The practical workings of this law have proven very unsatisfactory to the people of the west, and no more reserves should have been created, until the evil is remedied. After that there would be less danger of any more of Kootenai county's territory being tied up. It appears that Idaho needs good, strong representatives at Washington which, however, she has not.

## HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES IN SANDPOINT

### Christmas spirit Had Full Sway Public Tree for Children—Masquerade Ball.

Wednesday's observances, at the opening of yuletide was general in Sandpoint and vicinity. It was a day of great rejoicing over the close of a year of general prosperity. Young and old alike gave up the day to festivities and enjoyment. The beaming countenances of children and the expressions of satisfaction depicted on the features of all proved conclusively that a "Merry Christmas" was on in Sandpoint. The weather was all that could have been desired, the mercury registering 18 above zero in the morning and gradually rising as the day advanced, which made it very pleasant for the enjoyment of outdoor exercises, although a little detrimental to the snow which had fallen the previous night and which many had fondly hoped to utilize for sleighing purposes.

The festivities began at Pythian hall Tuesday night. The entire hall and the stage had been profusely yet tastefully decorated for the occasion. A large evergreen Christmas tree, fairly groaning under the weight of numberless gifts which had been placed upon it, was a most attractive feature, not only for the little ones who were anxiously awaiting the appearance of Santa Claus upon the scene, but for many of the older members of the gathering to whom the pleasing sight brought again to memory the yuletide of long ago, when the occasion meant as much to them as to the little ones whose features, radiant with excitement, told plainly how their buoyant spirits were reveling in the height of enjoyment and pleasure. We venture to say that while gazing upon that scene of youthful mirth and innocence more than one silent teardrop found its way to the surface in memory of "olden times." An elaborate musical program, vocal and instrumental, had been prepared for the occasion. A cantata, participated in by about 50 of Sandpoint's little ones, was on the program. The music was excellent, while the cantata reflected credit upon those who had trained the children for this occasion. The various characters present were well sustained, particularly Santa Claus, who appeared upon the scene in due time and in a manner which led many a little tot to believe he was the real thing. Nothing occurred to mar the evening's pleasure, and the only thing that could have been wished for was a little more stage room, the limited space thereon being somewhat of a handicap to the management of some 50 children. Santa Claus remembered all of the children present, as well as many who can not be classed as children, in the distribution of gifts.

The affair was gotten up for the children of Sandpoint with funds solicited for the purpose by Mrs. Sherburne. In the final arrangements she was ably assisted by other ladies. It proved a signal success and great credit is due to those who conceived and carried out the idea. Surely no contributor can feel otherwise than entirely satisfied and truly grateful that an opportunity was offered to contribute toward something which afforded so much pleasure and enjoyment to the children of Sandpoint.

Following this children's affair came the masquerade ball at the same hall Christmas night. For weeks this event had been the principal society topic among the young folks, who expected that it would be the social event of the season in Sandpoint and none were disappointed. This, too, proved a signal success, and the members of camp 191, M. W. of A., under whose auspices the ball was given, are to be congratulated upon the success which has attended their efforts. The spacious hall, which is really a much larger one than many towns the size of Sandpoint can boast of, was nevertheless too small to accommodate the large number of pleasure seekers who were present to enjoy this unique method of practicing the terpsichorean art. Among the masqueraders a wide range of characters were represented, and we regret that space will not permit a description of all, as it would be truly interesting. The costumes were unique and many of

the characters were excellently sustained, and it must have been somewhat of a puzzle to the judges who were selected to award prizes, although their decisions appear to have given entire satisfaction. C. R. Foss, as George Washington, was awarded a pair of gold cuff buttons and a silk handkerchief for the best sustained male character, and Mrs. P. T. Miller, as Columbia, was awarded a lady's fine pocketbook for the best sustained female character. These impersonations would have been highly creditable on any stage. The music in attendance, furnished by the Sandpoint orchestra, was excellent. To prove that all who came to have a jolly good time were not in the least disappointed, it is only necessary to state that dancing was continued until nearly 4 a. m., and even at this time many were loth to quit "so soon." The supper, which was served at the Palace hotel, was highly praised by all.

Taken all in all Sandpointers have not fared very badly during the week.

### A UNIQUE CHRISTMAS EPISTLE

#### Thos. Cleland Receives Information Leading to the Discovery of Stolen Checks.

Thos. Cleland, who was robbed of a considerable amount of money and checks a month or so ago, has recently been greatly surprised to receive the following letter from one who presumably took a prominent part in the theft:

"SPOKANE, Dec. 22, 1901. Mr. Thos. Cleland, Sandpoint, Ida. Dear Sir: As it is about Xmas, time, and thinking it would be an appropriate time to make a few presents, I thought I would present you with a few checks. I have drawn a diagram on this sheet of paper, showing you the place where your checks and wallet are at. On the right hand side underneath the seat as you go into your water closet, I'll be back to see you next summer when you have more money and less checks. I remain your humble and obedient servant,  
"HOOK NOSE."

"P. S. How are you, Tom? Finer than silk."

The letter is dated at Spokane, but the envelope is postmarked Seattle.

By following the instructions contained in the letter Mr. Cleland succeeded in recovering his checks.

### Blacktail Mining News Items.

Jim Ferguson, the well known Blacktail mining man, was in the city today, and in response to our request for mining news he stated that the tunnel on the Mexico was now in about 40 feet and was being driven at the rate of three feet every 24 hours, there being two shifts working on it. Quartz stringers an inch in width are being encountered. When this tunnel has been driven 65 feet further it will tap the first lead, and Mr. Ferguson thinks that distance can be reached in about 30 days. From the first to the second lead on the Mexico the distance is 15 feet, and from the second to the third 175 feet.

The Blue Bird and Little Joe each have a car of high grade ore on the beach ready for shipment to the Tacoma smelter. On the Black Jack the Little Joe lead has been struck, showing some very fine ore. Mr. Ferguson believes that 1902 will witness some wonderful changes in this camp, in consequence of the large amount of development work which has been mapped out for the coming year.

### Snyder-Epperson.

At 6 o'clock Christmas evening, at the home of Mrs. F. M. Snyder, on the third floor of the Lindell building in Spokane, occurred the wedding of John C. Epperson of Granite, Idaho, and Miss Bertha B. Snyder of Spokane. Rev. G. William Gibbons of the First Presbyterian church performed the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Epperson will live at Granite, where the groom is manager of a general mercantile establishment.

### The Best Plaster

A piece of flannel dampened with Chamberlain's Pain Balm and bound to the affected parts is superior to any plaster. When troubled with a lame back or pains in the side or chest, give it a trial and you are certain to be more than pleased with the prompt relief which it affords. Pain Balm also cures rheumatism. One application gives relief. For sale by C. R. Foss, druggist.