

St. Helens Mist

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COLUMBIA COUNTY BOY TUSCANIA VICTIM

GEORGE NELSON BJORK First of Community to Lose Life in Warfare.

George Nelson Bjork, whose address is given as St. Helens, is the first Columbia county boy to lose his life in actual warfare, if the Hun submarine assassination might be called warfare. Several other boys have died from natural causes since joining the army, but Bjork is the first of our soldiers to be killed by the German war machines. Not very much is known of Bjork in St. Helens, as he formerly lived at Rainier, where he was an employe of one of the mills. On December 2 he appeared at the office of the county clerk and took out his first citizenship papers, giving his age as 25; occupation, lumberman, and the place of his birth as Sweden. His application for citizenship papers stated that he had lived in America since May 4, 1907. Former County Clerk Barnett and Dr. J. H. Flynn knew Bjork quite well and spoke of him in high terms. It is understood that he worked in either the mill or shipyard for a short while before enlisting in the engineers company. He went by the name of George Nelson, and it is probable this is the reason that so few knew of him as Bjork.

Several other Columbia county boys were on the torpedoed vessel but were saved. Oregon boys who are known to have lost their lives are:

Terry Tuttle, Elgin.
William P. Morin, Portland.
Theodore E. Lewton, Forest Grove.
Percy A. Stevens, Bend.
Curtis A. Wilson, Salem.
James R. Gurney, Glide.
James L. Pierce, Creswell.
Peter A. Agren, Jewell.
John A. Laako, Astoria.
Elmer A. Houston, Held.
Riley A. Murray, Eugene.
Henry G. Bates, Baker.

ST. HELENS SCHOOLS

How Our Schools Are Helping to Win the War.

Following is a report of the amount of Thrift Stamps, War Stamps and Liberty Bonds purchased by the different classes of the public school:

School	Amount
McBride School	
First Grade, Miss Matthews' room	9.50
Second Grade, Miss Taylor's room	225.50
Third and Fourth Grades, Miss Armstrong's room	193.25
Fifth and Sixth Grades, Mrs. Andrew's room	73.50
Seventh and Eighth Grades, Mr. Lake's room	197.25
John Gumm School	
First Grade, Mrs. Barnett's room	165.50
First Grade, Miss Perry's room	58.75
Second Grade, Miss Hall's room	220.00
Third Grade, Mrs. Lake's room	138.00
Fourth Grade, Miss LaBare's room	221.75
Fifth Grade, Miss Hicklethor's room	156.00
Sixth Grade, Miss Stennick's room	528.75
Seventh Grade, Mrs. Wilson's room	209.00
Eighth Grade, Mr. Brown's room	539.50
High School	
Freshmen	160.00
Sophomores	106.50
Juniors	338.00
Seniors	100.00

This report does not include the investments of the teachers, but we hope to include them next week.

L. L. BAKER.

In addition to the pupils who entered high school from the St. Helens eighth grade at the beginning of this semester, there are two new members of the freshman class, Oscar Morton, of Bachelor Flat, and Gilbert Cooper, of Dear Island.

On Thursday afternoon Dr. Emil Eana and Charles South, of Portland, entertained the high school with a few selections. Mr. South is starting a violin class in this city.

Instead of the usual course of botany, the physiology graduates are taking up the study of biology for the second semester.

The junior class has a new member, Laura Whitney, of West St. Helens.

FAREWELL RECEPTION TO MR. AND MRS. M'COY

A farewell reception was given to Prof. and Mrs. McCoy at the city hall Tuesday evening. Although the reception was hurriedly planned and many did not know of it, at least 100 people were in the hall to say goodbye to the McCoys and wish them good fortune in their new home, and to enjoy the musical program. A. B. Lake acted as master of ceremonies, and Miss Phyllis Brown, Miss Laura Stennick and Mrs. Oakes delighted the audience with piano and vocal solos, as did Mr. Jamieson. Prof. McCoy gave a solo and a reading and short talks were made by S. C. Morton and County School Superintendent Allen. Prof. Baker, in a few well chosen remarks, presented Prof. McCoy a handsome gold watch and chain, and a beautiful lavalier to Mrs. McCoy. After the program light refreshments were served. The McCoys left for their new home in Portland Wednesday morning, carrying with them the good wishes of many friends here.

R. H. RAWSON NOW LIEUTENANT IN ARMY

St. Helens Man Gets Commission and Joins Colors.

R. H. Rawson, for some years connected with the St. Helens Crescenting Company in an important position, has tendered his resignation and received a lieutenant's commission in the United States army. He is attached to the spruce regiment and his headquarters are in Vancouver, Wash. Mr. and Mrs. Rawson left St. Helens Tuesday, Mr. Rawson reporting for army duty immediately. For the present, while the lieutenant is stationed at Vancouver, the Rawson family will make their home in Portland.

RED CROSS NOTES

The ladies of the Red Cross wish to thank the captains and members of the teams for the excellent work they have done during the past month. The third shipment is now being prepared. Following is the output of the past month. Two dozen nightgales, 2 dozen cleaning cloths, 10 dozen bed shirts, 6 dozen arm slings, 1 dozen tray cloths, 2 dozen suits pajamas, 2 dozen hands, 10 sweaters, 10 pair socks, 2 helmets and 2 pair wristlets.

A unit has been organized at Houlton and Mrs. McIntire was appointed chairman. The old city hall was secured, and the new unit is now comfortably located there and has fixed up very nice rooms. The ladies meet on Tuesdays and Fridays in the afternoon. It is hoped that the ladies will turn out in force, for the chairman states there is plenty of work to be done and the help of all is needed.

The chairman wishes that all who took out yarn during the month of December to report in regard to it.

ADVOCATES COUNTY FARM IMPROVEMENT

The Mist has received the following letter from a person who pays a large amount of taxes. The idea as to the further development of the farm is a good one and is shared in by many other taxpayers of the county. The letter follows:

"To the Editor of the Mist:
"As Columbia county owns a very valuable tract of land between Warren and Honeyman, why would it not be a good proposition for the county to spend a reasonable amount in fixing up the present buildings and adding new ones? There is no better piece of land in Columbia county than the poorfarm, and if our people were sent there in place of to Multnomah county they could soon have the whole tract cleaned up and in a high state of cultivation, and thereby make it as attractive as the other farms in the vicinity.

"The highway will soon be finished and thousands of people will pass the place each season in machines, besides the thousands that see the place from the trains, and if the farm is made more presentable it will be a good advertisement for our county as well as being a saving in actual cash to the taxpayers. Now is the time to get busy.
"A TAXPAYER."

COUNTY COURT BUYS NEW AUTO TRUCK

Will Be Used in Road Districts Number 8 and 9.

At its special meeting Wednesday the county court entered into a contract with the Portland Motor Car Company for the delivery of a Packard 5-ton truck. Last fall the court practically bought the truck, or contracted for it because of the raise in prices on all auto trucks, so that the truck to be delivered was bought at last year's price, a saving of several hundred dollars over the present price of the truck.

In the near future the truck will be taken out to the Nehalem country and will be used there in Road Districts No. 8 and 9. Commissioners Harvey and Weed think that by having a truck, road building in the districts mentioned can be done at a lesser cost than by using teams, as they state it will be a difficult matter to obtain labor on account of the various logging camps in the lower Nehalem securing most of the available labor and at wages higher than has been paid by the county.

Both of the Nehalem districts are large ones, and only one good rock quarry has thus far been located, it being in District No. 9. The long haul to District No. 8 makes it impracticable to use teams, as the cost is prohibitive. The truck has a capacity of five tons and cost around \$5,000.

At the special meeting, the court went over the list of those selected as judges and clerks of election boards, filling the vacancies caused by refusals to serve or requests for appointments.

BIDS ON ROAD WORK INVITED

County Court Advertises for Bids on Several Jobs.

Bids are asked for by the county court for road work in several districts of the county. Among the roads advertised are the Pittsburg-St. Helens road, miles 13 and 14, and the McCallister road, which is in District No. 3. The Martti road in District No. 6 and the Beaver Slough Crossing in District No. 7 also are included in the work outlined, and for which bids are asked. In District No. 8, Lower Nehalem, bids are asked for on the Lon Van road. The Columbia City-St. Helens road plans have been prepared and bids are asked for on this piece of work.

Plans and specifications covering all of the work are on file at the roadmaster's office. The bids will be opened at the March time of court.

DEATH RATE IN COUNTY VERY LOW

Births Exceed Deaths in Columbia County by 142.

According to the annual report of the Oregon state board of health, Columbia county has a very low death rate, for during the year ending December 31, 1916, only 96 deaths occurred in the county. Of these 59 were males and 35 females. During this year there were 236 births, 122 males and 114 females. There were 56 marriages in the county during the year. For the entire state, there were 7,107 deaths and 12,690 births. On an estimated population of 848,866, this gives a birth rate of 15.27 per thousand and a death rate of 8.37 per thousand.

DILLARD FIRE WAS WORK OF INCENDIARY

A careful investigation of the fire which occurred at the Dillard residence last week by Sheriff Stanwood and a deputy from the office of the state fire marshal in Salem, has thoroughly convinced the officers that the fire was set. It is understood that strong circumstantial evidence has been secured and the officers are still at work on the case.

A quorum not being present, no meeting of the city council was held last Monday night. Several important matters are before the council and will be acted upon at the next regular meeting.

Manager Scott of the local division of the telephone company was in Portland Wednesday in consultation with officials of the company.

FIND SOMMARSTROM FIRE NOT INCENDIARY

Deputy State Marshal and Sheriff Investigate Matter.

After two days spent in investigating the fire which destroyed the hotel building at the Sommarstrom shipyard, H. H. Pomeroy, deputy state fire marshal, and Sheriff Stanwood have positively established the following facts and reported them to the proper authorities:

That the fire was not incendiary. That the fire was caused by a defective oil stove. That there was but one fire. That two occupants of room where fire originated are loyal to the United States in this war (one is an Englishman, the other a Scotchman). That a most friendly feeling exists between employer and employes. That the employes deserve great credit for the manner in which they fought the fire, thereby confining the loss to the one building.

GRANGE MEETING AT BEAVER HOMES

Important Resolutions Are Adopted by the Assemblage.

The meeting of the Grange which was held at Beaver Homes February 2 was a very important and enthusiastic one. It was called to order at 1 p. m. in open session and the following speakers were heard: Mrs. Kemp, field agent of the food administration; Prof. Boquet, of the O. A. C., and D. C. Howard, county agricultural agent. After a short recess the meeting was opened in the fourth degree. A vote of thanks was tendered the speakers. Three resolutions were read and made a special order of business for the evening session. The session was called to order at 7:30 p. m. The committee on resolutions reported the following resolutions, which were read and adopted:

"Be it resolved, That, whereas the government has taken upon itself the duty of fixing the prices of farm products sold by the farmers, that it is the sense of Columbia County Pomona that it should also regulate the prices of all staple articles bought by the farmers; also, be it

"Resolved, that one copy of this be sent to Senator Chas. L. McNary."

"Believing that a commission house in Portland conducted by the State Grange would be of great interest to all farmers of Oregon; therefore be it

"Resolved, That our delegate to the next State Grange be instructed to work for the establishment of a commission house in Portland and run by the State Grange."

"Whereas, the appeal has been sounded by every government official from president down to save everything possible, give everything possible and subscribe as heavily as possible, to the end that America shall do nobly her part in the world war, and

"Whereas, our senators and congressmen have been foremost in urging this three-fold service upon all our citizens, and

"Whereas, we learn with surprise and regret that when the opportunity to show by deeds their like willingness to give, our national legislators forgot and carelessly allowed a conference committee to slip into the recent revenue bill a provision exempting government officials from its provisions, thereby relieving themselves of \$225 annual income tax, therefore be it

"Resolved, that we condemn this action as unwise, unjust and unpatriotic and call upon congress to repeal this exemption section at the coming session."

The committee on resolutions was composed of E. A. Gessell, H. Wasser and Wm. H. Rose. K. D. Raker acted as secretary.

Ship Launched Yesterday

Without ceremony or christening, the big lumber vessel which the St. Helens Shipbuilding Company built for Balfour Guthrie & Co. was successfully launched Thursday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. The vessel will have a lumber carrying capacity of 1,500,000 feet. For the present, she will be operated as a salter, and later on have auxiliary engines installed.

COLUMBIA COUNTY SCHOOL NOTES

(By J. W. Allen, County Supt.)

Clatskanie School

Since the fall term of school opened in Clatskanie there have been many improvements made. Some as follows are to be noted:

The lighting of the high school was very poor and was remedied by rearranging the windows and in some cases doubling the lighting space. Obstructing trees on the east side of the building were cut down. The rooms were then repapered and painted.

One room was fitted with new student chairs, which made the taking of notes in class work more easy.

The high school books have been catalogued and card indexed.

Extra apparatus has been purchased to make the school standard. The school has purchased and paid for a projection lantern.

The high school has a bust of Riley, a picture of "The Old Swimming Hole," and our allies' flags, gained by selling Riley buttons.

A course in Spanish has been substituted for German.

One-half hour a day is devoted to the high school to music, during which time sight reading is taught.

Penmanship and spelling are compulsory the first two years in high school.

All high school pupils must gain fifteen points by participation in high school activities before credit will be given them in second semester English.

The whole school is expecting to join the Junior Red Cross soon and devote some of their time to patriotic work.

A committee in the high school has a service flag in the making.

P. M. Stroud has been appointed agent to sell Thrift Stamps in the school.

The grade teachers are taking the free Palmer method of instruction in writing by mail.

A lunch and play room has been provided for the grade children.

An industrial exhibit is on view in the principal's office. Among the exhibits are those of the Crescent Manufacturing Company, Cheney Silk Co., Horlick's Malted Milk Co., and many others. Additional exhibits have been sent for, and it is intended that the pupils may learn by actual contact what he has read from descriptions.

January 11 was devoted to a school exhibit given in the gymnasium, to which the parents were invited. A program was given, after which the teachers served light refreshments. It is expected by the teachers to give another exhibit later in the year that the parents may note the progress made.

The upper grammar grades are being organized into societies for the development of debate, public speaking and athletics.

On Arbor day there were appropriate exercises in the rooms, after which the pupils made a general cleaning up of the school grounds, burned trash and cut down brush. Logs rolled together made glorious bonfires. No trees were planted, as there is talk of grading the school grounds and making various improvements.

It is being planned to use the gymnasium to better advantage by installing a reading room, too. The stage is to be fitted up, according to the plan, with accessories that may be advantageous to the work of a dramatic club and such school activities. Some improvements have already been made since the opening of school.

The high school basketball team played the Lincoln High School team of Portland in the gymnasium Friday evening, February 8. The visiting team won but Clatskanie proved themselves good losers. Preceding the game the C. H. S. held a big rally with plenty of noise and pep.

McBride School

Arbor day was observed by carrying out the state program. Several members of the seventh and eighth grades volunteered to furnish choice rose bushes, which were planted with great care.

Miss Armstrong has led the way in the collection of cancelled postage stamps in the past week, and at

THRIFT STAMP SALES IN COUNTY NOW \$6,293

FEBRUARY SALES GOOD

Clatskanie Has First Honors in Amount Subscribed in February.

The sale of Thrift Stamps throughout the county is progressing quite well, but not as well as the campaign managers had hoped for. To date \$6,293.50 of stamps have been sold. This covers December, January and includes the first thirteen days in February. For December, the amount of sales at the different postoffices as reported to St. Helens, which is the central station, was \$1,157.66. January showed a marked increase, \$3,136.77 being reported, and thus far this month \$1,999.07 has been exchanged for these little securities of Uncle Sam. From the showing made, it is apparent that February will eclipse the mark set in January. However, the goal is a long way off for the apportionment for Columbia county is \$270,000, or in other words it will take \$264,000 more subscriptions to fill the apportionment. The offices reporting and the amounts subscribed at each office this month are:

Clatskanie	\$ 842.52
Goble	95.10
Houlton	37.27
Marshland	79.47
Mayer	107.60
Mist	41.20
Rainier	295.44
Scappoose	138.70
Warren	25.00
St. Helens	286.77
Total	\$1,999.07

ROAD BUILDING DURING WAR

Secretary Houston Announces Policy of Department

Secretary Houston, of the department of agriculture, in a communication to the American Association of State Highway Officials, has set forth squarely the policy which he thinks should be followed in highway construction during the war. Secretary Houston says:

"So far as it is practicable to do so, this department will urge the maintenance of the highway already constructed; the construction and completion of those highways which are vitally important because of their bearing upon the war situation or for the movement of commodities; the postponement of all highway construction relatively less essential or not based upon important military or economic needs. The department is preparing to suggest to the state highway departments the preparation of a schedule of work for the federal aid projects for 1918 in line with this policy."

In carrying out the policy thus announced there has been sent out by the office of public roads of the department of agriculture, schedule forms on which the states are requested to set forth their proposed federal-aid work for the 1918 working season. These schedules call for a description of each road; the character, quality, and rail haul of the materials to be used; the probable cost; the amount of federal funds desired; the specific purpose of the improvement; its bearing upon the war situation; and what effect a delay of the work until 1919 or later would have. With the information thus assembled and classified, an efficient road-construction program is assured. While it is impossible to make any definite statement regarding the transportation of road materials, the expectations are that the transportation situation will be improved and that the shipment of such materials for essential projects can be made.

Road construction and maintenance in the United States involve an annual expenditure of some \$300,000,000, and there is scarcely a section of the country that is not seriously affected by a marked disturbance in road work.

There was a heavy fall of snow Wednesday night, but in St. Helens and vicinity it melted about as fast as it fell. Dr. Cliff, who motored down from Portland Wednesday afternoon, reported the snow was several inches deep in the Scappoose neighborhood.

(Continued on Page 7)