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# LOSTINE NEWS OF INTEREST

(Special to The Observer)

LOSTINE, Aug. 26. — Mr. and Mrs. Boyd H Kern motored to Wallowa county last Wednesday night in their Buick from their home in Bakersfield, Cal. They drove from Portland to Wallowa in one day, coming in to Lostine Thursday morning before breakfast to surprise Mrs. Kern's aunt Mrs Chris Johnson. They were on an auto tour, spending a two weeks' vacation, and could only stay a few days here. They left again on Saturday morning, returning home by a different route, going by way of The Dalles to Moro on Saturday, and on to Crater Lake to stay at Bend on Sunday. They also expect to make more side trips in California on their return trip. While here the auto was kept busy seeing Wallowa county points of interest to Mr. Kern who lived here one year about eleven years ago, and has been back several times since and never gets over admiring the grandeur of Wallowa county scenery. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kern said if Los Angeles had such a part of a summer resort as Wallowa lake all of southern California would throng to it. They also spoke of the unsurpassed beauty of Wallowa valley and slopes and that all this country needs is more people and advertising.

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Smith of Oakland, Cal., came in on Friday's train for a short visit with friends of years ago, when they were residents of this community. They are on their way to Lightcap from a summer's visit in the east and New York and Pennsylvania, where they were raised and had not been for 58 years. It is needless to say they saw many changes here. They located on a homestead on Parsnip creek a few miles from here in 1884, and later built a commodious home here in town so as to have the children in school in the winter. Mr. Smith finally sold the Parsnip creek place, which was a grain and fruit ranch, and then bought the flour mill here, where he became an expert miller winning the gold medal on his flour at the Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland. They finally sold their property here and moved to Modesto, Cal., about 15 years ago. This is their first visit here since they moved to Cal., where they have changed homes several times also. Mrs. Smith is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Moon, who used to live in La Grande years ago. Her father was a railroad man there. While here they were the house guests of Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Poley and were also entertained by other old friends. Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Magill, Mr. and Mrs. M. O. Courtney and Mr. and Mrs. Chris Johnson of Lostine and Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Williams of Parsnip creek being among the old friends who entertained them. Mr. and Mrs. Courtney took them to the lake and falls on Saturday for the day, and Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Magill and Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Poley took them up the South Fork on Sunday. They left for La Grande on Tuesday afternoon to visit her brother, Fred Moon and wife, before going on to California.

Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Poley and daughter Margaret, and Mr. Poley's brother, Dr. A. F. Poley of Portland, left for Asotin, Wash., Tuesday morning by auto, to be gone about a week.

Dr Official left the first of last week for Portland and Seattle and it is reported he is not expecting to return to Lostine again.

Miss Agnes Gray of Enterprise, visited over Sunday with friends here.

Miss Hattie Mitchell, niece of Mr. O. J. Poley, gave a fine talk on her prospective work in the mission fields of Africa in the Congo on Sunday night a week ago, at the Christian church here. She also favored the congregation with a beautiful solo. She has been preparing herself for a missionary for several years, first as a student at Eugene Bible school, and the U. of O., at Eugene, and later went to the Mission School at Indianapolis, Ind., for a two years' course of study in languages and customs of the natives of Africa. She was born and reared in Wallowa county, living for years on Prairie creek near Joseph and earlier in life lived near Enterprise and later, after her school years were over, taught in Lostine school one year. She was in the county for a week on a farewell visit to friends and relatives, coming in by auto with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Mitchell of near Salem, and her sister, Mrs. Dollie Murphy and brother James Mitchell were in the party. They visited her brother Delbert, and family of Prairie creek part of the time as well as the Poleys of Lostine. She was entertained and given a shower of presents at different points in Enterprise and Lostine. They started on their return journey to Salem last Tuesday so she could prepare for her departure from there for New York to August 28, so they said early in September for the mission field. She will be the living link of the First Christian church of Salem that will contribute largely toward her support. Just before leaving on Monday morning James Mitchell broke his arm in trying to crank their car, and had to be taken to Wallowa for surgical dressing which delayed their departure until Tuesday.

A small son of Harry Beidler fell from their porch at home and broke his arm last week.

Mr. and Mrs. M. O. Courtney, Mrs. Sadie Hall and Mrs. Dollie Pearce returned from a huckleberry trip about two weeks ago bringing home about 20 gallons among them, which only made them more anxious to return for more.

Harvest is on in full blast here now, combines, headers and binders all at work, some threshing from the shock in the field, some from the header boxes and some with combines cutting and threshing at the same time by horse power and threshing part by gasoline engine. The general average yield is pretty good considering so much hot, dry weather.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. McArter and her brother Mike Moffitt, have gone on a motoring trip, expecting to scale the heights to-day.

S. P. Frew and son Gale, returned last week from a mountain trip. They found lots of discomfort owing to rain and snow while they were there.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Woods of Evans, and Mr. and Mrs. Eriksson from near Enterprise, returned Sunday from an auto trip to points in Washington, taking in Yakima and Seattle and Spokane on their way to Soap Lake, which was their destination. They say it was so hot and dry that Wallowa county seems good to get back to.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Cook went to La Grande Friday by auto stage returning home Saturday by train. Their son Bert Cook, accompanied them home.

Earl Whitely returned from the Walla Walla country last week, where he had been working for several months.

Mr. and Mrs. B. G. Seaman and children returned home last Thursday from an auto trip to Homedale, Idaho, where they had gone to visit friends.

Joe Thompson's house caught fire in some mysterious way last Friday morning about 1 o'clock and was practically destroyed, though the front wall and porch are still standing but badly scorched and burned. Mrs. Thompson had departed for a visit to her old home in West Virginia just the Saturday previous and Mr. Thompson was alone in the house. He had retired shortly after 10 p. m. and says he had not had a fire in the house since morning. The noise of the fire awoke him and he grabbed his clothes and went into the yard. After midnight the fire roused people out quickly and in a short time two sections of hose were sending strong streams of water onto the burning building. Neighbors who got there first aided in getting a good many things out from the lower floor, but until the fire was quite a loss, though covered by ample insurance, it being a still night, no other buildings caught from it.

## More Virtues Than Faults

Nation's Press Would Reform But Never Abolish the Primary.

Suggestions that the direct primary system be discarded in favor of the renewal of the convention method of making political party nominations, as advocated by Secretary of War Weeks and other political leaders recently, has aroused a sharp discussion of the merits and demerits of the primary. The fact that Gifford Pinchot was compelled to expend a fortune to secure the nomination for governor in Pennsylvania generally is referred to as showing the need of reform. The consensus of opinion of the editors of the country, however, seems to be that the primary system must be continued, although it can be amended and improved through the application of remedies that will meet the objection revealed at recent elections. One suggestion that meets with approval in many quarters is that a combination be made of the good features of both the convention and the primary system.

"From the public point of view," the Baltimore Sun points out, "the primary system has already given a brilliant justification of itself; it has shown the country its true political temper in various communities; it has taken the bosses out of the reactionaries to a large extent. The flexibility of our political system is greatly increased by reason of it; the transference of party control in obedience to the mandate of the rank and file is made direct and certain. Under the old style convention system there is no doubt that the progressive wing which has scored consecutive victories in Indiana, Pennsylvania, Iowa and North Dakota, would have been trampled under foot with comparative ease and the control of the state organizations in the hands of old line politicians would have remained unshaken." But if the primary is to remain a potent weapon there must be changes in methods, the Seattle Times insists, because "there must be a limit to extravagance or we shall come to the point where no man of modest resources can aspire to the presidency."

The Indianapolis News believes that there is more smoke than fire in the movement to abolish the primary because "even the practical politicians are not unanimous in their condemnation of the primary. They have found that sometimes they can bring about the results they desire through it as readily as they used to through hand-picked convention delegates. In such cases the primary merely requires a little more work and sometimes a great deal more money."

Only the "reactionaries" are advocating abolition of the primary, the Lynchburg News declares, insisting that "the chief reason why the primary is not so perfect an instrument as it should be is that the average citizen, the person without political influence, does not take sufficient interest in it. There are many more good citizens in every precinct in this country than there are bad citizens. The corrupt vote, the controlled vote, is a hopeless minority. It is only possible for it to become a controlling factor in the primary when the good citizen neglects his duty." To this position the Baltimore News takes exception, arguing that "the fact that the revolt against the direct primary is so formidable and that it is so widespread if not a conclusive argument against it, certainly warrants study and investigation here to see whether this state may not find a way to keep what is good in both systems." Which brings from Capper's Weekly the declaration that "the public wants the primary system extended. It wishes to see its presidents nominated by direct vote of the people" and from the Topeka Capital the demand that "revision of the primary should be made by its friends when it is revised."

"The chief objection to the primary," as the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette sees it, "is that the candidate not backed by the organization of the house is compelled to spend a fortune to get his case adequately before the people. If he does, and he is deserving, he is nominated. But no matter how deserving he is he is not nominated even by the people if the people are not made familiar with his candidacy, and this calls for the expenditure of great sums of money." As a remedy the Scranton Times-Tribune likes the plan adopted by the Pennsylvania Democrats this year, a combination of convention and primary system by which representative men and women designate candidates to aspire for nomination as the official representatives of the party. Such a system leaves the way open for any individual who wants to enter the lists."

Its friends will not deny the defects of the primary system, the Kalamazoo Gazette says, "but the primary is in every sense superior to the discarded convention plan. Whatever defects the primary system may have are also the defects of the convention system plus many others. Too often the choice of a convention is the outcome of popular enthusiasm and momentary decision, and for this, and numerous other reasons, no movement for the abolition of the primaries and the substitution of the obsolete, boss-controlled convention system can ever again become popular throughout the United States." In addition, the Rockford Star points out, "the primaries are easing the people away from government, either by bosses or newspapers, and bringing it nearer to the people."

The direct primary, the Patterson Press insists, does away with decisions "by a little handful of manipulators behind locked doors. The worst that can be said for the direct primary is that it reserves to the people the right to make their own mistakes."


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