

Oregon Historical Society
Auditorium

THE POLK COUNTY POST

VOLUME 1.

(TWICE A WEEK.)

INDEPENDENCE, OREGON, FRIDAY, JULY 5, 1918.

(TWICE A WEEK.)

NUMBER 27.

WELLS FAMILY HOLDS ANNUAL REUNION

The call of the great out of doors lured the Wells clan to the city park last Sunday where they held their annual reunion. The event was planned at this time in honor of R. F. Wells, Jr., a prosperous lumberman of Modesto, Cal., who drove with his family to spend a while here with relatives, and Elbert Wells, another comfortable lumberman from the Imperial Valley, who forded 1200 miles arriving Saturday; also Clifford Wells, son of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Wells. He is a youthful airman who came across the continent to be at the family gathering. He is stationed at Jersey City. The young man is delighted with his work but when asked how he liked the East replied, "There are so many buzz-bees." Those who know Jersey City will agree with him. He is home on a 38-day furlough. Orville G. Wells, who is in the service, is now at the Presidio and at this time ill at the hospital. The relatives remembered him with greetings and prepared a box of delectable eatables which will be shipped to him. At the time of the reunion the gathered was entitled to only two stars on their service flag, but if conditions remain turbulent others will be added before another reunion is held. The fact that many others may be called made the event one of deeper meaning to the connection. R. F. Wells, Jr., is here after an absence of 18 years.

Ray Ground, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Ground, is a junior at Stanford University and he will return next year if not called to the colors. At this time he is taking an active interest in the Home Guards at Buena Vista.

Mr. and Mrs. John E. Wells and daughter, Leona, of Portland, motored down Sunday morning. Mr. Wells has charge of a marking crew at the shipyard. It is a very responsible position. His duty is to mark places on the ships for the boring machines to make holes for screws. His company beat the world's record for speed in constructing ships. The gathering was composed of very interesting, capable, prosperous, pleasant and happy people, tho some modestly shrank from an interview.

Others from a distance were Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Wells of Halsey.

Amid the towering fir trees of the city park, the morning hours were spent in discussing events pertaining to the family tree. Swings and other pastimes were provided for the younger merry makers. At noon forty seven relatives and friends participated in the bounteous repast. The meatless, wheatless commotion about food was dispensed with and an old time ante-bellum dinner spread. Over the dinner table many humorous stories were told and many toasts drunk to the absent ones. During the afternoon, ices were served at intervals to the gathering.

(Continued on Page 3.)

SPEED IT OVER THE SEAS

Send this Post to your soldier man "over there." Give him the message.

KINGS VALLEY MILLER SAYS SPAULDING DAMS DO HARM

Salem—J. P. Logan, who has operated the Kings Valley flouring mill on the Luckiamute river in Benton county for 50 years, and who more than a half a century ago built dams to furnish water power for the mill, has instituted injunction proceedings against the Charles K. Spaulding Logging Co. of Salem and the public service commission which will test the constitutionality of the boom franchise law passed by the legislature.

The suit is brought in the circuit court for Polk county and the defendants are cited to appear within 20 days. Action is brought in Polk county for the reason that the franchise covers both Benton and Polk counties. Logan claims that the booming of logs by the Spaulding company, under the franchise granted by the commission, will cause a congestion of water that will interfere with his dams, make it necessary for him to close down his plant at times and completely deprive him of his water rights.

The constitutionality of the boom franchise law is disputed on the grounds that it deprives the plaintiff of his property without due process of law, and the allegation is made that the Spaulding company is not a corporation within the meaning of the law.

BENTON COUNTY GIRL IS KILLED IN AUTO WRECK

Corvallis, July 1—Margaret Tallman, a young woman living a few miles north of Corvallis, was instantly killed this morning when her automobile overturned, throwing her violently to the road, splitting open her head, fracturing her jaw and breaking her thigh. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Tallman. She was graduated from the Corvallis high school in 1915 and was a successful teacher. She was alone in a light car which was speeding down an incline. The car swerved into a ditch at the side of the road, turned a complete somersault and alighted on its wheels again, harling the young woman to her death.

NARROW ESCAPE WHEN AUTO WHEEL BREAKS

Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Alexander and son, Dell, had a narrow escape Sunday night on returning from Albany when a wheel on the automobile broke, about ten miles south of Independence, and the machine tipped over. Mr. Alexander was thrown out without injury, but Dell, who was driving, was not so fortunate. He went over the wind shield with some speed and three ribs were torn loose. Mrs. Alexander, as if by a miracle, was not thrown out.

Tell The Post.

A Message to "Ours" Across the Seas

We are celebrating the Fourth of July over here, but it lacks the zip, the enthusiasm of former years. As long as you fellows are over there, we can't help putting on the soft pedal, and we'll never be able to put any "jazz" into a "good time" until you boys get back, and say it will be a hummer when you do.

You are engaged in a duty for mankind's sake that had to be done, and we are pretty sure that you are the boys who can do it and will do it, and when enough of you get over, you're going to start something that will make one of the Hun drives look like a man and dog pushing sheep. Then again, you fellows will make an "American" fight. It won't be one of burning, looting and murdering women and children. While war is hell even when conducted in the most "gentlemanly" manner, we can depend on you boys to not make it any worse than hell. We can't hope that any of you will capture the kaiser or crown prince personally, because we are quite sure some of their own people will get them first, but we are sure you will blister their back sides when you get them on the run toward Berlin.

To have such a big bunch of you away all at same time leaves a hole over here that a load of hay could pass thru. The "kick" is gone out of everything and a dance—really it looks like a meeting of the Faithful Sisters of the Sick. The old bucks do the best they can in every way but their legs wobble and they soon get the heaves.

You fellows have made a great sacrifice. All the honor and glory belongs to you—yet we are having many discomforts ourselves. For instance, we are eating no wheat; sugar is scarce. Things are not as sweet as they once were. Then we are paying big prices for everything. A big price is necessary in many cases, while in others it is a steal on the part of certain profiteers who have taken advantage of the time to fill their purses to the top. But we'll get that that bunch sooner or later.

We are not so hopeful as to think that all of you will come back. Battles cannot be fought and won without loss. Life is so uncertain anyhow. We die and pass on without any particular notice, but should any of you fall, it will be remembered as long as the American nation survives, and isn't that a better way to go over to the other side than to fuss around for a few years and then pass into eternity and be memorized only by a few relatives and friends. But, we honestly believe that most of you will come back and speed that day.

So here's to you, boys. Every man, woman and child over here is behind you to the limit. We'll do our bit to see you thru. So on this glorious Fourth of July we greet you—fighters for democracy and humanity, that the best nation on the face of the earth will forever remain free. You fellows are going to put it over and as a result of your sacrifices, an everlasting peace will be established between all nations.

EVERYBODY OVER HERE.

CHANGE AT POSTOFFICE; NEW CLERK ON DUTY

A change of employees took place at the postoffice Monday. Clerks J. W. Richardson and Miss Gladys Irvine retiring and Mrs. Homer Wood beginning work. Mr. Richardson has secured employment elsewhere and Miss Irvine has been promoted under the civil service to a position in the Astoria postoffice.

Mrs. Wood has become familiar with the work in the postoffice and will prove a valuable and popular assistant. In fact, we are quite sure that she will become so efficient that the postmaster can leave her in charge and spend some of his time on the outside hunting good places to fish, etc.

RAY GROUND NO. ONE IN POLK COUNTY DRAW

Ray Ground drew number one in the draft lottery last Thursday, his serial number being the first of Polk county's 21-year-olds to be pulled from the box in Washington. As he is greatly needed on the farm just now, it is presumed that he will not be placed in class one. Others near the top are Louis K. Brown of Airie and Floyd W. Williams, Raymond Way and Edward W. Oliver of Monmouth.

No fireworks. See Mary Pickford.

WOMAN'S DEFENSE COUNCIL CHAIRMEN ARE APPOINTED

The Independence Chairman of the Woman's Council of National Defense has appointed the following chairman at other school districts: Oak Point—Miss Irene Williams Parker—Mrs. Jesse Walker Highland—Mrs. Will Morrison These ladies are deeply interested in the work and with community co-operation will make excellent leaders.

RED CROSS AUXILIARY ORGANIZED AT HIGHLAND

An enthusiastic auxiliary of the Red Cross has been organized at Highland with Mrs. C. L. Bennett, chairman, Mrs. W. I. Morrison, vice chairman, and Miss Dean secretary. The ladies belonging to this unit are already sewing at times that they possibly can and will be sure to make a good showing.

WHITE FLOUR BACK

Commencing, Friday, July 5, the sale of white flour will be resumed in Oregon on a fifty-fifty basis. One pound of substitute to every pound of white flour.



KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS CELEBRATE THIS WEEK

This is Knights of Pythias week and its members are competing with the Fourth of July in entertaining the people everywhere. Here in Independence there was a "celebration" at the city park Tuesday night which made a hit with the large audience that was attracted to the scene. There was speaking, a program and an excellent concert by the Polk County Band.

HEAR! HEAR!

Everybody who celebrates at Kings Valley should go to the postoffice and buy a cigar of Mr. Allen. He's one of the best fellows in Kings Valley.

LEUTENANT R. M. WALKER HAS GONE TO FRANCE

Lieutenant Ray M. Walker is on his way to France.

ALL ABOARD FOR KINGS VALLEY

Yes, all aboard for Kings Valley! It appears that is where everybody in Independence is going to celebrate the Fourth. A good time can be assured all. Take your dinner along. The special train leaves at 8:30. Yes, in the morning.

INDEPENDENCE SHORT ON WAR STAMP QUOTA

Tuesday night, Independence was short \$6,000 on its War Saving Stamp quota. Work is yet being done and it is reckoned by the end of the week that the district will be over the top. The state as a whole has subscribed its quota.

POLK COUNTY THRESHERS FIX WAGES OF HANDS

Dallas—At a meeting of the threshermen of Polk county Saturday, a permanent organization was formed. An executive board composed of men from six districts was chosen to meet in Dallas on July 13 and fix the prices of threshing for this year. The wage for laborers was placed at \$3 a day for pitchers and \$4 for bundle haulers with teams.

THIS LINN COUNTY FARMER IS A HEAVY DRINKER

785 quarts of whiskey shipped in from California and assigned to a Linn county farmer was captured by officers in Albany Monday.

Canning Season

is approaching and the far-sighted housewife will this year above all others buy her requirements early.

We advise that you do not delay in buying all of the jars that you need as a traveling salesman told us that only about ten per cent of the glass factories in the United States are running. We have quite a generous supply on hand and are selling Mason's for—

- Pints 85c dozen
- Quarts \$1.0 dozen
- ½ Gallons \$1.25 dozen
- Zinc Caps 30c dozen

Yours Truly,

JOHNSON & COLLINS