

WAS IT THE WORST OR WAS IT NOT?

The recent storm has started a discussion as to whether it was the worst one Oregon ever had. Old timers are arguing the question back and forth and one says this and one says that. An unquestionable authority is the man who has lived in Oregon longer than any present resident; a man who was born in Oregon 81 years ago. We introduce Cyrus H. Walker of Albany, who says:

"The big flood of 1861 began about December 5, caused by a three nights' rain and a drizzle during the days, with a very warm wind. Considerable snow had fallen in the mountains, but there was no snow on the valley proper. The records in Albany show that on December 8 the Willamette was 36 feet above low water, the biggest flood known to white men in the Pacific Northwest. At Salem the Willamette was said to have risen three feet per hour, water rolling in great waves. Following the flood came freezing weather with a few inches of snow. About January 1, 1862, came a large fall of snow, being added to until fully two feet deep, and about this depth was kept up until near March 1; for we had several short thaws with rain, that settled the snow. Probably 12 to 15 feet fell as a total, as some assert. In February we had some clear and intensely cold weather. It was reported that at Portland the mercury fell to 20 degrees below zero. At any rate, the river was frozen so that teams crossed. The snow did not all disappear until in March, and then by the sun's rays.

"There have been several very hard winters in Oregon since then but 1861-62 was undoubtedly the hardest. With the exception of the winter of 1874-75, when a blizzard began January 9, 1875, I kept a diary during the 'freeze-ups.' The 1875 freeze closed the Columbia river and the Willamette was again frozen over at Portland so that teams could cross. From the files of the Albany Democrat, we learn, under date of January 22, 1875: 'Last Sabbath morning the thermometer stood at 16 degrees below zero, which was colder than ever before known in this valley. On that day the river was running full of ice, but it did not entirely close up until Tuesday morning, when it was completely gorged with ice and snow. During the forenoon three men crossed on the ice at Pierce's ferry, which is something that the oldest inhabitant never saw or heard of before, and it is probable it may never occur again in a lifetime.'"

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING IN INDEPENDENCE

The cold and sloppy weather of the past week has greatly retarded Christmas shopping which means for the next four days, the stores will be crowded. It is indeed a pleasure to see that the bulk of Independence people are doing all their buying at home, remembering the oft repeated saying that "a town that is good enough to live in is good enough to trade in."

People are coming from every direction to buy Christmas gifts of Moore & Walker. They have learned that this store is a real bargain house and are taking advantage of it.

Dickson's Market will furnish the principal item for everybody's Christmas dinner.

Quartier's is packed. Extra clerks are already on the job. It is a big store full of joys for kiddies.

Right next door Willard E. Craven is also very busy. There is a great demand for the practical gifts that he carries.

The Williams drug store is a delightful place to Christmas shop. Everything is so nice and beautiful. Special prices to those buying candies and nuts in quantities and a big dollar special features the McIntosh grocery.

Going to Slop Bros. & Cogle's is a pleasing habit people are acquiring—so many useful articles to be found there.

Max Goldman for groceries and general merchandise.

Photographs make very nice Christmas presents and there's a very good photographer in this town. Settle your Christmas day dinner by attending the Isis in the evening.

THE END DIDN'T COME

The end didn't come and we're all here. It was kind of foolish for anybody to think that the end was coming Dec. 17, wasn't it? No astronomer ever said that the end of the world was at hand. Nobody ever said that the end would come Dec. 17. It was just a wave of hysteria spread by sensational newspapers without cause or reason. Why even the fellow that they said said it says he never said it!

L. M. HALL IS DEAD; POLK COUNTY PIONEER

(From the Monmouth Herald.)

The death of Lawrence Marion Hall, familiarly known as "Lark" Hall, occurred at his home in Monmouth Wednesday night. His death followed a stroke of paralysis some days ago. Funeral services will be held at the home of Claud Skinner in Independence at 11 a. m. Saturday.

Mr. Hall was one of the oldest residents of Polk county. He came to Oregon with his parents in 1846 from Bureau county, Illinois, where he was born November 20, 1839. A part of the company who made the trip from Illinois was the famous Donner party which separated from the others and died of hardships in the Sierras. The Halls reached Oregon safely and wintered at Elkton in the Umpqua valley region. In 1847 the father, Reason B. Hall located a donation land claim at Buena Vista. He was the founder of that town and his family lived there for years. The Halls were a martial race. Reason's father, a Georgian, fought in the Revolution under General Greene. Reason B. Hall was a veteran of the war of 1812 and of the Black Hawk war and Lawrence Hall served in the Oregon Indian wars.

In October 1863 L. M. Hall was married to Laura E. Watson of Missouri who died in 1863. They have a daughter living, Mrs. Jasper Miller of Portland. In October 1864 Mr. Hall was married to Mrs. Rachel May. They have eight children: Mrs. Ada Davidson who died some years ago; Mrs. Clara Stover of Weiser, Idaho; Mrs. Anna Herren of Monmouth; Miss Dora Hall at home; Miss Opal of New York; Mrs. Ethel Skinner of Independence and Miss Erma Hall. Mr. Hall was prominent among the democrats of Polk county and was sheriff from 1878 to 1882. He was an Odd Fellow and a Mason and leaves a wide circle of acquaintances to mourn his departure.

The many friends of the family extend condolences.

SUVER HUSBAND AND WIFE ARE BURIED TOGETHER

Albany—The funeral of two of Oregon's oldest pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred R. Smith, was held Thursday. The Rev. W. H. Lee, of the First Presbyterian church, conducted the services. Interment was in Riverside cemetery.

These pioneers had been living for the last ten years at Suver in Polk county, and died there within two days of each other, the wife on December 13, and the husband on December 15. Deceased are survived by two sons, E. R., of Suver, and Claude L., of Monroe.

Mr. Smith was born in Missouri on January 28, 1839, but came to Oregon in a prairie schooner with his parents and three older brothers, only one of whom is still living, William F., at Natron, the place at which the family first stopped this side of the mountains. Later they moved to Albany. It was here he married Miss Martha Ingram, who was born in Albany on August 23, 1851, and spent all of her life on the Pacific coast.

BUYS 20-GALLON STILL TO RELIEVE CHILDREN'S COLDS

Salem—E. E. Wells of Talbot arrested here this week for buying a 20-gallon still said he intended to use the output of the device in relieving his children who were suffering from severe colds.

County Budget Meeting

The county budget meeting will be held at the county court house in Dallas on Friday, December 26, at 10:30 a. m.

HOLIDAY WEEK PROGRAM

MONDAY, DEC. 22—DOROTHY GISH in "Out of Luck." A very clever and charming story.

TUESDAY, DEC. 23—MAE MURRAY in "The Big Little Person." A most appealing picture of a little woman whom adversity could not conquer played with charm, strength and feeling. It's the season's truest love story and a drama for everyone of every age.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24—VIVIAN MARTIN in "Louisiana." She was a little country bumpkin who meets a "city feller," but "Louisiana" is different. The "city feller" turns out good in this story, while the country boy is the villain. You'll enjoy seeing the tables turned—in fact, things are delightfully mixed up. MRS. SIDNEY DREW in "A Sisterly Scheme." Love and Cupid in bathing suits!

THURSDAY, DEC. 25—MONROE SALISBURY in "The Man in the Moonlight." "No man who wouldn't fight for him—no girl he couldn't kiss." Another fine Canadian Northwest Mounted Police story with punches and thrills galore. A big evening's entertainment—one you'll greatly enjoy.

FRIDAY, DEC. 26—CHARLES RAY in "Hay Foot, Straw Foot." "I will roll up my sleeves, ladies and gentlemen, to show you that I have nothing concealed"—but Charley couldn't roll up his "biled front" and thereon hangs a tail and—Betty. He said he could never love her because she was an actress because to him, the country rube, the stage was worse than the devil. One of the "gol-darndest" best pictures Charles Ray has ever made.

SATURDAY, DEC. 27—BESSIE BARRISCALE in "Kitty Kelly M. D." The town of Fracas, Arizona, met the train to give the new she-doctor the "razz" but when she stepped off the platform—young, pretty and blonde—there developed an epidemic of masculine ailments theretofore unheard of.

SUNDAY, DEC. 28—(Afternoon and Evening)—MAURICE TOURNEUR presents "The White Heather." The sublime, but forbidden, love that prompted a man to so risk his life in a desperate undersea battle for a woman, will rest in your memory always. The sheer beauty of the scenes actually photographed on the ocean's floor will leave you gasping in amazement. "The White Heather" is nothing short of a miracle.

ISIS THEATRE INDEPENDENCE

CHRISTMAS IN OREGON

(By Mary Carolyn Davies in Oregon Journal.)

They dreamed of home, a year ago,
And of our faces,
Who kept their Christmas (as we know),
In alien places.
They dreamed of home, and frail and blue,
Against the sunny Christmas sky
Hood's snow shone out—how well they knew
That peak! They dreamed of roses, too;
And great green firs against the sun.
—And now their journeying is done.

As in their dream, the firs tower high
Against the blue and sunny sky;
And the mild air is made more sweet
By frost-pinched roses at their feet,
As here they keep, with sun and rain,
Christmas in Oregon again!

IT BAN NIGHT 'FORE CHRISTMUS

(While the Post Poet was on the editorial staff of a Middle West daily he wrote this "pome" which was generally published over the country at the time and is now found in several books of Swedish dialect.)

It ban night fore Christmus, there
ban no one tu bodder,
No vun ban rount, not even her
fodder,
Ay sits wid my Tillie, yet my heart
ban so sunk,
Ay felt so gee funny like Ay ban
sure drunk;
Dat girl ban peaches, Ay'd give her
my life,
An Ay wanted to ask her if she ban
my wife,
But, by yumping yeeminy, vords not
cum,
An Tillie sit smilin' chewin' her
gum.
Ay standt oop my feet, Tillie stop
rockin',
Ay handt her present, two red vool
stockin',
She yump oop glad, laffin' loud as
she cud,
An say, "Ole, yu're slow, but yu also
ban gude."
She take little tree, vat she say mis-
selttoe,
Tacks it on wall and sits down be-
low,
Ay don't know beeznis vat she do
vid tree,
An she kepp a smilin' an lookin' at
me.
At last she say, "Ole, Ole, yu ban so
green,
Sumtime Ay hate yu, tank yu ban
green."
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A MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Post wishes each and all of its readers a most merry Christmas and trusts that Santa Claus will do his full duty and leave not one home unvisited.

And being 100 percent Independence, we hope that the community stocking will be filled to overflowing with progress, liberality and enough bull dog grit to tell the knocker to go to that warm place where the temperature is said to be several degrees above the boiling point.

INDEPENDENCE COUPLE WOULD WED BUT NO

(From the Dallas Itemizer.)

The cruel hand of the law interfered with a love-sick young couple from Independence getting married Sunday. Saturday the young couple appeared at the office of the county clerk to secure a marriage license, but as they did not have a witness were denied the precious document. An appointment was made with Deputy Clerk Lief Finseth to meet them at the court house Sunday when the witness would be present. The appointment was kept and all parties were present. The license was about to be issued when another person appeared. He was Sheriff Orr, who had been advised from Independence to prevent the marriage as neither the prospective bride or groom were of legal age, their witness to the contrary notwithstanding. The license will not be issued until the parental consent is secured for both parties.

INDEPENDENCE WELL REPRESENTED AT O. A. C.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis—Independence students have made an excellent record at the college. Orin D. Dadman, a captain of one of the cadet companies and member of the Sigma Nu fraternity, is prominent in student affairs. Last year he was president of his class and manager of the junior week-end. Gladys Reynolds, a senior in home economics, is prominent in the P. M. C. A. Last year she was a member of the Beaver annual staff and secretary of the Cauthorn club. Wendell H. Denlinger, a junior in chemical engineering, is an active member of the Miners' association. Madeline Kremer is registered as a sophomore in home economics. Charles G. Dawes is a freshman taking commerce. Opal E. Hewett is a first year student in pharmacy. Rollo McKinney is registered as a freshman in civil engineering. Harry C. Miller is a freshman in pharmacy. Delos Eldridge is a special student in music. Both Frank B. Smiley and Pete A. Stoltenberg are special students in agriculture. Cyril and Marvin Richardson, formerly of Independence, are also enrolled.

THIRTEEN OF OUR LADS TAKE A PERILOUS JOURNEY

The Dramatic Order of Knights of Khorassan functioned in Dallas last Saturday night, 71 men taking the trip into the unbeknown. No fatalities are reported. Homer Lodge No. 45 furnished thirteen of the candidates as follows: Gail Alexander, Sim Bush, Sam Cox, H. Chas. Dunsmore, Frank Dickson, Emerson Groves, Jim Garber, John Hillbrand, Herb Hoyser, Grover Mattison, John Nelson, Marshall Pengra and Glen Smith. The boys were chaperoned by several of the "wiser" who had "been thru the mill."

The local lodge of Knights of Pythias is a live nest.

THIS WEEK FIVE YEARS AGO IN SOUTH POLK COUNTY

(From the Independence Monitor December 20, 1914.)

Clarence E. Smith and Miss Iva Cox married.

Buena Vista pupils planted trees on the school grounds.

Presbyterians at the Burton home held a reception for Rev. and Mrs. E. Rehett.

Genuine winter weather with much shivering and goose pimples. Many water pipes broken.

A. C. Moore and Dean Walker bought out Bice & Calbreath. R. M. Walker bought Moore's interest in the book store.

STORM STORIES; FLOOD UNLIKELY

While the big snow came like a lion it went away like a lamb; it disappeared in such a manner as to remove all possibilities of a flood. True, the old Willamette is a raging torrent but it has not reached such a high stage as to be threatening to the property abutting its banks.

Since the storm, Independence has developed a great liking for the plumbing trade and many of its male population have forsaken their usual vocations and are now engaged in fitting, cutting and adjusting water pipes—most generally in their own homes.

An old shack, on the corner of B and Main streets, used in the past as a blacksmith shop, fell in this week and when the debris is cleared away another unsightly object will be removed.

The rural mail carriers are back on the job and are assisting in making it a merry Christmas for the farmers. Christmas day is not a holiday for the carriers—they must carry the presents around.

The concrete foundation of the house on the "model farm", south of Independence, gave way and the building, or part of it, dropped into the basement.

The Independence schools—both high and training—have suspenden until Jan. 5. Both buildings were quite badly damaged.

FRUIT MEN NEED NOT WORRY OVER POSSIBLE CROP DAMAGE

(By C. I. Lewis.)

If the loganberry vines behave as they did in 1908 they will throw out quite a large number of vigorous laterals below the snow line, and these will bear considerable fruit. If the loganberries are not killed above the snow line, it would in some ways be bad news for western Oregon, because it would mean that there is a tremendous area in the United States that can produce loganberries commercially.

The cold spell came at a very fortunate time as far as fruit trees are concerned, because they are as nearly dormant now as they ever will be. It will pay fruit growers to watch their trees carefully to note whether or not the bark splits on the trunks. If the bark splits, it will become loose over the entire body of the tree, will curl up and the tree will die. The cheapest and quickest remedy to this trouble is to get large bill posting tacks and tack the bark to the tree on either side of the split.

There is considerable concern over walnuts. We feel that the last cold snap would do very little damage to the average walnut trees. The walnut is an extremely hard tree when dormant.

It is a little early to determine peach injury. Growers who are interested can cut thru the fruit buds with a sharp knife, and if they find the center badly damaged, the chances are that the buds are badly damaged. The peach has a very tender bud.

AIRLIE AND LEWISVILLE VOTING PRECINCTS CHANGED

At the meeting of the county court this month several changes were made in the voting precincts of the county.

Airlie precinct No. 11 is now as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the Big Luckiamute river and section line between Sections 28 and 27 Tp. 9 S. R. 6 W. of the Willamette Meridian; thence down said river and its meanderings thereof to its intersection with section line between sections 14 and 15 Tp. 9 R. 5 W. of the Willamette Meridian; thence south on said section line to the west line of Wm. Parker's D. L. C.; thence in a southerly direction on said D. C. L. line between sections 22 and 27 in Tp. 9 S. R. 5 W. of the Willamette Meridian; thence west to the southwest corner of Section 22 Tp. 9 S. R. 5 W. of the Willamette Meridian; thence south to the south line of Polk county; thence west along the south line of Polk county to section line between (Continued on Page 4.)