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JULY 4 NAVY'S BIG DAY.

Officials and Officers Co-operate to Give Sailors a Fine Holiday.

Uncle Sam makes the Fourth of July a greater day among his sailors than even Christmas. Indeed, it is the greatest day of relaxation and pleasure for jacks in the whole year. The early secretaries of the navy established the custom, and it has been almost religiously maintained inviolate through the long line of officials who have succeeded the pioneers of our sea forces.

Independence day belongs to the blue-jacket. His superiors recognize that his life is in some respects a hard one. To him are denied the ties of family, the friendships and all the other interests and diversions of life that make up the landsman's existence. For this reason Uncle Sam believes that his sailors should have as many holidays as possible.

To make Independence day the biggest of them all is to give the day a special significance which cannot but, to some degree at least, carry its lesson of patriotic duty to those who serve the republic on the seas.

Hence admirals and captains always plan to remain in port on July 4. Then, after dressing ship, firing the national salute and brief patriotic services, the day is given to the men to enjoy as they see fit.

The sports that attend the sailor's Fourth of July are of a varied character. Our naval service has, of course, become affected to a considerable extent by the great outdoor movement that has converted Independence day into one of the greatest sporting carnivals of the year.

The navy department has wisely encouraged this tendency, and wherever an open field is available the piece de resistance is a baseball game sometimes between rival nines picked from members of the same ship, often between teams representing different ships and in some extreme cases between nines from separate squadrons that happen to be in rendezvous near each other.

Then there are track and field events. The fleet footed wearers of the blue show how fast they can sprint. Now, just what good this does them in their development as fighters is not clear, for even if they had the instinct to flee and could get over ground faster than a Duffey it would do them no good at the moment when the prow of the ship was heading for a moist trip to Davy Jones' locker. However, they run and throw weights and hammers, jump and pole vault.

If no athletic field is available then the rivalry must be confined to aquatic events—swimming and rowing races. In the rare instances where it is not possible to get ashore or the water conditions preclude rowing or swimming the bluejackets test their prowess at boxing, wrestling, fencing, dancing and singing.

Then the ship's larder is drawn on for such extra delicacies as transform the regular meal into a banquet, and Mr. Sailor crawls into his hammock with the comfortable feeling that the Fourth of July is a pretty big day, after all, and that he is glad to be able to pass it in Uncle Sam's service.

HOW PARIS HEARD OF OUR INDEPENDENCE.

The news that America had declared her independence of England was received in Paris with unbounded enthusiasm. Here is a contemporary account of the rejoicing:

"Three months had passed after the reading of the act of the Declaration of Independence when news of that famous event was brought to Havre, and three days later it had reached Paris, late in the afternoon of a certain day. Soon after 8 o'clock of the evening hour on the stage of one of Paris' theaters appeared a young man, a boy, wearing trousers of the cigar tint—that of the 'Claro' marked kind—and a loose white coat, a barber shop apprentice, who, elbowing arms and shoulders of surrounding actors, yelled with Stentor's lungs to the top of his voice, 'America is free!' This cry was enthusiastically responded to by the hurrahs of a startled audience, who repeated many times, 'Viva la liberte, proclames un Amerique!'

"The effect of such spontaneous, overexciting transports was equal to that which would have resulted in case the curtain should have been suddenly lowered. The hall of that theater was readily evacuated. Women and men, clapping hands, sang and shouted cries of joy and exultation in the streets of Paris, while a group of young men broke windows in front of a store where arms, fireworks and such things as are handy on nights when people use fireworks are sold, and in a very short time all Paris of those days on land and water, streets, mansions and dwellings of the rich and the poor, the Seine river, were blazing with an improvised illumination and all sorts of fireworks to the extent of presenting a delightful scenery of light and pyrotechnics."

Carefully Preserved and Guarded in State Department, Washington.

There is so much reverence for the document on which the fifty-six signers of the immortal Declaration of Independence inscribed their names that it is no wonder it is preserved at the national capital with the utmost care. It is in the state department building that the document is kept, and a safe specially constructed for its preservation in as good condition as possible is its home. The guardianship of the revered document is intrusted to an official of the department.

The parchment with the original signatures was deposited with the department of state when the government was organized in 1789. In 1823 John Quincy Adams had a copperplate facsimile made to give copies to the signers and their heirs. The original was injured in this way, the wet sheet pressed on the face drawing out the ink so that the names of the signers have become illegible and the text partially so. In recent years it has been kept sealed up in a steel case, and the greatest care has been taken to prevent its coming to any harm.

SLEEPS IN COFFIN TO BALK UNDERTAKERS

Nebraska Man Hopes He'll Die in Casket.

Lincoln, Neb.—Every night in the year E. T. Hunger, formerly chief of police of Lincoln, sleeps in his coffin. The homemade box stands on the front porch of the Hunger residence, and at night, after the neighbors have gone to bed, "Old Man" Hunger goes out and climbs into the box. If the weather is cold or if a shower comes up he pulls the top of the coffin over the opening, leaves a crack through which he can get a little fresh air and calmly goes to sleep. Mr. Hunger is now seventy-six years old, and for many years he has been sleeping in his coffin.

"And I made that coffin myself, too," he says proudly. "Costs too much to die in these days. So I just thought I'd play a joke on the undertakers and make my own coffin while I was well enough to do it. So I got me some inch plank about a foot wide and several pieces of 2 by 4. I put the latter at each corner to make the box stable, and then I nailed it together with eight penny nails. Whole thing cost me less than \$5, but it's strong enough to hold a man about my size without any trouble. And won't these undertakers be mad when I die and they can't get any of my money?"

The Hunger home sits back from the street, and there are trees all around it. In the summer these trees shade the porch and the gruesome object cannot be seen plainly. But when winter strips the limbs and branches Mr. Hunger's homemade coffin can be seen by all passersby.

For more than twenty years Mr Hunger was a constable in Lincoln and is one of the best known men in the city. But the fact that he sleeps in his coffin every night is a fact known to few others than his neighbors and close friends.

WALKED ACROSS CONTINENT.

And These Two San Francisco Boys Made Money at It.

Boston.—Two San Francisco boys, Karl Woodside and Joseph Kelley, arrived at the home of Woodside's aunt in Brookline, Mass., after walking across the continent. They said they started on their trip Jan. 1 with only 5 cents.

By singing, sawing wood, giving lectures and doing farm chores they worked their way to this city. When they arrived they had about \$12 between them, were clad in new khaki uniforms and were each about twelve pounds heavier than when they started. They are nineteen years old.

Ten Die From Heat in St. Louis.

St. Louis.—Ten deaths from the excessive heat in 24 hours and 20 prostrations was the record here.

BRIEF NEWS OF OREGON

The Oregon Bankers' association held its convention at Medford.

The free text books question was snowed under at the school election in Portland.

A typewriters' speed contest was held at Astoria Thursday. A silver loving cup was the prize.

Plans have been completed for holding the first Chautauqua at Pendleton July 5 to 10.

Andrew J. Dufur, Jr., first mayor and one of the founders of Dufur, died in Portland.

Monroe adopted a new city charter without much opposition. Out of 13 votes cast only seven were opposed to the charter.

Thomas McFarland of Banks caught a yearling deer in his back yard, to which place the animal had strayed. He will keep it for a pet.

The ashes of Hurley Lutz, ex-county clerk, were scattered in the bay at Toledo, by the lodge of Elks, in accordance with the man's request.

A big street dance the last night of the Salem cherry fair to be held July 25, 26 and 27 will be one of the features of the celebration.

Josephine county residents turned out in force to attend the Cave Day celebration, which was held under the auspices of the Grants Pass commercial club.

Richard Williams, former member of congress from Oregon, school director of Portland and the oldest practitioner before the Oregon bar, died at Portland.

The Oregon national guard, the Idaho national guard and the regulars from Vancouver barracks, Wash., will meet in annual encampment at Gearhart Park July 12 to 20.

An agate, containing a half-moon and showing the "Man in the Moon" has been found by Mrs. N. J. Moore, of Agate Beach. It is one of the most remarkable agates ever found.

An out-of-doors display representing Oregon life will be one of the attractive features at the Panama-Pacific exposition at San Francisco. The exhibit will cost about \$10,000.

The following officers were elected by the Oregon Pioneer association: President, T. T. Geer, 1851; vice-president, Charles B. Moores, 1852; secretary, George H. Himes, 1853; treasurer, Charles E. Ladd, 1857; directors, John W. Minto, 1848; Henry L. Pittock, 1853; Nathan K. Bird, 1846.

The Oregon apple box will become the standard apple box for the entire United States, if congress can find time to pass the Raker bill, which was favorably reported recently to the house by the committee on coinage, weights and measures.

In an opinion asked by C. C. Spencer, of Oregon City, Attorney General Crawford has held that the bonds of school clerks must be double the amount of money it is estimated they will handle. The bonds must be approved by the school boards and the county school superintendents.

Commissioner Campbell has announced that the state railroad commission henceforth would insist upon all commission merchants in the state observing the commission merchant act enacted by the last legislature.

The secretary of the interior has designated a tract of 284,000 acres of land in Oregon for entry under the enlarged homestead law. Most of the lands embraced in this designation lie in the Deschutes and John Day river basins.

Dental work to the estimated value of \$2000 was performed on prisoners at the state penitentiary during the last week by applicants for licenses to practice dentistry in Oregon who appeared for examination at the regular semi-annual session of the Oregon state board of dental examiners.

Interpreting the county division law for G. B. Putnam of Bend, Attorney-General Crawford holds that if a county is to be divided into three counties, each of the two new counties must receive 65 per cent of the vote cast in its proposed boundaries, and 35 per cent of the vote cast in the balance of the territory, including the other proposed new county. In other words, the attorney-general holds that when two new counties are being created at the same time out of one county the percentage of the vote that must be obtained is the same for each proposed new county as though only one county was being created.

"We want to everlastingly kill off single tax; that's what this measure is for," declared T. J. Fording, of Portland, when he submitted a copy of a proposed constitutional amendment to the secretary of state. The measure, which Mr. Fording said would be initiated, bears the name of David M. Dunne. It proposes to amend section 1 of article IX of the constitution. The measure provides that no property, to exceed in value the sum of \$300, shall be exempted from taxation, and that this provision, when once adopted, shall never be amended, except by two-thirds vote of all the electors who may participate in any general or special election wherein a change in the system of assessment and taxation is proposed.

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