

THE CROOK COUNTY FARMER

The Crook County Farmer is experiencing a sort of "up in the air" feeling this week. My intentions last week were, as you all know, to get some of those California cattle with safety valve equipment, but just now I have a letter from the Wright brothers, who want me to be their guest on an afloat trip across the sea in July 1954, and this proposition sort of puts my mind off everything else that's happened between now and afterwards. They want me to report the trip for The Spokesman and the Paris newspapers, and my pay will be so big that if the dollars were piled one on top of the other there wouldn't be enough brains beneath the moon to calculate the height. All this looks pretty good to me, but I have one big fault that might throw all my prospects in the soup and that is that I was born fifty years too soon. The big question that I have to battle with is: how am I going to live another forty-five years when I am 55 already? And if I drink the Florida cow's milk now and trot along another 45 autumns is that any proof that the Wright brothers will behave themselves and not break their necks before that time?

When a man gets into such a stew as this he always consults the womenfolk for a calm answer, and so at the breakfast table I put the question before my wife lengthwise, crosswise, endwise, and was just going to turn it sideways, when she put in a word edgewise and that settled everything, except the coffee. Well, I guess there will be an air ship excursion for me, unless I drink enough Florida cow's milk to be the last one in the family. But you can't fool the cook, for she is fiddling around that milk, too. And that isn't all by a long shot. We are getting so careful around these diggins' that an accident insurance agent would have to live on wind to accidentally make his living here. We are beginning to appreciate life so much that death couldn't touch us with a 90-foot fence rail. I am trying to outlive my wife, and she is trying to outlive me. If I live the longest I will get an air ship ride across the sea, a pile of money, and might see the inside of a whale's stomach, thus ending my career in head cheese fashion.

If my wife lives the longest she will collect \$247.73 life insurance, wear conventional black, and carry out her agreement not to make go my eyes at another living soul except our pet cat. The race is off!

Alas! here is the rub again: my wife being seven years younger is seven years ahead of me, so I will have to live a mighty fast life to catch up and pass during that time.

With that impression I scanned the city this morning, and all looked serene to me. The fog that rose from the river mingled with the mists that blew over the turnip patch, and off they scampered, like children in June. My thoughts were resting, sweet sun beams stole over my eye brows, kissed the bridge of my nose and laughed in my face. In that beautiful frame of mind I whistled "Gander in the Hay", hitched up Old Dick, and drove to town to see a doctor.

"Doc", said I, "how can I live a fast life?"

Doc looked at me a while, and his sky turned gray. And that was not all; for what Doc told me put knots in my whiskers and cramps in my heart.

He told me that the man who lives a fast life will meet an early grave. Now what in the world am I going to do? I can't beat my wife by being slow, and I can't beat her by being fast.

When other people are in such a pickle they commit suicide, but I'll hang out even at that, for the minute I hang myself to the wash line my wife wins.

The Crook County Farmer is a ponder jack at answering questions, and he's stuck at last. The first number of The Spokesman who will help him out of this muddle will surely get my wife's recipe for dressing head cheese without using his hands.

In the meantime I will keep the ship proposition away from the Portland papers and wait for your assistance. The hand cheese recipe is waiting, too. Let's trade.

GOOD OPENING HERE
FOR HARNESS SHOP

There is a good opening in Redmond for a first class harness maker to put in a shop. Since the harness failure, which was due to overworking with expensive goods, there has been no harness repair shop here, and those who need harness repairs are compelled to go to other towns.

INDICATIONS FOR A BUMPER 1912 CROP

Last year the month of March was so warm and pleasant in this section that most of the gardens were put in, and a good share of the crop sown. But it was a false alarm. Spring had not arrived. The two following months, April and May, were cold and frosty, and the March planting did not amount to much, so far as growing was concerned.

The reason of the cold in April and May was due, some claim, to the open winter that obtained.

The winter of 1911 and 1912 has been severe enough and came at the right time to insure an early spring and continuous warm weather after spring arrives.

It is to be hoped that the planting season this year will be early, and the growing season favorable up to the time for harvesting of the different crops. Although last year the growing season was short, a satisfactory crop was grown in this section. All indications now point to a bumper crop season for 1912.

STATE MAY SELL ITS HARNEY SALT DEPOSIT

The State Land Board is considering the offer made by C. M. Sain of a royalty of 10 per cent for all salt removed from the salt beds of Summer and Albert Lakes in Harney county, which if accepted will net the state many thousands of dollars in the future.

Through Attorney General Crawford, the matter of the state claiming riparian right to the salt beds was taken up, and as a result of the investigation salt miners are now bidding for the privilege of removing salt from the two lakes. There are 49,000 acres of land covered by the two lakes. In Summer Lake there is estimated to be 3,395,000 tons of pure salt, while in Lake Albert experts figure there are 14,880,000 tons of pure salt. Sain agrees to construct evaporating vats covering an area of 2000 acres on Lake Albert, and a 1000-acre vat on Summer Lake, and 10 per cent of all salt removed from both lakes will be paid to the state as royalty on the state's holdings.

CROOK COUNTY TO HAVE GOLF COURSE

Crook County is to have a golf links, a nine hole course, to be located on the ranches of Thomas W. Lawson and Thomas Sharp, Jr., which join each other and are located on Crooked River near Redmond. The project will be commenced as soon as the weather permits, and it is expected to complete the work early in the summer.

A unique feature of the course is that it will be an irrigated one, the irrigation canals to provide the natural hazards. Mr. Sharp is now laying his plans for the course and will seed it to clover and bluegrass as soon as his ditches are constructed. Old golf enthusiasts who have located in the interior are looking forward with a great deal of anticipation to this latest addition to the Thomas Lawson ranch, where now is being built a mansion the equal of any New Yorker's summer home.

METOLIUS GETS O. T. OPERATING OFFICES

The entire operating department of the Oregon Trunk Railway, now located at Moody, will be transferred to Metolius on February 1, according to the Metolius Oregonian of Jan. 26th. The force now includes three train dispatchers, a round house foreman, the head store keeper, several car repairers and the regular round house crew. They will temporarily occupy the store house which is nearing completion. This building will be the headquarters until some time this spring, when a two story, commodious executive building will be built between the depot and the Metolius warehouse.

The assistant superintendent and trainmaster will also make Metolius their headquarters on the date named. In brief, the entire train force including dispatchers, office help, road master, bridge workers and machinists, will not only make Metolius their headquarters but will bring their families to this place.

POWELL BUTTES

The residents of the Powell Butte section have organized a Sunday School to be held at the Shepherd school house. The following officers were chosen: E. L. Johnson, superintendent; N. P. Alley, assistant superintendent; Lloyd Bassett, secretary; Jesse Beckman, treasurer; Mrs. M. V. Charlton, organist; Miss Hazel Bayn, librarian.

Mrs. Geo. Shobert is seriously ill at her home.

George Beckman, the proprietor of the Powell Butte Inn, is in Portland on business.

The last two days of last week the Shepherd School pupils took the 5th grade examination. There was a class of eight.

There will be Sunday School every Sunday hereafter, and preaching every other Sunday at the Shepherd School house, by Rev. J. M. Crenshaw of Redmond.

A number of the farmers in this section have been taking advantage of the recent good weather and have begun their spring plowing.

To the young man who has not been hatched, and who does not know whether he will hatch out a goose or peacock, life seems a big success.

"This," says nearly every man when a baby arrives at his home, "is the last."

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Ranch 60 Miles Southeast of Redmond on Bear Creek Road