

Crook County Journal

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COMMERCIAL CLUB HOLDS SMOKER

It Was a Piping Good Stag Social.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP NOW 97

Boosting Spirit Gives Promise of Healthy Growth in Crook County.

"It's always fair weather. When good fellows get together." And it was certainly fair weather at the first smoker given by the Prineville Commercial Club Tuesday evening, when about fifty members gathered at the club rooms and spent one of the most enjoyable social evenings ever held in the city. The rooms were decorated with palms and green streamers and presented a most inviting appearance. The company indulged in card games and good tobacco via cornoc pipes until the commencement of the program, which was as follows: Selection by President T. M. Baldwin. Mr. Baldwin struck a keynote

when he said that Prineville was a community dependent on itself for help, for business, social enjoyment and for progress, and that this was the fundamental object of the Commercial Club.

Dr. H. G. Davis recited "Casey at the Bat." John R. Luckey sang a solo, "He's a Cousin of Mine." Lewis C. Morgan rendered a cornet solo.

E. N. Strong of Portland sang the "Stein Song" from the "Heidelberg." The male quartette, composed of Messrs. Ashby, Luckey, Morgan and Lantus, sang "Juanita."

This was followed by the most enlivening number on the program which was a relay clog dance by Messrs. Hugh Lakin, Harry Lantus and Prof. E. L. Ashby.

Prof. Ashby sang a solo and Dr. Davis gave another reading. In the way of refreshments the committee on entertainment served the company with punch, sandwiches, pickles, coffee, cake and olives.

The membership of the club has grown during the past week and now numbers 97; only three more and the 100 mark will be reached. The booster spirit is getting a good hold in Prineville.

Clean-Up Day.

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the town council of the city of Prineville, I hereby designate the 24th day of April as a general clean-up day of the streets and alleys of the city of Prineville, and ask all citizens to join in carrying out this work.

D. F. STUART, Mayor.

HARRIMAN MUST BUILD OR QUIT

Can Get Route If He Means Business.

MUST GIVE DISTINCT PROMISE

Construction of Road to Commence at Once, or Privilege Will Not Be Granted.

According to the latest news from Washington the Interior Department intends to put a crimp in Harriman's bottling-up policy so far as any rights granted in the Deschutes canyon are concerned. If the right-of-way is granted it will be under the stipulation that the road must be built at once. A dispatch to the Oregon Journal dated April 19 says:

"After a visit by Joseph N. Teal of Portland and Senator Chamberlain to the department, the Secretary of the Interior has promised to decide as to the Deschutes project today or tomorrow. It is the belief at the department that Secretary Ballinger will rule that Har-

riman may build through the canyon. In the event that Harriman is permitted to proceed, it is understood to be with the distinct agreement that the railroad shall be at once constructed, there being no question as to the distinctness of the promise made by Harriman.

Getting in Trim for the May Races

Although it is over a month yet before the May race meeting at Prineville, there are a dozen horses now in training at the track and more are expected daily. C. W. Officer arrived this week from Ize with "Ebelthacher" and "Belle Griffin" and another flyer, and Tommy Cain is also here with "Sunrise" and two other horses from John Day.

Vol Officer is here with "Wade Hampton" and "Lady Banana," while Bill Pollard has "John H.," "Brandy" and two other horses at the track. "Brandy" arrived Saturday from Paulina and looks as fit as a fiddle. "Shorry" Powell is coming from Portland with "Misty" and two others, while Gruffy Baber is said to be on his way from Grants Pass with eight head of racers. Les Galbraith is now on the way from Independence or will soon start with "Kamsack," "Misty Pride" and another one. It looks like the May race meet would see the best horses ever brought together in Crook county.

Notice the red hot specials J. E. Stewart & Company are offering for Saturday.

DRY FARMER MAKES GOOD

George Rodman Lifts Last Paper Off Land.

HE NOW OWNS 920 ACRES

Sold \$3356 Worth of Grain This Year—Had Nothing When He Started In.

George Rodman was in town from his home at Culver last Friday and was in a particularly happy frame of mind. And well he might be, for he had one check from D. F. Stewart of the Prineville Flouring Mills for \$2008, another check for \$250 and a roll of bills as big as your head. He proceeded to a local bank and lifted the last scrap of paper off of his 920 acres of land.

These wads of money were all from the sale of grain raised on Mr. Rodman's ranch last year, which gave him a total of \$3356 in money, besides all he has fed out and used for seed, and still he has enough on hand to carry him over to another season. And, by-the-way, that \$2008 check is the largest check D. F. Stewart ever drew to one person in payment for grain.

"In the spring of 1862 I was in Prineville and had just 50 cents to my name," said Mr. Rodman. "I went across the creek here and paid it to a woman to wash a couple of shirts for me, and didn't have a red left. Then I went down in the Culver country and took up a piece of land; and I want you to know right now that I feel mighty grateful to the business men of Prineville who have helped me all these years. I have never been turned down for money in this town and I have borrowed all the way from \$100 to \$2500 at a time."

"The only way I have been able to make any money has been to borrow money and buy land, and I have kept at it until I now have 920 acres I can call my own, or will be able to if the bank don't close in fifteen minutes before I can get there and lift the last scrap of paper off of it. The business men of this town have certainly been good to me and I want them to know how I feel about it."

"That's not so bad for seventeen years on a dry farm, without anything to start with."

Besides the land Mr. Rodman has acquired, he has splendid farming equipment. His lands are well improved and he has one of the finest barns in Crook county.

Racing Autos May Come Through Crook

While Prineville is not on some of the late maps, there is the prospect that it will be on the route of an endurance automobile race, in which between 25 and 50 autos will start from New York cross the continent and finish at Seattle during the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition this summer.

The county court of Crook county has received communications from the county courts of Malheur and Harney counties, asking co-operation in improving that portion of the road on the proposed auto route, lying in Crook, with a view to inducing the autoists to traverse it in their endurance test. The route would enter Oregon at Ontario, pass through Vale, Burns, Prineville and cross the Cascade Mountains over the Santiam road to Lebanon and Albany, thence north to Seattle.

The pathfinder mapping out the route of the proposed race is now on the way west and it is believed if the assurance can be given that this route will be put in good shape for autos, that the pathfinder will include it in the race course.

County Judge Ellis states that the question of Crook county improving her portion of the route is now under consideration. Harney county proposes to put her end of the road in shape for the autos, and wants this county to take the bumps out of the Prineville Burns road from the county line on the summit of Buck Mountain to Prineville. The judge says that \$50 would put the road in good condition from Prineville to Alex Mackintosh's place, and that from there to the summit of Buck Mountain it would require an expenditure of about \$200 more.

All of the route from Ontario to Prineville on which the improvement is proposed, is traveled by mail stages. So far as Crook county is concerned it is simply a question of expending a small sum on the improvement of one of our important highways, and in case the big racing cars should come through Crook county there would be considerable benefit result to the country in the way of publicity and advertising, and furthermore, would call the attention of other desirable tourists to the route.

Matthew H. Bell Dies Suddenly

Prineville was shocked Monday evening by the sudden death of M. H. Bell, one of the best known residents of the county. Mr. Bell had been feeble for some time, but he was about the streets as usual up to within a half hour of his death, which occurred at about 5:30 p. m., and it was almost impossible for the many friends who had talked with him but a few minutes before to believe that the sad news were true.

Mr. Bell had just eaten supper at home and risen from the table, when he was apparently seized with an attack of choking and sank down and expired. The funeral occurred Wednesday afternoon from the residence, under the auspices of the Masons, with interment in the Masonic Cemetery.

Deceased was aged 78 years, 1 month and 11 days. During his residence in this county for the past 27 years he has served as county treasurer, city recorder and justice of the peace, many years of service in the latter capacity having gained him the familiar title of "Squire." At the time of his death he was city recorder of Prineville, elected by the council at its last meeting to fill the unexpired term of C. L. Shattuck.



M. H. BELL.

who resigned. In 1859 he was postmaster at Corvallis, and also served a term as deputy sheriff in Benton county. Mr. Bell has been a member of the Masonic order for the past 40 years, holding his membership at Corvallis, Oregon.

The widow and four children survive him. The latter are: C. H. Bell, of John Day; W. B. Bell of Bryant, Washington; Mrs. W. Y. Marsters, of Portland; and W. A. Bell of Prineville.

Matthew Henry Bell was born at Johnsonboro, Washington county, Tenn., March 8, 1831. His father was the Rev. J. L. Bell, an old school Presbyterian. From Tennessee he moved with his parents to Indiana while an infant, and from there moved to Burlington, Iowa, in 1837. Deceased crossed the plains in 1852 and settled at Corvallis, Benton county, Oregon. He was there married to Elizabeth Cole Wells in 1855, who crossed the plains in 1852. He resided in Corvallis until 1882, when with his family he removed to Prineville, where he resided until his death, April 19, 1909.

Seventh Grade Wins Debate

There was a redhot debate last Friday afternoon in the Prineville public school between teams from the Seventh and Eighth Grades on the question, "Resolved, That capital punishment should be abolished."

A decision was rendered in favor of the Seventh Grade, which had the negative of the subject. The winning team was composed of representatives from the "Progressive" society, Robert Lister, Leland Belknap and Van Brink, the "Jeffersonian" team from the Eighth Grade being Ray Wilson, Warren Yancey and Lawrence Lister. The judges were Mr. Elliott, Supt. R. A. Ford and Mrs. Earl McLaughlin. Besides the debate, there were on the program a vocal solo by Miss Anna O'Neil and an instrumental duet by Misses Georgia Cleek and Vivian Henkle. Many visitors attended the exercises.

Tents, wagon covers and wagon bows at J. E. Stewart & Co.'s.

SHEEP CONDITIONS ARE IDEAL

Best Clip in Twenty-five Years.

FINE WEATHER FOR LAMBING

Wool Prices Are Advancing Rapidly—Sheep Need No Dipping This Year.

Among the woolgrowers of Crook county the present season is now far enough along for them to cast about and anticipate with a degree of certainty their profits for the year.

Owing to the fact that the past winter was ideal, in that while the winter was on it was winter in fact, giving owners of flocks just the kind of weather they desired for feeding, and to the further fact that when winter was over spring came at once and the flocks were taken directly from the feed lots to the range, the condition of the sheep all through the winter and spring months was uniform. This fact explains the unusually strong growth of wool for the present spring clipping. In fact it is given as an opinion by those in a position to know, that Crook county will go to market this year with the best grown clip of wool it has produced for the past twenty-five years.

The lambing season is now well along. The weather and grass have been ideal all through. Some of the nights were a little crisp, but not enough to do damage, and while few marking counts have yet been made, enough is known to indicate that the lamb crop will be heavy—in a number of instances this increase will be as high as a 100 per cent. All these conditions, together with the unusually high price of wool, seem sure to indicate that those who own sheep in this year of our Lord 1909 are to be considered fortunate.

Wool prices are very encouraging too. Present values are 6 to 7 cents above those of last year, the market is very strong and prices are tending steadily upward. A leading Prineville grower says it looks like 25 cents for good wool this season. Representatives of commission houses are now in the West and the competition is forcing prices to levels far in advance of those paid last year. Idaho wool has been contracted at 22½¢.

At a meeting of the State Board of Sheep Commissioners held in Portland last Monday, A. L. Mackintosh of Paulina, was re-elected president; Dan F. Smith, secretary; and Dr. W. H. Lytle will succeed himself as State Sheep Inspector.

The condition of Oregon sheep was shown to be healthier than for years. There is so little scab among the flocks that the commission issued a proclamation declaring the annual dipping for 1909 not necessary.

Progressive Supper May 1.

A progressive supper will be served by the Ladies Aid of the Presbyterian church on Saturday, May 1, from 4 to 7:30, the plan being to serve a part of the courses at the home of Mrs. C. I. Winnek, the next course or courses at Mrs. Hugh Lister's and the finishing touches to be served at Mrs. Ralph Jordan's. An automobile has been engaged to carry the people attending from one house to the other, this service being free. Three stations will be located later on Main street, where the auto will pick up the patrons and take them to Mrs. Winnek's, where the supper begins. The occasion promises to be a novel and entertaining one.



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