

PEOPLE AND EVENTS SILVERTON

LILLIE L. MADSEN Statesman Correspondent

SILVERTON, June 27.—(Special to The Statesman.)—Tickets for the concert to be given by the Luther College band at Silvertown July 1 are being sold by a number of members of the Bible class of the St. Johns and Trinity churches. The selling is competitive, as four prizes are offered. Prizes are free encampments at the Lutheran chautauqua, to be held in Gladstone park the last week in July. The girl and boy from each church selling the most tickets will be awarded prizes. At the last report Einar Ormbræk was heading the list with most tickets sold. The concert will be given in the Eugene Field auditorium.

An Overland car from Silvertown was reported as having gone through a guard fence on a turn west of Howell school on the Salem-Silvertown road. Passers-by reported seeing blood on the pavement and car, but the car was seemingly abandoned. No one could be found who seemed to know to whom the wrecked car belonged or the cause of the accident. The accident had not been reported to the police at Silvertown at noon Saturday.

In spite of the unusual heat the last few days farmers have been extremely busy, most of them turning their attention to haying in present. Because of the continued rain this spring most fields are in good condition, yielding a large amount of hay. Hauling has been completed in some places while in others cutting has just begun.

Vetch, cheat and oats are the main hay crops, as very few stands of clover are reported. The extreme dryness of last summer prevented the spring sowing of seed from getting a good start, and as a result most farmers have had to depend on other crops for their hay.

The old wooden bridge over Silver Creek on North Water street was closed to traffic after it broke when a large truck attempted to cross it. The truck, owned by Albert Webb, who conducts the Pacific Transfer business, was driven by Arthur Dill and carried a four-ton load. As the truck passed over the bridge, worn planks gave way, and only a heavy sill which caught and held the rear end of the truck, prevented its falling into the creek. The broken bridge was formerly of the covered type, having been built 33 years ago, in 1892. Except for fords, it was for many years the only means of crossing Silver creek. About 12 or 15 years

Ella McMunn Comes to Defense of Senator C. L. McNary of Oregon

"The Country Gentleman" Devoted Its Whole Editorial Page of Its Issue of May 23 to Senator McNary, the Editor of That Paper Showing Himself, by His Attitude and Assertions, to be a Man Without Vision

Editor Statesman: The Country Gentleman in its issue of May 23, devotes its entire editorial page to Senator Charles McNary. Our Mr. McNary, mind you, is a great honor. The Country Gentleman has so many million subscribers the number has gone out of my head. They charge 25 cents a word for advertising, so if Mr. McNary had to pay for that entire page of remarks it would make an awful hole in his vacation money. I started to count it up but I wrenched my back this morning and I feel that the additional strain would be too much.

But the funny joke of it all is that the Country Gentleman did not mean to do him honor. They meant to tell us that he had fallen into bad ways at Washington. That he was trying to have a revolving fund of huge dimensions created for the purpose of making wet the dry land and making the wet land so it could be used for farms and homes of the countless thousands who perish in the great cities for lack of food, of air, of space, of freedom.

This, argues, the Country Gentleman, is very bad for the farmer. That is the one who are now

I have always liked Mr. McNary, but never, until I read the attack upon him by the Country Gentleman, did I know what a really great man he was. A man with his vision for the future looks to me like mighty good Presidential timber in the future. It is possible, that Editor Loring A. Schuyler means well, but one rather doubts the correctness of his conclusions when one notes how far he is from being a close observer. On the cover of his magazine he allows his artist to paint three tulips coming out of one stem; makes a churn higher than a woman's waist so that her elbows must be above her head to work the dasher; makes a flock of hens without wables; allows a woman to set fire to the hen house by striking her heel on a nail; lets a man raise wheat for 30 hens on one-third of an acre of land not cleared of stumps.

He can run a paper and amuse farmers, but hardly instruct them, while Mr. McNary, whose wisdom has questions, is authorizing on farms, from seed quality to seed sowing and harvesting, to that great problem which confronts every man who tills the soil, that of marketing.

Hurrah for Senator McNary. Don't you say so?

ELLA McMUNN.

Salem, Ore., Rt. 8, May 25, 1925.

The above communication was misplaced upon receipt and accidentally overlooked. Yes, the writer does agree with Miss McMunn. The editor of the Country Gentleman shows by his attack upon Senator McNary that he is not a man of vision; that he is not a fit person to advise the farmers or other people of this country. If the United States were self contained, as it ought to be, it would not now have any exportable food surplus. And it would import annually increasing quantities of food stuffs. Following is the editorial article referred to by Miss McMunn:

Once more the reclamation wolves are beginning to gather in packs to plan their raid upon the coverts of the public treasury next winter when the snow lies deep in the canyons, when game is scarce in the timberlands—and when the new congress assembles.

During the years of agricultural depression the hunted silently and alone. There was little use in asking the government to appropriate huge sums of money to open up new lands when people were leaving the farms by the hundreds of thousands, when there was an over production of foodstuffs, and there was no sale at any price for farm lands.

But now that conditions seem to have changed for the better in agriculture, the wolves are again gathering for the attack. Some of the most ravenous have donned sheep's clothing and are already inside the corral fences.

They baste feelings of the time when the needs of a growing population will be greater than our food supply, of the universal hunger there is for homes; and then they warn the country that now, in the midst of plenty, is the time to prepare for the hard days ahead.

Another Huge Revolving Fund. Their arguments sound so plausible that they have misled some good and eminent men. Senator Charles Linza McNary, of Oregon, is a notable example. He has listened to the wolves who made their voices soft by eating chalk and has been prevailed upon to sponsor a reclamation bill in the next congress.

He has already begun his campaign by issuing a statement to the press advocating a national policy of reclamation to take care of all the reclamation projects of the future by means of a revolving fund of anywhere from \$350,000,000 to \$500,000,000, appropriated from the Federal Treasury.

In his argument for a national policy the senator reviews some of the reclamation work that has been done throughout the west. The money for this work was not taken from the treasury of the United States, he says, "but was created from a special fund accruing from national resources within these states, such as royalties from oil and coal fields on the public domain, pasture fees and charges, and a portion of the sales of public lands."

In the twenty-three years which

have elapsed since the reclamation act went into effect the total food has amounted to more than \$150,000,000, all of which has been spent. It was the intention of the act that this money should be paid back to the United States treasury and be used as a perpetual revolving fund. That is, settlers would buy the land and pay the government.

Unfortunately the framers of the act could not foresee the future. They never dreamed irrigation would cost so much, that speculators would boost prices so high, or that the people who acted on the lands would find farming so unprofitable. They could not see all the trouble and the dissatisfaction that have arisen since.

But instead of a revolving fund they find now they have a fund for investigation to put the government knows whether the government has not even received the water rental for a number of years.

And yet, despite all the unhappiness that has arisen out of the original government venture into reclamation, a clamor will arise next winter to put the government in deeper than ever. The way has already been prepared in the shape of a little paragraph hidden away in one of the bills that was enacted by the last congress, which straightens out some of the difficulties of existing projects. This innocent little paragraph reads:

"That there is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the general treasury, the sum of \$100,000 annually for five years for investigation to be made by the secretary of the interior, through the bureau of reclamation to determine how arid, swamp and cut-over lands may be best developed in the future to meet the growing agricultural needs of the nation."

To understand just what was meant by this little rider we turn again to the brief given by Senator McNary to the press. Here is his explanation:

"As the country becomes more thickly settled and populated, and as we exhaust our available agricultural lands, there will be an ever-increasing demand for the development of additional reclamation projects, many of which are vastly too large ever to be built out of the present reclamation fund, which has an annual increment of about \$8,000,000. It is my opinion that this sum should not be diverted from the development of small and feasible projects in the states wherein there is a large surplus of government-owned lands, and that the original act should be preserved in its full integrity. However, as the country increases in population, there will come a demand for the expansion of our agricultural area, and it is for that reason that I believe the government should establish a national reclamation policy."

All this is quite lofty, except that the senator seems to sense an impending emergency in which the nation will suffer from a shortage of food. This he desires to guard against.

But the senator is not consistent. Only last winter he was fighting tooth and nail to have the government set up a huge export dumping corporation to sell our surplus of agricultural products abroad at any price they would bring. Reclaiming Everything in Sight. Now he sees this surplus suit away in the twinkling of an eye, and in its place famine raises its baleful head.

Or does he perhaps fear that if his dumping corporation is established it will soon find itself with nothing to dump? In his huge reclamation scheme merely a plan to give the export corporation a longer lease of life?

Whatever may be his motives, he certainly does not believe in making little plans. In the next paragraph of his brief he sets forth the scope of what he conceives to be a national reclamation policy. Here is what he says:

"This plan should include all forms of reclamation applicable to the conditions of the various states of the Union. It may take

the form of reclamation by the removal of water from the wet lands of the south, or conducting water to the dry lands of the intermountain and Pacific coast states; the removal of stumps from the cut-over lands in the Great Lakes states; the flooding of the lands of the Mississippi valley states to provide for subsoil irrigation or the restoration of the soil of the New England states; indeed every state would experience an increase in taxable wealth if some form of reclamation was practiced, provided there was a demand for the enlargement of farm production."

Thus the reclamation blanket is being stretched to cover the entire country. If every section gets its share of the pork, none will have a chance to kick. It all smells of politics.

More Land, More Surplus. But this is not all. In his final paragraph Senator McNary hitches the development of water power and water resources up with his reclamation scheme until one wonders if he seriously considers having the government take over the power industries of the nation.

For a long time Charles Linza McNary has appeared in the Senate as the friend of the farmer. He sponsored the McNary-Haugen bill and spoke feelingly of the sad plight of the agricultural population.

Now we find the senator sponsoring the very things farmers do not want—the opening up of more lands for cultivation, to swell an already burdensome farm surplus.

The existing reclamation projects, and those that are now under way must be carried on. They represent a huge investment and the government must keep faith with the settlers. But there is no need for further projects now—there will there be for years to come.

No one, of course, would question Senator McNary's sincerity, but it is possible to escape the conclusion that he has listened too much to the soft-voiced wolves in sheep's clothing and has unwittingly become their spokesman.

QUINABY SESSION ENDS

FOUR-DAY CAMP MEETING PROVES BIG SUCCESS

The four day camp-meeting and pastors' convention of the Salem district, Oregon conference of the Evangelical church, will close tonight with Rev. A. A. Winter, D. D. of Lewisburg, Penn., speaking in the morning and Rev. C. P. Gates, of Portland, at night. The camp meeting has been in session since Wednesday.

Speakers for the opening day were Rev. G. L. Lovell, Salem, presiding elder; F. M. Fisher, G. E. Erskine and A. R. Schmale. Thursday S. M. Wood, J. L. Burns, L. H. Willard, V. A. Ballantyne, W. E. Simpson, C. C. Poling and H. Schucknecht appeared on the morning and afternoon program, with F. B. Culver, making the address at night.

At Friday's session those in charge of the program were F. B. Culver, F. H. Neff, J. E. Lindley, F. W. Lammer, R. J. Phelps, Paul Poling, M. J. Ballantyne and A. W. Curry. The program yesterday was in charge of E. C. Farnham, A. P. Layton and D. L. Hubsor. R. G. Munday, of Chicago, will lead the singing today.

MEAT PRICES LOWERED

HAVANA.—A short time ago Segundo Tellechea, of Campo, Florida, was criticized in the same manner as all butchers always have been, for his high prices.

But suddenly he reduced prices below any other butcher for miles around and people were loud in their praise of Segundo. Friends inquiring the reason for the cut, were informed that he had won \$20,000 in the government lottery.

Old Geer Homestead at Silverton Mecca for Numerous Descendants

Home of Homer Davenport, Cartoonist, Is Scene of Re-telling of Tales of Olden Days; Gathering Is Annual Event

BY LILLIE MADSEN

SILVERTON, June 27.—(Special.)—On the old Geer homestead built in 1851 in the Waldo Hills and where Homer Davenport grew to manhood gathered 167 Geer descendants to tell and to listen to tales of the old days.

Out to the west of the house is the view over Marion county and on to Polk county hills some 15 miles distant, the view known as "Homer's view." On the west wall of the house is a tribute to the view written in pencil by Homer Davenport himself, and underneath this the great cartoonist drew a picture of himself in a kneeling position with a handkerchief to his eyes. Homer Davenport's tribute is this, "I want to say that from this back porch I see my favorite view of all that the earth affords. It was the favorite of my dear mother and her parents and of my father and why shouldn't it be the same to me. It's where my happiest hours have been spent. Homer Davenport, April 11, 1904."

Although the old home has received many a coat of paint this little piece of writing has been left undisturbed and for many visitors to view.

Immediately below the porch is an apple and pear orchard. The seeds from which this grew were brought across the plains by Mrs. R. C. Geer, the grandmother of Homer Davenport, in 1847. To the south of the house are the remains of an old tree planted from the Lawley traveling nursery. A nursery brought across the plains in a wagon box and kept growing in this manner for months. And to the north is the huge poplar reaching fifty feet toward the sky and once the riding whip of Mrs. Timothy Davenport, the mother of Homer.

And at this old historic homestead gathered, Sunday, 200 people, of whom 167 were descendants of Joseph Geer, the great Grandfather of Homer Davenport. The Geer reunion originated with T. T. Geer, Oregon's first governor, and has been kept alive since in memory of him. The reunion is an annual affair and has been held at various places, Sunday, however, it was decided to hold it each year at the old Geer homestead in the Waldo Hills. This is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Geer. Mr. Geer is the grandson of R. C. Geer, the original owner of the place. The following officers were elected for the coming year: Mrs. T. T. Geer, honorary president; Archie Geer, active president; Mrs. Mable Settlemeir of Woodburn, vice president; Mrs. C. C. Geer, secretary-treasurer.

Archie Geer was asked to give a talk and tell some incidents of the early days and the beginning of the Oregon Geers. He spoke of the coming of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Geer, the father of Joseph Geer, of the former being in the party. "R. C. my grandfather, landed with three shillings," said Mr. Geer in his reminiscence, "but he had with him enough clothing and sewing supplies to last the family at least five years. In order to get food he took a portion of these things and sold them, or rather he traded them for food stuffs. In this manner he secured enough food for a year. The things he had were in great demand. So few had them. The house was built in 1851. The timbers were hand hewn, the lumber is rip sawed, and the ceiling boards were match in the woods. The doors were brought around the Cape, and as you see, were not the size expected." Mr. Geer indicated inch strips around the door casings. The openings for the doors had been cut months before the doors arrived.

Among the old pioneers were Calvin Geer, his sister, Mrs. Samantha Bowers, aged 83, Mrs. L. E. Geer (Tina DeHart), aged 73, coming to Oregon from California in 1859 and now living at Goodnoe Hills, Wash.; and Mrs. John Hunt, aged 83, a Waldo Hills pioneer.

The original copy of the poem, "A Plea for Castle Rock," was read by many during the day. This was written by Bert Geer at the time it was proposed that Castle Rock should be destroyed to make way for progress. It is said that the public sentiment raised by the poem when it was published saved the rock. The poem first appeared in the Oregon Journal and from there was copied widely by western papers.

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Pacific System of Southern Pacific, operating 8,670 miles of line in Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, spent 1 \$163,000,000 for wages, materials, supplies and taxes in 1923. The expenditures for 1924 were substantially the same.

WE WERE ADVISED NOT TO START IN BUSINESS IN SALEM

Interviewing Mr. Hofer, Secretary of the Board of Trade, just previous to our opening in 1909, he said there had been about 700 new homes erected the two years previous, but advised us not to start, saying there was no room for us.

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