

# The Indian Idea of Marriage

Waste Sam has decreed that a plurality of wives among the Indians is no longer good taste and, while he still recognizes the tribal marriage ceremony, he refuses to recognize the Indian institution of divorce. If an Indian desires to abandon his first wife and take another, he must secure a divorce in the white man's court else he is liable to go wifeless for a time in a white man's prison.

A number of the Indians on the Umatilla reservation have discovered Uncle Sam's attitude to their sorrow. They have been tried on statutory charges and forced to serve sentences in the federal prison at Portland. This experience is leading more and more to Indians wedding according to the "palaface" ceremony and to application for legal separation in the "palaface" court.

A very interesting account of the manner in which Indian weddings were celebrated in earlier days is contained in a history of the northwest published in 1889. It reads as follows:

The young Indian spends no long time in wooing and winning his bride. Marriage among the aborigines was largely a commercial transaction. Fathers frequently bought wives for their sons while they were almost infants—long before puberty. It was thought they would most likely live more amicably and nappily together if brought up together. In many instances girls were bought who were a number of years older than the bridegrooms; and before the boy had grown up to maturity, the girl took a notion to some other young brave, and then there was liability of a family row. If under such circumstances the girl decided to leave her legal boy husband, and could not be prevailed upon to wait for him to come the years of maturity it was considered a very disgraceful affair; and the girl's father must return to the boy's father the purchase price of the damsel. If the price was considerable, then the girl's parents were interested in having her remain loyal to her boy husband.

The more common mode of procedure was this: A young man or boy saw some girl whom he fancied he would like for his wife, and the subject was mentioned to his father and mother. They conferred with the girl's parents and agreed upon a price. The price of a wife was almost always paid in horses among the eastern tribes, the price being from five to fifty horses. From ten to twenty was a fair average among the western Washington Indians.

It was always understood that a good, round price would insure a better article, as in other merchandise. It was a prevalent idea that a woman who had cost a good many ponies would prove more faithful and be a more desirable bride; besides it was considered a mark of dignity and honor to pay a good price for a wife. Such young men were looked up to and were on the way to tribal distinction.

When an agreement was reached, word was sent to the young man informing him of the success of the negotiations. He was soon on his way to the lodge of his bride's parents, some of his relatives driving the stipulated horses, buffalo, elk or deer skins and beadwork or articles of apparel were taken along as "exchange gifts."

Arrived at the lodge, a crier announced that such and such parties were to be married. The friends gathered in and the ceremonies began. The Indian wedding ceremony was something considerably longer than the ordinary operation of the justice of the peace. Two robes were spread

down side by side in the lodge; and the bride was carried to the spot on the backs of female relatives and seated on one of the robes. The young man was then escorted to the other robe and seated by his affianced. The young man's relatives then combed the bride's hair; and, while combing, some of the friends poured over her head out of a basket a lot of small beads or shells which were sportively called "bee." The hair was combed and braided, and the beads gathered up, and then began an exchanging of gifts over the heads of the bride and groom.

The bride's relatives placed on her head dresses of buckskin, beadwork and other trinkets; and the groom's friends took these and placed on her head other articles instead, which her friends took away. This same ceremony was performed over the young man's head. It was customary to exchange articles of female use or wear over the bride's head, and articles used by males over the head of the groom. During all this time great interest was taken and much merriment indulged in by all the party.

The girl's father and mother usually got a good deal of the best of the bargains in the exchange; this was expected. If the groom was pretty liberal in his offer and paid a good many horses, the old man usually took a few from his own band and presented to the couple.

This exchanging went on until it seemed that the young man was marrying the whole clan, that the property given to pots and kettles were being married. Before the marriage ceremony ended, the bride's friends took her on one of her own horses to the groom's lodge, and all her things were taken along. At the groom's

lodge further exchanges were made, and the young man was fortunate if he were not stripped of everything. It was considered beggarly in a man not to almost rob himself when getting married; and remarks were made indicating that he was little and mean. His mother-in-law was likely to mar the harmony of the couple. The Indian mother-in-law is mother-in-law to the full extent with the Indian part extra.

With the Indian girl, getting married was often not much different from going into penal servitude for life, as the young woman was expected to be almost a slave for her husband's family. If there were a mother-in-law on both sides, it was a felicitous thing sometimes as the young people could then live in peace while the old mothers-in-law quarreled it out. More often than not, however, all parties got along very amicably.

The relationships growing out of marriage are much stronger among the Indians than among the whites. Once married into a clan a man is a relative to each and every member of the same clan if his wife died. If he took another woman, she must be of the same family or clan as his first wife. If a man's married brother died, the surviving brother took the wife, or he had the right of giving her in marriage, receiving the pay for her. If she would not marry into his family or clan, then by tribal law all her property should be taken from her. It seemed to be a principle among them that the family and property all belonged to the clan. If the woman went out of the clan, her property remained.

## Ezra Meeker's Schoonermobile



### 39 YEARS AGO TODAY

(From the Weekly East Oregonian, September 23, 1879.)

Grass hoppers in untold numbers have been calling over town in perfect clouds during the week. Last Sunday they were so thick they darkened the sky like an eclipse of the sun.

Miss Lou Ellsworth passed through town this week.

Mrs. Burke took her departure for home last week. Mrs. B. had a pleasant visit, we hope.

At the Hon. Tom you can get a hot or cold bath at a moment's notice. Baths to accommodate the boarders.

R. Alexander has gone to Frisco.

to purchase a stock of nice goods. J. Frazer accompanied him and S. Rothchild went before.

A. E. Scott and Dr. La Dow returned soon after Let Livermore from their trip to the Granite creek country. They report having had a big time hunting.

Mrs. Spaulding has sold her interest in the ladies bazaar to Mrs. Hendricks, her partner. Ill health is the cause of the transfer.

The debating club meets every Thursday evening at the court house. Come out everybody.

A sociable at Mrs. Dhoaway's next Tuesday evening.

Rev. Wells has been recalled to and accepted the rectorship of the Episcopal church at Walla Walla.

Born to the wife of William Leach near Weston, September 13, 1879, Dr. Epperson assisting, a son.

Married—On the seventh instant, at the residence of Mr. Downing on Dry creek, Mr. J. W. Dowling to Miss Rhoda Miller.

On the seventh instant, in the same vicinity, at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. John F. Walden to Miss Lena M. Stages.

Ed Marshall has been to the Two Wallas.

Pendleton is in need of a tailor who will attend to business. One with good business qualifications can make money here.

False hair is now made to imitate real hair so closely that it is difficult to tell which is switch.

Johnny Vinson has been seen out on the streets this week and looks as hearty and pleasing as ever. Come again, Johnny.

J. J. Burton of the Burton House, breathed his last in Portland yesterday.

Mr. Vining has lately erected a dwelling house in Arnold's addition.

Fred Hendley from Umatilla was a Pendleton visitor this week.

A brilliant wedding took place at the residence of O. O. Howard last week on which occasion Miss Grace

Howard was joined in matrimony to Captain Jas. T. Gray of the Vancouver Transportation Co.'s steamer "Lurline."

Runaways are rare circumstances nowadays in this section. Tuesday night one of Mr. Anderson's team horses took a notion to run away and took a circle through town and over every fence in his way, tearing the harness considerably and losing a portion besides bruising himself up so much that he will not be in a fit condition to work for several days.

A number of citizens visited lower Butter creek on Friday last to witness a race between Jesse Moore's horse "Baldy" and C. Cochran's mare "Puss." The race was one quarter of a mile for \$250 a side and was won by "Baldy" by 15 feet.

Lindsay Sparks and wife took their leave last Saturday morning for Union county.

Advertisements. Scott & Bailey, dealers in drugs, paint, oils, dye stuffs, glass, putty, patent medicines and perfumery, stationery, school books, fancy and toilet goods, wines and liquors, musical instruments, lamps and lamp fixtures, mouldings, picture frames, etc.

R. Alexander & Co. (E. Lobenstein) successors to Livermore & Beagle, postoffice building, Main street, Pendleton, dealers in general merchandise.

Pendleton Market, at the old stand, Main street, D. R. Sauter and R. C. Hager, dealers in fresh beef, pork, mutton, corn beef, salt pork, sausage, meat, drier beef, tongues, tripe, all kinds of fresh sausage, highest price cash paid for slaughtered hogs.

Marshall & Folsom, blacksmiths, successors to W. H. Marshall, work done with dispatch and at reasonable rates, all work guaranteed.

This Agency Has Sold 20 Machines Already for 1917 Delivery

# Holt's Self-Propelled Harvester a Success

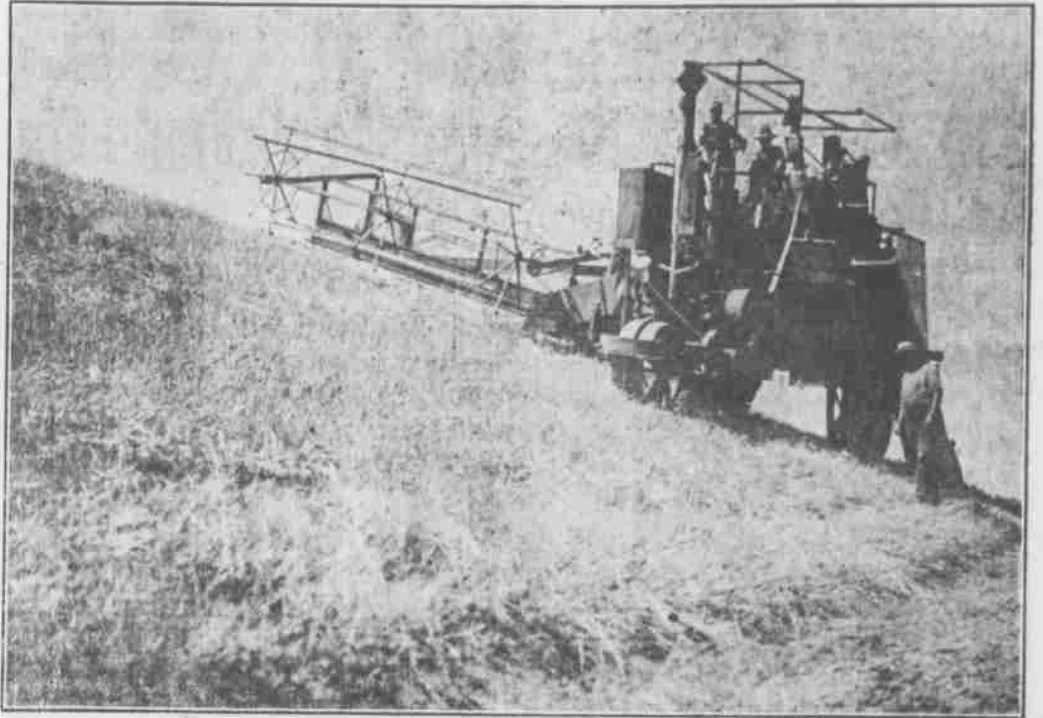
## Uses No Horses

### WORKS IN THE HILLS

Use your horses to haul your grain as it is harvested or work your summer fallow.

Work longer hours in the field. No waiting on the team. A short noon hour and in the field again.

### SEVEN OF THESE HARVESTERS WORKING IN THIS TERRITORY NOW



The demand for these machines is greater than the supply... Orders are being filled in their rotation. Get your Order in NOW.

WE ARE MAKING DAILY TRIPS.

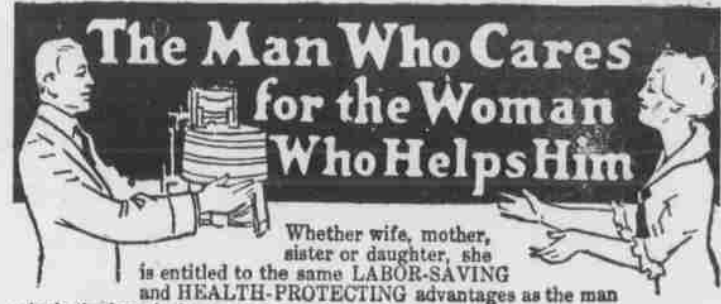
LET US TAKE YOU TO SEE ONE

Telephone 518

# E. L. SMITH & CO.

319 East Court St.

PENDLETON, OREGON



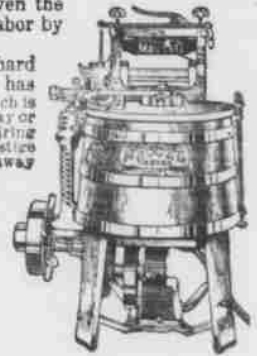
Whether wife, mother, sister or daughter, she is entitled to the same LABOR-SAVING and HEALTH-PROTECTING advantages as the man who is the bread winner.

The farmer, storekeeper, workman, and even the office man have all been saved useless, tedious labor by improved methods and modern machines.

Yet many of these men are indifferent to the hard work done every day by woman of the house. It has not occurred to them to lighten her burdens—chief of which is the hard, extensive labor of washing the scrub board way or the expense and worry of hiring the last vestige of energy has been done away with by the new

## Maytag Multi-Motor Washer

(A little pressure of the foot starts it.)



This provides a remarkable combination of Maytag Power Washer, the Three-Way Washing Wringer and the new Multi-Motor. The complete outfit does for the rural or town home without electricity that the Maytag Electric Washer does for a home equipped for its use.

Five cents a week pays for the gas or gasoline used for the washing of an average family.

We also have the regular Maytag Power Washer for use where a separate gasoline engine is at hand. The Multi-Motor is of the greatest utility in that it will also operate the churn, sewing machine, food chopper, and any other small machine—several at the same time if need be.

While the Multi-Motor works other duties can be looked after. Clothes can be washed and wrung at same time with the Three-Way Swinging Wringer. So quickly is the washing over that the clothes are usually dry by noon, ready for ironing the same day.

Over 50 of these machines now giving satisfactory service in and near Pendleton. They are not an experiment, but a proven success. Absolute satisfaction guaranteed.

WE CARRY A COMPLETE LINE OF THE FAMOUS

# JOHN DEERE FARM IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY

EXTRAS AND PARTS FOR THEM ALWAYS ON HAND.

Our VAN BRUNT GRAIN DRILL has proven a wonder in the fields of Umatilla county. We sell PETER SCHUTTLE mountain wagons, Barley choppers, hay choppers, etc. Oils and Lubricants. Complete line of Gasoline Engines, all sizes.

## McCLINTOCK & SIMPSON

400 East Court Street

Pendleton, Oregon.

Telephone 610

### Suggested Rules for the Bucking Contest

The Wild Bunch magazine promulgates the following rules for the governing of bucking contests:

Each horse shall be given a number and each rider shall draw his mount from a hat the night before the contest. Each rider must have reins, saddle and be ready. Horses are to be cared for m'way em'way and are to be eared down. Nothing counts against a rider until the blindfold is drawn. Time and grace in mounting will be counted, also any stall or delay upon the rider's part will be marked against him.

Rider must spur horse at least four times in shoulders the first seven jumps, then reach behind the cinch and scratch high with both feet often after that. Rider must hold stirrups and not change hands on reins. Two reins to be used. The rider that makes the wildest jerky Bill ride gets the best marking.

Riders that draw a horse that fails to buck sufficiently to try the rider, will get another horse until the judges are satisfied, but the rider must make every effort to get a buck out of the horses or judges will refuse to give him another mount. Safe riding or waiting for a horse to break in two will be charged against a rider. Fourteen-inch swell forks can be used, or under. Stirrups must swing free. Judges to pass on name after horse is saddled and rider declares he is ready to mount.

ELEVATOR SERVICE ROOMY, LIGHT SAMPLE ROOMS REASONABLE RATES

HEART OF THE BUSINESS DISTRICT TWO BLOCKS FROM DEPOT COURTEOUS ATTENTION



# Hotel St. George

GEORGE DARVEAU, PROPRIETOR

Thoroughly Remodeled and Up-to-date

HOT AND COLD WATER, LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE AND LAVATORY IN EVERY ROOM, WITH OR WITHOUT BATH.

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