

# Homer Davenport Born in Silverton 86 Years Ago

By CLAUDE STEUSLOFF

Homer Davenport, the Oregon boy who became a world famous cartoonist and Arabian horse breeder was born at Silverton 86 years ago last Sunday.

His 1906 importation of 27 Arabian horses direct from the desert tribes of Arabia was one of the most notable collections of aristocratic animals ever to come to America. One half of present day Arabian horses in the U. S. trace to this importation.

Recent research indicates that Theodore Roosevelt, then president of the United States,

smoothed details by which Davenport secured an irade to purchase six or eight horses. Exportation of horses from Arabia had been prohibited for 35 years. Roosevelt foresaw the approach of World War I and had an understanding with Davenport that none of the horses would be sold but would be kept intact as a foundation stud for cavalry remount service.

Davenport's report of his trip to the Arabian desert is covered in his delightful book "My Quest of the Arab Horse," published in 1909 and now a collectors' item.

His first contact in Arabia was somewhat accidentally made with Akmet Haffez, ruler

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sheikh of all the desert, rather than the civil authorities. This so pleased Haffez that he took Davenport to the Anezeh tribe, leading horsemen of the desert, and supervised the horse trading by which Davenport secured 17 stallions and 10 mares.

The tribesmen recognized in Davenport a true horseman and presented him as gifts the two finest horses of the desert.

One was Wadduda, the greatest war mare of Arabia, "in whose presence men bowed their heads and from whose back a great sheikh had killed, among others, his most distinguished enemy." She was complete with all her trappings and a Bedouin slave boy. The other gift was "The Pride of the Desert," a 5-year old stallion whose breeding was so treasured he was tribal property.

While in Arabia, Davenport kept in practice with his cartoonist craft by secretly doing the first sketch ever made of Abdul Hamid, sultan of Turkey. Despite suspicions of Turkish spies, it was smuggled out of the country in a bale of hay.

His book also contains a pair of cartoons of the Royal Eunuchs which are masterpieces.

At the Lewis and Clark exposition in Portland, 1905, Davenport had an exhibit said to have been valued at \$38,000. Called "Davenport's Farm" it was made up of four Arabian stallions, pheasants, ducks, peacocks and other rare creatures.

Shortly after opening of the fair a notice stated that "hereafter his exhibit will close at dusk because glare of electric lights affects the health of his birds and animals, some of which are the only members of their species in captivity, whose loss could not be replaced."

Prior to his departure for the Portland fair a farewell party was given Davenport at his home at Morris Plains, New Jersey. Three hundred scientific, literary and artistic people of the East attended, coming by special train. For the first time in New Jersey, a half beef was barbecued in an open pit.

But he never considered himself more than an Oregon farm boy. A burning Arab horse fever started early. His father wrote, "Although you were but three years and nine months old, you exhausted my store of knowledge relating to human and horse life in Arabia." The fever continued through a lifetime.

Much Davenport material is in the Silverton public library. Mrs. Harold Larsen, librarian, notes there are four framed Arab horse pictures, a number of scrapbooks and original cartoons as well as a pair of boxing gloves with which Davenport punched playmates in boyhood.

Davenport's father was Timothy W. Davenport. His mother, who was a daughter of R. C. Geer, pioneer Marion county livestock breeder, died of smallpox in Homer's infancy. He died on May 2, 1912, and is buried in Silverton cemetery.

Alaska is nearly one-fifth as large as continental United States.

## Public Hearing At Jefferson

The Jefferson addition to the Santiam soil conservation district will be discussed at a public hearing at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19, at Jefferson City hall, according to County Extension Agent Hollis Ottaway.

This addition includes generally all land in Marion county south of Judson Landing on the Willamette river, Illaheo school, and Turner.

Rober C. Baum, executive secretary of the state soil conservation committee, will be in charge of the hearing.

Ottaway points out that all land owners in the proposed addition are invited to attend the hearing. The need for district inclusion will be discussed and all phases of work accomplished in a district will be reviewed.

The proposed Mt. Angel soil conservation district will be reviewed at a public hearing at Mt. Angel City hall, 8 p.m., Monday, March 16. This hearing, sponsored by the state soil conservation committee, will be conducted by Robert C. Baum, executive secretary of the group.

Hearings are the second of three steps necessary for district formation.

## Dokkies Meeting Here Saturday Night

El Adil temple, Dramatic Order, Knights of Khorassan, met at Salem Labor temple Saturday night with Paul Kitzmiller presiding. Members from Dallas, Eugene and Salem attended and a special guest was District Deputy Imperial Prince Dan L. Holoopeter of Portland.

It was announced that a dance sponsored by the Knights of Pythias will be held at Labor temple March 28. Wives of the members served refreshments.

Monday night representatives of Central Lodge, K of P of Salem attended Helmet temple at Eugene where members were present from Eugene, Dallas, Corvallis, Roseburg, Astoria, Portland and Salem. Going from

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Whatsamatter Champ?—Ronald Nederostek (right), 14-months-old of Catawqua, Pa., appears to have difficulty bearing up under the honor of being named "Champion Toddler" in the annual Allentown, Pa., Toddlers Derby. He gets a look of concern from third place winner, Patti Shoemaker, also 14 months, of Bethlehem, Pa. (AP Wirephoto)

here were Don Judson, Grand Park Sturgess and Leonard Hix-Vice Chancellor; Harry Wilson, son.

## Judges Discontinue Taking Expense Fee

San Francisco (AP)—Two federal judges say they quit accepting \$10 daily expense allowances Feb. 1 when they learned the question was being submitted to a judicial conference at Washington, D. C., next month. Federal Circuit Court of Appeals Judges William Healy, Boise, Ida., and Walter L. Pope, Missoula, Mont., said they followed an established practice when they took the money.

Judge Healy was criticized Saturday by Sen. Welker (R., Ida.), who asserted that although Healy resided in San Mateo, Calif., as a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge, he had received \$37,987 since 1937 by claiming Boise as his legal residence.

Judge Pope, who maintains a residence in nearby Burlingame, said he spends several weeks annually at his Missoula office, which he described as his official station.

Federal law permits a Circuit Court judge to receive per diem expenses while on duty away from his "actual residence." Welker asserted the action was "an outlandish thing," although not illegal.

## Clear Lake Meeting

Clear Lake—The textile painting workshop will be held by the Clear Lake Extension Unit at a meeting in the church at 1:30 p.m. Friday. Members should bring materials, according to Mrs. Jack Chapin and Mrs. John Guy, leaders. The regular monthly meeting of the unit will be Friday, March 20, with Mrs. A. A. Eichelberger.

A scheme to build a telegraph line across the Bering Strait to link America with the Asiatic land mass was abandoned in the 1860s when the Atlantic cable proved a success.

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