

# POLK COUNTY OBSERVER

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## CIRCUS AT SALEM THURSDAY

Barnum & Bailey's Shows a Magnificent Aggregation of All Things Strange and Interesting.

The Barnum & Bailey Greatest Show on Earth, which will appear in Salem, Thursday, August 27, is a new institution this year. The present owners have brought all their combined resources to aid in perfecting an organization which it is hoped will win for itself the distinction of being the greatest circus exhibition in the world.

Chief among the many features is the new sensational thriller, Barnum & Bailey always present something distinctly breath-catching in the way of a headliner. This year it is the invention of two French scientific engineers, who have for two years been working upon models, perfecting a Mephistophelian invention styled "Autos That Pass in the Air." Two automobiles are waiting on landings high up in the great canvas dome. From this landing runs an almost perpendicular incline, down which the two automobiles (one red and one blue) are driven by two young French women. Reaching an upward curve in the incline, the red auto shoots into space, describing an absolute somersault, while the blue auto passes swiftly underneath the revolving auto. There is a second of breathless, terrifying suspense. Then the blue auto lands safely upon a massively counterbalanced platform, closely followed by the red car. The execution of the feat occupies about eight seconds of the time.

Keeping the little folks in mind, Barnum & Bailey have for this season's performances secured a number of trained animal acts. At the Paris Hippodrome one of the last Winter's hits was Mary & Potrol's pony, dog and donkey circus. The three Mennies, French pantomime artists, assisted by their monkey and dog clowns. Professor Wormwood's educated bears will go to the limit in rousing merriment. It is said that Seymour Eaton in his Tuddy Bear drawings did not exaggerate the

humorous stunts which a mischievously inclined bear can be made to perform. Miss Stickeney, assisted by her pony and dog, will present a highly edifying act. Nowhere else in the world can one see such herds of trained elephants. The entertaining pantomime work of these mammoths is beyond the power of words. Edward Shipp's string of beautiful Kentucky thoroughbreds—every one a blue-ribbon winner—will go through the curriculum of an equine high school.

The joyousness of circus day will materialize with the free street parade which is scheduled to start from the show grounds at 10 o'clock. Much that is amusing, interesting and entertaining is promised in the street pageant, the completeness of which represents an outlay of more than \$2,000,000. The amiability of the management is manifest in the statement that the cages containing rare wild animals will be arranged in a manner allowing the public to have a full view of the collection as the parade passes along the streets.

## Building Concrete Arch.

The block on Main street between Mill and Oak, will be the center of activity in the street improvement work during this week. The work on the concrete arch with which the council has ordered the mill race covered where it crosses Main street, was begun this morning, and as soon as the arch has been built and curbing installed, the real work of street construction will be rushed as rapidly as possible. The improvement on Court street will probably be finished this week and the work on Mill street is already well advanced. The only block out of the nine blocks on which improvement has been made or is contemplated, that has not been touched as yet with plow and scraper, is the block on Washington street running from Main street to the depot.

Mistletoe Circle will hold a meeting Wednesday evening, and every member is earnestly requested to be present as considerable business of importance must be transacted.

## GOOD ROADS ARE BEING BUILT

Polk County Commissioners Having Extensive and Durable Improvements Made in Many Places.

The county commissioners of Polk county are giving its roads a more thorough and comprehensive course of improvement than they have received for years. The recent acquisition of a rock crusher and a road roller adds materially to the speed and effectiveness of the work.

The first section in which the new system of improvement was tried lies on the roads between Dallas and Perrydale, the rock crusher being installed at a quarry near Salt Creek. The rock has already been hauled and spread on the sections where improvement was necessary and the roller was taken up yesterday to complete the construction work, which will be finished today or tomorrow. The sections of newly built road are distributed as follows: 210 rods on the road through the flat near the Middleton hop yard; 700 yards near the old George Brown property, and 800 yards on the Perrydale road a few miles farther north.

The crusher will be taken down and moved this week to a quarry on the John Smith property near Luckiamute, where it will be put in operation crushing rock for the improvement of about 14 miles of road in that neighborhood. This being completed, it will be again moved and installed in a quarry on Warren Frink's farm near Bridgeport, and work on the roads in that vicinity will be carried on until stopped by the rainy season.

The crushed rock roads are built in much the same fashion as the streets that are now being laid in this city, only the surface is not finished with quite so much care and thoroughness. The road bed is excavated and graded, with shoulders to hold the rock in place so that it cannot work out from the center, corresponding to the curbing in our street work. On this carefully prepared bed the macadam is laid. Special care is used to make the rock surface in the center, where the traffic will be heaviest, much thicker and more substantial than the other portions, and it is built slightly "dished" so that the rock will not have a tendency to work outward toward the edges of the roadway.

Although travel on the new road is a trifle unpleasant at first, within a single season the driveway will pack and settle until smooth solid surfaces will be found during both winter and summer, making as fine a system of highways as can be found in the state.

After the close of the harvest season, the county commissioners plan to make a thorough tour of inspection that shall take in every road district in Polk county. In this way they hope to be able to discover what sections of the roads are in the greatest need of improvement, so that they will be prepared to continue their work of road building in the most effective manner possible.

## A Real "Teddy Bear."

Passers by on Main street Saturday afternoon had the pleasure of seeing the real "Teddy Bear". It was no sawdust stuffed imitation, but a real, living, breathing incarnation of the popular symbol of our redoubtable Theodore. "Teddy," for that is his name, was captured by S. D. Steffy and son when he was only a cub and before his eyes were open, while Mr. Steffy was hunting with his sons in the mountains. The little fellow was brought home, and carefully raised by hand, and when he made his first appearance in Dallas, Saturday, he was a fine specimen of a six-month-old cub, healthy, lively, and with an abiding feeling of friendliness for every living thing except a dog. "Teddy" is certainly a fine cub, and there were few who had the pleasure of making his acquaintance, but envied Mr. Steffy the possession of such a lively and good-tempered pet.

J. I. Castle has at his store in Dayton, a Harpers Ferry rifle that was made about 1785. This rifle belonged to his father over a hundred years ago, and went through the War of 1812. It was formerly a flint lock, was changed to a tape lock and finally changed to a gun cap. This is certainly an heirloom of which Mr. Castle may feel justly proud.—Dayton Optimist.

Miss Ada Osfield, who has been visiting at the McVicker home, will return to her home in Portland next Saturday. Miss Lillian McVicker will accompany her and will spend some time visiting in Portland, St. Johns, and Oregon City before it is time to enter into her school work.—Benton County Republican.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter L. Toome Jr. arrived in Dallas, Saturday, from Ann Arbor, Michigan. Mr. Toome graduated from the university in Ann Arbor last June. After a short visit at the home of his parents in Falls City, he will return to Dallas, where he will enter the practice of law.

Mrs. Fred Huber, of Monmouth, and Mrs. Stella Donley, of Enterprise, visited at the home of their cousin, Mrs. M. D. Coulter, Friday.

## HOP PROSPECTS ENCOURAGING

Krebs and Fitchard Prophecy Successful Year For Both Growers and Pickers.

The opinions of C. L. Fitchard and Conrad Krebs, two of the largest hop-growers in Oregon, and men recognized as authorities on subjects dealing with hop-growing, whose interviews on several of the important prospects of the coming season were published in the Oregonian last week, will no doubt prove of great interest to hop men and to prospective hop-pickers in Polk county.

That the shortage in the Oregon crop of hops is a surety, is the reason for C. L. Fitchard, of Independence, advising all growers of that commodity to stop selling now on future delivery. Mr. Fitchard has just completed gathering his statistics, and believes that hops will this year command a price of from 8 cents to 10 cents per pound. The reason for the shortage, as given by him, is the fact that the poor prices of last year have caused many growers to quit cultivating them. There is less interest in the subject in Oregon today than for some time.

"The Pacific Coast crop" he said, "will not exceed 180,000 bales, as against 294,000 bales in 1907. Oregon this year will not produce more than 75,000 to 80,000 bales, California 75,000 and Washington 17,000 bales. Old hops carried over on the Coast will not exceed 24,000 bales. That leaves a net shortage of about 92,000 bales.

"Under these conditions, prices should be better than last year. I look for hops to bring 10 to 12 cents a pound. Of course, some growers think differently and are selling short. I would advise against that practice. While the English crop is heavy, the Eastern crop is short this year, and this fact should encourage growers not to be in a hurry to make contracts."

Mr. Fitchard is one of the largest hop-growers in Oregon, and makes a special study of the crop and market conditions.

Hop-pickers in Oregon will make more money this year than ever before, according to Conrad Krebs, the owner of two big yards at Independence and Brooks.

"I believe that the individual earnings of the hop-pickers will this season average the largest sum in the history of the industry in Oregon," said Mr. Krebs, Saturday. "I base my prediction on the fact that there are hardly any leaves on the vines this year—in fact, they have not been so leafless in years. This will make the picking easy."

"We have decided to pay \$1 a hundred for picking, notwithstanding the low market. Most of the growers have reduced their picking price to 80 cents a hundred, but we feel the pickers are entitled to receive good wages for their work."

## HOLDS BUSY CIVIL SESSION

Company H Chooses Committee, Adopts By-Laws and Plans Pleasant Social Session.

Company H held its second meeting as a civil organization at the Armory, Thursday evening, and preparations were made for active and enthusiastic work during the coming winter.

In view of the fact that the men spent three nights of each week in hard and industrious drilling in July, this phase of the work will be slackened for a while and the social side of the organization will be brought into more prominence. Enough drill work will be done each week, however, to keep the men in good trim, and insure a steady and thorough development of their efficiency in maneuvering.

By-laws for the government of the civil organization were provisionally adopted at Thursday evening's meeting, and the election of officers was held. Roy Wasson was chosen secretary in place of Lieutenant Brown, whose duties as an officer made it impossible for him to serve. An administrative committee of four was elected to audit all bills and have a general oversight of the finances of the organization, the members of which are Sergeant Conrad Stafrin, Corporal B. M. Guy and Privates Bert Teats and J. D. Collins. Lieutenant L. A. Bollman was elected treasurer.

After the close of the business session, Captain Chorpensing appointed Lieutenant Brown, Sergeant Butler and Private Collins on a committee to arrange for a smoker to be held in the armory on the evening of the last Thursday in September, for the purpose of bringing the men together for a general discussion to plan the social work for the coming winter.

The followers of the Apostolic Faith, referred to more commonly as the "Tongues of Fire," left their hall on Mill street last Thursday and have opened a series of tent meetings in a big pavilion in North Dallas. The hall which they have vacated is now occupied by the "Nazarenes," another religious sect of a similar nature.

J. C. Talbot, of Falls City, was a Dallas visitor yesterday. Legal blanks for sale at this office.

## WILL BE THE BIGGEST EVER

Interest in State Fair Preparations Keener Than Ever Before and Great Success is Assured.

In one respect at least Oregon takes the lead among western states. This is in the holding of her annual state fair, which in size and importance is first among expositions held on the Pacific slope.

The state fair, which has become the big event of the year for the people of Oregon, will take place this year at Salem from September 14 to 19. At the fair grounds the work of preparation has long since been under way, and it is expected that all will be in readiness for the throwing open of the gates which will mark the opening of the most successful fair in the fifty-odd years of its existence.

In the past two years the state has expended large sums of money on the improvement of the exposition grounds. In 1907 twelve large modern show barns were erected, giving Oregon's fair the finest equipment for the display of livestock in the west. Another improvement was the beautifying of the grounds by laying out lawns, flower beds and paths, and by the destruction of numerous old buildings and the removal of the "Corral," the amusement street of the fair, to a more slightly location.

Although the work of converting the old grounds into a modern home for the exposition was begun last year, it is not yet finished. This year many new improvements have been made, chief among which is the addition built on the immense grandstand, by which its capacity will be almost doubled, the putting up of miles of fences and the erection of new buildings.

Ten thousand dollars are offered on livestock, agricultural and manufactured products. Eight counties will provide extensive exhibits. Almost every industry will be represented. The livestock show will be unequalled, the agricultural exhibits will be wonderful, and the art department, the floral display, the dairy, poultry and machinery exhibits will all demand the interest of the thousands of spectators who will come from all parts of the northwest to see the fair.

The entertainment of the crowds will not be neglected. The races will be the fastest ever seen on the coast. Two \$5000 purses and six \$1000 purses will draw the best blooded horses in the country, and that there will be records lowered when they meet is conceded.

In addition, many special features and free acts will be provided, and there will be the "Corral," with its side shows, its stands and pleasure seeking crowds, all combined to contribute to the enjoyment and variety of the big exposition.

Another feature is the city of tents. Hundreds of families journey to the fair every year to enjoy the camp life in the grove, where every modern convenience is at hand, together with a week's outing and the sights of the fair.

## Hearde's Popular Company.

J. H. Hearde's company left Sunday morning for Springfield, after playing a three nights' stand in Dallas. Although at this season of the year, when so many people are away on summer outings, the attendance at his entertainments was naturally somewhat light, the work of the company was heartily appreciated by all who attended. Thursday and Saturday nights' plays were of the melodramatic order but were handled so well by the players that the bald sensationalism, which frequently makes such productions wearisome, was entirely veiled by their natural and skillful work. Their real success was made on the second night however, when they played "A Bachelor's Romance," one of Sol Smith Russell's greatest successes. Their work on that occasion was extremely artistic, and the whole production was one of the best and most beautiful that has ever been played in this city. Mr. Hearde's company will play in Dallas again later in the season, and his return will be eagerly awaited by lovers of good plays well played, for it is seldom that they are given the opportunity of attending such entertainments as Mr. Hearde has proven that he is able to offer them.

The trial of Sherman Miller, accused of having stolen personal property of considerable value from W. S. McCaleb, in Falls City, was heard before Justice of the Peace Hardy Holman, Friday morning at 10 o'clock. Miller was found guilty and a fine of \$20 or 10 days imprisonment was imposed. The young man was unable to pay the cash fine and the latter sentence was carried out.

William Middleton was struck behind the ear with a bolt while attempting to fix the blower of his threshing machine Saturday while it was in motion. His scalp was laid open in a long gash which it required several stitches to close. The cut, although very painful, is not considered dangerous.

Mrs. F. B. Rich was down from Black Rock yesterday for a short visit among her many Dallas friends.

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