

POLK COUNTY OBSERVER

PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY

VOL. XX

DALLAS, POLK COUNTY, OREGON, DECEMBER 1, 1908.

NO. 42

"UNCLE BILL'S" BIG BANQUET

Many Guests Attend Celebration of Hon. W. C. Brown's Eighty-fourth Birthday.

Eighty-four years old and looking hale enough to live to see one hundred, Hon. W. C. Brown, the "Uncle Bill," who has come to be regarded all over Oregon, as a sort of an incarnation of Santa Claus, celebrated his birthday at the Dallas Hotel yesterday afternoon, with his famous annual banquet to the widows of this city; a banquet that has come to be regarded as one of the biggest events of the year in Dallas and whose fame has spread abroad until it is viewed with an almost equal amount of interest by residents of neighboring cities.

This year, however, Uncle Bill went a step farther than had been his previous custom. Invitations were extended, not only to the widows of Dallas, but to the widowers as well and

the host was so well pleased with the success of the new plan that he has declared his intention of continuing it in his future birthday celebrations.

About 50 guests assembled in the hotel parlors at 1 o'clock. A few who had received invitations were unable to be present on account of illness or the feebleness of advanced age. In the throng of guests, the host moved here and there, the central figure, extending greetings heartily to all and conversing gaily with first one and then another. Although in this large gathering gray heads were in predominance and the light in the happy faces reminded one of the mellow glow of a beautiful sunset, it is doubtful if a finer crowd was ever before assembled in the city, except perhaps, on the occasion of some of Mr. Brown's previous anniversary celebrations.

Shortly after 1 o'clock, dinner was announced and the guests filed into the dining room, seating themselves

on either side of the long table with Mr. Brown at the head.

And then the banquet! The host had given instructions that no pains should be spared to make it absolutely the best ever and beyond all doubt, his instructions were followed out to the letter. Every delicacy that culinary ingenuity could devise, made a bill of fare that might have been the envy of an epicure, and above all, there was the atmosphere of good fellowship, the spirit of holiday, to give zest to the eating of the delicious birthday dinner.

Rising in his place after the close of the banquet, the host made a short speech, thanking his guests for their kindness in contributing to his happiness by granting their presence at his birthday anniversary dinner. "And I want to ask you again now" he said "to all be with me again a year from today to help me celebrate my next birthday—if we are all alive then." Here his voice broke pathetically with

emotion and he sat down.

Mr. Brown's speech was followed by short speeches from several of the guests, thanking him for his kindness in asking them to share in his celebration, extending him hearty birthday greetings and wishing him a long and fortunate life.

Before dispersing the guests were grouped on the front porch of the hotel and a photograph was taken, many of them desiring it as a souvenir of the pleasant event.

Those present were: Mrs. M. J. Cooper, Mrs. P. L. Chipman, of Corvallis, Mrs. T. M. Bailey, Mrs. S. P. Riggs, Mrs. S. J. Woods, Mrs. Margaret Peterson, Mrs. J. C. Gaylor, Mrs. S. J. Richmond, Mrs. Mary A. Graham, Mrs. L. A. D'Lashmutt, Mrs. Mary Bricker, Mrs. M. Poland, Mrs. E. H. Hibbard, Mrs. Mary A. Marks, Mrs. R. Hayes, Mrs. F. E. Gage, Mrs. C. E. Snyder, Mrs. Myrtle Rife, Mrs. Mary Conner, Mrs. Edith Rowland, Mrs. N. C. Martin, Mrs. E. A. Lewis, Mrs. Anna Downs, Mrs. Emma Vanskike, Mrs. Amelia Boston, Mrs. Mary Savago, Mrs. E. A. Frazier, Mrs. Doela McCaleb, Mrs. N. C. Brown, Mrs. N. J. Frink, Mrs. E. J. Emmons, Mrs. A. J. Hastings, Messrs. C. H. Chapman, L. C. Hill, J. V. Lyons, J. J. Wiseman, T. J. Campbell, A. W. Dunn, W. H. Reynolds, Oliver Stump, Ed Biddle, C. G. Rowell, Frank Fuchs, E. T. Miller, John Ashbaugh and Dan Syron.

WINS IMPORTANT CASE

Robert M. Wonderly Gets Decision Over Corporations in General Land Office.

An important decision has been rendered at Washington, D. C., by S. V. Prouddit, Acting Commissioner of the General Land Office, respecting the rights of settlers who have squatted on unsurveyed timber land which is sought to be acquired by other interests subsequently by the application of scrip thereon. The case decided is that of Robert M. Wonderly against the Northern Pacific Company and the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company. A copy of the decision yesterday reached A. W. Lafferty, a local attorney, who appeared for Wonderly and is also counsel for nearly a score of other settlers who have similar cases pending before the General Land Office.

Early in 1900 Wonderly and several other residents of Falls City, Polk county, each squatted on a quarter section of unsurveyed timber land just outside the Siletz Indian Reservation and made necessary improvements, intending to file on the land as a homestead as soon as the survey could be had and approved. On June 6, 1900, a few months after the settlers located on the land, the same claims were selected by the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company with Northern Pacific scrip. The settlers made repeated efforts to have the land surveyed, but this service was not performed until 1904 and has never been approved.

Becoming disgusted with the delay in securing action on the survey which was necessary before the land could be filed on as homesteads, Wonderly and his associates instituted contest proceedings against the railroad company and the Weyerhaeuser interests, resisting the application of the lieu selection list by which the Weyerhaeusers sought to seize the property. The case was tried before the officials of the Portland Land Office and was decided in favor of the railroad company, but Wonderly appealed to the General Land Office, and in the decision of the Acting Commissioner the ruling of the local officials has been reversed.

The Acting Commissioner holds that unsurveyed timber lands cannot be seized by the use of scrip where prior to the date the scrip is offered the land has been settled on by a bona fide settler, regardless of whether or not the claim subsequently should be abandoned. Under this ruling all that Wonderly and his associates will have to do to acquire the land is to remain on the premises until the survey has been approved and then file on the same under the homestead law and complete the necessary proof. The claim for which Wonderly is contending is worth about \$15,000. Wonderly has been living on the land and making some improvements annually since he first squatted on it in 1900.—Sunday Oregonian.

"Browns in Town" Friday Night.

Eckhart's ideals will open a two nights' engagement in Dallas at the Woodman Hall, Friday night, December 4, with the bright comedy "Browns in Town," which deals with the tribulations of one, Dick Preston and his wife, in their efforts to keep their marriage from reaching the ears of Dick's father, who threatened to disinherit him if he married before a certain time. Finally the young man assumed the name of Brown, which leads to many complications and their unraveling provokes much merriment. Tickets for this show are now on sale at Staffin's drug store. Admission will be 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children. No extra charge for reserved seats.

Thursday and Friday free admission at the Electric Palace for children under 15 who come with their parents.

RALPH FISHER MURDERED

Former Resident of Polk County Falls Victim to Malice of J. A. Finch.

In the Oregonian of Sunday's issue is contained the following report of the murder of Attorney Ralph B. Fisher, a former Polk county boy and well-known to many of its people, especially those living in Dallas and Monmouth, at both of which places Mr. Fisher, at different times, formerly made his home.

"Attorney Ralph B. Fisher, prosecutor for the Grievance Committee of the Oregon State Bar Association, was shot and killed almost instantly at 1:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon by Attorney J. A. Finch, who had recently been disgraced as the result of charges of drunkenness that were prosecuted by Mr. Fisher.

"The tragedy occurred in Mr. Fisher's private office, 322 Mohawk building, Third and Morrison streets. Miss Verna Burkhardt, Mr. Fisher's stenographer, 428 East Thirty-fourth street, was the only witness, and she fled screaming from the room. The assassin emerged deliberately from the room where lay his victim, walked down the corridor and was about to take the elevator when seized by Dr. H. F. Leonard, who detained him.

"Fisher, at the time of his death, was seated at the desk in his private office, awaiting the arrival of his wife and baby. Only a few moments before the entrance of the assassin, Mrs. Fisher had called him by telephone telling him that she would be down presently and would bring the baby. The attorney was smiling in anticipation of the visit and the smile was on his features as he glanced up into the hideously distorted face of an intruder at whose hands he met instant death."

The victim of that pitiful tragedy was a son of Hon. C. G. Fisher, who was at one time Representative from Polk county in the State Legislature. He was born on his father's farm a few miles north of Dallas. Later he moved with his parents to Monmouth, where he attended the State Normal School before taking the law course in the State University at Eugene. He afterward practiced law in Idaho, then in Salem, and finally moved to Portland, where he was living at the time of his death.

SCHOOL OFFICERS TO MEET

Large Delegations Are Expected to Attend Convention in Dallas, Saturday.

The School Officers Convention to be held in Dallas, Saturday, December 5, will be devoted to a discussion of methods for the betterment of school conditions and an effort is being made to secure the attendance of all of the school officers from every district in Polk county. State Superintendent J. H. Ackerman and several other prominent men in Oregon's educational circles will be present and will take an active part in the work.

The following list of subjects will be brought up for discussion before the convention:

Compulsory Education Law, Union High School, Methods Apportioning School Funds, Increasing the State School Fund, The Unit of Administration, Supervision, The County Treasurer should be made ex-officio School District Treasurer, Publication of School Laws, Creation of a County High School Fund, District Board Meetings, Elementary Agriculture in the Schools, Meetings for Voting Special Taxes, Condition of School Building—Light, Ventilation, Heating, etc., Report of Superintendent to School Board after Visiting School, Compensation for every School Officer who Attend Convention.

Prepare For Poultry Show.

The Polk County Poultry Raisers Association has issued its catalogue and announcement for its second annual poultry show to be held in Dallas, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, December 16, 17 and 18. A larger list of prizes is offered than ever before and it is believed that exhibitors of fine poultry from all parts of Oregon will be attracted to the show this year and that the list of entries will far exceed that of last year. Elmer Dixon, of Oregon City, an experienced poultryman, has again been secured to act as judge of the exhibits. The officers of the association are: C. L. Shaw, president; C. S. Graves, vice-president; J. E. Beesley, secretary and treasurer; C. L. Shaw, B. I. Ferguson, C. P. Cornwall, N. M. Grant and J. E. Beesley, executive committee.

A. E. Trask, of Falls City, visited relatives here over Sunday. He is on crutches, the result of an accident in which he sustained a fracture of the right ankle. He was driving a team down a mountainside when the horses ran off, and after going a distance he turned them into the brush and was thrown out.—Woodburn Independent.

Miss Lena Spangie, who is teaching near Dallas, came down Thursday morning to visit the rest of the week with home folks.—Dayton Optimist.

Big Reduction SALE

On all Ladies' and Children's Coats. All this season's styles.

Special Sale on Clothing

Men's, Boy's and Youth's Suits will be sold at a big cut in price. If you need clothing it will pay you to see what we are offering.

Special lot Ladie's 26-in. Umbrellas 90 Cents

Campbell & Hollister CASH STORE

SAY! HOW ABOUT THAT PICTURE

Wouldn't it look better in a brand new frame? Well, there is just one place in Dallas where you can have it attended to in first-class style, renovated, reframed or remounted. That place is

HALL & HAYES FURNITURE STORE

Electricity for Lighting

Is only expensive to people who are wasteful and careless. To you, who are naturally careful, it does not come high.

It is economical because it can be quickly turned off when not needed. With gas or kerosene there is the temptation to let light burn when not needed to save bother of lighting and adjusting. In some homes the electric light bills amount to only one or two dollars per month. You can probably get some kind of artificial light for less money than electric light, but does it save you anything when it limits opportunities for work and recreation—ruins your eyesight—smokes your walls—mars decorations and increases household work. You could probably save a dollar tomorrow by going without your meals but it wouldn't be economy. It is not so much what you save, but how you save that counts.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY CO. RATES—Residence on meters, per Kilowatt 15c; Residence, flat per month, 16c per 60c. RATES FOR BUSINESS HOUSES—25c per drop and 5c per Kilowatt up to 10 drops; over 10 drops 20c per drop and 5c per Kilowatt up to 40 drops; over 40 drops 17c per drop and 5c per Kilowatt. A drop figures 16c or less. For power rates apply at the office. We are always ready to explain the "ins and outs" of the lighting proposition to you, call on us or phone to us, we are never too busy to talk business.

Willamette Valley Company

E. W. KEARNS, Manager for Dallas. Office on Mill street, just north of the Court House. Phones Bell 421, Mutual 1297.

The Jacobson Transfer Co.

All kinds of hauling promptly done. Specially equipped for the careful moving of furniture and pianos.

Phone orders to Belt & Cherrington's Drug Store Bell, 301 Mutual, 253

ATTORNEY AT LAW

ED. F. COAD, Office in Courthouse DALLAS, OREGON

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

BROWN & STOUT ABSTRACTORS NOTARY PUBLIC COLLECTIONS Ulowg Bldg. DALLAS, OREGON

HOLLIDAY GOODS

The time is near when many hearts may be made happy and it is an undisputed fact that a



Beautiful piece of Jewellery or Cut Glass, a nice Watch, Gold Handle Umbrella, a piece of Silverware, a beautiful Diamond and many other beautiful things found in A. H. HARRIS' JEWELRY STORE would be the most appropriate gift for that occasion.

I carry the nicest stock of watches in Polk county. I have the Howard, Hamilton, Illinois, Hampton, Waltham and Elgin in nearly all the different grades and 150 different designs in Gold-filled, Solid Gold, and Nickle Cases.

I employ one of the finest engravers in the state. Monograms a specialty. All engraving free this month while you wait. It will pay you to call and see for yourself. I want satisfied customers therefore I guarantee satisfaction.

Don't Forget The Place

HARRIS' JEWELRY STORE SAME OLD STAND DALLAS, OREGON

To The Highest Bidder



A \$40.00 Banquet Range

to be sold to the highest bidder regardless of price and without reserve, for cash.

The BANQUET RANGE is without a peer among the steel ranges on the market today and we have adopted this plan of calling the attention of the public to the merits of this particular range.

BANQUET RANGES embody the many features of practical excellence you expect in the product of one of the largest stove plants in the world. The oven walls are lined with asbestos, concentrating the heat around the oven, economizing heat and making Banquet Ranges quick and perfect bakers.

You run no risk when you buy a BANQUET RANGE. You can try it for 30 days, and if it will not bake and cook as good as any range, we will take it back and refund your money.

Sealed bids will be received for the range up to the 24th day of December, 1908, at 12 o'clock noon, and no bids will be opened until that time. All bids must be securely sealed and marked, "bid on range", and addressed to ADAMS & BROBST CO., Dallas, Oregon, with your name and address and bid enclosed.

We will be glad to show the range and explain its merits to anyone and if anyone bids on the range without seeing it and after seeing it they are not satisfied, they will be under no obligations to take it as it will then be awarded to the next highest bidder.

(In answering this advertisement, please mention the name of this paper.)

ADAMS & BROBST CO. Dallas Furniture and Implements Oregon