

Polk County Observer

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DECORATION DAY.

In grateful remembrance of their lives and their services a nation today strews fragrant flowers above the dust of the veterans who bore arms for their country and who sleep beneath the sod. It is a beautiful custom, this annual breeze of blossoms that garlands the graves of departed heroes, and one which we hope will never be forgotten.

The nation reveres the memory of those who responded to the call of duty, it loves those who still are with us, though their locks are silvered by the touch of time and their step is oftentimes weak and faltering. In the full flush of their young manhood, when life was all before them, and the future held rich promise of reward, they forsook their plowshares, their desks and their counters, and leaving loved ones behind, fared forth where their country called and where danger and death awaited. Their sacrifice was truly great—we of later generations can never know just how great, and we do well today to honor them and their memory. Let them sleep in peace. Beside the rippling waters of the river, on many a bloody battlefield, high on the slopes of windswept mountains, in the peaceful village cemetery on the hillside, or deep in the cold embrace of the ocean's tide, the thousands who fell in war's cruel struggle await the coming of the final day when mankind shall be summoned to his account. But, wherever they are, no matter what sod, or rock, or wave hides their sepulchre, they are not forgotten and year after year, in grateful remembrance, a thankful nation strews the flowers of early summer over their mortal remains.

We cannot do too much. As the years go by, the tendency is to forget the services the veterans have rendered. Time in its resistless sweep, smooths the rough edges of our sorrow and heals the wounds left by the harvest of death on the battlefield. A new generation—two of them in fact—now pursue the paths of peace where the grizzled veterans trod the highways of war a half century ago; and the new generations know nothing of the dark days when the fate of the nation hung in the balance, when brother was opposed to brother and the rivers ran red with the blood of loyal sons. But the blessed privilege and the worthy custom which Decoration Day has built in our hearts and in our homes, recalls to us faintly, through the lapse of years, the service that our forebears rendered and the sacrifices they made, and we esteem it a duty and a privilege to garland their graves with blossoms and to honor and revere those who still are with us, living reminders of the bravery and the chivalry of the past.

Though their backs be bent with the weight of years, and their hair be whitened by the flight of time, their eyes gleam with loyalty and devotion to the starry flag that provided their inspiration in the days of '61, and we honor and revere them, everyone. And those who still are with us must realize that they too, will soon be gathered to their fathers, and through their hearts must come today a peaceful calm and a tranquility that overcomes all heart-burnings as they realize that they too, will be remembered by the present and future generations on each recurring Decoration Day.

It is a solemn occasion, yet a pleasant duty, that brings us together today, with all factional lines forgotten, with all internal strife laid aside, and permits us to once again renew our allegiance to the honored dead. As James Whitcomb Riley has so feelingly and clearly expressed it—

"It's lonesome—sort o' lonesome—
 It's a Sunday day to me—
 It 'pears like, more'n any day I
 nearly ever see,
 Yet, with the stars and stripes
 above
 A flutterin' in the air;
 On ev'ry soldier's grave I'd love
 To lay a lilly there."

A New York woman has been given a divorce because her husband kissed his stenographer. This is only another evidence of the trend of things in this strenuous suffragette age. After while man will be entirely stripped of his privileges and be compelled to devote all of his time to his wife.

THE COUNTY FAIR.

The Observer believes that the Polk County court can make no better investment, nor one which will meet with more unanimous approval than an appropriation in aid of the Polk County fair proposition. Interest in the fair is widespread—hardly a person in the county but who is favorable to it, and fully aware of the benefits to be derived from its annual exhibitions. The county fair idea has long since passed the experimental stage and people generally know, by years of observation and experience, that nothing adds so much to the spirit of progress among the people, as a county fair and the display of the products of farm, stockyard and factory. It not only creates a friendly spirit of rivalry among the producers which cannot fail to result in improved conditions, but it advertises the county to strangers more than any other one thing can do. The stimulation of rivalry between the people of any community is a wholesome condition and should be encouraged.

In the light of these well-known facts the county court should not hesitate to give the fair the substantial encouragement it deserves. Every progressive county in the state possesses its county fair, and all of them have been successful where properly encouraged, and the people who pay the taxes do not object to the expenditure of a small portion of the funds of the county in so worthy an enterprise. It is practically impossible for a county fair to exist without support from some public fund. The offering of premiums which will induce the farmers to exhibit—which will return to them in some small measure, remuneration for the time and trouble expended in preparing exhibits—is necessary if the annual exhibitions are to be successful, and thus a large share of the money expended by the county government in aid of the fair, finds its way back into the pockets of the people who have been progressive enough to aid in the display. The lawmakers of the state realize the benefits to be derived from the county fair and have provided by statute that a certain sum shall be appropriated from the state treasury in aid of such organizations as comply with the law. County courts therefore, may find ample precedent for the appropriation of funds for such purpose and they should also understand that the people generally will endorse any reasonable action along this line.

In this contention for the county fair, we do not refer to an annual "racing meet" which is often made an adjunct of the fair, but simply to the fair itself—to the encouragement of the display of farm products and the live stock of the county. When an institution adds the racing feature it then opens the pathway for great additional expense which the taxpayers of the county should not be asked to share.

In deciding between the contentions of Independence and Dallas for aid in support of the fair, the duty of the county court is plain. It is not a rivalry between the two communities, so far as the court is concerned. It is not Dallas nor Independence that is asking for an appropriation—it is the Polk County Fair association, organized and incorporated under the laws of the state of Oregon, and it is for that organization to decide where the fair is to be held. In order to receive the benefit of the state laws in aid of county fairs, the organization under whose auspices they are given, must be incorporated. This has been done, and it is up to the association, not the county court, to decide upon a location for its exhibits. The Observer submits that the proper location for a county fair is the county seat, but that is another story and does not enter into consideration at this time. Stock in the Polk County Fair association will be held in all portions of the county. Men of affairs in their different communities, who are interested in its success, have subscribed to the capital stock, more are daily becoming stockholders, and it is for these men to decide where the fair is to be held. They may accept the best offer presented to them, and they may not, however, it is solely the affair of the association, and does not enter into the controversy with the county court. The court does not have to shoulder this responsibility—all that the people ask of them is the financial assistance—the association will solve the location problem.

Above all things else, however, the success of the county fair is the first consideration and, so far as The Observer is concerned, speaking alone for ourselves, we are perfectly willing that the fair shall go to any community in the county which, in the judgment of the association, shall seem to guarantee the best location, everything considered. We do not want the affair to become involved in a bitter sectional strife for the obvious reason that such contention could only result to the detriment of the enterprise which it would require years to overcome.

By all means let us have the appropriation—the location will take care of itself.

The unanimity with which the people of Dallas turned out and made a showing at the Moose carnival at Salem on "Salem-Dallas Day" shows the spirit of the city. It advertises to the world, that while we may have our differences, when it comes to the boosting of the city, or the furtherance of any plan which

requires the assistance of all the people, they find all factions united and working for the common good. Of course there are a few knickers, but they are not noticed in the general forward movement. Dallas showed Salem a thing or two last Friday and the large turn-out of Dallas people at the carnival and the boosting spirit which they possessed, was the best advertisement the city could have. Let's have more of such occasions.

How are the mighty fallen! Colonel Theodore Roosevelt prosecuting a libel suit against a newspaper which charged him with drunkenness! A former president of the United States compelled to adopt such an expedient to keep himself in the public eye! The Colonel says he is not a total abstainer although six mint juleps a year, some champagne and white wine forms the sum total of his inhibitions. He says he doesn't drink beer and whiskey is distasteful to him and that he never attacked a highball or a cocktail in his life. How about gin fizzes, Theo? Didn't ever investigate?

Members of the Illinois legislature are now considering the question of raising their pay to \$5,000 per year. The adoption of the amendment to the constitution providing for the election of United States senators by popular vote is probably viewed by the Illinois solons as producing a substantial cut in their remuneration and the emoluments of office. It has long been suggested that the Illinois legislature has not been getting what was coming to it.

Fiskirino says that if "Foster should remain in Dallas 30 years he would own the whole town." Yes, that's Foster's present ambition. But when that time comes, and 30 years have elapsed, there's one ancient and decrepit institution that he doesn't want, nor wouldn't have—that's the collection of junk presided over by the "best printer" and his valet.

The news dispatches tell us that Roosevelt's arrival in Marquette, Michigan, where his libel suit is now under way, produced scarcely a ripple on the serene surface of that town. It is evident that the coming of a former president to prosecute a libel suit is somewhat at variance with the arrival of the "conquering hero."

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UNITED ARTISANS—Dallas Assembly, No. 46, meets on first and third Mondays of each month at Woodman hall. Visiting members made welcome.

MILLIE M. STAFRIN, M. A.
 WILLIS SIMONTON, Secretary.

REBEKAHS—Almira Lodge No. 26 meets first and third Wednesday of each month at Odd Fellows' Hall.

NOLA COAD, Noble Grand.
 ORA COSPER, Secretary.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD—Dallas Camp No. 299 meets in W. O. W. Hall on Tuesday evening of each week.

R. E. REED, Consul Com.
 W. A. AYRES, Clerk.

A. F. & A. M.—Jennings Lodge, No. 9, meets second and fourth Fridays of each month, in Masonic hall on Main street. Visiting brethren welcome.

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FINE MEETING AT GUTHRIE

Parents and Teachers Enjoy Pleasant Program on May 23.

A very good time was reported by all who attended the last meeting of the Parents' Teacher association at Guthrie school house May 23, the occasion being also the last day of school.

Seats having been arranged among the trees on the school ground, the morning was spent in talking and some singing. A good lunch was served at noon, after which every one adjourned to the school house where a short program was rendered. Mr. Seymour and Mr. Maris gave interesting addresses. Business matters were discussed until about 3 p. m. when the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held June 27. Competent instructors will be present to instruct in the art of needlework.

Still Another Contest.

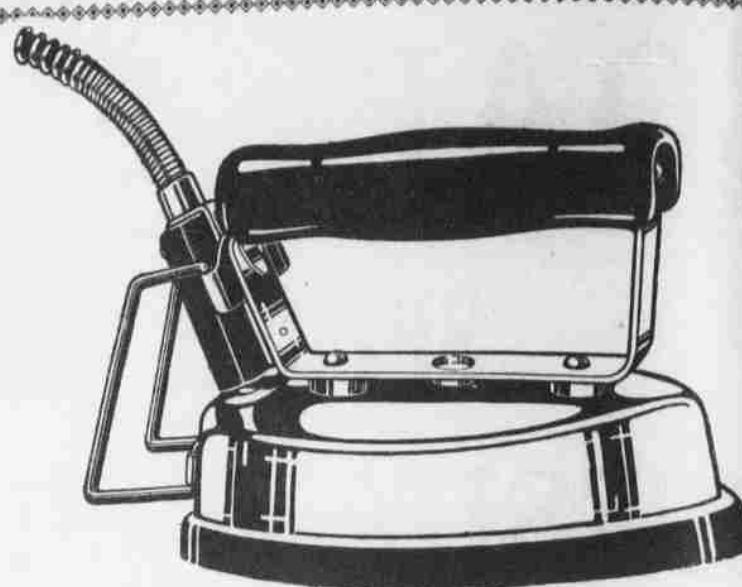
The silver medal contest held in the M. E. church at Falls City last Monday night was well attended and a very good program was rendered. A gold medal contest will be held in the Christian church next Monday night, June 2.

Many a sow is farrowing litters of dead or weakly pigs these days simply because she has not been given proper housing and feed during the weeks that have preceded this ordeal. The trouble is usually traceable to the fact that she has not been given sufficient bone and muscle building food or has been given too much oilmeal. Just a little care exercised in regard to the sow's bill of fare will save a lot of trouble and also a big loss in little pigs.

Some interesting facts have been brought out as a result of some exhaustive statistical data which have been gathered by representatives of the animal husbandry bureau of the federal department of agriculture relative to the profligacy of two of the leading breeds of hogs—Poland Chinas and Duroc-Jerseys. It was found that in 21,652 litters of the latter breed the average number of pigs per litter was 9.25, while with the former breed 50,000 litters reported showed an average of a trifle less than 7.5 pigs per litter.

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The A. J. Barham real estate agency offers the following choice buys in real estate in Dallas and vicinity. Each one will bear the closest investigation.

A good 5 room house on Ash street; large wood shed; house plastered and electric lighted and telephone; good well; large lot 90x150 feet with plenty of fruit; price \$1150; \$580 cash; \$570 can run at \$10 per month without interest.

About 87-100 of an acre on Levens street, close in at \$1500; 6 room house, about 100 young fruit trees, mostly peaches, 1-8 acre strawberries; price \$1500; \$1000 cash; terms on balance.

14½ acres, 4 in cultivation, most all planted, 65 apple trees, 2 years

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5 acres 1½ miles of Dallas, river bottom land; 6 room house in good repair; wood shed and red house; small barn; place watered by well and creek; 2 fine cows, 19 chickens, all carpets on floor downstairs, some linoleum on floor downstairs, also heating stove and several other items too numerous to mention; price \$1900, with terms if taken soon. This is a dandy little place.

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