

Polk County Observer

THE HOME PAPER

AMATEUR PLAY PLEASERS MANY

WELL ACTED COMEDY IS ENJOYABLE

Net Proceeds of Play Will be Used in Buying New Books for Free Library.

Cast of Characters.
 Dan Gillespie.....Norval Gates
 Jorkins Johnson...Fred B. West
 Deacon Smith...Francis Simonton
 Sally.....Mrs. Harry Volheim
 Miss Camson...Miss Louise Miles
 Louisiana...Miss G. Van Waters

By J. C. Hayter.
 There is no rubbing it out, we like the amateur shows better. The smooth and polished productions of the professional actors and actresses may, and doubtless do, appeal strongly to the high-brows, of whom there are comparatively few, but to us folk of the common everyday variety of whom there are many, the amateur entertainment is by far the better bet.

Once in awhile, it is true, the microscope of "higher culture" gets into our systems and we find ourselves standing in line for four hours for the privilege of paying \$4 into the coffers of the Spaghetti Grand Opera Company. Then we go inside and sit politely bored for three hours more, listening to the fugues and arpeggios and rigolettos and pizzicattos, and pretending that we are elated thereby, when the fact of the business is, we are wishing away down in our hearts that the orchestra might forget itself for just a minute and tear us off a few bars of "Yankee Doodle," or "Old Dan Tucker," or some other equally understandable and danceable tune.

Few there are among us who would not gladly dig up his dollar to see "Old Matty" wound up and in action, or to watch Ty Cobb hammer a long one clean over the roof of the Standard Oil warehouse. It would be worth all of the aforesaid dollar, and more. But what we really like to do—is to go down to the college campus some Saturday afternoon, perch on that rocky hillside, and, with the summer sun scorching the back of our necks, watch the Pumpkin Center "Giants" wallop the everlasting stuffing out of the Squirrel Hollow "Red Sox."

That is a deal more to our liking. It is the real article. We admire the action of the big league game as we would admire the action of some marvelous and well-oiled machine, but it is these red-hot, rip-sizzling contests between the boys of neighboring wards or villages that have made baseball the most popular game in America, and American ball players the champions of the world.

We enjoy the modern theater, with its wealth of talent and its miracles of scenery, but this enjoyment is not of the same ecstatic quality as that which comes to us when we have settled down in our hard-bottomed chairs in the local town hall, (usually dignified by the title "opera house,") to witness an entertainment by our own and our neighbors' boys and girls. We like to nudge each other and say, "That's John," and "You wouldn't hardly know Mary with that blonde wig on," and "Look at Billy; I'll betcher he is just scared limber."

Then the play progresses, and the well-acted scenes make you proud of the young actors, and the little mistakes and rough spots are excused and forgotten—and you get out of it all a pleasure that cannot be measured in mere dollars and cents. No matter if you can discern a half-inch or so of air space between John's false whiskers and his youthful cheeks, when you happen to catch him standing sideways; no matter if Billy does get too far upstage at the end of the act and find himself on the outside of a too-quickly-dropped curtain. These little features are important. They distinguish an amateur show from a professional show, and send us home declaring "We wouldn't have missed it for anything."

All of which is prefatory to a few words of praise for the delightful little play, "A Family Affair," given by home talent Friday evening, and repeated last night, for the benefit of the Dallas Public Library.

Let it be understood at the outset, however, that the foregoing re-

marks concerning the imperfections of the usual amateur dramatic production can be applied to these two performances in only a very limited degree, for we cannot recall having seen a better staged or a more capably acted play in Dallas. Under the direction and stage management of Miss Bertha Serr, who has had much valuable experience in amateur theatricals, and with a cast composed of self-possessed and intelligent young men and women, Charles Townsend's famous farce was given a presentation that would not suffer by comparison with productions of the same play by many of the traveling road companies.

The plot of "A Family Affair" is time-worn and time-honored. It has furnished inspiration for comedy writers from days immemorial, but like good wine, it improves with age. Briefly, and it can be told in a dozen words, it is the story of a rich and eccentric uncle who commands his favorite nephew to take unto himself a wife, under penalty of a certain amount if the said rich and eccentric uncle's wishes are not speedily obeyed. The consternation of the nephew, his frantic efforts to find a wife on short notice, and the well-meaning but misguided attempts of his faithful house-servants to help him out of his dilemma lead from one awkward situation to another in rapid succession and all are laughable in the extreme.

Norval Gates as the nephew acquitted himself with great credit. He dressed the part and acted the part, and never for an instant did he over-play it. Overwhelmed by the results of his attempt to deceive his uncle, even to the extent of finding himself confronted by three pretended wives and a houseful of crying babies at one and the same time, his every movement and facial expression were just what one would expect from a young man finding himself in such a predicament.

Fred B. West was a most comical Jorkins Johnson, young Gillespie's slow-witted but faithful gardener. Ready to assist his master so far as to don petticoats and pose as that young man's wife, his interpretation of the part added much to the hilarity of the play. Mr. West is no stranger to Dallas, having appeared here many years ago in "The Henrietta" and other well known comedies.

The "Deacon Smith" of Francis Simonton was a delicious bit of char-

acter acting. He has an excellent stage voice and his make-up could not have been improved. Mr. Simonton is a resident of Pennsylvania and is here visiting his father, Willis Simonton. His generosity in lending his talents to the assistance of the library will be gratefully remembered by the people of Dallas.

Mrs. Harry Volheim was charming as Sally, the nephew's precocious wife and the gardener's real wife. Mrs. Volheim was thoroughly at home on the stage and her every word and movement evidenced a keen appreciation with productions of the same play by many of the traveling road companies.

Miss Louise Miles was deeply pleasing in the character of Miss Camson, the housekeeper. Her part was that of a woman of middle age and her disguise was so effective that her acquaintances would have had difficulty in recognizing her, had they not found her name on the program. Miss Miles read her lines in such a seemingly natural manner as to completely sink her own identity in the part she was playing, and that is real dramatic talent.

Louisiana, the negress, was down on the program as "Miss Grace Van Waters," but if those six feet of black legs and arms didn't belong to Merle Meyer, we miss our guess. "Miss Grace" had but little to do, but like everything else our young friend Merle does, he did it well.

The members of the Library Board are grateful to all who assisted in making the play successful; to the young people in the cast who gave so freely of their time and talents; to the Moose and High School orchestras which furnished delightful music between the acts; to the Uglow Clothing House for the loan of costumes; to Horn & Davis for furniture; to Wilson Ayres for the free use of his pleasant little theater; to the printers of the city for good printing at liberal prices; to Mrs. J. R. Craven, president of the Dallas Women's Club and the young ladies who presided at the candy booth, and to the people who patronized the entertainment each evening.

The net proceeds of the play will be used in buying new books for the library.



Dallas Free Library.

Dallas Wins.
 Saturday night the local high school basketball team met the McMinnville team here and defeated them 35 to 15.

It was one of the fastest games that Dallas ever played upon their own floor. The McMinnville fellows were good shots but they lacked in teamwork and consequently they came out on the small end of the score.

The Dallas boys all played good ball and their playing was consistent throughout the whole game they played on the jump from the first whistle to the last and the game was never in danger.

The attendance was fair and all went away praising the home team for excellent work in this line of athletics. Every person who is in the least interested in basketball will agree that "Pebo" Sham has certainly molded into shape as good a team as ever represented the Dallas High school. The present line-up will no doubt hold the state championship which last years' team so gracefully gained.

The line-up is as follows:
 Dallas McMinnville
 Woods Forward Madris
 Balderce Forward Lattery
 Goech Center Pearsons
 Matheny Guard Manning
 Horvington Guard Dewey

The next game to be played here will be between Dallas and the Airline-Wiggins team of Portland. This team is really out of high school class but our boys feel for bigger game. Boydstun will take the Balderce position at forward, thus making Dallas a hard team to conquer.

Chas. Poling and Hubert Good, formerly of Dallas are playing with the visiting team and a very close game is expected. On account of the expenses which are necessary for this game the admission will be 35 and 50

cents. Reserved seats at Staffin's drug store. Come out and help D. H. S. to win. Don't forget the date, Saturday January 24th at 8:45 p. m.

The Boys Plead Guilty.

Two young men, members of a Lebanon team, were brought to Dallas Saturday to answer to a charge of larceny of goods from Hayter's book store. The theft was committed November 7th, when the team came to this city to play a game with a local eleven. Mr. Hayter at once placed an officer on their track, but it was not until a month later that the offenders were located.

Upon being arraigned before Justice Holman, the young men pleaded guilty to the charge. After hearing the details of the affair and receiving the promise of the wrong-doers to walk more circumspectly in future, the court collected from them a sum sufficient to repay Mr. Hayter for the stolen goods and to reimburse the county for its costs and discharged them from custody.

"I deeply regret the mis-step of these young men," said Mr. Hayter yesterday. "but it was an offence that I could not lightly overlook. As visitors from a neighboring town, I took every pains to make them feel welcome in my store, and they rewarded this hospitality by carrying away some of my best and most saleable goods. Had they informed me that they were planning to steal these goods, I would have made them a present of all they took. I would have been only that much the loser, and the young men would have escaped the trouble in which they later found themselves. In common with many other merchants of Dallas, I have been annoyed by petty thievery for the last several months, and have determined, so far as my store is concerned, that the practice must cease."

CITY COUNCIL EXTRA SESSION

SEPTIC TANK FOR SEWERAGE TO BE PROVIDED

Tax Payers Will be Asked to Vote \$10,000 Bonds to Cover Necessary Expense.

The City Council held an informal meeting at the council chamber on last Saturday evening to discuss the proposition of installing a septic tank for the disposal of the city sewage. Professor W. F. Allison of the State University was present and gave the council the benefit of his knowledge on the subject; the Professor is a sanitary engineer and expert of many years experience and was able to give very valuable suggestions in regard to the matter. The Professor had previously gone over the town and investigated the location for the tanks and recommended that they be placed near the present sewer outlet on the Uglow property and estimated that a sewage tank large enough to accommodate Dallas would cost by the time it was installed, in the neighborhood of \$10,000. A number of citizens were present at the meeting and the matter was discussed generally and it was decided to put the matter before the people at the coming spring election in the shape of a vote on a bond issue, the bonds to run for twenty years.

In case the people should not see fit to authorize a bond issue it will be necessary to take money out of the general fund of the city, which would completely stop all street work for its year, as the septic tanks must be built, the State Board of Health having allowed the city to place sewage in the Laurels only until tanks can be built next summer. In a recent suit brought by the Board of Health against the city of Silverton to stop the City from placing sewage in a stream, the court sustained the position of the Board and ordered Silverton to stop dumping sewage in the stream, hence the same question as to Dallas would undoubtedly result in a decision against Dallas.

Stienert—Friesen.

A very pretty but simple wedding took place at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter A. Friesen at Polk Station last Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock, January 15th, when Miss Marie Friesen and Mr. Cornelius Stienert were united in marriage. Rev. A. Friesen performed the ceremony.

The bride wore a beautiful gown of cream crepe de chine, and carried a bridal bouquet of roses. The groom was dressed in a suit of blue serge. There were no attendants and the ceremony was performed in the good old impressive German style.

Both the bride and groom are very popular and have a host of friends who wish them a prosperous and happy life.

They will make their home in Dallas and will be at home to friends at their residence on Hayter Street after the 1st of February.

We were unable to get a full list of the 60 or 70 invited guests, but the following Dallas people were present—Mr. and Mrs. Harber and daughter Nettie, Miss Susie and Marie Peters, Miss Goldie First, Miss Tennessee Friesen, Miss Susie Brown and Mr. Peter Heendricks. Many valuable presents were received.

Travels Too Fast.

The Airline correspondent of the Monmouth Herald has the following report on the Medical School Inspector that recently visited their school.

The school superintendent U. C. Seymour and a medical school inspector from New York, gave our school a whirlwind call last Thursday. If she is inspecting the schools all over the state in the same manner that she did this one, the State Superintendent or who ever is imposing her august person on the intelligent people and tax payers of the state, would do well to let her return to graft hidden New York where she belongs.

The Observer man called on County Superintendent and he agreed with the correspondent that the inspector was traveling too fast and the State Superintendent is of the same opinion. This inspector is under the control of the State Board of health and not under the control of the Superintendent.

Moved Into New Quarters.

Last Saturday Mr. Oscar Hayter moved his law offices to the New Dallas City Bank building and now occupies the most complete suite of office rooms in the city if not in the state. No law firm in Oregon has better arranged rooms for conveniences than the one Mr. Hayter occupies. There are four large rooms in the suite, the center one in front is the reception and stenographers' room. To the left a door leads to Mr. H. H. Belt's room who is associated with Mr. Hayter. On the right of the reception room entrance leads to the private offices of Mr. Hayter, besides each of the rooms have separate entrances to the hall. The furnishings of the rooms are in keeping with the surroundings. The library room is an exceptionally large one, arranged with shelving made to hold the different sizes of law volumes. There is shelf room to accommodate 2,385 law books besides room for the different reference tables, indexes and desks. It is well lighted and that feature alone is a very essential one to any library. The Observer congratulates Mr. Hayter on his rapid advancement to the high position he occupies as an attorney, and also as a citizen of Dallas and even if he has attained what he has long desired a law office with all modern advantages we believe that prosperity will not change his popularity or his genial disposition.

Teachers' Meetings.

A local Teachers' meeting will be held at Independence Saturday, January 24th, beginning at 10 a. m. Dr. Winship of Boston will be present and will make two addresses. Also Mr. R. D. Hetzel of the Agricultural College will make an address upon the "Boys' and Girls' Industrial Clubs of Oregon." Miss Rose Vreeland, the nurse sent out by the State Health Board to inspect the schools of the State, and who is now working in Polk County will make an address explaining the work which the State Health Board is undertaking to carry out. Teachers from Dallas and points near here may take the 7:50 train for Independence. This is going to be one of the best Institutes ever held in the county and a good attendance is expected.

The Polk County Principals' Club will hold their regular monthly meeting at Independence Saturday night.

Benton County Says That Polk County Will Help.

A letter to the Portland Journal from Corvallis says that Polk County will help them build a good highway to Salem. The writer says: With a desire to co-operate with this county a delegation from Polk County, headed by H. C. Dunsmore of Independence and including two of that county's road officials, came to the road meeting here on Tuesday night and gave assurance to the Corvallis Commercial Club that if Benton County desired to build a line or highway from the south to the north line of the county, Polk County will co-operate by taking up the work at the county line, and will continue it to Salem. They also assured the Corvallis Commercial Club that no matter what type of road Benton County decides to build they will equal if not better it.

Methodist Boosters Organize.

The ladies of the church served a very toothsome banquet to the gentlemen of the denomination on Friday evening. The pastor, Rev. Geo. H. Bennett, with a few humorous anecdotes and in a short address outlined the purpose of the gathering, the organization of a "Booster" club of Methodist men. It is the purpose of the organization to rebuild the church in the near future, adding a basement and apartments for gymnasium, shower baths, parlors, and moving picture outfit for the Sunday school and pulpit work. Twenty-six men signed the roll as charter members, Dr. A. M. McNiel was chosen president, Ed. C. Dunn, secretary, and W. G. Black, treasurer. Rev. Dr. Wakefield and Dr. M. McNiel were called out and responded with neat speeches.

Eagle Crest Orchards.

The Eagle Crest orchards are located three miles east of Crowley Station in the northeast part of Polk County. They now have 10,000 trees and 16,000 loganberry plants of which they expect that about 1500 to 1700 peach trees and all the loganberries will bear this year. Many other such fruit ranches in this county are coming into bearing, and the Polk County Fruit Growers' Association is at work trying to provide a market for the fruit here in Polk County.

Quiring—Quiring.

Mrs. Agatha Quiring and Mr. Henry W. Quiring, both of Dallas, were united in marriage by Justice Holman at his office in the court house, Monday evening at about five o'clock.

Report of the Schools of Polk County for the School Month Ending December 26th, 1913.

Number of schools reporting correctly and on time.....	67
Number of schools not reporting on time.....	3
Number of pupils remaining at time of the last report.....	2804
Number of pupils registering new during month.....	45
Number of pupils registering secondary during month.....	36
Number of pupils re-admitted during month.....	141
Total number of pupils on register during month.....	3926
Number of pupils dropped during month.....	25
Total number of pupils on register at time of this report.....	2808
Number of days taught during month.....	16.94
Whole number of days attendance.....	44584
Whole number of days abs-nce.....	15385
Whole number of times late.....	463
Number of pupils neither absent or late.....	1750
Average number of pupils belonging to.....	2875.4
Average daily attendance.....	2779.5
Per cent of attendance.....	96.86
Number of visits by parents.....	20
Number of visits by members of the board.....	116

The following schools have been placed on the roll of honor for having made 95% in attendance or over:
 Zena, Dallas, Eola, Red Prairie, Lewisville, Ballston, Salt-creek, Parkers, Bethel, Polk Station, Ward, Perrydale, Fairview, Cockran, Butler, Rickard, Oakpoint, Elkins, Antioch, Brush College, West Salem, Buena Vista, Buell, Spring Valley, Popeorn, Upper Salt Creek, Montgomery, Lincoln, North Dallas, Enterprise, Suver, Crowley, Greenwood, Fir Grove, Concord, Oakdale, Lone Star, McCoy, Liberty, Black Rock, Falls City, Pioneer, Cherry Grove, Oakhurst, Mountainview, Mistloee, Valley Junction, Broadmead, Fern, 72, Smithfield, Valleyview, Monmouth High School, Airlie, Bridgeport, Independence.

The following schools have been placed on the roll of honor for having made no tardies during the month:
 Eola, Red Prairie, Lewisville, Parkers, Orechards, Polk Station, Ward, Cockran, Antioch, Brush College, Buena Vista, Popeorn, Harmony, Crowley, McTimmons Valley, Greenwood, Fir Grove, Oakdale, Lone Star, Oakhurst, Mistloee, Broadmead, Smithfield.

The following schools have become standard:—Buena Vista, Nora Dallas, Zena, No. 72, Lincoln, Oakhurst, Antioch, Fir Grove, McCoy, Gutferrie, Greenwood, Airlie, Mountainview, Red Prairie, Enterprise, Fern, Lewisville, Ward, and many others have nearly all of the points, so we are expecting by our next report to be able to report many more schools.

School rallies have been held in the following places since the last report:
 Mountainview, Valley Junction, Butler, Parker, Highland, Lewisville, Buena Vista.
 There have been many Parent-Teachers' Associations organized in the county during the month, also many Boys' and Girls' Industrial Clubs.

The school officers' Convention which was held December 24th was one of the best attended and most successful we have ever held.

Pennants for the Standard Schools have arrived and have been awarded to Buena Vista, North Dallas, Antioch, Guthrie, Greenwood, Orechards, Mountainview and Lewisville.

Yours respectfully,
 H. C. SEYMOUR.

The Toozee vs. Butz Case.

In the Friday's issue of this paper in reporting the case of Toozee vs. Butz in reference to the fees of the state land board for the loaning of school funds, the article might have been misleading, as we stated that the jury found in favor of Mr. Toozee, while this was true Mr. Butz was not discredited by the verdict as the plaintiff sued for \$25 and was allowed only \$10.

Births.

Dr. McCallon reported the following arrivals in Polk County last week.
 To Mr. and Mrs. Bernhard Wiese of Salt Creek, Wednesday the 14th, a boy.

To Mr. and Mrs. James Middleton, two miles north of Dallas, Friday, the 16th, a girl.

Debates to Begin in March.

The Polk County High School Debating League will consist of the schools at Independence, Monmouth, Dallas and Falls City this year. The first debate will be held on March 7th and the Monmouth negative team will meet the Independence affirmative team at Independence. The Independence negative team will meet the Dallas affirmative team at Dallas. The Dallas negative team will meet the Falls City affirmative team at Falls City. The Falls City negative team will meet the Monmouth affirmative team at Monmouth.

CITY FATHERS WORK SOME

REGULAR BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS FOR CITY

Bills Allowed and Much Work Accomplished Adjourned Meeting Necessary.

The regular session of the City Council was held at the City Hall Monday evening with Mayor Van Orsdel presiding, and all members of the Council present.

An ordinance was passed requiring the construction of certain sidewalk walks in the city.
 On motion the Auditor was authorized to notify W. F. Pfeiffer of Albany, to tear down the old wood shed at the rear of his brick building on Main street in this city.
 On motion the proper officers were instructed to notify property owners to clean up the trash at the rear of the stores.

The following bills were allowed:
 Polk County Observer.....\$ 20.50
 L. H. Gohrke..... 2.50
 McCann & Collins..... 2.00
 Star Transfer Company..... 12.40
 U. S. Laugharty..... .60
 Dallas Logging & Lumber Co. 124.80
 Polk County..... 14.66
 Frank Lovelady..... 1.00
 H. S. Butz..... 2.50
 H. L. Fenton..... 11.90
 F. M. Collins..... 7.40
 Daniel Syron..... 11.70

The bill of W. G. Vaughan for the construction of the Kirkpatrick sewer on Main Street was brought up and discussed by the Council and by a vote of 4 to 3 it was not allowed.
 An ordinance providing for the construction of sewers on Court and Ellis streets was passed.
 On motion the Auditor was instructed to advertise for bids for the construction of sewers on Court and Ellis streets.

On motion the ordinance committee was instructed to draw up an ordinance repealing ordinance No. 4 and to amend ordinance No. 15 and 54.
 The Mayor appointed Councilmen Barbo, Sibley and Risser as a committee to fix price on corrugated iron belonging to the city for sale.

On motion the proper officers were instructed to enforce the traffic ordinances of the city.
 The Auditor was instructed to notify the night watch Mr. Shaw to appear before the Council at an adjourned meeting, Monday evening, January 26th, to answer charges against him regarding his enforcement of law.

On motion the ordinance committee was instructed to draw an ordinance repealing the ordinance licensing skating rinks.

On motion the Council adjourned to meet Monday night, January 26th.

Polk's Weights and Measures.

A. V. R. Snyder, Sealer of Weights and Measures for Polk County has visited eleven towns in the county and tested 172 sets of scales, of which 102 were found correct and sealed; eleven were corrected and sealed, and nine were condemned.

Twenty-one counter measures were tested and all but two were up to the standard, and these two were corrected.

Fourteen automatic oil and gasoline pumps were tried out, and five of these were found a trifle short, but the dealers were glad to correct them.

Of the twenty-six gallon and half gallon liquid measures tested, all were found correct.

Mr. Snyder expects to test all wagon and stock scale just as soon as the roads get in condition for making a complete county visitation.

M. E. Sunday School.

The Sunday school board of the Methodist church held its annual election last week. Reports were read indicating steady growth and a prosperous condition. Mrs. F. H. Morrison, who has been the popular and successful superintendent for the past eighteen years, retired from the office, to the deep regret of the school. The following officers were elected:
 W. P. Miller, superintendent; Mrs. W. G. Black, assistant superintendent; Ralph Howe, secretary; Frances Dempsey, treasurer; Earnest McCallon, librarian; W. R. Hows, chorister; Helen Syron, organist; Frances Harrington, assistant organist; Mrs. Fred Wagner, superintendent primary; Pauline Miller and Esther Winter, pages.