

DOINGS IN POLK COUNTY

STORIES BY THE OBSERVER'S CORRESPONDENTS.

Personal Paragraphs Pertaining to Movements of People Whom You All Know.

BALLSTON.

Lawrence Newbill was a Hopewell visitor during the week.

Mrs. F. B. Gould has been on the sick list.

Gerald Tilley left Sunday for Corvallis to take a short course at the O. A. C.

Vera Sampson spent the holidays with her mother at Willamina.

Mrs. G. W. Newbill attended the funeral of her uncle at La Fayette Thursday.

C. A. Ball was up from Portland the first of the week.

There was a house party at James McCauley's Saturday night.

Jack Brooks of Marion county is visiting his brother here.

Ed. Koub and John Bentley spent the holidays at Salem.

Mrs. N. E. Tufford returned Monday night from Portland, where she has been visiting relatives.

A. L. Newell and family have returned to their home in Eastern Oregon after a few days' visit here.

Mr. Moore of Newberg is visiting his niece, Mrs. G. W. Newbill.

Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery of Perrydale visited at James McCauley's Saturday night.

Lawrence Fudge visited friends in Portland last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Barnett of Sheridan visited their daughter, Mrs. T. J. Short New Year's.

Sam Hillyer and family are making preparations to leave for Arizona soon.

Marie Short left for Neskewin the last of the week after spending the holidays at home.

Mrs. E. F. Craven and son Allan of Rieckreall were visiting friends here the last of the week.

Earl Sampson and family were visiting at Hopewell during the week.

Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Brooks were visiting relatives in Marion county last week.

Earl and Edna Conner have returned to Corvallis after spending the holidays at home.

Earl Chandler left Saturday for Klamath Falls, where he is teaching, after a few days' visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Chandler.

The Women of Woodcraft installed the following officers Saturday night: Guardian neighbor, Mrs. T. J. Short; adviser, Zelma Butler; clerk, Cassie Sears; banker, Mrs. J. H. Butler; attendant, Lima Yocom; magician, Mrs. W. A. Yocom; inner sentinel, T. J. Short; outer sentinel, C. L. Gibson; managers, W. A. Yocom, Ed. Miller and Mrs. H. S. Fudge.

ZENA-SPRING VALLEY.

Miss Mable Taylor has returned to Salem to resume her studies in the high school there.

Miss Greta Phillips of Salem spent part of the Christmas holidays at her home here.

Mrs. Milo Matthews and daughter of Salem visited last week here at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Purvine.

Donnel Crawford returned Sunday from a few days' visit at Portland and Oregon City.

The party given Tuesday night by Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Purvine was much enjoyed by the large crowd present.

Miss Elsie Taylor has returned to the Monmouth Normal.

Mrs. Cal De Harppert of Salem was the guest of her sister, Mrs. Fred Purvine for a few days last week.

At a meeting of the school voters last Tuesday, it was decided that a new building be built in the spring to replace the one recently burned. In the meantime, school is being held in the old schoolhouse.

A large number of friends and neighbors attended the funeral of Mr. Gerth Sunday afternoon at the Zena church. Mr. Gerth was a native of Germany and nearly seventy-five years of age. For the last thirty years he had pursued the trade of blacksmith at Lincoln. His death was caused from a fall from a stairway. He leaves to mourn his loss a widow, a son, and two daughters.

POPCORN-MOUNTAIN VIEW.

Everyone around here enjoyed their Christmas holidays in the good old Christmas spirit.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Grice visited their daughter, Mrs. Cannoy of Harrisburg last week.

Chas Kohnke is having a house built on his tract of land. Frank Kamer is doing the work.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy McDowell returned home Saturday from their wedding trip to Newport. They were welcomed home by a good charivari.

Olive Porter has returned to her school duties at Oak Grove.

A crowd of young people enjoyed the watch party at the Charlie Moore home immensely. The evening was spent in playing games and music.

Mrs. Porter and daughters, Jesse and Anna, spent Christmas with her daughter, Mrs. Mattie Stout of Mehlama.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Ely have returned to their home at Morgan after spending two weeks with Mrs. Ely's parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Adams.

Friends of Ross Hedden were very sorry to learn of his death Sunday morning. Funeral services will be held Tuesday.

MONMOUTH.

At the reunion held at the home of J. R. V. Butler on Christmas there were seventy-five present instead of fifteen, as stated in last week's Observer.

Born, to Mrs. E. Dieger on January 5, 1915, a ten-pound son.

Mrs. Martin Saere, after a sojourn of about four months in Eastern Oregon returned home Sunday.

H. Miller of Corvallis was the guest of his sister's family, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Halleck Monday and Tuesday.

S. Hastings of Airlie was in town Monday.

Mrs. Treat and daughter, Mrs. Ed. Rogers, were in Dallas Tuesday on business.

A. N. Halleck and Amos Sellers were in Dallas on business Tuesday. It had been reported that Dallas was dry, but we had never seen more water on the streets than on this date.

Mrs. J. Winegar is convalescing nicely. She will soon be up again.

A. F. Huber and family went to Portland last week, returning home Tuesday.

Mr. Lefever on Tuesday received the sad news of the death of his father at Ellendale, Washington. He left for there on Tuesday.

The rains since the freeze have settled the ground, and the cold snap did not hurt the fall crops any, but ruined about all the potatoes that were in the ground. C. E. Herren lost over a hundred sacks from the cold weather.

The new city officials were properly installed on Monday and they entered into the year's business with the calculation of having a clean and law abiding town.

J. H. Moran and D. M. Hampton made a business trip to the county seat on Wednesday.

CROWLEY.

Cass Riggs and son Cecil were Dallas visitors one day last week.

A number from here attended the dance at McCoy last Thursday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Farmer were visitors in Yamhill county last week.

Seth Smith was a caller here last week.

F. M. Edgar was a business caller in Dallas the middle of last week.

Mrs. Farmer was a caller at the Cadle home, near Rieckreall, last Thursday.

R. J. Williamson was a Dallas visitor one day last week.

Dr. Bollman was called Friday to see George Smith, Jr., who was quite sick, but who is now much improved.

Verda Williamson, who has been caring for her grandmother at Oak Grove the past five weeks, returned home Monday, as her mother is very sick and has been confined to her bed for over a week.

OAK GROVE.

Several from here attended the party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Farmer on Wednesday evening of last week.

J. W. Edgar, Jr., of the Eola hills, called last week to see his mother, who is now so much improved as to be able to be up most of the time.

Miss Mella White and Miss Ruth Starbuck returned to Portland Saturday.

Mr. Chas. Warren was a business caller in Salem the middle of last week.

Mr. Gardner was in the Crowley vicinity on business Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry White were callers here Monday.

OAKDALE.

Martin Wilkinson started to the Dallas schools Monday. His father will move to Dallas in a short time. Martin is a bright, pleasant boy and will be greatly missed by his schoolmates.

Little Nama Robinson has been having an attack of tonsillitis.

Mrs. Kimball has been quite poorly for the last few days.

Prof. and Mrs. Horton of Turner, Marion county, have lately visited the Y. D. Miller family. Professor Horton is principal of the Turner public schools.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Thompson and Mr. and Mrs. Don Miller and sons visited Roy Bird's at Pioneer Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Neal spent the holidays in Dallas.

Will Dennis visited over Sunday with Ernest Robbins at Pioneer.

Mr. and Mrs. George Robinson and children spent New Year's at her father's, C. Nelson of Antioch. There was a gay party and a big neighborhood dinner there on New Year's.

Mrs. Chas Bird and son, Harold, are suffering with tonsillitis.

J. W. and George Robinson have

taken a contract to grub seven acres of ground for C. B. Sundberg. John Southworth and John Macomber are assisting them.

Mrs. Joe Murphy has been visiting her mother, Mrs. D. Shepherd for several days, but is home again. She has been suffering greatly with rheumatism.

Miss Frances McDonald returned to Salem on Sunday, where she is attending school.

J. W. and Mrs. Robinson spent Sunday with their daughter, Myrtle Bird.

Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Bruce spent Sunday at Roy McDonald's.

Roy McDonald is working for Chas. Bird.

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

(By Rev. Geo. H. Bennett.)

Where is the center of the universe? This question is often asked. Someone has suggested that Sirius is the great central point; others have named Arcturus, which shines with the brilliance of five hundred and sixteen suns, and others still think Aleyone, the giant orb of the Pleiades, which pours the glories of twelve thousand suns down the infinite spaces, is at the focal point of creation. Canopus is the latest suggested center.

But no, none of these is the center of the universe. Listen now: Every creature that has life, and needs, and hopes is the center of the universe. So far as life and need and hope are concerned, every little insect which whirrs away over the meadow, every timid bird that nests in the thicket, every beast that roams the forest or field, and every member of the human race is a center around which the whole universe revolves.

Consider now: Every citizen of the vast kingdom of earthly life has personal interests. Those personal interests are of supreme importance to that citizen, whether it be a caterpillar dangling at the end of its silken thread under a tree, or the rich merchant among his costly wares in a ten story building. The life and interests of one creature are just as sacred to it, as are those of others to themselves. But we find there is a law of prey in the world. According to this law one species preys upon another. Tennyson perceived the operation of this law when he wrote the lines:

"For nature is one with rapine, a harm no preacher can heal; The mayfly is torn by the sparrow; the sparrow is speared by the shrike;

And the whole little wood where I sit, is a world of plunder and prey."

It is also a law of nature that species do not prey upon themselves, and so become self-destructive. This law is observed among all the living creatures in the world, with one notable exception—and that exception is mankind. From ancient days the strong have preyed upon the labor and property, upon the virtue and good name, upon the liberty, and even upon the lives of their less fortunate neighbors. Selfishness has ruled the human heart from the founding of the race. It has blinded the mind to the great truth that the life and rights and hopes of one person are just as sacred as those of another. It forgets every human life is a center around which the universe revolves. The march of progress down the ages has everywhere been checked and resisted by human selfishness. Sometimes by violence the strong have beggared the weak, and enriched themselves vastly beyond the needs of their lives; sometimes by law the strong have beggared the weak, and surrounded themselves with property and luxuries far beyond the needs of a lifetime. In both instances, whether the weak be beggared by violence or by law, the sorrowful result is the same. It is the strong preying upon the weak. It is a gross violation of the law of love, to which the Almighty will hold men accountable. Man has often degraded himself below the brute, by his inhumanity to man. What kind of a life then, should we lead? We should live the unselfish life. It is base selfishness which hoards money beyond the needs of a lifetime. It is noble charity which gives to the needy the excess of riches. If a wave of unselfishness could but sweep over the world, the over-rich would distribute their superfluous riches among their poor and struggling neighbors; the haughty monopolist would cease to crowd the poor to the wall, but would be glad to "live and let live." Then would the doors of opportunity be opened to every ambitious person, and the terror of poverty would cease to haunt the heart, and then would labor, property, good name, liberty, and life itself be accorded their true values; and every life would be the center of a joyous existence, ministered to by the world revolving around it.

When Scipio defeated Hannibal and

conquered Carthage, the territory of Rome was greatly enlarged. As a reward for his brilliant services, Scipio was awarded a triumph by the senate of Rome. On the day appointed, the conquering hero was met at the triumphal gate by the senate and magistrates of state in rich apparel. They led the gorgeous pageant, and was followed by a band of trumpeters, and a long train of wagons loaded with the spoils taken from the conquered lands. Models of cities made of ivory and inlaid wood; landscapes of fertile lands, broad rivers and forest clad mountains; loads of gold and silver, together with fine fabrics and beautiful works of art from many temples and palaces, were displayed to the exultant Roman populace.

Then came a hand of flute players. Slaves led white oxen with gilded horns, and covered with garlands of flowers, ready to be sacrificed. Strange animals in leash, and trains of captive princes in chains, followed. After these came twelve officers of the emperor bearing ensigns and wreaths; and lastly, the triumphant general rode in a chariot drawn by four prancing horses. His garments were covered with jewels, in his hand he held a scepter of gold, and a wreath of Delphic laurel graced his brow. It was a proud day for Scipio, the conqueror. But, lest Scipio should forget, at the command of the emperor, a Nubian slave stood behind the hero bearing a crown of Etruscan gold, and he was instructed to whisper in the ear of Scipio, "Remember thou art but a man."

Success in the affairs of business, or in the world of politics, or even in the church sometimes has an intoxicating effect, and the successful man forgets the rights of others. Be honest now—are you living the unselfish life? No? Remember then the teaching of the scriptures, "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor."

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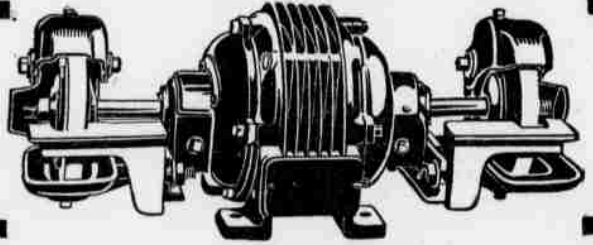
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