

## DEATH OF BENJ. SMITH DECEASED WAS ONE OF POLK'S EARLIEST PIONEERS.

Crossing Plains From Missouri With Parents, He Settled Near Lewisville in 1846.

Benjamin F. Smith, a pioneer of Polk county, and one of its most respected citizens, departed this life at his home near Lewisville, last Friday, and the funeral services were held from the family residence, conducted by the Rev. Bowersox.

Although a public spirited man, Mr. Smith led the life of a quiet and industrious farmer. His chief interest was centered in his home life and his large farm, which is rated as one of the best in Polk county. The only public office ever held by him was that of Justice of the Peace, a position which he filled with credit for many years. He had also served as a director of the Independence National bank since the organization of that institution.

Mr. Smith was a kindly, companionable man and his home was the center of open-handed hospitality in his neighborhood. He will be missed by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances, who had long recognized in him a good neighbor and a useful citizen.

Benjamin F. Smith was born May 8, 1840, in Cedar County, Missouri, and crossed the plains by ox team with his parents in 1846, settling on the farm now owned by F. M. Smith near Lewisville, where he spent his early life. In the year 1864 he was united in marriage to Rachael M. Burns, daughter of Wm. Burns, an early pioneer, and removed to the present home, where he has resided continuously ever since. About one year and a half ago he was stricken with paralysis, which terminated in his death. He leaves to mourn his loss a widow and two children, W. W. Smith of Dallas and Mary Le Veck of Lewisville. Three brothers, J. D. Smith of Dallas, G. W. Smith of Lebanon, and F. M. Smith of Dallas, and two sisters, Mrs. H. C. McTimmonds of Lebanon and Miss Rachael Smith of Dallas, also are afflicted by his demise.

## THE SURRENDER OF GEN. LEE.

Exercises in Commemoration of Historic Event to be Held April 9.

The fiftieth anniversary of Lee's surrender, which occurs on April 9, will be appropriately observed by U. S. Grant post, Grand Army of the Republic, at the armory, for which a program has been prepared by the committee in charge of the affair. The exercises will open with "America" by the audience, followed by prayer by Rev. C. C. Curtis and a selection by the Teachers' quartet. An address will be delivered, but the orator of the day has not yet been decided upon. The high school chorus will render "The Old Guard" and "The Star Spangled Banner," the audience joining in the latter.

All ex-soldiers and sailors are invited by the post to attend and participate in the exercises, as is also the general public. The veterans are holding the service of commemoration in compliance with an order from headquarters, and hope and trust that there will be a liberal attendance, especially by the children of the community.

## HAS STRONG ENDORSEMENT.

Roscoe C. Staats Would Have Independence Postmastership.

Roscoe C. Staats, who was born and raised in the vicinity of Independence, is a candidate for the postoffice, which will be vacant on or about November 1 of this year. Mr. Staats is a descendant from a long line of illustrious ancestors who were democrats all their lives, and following their example, Mr. Staats is also a democrat. Practically the entire democratic organization here is behind Mr. Staats for the appointment. For four years he was in the service of the government as railway mail clerk. Mr. Staats is 32 years of age, married and has a family. The business men there have endorsed him as well as the young men's democratic club of Polk county.

## TEACHING THE YOUNG IDEA.

Babecock Testing Taught By School Supervisor of Lincoln County.

J. E. Davis, a rural school supervisor of Lincoln county, Oregon, carries a Babecock tester with him and teaches the girls and boys how to test milk and thus weed out unprofitable cows. His services in this alone

are of very great value to the people of that county, since a very large portion of most dairy herds hardly pay for their keep.

Mr. Davis is also engaged in an attempt to find some means of increasing the number of cows per acre of cultivated land. His main reliance, according to Professor F. L. Griffin, state agent of industrial club work for the Agricultural college, is the growing of corn and use of corn silage. To succeed in this he must have a good supply of acclimated seed corn, which he is working now to provide. It is said that good silage corn can be grown in Lincoln county and that with a good but inexpensive silo on every dairy farm dairy dairy production would be doubled.

In addition to demonstrating the possibility of profitable corn-growing the girls and boys of the clubs are getting the best kind of an agricultural education and at the same time earning some money for themselves. Good seed corn of the right variety and type sells for about five dollars per bushel.

## TAX COLLECTOR IS BUSY.

First Half of Annual Contribution Must Be Liquidated Tomorrow.

County Treasurer Holman's office is a busy place. The date for liquidating the first half of taxes draws on apace, tomorrow being the last day, and many are hustling to the captain's office prepared to pay in part, if not in full. It has been necessary to secure additional clerical assistance to meet the demand. John Richter, who had contemplated going to Albany ere this, has been induced by Mr. Holman to tarry temporarily to aid in the treasurer's office. He is familiar with this work, and consequently is able to get away with it in the most approved style of the art.

The final rush will come tomorrow, after which date, if the first half has not been paid, taxes will be subject to interest at the rate of one cent per month until August 31, when they become delinquent and subject to a ten per cent penalty and twelve per cent per annum interest. Persons making half payments by March 31 should not proffer second half payments until after May 22, as the old tax law will not be superseded until that date and interest must be collected under its terms until May 22. Taxpayers can make payments only in half or full amounts.

## SNOW IN CASCADES IS LOW.

Flood Danger in Willamette Valley Not Likely This Year.

That there is little danger of floods in the Willamette valley this year is indicated by the fact that there is less snow in the mountains now than at this season for many years. What snow fell last winter has been going out early and also gradually.

Unless there should come an unusually cold period before summer, in which snow should fall in the mountains, there is no likelihood whatever of high water in the Willamette and its tributaries this spring. A heavy warm rain this time of year usually makes a flood probable, but there is said to be no danger this year.

## May Reduce Picking Price.

If the hopgrowers in this vicinity maintain the same attitude when it comes time for harvesting that many do at present, hoppickers will receive from thirty to thirty-five cents per box this season instead of the regular wage of fifty cents. This is only one of the changes in hopyard custom which are being contemplated by the growers in Marion and Polk counties. Lower wages, cleaner hops and shorter picking hours will undoubtedly be inaugurated this summer.—Oregon Messenger.

## Weighing the Mails.

Beginning next Thursday the Dallas postoffice will begin the weighing of all parcel post packages sent out from this city, and counting the rural mail. The last named routine will continue for thirty days, and the first named for 15 days. Both outgoing and incoming mail will be counted and weighed. The counting and weighing is held twice each year, and from the data collected railroad rates for hauling of the mail regulated.

## Percheron Stallion Sold.

Mr. D. F. Burge has sold his Percheron stallion, Unvers, to J. B. Parria of Cowlitz county, Washington, and the animal will be shipped to that point today. The consideration was \$2000. Mr. Burge will replace the horse with one just purchased from Madison & Wheeler of Springfield, Illinois, which animal will arrive here during the present week.

## Community Development

There is a tendency throughout the country to carry community building into the schools, and nowhere is better success being attended from this effort than at Dayton, Ohio, an account of which is given by an exchange. A history of the city has been written for use in the eighth grade of the schools there, and this is designed to inspire young people with true conceptions of civic pride and the need of city building in the most acceptable way. In this connection, portions of an address by the chairman of the Greater Dayton association presents ideas that should prove profitable to people of every town and city truly interested in its general betterment. He said:

"And so we formed the Greater Dayton association, and the ideal of the Greater Dayton association is not greatness, it is not bigness, it is not industries. The ideal of the Greater Dayton association is service, and the ideal of the Greater Dayton association is true community welfare. Back of every great forward movement there must be the force of some ideal, and back of the force of our movement was that ideal of community welfare. Our first great responsibility is to maintain and perpetuate our city-manager form of government. Every activity has our attention, it does not matter what it is; every social, every commercial activity of the city has had our attention, and we are not afraid to attack anything that we believe is wrong. We are not afraid to advocate anything that we believe is right. It will either affect adversely the whole welfare of the community or it will affect it favorably. The first thing that we undertook was the federation of charities. The charities of the city of Dayton were diversified, overlapping, and we placed them into one body, so that we could have one body to deal with and so that there could be no overlapping. We have now going on, or will take very shortly, surveys of poverty and crime, housing conditions, health and sanitation, etc. Mr. Bryce, in his book on America, said that the most evident neglect of the people of this country was the neglect to vote, but the greatest neglect was the neglect to think. What we wanted to do was to get the people of Dayton to think, and we are

trying to educate them to think about their city. We have become agitators; we are not going to leave the agitation of public questions solely to the people who are unwise in their leadership, but we are going to try to get the people to know what really is best for the community welfare; and this is one of the great responsibilities and duties of the Greater Dayton association.

"We want to develop leadership in the community. The business men of the city, just like the businessmen of any other city, do not stir until something affects their own private interests, and we want the business men of the city of Dayton to be alive to the things that must be done. We want men to take hold of a project that is for the best interests of the community, and we are trying to develop that sort of leadership. We are doing this: We are trying to develop civic patriotism. Take the men and women everywhere, and when they see an American flag they are inspired with thoughts of national patriotism, because they know of Concord and Lexington and Bunker Hill and Valley Forge. They know of the war of the rebellion. They know of all the achievements. It is an open thing in each mind. But I tell you that the young people read in the papers about the 'City Hall gang,' and they hear the city officials exposed to disrespect, and there is not in any metropolis, in that connection, civic patriotism.

"What are we doing to correct that? We are having written a short history of the city of Dayton, suitable to be taught in the eighth grade, and we are going to take every measure possible to inculcate into the children and into the men and women of the city of Dayton a civic patriotism. We need men and women of vision of the community welfare, men with a vision that righteousness exalteth a nation; men who are filled with justice and truth and who know how projects are to be urged and considered; men and women able to understand and convince others that the effort at cleanliness, beauty, order, is not purely an effort to make people do things for the sake of change, but that the things are necessary to right living, to health and clean thinking, necessary to better government."

## HURT WHILE SPEEDING STATE REFUSES TO HELP

BRAKE GETS BLAME FOR QUITE SERIOUS ACCIDENT.

Two Young Men Thrown From Motorcycle Last Sunday, Driver Being Unable to Make Turn.

While riding a motorcycle north on Fairview avenue at a high rate of speed last Sunday, "Buck" Stiehler, accompanied by Robert Muscott, was unable to guide his machine when at the turn into Washington street, and as a consequence he collided with the curb in front of C. B. Stone's residence, receiving quite serious injuries. Young Muscott escaped being hurt. The former sustained injuries about the neck, and his right ear was almost severed from his head when he was thrown from the motorcycle and collided with the building. The machine mounted the curb, and lay close to the building. When picked up he was unconscious. He was rushed to the Dallas hospital, where later he told those around him that the cause of the accident was due to failure of the brake to work. The motorcycle was badly wrecked.

## GETS ITS WIRES CROSSED.

The Observer Errs in Saying J. C. Fox of Dallas Is Criminal.

The Observer was misinformed when it stated that the Fox arrested for illegally using the mails was Mr. J. C. Fox, manager for the Portland Cement company near this city, and voluntarily hastens to make the correction. The man arrested is W. E. Fox, who is a painter.

## To Begin Building Soon.

Preparations are making for the erection of the new training school at the Normal. The Old gymnasium is being razed by Lloyd Mason, he receiving one-third of the lumber for his labor.

## Wow, How It Hurt.

Miss Burtchell, one of the Normal girls, had the misfortune to split one of her great toes in trying to split kindling wood. Three stitches were necessary in dressing the wound.—Herald.

the road now being constructed from Falls City to the Lincoln county line. He stated that his county had levied a 7 mill tax for this highway and that about \$12,000 would be expended upon it by June 1 so that auto travel could pass over it this summer.

"He thought the present road from Newport to the Siletz was too long and could be made much shorter, and advised the people here to get busy and see what could be done to shorten this distance. Polk county he said intended to hard surface their part of this road as soon as it was opened and properly graded. At the conclusion of his interesting talk some time was spent in comparing map routes between Newport and the Siletz, after which the club adjourned."

## LINER SUNK BY SUBMARINE.

Passenger Steamship With Many Aboard Sent to Bottom.

According to a press dispatch from London, the British admiralty announced Sunday night that 110 persons, including passengers and crew, were missing from the British steamship Falaba, sunk by a German diver off South Wales. One hundred and forty persons were rescued. It was also announced that twenty-three members of the crew and three passengers from the British steamship Aquilla, also the victim of a German submarine, were missing. A statement issued by the official press bureau said that the Falaba carried 160 passengers and a crew of 90 men. It is feared that many of the passengers were killed when the torpedo struck the vessel. The others were drowned. The British steamship Eileen Emma picked up 116 of the Falaba's survivors and six of these died aboard the ship.

## HORSES RUN AWAY.

Henry Quiering Has Narrow Escape From Serious Injury.

On Saturday afternoon a team of horses driven by Henry Quiering took fright near the corner of Main and Clay streets and becoming unmanageable ran down the latter thoroughfare. The wagon to which they were hitched struck a telephone pole in front of the residence of I. N. Woods, tearing two wheels off and throwing Mr. Quiering to the ground. The horses continued their course, and a few blocks farther on the coupling pole caught under and tore up a crosswalk, disengaging the wagon from the team. The animals were finally stopped on Miller avenue. Mr. Quiering, although badly shaken up and somewhat bruised, was not seriously injured. He was taken to the home of Conrad Stafrin, where he soon recovered from the shock.

## Holds Adjourned Session.

The city council held an adjourned meeting last night, when further action was taken toward the improvement of the streets heretofore mentioned by The Observer. In some cases waivers were given by property owners, thus obviating the expense of advertising the proposed improvements. Several other matters of minor importance were also given consideration.

## Must Pay Year's Tax.

A Washington dispatch says: Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Malburn has advised Senator Lane that under the law the Oregon wholesale liquor dealers must pay a full year's federal tax July 1, notwithstanding the fact that the law stops their business six months later. None of the tax will be refunded.

## Jones Gets Meredith's Place.

W. A. Jones of Eastern Oregon was yesterday elected secretary of the state fair board to succeed Frank Meredith, resigned. Mr. Meredith has accepted the secretaryship of the Washington state fair board at an increase in salary. Mr. Jones is known to many Dallas people, having made several visits to this city.

## Quarterly Inspection Tonight.

Capt. Stafrin has issued orders to members of Company L, to the effect that they are to appear at the armory tonight in service uniform for inspection and muster. Expert sharpshooters and marksman badges will be presented to the enlisted men who qualified at the target range in 1914.

## Would Interest Dallas.

Albany bowlers are trying to interest Dallas in a tournament to be held in that city about April 15. It is the purpose of the organization there to have the leading towns of the valley represented. As yet nothing has been done here.

## BEGIN MAKING PLANS

POLK COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION IS PROPOSED.

Mr. Ford Believes Society to Perpetuate the Memory of Their Achievements Should be Perfected.

Although the county fair is quite distant as yet, plans are being perfected for the organization, on the second day of that event, of a Pioneers' association, and to that end U. S. Grant and J. G. Brown are serving as a committee to enlist the interest of the early settlers of Polk county in such a society. The undertaking is most commendable, and should not only have the membership of all pioneers but their support in furthering the organization. John T. Ford, a well known pioneer, writes The Observer on the question as follows:

Editor Observer:—As announced in The Observer of last Friday a movement is under way to organize a Pioneers' association on the second day of the Polk county fair in September next. The roster is to include the pioneers, their children and all descendants of pioneers, and it has been suggested that persons interested in such organization communicate with U. S. Grant and John G. Brown of this city, who, as I am informed, have the matter of organization in hand. The writer hereof has also been invited to participate in the organization. Of course, he is willing to aid this commendable movement in any way that he can, but, in his opinion, there are others more competent to take up the good work and carry it forward to successful conclusion than himself. We should be patriotic, not selfish in this matter.

The Oregon pioneers were a highly developed type of people, virile, energetic and intelligent. They were unique in this: They constituted the most energetic, adventurous and intelligent element of the community in which they lived, they were more than a representative class. Only the progressive and daring had the moral and physical courage to undertake the hazardous task set before the noble men and women who settled the Oregon country in the early 40's and 50's. But, in these so-called degenerate days, the fortunate descendants of the Oregon pioneers hesitate to get outside the environments of the county where they were born lest they starve to death, yet our noble forebearers did not hesitate to tumble their children, goods and chattels into an ox-wagon and start upon a long and dangerous journey through an inhospitable wilderness infested with wild beasts and inhabited by cruel and treacherous savages, hoping to find an Eden on the vernal shores of the moaning Pacific—and they found it. Yes, they found the world's long lost Eden, and by their prudence, energy, courage and intelligence they built up a splendid commonwealth in this new Hesperian world. We, their descendants, and thousands of other happy people, are now enjoying the fruits of their labor, and the very least their descendants can do is to perfect a fitting organization to perpetuate the memory of their splendid achievements. This is the purpose, as I understand it, of the organization proposed. Other counties of the state have done what we purpose doing, and the people of those localities are taking hold of the movement with energy and intelligence. What others have done we can do. In the not distant future some of these good old pioneers will be "the last leaf left on the tree in the spring," then who will be so despicable as not "to do him reverence?" Why not show him respect while living, and not wait until he has dropped into that dreamless sleep from which no awakened voice has ever yet returned to us. One touch of sympathy in this life is worth a flooded river of tears after our mortal casket. The noble old pioneer will soon be "a bright, brave memory, his a stainless shield; no shame defaces and no envy mars the record of an honored life revealed; his name, a star among eternal stars."

It should be our aim to perfect a permanent organization, have our annual meetings, capable speakers to address us, and suitable amusements to entertain the people. Who will be the next to speak up in meeting? the next to speak up in meeting?—J. T. Ford.

## Degree Teams Drilling.

Rebekah degree lodges of Marion and Polk counties are drilling their degree teams for the contest at the district convention to be held in Woodburn, April 15.