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Old Timers

We have always considered it unfortunate that pioneer meetings and gatherings of historical societies were attended mostly by oldsters. The young have so much more to learn from such meetings. The world's wisdom and the world's philosophy is written in books. But there is a lot of the amateur kind in the minds of oldsters and youth could get it from them much quicker and cheaper than by spending a lifetime getting it themselves.

Old people have learned how to live with life, the rules of social conduct. Those who have not learned are social outcasts.

Because they know what is right, they also know what is wrong and are usually tolerant of either. They know that the right can be pretty stiff and the wrong sometimes likeable if sufficiently contrite. They have gotten over thinking that they will reform the world or leave much of a permanent mark on it. They are philosophers.

These thoughts come as preparations are made for the annual picnic at DeMoss Springs park of the Sherman County Historical Society, which will be held next Sunday. There will be talk of people and places long forgotten, of school houses whose very name is retained only in old records and old memories, of men and women who did some memorable thing to keep their name alive for a generation beyond their death. That is quite a way for most of us. Only formal histories record the doings of the ones who live in memories more than a generation.

Those who come to eat the bountiful food and engage in the reminiscent conversations will enjoy themselves; those who fail to come will wonder why they did not and be regretful of the omission.

A Program For BLM

Everyone knows that the Bureau of Land Management is but one of the agencies of the federal government engaged in handling the public domain. The Forestry service, the park service, the Bureau of Reclamation are others. But the BLM is responsible for the biggest chunk of Oregon where the federal government owns 52 percent of the state.

We think it no easy task to administer these vast acres, which is in general what is left after settlers finished taking their pick. It is largely range land.

The very best thing that could be done with it would be to sell it at what it will bring—not all at once so as to flood the market, but gradually get rid of it. It would then begin to pay taxes and the control of it would be closer at home. Those who bought it would feel personal responsibility toward it and the country in which it was located. But as long as we have administrations devoted to the increase of federal power there will be no sales.

Just recently the BLM has established a policy called "multiple use" which means the defeat of stockmen and victory for city folks who like to spend a few days a year in some public camp.

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These people have strong supporters among those who make the huge quantities of equipment a city family needs to venture into the "wilds".

It seems like good time to propose some rules for this anticipated influx of citizens.

City people have long protested that stockmen were using the public domain without adequate recompense and consequently the cost of grazing has come up right along. Stockmen could stand that as long as beef and wool went up too. Grazing rights have been curtailed and very probably the stockmen's objection to the regulations had something to do with the change in management of BLM by creating a new job for Karl Landstrom.

Certainly stockmen should pay for the use of the public lands on which their stock graze. If they should pay, it naturally follows that everyone who uses the public lands should also pay. "Sauce for the goose —"

It has always been hard for the Bureau of Land Management to get enough money from congress to do much of a job of improving its range land. Millions should be spent to remove sage, seed grasses, improve springs, build fences. As a land owner the government is not much.

But for recreation the federal government is willing and apparently anxious to spend many millions building those over-weight tables, those immodest rest rooms and the too-close-together cooking spots. And to say nothing about roads to them.

It seems about time a change was put on the use of such facilities. If a stockman wants to raise a steer for the city folks to eat he should pay for the use of the land on which the steer is grown; if a city man wants to go out into the country to look for deer, or fish, or fresh air, he should pay for that privilege. He is, after all, the most destructive animal of all.

Furthermore he should be restricted and watched. He sets fires kills stock and destroys property. He should be registered and limited so that he could be made liable for his damage. If he is not made responsible the BLM should assume responsibility for his damage. We know of no reason why fishermen should not pay for the propagation of fish, nor the hunter for the care of game (in Oregon they do, partially), nor why the camper should not pay for the pleasure he gets from going to the hills.

Wedding Plans Set For June 22

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Ricks of Madras announce the engagement of their daughter Shirley Mae to Barton House, son of Frances Jefferies of Moro. The wedding planned for June 22 at 10 a.m. at the First Baptist church at Madras.

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RECORDING STAR Jimmie Rodgers and Oregon Dairy Princess Adrienne Ellison help kick off Oregon's June Dairy Month campaign with a cool, refreshing glass of milk. As chairman of the Oregon promotion, Jimmie wants to call your attention to the fact that "Fresh and Ready" Oregon dairy products are the finest ever and will be spotlighted all month.

Hangar Flying

Kathie and Howard Maxwell were flown to Haines, Oregon last week by their parents to spend some time with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Maxwell. Mrs. Maxwell was pilot on this trip. They landed on Roger Leonings grass air strip after they had buzzed the Maxwell Farm. Roger Leonings is one of Oregon's Flying Farmers.

Orville Cutsforth from Lexington had his Skylane Cessna delivered by J. O. Maxwell after having some extensive repairing on the tail section and repainting completed at the Hood River, Airport. Greg Leyva formerly from Lexington flew Maxwell's Skylane up to the Cutsforth Hereford Ranch where the Skylane was delivered to pick up Maxwell and fly back.

Dr. Wymore and young son took a special Air Show Day trip during the afternoon of the show.

Bobcat aircraft, formerly known as the Bamboo Bomber will be available at the airport for anyone interested in obtaining a

multi-engine rating. This aircraft was used during the war and was owned at one time by William Harnden and J. O. Maxwell when they were at the Arrberg Inc. Montague, Calif. Since it was in service during the war it has had a great deal of repairing and painting done to it. Mighty nice looking plane.

The aircraft that really takes the cake is the Antique Wako owned by Grant Saulle from White Salmon He was over during the show and had his plane in the air several times.

Dr. Wells from Hood River was out to the airport several times during the day to take a ride in the Skymaster, twin engine plane but each time just before it would come in for pass-town for an emergency. One time four people were very seriously injured in an automobile accident which settled it for him to come back again for that ride.

Local merchant at the Brookside Market on the Heights is giving free air plane rides to the lucky ticket holder as part of the Hood River Crazy Days.

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Bids For Shade Area At State Fair

Bids for material to protect Oregon State Fairgoers from too hot sun in a 120-by-60-foot unshaded area will be opened around the middle of June, Howard Maple State Fair manager said today.

Over half the shade in front of the outdoor stage blew down in the Oct. 12 storm. Only seven big trees in front of the stage, where the annual Oregon Talent Show is held each afternoon during State Fair Week, remain.

Work on putting up the big shade canopy will be started shortly after the bids for materials have been opened, Maple said.

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The State Fair manager also said the Melvin Geist, dean of music at Willamette University is already working on the talent program. Dean Geist has been in charge of the program for the past two State Fairs.



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