

# The Observer.

MORO, OREGON.

Official Paper for Sherman County.

FRIDAY June 30, 1916

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C. L. IRELAND.....Manager.

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At any time when requested to do so, the paper will be discontinued. But we expect that all arrears will be paid before such request is made. It is easy to ask us for a statement, which will be cheerfully rendered at any time.

### Sherman County Resident Visits Old Home.

The following account of a recent visit of Mrs. S. J. Ritchey's father to his old home is copied from the Bugle, published at Farmington, Illinois. Mr. Leeper has a number of friends in this county who will be interested to learn of his adventures in his old home town:

"Squire and Mrs. A. J. Daft were the hosts of two parties at their home on Park Square last Thursday and Friday evenings, both in honor of Chas. Leeper of Canon City, Colorado, who was their guest.

"Tuesday evening was more of a family gathering, the guests nine families of relatives and the high school orchestra. Refreshments of ice cream and cake were served.

"Friday evening was a dinner party given in honor of Mr. Leeper's 69th birthday, in remembrance of which he was presented with a handsome watch chain. Covers were laid for sixteen.

"Mr. Leeper is a brother of the late Hon. John A. Leeper, and a classmate at Mt. Vernon college and brother-in-law of the late United States Senator Shelby M. Cullom.

"This is Mr. Leeper's first visit to his native state in 29 years. He leaves next week for his future home in San Bernardino, California."

### Something Doing at Miller's Bridge.

During the last few years attempts have been made at different times to abolish tolls at the Des Chutes river bridge leading to The Dalles, but each time an effort to have a free road out of the county it has met with effective strangulation.

Another effort is now being made that promises relief from this toll and also has a larger chance of meeting with success in providing that crossing with a more modern and safer bridge.

A copy of a letter written by E. E. Covert, secretary of the State Highway Commission, says that the bridge in question is not owned by a corporation and that its operation is not governed by a franchise from any county or legislature and that either Wasco county or Sherman or both had the right and could, if so disposed, build a bridge alongside the present structure with only the necessary condemnation of an approach similar to any road that is being opened by petition of interested parties.

Looking at this bridge question from all angles it appears to the Observer that the real obstacle to a free thoroughfare at Miller's bridge is the attitude of the Wasco county court; the county of Sherman is on record as being willing at any time to meet half of the expense incurred in either buying the present structure and then building a new bridge or else building a new bridge and condemning rights of way to it, but Wasco county court has never seemed willing to definitely act in the matter and at other times it appears that they do not want to act in the matter at any time.

In any event the Observer has information that the nigger in the wood pile, if any there be, will soon be smoked out and then all can see just why there can apparently nothing be done to supply a better crossing at the mouth of the Des Chutes.

Under careful farm management livestock may be made extremely profitable, but under a poor management a man can lose a whole lot of money at it.

Ninety-nine railroads use safety-first methods of handling freight. The statement is made that during the first half of 1915 these methods have saved their users \$3,500,000 in payments for lost or damaged articles.

### Our Independence Day.

Next Tuesday will mark the 140th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and founding of the greatest, most beneficent and freest republic on the habitable globe.

One hundred and forty years have passed since the most patriotic and sagacious group of statesmen in all the files of time proclaimed the independence of these United States. The roar of cannon, the flowering of the flag to the wandering winds that love it well and the cheers of 120,000,000 Americans acclaim the glorious Fourth. It is the natal anniversary of a new nation cradled in democracy at Plymouth Rock and baptized with the people's blood at Lexington.

These 140 years have recorded a marvelous triumph in government. Its success has been one of the marvels of history. Despite blunders here and failures there that were inevitable when men were experimenting with democracy under unprecedented conditions and on a scale of unique magnitude, the sufficiency of the plain people and the average man to handle successfully the tasks of citizenship and statesmanship has given pledge that it is a success.

The Fourth of July this year falls between two political campaigns, one for the presidential nominations by the several parties and the other their contest to have their respective nominations ratified by the citizens of the United States. The people are confronted with the gravest issues that have arisen in any election since 1860. The economic issues of the trusts, the tariff, the prohibition and suffrage questions, and the like have profound importance, but the most momentous question is that affecting our foreign policy and upon the right solving of which depends our future national life.

Independence was secured by the men of '76, nationality saved by the men of '61, financial honor guaranteed by the men of '96; only because the voters thought long and decided solemnly upon the political issues of their day. Upon the decision of American citizens at the November elections depends the destiny of this republic in times yet to come. Upon their appreciation of preparedness, what it means, and how it should be accomplished; their intelligence and conscience; depend the decision as to the future of this, their country.

No brain is competent to compute the ultimate achievements that are to grow up out of our American spirit and enterprise that was begotten nearly a century and half ago and no tongue is eloquent enough to adequately acclaim the blessings and favors that belong to the citizens of this great nation which today stands as the peer of all the nations of the earth in matters pertaining to the relief of humanity and the sincere desire for abolishment of wars and their consequent evils.

It is possible that we are prone to forget the splendor of our American heritage that was brought to us across the sea of carnage and death and take our circumstances today as a mere matter of course, but let us awake to the fact that we have been favored as no other nation in the history of the world and let us be patriotic and grateful in a measure parallel with our prosperity.

During the past few weeks the wise farmer has been after the Jim Hill mustard with all the energy at his command in an effort to kill out the worst weed pest of the county, and many roads and fields have been cleared. There yet remains some sections where the mustard is numerous and a few places where mustard nurseries for the neighborhood are being kept. There are from 50 to 100 seeds in a pod on some plants, so that a few left to roll across country can scatter seed like a broadcast seeder. That is why the state law is so strict upon weed pests and this mustard in particular.

With four men; Hall as catcher, Bishop pitcher, Garner 2d base, Gabriel center field; Birdie Carlton and her blooming girls played seven innings against the champions of Sherman county on the local field last Friday; final score 6 to 7 favor Moro. The fans enjoyed the game and had a good time watching the girls play ball.

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Two autos from Moro: L. Barnum and wife in their new Cadillac eight accompanied by Supt. D. E. Stephens and wife of the Experiment Station, and L. L. Peetz and wife in their new Studebaker accompanied by Fred. Otto and Grandma Peetz; a car from Grass Valley containing G. C. Vinton, Judge Krusow and I. N. Lemon, and a car from Wasco containing Victor Andersen and party, attended the Colt Show at Dufur last Saturday. The report of the trip said that the Colt Show was a decided success, there being more than 200 entries and the interest taken by the farmers of that section easily prove that the effort was appreciated.

J. R. Morgan  
Dentist

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grips the men who smoke, and holds their true affection; their trusty briar pipes they stoke, and never know dejection. *Wait Mason*