

# The Observer.

MORO, OREGON.

Official Paper for Sherman County.

FRIDAY..... July 7, 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.

All the agricultural county agents employed in Oregon, ten in number, two accompanied by their wives, were in Moro last week inspecting the Federal and State Experiment Farm and comparing notes. After a careful study of the farm and its system of operation they left for The Dalles where they were in charge of County Agent Chase of Wasco county and studying office methods in relation to their work. Counties represented by the party were Kalamath, Crook, Union, Wasco, Lake, Malheur and Wheeler. Paul C. Maris, representing the state board, was also a member of the party.

Due to a commendable spirit of cooperative enterprise of its citizens, Grass Valley has a substantial, roomy, and well appointed pavilion for the holding of public meetings. It is a bungalow type, located within the city park, close to the business section.

## The Fourth at Home.

The weather in Sherman county the day of the Fourth was ideal. The sun was pleasantly warm, but not oppressive and the presence of a slight breeze during the day helped the comfort of all. Two celebrations were held in the county; one at DeMoss, attended by possibly a thousand persons and another celebration at Grass Valley, holding two days, attended by a throng numerically larger. In the two days celebration at Grass Valley several accidents occurred to mar the festivities, but no fatalities were recorded.

The usual literary and musical program went at DeMoss with its accustomed punctuality and was better than for some years. The oration by Prof. Horner was more of an informal talk and was appreciated by all who had the pleasure of hearing him. Space prevents a proper review of his subject and the train of thought he introduced, but it was a very appropriate address for the occasion and place. In the evening Prof. Horner gave a lecture, from Jericho to Jerusalem, illustrated with lantern slides prepared from photographs he had taken when making the trip.

At noon, the editor and Mrs. Ireland, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Moore and family, met with J. C. McKean and family at their home in Moro and had lunch prepared jointly by the three families and went on to Grass Valley for the afternoon, where we saw the visiting ball team hold the home team to a score of 1 to 4 and several exciting races and sports that were pulled off on the city park race track. Then back to Moro for a late supper and to DeMoss for the illustrated lecture.

A very creditable display of fireworks ended the celebration at DeMoss and a dance that at Grass Valley. A dance was given at Wasco the same evening.

Carbolinum, fresh stock, now on sale at The Observer Store.

## FATAL CLOUD BURST.

Loss of Life and Property Caused by Unusual Storm.

For the first time in the history of Sherman county a cloud burst exacted a toll in human lives last Friday night about six o'clock in the Hay canyon section. There had been threatening weather for more than a week, but no one gave it serious consideration as to possible damage, altho it had rained nearly every day for the previous week, a very unusual condition at this time of year.

The storm center was over the farm of John Hastings, where the heaviest property loss occurred. Mr. Hastings, his daughter Alta, and Pres Boyce were in the barn at the time the flood lifted the building off its foundations and swept the two last named into a side current and down stream several hundred feet. Mr. Hastings got upon a hog house and from there to the combe of the barn and was carried to where the other two had gotten from the water. His loss was close to \$2500 consisting of the barn, machinery, horses, and wheat. The house had about three feet of water on the floor, but not damaged.

In the same canyon with Hastings was Dayton Henrichs who lost small farm buildings, machinery, and chickens.

The main damage was confined to Hay canyon, from the P. C. Axtell farm to its junction with Grass Valley canyon. In this section the first to suffer damage was Mr. Axtell who lost about 40 hogs all his chickens, small buildings, and some growing grain.

The next was C. C. Callaway, farming the W. J. Furnish place, where the barn was carried away, the spring and water system damaged, and machinery, buggy, and about 1000 new fence posts were lost. He had 13 head of horses, mares, colts, and a stallion, engulfed in the flood, without loss.

The next was the W. W. M. Co., owning the place farmed by A. R. Fortner, where the house, some stock and machinery was swept away. Mrs. Elizabeth Fortner, mother of A. R., and daughter, Mrs. L. H. Lawrence of New Meadows, Idaho, were in the house at the time of the accident and were carried away with the building. The daughter was found 4 1/2 miles down stream and the mother 9 miles. They had packed their trunks and had intended so leave for the coast the day after the storm happened.

From the Fortner place to the end of the canyon no other damage has been reported, but the canyon carried water for quite a while after the main flood had passed, which was estimated to be thirty feet deep at its crest and bank to bank.

J. W. Kunsman, O. T. Burnett and Ray Havener were working on a new road location below Monkland and were camped in the main canyon with the road between their tent and the hillside. They did not realize the seriousness of their situation when the waters first appeared. Ray Havener was the first to grasp the situation and he made for the hillside through water that soon took him off his feet and carried him 200 feet down stream before he reached safety. Mr. Burnett started to follow Havener, first going into the tent after his personal effects, when he started to cross to the hillside the slight delay and the goods he was carrying was too much of a handicap and he was carried down stream three miles and found by the searching party next morning. Mr. Kunsman apparently thought the others were needlessly alarmed and that the waters were from the heavy rain then falling and that a knoll close to the tent would be sufficient protection until the flood passed, but he also was carried away and found the next morning close to where Mr. Burnett lay.

At the J. M. Allen place, 12 miles below the Fortner farm, the water is reported to have raised 15 feet in 15 minutes and at the Herman Christiansen farm, on the south edge of the storm, there were four inches of rain in a straight sided vitrol trough in a very short time.

A very narrow escape from the flood was that of Wm. Burres and family who were following Hugh Shull out of Wasco, both driving autos and going up Hay Canyon to their homes. Mr. Shull was

the faster driver and turned out of the canyon just as the water approached, and three miles behind Shull was Burres, stopped by the flood as he was driving onto the canyon floor.

Roads in places are washed and a number of bridges wrecked in a section that includes a scope of country extending from the west top of Lone Rock grade eastward to the Niel McDonald farm and north to an apex at Hay canyon warehouses. In this district the new road completed last year by the county down Hay canyon was ruined and a new road bed will have to be graded in a number of places.

A double funeral service was held at Moro M. E. church Sunday afternoon for Mr. Kunsman and Mr. Burnett and at the same hour a similar double service was held at Wasco for Mrs. Fortner and her daughter.

O. T. Burnett was born at Gower Missouri, November 11, 1877, died June 30, 1916. He joined the Christian church at the age of 21, moving to Moro in October, 1913. He leaves a wife and two children a boy, Ralph W., age 16 years, and a little girl, Marieta Louise, age 3 years, a father, mother, two brothers and two sisters.

J. W. Kunsman was born in Williams county, Ohio, July 7, 1854, died June 30, 1916. He leaves a mother, a sister, two brothers, three daughters; Miss Mary, Mrs. A. L. Landingham, Mrs. L. Barnum; four sons, James Harry, Irvin, and Roy.

Mrs. Isabelle Fortner died June 30th, 1916. Her home was at New Meadows, Idaho. She leaves a husband, one daughter, and three sons; Frank E., Fred R., Archie R.

Mrs. L. H. Lawrence died June 30th, 1916. Her home was at New Meadows, Idaho. She leaves a husband, father, sister, and three brothers; Frank E., Fred R., and Archie R. Fortner.

## Card of Thanks.

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the people of Sherman county for their many acts of kindness and sympathy with us in our great loss. To the many who were so untiring in their efforts to recover the loved ones lost in the flood waters and the many others who helped in other ways, we shall ever hold in grateful memory and appreciation.

Mrs. L. Barnum, and Kunsman family.  
L. H. Lawrence, and Fortner family.

## Card of Thanks.

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the people of Moro and vicinity for their many acts of kindness and sympathy with us in our great loss of husband and father.

To the many who were so untiring in their efforts to recover the body, to the women who have been so ready with sympathy and helpfulness, to Rev. Robertson and the many who showed their kindly interest and help by their prompt generosity, we shall ever be indebted, and we wish you all to know that we greatly appreciate your kindness.

Mrs. O. T. Burnett and Children.

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