

# SHERMAN COUNTY OBSERVER

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## FLOOD-WRECKED LEON INTERESTING PLACE

### Happiest and Busiest City of Mexico.

Washington—Nearly a thousand people were reported drowned when a dam broke and a wall of water descended upon Leon, fifth city of Mexico.

"Blotting out of the center of Leon is a serious catastrophe to Mexico," says a bulletin of the National Geographic Society from its headquarters in Washington, D. C. "Comparatively it is a greater disaster than the Johnstown or Dayton floods, because Leon is one of the most important manufacturing centers of Mexico.

"Leon's extensive tanneries, cotton and woolen mills, and other manufacturing were close to the mountain stream which runs through the town. When the river broke loose it sent a flood through the heart of what has been called the happiest and busiest city of Mexico. Into the wash of the flood the workmen's houses of adobe earth dissolved like lumps of sugar in hot tea.

**How and Sleep at the Same Time.**

"Citizens of this industrial city cannot be held to account for not guarding against such a menace. After Leon had been swept, in 1888, by a similar flood which drowned 200 people, retaining walls and dikes more than a mile in length were built to protect the city. But apparently these walls could not cope with the rush of water.

"Leon, full name Leon de los Aldamas, is on the main line of the railroad from Mexico City to El Paso, in the westernmost corner of Texas, and has a population of 58,000. It is 250 miles northwest of Mexico City, and therefore lies in the famous Mesquite lands where altitude has denied the rigors of latitude. A region that ought to be steamingly tropical or a hot desert has been elevated to a temperate-zone climate. It is not uncommon to see barley being sown in one field while it is being reaped in the next.

"Leon lies in such a fertile valley that agriculture holds its own easily against the competing demands of mining and manufacturing. Irrigation, however, is at once necessary and picturesque. The fertile valley round about is dotted with small reservoirs mirroring the clear blue skies.

"Citizens of Leon are proud of its industry. 'We are not rich,' they tell travelers, 'but we are workers.' They are proud of La Horniga (The Ait) the largest tannery in Leon and presumably in Mexico. They grow enthusiastic over the cotton and woolen and silk mills using modern New England machinery. Yet large smokestacked factories are not to be seen, for two reasons. First, that electric power is the free gift of mountain streams and second, much of the manufacturing is done in the home. The bridges and saddles for which Mexico is famous are made largely at Leon. Their beauty lies in the tooling, the embroidery and the intricate silver ornaments. This is a task for the craftsmen, and like the craftsmen of the Middle Ages, he works in Leon, at his home.

"Names of the garments made in Leon are new to the average American. Different fashions reign so there is the serape, the robeo, the manta, and the poncho. The robeo is the poor woman's equivalent of the expensive mantilla of the upper classes. The manta is the white cotton garment worn by laborers everywhere. The poncho and serape are woolen shawls which serve as overcoat, blanket or raincoat as the need arises.

**Circuit of Romance.**

"A belle of Leon is very particular that her father shall live somewhere on Leon's street car line. It isn't that she is concerned that her father have easy transportation back and forth to work. It isn't that she worries about bringing the family supplies home from market. Street cars in Leon are vehicles of romance. Despite the Hollywood movies the serape does not come on a prancing Mustang to his mistress in this corner of Mexico. He comes by street car.

"Wooing is called 'playing the bear' in Mexico. Once a young blood of most Mexican towns has fixed his fancy on a girl he stands long hours before her house. Sometimes he follows her as she promenades, but at a respectful distance. If his attentions are encouraged he receives an invitation to call with the family present during the session. But in Leon the belles and beaux begin differently. The street car line in the city makes a loop. The beaux, therefore, find it expedient to board a street car and ride past the houses of their beloved. Not once but again and again and round and round. And as the car rolls along, each watches his especial house for a signal. For the girls, of course, the custom introduces a delightful element of expectancy. One never knows just when the street car will round the corner. One never knows whether the 'bear' will be on that car. For the woosers of Leon it has this additional advantage, they get to see all the girls on the circuit."

**Clever These Czechs**

Berlin—An automobile driven by a Czech in a speedway race looped the loop and kept on racing. It turned a somersault and landed on all fours among the spectators. Nobody was killed just then.

## "HI" TOO BASHFUL TO VISIT "CAL"

### Uncle of President Has Same Yankee Reserve.

Welch, La.—Farmer Hiram Moor is planning to visit in the East between now and autumn. His friends here are confident he will be accorded a hearty welcome when he arrives in Washington. They proudly point out that he is an uncle of President Coolidge.

It remains to be seen whether Mr. Moor will heed the advice of his neighbors. They not only insist that he "hook up" the President, but urge that he "put up" in the White House. Farmer Moor agrees that he should take a trip to the country's capital. Yet he is not enthusiastic over suggestions that he walk up to his distinguished nephew and slap him on the back.

There is no disputing the fact, however, he would enjoy a stay at the White House. Conditions there would contrast sharply with the surrounding lands to which the veteran tiller of the soil is accustomed. He concludes that guests of the Chief Executive are not required to prepare their own food and wash their own dishes, as is his habit.

That Mr. Moor is not so keen about taking any of Mr. Coolidge's time is probably because the same inherent reserve that is the President's is also his. "Hi" has not seen "Cal" in more than a half dozen years. The New Englander was then governor of Massachusetts.

Hiram Moor was born in Plymouth, Vt., in 1848. When a youth he went to Guthrie Center, Iowa, and purchased a small farm. Thirty-four years ago he migrated to this state, buying property near Welch. Natives of the rice belt saw class him as a wealthy man.

Farmer Moor has a prominent nose and a high, rounded forehead. He has a large straight-line mouth and a protruding chin. He is six feet tall and weighs only 135 pounds.

Though two stories high, his home contains but four rooms, two up and a pair downstairs. It is of frame construction and has no porch.

In this house Farmer Moor is master and servant. He is the sole occupant and attends personally to all the household.

## General Added to British Group of "Bakespearians"

"Bakespearians" is the title London Truth has conferred on those who continue to proclaim from the housetops that Bacon wrote Shakespearean plays.

Brig. Gen. S. A. E. Hickson is the latest writer to produce a book designed to prove that Bacon and no other could have written the dramas attributed to the poet of the Avon.

General Hickson not only claims the Shakespeare plays for Bacon, but also the work of Marlowe, and other contemporary English dramatists. He even is willing to accept the opinion of a German professor that Bacon wrote Cervantes' "Don Quixote."

General Hickson calls his book "The Prince of Poets and Most Illustrious of Philosophers." He accepts the theory that Bacon was really the prince of Wales, son of Queen Elizabeth, and because of his high social position dared not acknowledge the authorship of practically all the masterpieces produced during the Elizabethan era.

## Climbers on Mt. Rainier Witness Yawn of Glacier

Longmire, Wash.—The yawn of a living glacier was the unusual sight witnessed by a party of climbers on Mount Rainier. While traversing a portion of Nisqually glacier the guide interrupted progress by pointing to a three-inch crevasse about fifty feet in front of the trail. The crack gradually widened as the climbers retreated until it appeared nearly seventy-five feet across.

The yawning was accompanied by tremendous explosions and roars as chunks of ice hurled down into the abyss, hundreds of feet deep.

Unable to withstand the massive pressure of the ice held pushing down the mountainside the crevasse with a great earth tremor closed, a terrific bang about the cliffs of ice, showers of snow and clouds of water high into the air. The guide explained the base of the glacier was apparently slipping over a very hard rock formation which broke its back.

## Romanoff Coffins Rifled by Soviet

Berlin—According to the Russian journal "Storo" it has been learned that the Soviet government recently ransacked the crypt in the church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Leningrad.

The action was said to be an effort to obtain jewels and documents from the coffins wherein were buried Peter the Great, Catherine the Great, and other members of the Romanoff family.

According to "Storo," the coffin of Alexander the Great was found empty by the ransackers. This bears out the old legend that Alexander had not died as recorded in history, but for many years after his supposed death traveled throughout Russia distinguished as a pilgrim.

C. L. Montgomery killed a 5-foot bull snake between his house and barn last Sunday. The snake had been making its home under the house for several weeks. Charlie decided to kill the reptile one night recently when he stepped on it where it lay in the dark before his house door on the porch.

## County Notes

### News Items From Kent And Near Vicinity

Threshing is practically finished in Kent and the woods.

G. E. Wilson and wife of Airle are visiting their daughter, Mrs. J. E. Forton.

Mrs. Wm. Mitchell is a patient in the Mid-Columbia hospital at The Dalles.

E. J. Barnett and wife of Clem are recent visitors at the J. L. Mathes home.

A. A. Dunlap and wife and Frank Haynes have been seeing the sights in Portland this last week.

Miss Helen Guyton has been acting as governess to the Dunlap children during the absence of their parents.

Mrs. Wayne McCulloch of The Dalles was visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Guyton of Buck Holow.

Word was received at Kent this week that the farm home of Andy Holt and wife was burned to the ground, a total loss. The fire started from a defective fuse. It was one of the oldest houses in the neighborhood.

## Items of General News Concerning Wasco

Dr. J. A. Butler became the owner of a new Dodge sedan this week.

Pete Speker drove to Heppner Sunday, returning on Monday morning.

Mr. Coyle and family of beyond Grass Valley, were Wasco callers on Tuesday.

Mr. George Ellsworth has been employed as "Chef de Hote" at the Sherman Hotel.

John Mack, clerk at the Sherman Hotel, was absent several days last week on business in Portland.

Miss Vivian Tronice returned to Wasco this week from her vacation spent at coast and valley points.

W. R. Reid moved on Monday from the Burres building to temporary quarters at the rear of their grocery.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Merval Stone Wednesday morning, August 4th, a 7 1/2 lb girl. Dr. Wonderlick attended.

Elmer Lutje, employed at the Carroll Sayrs farm, was ill with severe tonsillitis attack Tuesday and Wednesday.

Dr. Wonderlick on Tuesday assisted at the Dalles hospital in the removal of tonsils for two children of C. E. Coats.

Fred Lyda, who farms the Fowler place, was in Wasco Monday wearing a satisfied smile while relating the outcome of his first Sherman county harvest.

E. J. Hollingsworth had all charges against him remitted when he consented to marry the lady in the case. The consensual knot was tied at Moro last Saturday by Justice of the Peace R. J. Ginn.

Mrs. W. P. Thomas and boys left last Tuesday for a visit with relatives at Noti, Oregon. Mr. Thomas will remain in Wasco until Judge E. D. McKee completes his vacation at Seaside, Oregon.

Dr. Wonderlick drove to Portland Sunday morning, returning early on Monday morning. Baby Margaret, who was taken to Portland for a change of surroundings, is convalescing slowly from a stubborn attack of dysentery.

A tragedy was enacted on the Parcel farm east of Klondike early Tuesday morning when Thom Zuvus, a Greek employed on the place, antagonized Dick Hicks, a fellow employe. In the quarrel that ensued, the latter struck the Greek with a hoe splitting the left hand from the tip of the thumb to the middle of the wrist and slashing the right wrist. Both hands were cut by the one stroke while they were holding a 2x4 with which he was chasing Hicks. All wrist arteries were severed and he suffered critically from loss of blood. A transfusion was found to be necessary at the Mid-Columbia hospital where Drs. Lorse and Wonderlick attended the man. Hicks gave himself up and was placed in custody by Charles Everett, city marshal, but was later released.

C. L. Montgomery killed a 5-foot bull snake between his house and barn last Sunday. The snake had been making its home under the house for several weeks. Charlie decided to kill the reptile one night recently when he stepped on it where it lay in the dark before his house door on the porch.

## DREAMY MEXICO IS SHOWING SOME PEP

### Grasps Boosting Spirit of United States.

Dallas.—Dreamy Mexico, land of manana, is waking up. The newest in intellectual and material things is delightfully blending with the habits and customs which keep Mexico peculiarly its own.

The boosting spirit of residents of the United States is one of the things being grasped and used by Mexican citizens with civic pride by sense.

Particularly in those areas which are reached by railroads carrying a large portion of the travel from the United States there is a growing reaction to alien influence. Along these lines the traveler sees movies still shown in second-run houses north of the border. He is greeted by street placards announcing baseball games and prize fights, and he finds dodgers thrust into his hands urging him to attend.

The chamber of commerce has become a real part of Mexican civic life. A typical special train, bound into Mexico, traveling along the west coast, may be taken as an example. Members of the party are advised that a certain community several hundred miles south plans a reception and the schedule permits a stop.

On arrival a Mexican orchestra of stringed instruments greets the tourists. After a concert the guests are conducted to carriages, perhaps rather dilapidated, but able to go. A ride over rough, unpaved streets, which seem to begin nowhere and end abruptly, winding past one-story adobe structures seemingly placed without definite plan, ends at the chamber of commerce.

Then comes the official welcome, brief but hearty. The speaker, his words interpreted sentence by sentence, quickly offers greetings and begins typical community boosting. It is good taste for the musicians to break in with an air when, in the director's opinion, the speaker has made an effective point.

When this is all over, the guests are escorted to the reception. The population is there, and formality of introduction is waived. Mexican girls, of the whole, are pretty. They are excellent dancers and the music is good. Usually a community belle gives an interpretation of a Mexican dance. Then, if she is a "moderna," likely as not she will demonstrate the charleston.

When the departing guests return to their train they find the orchestra of stringed instruments on hand. Usually it is late and the airs then played are peculiarly those of Mexico—soft, romantic, and touched with the tragedy that rapidly disappearing centuries of peonism has implanted.

## Young French Mechanic Invents Flying Bicycle

Paris.—A young French mechanic in a factory at Dijon has just invented a bicycle that flies.

According to a report received in Paris, the Frenchman had been working on his invention several years and has finally completed successful tests. The bicycle can be transformed immediately into a very small monoplane and fly to a height of 150 feet. Trials were conducted without mishap and the mechanic intends to present his unique invention to the public at the beginning of August.

The successful manufacture of the bicycle in large quantities will make flying within the means of all, in the opinion of the inventor.

## California Has Increase in Number of Arrests

Sacramento, Calif.—Either California police departments are becoming more effective in snaring the elusive criminal or in the criminal element in the state is materially on the increase, for the number of arrests on serious charges shows a gain of nearly 5,000 for the fiscal year just ended.

In the lower ratios in Afghanistan, with one to 1,000,000 persons; Hejaz, with only four cars, or one for every 225,000; Abyssinia, 1 to 153,352; and China, 1 for every 31,871. The Solomon Islands, with 151,000 persons, has only two automobiles, while Liberia has 54, or one for every 54,259.

In 10 of the 50 countries surveyed, at least 90 per cent of the automobiles owned were of American manufacture; in seven, American-made cars constituted 80 per cent. South America had the greater proportion. European countries showed a much lower ratio.

## Charlotte's Discovery

### By H. IRVING KING

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CHARLOTTE AVESBURY was trying to decide a very important matter. The question was: Should she marry John Dixon of John Hawkbury? Had her parents insisted that she marry Dixon she would have known what to do at once—she would have gone right off and married Hawkbury. Or if they had picked out Hawkbury she would have seen at once that her destiny pointed to Dixon. But the cruel parents were of no help whatever; they would only say that whichever of the two young men Charlotte preferred would be satisfactory to them. The fact was that both the Johns had their good points and lots of them; and Charlotte had known them both for ever so long.

Sometimes she felt sure that she loved Dixon best, and would write down "Charlotte Dixon," and "Mrs. John Dixon" on a sheet of paper, just to see how it would look. And then Hawkbury would make himself especially agreeable of an evening and the next day she would be writing "Charlotte Hawkbury" to try the effect. She evolved the idea of setting the two youths little tasks to do for her by which their love might be proved, added and placed on file. But Dixon's exploit of responding to her expressed wish for an alligator pear when there were none in the market by ordering a dozen by cable from Panama was capped by Hawkbury's burglarizing a greenhouse to procure her a certain rare flower which she wanted and which could not be found at the florist's.

Dixon had a little more money than Hawkbury; but Hawkbury's family had a little better social standing. Dixon played on various musical instruments divinely; but Hawkbury sang like an angel and Dixon could not sing at all. And so on, and so forth—and there she was!

As for the rival lovers, whatever they may have had of deadly animosity lurking in their hearts, outwardly they were as friendly as could be wished, and played the game openly and squarely. To be perfectly candid they were both a trifle conceited and each felt a considerable degree of confidence that his own superior merits would, finally, become so apparent to the lovely Charlotte that she could hardly fail to give him the preference.

Charlotte began to realize that it was about time she came to a decision. She had been holding the two Johns in abeyance for two years now. She was perfectly sure that she wanted one of them and she had begun to realize that by dallying too long she might possibly lose them both.

Yes, she must make a decision. She went into conference with herself and concluded that, in all probability, she liked John Hawkbury best. He had sung a little love song to her the night before which touched her heart. The two Johns were accustomed to propose at regular intervals and Charlotte said to herself: "Yes, I think the next time Hawkbury proposes I had better accept him. Let me see—that would be next Wednesday. Dixon's night is Thursday."

Winter being now over the land, a skating party was planned. Charlotte and her two Johns were, of course, included. A fire had been

kindled near the shore of the lake to warm the young people were going to skate. Charlotte, with some of her girl companions, was standing by it, warming her hands in a pause between her skating, when sudden cries of alarm arose from the people on the frozen surface of the lake and Charlotte's little sister came running up, crying out: "Oh, Lottie! John has broken through the ice and been drowned!"

Charlotte gave a shriek and started to run wildly toward the lake crying out: "John, John, oh, John, dear!" John Hawkbury appearing, apparently from nowhere, confronted her. "Don't be alarmed, dear," said he: "I'm all right."

"You," she cried, "you? What do I care about you? It's my John I want."

And, surrounded by his rescuers, her John, nicknamed Dixon, was seen approaching, dripping wet from having been fished out of an "air hole" through which he had fallen, and shivering violently from his immersion in the icy water. Charlotte, right before everybody, threw her arms around his shaking, dripping form and whispered: "I'll say 'Yes' right now, John. You need not wait until next Thursday to ask me again."

## Roman Wedding

Among ancient writers on the subject of the "Wedding Cake," Quintus Curtius is probably the most definite and reliable, for he quotes clearly the laws of Romulus, based upon those of the Krusians and the other races whose advent preceded the foundation of Rome. In those days it appears to have been customary for the families of the "young people" to enter into certain prenuptial agreements for the future provision of their son and daughter—much as "showers" are given to a bride at the present time. These agreements were ratified at the marriage festival, and accompanied by a lavish outpouring of corn, oil and other kinds of food, a ceremony which practically constituted the wedding itself.

## Power of Eagle's Grip

Two brothers of West Boothbay, Maine, while in a boat, picked up a white-headed eagle that had been shot through one of its wings, leaving it helpless in the water. They put the bird in the dory and he gripped the wood so tightly that they had to pry its talons open to make the transfer from one boat to another. They called a veterinary surgeon in an attempt to save the bird's life.

## Queen Marie Plants American Cotton Seeds

Bucharest.—Queen Marie of Rumania has turned cotton planter. With some American cotton seeds she has been carrying on with great success a series of experiments in cotton culture at her farm near Bucharest.

The queen rises early each morning and gives two hours' personal attention to care of the plants. She has reported results of these tests to the ministry of agriculture and authorities hope that Rumania will soon be producing its own cotton. They have found American cotton seeds much more adaptable than the Egyptian or Indian.

## For Rhyme's Sake

New Rochelle, N. Y.—A member now explains that the board of education changed the name of the new high school from Woodrow Wilson to New Rochelle, because of the pupils' cheers for their athletic teams. New Rochelle rhymes with "I Tell," and Wilson doesn't.

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