

PROMINENT PEOPLE OF MORROW COUNTY

Facts Forced From Familiar Faces

By E. G. H.

The Civil Law countries are those taking for the foundation of their legal system the Laws of the Twelve Tables and its revisions found in the Justinian Code and the Code Napoleon. There is one striking thing in this system, as contrasted with the Common Law system which the English speaking people use and that is the matter of selecting judges. The main qualification in the Civil Law system, especially in the lower courts, is that a man should have a good understanding of right and wrong, he should be a good business man, whether he knows anything of the laws of the land matters little, it being slightly to his credit if he does not.

Some sentimental man once said that the judgeship is a booby-prize given to a lawyer for inefficiency. This is an overstatement of a literal truth, which is that a commonplace man will often make a very good judge. There is something about the position that lifts a man morally and mentally, and brings out the best there is in him.

A few days ago I made Mr. Alex Cornett, of Heppner, a short visit. Alex was one of his places in North Heppner cleaning up and getting the property ready for its new occupants. Most everyone in the county knows Alex, some better than others, it's according to the size of the fine they paid or the amount of labor they donated to the County. There are many people who know him in a business way and socially and I have yet to hear the first man speak in any but the most complimentary manner of his fairness, good judgment and kindness.

Mr. Cornett was born back in Southern Virginia in the memorable year 1861. He was the son of educated parents, that is they were honest, fearless and stood for the right as they saw it. His father joined the

Army of Virginia and went through three of the bloodiest years of the Civil War. He attended the schools of his community and was an adept scholar. The habit of reading and study has been with him throughout life.

When he was twenty-eight years of age he went to Nebraska where he worked for a short time but soon came farther west into Idaho where he was employed on the railroad. With him were two young fellows with whom he had worked in Nebraska. These two fellows decided to come to Morrow County and after arriving here found employment with Ed. Day. They were struck with the country and were continually writing to Mr. Cornett to join them. Alex said that while he was making good wages with the railroad company he found it hard to save money and the ranch work appealed to him. He left the matter of building transportation lines to other hands and came to Morrow County in the Spring of 1889.

If you have ever seen pictures of the late B. Franklin coming down the streets of Philadelphia with a roll under each arm and one in his mouth anxiously looking for an employment bureau, you can easily picture Alex Cornett on the day when he arrived in Pendleton. He had ambition, good health and a desire to work, but his pockets were empty. He walked to the Felix Johnson ranch on Butler Creek and we might add that he told us that there were no fences to climb and the trees didn't obstruct the view of the country. He did see thousands of sheep, cattle and horses on the hills and the desire to enter the stock business then entered his heart.

The first year he herded sheep for Alex Thompson in the mountains. With the experience he thus gained he bought twenty cows of Mr. Thompson for \$16 per head. This was his beginning in the cattle business which he continued until four years ago. He worked with Alex Thompson and their cattle ran together. Mr. Cornett's brand was the number 21. He happened to choose this after he traded one of the original twenty cows for a cow and calf, 21 being the number of cattle he owned at the time.

An incident connected with his experience running sheep the first year might be mentioned. After he had accepted the job he had to have an outfit and some supplies. He came to Heppner and was told that Minor's

was the leading place for such articles and walking in the store first met Oscar Minor. He told Oscar his condition and Oscar looking him in the eye said, "You can have anything you want." Needless to say Alex was well supplied with everything he needed and one can hardly blame him for thinking well of Oscar Minor.

"I'm just one of the fellows that Oscar helped in that way," Mr. Cornett said. The winter of 1889-90 was one of the hardest winters the stock men ever witnessed in the state of Oregon. Thousands of sheep, cattle and horses died of exposure and starvation. The snow was deep and covered with a crust which cut their feet and left the bloodstains on the snow. There were no barns or shelter of any kind and the animals suffered terribly. Hay was hauled for miles up the Creek and the sound of wagons going over the cracking snow and ice could be heard for miles.

During the hard times in '93 business was good for those who had a little money. Yearling steers could be bought from \$11 to \$14 which were sold a year or so later for considerable more. Even in the worst times he never lost any cattle by theft. Stealing cattle was a dangerous business and was seldom practiced.

There have been many remarkable changes since Mr. Cornett came to Morrow County. Horses grazed the hills in thousands. In the Nineties they were so cheap that thousands were sold to the Lents Cannery for almost nothing. Sam Kinsman was running it then and a man over on the Columbia river by the name of Switzer sold him five thousand at one time. Large mares weighing thirteen and fourteen hundred pounds brought only two or three dollars. P. C. Thompson sold hundreds of them to the cannery. These horses would now bring well over one hundred dollars. One can imagine how cheap and plentiful they were when hundreds of two and three-year-old animals were not even branded, there being none who thought them worth the trouble.

The best land sold for about two hundred dollars for a quarter-section. If anyone paid over that, they thought that they were being robbed and most of them sold for considerable less. There were plenty of homesteads for everyone who wanted them and some of the abuses which crept in to the matter of acquiring these are worthy of notice.

The law said that to prove up on a homestead you had to have a house on it ten by twelve, or twelve by fourteen, so when the time came to prove up they would swear that they had a house twelve by fourteen—inches. These were carried around under their arms and moved from one homestead to another. In meeting the timber culture requirements it was necessary to have ten acres in trees and there were men who made it their business to fill these requirements for you. They would send off and get small trees by the thousands and come to your place with a plow and after making a few furrows would drop them in, sometimes forty or fifty in a bundle and appoint a man to count them to see that they had the required number. Whether he counted them or not was largely conjectural. In proving up these men would appear and swear that they had counted so many trees on the place, all live and growing. Hundreds of men proved up on homesteads that they never saw, their only knowledge of its location and description being given to them by other parties. After the Government found this condition of affairs was existing here it sent land officials which resulted in many people who had served all of the time required to serve which was possible, in losing their property.

Mr. Cornett has always been ready and willing to serve his city in any capacity. He has been a councilman for four years and a justice of the peace for two years. He has never been to Portland in his life and while this may seem tragic to some, it does not to those who take their business seriously and have no time to fool away Alex has several hobbies. He likes to labor in the gardens and should the city be cut off from the outside world today he would not be greatly discommoded. All the wonderful things that grow, run and fly are objects of his inquiry. Fresh air and sunshine, plain eating and speaking well of his friends come in for a large part on his program.

The only order or society that he belongs to is the Moral Squad. By hard work and application he has risen from a Private to a Corporal. He is the legal advisor of the Squad and one of the most prominent members.

Mr. Cornett, in remarking on the possibilities of Morrow County and Eastern Oregon said, "I have traveled over considerable of this country and I know something of the possibilities of many sections, but I know of no place where a young man can find the opportunities leading to success as he can here. No man who is desirous of making his way can find more people interested in him than he can right here. Think of the vast majority of people here who came with practically nothing and see what they have done. One of the reasons for this has been the ease in which credit can be obtained. Credit is a dangerous thing. One of the evil practices of the present day is extravagance in living. We live beyond our means. More business should be done on a cash basis. Land is still cheap here. It has advanced rapidly in price but it is bound to go higher. Cheaper land can't be had anywhere, considering what we can produce on this Morrow County land."

Mr. Cornett is more commonly known as the Justice. One prominent attorney said a few days ago, "He is the most just and conscientious man we have in the town." Another man remarked, "You will always get a square deal when Justice Cornett is on the bench." Thus do we see that he fulfills the requirements of the Civil Law judges, a clear distinction between the right and the wrong, an element of fairness and a desire to see every man dealt with honestly and impartially. These traits of character have been developed through his life of struggle and privation, during times which were black with uncertainty and anxiety. The problems of right and wrong are not deep, profound and complex. A business man can go wrong easily, because he is often sailing in uncharted seas, but with a judge the foghorns are within hearing distance and the life-buoys sound their continual alarm. Commonsense is the basic principle for the administration of law and commonsense implies common honesty. These are property of Justice Cornett. They are the basic principles of good citizenship, right living, all of which imply nappy resilience and makes for excellence and worth.

LOCAL AND PERSONAL

R. N. Wade, a prominent Sand Hol rancher, was in the county seat last Wednesday on business.

O. M. Yeager furnishes blue prints free when he does your building.

Al. Zink, Ed. Cummings and Billy McMillan were up from Lexington on Wednesday transacting business.

Lew Zeigler is on the sick list. He is not dangerously sick at the present time.

I am an agent for Mrs. Summers' famous home remedies. Samples sent on request. Mrs. Hardesty, Morgan, Oregon.

Emmett Smith, a prominent River Creek rancher brought a load of wood to the city last Wednesday.

O. M. Yeager, Contractor, will do our building, repairing, etc., and take our wool, hay or anything of value in exchange for the work.

Jeff Jones was in from his River Creek ranch last Wednesday on business.

Louis Groshens was in the city last Wednesday completing the arrangement for the purchase of a band of sheep.

Henry Johnson is building a house for Clyde Wells on his ranch north of town. Clyde has been hauling the lumber for the past few days. "Hog" Clark is taking his place in the shop.

Phelps Grocery Co.

GOOD EATS
Headquarters

COME TO

Gilliam & Bisbee

For anything in the HARDWARE LINE
We have it, will get it or it is not made

We try to keep a complete, up-to-date stock of everything carried in a first-class store, and we ask everybody for a liberal share of their patronage. We do our best to merit the same.

Come and see us

THE FLORSHEIN SHOE

IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU—AND

The Holeproof Sox Just Hits the Spot

and the wearer too, wherever he goes, will see people wearing the same kind of Hose.

THE PLACE TO BUY IS AT

Sam Hughes Co.

WELL DRILLING

Done on short notice. I have never failed to get a good well. Others have give me the opportunity and I will give you a satisfactory well. See me at Heppner or at the Drill.

W. D. Newlon

Made-to-Order

FALL AND WINTER SUITS AND OVERCOATS

\$16.50 to \$45

The buyer who wishes to be fitted with a suit of the latest style and high-grade workmanship is invited to inspect our large line of all-wool samples. These samples are the classiest ever shown in Heppner and are an assortment of fabrics which cannot be beaten anywhere. Expert measurements taken and fit absolutely guaranteed.

If you want to look up-to-date and be up-to-date in your clothes, give your order to

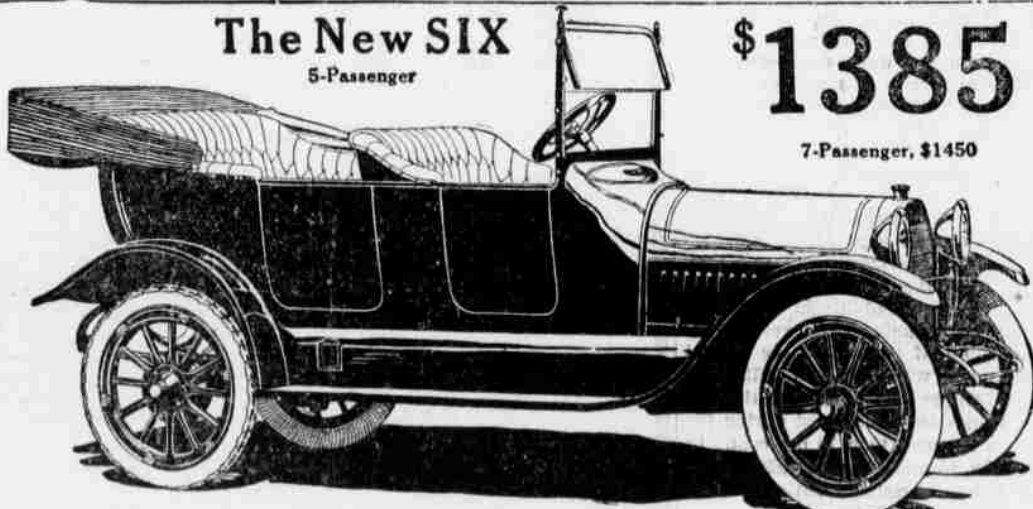
LOUIS PEARSON, Tailor
Heppner

The New SIX

5-Passenger

\$1385

7-Passenger, \$1450



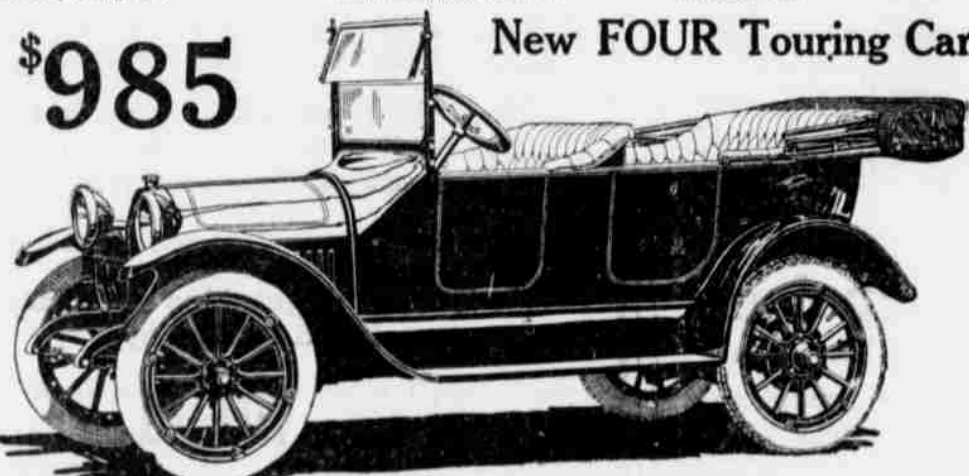
Two body styles: Five-Passenger and Seven-Passenger Touring.
Wheelbase—121 inches.
Long Stroke (5-inch), Small Bore (3 1/2-inch) Motor; Six Cylinders, in Line.
Smokeless, Non-Leaking Lubrication System.
Larger Valve Opening.
New, Exhaust-Silencing Muffler.
Angular Piston Rings.
Circular Radiator.
Lighter Reciprocating Parts.

Crowned Fenders.
Lightened Clutch Operation.
130 Pounds Lighter.
15 x 2 1/2 in. Brakes.
34 1/2 in. Goodrich Tires on O. D. Demountable Rims; Safety Tread on Rear.
Roomier Front and Rear Compartments.
Continuous Aluminum Foot Board.
One-Man Type Top.
Built-in Rain and Clear Vision Ventilating Windshield, Attaching Rigidity to Top.

Scientific Anti-Rumble Gasoline Tank in Cowl.
Magnetic, Non-Leaking Gasoline Gauge, the only One Approved by Insurance Underwriters.
Full-Floating Rear Axle, Shaft Locking into Taper at Hub.
Full Equipment of 13 Timken Roller Bearings.
Irreversible Steering.
Inter-Locking Ignition and Lighting Switches.
24 Finishing Operations in Painting Bodies Studebaker Blue.

\$985

New FOUR Touring Car



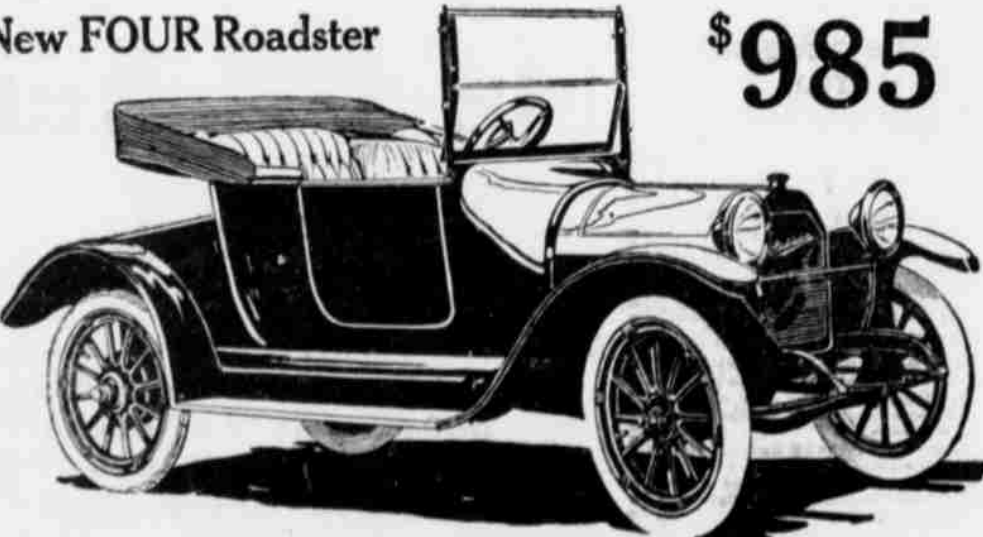
Two Body Styles: Five-Passenger Touring and Three-Passenger Roadster.
Wheelbase—108 inches.
Long Stroke (5-inch), Small Bore (3 1/2-inch) Motor; Four Cylinders, in Line; Exhaust, Manifold and Separate.
Smokeless, Non-Leaking Lubrication System.
Larger Valve Opening.
Pressed Steel Push-Rods.
Angular Piston Rings.
Tubular Radiator with Auxiliary Water Tank.

Crowned Fenders.
Special Dimming Headlights.
100 Pounds Lighter.
12 x 2 1/2 in. Brakes.
Hot Tapered Bullet-Resistant Carburetor Bolted to Cylinders.
Magnetic, Non-Leaking Gasoline Gauge, the only One Approved by Insurance Underwriters.
Generous Footroom in Both Compartments.
13 x 4 in. Goodrich Tires on O. D. Demountable Rims; Safety Tread on Rear.

One-Man Type Top.
Built-in Rain and Clear Vision Ventilating Windshield, Attaching Rigidity to Top.
Full-Floating Rear Axle, Shaft Locking into Taper at Hub.
Full Equipment of 13 Timken Roller Bearings.
Irreversible Steering.
Flash Dash Equipment.
Extra Rim and Carrier.
24 Finishing Operations in Painting Bodies Studebaker Blue.

New FOUR Roadster

\$985



A three-seated Roadster that actually seats three grown persons in perfect comfort. Drives as smoothly as a feather. A special top, luggage compartments at rear, etc. Some general specifications as follows: Touring Car.

J. B. SPARKS, Agent for Morrow County