

# Lake County Examiner

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## THANKSGIVING ALL AMERICANS' DAY

For Nearly Four Hundred Years One Day in Each Year Has Been Set Aside For Giving Thanks to the Almighty

### PLENTY TO BE THANKFUL FOR

**T**HANKSGIVING: Think what the word implies! Not a day for a people of one single religious sect to celebrate, not a day for a political party to celebrate, not a day for one faction of a party to hold in memory as a monument of victory over its rival faction, not a day for a people of one nationality to wear colors, but a day for every American to celebrate and give thanks. For what? There is much to be thankful for this year. New homes, closer ties, happy families, abundant to eat and wear, health, all appeal to every one of us something for which we owe a debt of gratitude to the Almighty overseer who has allowed us to live to accept His gifts.

The Thanksgiving of to-day, is an American institution and a matter of proclamation on the part of the administration. It is a thing that goes deeper than its National significance, and finds its firm root, not merely in the customs and affections of one people, but in that potent imagination that every where speaks the aspirations of mankind and voices in no vague tones the triumphs of common humanity.

The festival began about a year after the landing of the 102 pilgrims at Plymouth Rock on the Mayflower on November 21st, in the year 1620.

The first year of the Pilgrim settlement, despite the terrible first winter, was successful, and this fact appealed to the second governor, William Bradford, as an especial reason for proclaiming a season for Thanksgiving. Edward Winslow, the first governor once wrote:

"You shall understand that, in the little time that a few of us have been here, we have built seven dwelling-houses and four for the use of the plantation, and have made preparations for divers others. We set last spring some 20 acres of Indian corn, and sowed some six acres of barley and peas, and, according to the manner of the Indians, we manured the ground with herrings or other shads, which we have in great abundance and take with great ease at our doors. Our corn did prove well; and God be praised, we had a good increase of Indian corn; and our barley indifferently good, but our peas

not worth the gathering; for we feared they were too late down. They came up very well and blossomed; but the sun parched them in the blossom.

"Our harvest gotten in, our Governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might, after a special manner, rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. The four in one day killed as many fowl as, with a little help, beside, served the company almost a week, at which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest, their greatest King Massasotli, with some 90 men, whom, for three days, we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our Governor, and on the Captain and the others.

"And although it was not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet from the goodness of God we are so far removed from want that we wish you partakers of our plenty."

Thanksgiving is a day for honest fireside delights, when mother and father are surrounded by their children who have gone forth into the world to seek their fortunes, and now return to the haunts of childhood days to be once more gathered beside their aged parents to tell of their struggles and receive their rewards of smiling approval, and to once more show their love for those who are responsible for their being and renew affections.

"Good crops all gathered in the barn, All safe from rain and snow and harm, Bring joy and pleasure to the farm, Gay young toddlers around the floor, With Willie in a glad uproar

In the first boots he ever wore, Old age enjoying youthful mirth, In useful lives of honest worth Making the best of life and earth."

We of Lakeview and Lake county can boast of plenty to the world, but we are over thankful to a Supreme Ruler for this plenty. Today is the day set aside for offering thanks. Let us not forget that our might have been a different fate and be thankful that we have something to be thankful for.

### N-C-O. Misses Alturas.

The N. C. O. Ry. surveyors have completed surveys to a point three miles east of Alturas. This practically settles the question as to whether or not the N. C. O. would build through the town of Alturas, unless the officials make some changes before track laying is commenced.

If Alturas wants the road, of course we are willing that it should get it, otherwise it makes no difference to people of Lake county whether the road builds into Alturas or 3 miles east, just so it comes on and builds into Lakeview.

It is believed that surveying has been discontinued for the winter, but more than likely will be resumed as early as the weather will permit in the spring. On this point, however, better weather is expected here for the next two months for such work as surveying than the crew will find in the spring. But that is the Railroad Co's business, not ours.

It is not at all improbable that next spring the survey will be run as far as Lakeview, and possibly by full track laying will be no great distance from here. The distance is not so great that the work of building from Madeline to Lakeview could not be accomplished in one summer.

### SURVEYOR GENERAL CONVICTED

Henry Meldrum, former U. S. Surveyor General, was found guilty of forgery on twenty-one counts by a jury in the United States District Court, on the 17th. This is the first conviction in the so-called land fraud cases, now pending before Judge Bellinger. Meldrum was accused of having forged the names of eighteen persons to applications for surveys of land in Harney county, Oregon, west and southwest of Harney Lake. The contract for surveying the land was awarded to Rufus S. Moore, Meldrum's nephew, for \$3,500.

The evidence given by the government witnesses was damaging all along and Geo. C. Brownell's plea for clemency for his client on the ground of sympathy had little bearing. J. W. Hamakar of Klamath Falls, before whom the affidavits were sworn was summoned by the government upon the strength of an interview U. S. District Attorney John Hall had with Hamakar in a saloon box in Portland last spring in which Hamakar denied that he had signed the affidavits or attached his official seal as Notary Public, saying that he was in San Francisco at the time the papers were supposed to have been signed by him at Klamath Falls. When he was put on the stand he swore that the signatures were his and also that the seal was his and had been attached to the affidavits by him. When asked by Attorney Hall to explain why he had denied the signatures to him last spring Hamakar stated that the signature was an old one of his used in 1900, and he had forgotten its appearance.

The names of the 18 persons applying for surveys to be made were read to the witnesses but none of them were known, except Stephen Young, who lives all of 60 miles from the land. Mr. Young lives in Lake county.

The Oregonian says: "Mr. Hamakar was summoned by the state, but he proved a splendid witness for the defense. It seems that when the case was before the Federal grand jury, Mr. Hall met Mr. Hamakar in one of the drinking boxes at the Imperial Hotel bar. At that time Mr. Hall showed Mr. Hamakar the 18 affidavits and Mr. Hamakar did not believe the signatures and the notary seal were his. Mr. Hall evidently thought that Mr. Hamakar would again deny the genuineness of the seal and signatures. The surprise came when Mr. Hamakar testified that the seal was his seal and the signatures were written by his own hand.

It was then that Mr. Hall called Mr. Hamakar's attention to the little conversation which they had in the box. Mr. Hall roundly scored Notary J. W. Hamakar and hinted broadly that Hamakar should be on trial along with Meldrum."

After a short deliberation the jury brought in a verdict of guilty.

The penalty for Meldrum's crime is not more than ten years imprisonment or \$1000 fine or both, for each count upon which he was convicted. Meldrum was given 30 days in which to file a motion for a new trial. He is out on bonds.

Portland will get the next session of the Irrigation Congress. The Congress is in session now at El Paso Texas.

### BOAT ON THE LAKE TOMMYROT

Going away from home to get the news, we get the following from the Redding Free Press:—A representative of the Shaver Transportation Company of Portland, Oregon, has been in Lakeview, Oregon, and vicinity examining Goose Lake for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not suitable landings can be made for a steam boat if put on Goose Lake. As a result of these investigations a report was sent in stating that the handling of freight and the passenger traffic will justify the building of a combination boat. One landing is to be made at the south end of the lake presumably to connect with the N. C. O. Railroad which is being built toward that point and from there the steamer will make the run north, with landings for the towns of Willow Ranch and Pine Creek, then reaching the north end of the lake where a terminal landing is to be made at Lakeview. On the return southward one landing will be made at Drews Creek for the west of the lake, then swinging back on the east side on the return trip touching the first named points. The amount of water to be used from this lake in the government irrigation scheme will in no way effect the steamer's run.—New Era.

All this stuff about a steamboat on Goose Lake is tommyrot, and only indulged in by a few for something to say and those who probably know no better. There is not a landing place on the lake except at the foot of Sugar hill where the water is of sufficient draught to admit a boat large enough to haul a wheelbarrow load of wheat. A boat could not get within five miles of any town in the valley without dredging. Then to talk of steamboating on Goose Lake is folly, unless you intend to build a new town down on the marsh at the head of the lake. The water for two or three miles from the end of the lake is very shallow, and only in the center of the lake is the water 14 or 15 feet deep and gradually gets shallower as you get near the shore.

We are not from Missouri, but we have to be shown where Lakeview or Pine Creek can be benefitted or gain any trade from a steamboat on the lake. Or where a single farmer or stockman could be benefitted.

The thing is impracticable and was never talked of by any man who has money enough to build a steamboat, only to have a little sport with a few "steamboat cranks." If any one wants to move down on that alkali bed at the head of the lake to receive boats let them go, we'll stay here.

### J. H. Bonner Dead.

Word was received here Sunday that Hon. J. H. Bonner, the Cedarville, Calif., banker died at his home in Cedarville last Saturday night, after a continued illness. Mr. Bonner is the father of District Attorney Bonner of Alturas. He was one of the first men to go to Surprise valley, where he went in partnership with Hon. W. T. Cressler father of S. O. Cressler of the First National Bank of Lakeview, in the mercantile business. After many years of successful business in this line the Cressler & Bonner stores were leased and they started a bank. They continued in business together until two years ago. Mr. Cressler had a sick spell from which it was feared he

### SOME BILLS FOR THE LEGISLATURE

A committee composed of representatives of the Oregon State Conference of Charities and Correction and of the Prisoners' aid Society is at work on the drafting of a number of bills to be presented to the next legislature for enactment.

A bill providing for the punishment of wife-deserters is probably the most notable one. This measure has been adopted in several states with good effect.

A statute creating a Juvenile Court in cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more is another measure.

Another measure under course of preparation is that providing for the indeterminate sentence and parole of criminals on the first offense, except in such grave crimes as highway robbery, arson, manslaughter, assault with intent to kill, and others of a like nature.

This measure is also approved by the Governor and in the opinion of the committee, is certain of passage. It will provide that a man upon conviction for a crime may be sentenced, but if the Judge so wills, not imprisoned. That he may be allowed to go on parole, during good behavior without loss of citizenship. During the parole, however, he will be under the surveillance of the court and should be arrested for and serve not only the first sentence, but both. The law would do away with the idea of a fixed term of imprisonment irrespective of reform. On the other hand the release would not be unconditional and would be under guard, but would give the man a chance to reform and an incentive so to do.

The creation of a state board of charities will be asked for, which board will have supervision over and stand in relation of a councillor to the public charities of the state, as is the case in nearly every state of the Union.

An attempt will be made to get the Legislature to make some provision for the training and instruction of the feeble-minded and idiotic charges of the state. Under the system practiced in Oregon no provision is made for the instruction of such unfortunates. They are bunched together with every class of insane. In other states it has been demonstrated that the feeble-minded can be taught the simpler crafts and made of some use to the world, and it is the wish of the committee to accomplish this end here.

would not recover, when Mr. Bonner bought out his partner and has since conducted the bank alone. We are informed that the bank will be closed. The business is pretty well settled up, as Mr. Bonner's illness has caused great apprehension for some time on the part of his friends.

### Favors the Homesteader.

An important land case was decided recently in Jackson county involving a homestead claim and a timber land claimant. H. K. Helland had filed a homestead and afterward Paul Lambert filed on the same land under the timber and stone act. After consideration of the testimony the case was decided in favor of Helland, The homesteader.

The decision is an important one, as it will effect about 20 other cases of the same character in what is known in Jackson county as the Dead Indian country.