Bad Print

Bringing in the

THE DANCE AROUND THE MAY POLE

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

AMERICA may be the "melting pot of the nations," but there is one day in the year, at least, when she offers striking evidence that she is the daughter of Old England and that the descendants of the founders of the nation, despite the intermixture of other racial strains during the centuries in which the nation was building, are still conscious of their English ancestry. That day is the first of May. To some people who live in America but who have not yet been transformed into Americans by the alchemy of the melting pot, May 1 means a day for protest against the prevailing order of things, for so-called "radical" activities, for calling for an uprising which somehow never seems to come off successfully. For millions of Americans May 1 means disorder of another kind, the semi-annual upheaval in domestic arrangements and change from old firesides to new, known as "Moving day."

But to millions of young Americans, in our schools and colleges, May 1 is a festival day, a time of rejoicing and merrymaking, of song and of dance. And as they, sulky dressed, weave in and out with the long streamers attached to the top of a Maypole erected on some level stretch of greensward, they are perpetuating an old custom of "bringing in the May" which traces back in an unbroken line to the Merrie England days. In that respect, May day is almost unique. Few, if any, of the holidays which we celebrate are observed in a manner so closely resembling its ancient observance as is this one. It is one of the popular customs of the long ago which persists after others have long since passed away.

The month of May is named for Maia, the Roman goddess of fertility. Maia was the personification of spring and was thought to have every blossoming wild flower and shrub under her special care and protection. The Romans engaged in elaborate floral games during the first week of May. So the May day celebration of a later period had its roots in the rites originally offered in honor of the goddess Maia. But it was another Roman festival which brought to May day the character of the ceremonies which made it distinctive. This was the Floralia, held in honor of Flora, the goddess of flowers. There were gay costumed dramatic performances and dances. When Christianity began to prevail over Europe, certain pagan customs were retained in a modified form and among these was the May day celebration. In medieval times it became an important festival and all classes of people, old and young, participated in it. Among the Russians there was a spring festival celebrated by the boys and girls with a choral dance called Khorovod, and in Sweden there was also a May day celebration with a dance.

But for some reason the festival reached its highest development in England and we now think of it as a distinctively English [illegible]

Early in the first morning of May the men and the maids of Old England would set forth, singing, for the fields and the woods to gather flowering boughs, wayside blossoms and any pretty, fresh green things that might await them. These treasures were used to "May" the doors of the popular houses in the village. It is this custom which survives in the hanging of May baskets by the children of today.

However the "Mayere" went into the woods primarily to choose the tallest, straightest hawthorne, to cut it down and, with its greenness still freshly fragrant, to bring it into the public square, there to raise it for the center of their long day's festivity. They did it with much ceremony.

A writer in the Fifteenth century says: "They bring home with great veneration; they have twentie or fortie yonke of oxen—every one having a sweet nosegale of flowers tied to the tip of his horne, and they draw home the May pole, covered all over with flowers and herbes, . . . and thus equipped it was rear'd with handkerchiefs and flagges streaming on the top."

The Maypole having been raised, what follows is resented by a Puritan writer thus: "And then fell they to banquet and feast, to leape and dance about it, as the heathen people did at the dedication of their idols, whereof this is a perfect pattern, or rather the thing itself."

The beloved festival, called by the Puritans "an implous and pagan superstition," was long celebrated by the rich and poor alike. Chaucer writes: "Fourth goth all the court, both most and lest, to fetch the flowers fresh and blome." Stow, in his "Survey of London," 1602, says "In the month of May every man, except impediment, would walk into the sweete meadows and greene woods there to rejoice their spirits with the beauty and savour of sweet flowers."

As already indicated, these Maypole affairs were obnoxious to the Puritans. To them the revelers were only heathens. So the May day observances were forbidden by parliament in 1644, but came into favor once more at Restoration.

A Maypole once set up might remain for many years and annually be made the focus of popular amusement. The chief place in the celebration was as sewing in the country folk. Stow, in his "History of London," mentions several Maypoles, one of which stood at what is now St. Mary-le-Strand, a crowded thoroughfare. In his day it was 100 feet high.

The last Maypole erected in London was of cedar, 134 feet high. It was set up by a merry company under the personal supervision of James II, the duke of York and lord high admiral, near the site of the present church of St. Mary's in the Strand. Half a century later, it was removed to Wanstead Park in Essex, where it was used by Sir Isaac Newton as part of the support of a large telescope which he had presented the Royal society by a French astronomer.

Another celebrated Maypole was that from which St. Andrew's Undershaft in Leadenhall street in London is supposed to have taken its name. Stow says that it was due to a "high or long shaft of Maypole higher than the steeple (hence undershaft) which used early in the morning of May day—the greatest spring festival of Merry England—to be set up and set with flowers opposite the south door of St. Andrew's."

It was in the Elizabethan days, however, that the May day celebration reached its highest development. What had previously been a simple, spontaneous celebration became one of much pomp and pageantry. If you read Sir Walter Scott's "Kenilworth" you will learn what a colorful spectacle it was.

"Enter six young men in leathern jerkins; follow on six young maids leading a sleek cow adorned with flowers. Next struts Robin Hood in Lincoln green, accompanied by Little John, Will Scarlet and the others of that famous outlaw band," writes one historian of this festival. "After these walk demurely the pretty bride maidens escorting Maid Marian, the Queen of the May; follow other attending girls. Comes a rumbling, creaking sound—the oxen pull the great Maypole to its place of honor, and after the May come a medley of personages—the hobby horses, the fools, the jesters and the crowd. Ah! The pole is raised. Every one shouts. The woodmen and the huntsmen dance around it. The bagpipes play, joyous their steps; the jesters and the hobby horse are busy with buffoonery; a bold Friar Tuck attracts attention. Now there is a contest with the long bow; a prize of laurel and ribbons is given to the winner, a crown of leaves to the second.

"Finally the morris, or morrice, dancers come up to perform. These are an energetic, talented crew. A Puritan writer says of them: 'Hither have they their hobby horses, their dragons, and other antiques, together with their bandle pypers and thundering drummers, their [illegible] company, their pypes, their [illegible] their stumpes a dancing, their bells ingling, their handkerchiefs fluttering about their heads like madde men.'

"Morris dancing is a different thing from the ordinary folk dancing done by all at the May day fetes. Those who did the morris dances were especially trained for it and were known as 'the morris men.' Each village of any pretension had its own troupe. The old men took pride in teaching the youngsters the steps between Easter and Whitsuntide each year. Then on Whit Monday all went out about the countryside dancing and got many a piece of silver for their antics.

"Their fiddler played early in the morning 'to entice 'em to dance,' and off they were with 'Green Garters' around the country. The morris men usually had their own fool. Sometimes, too, they had in their troupe that old-time Burlesque figure, the 'man-woman,' who by the fantasy of his costume and the indecency of his conduct was a constant delight to the broad-minded Elizabethan audience.

"Once the morris men have done their turns the people, whose fete this rightly is, may dance to their hearts' content. Men and girls dance prettily together, doing the same steps that their fathers and mothers did before them.

"The humblest of the village folk had a share in the day's merrymaking. The chimney sweeps had their own quaint dance to do. May day is the sweeps' holiday. They appear dressed in fantastic costumes, a little legend of the sweeps' dance is that once a great lady lost her baby boy. And some years later stole an old sweep about her misfortune. He replied that his sweep, who was at the moment up her chimney, had been a foundling, and when the boy came down she knew he was a [illegible] 'em,' and gave clothes and great cheer to all the sweeps in the town on the next May day."

Principal Events of the Week Assembled for Information of Our Readers

The brooder house owned by L. C. Sherwood of Amity was burned to the ground with the contents, which included 200 baby chicks.

The first Baker county census returns, covering the precinct of Weatherby, show a population of 85 people, as compared with 94 in the 1920 census.

Mrs. S. H. Forshaw, supervisor of music at the Pendleton schools for the last 13 years, has tendered her resignation to take effect at the close of the present term.

Approximately $20,000 will be spent in improving and enlarging the canning plant of the Nestles Food plant in McMinnville, according to announcement by Ray Bush, manager.

Raymond Shipley, 33, employe of the Carnation Lumber company at Forest Grove, was drowned in the company's log pond when he fell from one of the loading slips.

An albino gopher, said to be a very unusual type of rodent, was captured a few days ago on a ranch at Unity by Hardy Murray, and was on display in the office of County Agent Morse.

While there are many splendid crops in Union county, Senator Kiddle reports that a few valley farmers calling at the Island City mills say they will have to reseed portions of their land.

Reconstruction of the Atomite corporation's plant near Terrebonne is proceeding rapidly, and will be completed by May 15, according to J. W. Canong, a director of the corporation.

Maybeth Multey, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nultey of Yamhill, died in a McMinnville hospital from injuries received when an automobile in which she was riding overturned.

Albany will be the scene of the annual Linn-Benton county Jersey jubilee on May 28, it was decided by the Linn-Benton Jersey Cattle club. The local show will be staged at the Linn county fair grounds.

Well, it happened. Fire damaged a fire station in Baker. The fire, which started from a pipe leading from the stove used in the basement to dry hose, burned about the pipes until they became red hot.

W. J. Smith, Redmond postmaster, states that the postoffice increased 20 per cent in business over the last quarter. The postoffice soon will be moved into new quarters in a brick building being constructed.

Letters under date of 1825 to 1852, when there were neither envelopes nor stamps, when recipients paid postage for each letter as received, were on exhibit for information of school students at the Cove library recently.

The Waldport Hardwood company is the name of the new alder mill which started sawing alder at the recently completed mill at Waldport. The logs are rafted from up river points and the dry kiln is being filled.

Sufficient signatures have been obtained at Salem to insure referring to the voters of Salem at the primary election the question of whether they desire to take over the local plant of the Oregon-Washington water service corporation.

Wilson E. Brock of Pendleton was installed as grand commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Oregon as the closing order of business before the 1930 annual conclave held in Corvallis recently. Brock succeeds George W. Dunn of Ashland.

More than 1200 school children from northern California and southern Oregon are to take part in the second annual May music festival to be held at Ashland, May 3, according to Miss Esther Church, director of music in the southern Oregon normal school.

THE MARKETS

Portland

Wheat—Big Bend bluestem, $1.12; soft white and western white, $1.08; hard winter, northern spring and western red, $1.06.

Hay—Alfalfa, $19 per ton; valley timothy, $20.50@21; eastern Oregon timothy, $23.50@24; clover, $17; oat hay, $17; oats and vetch, $17.50@18.

Butterfat—36@40c.

Eggs—Ranch, 21@24c.

Cattle—Steers, good, $11.25@11.85

Hogs—Good to choice, $9.75@10.75.

Lambs—Good to choice, $9.25@10.

Seattle

Wheat—Soft white, western white, $1.10; hard winter, western red, $1.09; Big Bend bluestem, $1.23.

Eggs—Ranch, 25@29c.

Butterfat—39c.

Cattle—Choice steers, $9.50@11.00.

Hogs—Prime light, $10.60@10.75.

Lambs—Choice, $9@10.

Spokane

Cattle—Steers, good, $10.25@11.

Hogs—Good to choice, $10@10.65.

Lambs—Medium to good, $9@10.50

State highway department officials announced that the McKenzie pass has been opened to general traffic.

The Eugene city council has authorized the placing of a one-mill levy for two years before the voters at a special election designed to raise $28,000 in the biennium for airport improvement. The election may be held June 16 in conjunction with the school election.

Final dividend of 15 per cent in the liquidation of the Bank of Nyssa, defunct, was authorized by A. A. Schram, state superintendent of banks. The dividend amounted to $10,043. Claims aggregated $66,953.53, with dividends totaling 47½ per cent. The bank was closed in May, 1923.

The Sundquist Lumber company has leased the mill and dwellings at Wheeler belonging to the Westwood company and will install a double-cut pony saw and make other improvements so that the capacity of the mill will reach 200,000 feet when it begins to operate in about two months.

Bend's city and county jails have become so crowded that it became necessary to provide other quarters for violators of the liquor laws, and as a result six prisoners were brought to Prineville by Chief of Police Thomas and given suites in the Crook county jail, which was absolutely empty at the time.

The ferry-boat Claggett, operating at Independence between Polk and Marion counties, will be treated to a new coat of paint this spring. The body color is to be white with yellow trimming and the brace rods and other iron painted black. Due to the low stage of water the ferry is now using the summer landing on the Polk county side.

The two high cows in the Central Oregon Herd Improvement association for March were Myron Hager's grade Jersey, Babe, with a butterfat production of 80.7 pounds, and Pete Marnach's registered Holstein, Hollywood Inka Fern, with a production of 77.8 pounds. Four herds have now reached marks in excess of 400 pounds of butterfat for the fiscal year.

Work of widening the Mapleton Hill road, which is now the main route over the mountain to Florence, has been started, and a county crew is operating a big shovel in this project. Motorists who drive over the Mapleton hill route are advised to use caution at the scene of the widening operations. The work probably will be completed in two months.

Hi-jackers raided the city police station in Eugene and made away with 13 gallons of grain alcohol. The liquor was held as evidence in the case of the state against Earl Johnson and Nye Matthews, arrested as under-operatives in an alleged liquor ring. The liquor thieves entered the front door, broke into the cabinet and stole the alcohol while no policemen were present.

Fifty thousand dollars in federal funds is being distributed among the 3000 officers and men of the Oregon national guard through the office of the adjutant-general at Salem, representing three months' pay for attendance at armory drills. Practically every city of any size in the state is the home of a guard unit whose members will participate in this distribution of funds.

K. H. McCool, forest ranger on the Grande Ronde ranger district, report an unusually light snow in the mountains, with only 42 inches at the snow-stake, at an elevation of 6500 feet, which is 31 inches short of the average. Mr. McCool said: "Unless considerable rain falls we are sure to have an early fire season and the forest service is making every possible preparation to meet it."

Twenty Grants Pass high school boys were late to classes recently after having made an early pilgrimage to the top of Tokay heights, a government-owned peak in the outskirts of the city, where initials identifying the 20 youths had been carved on trees. The boys were met at the top of the mountain by government officials who had ordered the early trip in lieu of a jail sentence. White paint now graces the trees bearing the initials.

Harold Hansen, of Milton-Freewater, was elected president of the Eastern Oregon Older Boys' conference for next year at the fellowship dinner in the Y. M. C. A. building at Baker. Other officers elected were Wesley Hershey, Cove, first vice-president; Allen Turner, Burns, second vice-president, and Arnold Ebert, Echo, secretary. The conference delegates voted to hold the meeting in Enterprise next year. The date was not selected.

At the end of the first quarter of 1930, Ashland held the record in the race for registration of out-of-state cars, according to figures received at the chamber of commerce office. Ashland's total registration to April first was 2032.

Robert W. Leep, who has been civil engineer for the Eastern Oregon Light & Power company for the last four years, was appointed by the Baker county court as county engineer. Mr. Leep will maintain an office in the courthouse.

THE DAIRY

POOR FEED PLANS CUT HERD PROFIT

Milk Yield Decreases if Cows Don't Get Right Ration.

Indifferent feeding practices in the dairy herd are sometimes largely responsible for a drop in milk production during the summer, due to an uneven production which has a bad effect upon the profits of the dairyman, it is pointed out by C. L. Blackman of the animal husbandry department of the Ohio State university.

"The time to plan the summer management program is while the cattle are enjoying good pasture," says Blackman. "The big flow of milk usually comes in May and June while the cattle are enjoying nearly ideal feeding conditions. Later, when flies, hot weather and dried-up pastures come along, there comes a big slump in production, and the boys feel that the cows never come back to the high level of production."

Blackman asserts that when the undesirable pasture conditions come on it may be profitable to keep the cattle up during the day, and to feed some extra roughage, such as alfalfa. Sometimes, more grain may also be added profitably.

In addition to the careful management during the summer, a good breeding system which will bring the cows into milk at the times when the supply of milk is generally low and prices good, will help the farmer solve the problem of uneven production and consequent loss.

Grain Feeding of Cows on Pasture Necessary

Green, succulent pasture is naturally high in protein but is low in total digestible nutrients. A cow milking over twenty pounds of milk a day cannot eat enough pasture to provide the necessary nutrients to maintain that production. Grain feeding of cows on pasture is especially necessary, says J. [illegible] Nissley, extension dairyman, Kansas State Agricultural college. Her grain ration need not be high in protein because green feeds will balance the pasture. A mixture of 400 pounds of corn and 200 pounds of oats should be fed at the rate of one pound of grain to every four and one-half pounds of milk from the Ayrshire, Jersey and Guernsey, and one pound of grain to five pounds of milk from the Holstein.

Dry pasture contains about one-third as much protein as the green succulent grass. An understanding of this fact makes the successful dairyman begin to add a high protein feed to his grain ration as soon as pasture starts to dry. The grain mix then is composed of 200 pounds corn, 200 pounds oats, and 200 pounds of cottonseed meal. The rate of feeding is changed to one pound of grain daily to every pound of fat produced a week.

Plan Abundant Supply of Roughages for Winter

The shortage of good roughage during the past winter should insure an abundant supply of this type of winter feed during the future. Sometimes we need a real shortage in order to impress upon us the value of roughage as an essential part of the dairy cow's ration. As a matter of fact, roughage should form the basic part of the ration, with enough concentrated feeds being used to supply the balance of the nutrients and protein needed.

If sufficient alfalfa and clover hay is not in sight to meet the needs of the cows during the coming winter, we might suggest that soy beans be given consideration. Soy beans are an annual. They may be cut for hay or they may be threshed and used as a protein supplement. They will grow on land that is more [illegible] for clover or alfalfa. However, they will respond well to lime. The seed should be inoculated to give the best results in lime [illegible]

Physical Condition of Cow at Time of Calving

The physical condition of the cow at the time of freshening has a direct relation to the milk production for the entire lactation period, according to Dr. [illegible] Experience shows that if a cow freshens in poor physical condition as a result of having been fed poor rations for a period preceding, she starts considerably below her normal level of milk production and no amount of care in feeding and management will later bring her up to the level she should have reached had she been in proper condition.

Pasture Important

More total value per acre is obtained from pastures when they are not grazed too early or too closely. Early pastures, even though they are high in an abundance of protein, for dairy cows such pastures should be supplemented by highly concentrated feeds such as cottonseed meal, or [illegible] should be fed at the [illegible] and to each cow in proportion to the milk produced when the cows are on pasture.

Community Building

"Safety" Put First in New York

Some day it may occur to the people that approve subways to ask themselves the question, "What has been done for the safety of the people who live out there?" One [illegible] turned us as a phenomenon. A [illegible] a current periodical says Bayonne, N. J., is without doubt "the safest place spot in America." Bayonne is a suburb of New York city [illegible] Finally, as a residential district. These are some of the safety features: A series of courts, [illegible] 20 houses each grouped about a dead-end streets giving the access for motor cars to the rear [illegible] sidewalks along motor roads for pedestrians, just keep [illegible] through the courts or gardens [illegible] garages and kitchens and [illegible] offices to the houses lost [illegible] motor roads so that only those going to go to automobiles have reason to enter the vehicle [illegible] ways, subways being [illegible] over necessary.

The common sense of [illegible] arrangement is apparent in quiet, seclusion and safety [illegible] home, factors worthy of the consideration.—Kansas City [illegible]

Maryland Plans Living Roadsides

An extensive tree planting along the principal highways of the state is planned by the department of forestry, [illegible] W. Besley, chief forester. A concerted effort is to be made to maintain greater beauty along the land roads.

Not only will the forestry department furnish and supervise the planting of roadside shade trees and [illegible] and cities of the state but [illegible] of calling on the state [illegible] for improvement in the [illegible] Mr. Besley plans to [illegible] shade trees along the roads and in the nurseries. [illegible] on roadside property in [illegible] from the state's [illegible] University of Maryland [illegible] homeowners.

The forestry department has taken an educational [illegible] throughout the state, as the plan along the public highways [illegible] organized as an improvement only in importance to the [illegible] maintaining of the highways themselves," Mr. Besley said.

"While trees are furnished by the College Park [illegible] some changes must be made [illegible]

Applicable to All

Florida has miles and miles of splendid roadways that are all the more splendid [illegible] through roadside beautification as already has been done in many localities. There is growing appreciation of roadside beautification [illegible] as it should be, for [illegible] invitation to all the world [illegible] to some high [illegible] many natural beauties [illegible] which is the beauty of [illegible] sides that have been planted [illegible] trees and shrubbery, and in instances with flowers [illegible]—Florida Times-Union.

Foundation of Contentment

The solidity, contentment, [illegible] family feeling that are [illegible] an inevitable stamp of [illegible] reared under these conditions. They come with [illegible] ambition, [illegible] stability, which are the foundations of our culture, our moral and [illegible] air and play space [illegible] ably make better [illegible] —Cincinnati Enquirer.

Good Example

As a result of the campaign [illegible] claims to be one of the worst [illegible] in the world, [illegible] crowded streets [illegible] was effected [illegible] first offenders [illegible] failed to use [illegible] on the street [illegible] say that almost [illegible] ter problem [illegible]