

THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

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THE COUNTY FAIR

Reports coming from the American Legion committee in charge of this year's Malheur County Fair in Ontario indicate that August 25, 26 and 27, of this week, will be red letter days.

There may be more pretentious fairs and bigger race meets in the state, but at no other fair will you meet your neighbors and friends and see what Farmer John Brown, whom you've known for these twenty odd years, can grow on his place. At no other fair will you see the work of the boys and girls of the Malheur county 4-H clubs. At no other fair will you see the beautiful exhibits arranged by granges which represent the enterprising communities which carry their names.

The fair is a county event. Sponsors spare no effort in bringing in farm products from even the most isolated regions of this broad county. The state and county make up the cash prizes for agricultural exhibits which every year scatter from one section to another. Merchants of the three largest towns add other prizes which should prove an incentive to every tiller of the soil. The Vale-Owyhee Land Settlement association is cooperating by offering numerous awards for the new settlers of the Harper, Little Valley and Bully Creek units of the Vale irrigation project.

Take in the fair, see the exhibits—you'll have a good time.

We can sympathize with the Germans. They are having as much trouble electing a chancellor as Oregon.

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GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

Ralph Hill, University of Oregon athlete, lost a great race at the Olympics, but he won a greater race in sportsmanship.

Lehtinen, Finnish runner, nosed Hill out in the 5000-meter classic. Dagens Nyheter, a Swedish writer, stated that he saw the race plainly and added that there is no doubt but that Lehtinen prevented Hill from passing him.

"Not for a moment do I think Lehtinen did it purposely," he said. "He told me that he was so tired, practically finished, and could only remember that someone crowded him. Incidentally Lehtinen spoke very admiringly of Hill and made a noble gesture by pinning on him the colors of Finland all that he could do under the circumstances. I understand they will race in Chicago and if so, the event will be of tremendous interest."

Oregon has reason to feel exceedingly proud of such a splendid youth as Hill. He took an unfortunate circumstance with graciousness when he had an unquestioned right to contest the decision. He took his loss like a gentleman and a sportsman.

He is a brilliant runner, a good loser—and at the same time the winner by a league in the Olympics athletes, the hero of the boys and girls who turn out for track and sports in every school.

TWO-FOLD PURPOSE

The flower show festival which will be given Thursday, September 8, by the Nyssa Civic club at the Eagles Lodge hall serves a two-fold purpose and is an annual event. It serves not only to encourage and stimulate raising gardens and beautifying homes but also adds to the fair name of Nyssa. No admission charge is made and everyone is invited to inspect the floral exhibits.

Undoubtedly, the flower show has stimulated the beautifying of homes here. Even the prizes which are given, bulbs of the most gorgeous of tulips, encourage the gardener to better efforts. One has only to take a drive around Nyssa to see that people of this community are lovers of flowers.

A visit at the flower show will prove to many that Nyssa gardeners know their subject. Specimens will be judged in the morning before the show is open to the public.

STOCKMEN GET CREDIT—BRIGHTER TIME AHEAD

Ranchers of Malheur county, and other agricultural regions of the country, many of whom have been affected by drastic declines in prices, receive encouragement from the agricultural credit associations authorized by the federal relief act.

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation will establish these associations in the federal land bank districts with a capital of \$3,000,000 for the purpose of making loans to farmers or stockmen for livestock or agricultural investments. Loans will be secured by notes which will be rediscounted by the finance corporation, by federal reserve banks or federal intermediate credit banks.

From Washington came word Saturday that one of the eight regional corporations will have its headquarters in Spakone. This office will serve Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Branch offices will be established in Portland and Helena. The livestock season is near and there is need of finances for the handling of feeder cattle.

The corporation has been authorized to make loans for general farm and stock-raising development for a period of three years with an extension privilege of not more than five years.

There is a wide field for operation of the federal association in this region. It will be a help to farmers, sheepmen and cattlemen who have found money hard to get during the last two years. This may be the turning point for the livestock industry in Malheur county and if so, brighter times are ahead for all of us.

ODD. ISN'T IT?

The name of the city of Cleveland, Ohio, used to be spelled Cleaveland, after its first settler.

No adherent of the Jewish faith sat in the British House of Commons until 1858.

Prof. Samuel F. B. Morse, telegraph inventor, tested out his system on a sugar cane farm near Arroyo, Puerto Rico, before he made his famous demonstration in the United States.

In Chile the church is forbidden by law to perform marriages unless preceded by state marriages. Therefore all devoted Catholics who marry are married twice on the same day and to the same person.

Sitting Bull was finally captured lying down. The ancient Egyptians purified their drinking water with roasted barley, which took away any musty smell or taste.

The Serindit, a bird which inhabits the Malay peninsula, always sleeps upside down.

Admiral Byrd took ice boxes with him to the south polar regions to keep his provisions from freezing too solid.

There have been more vice presidents of the United States than there have been presidents.

Men who, two years ago, felt that they knew nothing of economics, are no longer lonesome.

Ma Kennedy wants not only a divorce but \$100,000 from What-a-Man. To get it she'll need better luck than the other women who have sued for damages—and satisfaction.

An open mind might be a don't care mind.

It is easy to tell this is election year. President Hoover has extended the duck hunting season.

A college president says modern girls are far more clever than their mothers were. He's been listening to the girls, we fear.

Why doesn't someone hold a pie eating contest while the huckleberries are ripe.

Voice of the Press

SIXTY CENTS IS MINIMUM

Several million bushels of wheat in eastern Oregon soon will be stored in elevators and there it will stay until the price rises to a point where it may be sold at a profit. Acceptance by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation of wheat as security for loans makes this course possible, and with additional districts joining the movement daily, it looks very much as though the efforts will meet with success.

For the last several years Oregon wheat farmers have operated at a loss. Some have been forced to the wall. Others are holding on simply because mortgage owners do not care to foreclose. Wheat farmers now are desperate. We have talked with several large growers of late. We asked them what they would have to get for their wheat to make a profit.

One of the most energetic told us that, given good crops, economy of operation and ordinary "breaks" he could make a small profit at 60 cents a bushel. Others placed the minimum at 70 to 75 cents.

DO YOU RECALL?

Do you recall, in the days gone by, when our county here was new. Some of the things that happened then, even to me and you

The town of Vale was a lonely place, with its Stone House standing grim. No trees were there, no lovely park, no green lawns neat and trim.

And the dauntless Bill and that Goslin boy had since finished their chore Of building the Butte and the river too, and were waiting to build some more. And the buckaroo with his jingling spurs, and his chaps and rawhide rope.

We saw each day as he rode through town, his cayuse on thelope. And the freighter, too, on his old wheel mule, his jerk line in his hand.

With the bells on his leaders playing a tune, through the alkali dust and sand.

His wagons piled up mountain high, with every kind of freight. For the people of Westfall, Drexsey and Burns, 'most half way 'cross the state. When we'd plan a dance in those far off days sometimes we were short of boys

To pay the fiddler, swell the crowd and help with our fun and noise.

Newt Lewis and his buckaroos would drift in from the hills. The dance was on, the fun we had, the memory lingers, thrills.

Tom Harris played as only he could play those tunes of old. His fiddle talked to the dancers there, and a tale of joy it told.

Tom Halliday, with his kindly way, managed the dancing hall. While John E. Johnson called quadrilles and taught us every call.

The rancher came through the dust to town in his lumber wagon or hack. He'd put up his team at Eaton's barn or tie to the hitching rack.

He'd go to the store where Milt or Zay would sell him grub or toys, Or maybe he'd stop at Pappy Wells' and have a drink with the boys.

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down there stood the Hess Hotel Where the weary traveler paused at night to eat and to rest a spell And Col. Wheeler and O. F. Buse and others I don't recall. Were the legal lights of those far off days and good me one and all. And B. L. Milligan, kindly soul, the friend of every one. Lead the schools of the county, his was the joy of tasks well done. And Billy Thomson taught us too, and many here today Have thought of him as a teacher and friend who helped in work and play. Then, up at Osborne's famous grove, on the Fourth we'd celebrate, With fun for all, both old and young, the gay and the more sedate. Horse racing on the dusty, we didn't need a track, Dancing in the open air, "First couple forward and back." Popcorn, candy and lemonade and fire-crackers too. We came and brought the family and stayed till the thing was through. There wasn't much you would now call sport but there were our neighbors and friends. The spirit of friendship, may we hope, was the kind that never ends. We wouldn't turn, if we knew we could, the wheels of progress back. The march is ever on and on, its only one way track. But just the same we like to pause and think of those days of old, The friendships rare we formed back there, as pure as the purest gold.

—By J. Edwin Johnson.

(Editor's Note: The foregoing poem was written by Mr. Johnson for the county pioneer reunion in Vale Friday.)

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