

ESTABLISHED 1854.

LEON, IOWA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 1919.

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CHAUTAQUA IS OVER

Big Attendance and the Attractions were all Good. Will Come to Leon Again Next Year.

The Leon Chautauqua which opened on last Thursday, closed last evening after a most successful week of entertainment and a contract will be made with the Midland Chautauqua System to return to Leon with their Chautauqua next year. The entire week's program was the single as first announced with the exception of the cancelling of the appearance of Lieut. Nelson with his airplane, but his place was filled by Capt. Joel R. Moore who told of the Bolshevik movement in Russia, there he spent nine months with the American troops, and he presented a dark picture for Russia until they can crush Bolshevism. The programs each day have been excellent, and everyone was pleased with them, the music being especially good. The Liberty Belles who appeared Friday were a mighty clever bunch of young ladies, who made good with the big audience. Ewing's Overseas Band which was here Sunday was a first class band, and they played everybody with the popular as well as classical music which they rendered. Then there was Charles Taggart, the Vermont Fiddler, the Amphion male quartet, that splendid concert on Monday, the Matheis, and yesterday the closing day the Welsh Ladies Choir delighted everyone who heard them, and they were the best company of singers ever heard in Leon. You can beat the Welsh people when it comes to singing, the lectures each day were good, the only criticism being that they were all about the war and war problems, just a little too much of it, but each individual lecturer covered his subject in the most interesting and interesting manner. The closing lecture yesterday afternoon was by Dr. Harry V. Adams, who spent his boyhood days in Davis City, and is known to many of our readers. He has made a great reputation as a lecturer, and he has been here for three years. We missed hearing him, for the Reporter had to be printed while he was speaking. The Henry's entertained everyone Tuesday with their music, magic and sand pictures. Rev. T. F. Campbell, the local manager, has worked like a beaver to make the Chautauqua a success, and it was with considerable pride he made the announcement Saturday evening that the finances were over the top, and the guarantee would not be called upon to make up a deficit this year. He deserves the thanks of every Chautauquan for his tireless work to make it a success. Yesterday evening there was a big Welsh picnic in the park at the Park, all the Welsh people residing in Decatur county being invited to attend and meet the Welsh ladies, and a picnic supper was enjoyed. The Chautauqua is over, everybody is tired, but happy, and will look forward with pleasure to its return again next year.

Van Wert Has New Auto Hearse.

H. O. Tuttle, the funeral director at Van Wert, has again shown his progressiveness by adding a new motor hearse to his equipment for better service. His first motor hearse served him well for three years, but it was not powerful enough nor strong enough to stand the strain of such extreme bad road conditions as we had last winter and spring. The new hearse is a Reo of the truck type, factory built chassis for heavy truck service, hence required no altering, strengthening for heavy mounting, and is capable of carrying many times the load required in its present capacity. The engine is of the heavy type of quality motor also built for heavy service. The color of the hearse body is a two-toned gray as before. We feel sure that Mr. Tuttle will experience no embarrassment nor trouble with his new hearse, which with the new building that is nearing completion will make his equipment as good as the best of them in his profession.

Another Old Soldier Resides in Leon.

We located another old civil war veteran who is a resident of Leon this week, Mr. A. J. Rumley, whose name was omitted from the list as published last week. This makes a total of 11 civil war veterans who reside in this city, the revised list being as follows:

John Archey, Robert Albee, Capt. J. D. Brown, Henry Bright, John Bell, J. W. Bowman, George Bowman, McDonald Brooks, W. S. Chalker, Peter Cruikshank, Steve Crouse, J. J. Evans, J. H. Evans, Gus Ehm, John Frazier, J. L. Gardner, James Grandstaff, Jonas Hoffhines, J. W. Honnold, Wm. Hines, Charles Holliday, W. H. Jenkins, A. A. Jenks, George Jennings, Louis Pullen, A. Merwin, John Moon, S. A. Oiler, J. H. Pitman, Jack Ross, E. J. Sankey, Isaac Smith, W. J. Sullivan, B. F. Statler, Marion Trust, Thomas Teale, John Woodman, W. L. Witter, A. R. Warford, F. Dingman, A. J. Rumley.

Thomas And His Dogs Again Make a Strike.

Alva Thomas and his bloodhounds returned from Decatur county where they were called Saturday to trace some thieves who persisted in bothring a woman whose husband was in the west. Thomas put the dogs on the trail and in a short time had located the parties guilty of the crime. Mr. Thomas states that this case ended up as a great many of the cases of this kind do; that when the guilty party was found the people ordering the dogs did not wish to prosecute when they found out who the guilty person or persons were. Mr. Thomas' advice to those who call the dogs is that if they want to know who the party or parties are the dogs will get them, and if they don't want to know who they are they had better leave his dogs alone for they will expose the whole show. Creston Advertiser.

Increase in Tax Levies Stand.

C. W. Hoffman and Ed H. Sharp went to Des Moines last week and appeared before the state executive council to protest against the big increase in values on Decatur county farm lands and live stock, which was announced last week, representing the Farm Bureau and Farmers Union, but the executive council has notified county auditor Meek that the increases will stand, except the increase on sheep which was reduced to 63 per cent, but they decided that an increase of 35 per cent would be sufficient. It developed at the hearing that the values returned by the assessors of Decatur county were much lower than those of adjoining counties, the valuation of farm lands as reported being the lowest in the state.

Racing Deluxe.

Everybody loves a good, honest-to-goodness real horse race. Well that is the kind that is promised for the Harrison County Fair, at Bethany, Mo., Sept. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7. The committee on racing for the 1919 fair raised the amount of the purse sufficient to attract the best racers owned west of the Mississippi, and in large numbers. The entries which are being made are said to be without a doubt the best collection of racers brought together at any County Fair in the Middle West. There is to be four big races each day of the fair, with a big list of fractions in connection. You had better not miss it.

A Luck Auto Accident.

Charles L. McLain, of Davis City, Emory Hewson, of near Leon, and Misses Hahah McVey, of Humeston and Opal Hewson, of near Leon, met with a lucky auto accident about 10 miles north of Leon last Sunday as they were returning from a trip to Camp Dodge. The Sedan car in which they were riding overturning in a ditch the result of a rear wheel breaking while coming down a hill, but all of the occupants escaped with no more serious injuries than being badly bruised up, and aside from the broken wheel the only damage to the car was a broken door.

Ice Plant Again in Operation.

The repairs for the big engine at the Leon ice plant arrived last Friday, and the engine was started Saturday morning at 2 o'clock, and has been on the job day and night ever since. The first ice was pulled Sunday, and we now have an ample supply, much to the relief of everyone. It's mighty inconvenient to be without ice. The ice company expect to erect a storage house the coming winter, in which a reserve stock will be stored for use in emergency, but owing to the lateness in getting the plant started it was impossible to have the storage room ready for use this summer.

Corn Picnic Date Changed.

On account of the date conflicting with the Humeston reunion, the date of the Garden Grove Corn Picnic has been changed from Sept. 12th too Sept. 19th.

Farms Wanted.

I will buy several farms in Decatur county, Iowa, if you want to sell worth the money. C. M. Abner.



THE FAMOUS BLUE DEVIL QUARTETTE 168TH INFANTRY BAND, RAINBOW DIVISION

The celebrated 168th Infantry band of the history making Rainbow division which recently returned from France, will be in Leon today and will give a two hour concert in the court house park this evening. This big band of forty pieces, the biggest band which was ever in Decatur county, is brought to Leon under the auspices of the Leon Chamber of Commerce. While the concert will be free to everybody, tags will be sold this evening by young ladies to assist in paying the big expense of bringing this band to Leon. No one is compelled to buy a tag, and you will be welcome to hear the splendid music whether you buy a tag or not, but if you enjoy the music we trust you will help pay the expense by buying a tag. With the band is the Blue Devil Quartette, and they are real entertainers. Come to Leon this evening and bring every member of your family with you, and you will hear the finest band concert you ever listened to. After the concert is over the jazz orchestra of the band will give a dance at the K. of P. hall.

Won Three Games the Past Week.

The Leon ball team made a clean sweep the past week, winning all three of the games which they played. They had two games at Allerton last Wednesday and Thursday with Allerton, winning both of them, the score on Wednesday being 4 to 3 and on Thursday 21 to 4. Sunday a big crowd attended the game with Osceola on the Leon grounds, which was won by Leon by a score of 7 to 6, the feature of the game being butchers' home run.

County Superintendent's Notes

An unusual treat in the way of special instruction for teachers will be given August 27, 28 and 29. Three days of Primary Instruction covering the work of the first three grades will be presented by Mrs. Helen Deck Roberts who is especially qualified for this work. The new course of study for Decatur county will be followed. This training costs you nothing and no teacher can afford to miss it. All teachers are invited but all rural teachers, especially the new ones, are requested to be present. The professional credits per day will be given for attendance.

Income Tax on Farms Sold.

On account of the large number of farms that have been sold recently the income tax question is one most frequently discussed. As we understand it, the ruling of the income tax collector is that when land is sold all the increase in value from March 1, 1913, to the time of the sale, or from the time of the purchase if it was bought after March 1, 1913, to the time of the sale, shall be considered as income of the year when the sale was made, and is subject to income tax. The fact that the proceeds of the land are reinvested immediately in other property makes no difference. The difference between the fair and reasonable value at the beginning of the term, and the fair and reasonable value when the land was sold, less any improvements which may have been made on the land in the meantime is the profit upon which tax must be paid. Osceola Sentinel.

Government To Take Census in 1920.

Next year the government takes a census of the United States, which is taken every ten years. Major Thomas W. Golden, of Creston, has been appointed census supervisor of the eighth congressional district, in which Decatur county is located, the other counties being Adams, Appanoose, Clarke, Fremont, Lucas, Wayne, Ringgold, Taylor, Union and Van Wert counties in all. When the last government census was taken in 1910, the population of these eleven counties was 131,855, and according to the state census taken in 1915, the same counties had a population of 195,657, a gain of 13,772. The state of Iowa had a population of 2,224,771 in 1910, and 2,358,066 in 1915. What will we have in 1920?

Congressman Towner Visited Leon.

Congressman H. M. Towner was visiting with his many friends in Leon last Thursday, having been one of the speakers at the Davis City reunion Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Towner is back from Washington on a short visit, and we enjoyed a pleasant visit with him. He tells us that no one knows more about high cost of living than the people of Washington City, and it takes all of a congressman's salary to live.

New Court Cases.

J. S. Brown vs. J. H. and Nettie Gilbert. Suit is on promissory note on which there is due \$101.50. S. H. Amos attorney for plaintiff. Guy L. Stark vs. M. F. Milled et al. Action is to quiet title to a lot in Leon. Varga & Son, attorneys for plaintiff. Jacob Piper vs. Esther Hatfield et al. Suit is to quiet title to a farm. Varga & Son attorneys for plaintiff.

TWENTYFIVE YEARS AGO

Items Taken from the Files of the Reporter Published a Quarter of a Century Ago.

The following marriage licenses were issued the past week: Leonard Sawyer 28 to Jane Yingling 27. John A. Wood 21 to Jessie A. Luse 17. Peter Martin, an old gentleman living on south Main street, was stricken with paralysis Saturday night and is in a very critical condition.

Mrs. M. L. Stephens died at her home southeast of Leon Saturday, her funeral being held Monday, conducted by Rev. Hughes. A little seven year old son of Aaron Goodman of north of town, cut himself very seriously on the foot with a corn cutter last Friday. Aunt Laura Loving, who was stricken with paralysis last week, died Thursday, and was buried on Friday.

L. T. Lee, of Long Creek township, who was badly scalded last week when a steam thrasher which he was operating broke through a bridge near Wathena, Kansas, was brought to Leon Monday and is at the home of John Sowers. He is getting along as well as could be expected. Flora E. Carter, a young lady 25 years old, committed suicide by hanging herself in the barn at the home of her father, L. W. Carter, a few miles southwest of Leon Monday. She had been sick for a year, and was very melancholy, and took her life while suffering from temporary insanity.

The irrepressible Ed Sharp returned to his home at Bethany, Mo., Saturday, with his face all wreathed in smiles. He had taken his 300 head sheep to the Shields farm near Grand River, and purchased 80 acres of excellent corn at a great bargain to winter them on. Rich Malloy and Granville Long started Tuesday morning to visit relatives and friends in Monroe county, making the trip on their bicycles.

The residents of the south part of Woodland township are greatly excited over a big wild animal which has been seen by several persons, but no one knows what it is. Mrs. J. Hoffhines received Saturday a bunch of cranberry bushes with the berries growing on them, which were picked in a cranberry swamp near Berlin, Wisconsin, by her daughter, Miss LaNelle, who is visiting friends in that city. They are quite a curiosity to people who have never had a chance to see cranberries growing.

The wheelmen are highly elated over the time made from Washington, D. C., to Denver, Colorado, carrying the message of President Cleveland to Governor White. The time was six days, 10 hours and 45 minutes, the distance 2,037 miles, something over 13 miles an hour from start to finish. This, including the many causes which impeded their progress, is remarkably good time.

Mrs. William Phifer.

The death of Mrs. William Phifer last Thursday, August 14th, was not unexpected, yet it brought with it a keen sense of bereavement to all residents of Manitow who knew this kind, Godly woman who for a quarter of a century had made her home in this town. Born near Bluffton, Wells county, Indiana, August 2, 1829, Clara Harvey was married to William Phifer on December 29, 1861. Two children, a son and a daughter, were born to this union. The family moved to Manitow in March, 1894. Four years later the father and husband died while on a business trip to Los Angeles.

The two children followed the father in succeeding years. The daughter was married to Mr. Charles Lester, his wife and baby dying and an aged brother of the deceased, Mr. Jerome L. Harvey, of Leon, Iowa, are the surviving relatives. Mrs. Phifer was well known in church circles and lived a Godly, consistent life. Realizing the near approach of death, she gave minute instructions as to her funeral and other related matters. At her request the sermon text at the funeral was Matt. 24:44. "Be ye also ready."

The service was held at the Methodist church, of which the deceased was a member. The body was taken to Monroe, Iowa, for interment. Manitow Springs, Colorado, Journal, August 15th.

Former Decatur County Couple Wed at Wheatland, Wyoming.

A very pretty wedding was solemnized July 16, 1919, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bruner, near Wheatland, Wyoming, when their eldest daughter, Miss Edna, and Alfred R. Van Aukon of Decatur, Iowa, were united in the holy bonds of matrimony in the presence of a few intimate friends, Rev. J. A. McClellan, pastor of the First Methodist church officiating. The bride made many friends at Wheatland during her short residence there, and is well and favorably known at her former home in Decatur, Iowa. The groom is one of our overseas boys and seems to possess the sterling qualities that Uncle Sam is proud to own. They will make their home on a farm near Wheatland, and have many friends who wish them peace and prosperous voyage through life.

The Davis City Reunion.

The usual big crowds were in attendance at the 25th annual Davis City reunion last week. They had ideal weather all four days, and everything passed off in fine shape. The speakers were Congressman H. M. Towner, Ralph Faxon secretary of the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce, Governor Harding, and President Fred M. Smith of Independence, Mo., the list of speakers this year being an exceptionally strong one.

AT THE THEATRE.

Program at the Idle Hour for the Coming Week.

Today, Thursday, August 21st, Enid Bennett in "The Haunted Bedroom" and Screen Magazine. Friday, August 22nd, Wm. S. Hart in "Border, Wireless" and Ford Weekly. Saturday, August 23rd, Wm. S. Hart in "Border, Wireless" and Strand Comedy. Sunday, August 24th, Geraldine Farrar in "The Stronger Vow." Monday and Tuesday, August 25th and 26th, Douglas Fairbanks in "He Comes Up Smiling." Wednesday, August 27th, Norma Talmadge in "The New Moon."

Taxation of Farm Lands

With considerable higher prices for farm lands, we must expect an increase in taxable valuation. The farmer cannot complain about this. Taxation is based upon values, and when values increase the amount of taxes paid will increase, assuming that the levy remains the same. And the chances are that the levy will not be any less; it is likely to be more, for the expense of running the state and national governments and of doing business grows, and taxing bodies have never achieved a reputation as economists.

While the farmer can not expect to keep down his taxable valuation, he must get that taxable land values are not increased faster than taxable values on other kinds of property. Here is where the farmer is weak. He is not looking after his own interests as he should. To illustrate: let us suppose the taxable value of lands are fixed by the executive council, which also fixes the taxable value on railroads and other public utilities. This is done at a hearing held in Des Moines, usually in July of each year, and hearing the various railroads are represented by tax experts, men employed by the year to look after the interests of the railroads. These experts are shrewd men. They study the matter thoroughly from the railroad standpoint, and they appear before the executive council and submit a mass of statistics which justify their argument.

The tax commissioner of the Chicago and Northwestern, Mr. Polleys, appeared this year with very careful studies of farm and city land values. He had looked up actual transfers and appraisals in some twenty-eight counties of the state. In these twenty-eight counties, the value assessment of farm land in 1918, according to his figures, represented only 38.17 per cent of their true value in January 1, 1919. He said that during the year there had been 23,000 transfers of acre property in the counties in question, and that these actual transfers indicated an actual farm value of \$194.31 per acre. Four hundred forty transfers of farm sales and probate appraisals indicated an average assessment value of lands for the entire state of Iowa in 1918 was \$68.30 per acre. From the statistics he submitted, he concluded that the average value of Iowa farm land on January 1, 1919, was \$180 per acre, or a little less than three times as much as the assessed value in 1918.

Then he submitted statistics concerning the transfer of lots in 358 cities and villages within the same twenty-eight counties; and he asserted that these transfers indicated that the assessment of real estate in these counties represented over 51 per cent of the sale prices.

Taking his investigations as to the value of farm lands and city lots as a basis, he proceeded to compare the assessed value of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, the whole purpose being to show that the railroad assessment was to high in comparison with other property.

Arguments based on careful compiled statistics have weight. The executive council pays attention to such arguments. It does not have time to check them up carefully, neither does any one appear before it who has checked up such statistics or who is prepared to submit statistics in the interests of the farmer.

Iowa farmers ought to employ a tax expert to do for them what they are not doing for themselves, and what they, of course, can not do for themselves. Iowa farmers do not want to dodge their share of the taxes. They are willing to pay proportionately as other people pay; but they ought to make sure that they are not paying more in proportion than other people pay. The purpose of taxation is to distribute as equitably as possible the burden of supporting the country, state and national affairs. The farmers pay land taxes than any other class of people or any enterprise within the state and county. A few thousand dollars spent in employing a thoroughly competent man to look after their interests in this matter would mean hundreds of thousands of dollars saved.—Wallace's Farmer.

Can't Change Name After Filing Record.

Hereafter you can't name your baby and then change the name on the birth certificate after it has been filed at the office of the state registrar at Des Moines. The name that the doctor writes down on the birth certificate is the name the party most vitally concerned will have in the state records the rest of its life. If the child has not been named when the first report has been filed out, a supplemental report may be filed in within ten days giving the child's name. The name may be changed after the certificate reaches the clerk at the county seat, but no changes are allowed after it reaches Des Moines. Certificates are mailed to Des Moines within the first week of each month.

Notice to Iowa County People.

The annual Iowa county picnic will be held at the J. W. Wagner park 3 miles southwest of Garden Grove, August 29th. All Iowa county people come. Per Secretary.

Marriage Licenses

Luther J. Bennett, Leon .....18 Goldie L. Phlips, Garden Grove.....16 Nicholas L. Grimmann, Kellerton.....21 Florence M. Messenger, Kellerton.....20

Will press your suit, my hour you say.

Leon Reporter.