

SUPPOSE IT DID RAIN

Oregon's Show of Live Stock and Old Settlers' Reunion on Friday a Splendid Success. The Agricultural and Fruit Show a Hard One to Beat--Surpassing All Expectations; the Fruit and Corn Exhibitions Take the Lead.

Oregon has had splendid success this season in entertaining the people of our county in various ways, and but for the miserable weather clerk bringing the terrible storm of Friday night last, the last of the season's shows which was billed for Friday and Saturday, September 15-16, would have proven THE event of the season, but as it was with the rains of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and a clear day Friday, the show on Friday was in every particular a most brilliant success. The exhibits in feed, farm and orchard products was simply astonishing, and is only another illustration of the loyalty and local pride of our farmers. The display of corn, apples, pears and potatoes was not only large, but as large as you will see at any average county fair, and but for the rains the three days previous, our exhibit hall would not have been half large enough.

We feel safe in saying that fully 1,500 people came notwithstanding the horrible condition of the roads, and a jollier and happier moving mass of people was never together in this or any other place. Every one, even Milton Herron, Martin Baum, Cummings Porter, Squire James Hart, Captain Frazier and that crowd of old settlers, seemed bent on having a good time—and they did. Everything possible was done for the comfort and convenience of the visiting multitude. Chairman Benton, Secretary Seaman, aided by the other members of the executive committee, Messrs. E. G. Raley, Chas. Fuhrman, F. E. Markland, T. L. Price, Charles Kooch, George Gelvin, Charles Cowan, Harvey Evans, Harry Hasness, Henry Cook and Sam Schulte, and the way they labored to make this show a success was a caution. Upon the shoulders of these men has rested almost exclusively the responsibilities of Oregon's summer entertainments, and they are entitled to the thanks of all our people—and only praise and thanks go to them from every loyal, patriotic, enterprising citizen. These gentlemen have the consciousness of having proved their loyalty and patriotism to their home town. It was not a question of how much of their time did it require, but what can we do to make these entertainments successes.

Friday was a fine day, and a splendid program kept the people on the alert to see it all—four great rings; attractions at the speaker's stand; the Barlow family of acrobats; the live stock show and the agricultural exhibits. Then came the old settlers reunion and handshaking, and a general good time. To talk over the days of Auld Lang Syne, how they won their way through privations. They were blazers of trails. They were men and women of iron nerve; of blood and muscle. They were representatives of that class who conquered the West, who gave tone to Western civilization, whose spirit still prevails in the west.

Most all our business houses were decorated for the occasion, and from the general expression, it was evident that the entertainment was pleasing and enjoyable. The people of our dear old little town certainly appreciate the visit of so many and their efforts and liberality in exhibits, in the various departments; the visits of the early settlers, and hope that the countenance of each and all will often be seen in the city where the merchants and business men are as apt at making you happy with goods and prices as they were in pleasing and entertaining.

May 27 at the draft and general purpose horse show.

June 10, when the double drivers were shown.

June 24, when the lady drivers made their entry into the ring.

July 13, when the dear mammas brought their babies to the show.

July 22, when the gentlemen showed their single drivers.

August 12, when the kickers were on exhibition—male day.

September 15, when the old settlers gathered together in reunion; when the products of the field and farm, and live stock were shown.

When, on the night of the 15th of September, nearly five inches of rain fell, and during the 24 hours from 10:30

p. m., Sept. 15, to 10:30 p. m., Sept. 16th it was 7.50 inches. This has never been equalled here since a record has been kept, beginning with 1852. The nearest approach to the precipitation was on July 16, 1900, when 7.03 inches fell in 24 hours. The electrical storm was unprecedented, and the general result of the storm was the carrying away of many bridges, destruction of telephone and electric wires.

Friday's program was carried out, and by 11 a. m. there were fully 1,500 people here from the surrounding country. Our band called the people together, and after an earnest prayer by Rev. Brock and a song by the glee club, President Benton introduced N. F. Murray as chairman of the day.

Mr. Murray spoke in the usual happy manner, of the growth of the country, the labors and trials of the old settlers and the great achievements made and accomplished by them. He told of our great development and resources, which had surprised the world, and this all in a comparative short time. Holt county, the garden spot of the great west, was the product of the adventure, toil and labor of those in whose honor we met today. Chairman Murray then introduced Mayor Murphy, who made the address of welcome.

Mayor Murphy spoke of the several occasions this year in which he was expected to welcome the visitors, and on each occasion the elements of nature seemed combined against him. In fact, he had to throw aside all effort at preparing for the address in the fear that the combined elements would turn upside down all the facts on which he based his speech. He spoke of the rapid transit of time and how short it seemed to be since he was a school teacher in this county, but none he saw in the audience were his pupils and while as children he remembered them, now their children were nearly as large as they were then, and all this in a few years. The old settler in a short life had seen the land brought in from the Indian and buffalo, and the land on which our beautiful little city stood, the former camping ground of the savage, was now the dwelling place, fit for the rose of Sharon, the Garden of Eden, and the most beautiful little city in the land. We live for the future and those who had builded so well at such cost to themselves deserved the most heartfelt gratitude of the younger generation who now could enjoy what the old settler labored for so faithfully and so long. Thus may we all in our short life hope to win from fortune a rich reward and the plaudit: "Well done."

Both addresses were well received by the large audience and a recess was then had to enjoy the performance of the Barlow family—acrobats and trapeze artists in every sense of the word. Everybody then went to dinner.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

The exercises were held at the grand stand, and after introductory remarks by Chairman Murray and music by the band and glee club, Judge H. T. Alkire, who was the speaker of the occasion, was introduced and spoke at length. The address was one of the most interesting ever delivered in our county, and on concluding the large audience gave him a most hearty vote of thanks. Owing to its length, we regret exceedingly that for want of type, we are unable to present it verbatim, and our readers must be content with an epitome, which we publish with great pleasure.

After the customary introductory he stated that as a people we never made history faster, nor history that was more interesting and important than that which we have been making since the first settlement of Holt county, and are still making today.

We must admit that nature did a great deal for Northwest Missouri and Holt county before primeval man, the mound builders, red men, or our own pioneers here; the many evidences of the superiority of Holt county's soil, some reaching back even to prehistoric times.

Finally came the old pioneers—many of whom were present on this occasion. He gave a history of the Platte Purchase: of the organization of the coun-

ties of Andrew, Nodaway and Holt. Of the early coming in 1838 of the first settlers of the county, Peter and Blank Stephenson, R. H. Russel, John Sterrett, John Russel, James Kee. On their coming all was one wild entanglement of luxurious vegetable growth, almost impenetrable except along the tortuous Indian paths. But the pioneers being descendants of a wiry and hardy stock and in perfect health found no amount of physical toil too much for them, and thus, with an enthusiasm that was fairly bubbling over determined to make for themselves farms.

"When the savage used to wander And the wild beasts made their lair, Now the farmer takes his porker To the nearest country fair; And the corn is daily growing Where the greasy wigwam stood And the red man hunted turkeys Where our milk cows munch their food." Their first homes were rude log cab-



JAMES W. RAMSAY.

ins, and dirt floors. They were most constantly in dread of the treacherous Indian. The old log school soon found a place among the people, and a desire for better things soon began to enter these peoples' lives. The new thought grew, and in the early 40's, the itinerant preachers came riding their perilous circuits, and with their coming and the coming of more people had much to do with the acceleration of a demand for educational privileges for the children of these early pioneers, and from the original school house, established in 1839, built by R. H. Russel 14x16, located on section 12, township 59, range 38, southeast of Oregon, and the less than dozen pupils taught by Uriah Garner, we now have 76 school districts, 4,769 school children, a public school fund of \$120,000, and 114 teachers; 78 school houses, and expend annually for teachers wages, \$41,751, and a total value of school property of \$131,550. Nine Graded and High schools. Our county was settled with as good, honest and intelligent lot of people as was any county in the United States, and today has just as good society. These forefathers had received but meager education themselves, but they made it possible for their children and their children's children to enjoy these great advantages in bounteous profusion.

One of the important elements in the settlement and development of every new country is bound to be that of transportation. He spoke of how our early pioneers brought their goods to their home and moved their surplus products to the markets; everything was hauled or drove; of the old fashioned high-bedded, lynch pin wagon with the chain to loop through one of the hind wheels for a brake. The steamboat plied the Missouri river, slowly creeping along on the waters and the ox team as slowly crept along the land. These gave way to the locomotive engine and the rattling cars that daily and nightly now traverse our country in every direction. The ox team gave way first to the two horse wagon, then the buggy and carriage, and now comes the automobile, perhaps to succeed all these. Now you can eat supper at home in Holt county, take a sleeping car, go to bed and sleep in undisturbed comfort and take your breakfast the next morning in St. Louis or Chicago, and nothing is thought of it. He spoke of the labor in getting their products to the markets by driving their stock; of the \$1.50 per hundred for dressed pork.

Many of those present had seen the reaping-hook yield to the cradle and the latter replaced by the binder; they knew the old wooden mold-board that supplanted the forked stick, and had followed the plow through all its changes until it had reached its present perfection. They had seen the pine knot and candle stick give way to the coal oil and electric light. The frail and treading of the grain to the threshing machine.

The early settlers were not of the idling and waiting kind. They went after the cows—and went after anything else they wanted, and they generally

landed the game, too. So, idle young men, take your cue from the example of these pioneers. Do not wait for some thing to turn up; but go to work your selves and turn something up. Do not be idlers, for idleness leads to crime. Move out; join the procession, and do something in life. These are progressive times, and men who have the grit to come to a country in the wild conditions that these settlers found here 60 and 70 years ago, and, by their own hands reduced it to such a state of cultivation as that which we see around us today, are men who will profit by every improve ment.

They came here and braved the dreaded red man, the wild beasts and the privations that they knew must come to them, and builded here for us the deep, safe and lasting foundations of our present splendid civilization. We ought to meet oftener with them and thus honor them and show them that we appreciate the sacrifices they made and the homes and civilization that they builded which will stand for ages as monuments to their early Christian influences. Their far-sightedness and sagacity in the choice of a habitation for their posterity and the educational fabric that has developed from the wise beginnings they made. They are passing out one by one. Let us make a special effort to see that the balance of their declining years are as pleasant as possible, and when we finally are called upon to follow them, one by one, to their last resting place, and these tired bodies of theirs—worn out in duties to us—are lowered into their graves, say in spirit and in truth: Well done, thou good and faithful servant, rest thou in peace forever.

THE OLD SETTLERS.

Then came the awarding of the prizes to the oldest lady and gentleman settler, present, and consisted of a handsome rocker to each, presented by Oregon's Business Men's Association. Mrs. Eliza Sterrett won the lady's rocker, James W. Ramsay won the gentleman's chair. Following the presentation by Chairman Murray, Messrs. George Meyer and Martin Baum made short talks. The Glee Club sang, "My Old Kentucky Home," and a general handshaking and greeting then followed. We give the roster and brief sketch of those in attendance:

Born.	Came to Holt.
Adolph George.....1829	1851
Alkire Henry.....1830	1853
Alkire H. T.....1854	1855
Baum Martin.....1823	1844
Cowan John G.....1820	1856
Curtis James.....1839	1844
Curtis J. H. C.....1830	1858
Hart James S.....1829	1854
Hodgin John.....1831	1855
Huiatt Dan.....1830	1845
Kneale James.....1824	1849
Kunkel Daniel.....1844	1847
Markt Fred.....1838	1855
Meyer George.....1827	1844
Meyer Gottlieb.....1836	1844
Pierce Mrs. Chas.....1834	1844
Porter Cummings.....1819	1850
Raley Hugh.....1833	1856
Ramsay James W.....1838	1841
Sterrett Mrs. Eliza.....1817	1838
Sipes Peter.....1815	1840
Sipes Peter.....1843	1843

Those who enrolled as being among the early settlers of our county were the following:

Mrs. Eliza Ann Sterrett: Born in Clark county, Ohio, Aug. 28, 1817. Married to John Sterrett in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, September 13, 1833. Came to Holt county in July, 1838 June 30, 1855, her husband died and she has ever since remained a widow. She was the mother of nine children, three of whom are living, the eldest, Wm. H. Sterrett, of this city, came to the county with his parents when four years of age. She was the second white woman to have crossed the Nodaway river—the first being the wife of Blank Stephenson, who crossed the stream only a few months before. The Stephensons came in the spring of 1838, and were the first settlers; in the summer of that year the Sterretts and Kneales came. She is enjoying most excellent health for one 88 years of age. She was the winner of the handsome rocker given as a prize by the Business Men's club, of Oregon.

James W. Ramsay was the son of Thomas Ramsay and came to this county in March, 1841, with his pa and ma. He was born in Hancock county, Ind. June 17, 1838. On March 6, 1862, he married Sarah O. Jackson, her parents coming here in 1852, her father being John F. Jackson. Their family consists of four children, all of whom are still living, their eldest son, John F., served as sheriff of our county during the years 1898-1902. Mr. Ramsay won the gentleman's rocker, given by the Business Men's club, as being the oldest male settler present.

Milton Herron made his first appearance on this world's stage of action, in

Fayette county, Pa., September 15, 1829, and came to the reunion to celebrate his 76th birthday. He first came to Oregon in 1868, where he engaged at his trade, that of carpentering, and when not busy fishing, still drives away at his trade. He is remarkably well preserved and a jollier old soul you never did see. He located in Mound City in 1870, and is still there—if not there you can reach him by phone at Big Lake. He married Mary E. Gavener, who is still living. They have had two children, but both are now dead.

Captain W. W. Frazer came to Holt county from Cumberland county, Pa., October 15, 1870. He was born January 4, 1824. He located in Oregon. He remained here only a short time and in 1871 went to Mound City, where he has been engaged in the hotel business for a number of years. In 1848 he married Miss Mary Mickey, in Pennsylvania. They have had seven children, six of whom are living. Both Mr. and Mrs. Frazer are enjoying most excellent health.

Cummings Porter is a native of Washington county, Ohio, having first seen the light of day October 27, 1819, and will therefore reach his 86th mile post on the 27th of next month, which we all hope he may. He located in this county April 14, 1850, near Jackson's Point, now Mound City, and has always been known as a farmer and a grower of Short Horns. He was first married to Miss Frances Skeen, of Washington county, Ohio. There were four children in the family, three of whom are living—D. W., D. C. and Mrs. J. L. Dryden. He is now a widower.

James S. Hart, the old harness maker of Oregon, was also here. He was born in Kerkenier county, New York, January 7, 1829, and came to Holt county in 1854. He located at Oregon in the harness business. After a stay of 20 years here, he then went to Mound City and continued his business, and is now retired. In 1853 he married Deborah M. Irving, who is still living. They have five children living, one being dead. Hart used to live where Harry M. Dungan now resides. He is now 77 years of age and looks as though he may yet be good for another dozen years.

Plain, good natured Uncle John Hodgins was here on the spot and enjoyed the day greatly. He was born in Washington county, Indiana, July 2, 1831, and came to this county in April, 1855, and entered the farm in Hickory township which is still owned by him, and for which he paid \$1.00 per acre. His first marriage was to Mary A. Hill, in Indiana, in 1855. To them four children were born, three, all boys, are still living. Mrs. H. died in 1884. In 1887 he married Mrs. DeDolt, and in 1902 they moved to Maitland, where he and wife are enjoying their retired life.

Henry Alkire was, we believe, the only native born Missourian in the old settlers' class present. He was born in St. Charles county, Mo., March 27, 1830, and came to Holt county in August, 1853, locating on this side of the Missouri river a little north of White Cloud. He married Anna Madill, of Platte county, and they had five children, all of whom are now living. Mrs. A. died several years ago.

Fred Markt was born in Baden, Germany, May 21, 1838. He came here with his parents in January, 1855. He married Barbara Shorb in September, 1865. They have had nine children, seven of whom are living. He served in the Union army.

James Kneale was born on the Isle of Man, April 24, 1824, and came to Holt county in 1849, on July 31st. He located in Oregon, and then went to work at the old Hollister Mill. In 1865 he began farming in earnest, and located on the old Keeney farm, south of Oregon and now known as the old Galbraith place. He married Ruth Wickham, of Andrew county, in 1853. They are the parents of 11 children, 10 are living. He says he has 50 grand children and five great-grand children. His first farming was done on the old Jack Beeler place, now owned by James Meyer. He arrived in New Orleans July 5, and did not get to sleep in a bed until he arrived here on 31st—25 nights.

Good natured Daniel Kunkel, who sings way down mit his throat, landed in Holt county in October, 1847 from Crawford county, Ohio, where he was born December 12, 1844, and has been a miller all his life. He has held the position of county clerk. He married Mary E. Casey on his birthday in 1871, and they have three children and four grand children. He served in the Union army.

George Meyer was born in Baden, Germany, March 5, 1827, and came to Holt with his parents in October, 1844, the family locating on a farm, northwest of Oregon. He was one of the gold seekers of 1849, and one of the few survivors of those who went to California from this county. He married Mary Ann Kunkel in 1851. They have had 13

children, five living and 11 grand-children. He has retired and takes life easy in the city of Oregon.

Mother Christina Sipes was the oldest person present, being now in her 91st year. She was born in 1815, in Morgan county, Ky., and came to Holt county in 1840. She was the daughter of Valentine Worley, one of the early settlers, and is the widow of Noah Sipes, who died while in the service as a soldier in defense of the Union. She owns a farm some two miles north of Forbes, on which her daughter, Rebecca Spencer and husband reside, and with whom she makes her home.

Gottlieb Meyer was born in Baden, Germany, August 11, 1836, and came here with his parents in 1844. He is a brother of George Meyer of whom we have spoken above. Gottlieb and Mary Markt were married in January, 1866. They have had four children, three of whom are living and all are boys. He has six grand-children.

Mrs. Charles W. Pierce was born in east Tennessee, in Hamilton county, in 1834, and came to Holt county with her parents in 1844, James Keeney, Sr. As Elizabeth Keeney she married Mr. Pierce in 1851. She is the mother of five children, four living. Mr. Pierce died June 17, 1904.

Martin Baum came here in June, 1844, coming here from Crawford county, Ohio, where he was born January 5, 1823 and located on the old Tommy Ramsay place east of Oregon. He married Carolina Huiatt in 1852, and they had four children, all of whom are living. She died a number of years ago and Mr. Baum remarried, choosing his wife's sister for his second wife.

Hugh Raley is the only bachelor among those who came here in the 50's. He came to Holt county in October, 1856, from Rockbridge county, Va., where he was born December 31, 1833. He is a carpenter and keeps house alone having a neat little house in the central part of the city, on the west. He is quite active for one 72 years of age and enjoys excellent health.

J. H. C. Curtis was born in Berkeley county, West Virginia, January 1, 1830, and in 1858 he came to Holt county. He followed mill-wrighting for a number of years, and in fact until age came along and told him to quit. He served as county clerk 1875 to 1883 and 1895 to 1899. In 1874 he married Charlotte Henry, who is still with him. They have no children.

James Curtis was born in Marion county, Indiana, August 25, 1839, and came here with his parents in October, 1844, and is still living on the old home place in the Union district. He married Elizabeth Cottier in December, 1865. They have had four children, one being dead.

Judge Dan Huiatt was born in Ripley county, Indiana, July 1, 1830, and came to Holt county with his parents in 1845, locating on a farm near the Huiatt grave yard in Forbes township. He married Martha Ashworth in August, 1852. They are the parents of 13 children, six girls and three boys living. Mrs. Huiatt was the oldest of a family of 13 children.

George Adolph was born in Baden, Germany, March 7, 1829, and came to Holt county, in 1851. He was a cabinet maker by trade and pursued his calling for years, then engaged in farming. He is also a veteran of the Civil war. His first wife was Barbara Brunner, by whom he had eight children, seven of whom are living. In 1895 he married Mrs. Minnie Seaman, who is living.

John G. Cowan was born in Kentucky in 1820, and came to Holt county from Andrew county in 1856, and located on the John B. Ish land near New Point. He was the pioneer breeder of Short-Horns in the Platte Purchase. November 20, 1844 he married Mary E. Gresham, of Andrew county, by whom he had seven children, six of whom with wife are still living. He has retired from active life and resides in Oregon.

Peter Sipes was the only native born Holt countyite present. He was born April 25, 1843, and has never changed his residence. He married Nancy Carter in January, 1863, and they have nine children, who with the wife, are still living. He served in the Union army.

Judge H. T. Alkire was born in Platte county, Missouri, September 6, 1854, and came to Holt county the following spring, March, 1855, and therefore came near being a genuine Holt county boy. He was married in 1879, and have had 9 children, five of whom are living. He is a graduate of the Kirksville State Normal and the State University law school. Has represented our county in the legislature and is at present our capable probate judge.

We regret that ill health prevented the attendance of Mrs. Mary Pierce. She is another of Holt's splendid, old pioneer mothers. She was born in West-moorland county, Pennsylvania, February 7, 1823. Her maiden name was