

OBSERVING THE NATAL DAY

Changing Ideas About Celebrating Independence Day.

CHECKING THE RIOT OF NOISE

Losses of Life and Property Demand Safer Methods of Celebrating—Some of the Deadly Fireworks.

According to the calendar, today is the natal day. Tomorrow will be the awful day. During 364 days of the American year, frequent publication is made of the ravages of the Fourth of July on life and property.

Some progress is being made toward safety and sanity. Seven states and scores of cities have passed laws prohibiting the use of fireworks on the Fourth of July.

The present generation does not remember that during the latter part of the eighteenth century and even during the greater part of the nineteenth, there were no such fireworks and explosives as are used today.

The nature of the speeches and dinners varied with the locality, but in one respect all were the same. They agreed absolutely in the number of toasts.

Parades in the larger towns were features of the celebration during the early years of the republic, but the principal part of the celebration was the banquet and its oratory.

The prophecy of John Adams has come true. This day is celebrated with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, gunnery, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of the country to the other.

With the increase of the noise came the decrease in the patriotic orations and prayers. Before the fiftieth celebration of the day had been observed noise had almost entirely supplanted oratory.

Deadly Fireworks. The toy cannon is a great joy to a boy, but it kills far more than its share of children. It is the wickedest of the fireworks in which gunpowder is the explosive.

The toy balloon does no injury to the one who sends it up. But the torch of shavings and resin, which makes the gas which raises it, biases for nine minutes. The paper of the balloon often takes fire from the wind doubling it up.

The very dangerous fireworks contain a mixture of chlorate of potash, sulphur and charcoal. Substances which explode with greater force than gunpowder are called "high explosives." Chlorate is one of these.

The "shooting" and "lighting" matches have lumps of chlorate of potash in them which explode as the flame reaches them. They may throw sparks into rubbish and other stuff which takes fire easily, and into eyes, putting them out.

The shooting cane has an iron boot, in the leg of which are put loose, one of which explodes each time the end of the cane is struck against the pavement.

The cannon cracker is a murderer. The largest ones have in them two-thirds of an ounce of chlorate of potash and one-third of an ounce of sulphur with a little charcoal.

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GOOD ROADS IN CANAL ZONE

Work Begun Centuries Ago Resumed by Uncle Sam.

FINE DRIVES ARE PROJECTED

Part of Plan to Develop Farming on the Isthmus—Possibilities of Raising Fruits and Vegetables in Panama.

PANAMA, June 19.—How many people know that the United States is building an elaborate system of roads in connection with the canal? The construction of these macadam roads in a land subject to sudden tropical floods is in itself a big task.

The road will lie through a country shaded by broad trees and heavy with other tropical vegetation. It will be uphill and down and to the charm of the jungle drive will be added now and then glimpses of the ships of many nations plying from one great ocean to the other.

From the trunk roadway lateral branches will meet back into the country on both sides of the canal and connect with a system of roads that the Republic of Panama has projected into the undeveloped interior of the country.

Purpose of the Highway. The purpose of the road building by the United States, or, to be exact, by the zone government, is first to connect the villages along the line of the canal, and second, to induce a permanent population in the zone by opening up the land to agriculture.

The zone is fifty miles long and ten miles wide, and the lands to which the projected highways will give access comprise about 29,000 acres, three-fourths of which are owned by the United States.

Nearly all the remainder will have to be reclaimed from the jungle. The intention of the government is to lease the land for agricultural purposes only and to limit the term of the leases to not more than twenty-five years.

Work on the trunk roadway has already made good progress. The cost of the roads is being defrayed from funds collected by taxation in the zone.

From the Atlantic side the trunk road will run from Cristobal to the entrance to the canal, to Gatun, on the north shore of Gatun lake, a distance of eight miles. The macadam highway from Gorgona on the south shore of the lake to this city will be eighteen miles long.

French Began the Work. This opening up of roads through the isthmus was undertaken by the French only on a very limited scale. The Americans upon their occupation in 1904 found only a few ill-kept trails leading from the more important villages of the interior, and these were impassable in the rainy season.

Then, as even now, about the only good avenue of travel was the line of the Panama railroad. Today those living in the interior villages follow their uncertain trails down to the railroad, and then strike out with their pack animals over the ties for either Cristobal or Colon.

The Canal Record, the commission's official organ, pointed out in a recent issue that practically the only systematic attempt at permanent road construction on the isthmus until the Americans took hold was that done by the Spaniards in the sixteenth century.

The French built a road from Panama to Corozal, a distance of three miles, but it was so badly washed out when the Americans took hold that they will have to rebuild it.

First American Roads. The first roads built by the Americans were those running from the city of Panama westward to La Boca, a distance of two and one-half miles, and eastward to the boundary of the canal zone, a distance of three and three-quarter miles.

The building of macadam roads in Panama is, however, a pretty expensive proposition, and after the construction of these first roads, experiments were made with cheap classes of highway.

The trunk road from Cristobal to Gatun has been graded to a width of twenty-four feet and will be macadamized to a width of sixteen feet. It has necessitated the construction of thirty-four culverts.

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At the Omaha Theaters

Boyd Opens Its Moving Picture Season with a Free Show—Moving Pictures at the Burwood and Drama at the Airdome.

THIS afternoon and evening the first of the moving picture exhibitions at the Boyd will be given. The show will be free to all who care to come, the idea being to give as many people as possible a glimpse of the possibilities of this exhibition over any other in Omaha.

The films to be shown at the Boyd are of the very best, and of a type but recently designed, being non-inflammable, and therefore perfectly safe. The machine for projecting them is also of the very latest model, in which the difficulties of the older style machines have been entirely overcome.

The pictures will be shown in clear, strong light, with no flicker or dim effects to tire the eyes. The theater is cool and comfortable all times, and with doors and windows open on all sides and plenty of fans moving, will always be a pleasant place to spend a few minutes or a few hours, resting and enjoying an entertainment of high order.

"Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" will be the offering this week at the Air Dome Summer theater, at the corner of Eighteenth and Douglas streets. Few stories of fiction are so widely known. In his story, Stevenson depicts Dr. Jekyll as a kind and benevolent physician, but his desire to get out and mingle with degraded humanity and see the seamy side of life, leads him to dabble in transcendental medicine, by which means he has hopes to hide his identity.

His experiments at last are successful, and he is transformed into a man of a different nature. Upon taking this compound he finds to his joy that it changes his outward form beyond recognition by his friends, and when in this character or condition, he calls himself Mr. Hyde.

He meets his old colleagues and associates and they shrink from him in horror, having no idea that this shrunken, fiendish being is in fact their much loved and respected Dr. Jekyll. His first few trips to the slums are very successful. On his return to his laboratory, he has but to take the antidote and the reaction is wonderful, for he is instantly transformed to his original self; but Dr. Jekyll is so fascinated by the fact of the phenomenal changes to Hyde he cannot

natural scenery in the interior that will be well worth looking at. Falls in the Rivers. The canal commission's men have been working on a survey of the Chagres river watershed since last November and have discovered some interesting facts in regard to the interior of the land.

The rivers of the Boqueron region also were found to be very swift, rising at one point near the headwaters in 100 feet in four miles. The greater part of this rise consists of sheer falls. On the Candoso river two falls were discovered within a few feet of each other with a total height of over 500 feet.

The members of the canal commission do not believe that there will be any difficulty in renting the government lands for agricultural purposes after the country has been opened up by the roads. The commission apparently looks forward to American enterprise stepping in and making a real use of these lands.

Panama Agriculture. The Panamanians and the West Indian negroes on the isthmus are slothful and unambitious as farmers. There is today a ready market for all the fruit and vegetables they would raise, to say nothing of eggs and chickens.

A fresh egg is one of the hardest things to get on the isthmus. In fact it's just about impossible. Over at the Tivoli hotel in Ancon, where they charge you \$1 a day to keep your baggage in a room, they think they are doing you a special favor if they give cold storage eggs that have been dipped in wax.

Well, Colonel George W. Goethals, the engineer in charge of the canal work, likes fresh eggs, and soon after he arrived at Culebra he began looking around for a farmer who would supply him with them. He looked and looked and looked, and here there seemed to be none. Furthermore, none of the local farmers, so called, seemed to care whether they kept hens or not.

But finally Colonel Goethals found one farmer who after urging allowed the colonel to rent a hen house for him and later agreed to let the colonel buy the feed for them. So after presenting the farmer with a hen coop, the hens and the feed for them the colonel now buys the eggs from him.

The commission has been conducting experimental gardens on the isthmus since 1906 with a view to assisting in the development of the land. The commission's experts have found that many tropical fruits and many vegetables of the temperate zone can be raised profitably on the isthmus.

Indeed the experiments have progressed so far that some men in the zone are already looking ahead to the time when the growers of fruit and vegetables on the isthmus will find a good market for their products on the big ships that will pass through the canal.

Commission Runs Its Gardens. The commission now has four gardens under cultivation—at Ancon, Corozal, Empire and Pedro Miguel. The one at Ancon is devoted especially to the growing and cultivation of vegetables of the temperate zone. The results attained there are reflected in landscape gardening at most of the villages along the line of the canal.

The soil on the isthmus is worked the year round, different crops being planted in rotation; but the farmer is kept guessing by the eccentricities of the dry and rainy seasons. The insects, especially the ants, cause the most trouble.

In the government gardens a regular campaign has been carried on against the ants until they have just about been annihilated in those spots. The experts have gone to the attack with carbon bisulphide, setting it on fire and exploding it subterraneously. The poisonous fumes suffocate the ants. They have also laid for the ants with flaming asbestos torches and swooped down upon them as they traveled in millions along their beaten paths by moonlight.

The commission's gardeners haven't been able to get as good results in a wet season as in the dry season in raising truck, but with decorative gardening they have been able to accomplish more in the rainy season.

Many vegetables and fruits from the temperate zone have been introduced into the isthmus since the American occupation. They are growing Nicaraguan strawberries with good results, also Florida oranges, California navel and Florida grape, Muscadine grapes, cucumbers, sweet potatoes, tomatoes and beans.

AMUSEMENTS

Grand Celebration

—AT—

COURTLAND BEACH

Sunday and Monday

July 4 and 5

consisting of Fireworks and Free Vaudeville Acts, Bathing, Boating and Dancing and other Amusements.

Monday Afternoon and Evening

Rowing Regatta, Launch Races and Grand Illuminated Water Carnival.

ADMISSION - - - 10c

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Performances 1 O'clock to 5; Tonight 7 O'clock to 11.

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Positively the Best Moving Picture Exhibition in the City.

THEATER COOL AND ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF

Non-inflammable Films Used.

Price, 10c; Children Accompanied by Parents, 5c

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TRAVELLOUSE, Scenes in Strange Lands.

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EXTRA—Special Organ Recital Monday Evening, 9 to 9:30. Grand New Show Thursday.

The Event of the Season. See Them Run.

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Vinton Street Park

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General Admission 25c. Base Ball Prices.

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Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Admission, 10c and 20c.

NEXT WEEK—"Dora Thorne"

AMUSEMENTS

BEAUTIFUL LAKE

MANAWA

TODAY

Sunday, July 4,

and Tomorrow

Monday, July 5.

OMAHA, SOUTH OMAHA and COUNCIL BLUFFS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE TWO BIG INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS.

THE BIG MAIN EVENTS FOR THE THREE CITIES.

Two Magnificent Exhibitions of PAIN'S FIREWORKS

Ordered Direct from Pain Factory by Jos. F. Billz.

Patriotic Program by MANAWA CONCERT BAND

Balloon Ascension

By Dare Devil Andrews.

And Other Special Events.

Thousands Are Coming from Surrounding Towns.

START EARLY AND AVOID THE BIG RUSH.

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