

The Times-Herald goes regularly to more homes in Harney County than any other newspaper. If you wish to reach the people use these columns for your advertisement.

# The Times-Herald.

The Times-Herald is an old established friend of the people of Harney County where it has been a weekly visitor for thirty years. Its job department is equipped to serve your needs.

July 29, 1918  
is missing

VOL. XXXI

BURNS, HARNEY COUNTY, OREGON, JULY 27, 1918

NO. 39

## HARNEY COUNTY LAND DEEDS DECLARED BOGUS

### Handwriting Expert Says Signatures to 16,000 Acres Pacific Livestock Holdings Spurious. Others Faked or Doubtful.

The following was published in the Portland Journal of last Tuesday under a Salem date line.

Attorney General Brown today received from T. Kytka, widely known handwriting expert of San Francisco, a report showing that signatures to deeds to more than 16,000 acres of land now held by the Pacific Livestock company in Harney county are either forged, faked, or very doubtful as to their genuineness.

This report will be submitted to the state land board by the attorney general for the board's consideration in deciding what shall be done with suits brought by the state against the Pacific Livestock company to recover thousands of acres which it is alleged were obtained from the state by fraudulent means.

With this report in hand, the attorney general is now ready to proceed to trial with these land fraud cases which have played an important part in the politics of this state in the last few years. Efforts were made in the last legislature to hamstring the prosecution by refusing to make needed appropriations, while Governor Withycombe and State Treasurer Kay have endeavored to have the suits dismissed, but former Governor West and Attorney General Brown insisted on the state making an effort to recover the lands, which had been taken from the heritage of the school children of the state by fraud.

In light of the report from Mr. Kytka, who is almost continuously employed in the service of the government as handwriting expert, it is not considered possible that the state land board can do anything else than direct the attorney general to proceed with the prosecution. In proceeding, the attorney general will seek to amend the complaint which has been filed in the circuit court for Harney County and failing in that, the present suit will be dismissed and a new action will be instituted as the present complaint is based on a wrong theory as to how the lands were fraudulently acquired.

"In many instances," says Mr. Kytka's report, "the evidence submitted has convinced me that the signatures were forged, and in many other cases, due to the limited material available, I have been unable to say positively that the signatures were forged, or that the transactions were fraudulent. These I have classified as doubtful, for the reason I cannot pass the signatures as genuine because of so many circumstances connected with the transaction and because of their close relationship to other transactions clearly shown to be fraudulent."

Assistant Attorney General J. O. Bailey, who has done much work on the case, said that in many cases it was found that names of cowboys and other employees of the cattle company were forged in acquiring the land, and in other cases fictitious names were used.

The Pacific Livestock company objected to turning over the deeds to a handwriting expert for study of the signatures until after the attorney general had filed a motion in court demanding the opportunity to see the deeds. Then the company turned them over without waiting for the order of the court. The papers involved were turned over to Mr. Kytka in August, 1917, so practically a year has been taken in making the study.

## GRASSHOPPERS STILL AT WORK

Frank Whiting was in town yesterday afternoon and when asked about his haying and other harvest he said the grasshoppers were trying to harvest his oats, even after they were cut and shocked. The hoppers invaded his field and he decided to cut the oats, even though they were green, to prevent the pests from destroying them. However, he used a binder and shocked the oats and the hoppers have decided to eat up the shocked grain.

Cooler nights have followed the recent rain storms.

## WANTS THE BOYS FIT

Uncle Sam wants his selective service men who are called to the colors hereafter to reach the training camps mentally and morally fit in every way, and with at least an elementary knowledge of military drill.

The condition in which a man reaches camp makes a surprising difference in his usefulness as a soldier. Actual experience has demonstrated that men who come to camp clean, sober, willing and determined to do their part, will be ready to leave for the battle front at least a whole month, and often more earlier than others not so fit.

This having been demonstrated, Uncle Sam has undertaken a plan to educate all selective service men so they will be better soldiers and better men when it comes their time to be called to the colors.

With this in view, the various local draft boards throughout the county have just been notified, through a leaflet from the provost Marshal General at Washington, of a method for bringing personal instruction to each man by means of local boards of instruction, to be appointed by the draft boards.

These boards of instruction are to be composed of thoroughly patriotic and capable citizens of each community. It is intended that they shall do more than instruct. For instance, the members of the instruction board will endeavor to ascertain and clear up all the perplexities that may beset the registrant, and to be of practical assistance to him in every way.

The first meeting of registrants for instruction, the leaflet suggests, might well be at the time of the medical examination. The registrants may be assembled in small groups for personal interviews, it is suggested, and encouraging suggestions made to them as to the personal value of military training and of outdoor life, the chances for promotion, the aid and friendly support of the Red Cross, the Army Knights of Columbus, the Y. M. C. A., the Hebrew Welfare Board, and the Commission on Training Camp Activities.

Prior to their induction, it is planned that the men shall be called together once or twice by order of the local draft board, to meet in groups for instruction in the following subjects:

(a) The provision which the government has made for the protection and welfare of disabled soldiers and, in the event of death, of their families and dependents, through its War Risk Insurance Bureau.

(b) The Government provision for allowances and allotments to soldiers dependents, these provisions being so liberal that the soldier can rest assured his dependents will be amply cared for.

(c) Discussion of such subjects as "Why America Entered the War," "Why America Must Win the War," "The Necessary Character of the American Soldier," "Sexual Restraint and the Avoidance of Liquor as a patriotic obligation," "Camp Life," etc.

It is also planned to conduct preliminary drill to familiarize the men with its first principles. It has been found that this work actually places the men a month or so ahead in capacity to become efficient soldiers, and of course the well drilled man has a much better opportunity of obtaining quick promotion than the man who has to begin at the beginning and learn everything after he enters the service.

The Government is encouraging draft registrants wherever possible to enter local militia reserve organizations in their communities for drill.

## FOLLOWING OUTSIDE CUSTOM

Congress advanced the time an hour last spring at the instance of President Wilson. It was for the purpose of saving daylight and giving people an opportunity to take advantage of the added hour after the usual work day in the evening. In the larger cities it has been the custom for a long time to close business houses at one o'clock in the afternoon on Saturday. The banks generally close on Saturday at noon. Some of the stores of Burns have seen fit to close at 6 o'clock in the evening on Saturday, the same as other days in the week. It should be remembered that help is hard to get and after the employees of a store or any other business have had 12 hours constant work they feel they have done a day's work.

## SHEEPMEN BUY HAY NEAR IDAHO LINE

### Jones & Lane Purchase Large Amount of Alfalfa Near Ontario, Paying \$15 a Ton For It, and \$10 For Ensilage.

F. P. Lane and D. T. Jones, well known local sheep owners, Tuesday evening returned from Idaho. They left here last week in Mr. Lane's Cadillac, and during their absence visited Ontario and even spent a few days in Boise. Near Ontario they purchased 400 tons of alfalfa and 100 tons of corn ensilage, paying \$15 per ton for the former and \$10 per ton for the latter, and intend to trail their sheep there this winter for feeding purposes. They intend also to lamb their sheep in February in sheds owned by the rancher from whom they purchased the hay. While the distance from here is considerable, yet Mr. Jones states that it is not great from the Jackass country where they have been in the habit of wintering some of their sheep. Both partners are enthusiastic about the proposition.

Simon Juanto, Frank Moynihan and Walter Leemann yesterday left by auto for Idaho, where they will also look into the hay situation, and it is probable that they will purchase their hay for winter feeding of sheep before returning.

It is understood that the sheep may be trailed through the entire distance from here, or can be trailed as far as Crane, in Harney County, and shipped the balance of the distance by railroad, the rate being 14 cents per head, with one-third of this rate for the return trip. Most of the ranchers who have hay for sale have fine sheds, the use of which may be had for lambing, and in some instances the sheds are electrically lighted. In view of the shortage of hay throughout this section, and the fact that in places where hay is for sale—such as Surprise Valley—the prices asked are exorbitant by the sheep owners as exhibitors.

Another point in connection with the situation in Malheur County and over the line into Idaho is that there is open country which may be grazed during the winter months, whereas in places like Surprise Valley it is necessary to feed the sheep throughout the winter once they are taken into the valley. It is probable that other sheep owners will make the trip if the visit of Messrs. Juanto, Moynihan and Leemann proves successful.—Lakeview Examiner

## ARMY MAKES RECORD MEAT PURCHASE

The largest single order for bacon and canned meats in the history of the world—99,560,000 pounds of bacon and 134,000,000 pounds of canned meat—has just been placed by the Quartermaster's Department, U. S. A. for the American Army overseas.

Louis F. Swift, in commenting on this, said the order will take the bacon from approximately 1,900,000 hogs and if other work were dropped to produce it would be equivalent to the total bacon production of the five largest Chicago packers for nearly five weeks, however, six months will elapse before delivery is to be completed.

Mr. Swift said: "At the current prices on the day, last week, when the purchase was made, the packers would pay the livestock producers about \$80,000,000 for the necessary hogs and over \$50,000,000 for about 900,000 cattle required."

"The cattle will cost us twice as much, and the hogs two and one-half times as much as in the pre-war period."

"The whole order will be made up before the first of the year, despite the fact that, even before this purchase, one fourth of the packers' facilities have been devoted to filling military demands."

"In order to get out the canned goods the packers will find it necessary to employ night and day shifts of cannery. Notwithstanding the fact that the products are being rushed forward thus hurriedly, not a single complaint has been received on meats delivered to the armies abroad."

We hope our hunch is true that the world gets a dove in its worn, knitted sock this Christmas.

## VIRGIL SHIELDS WRITES HOME FROM FRANCE

### Harney County Recently Promoted. Gives Interesting Account of Doings Abroad and Describes Country.

Virgil, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Shields of Silver Creek, who has been in France since before last Christmas, has written some interesting letters home during the past few weeks and through the kindness of his mother we are privileged to publish some of them below:

Chissay, Loir-et-Chev.  
May 17, 1918.

Dear Mother:

I haven't written you for sometime so I guess I had better get busy. Several things have happened lately. Among others I have become a Corporal. Am now at Chissay, about two miles from Montrichard with a small detachment of men. There are only nine of us and we sure have swell quarters. We are living in a little building about a block from a swell big Chateaux where a Count and his daughter live. He is a real nice old fellow and both he and his daughter come down and talk to us quite often. They both speak pretty good English.

We have spring beds, tables, chairs, cupboards, a dresser, an organ, and a nice big sofa in our billet so it is almost impossible to believe that we are still in the army.

The grounds too are very pretty. I imagine it must have been well before the war and even now it is hard to beat for class. Will send you a picture of the Chateaux one of these days. This is just a little place so there is not much to do here only stay at home when off duty.

I haven't gotten any mail for about ten days so I ought to get quite a bit when it does come. The weather is fine, in fact couldn't be beat and I never felt better in my life so you don't need to worry about me.

I now wear the gold chevron on my left arm, to show that I've been here six months and then some.

Well mother there's nothing more to write so will close and write to Marie.

Lots of love as ever  
Corp. Virg. E. Shields.

Under date of June 4 he writes:

Censor rules have been modified quite a bit and we are now allowed to tell you exactly where we are located. I am at Montrichard, which is about twenty five miles east of Tours and twenty miles south of Blois. If you can get hold of a very large map of France, I think you can find it quite easily. It is a small town of two or three thousand French inhabitants. It is quite a old town and there is quite a bit of history connected with it.

They will also let us send picture post cards of the towns home now. Am enclosing a few tonight and will send you some more as soon as I have time to get them.

The old castle in these pictures is eleven hundred years old and has quite a history connected with it. All of the buildings are made of stone as you can see by the pictures. You can get a general impression of how the country looks from the picture taken from the castle. At present I am on a mounted patrol that covers the country you can see in this picture. I sure am glad that they have loosened the lid on censorship for I know it will make you folks feel a lot better to know just where we are.

June 23, 1918.

Dear Mother:

Have not written to you for several days so will try to scratch off a few lines this afternoon. We have not had any mail for a couple of weeks and I have heard that it would be three weeks now before we got any altho I don't know how true it is.

It doesn't seem possible that this is the latter part of June. It seems only a short time since spring and yet it seems years since we left the States. I wish they would ship us up to the front or some other place where we would see a little action.

I am getting tired of this "service of the rear" stuff. It will be just my luck to stay right here at this joint till the war is over. Oh well I should worry. I have a "regular

bed" and don't have to work so very hard now.

It has been raining a little during the past few days, which I suppose is very good for the grape vines, etc. and it doesn't bother me much anymore.

I suppose you folks are beginning to think about haying. Write and tell me all about the crops, stock, and all such things for it all interests me.

Well mother, there is not much to write and as my girl is coming down to see me today and it's about time for her to arrive, I'll close for this time and write again soon.

Lots of love as ever  
Your son  
Virg.

Mrs. C. A. Sweek called this office yesterday and stated she had received a letter from her son Cy who is in the officers training camp at American Lake in which he tells of practice with big guns and on the ranges. With her permission we publish below portions of this letter:

Camp Lewis, Wn.  
July 21, 1918.

Dear Folks at home:

Last week or rather week before last we were in the trenches again and last week we were on the range all week. I had the opportunity of seeing the much talked of Browning machine gun in action. Also to see it dissembled as well as the Vickers. There certainly is no comparison between the two guns. The Browning is much the more simple in construction as well as in operation. The possibility of getting out of order while in action is also a great deal less. The Browning is some \$300 cheaper as well. One of their targets was a house (empty) at about 1400 yds. They simply riddled the house with bullets. The dust rising from it gave the appearance that it was on fire. They also tried it out on targets representing different formations of men and there was not a target but what was hit. I could tell you a thousand other things that are of timely interest but which we are asked to "keep under our hats" as one officer put it.

The coming week I am an acting platoon leader and very likely my fate will hang on those few days. The Benzene Board (the board that kicks the ones not wanted out) sits Saturday. Who were the unfortunate no one knows, but we will find out about Monday or Tuesday.

I must close and beat it before retreat.

Write soon  
Your son Cy.

## BIG STONE GARAGE ERECTED AT ONCE

Harry C. Smith of the Burns Garage informs The Times-Herald that a contract has just been let by that firm for the erection of a 50x100 one story stone building on the site of the present location. The work is to begin at once, in fact excavation has already begun and it is to be completed as rapidly as possible. This will be a fire proof and frost proof building and one that will take care of their trade in fine shape for the present at least.

This firm has been located in the present building for a long time and they have contemplated building but had postponed it from time to time because of the war and other causes, but their business demands a larger place and Mr. Smith decided to let the contract and start the building at once.

This will be another substantial business block for Burns and will be followed by many more as soon as war conditions will permit the erection of them.

## Past Present and Future

1914  
I can whip the whole world!!!!  
1915  
I told you I could!!!!  
1916  
I have almost done it!!  
1917  
I still think I can!  
1918  
I would have, but—  
1919  
Those Damned Yanks.

The Russian czar has a remarkable way of coming to life. We suspect the reports of his death (like that of Mark Twain) were greatly exaggerated.

## WORK BEGINS ON THE BURNS-CRANE HIGHWAY

### Engineers Here to Make Location and Survey Route. Report to Federal Government to be Sent Next Week.

Assistant Engineer M. O. Bennett of the State Highway Board, arrived in this city Wednesday evening accompanied by two assistants, H. B. Wright and H. R. Wessell. The gentlemen come to begin active work on the post road between this city and Crane and have been in conference with the county court and also looking over the route with a view of securing the best.

Mr. Bennett stated to a representative of The Times-Herald this morning that everything was in readiness for the survey and that Mr. Wright would take charge of it. He stated the county court had complied with every requirement asked and that the Highway Board would act in conjunction with the county in every way possible.

After viewing the route and going over the ground during the past two days the route selected runs on the present county road to the neighborhood of the Experiment Station and from that point it is hoped to make a direct line to Crane providing this is found possible.

This would give a most direct route and one that conforms to the custom of the highways wherever conditions have permitted. A road such as this is the intention to build would be a great benefit to every property owner along the line and there is little doubt but that right of way will be granted readily.

Mr. Bennett states it will be necessary to submit a report to the federal government before actual construction work can begin but this report will be made during the coming week. Mr. Wright will make his survey in the meantime and as soon as approval is secured of the plans from the government bids will be asked for the construction and in case they are satisfactory the building of the road will be contracted, otherwise the State Highway Board will do the work. Mr. Bennett says under such circumstances they use the equipment of the county when it is suitable for the work and where it may be had without interfering with other county road work, and in addition other equipment is either purchased or hired.

These engineers will take charge of the survey of the proposed change in the route at Sage Hen and will also make a change in the route near Glas Buttes. The road in that vicinity is in Lake county and on the north side of the hill. It is the intention to make a new route to the north of this located entirely in Harney and Deschutes counties and thus it will be maintained by the two counties directly interested.

This is a very important link in the through highway east and west and one that is possible of travel during the entire year. It means a great deal to the isolated sections of the interior of the state, besides a benefit to the traveling public in every respect. A post road is not paved. It is a gravelled road but one that is substantial and permanent.

## SEE HER AT THE LIBERTY TOMORROW NIGHT

After an extremely stormy scene at the studio wherein charming Vivian Martin had furiously defied her director and refused absolutely to sacrifice her charming curls to Art for her next Paramount picture, "The Trouble Buster," there came a soothing lull and then a sunny smile appeared on the star's pretty face and all was well.

The smile was caused by the appearance of the wardrobe woman with one of the softest, prettiest, curliest wigs imaginable. It was the exact shade of Miss Martin's curls and sufficed to calm even the somewhat ruffled director, Frank Reicher, who had been muttering something about "temperament."

The fact that the short curls were not her own could hardly be detected and as will be seen at the Liberty Theatre on Sunday "The Trouble Buster" suffers not a whit for Miss Martin's refusal to sacrifice her curls.