

Sherman County Journal

SHERMAN COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

Vol. I

Moro, Oregon, March 6, 1931

TWO NEWSPAPERS COMBINE FORCES

Grass Valley Journal, Sherman County Observer Merge

JOURNAL TO BE NEW NAME

Giles L. French Will Edit The Combined Paper

In keeping with the general tendency of newspapers as well as other business houses to consolidate into larger and stronger institutions the Sherman County Observer and the Grass Valley Journal have been combined to establish the Sherman County Journal of which this is the first issue.

This is the first consolidation of newspapers in Sherman county since the first settlers started newspapers to print the events of the pioneer days and provide a local means of publishing the then frequent home-stead notices. All of the papers of the county are direct descendants of papers established in that period and the Sherman County Observer and the Grass Valley Journal are the oldest in the county.

The Observer first touched ink in Wasco, where it appeared in 1888 under the management of C. J. Bright and A. B. McMillan. It was later published by J. B. Hosford, a pioneer attorney of the county who dabbled in printers ink between cases. There was then no paper in Moro and enterprising citizens of the town brought Mr. Hosford and the Observer here, believing that Moro would be the county seat and would need a newspaper. As Mr. Hosford's law business grew he cast about for some well known newspaper man to take charge of the plant and persuaded D. C. Ireland, who had been connected with papers throughout the state to take it over. Mr. Ireland and his two sons operated the Observer for several years until C. L. Ireland bought the interest of his father and brother in 1903.

The Grass Valley Journal was founded by a group of business men of the town of Grass Valley. Among them was George B. Bourhill, now the postmaster in Moro, and J. D. Wilcox, living in Yamhill, and C. W. Moore, a pioneer merchant of the town, and J. H. Smith, who passed away two years ago. W. I. Westerfield bought the paper in 1900 after managing it for the company for three or four years. After his death in 1924 Mrs. Westerfield conducted the Journal until it was purchased by Giles L. French in 1929.

These two businesses are probably the oldest in the county, especially when it is considered that they have been in the hands of the same men for the greater part of their existence. These papers have been the historians of the progress of the county almost from the first influx of land hungry settlers. On the dusty pages of their files can be found in minutest detail the doings of the county's residents, births of those now grey headed, marriages of people who are now grandparents. They have chronicled the arrival of the railroad and the advent of the through highway where once the freight team held absolute sway.

The Sherman County Journal will be published in Moro and as the Grass Valley Journal is the official paper of the county, it will contain the official news of the county and the county court proceedings as well as the general news of the county.

The news goes on and becomes old and it is the duty of a newspaper to write the history of its community. The Sherman County Journal will continue the work of its parent papers in writing and printing the news from which history is made in Sherman county.

This week will be the last publication of the Sherman County Observer as a separate newspaper enterprise. The building that has been the home of the Sherman County Observer in Moro for the past 35 years, a large part of the printing equipment, the good will and the business of the paper has been sold to Giles L. French of Grass Valley who has been the owner and publisher of the Grass Valley Journal for the past year and a half.

Saturday of last week Mr. French moved part of the equipment of the Grass Valley Journal to Moro and combined the two establishments into one business enterprise and will publish the two papers under a merger of the two properties as the Sherman County Journal.

We speak a good word for Mr. French in this community. We are sure he will do his utmost to publish

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Experiment Station Gives Moisture Report

According to the Experiment Station the total precipitation at Moro for the calendar year 1930 was only 66.9 inches the lowest on record. The normal annual precipitation is 112.3 inches. The highest ever recorded at Moro was 14.89 inches in 1916.

The following table gives the precipitation by months from September to February, inclusive, for the present crop year and the normal for each of these months.

	1930-31	Normal
September	.53	.86
October	.92	.84
November	1.13	1.77
December	.53	1.59
January	1.44	1.61
February	.48	1.26
Total	5.93	7.03

As the above figures indicate, there is a deficiency of moisture in the soil at the present time. To secure an average crop, more than the normal precipitation will be needed during the next four months.

Due to the mild winter and unusually early spring, winter wheat is in good condition in the northern half of Sherman county. Because of lack of rain last fall in the southern part of the county, the normal acreage of winter wheat was not sown. Farmers in this section are taking advantage of the early spring and most of them are about through with their seeding operations. The station reports show that, on the average, early sown spring wheat will out-yield late sown winter wheat.

HAROLD THORGERSON MADE AN EAGLE SCOUT

Impressive Court Of Honor Ceremony Held Sunday

Harold Thorgerson, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Thorgerson, was elevated to the rank of Eagle Scout at the Methodist church last Sunday morning. He is the second member of the Moro boy scout organization to become an Eagle Scout, the highest rank possible among scouts. Tommy Fraser, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Fraser, has been an Eagle Scout for over a year and Lyle Wallan, although not a member of the local troop, has received this rank in Idaho.

W. W. Belcher, scout master of the Mid-Columbia area, spoke briefly on scouting and was followed by Sidney Bloom, of The Dalles, president of the scout organization in the district, who gave an excellent talk in making the presentation. Rev. F. A. Ginn closed the ceremony with a sermon on boys and scoutdom.

Of the 4,800,000 boy scouts in the United States only about 600 receive the Eagle rank in a year. Moro troop with its 19 members, two of whom have reached the highest rank, is a worthy part of the whole and shows the excellent training the boys are receiving under Melvin Schadewitz, their scout master.

Basket Ball Tournament Gives Much Excitement

Those who enjoy a good rousing game of basket ball as it is played by high school youngsters who are intent only upon winning the game and not sparing wind or limb were able to revel in that sport last Friday night at Rufus when the county basket ball tournament was held there.

The Rufus and Kent game did not have the dramatic touch of the other part of the evening's entertainment, but was enjoyed by those who were glad to have Kent win by a decisive score.

The Wasco-Grass Valley game was the one that furnished the breath taking moments. Almost from the opening whistle it was seen that there was little or no difference between the ability of the teams as they played even in nearly all parts of the game. The first half ended with the score 11-11; the score when the timekeepers whistle ended the second half was 23-23 in favor of the audience for they were the ones to derive greatest pleasure from the play.

In the final period given to decide the tie the Wasco boys were able to drop a field goal into the basket while Grass Valley were counting one foul shot and the game ended 25-24.

In the playoff Saturday night Kent and Wasco being the winners of the county championship and Kent won by the decisive score of 56-5. The Wasco coach elected to send in his second string of players against the Kent boys giving as his reason a desire to save the first team for the district tournament at Hood River where this county will be represented by the two winning teams.

Grass Valley defeated Rufus 30-20 Saturday night giving Rufus the cellar championship for the year.

MARCH MEETING OF COUNTY COURT HELD

Kent West Road Meets Highway Differently

DETAILS OF LOANS HANDLED

McIntyre Bridge To Be Posted For Trucks

A variety of detailed matters kept the county court busy for the entire day of the March meeting. The question of investing the sinking fund is still a problem to be worked from theory into actual safe and sound investment and the applications, abstracts and other papers of legal procedure, while extremely important to the business at hand, made the court meeting lack its usual color.

Road Master Wall reported on the progress of the market road west of Kent, stating that the contractors, Barnett & Mitchell, are getting along with the grading in a satisfactory manner. There has been a change in the designation of the road leading into Kent. Instead of routing the new market road along the short piece of macadam west of the town, the new road will be graded one half a mile north to intersect the highway a short distance north of the J. M. Wilson ranch. The road from the L. E. Clark farm will continue straight east to the highway instead of turning a half mile south as at present. The half mile of macadam will be torn up and that part of road closed.

While discussing road matters the court ordered the road master to post warning signs at each end of what is known as the McIntyre bridge warning travelers that it is unsafe for any vehicles weighing over three tons. It is expected that this structure will be replaced in the near future.

The monthly grist of bills against the county were presented and ordered paid after being duly o.k'd by county officers.

Dr. Messing Speaks To Children In School

Dr. Messing, a social worker who specializes in giving information to children and young people, talked to the students of Grass Valley Monday and of Moro Tuesday, addressing the parents in the evenings.

Mr. Messing has had a wide experience in this field for ever since the war he has been in charge of children. He was in Poland for three years immediately after the armistice was signed, directing a camp for Polish boys whose fathers had been killed in the war. While there he had his headquarters in a castle which the former Tsar of Russia had built and Mr. Messing's description of the magnitude of the palace, the size of the rooms and the labor keeping it warm was interesting.

His study of social questions has been pursued in Europe as well as the United States and his talks reflected his experience and thought on the subject.

Gigantic Structure
Herodotus estimated that 100,000 men were engaged for 20 years in building the Great pyramid.

OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Winter pears from the Medford district of the Rogue river valley sold for \$3.30 per box in New York recently, according to word received by local growers.

Camps are being set up on the McIntyre for a forestry construction crew which will build bridges across Jack and Canyon creeks. The work will start at once.

The first trout fish hatchery in Oregon to be established and maintained by the United States bureau of fisheries will be built at Butte Falls. It was announced at Medford.

Sadie, the clown donkey known to Round-up spectators, is a slave to the tobacco habit, it is reported at Pendleton. Sadie becomes quite miserable unless she has a frequent chew.

The new municipal street-lighting plant at Hood River, installed at a cost of approximately \$15,000, is now in operation and the streets were lighted last week with the new system.

The citizens of Turner, in Marion county, are becoming enthusiastic over the success of the fruit and vegetable cannery at Stayton and are talking of establishing a cannery at Turner.

R. W. Turner was knocked down by a bull at Heppner recently and received an injured shoulder and back. Mr. Turner stuck his finger in the bull's eye and finally frightened him away.

A band of elk, about 25 cows and two bulls, is feeding in the hura near the summit on the Nehalem highway. They are quite tame, and motorists are able to get a good view of them from the road.

A new \$50,000 theater with seating capacity for 1000 persons was announced at Corvallis by a group of local business men who have joined together to operate independently a new show house.

Helen Gurdane, of Washington high school, Pendleton, was the Oregon state winner in the national safety campaign for 1929-30, the highway education board of Washington, D. C., has just announced.

The Leon Lake valley, one of the isolated sections of southwestern Oregon, near Alleghany, received its first airmail package recently. A pilot of the Bennett lines flew low over the community and dropped a parcel addressed to Miss Verna Strommen.

Several inches of loose gravel has been placed on the McKenzie highway between Doyle hill and Hendricks bridge preparatory to oiling during the dry season. The surface of the McKenzie highway is in splendid condition except for this section of loose gravel and one four-mile stretch under construction from Doyle hill to Vida.

Lebanon is to feature another annual strawberry fair this year on an enlarged scale, which will include a jubilee in recognition of the extension of the Oregon Electric railroad into the timber belt of the Santiam.

Between two and three million feet of logs in rafts is being held up in the lower Nehalem bay awaiting shipment to northern points. Recent storms have piled the sand at the mouth of Nehalem bay so high that there is scarce 12 feet of clearance over the bar.

MASS MEETING CALLED FOR TUESDAY NIGHT

Citizens Will Have Chance To Discuss Water Plans

WELL MAY BE PURCHASED

Contract To Be Read And Debated

The city council at its meeting last Tuesday night at the city hall, discussed a question that has been in every one's mind for several months when they debated the contract to buy what is known as the Conlee well to furnish additional water for the city.

The problem was temporarily settled by the council voting to direct the mayor to call a mass meeting for next Tuesday night, March 10th, at the Legion hall. This method of finding the will of the voters and taxpayers on this important question was taken so that every one will have the opportunity of expressing his views and the wishes of a real majority of the citizens can be followed by the council. It is the desire of the city legislative body to be guided in this matter by the will of townsmen and this mass meeting is their only means of finding their attitude.

The contract, which will be discussed next Tuesday night, provides that the city will buy the well from Mr. Conlee for \$2000.00 and furnish him with not more than 15,000 gallons of water per month for the next 15 years, providing he does not acquire more land to irrigate. The contract protects the city in the clause that provide that the well must furnish 40 gallons of water per minute for the next year. The city has until May 1st to move machinery to the well and begin pumping although they immediately assume possession upon ratification of the contract.

As Tom Douma has moved from the confines of the city of Moro, his place as councilman was declared vacant and John L. Searey was appointed by the council to finish out his term.

Mrs. Norton To Tell Listeners Of India

Mrs. W. B. Norton of Portland will speak at the Methodist church in Grass Valley at 2:30 on Wednesday March 11, and on Thursday, March 12, at 2:30 in the Methodist church at Moro. Mrs. Norton is field representative of the Columbia river branch of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist church. She is a graduate of Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.; was principal in the Chicago high schools; is a member of the Chicago Classic club; a member of the Illinois Woman's Press Association, and several nationally known musical clubs. As a speaker she has addressed hundreds of audiences, some numbering into the thousands of persons.

Every one is invited to attend these meetings. At Grass Valley there will be a social hour at the close of the address at which light refreshments will be served.

OREGON NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

The lava caves east of Bend have yielded additional evidence that long ago they sheltered tribes of basket-makers. Baskets made from bark of junipers, reeds and grasses have been discovered under three feet of dust that had accumulated through the centuries.

The Farmers State bank closed its doors at Independence, being given in to the hands of the state banking department for the protection of depositors, according to announcement by the directors. General depression resulting in frozen assets is believed the cause.

The fishing pier on Tillamook head, near Seaside, has been destroyed by the heavy seas that have been rolling into that section of the beach during the past week, according to word reaching Astoria. This is the second pier to be destroyed by the swells during the past two years.

The big airplane of the Pacific Air Transport company that crashed near the summit of the Cascade mountains on New Year's day when the pilot, J. R. Cunningham, lost his way is being taken out piece by piece over a mountain trail through deep snow and will be shipped to Oakland, Cal.

All but two grocery stores in Astoria have signed an agreement to stop selling butter substitutes, according to a statement by members of the county Pomona grange committee appointed to obtain co-operation of all the grocers in the county in the fight against the sale of oleomargarine.

Lambing operations in the Grande Ronde valley are progressing rapidly under excellent weather conditions. Sheep are in good condition after the mild winter. Losses at the lambing sheds have been unusually light and it has taken smaller crews to handle the work than in previous years.

The Rogue River Valley Dairymen's association was organized at Medford by 60 valley dairymen and milk wholesalers. Charles A. Wing, Medford, was elected president, and R. G. Fowler, county agent, secretary-treasurer. Efforts will be made to revive the Central Point cheese factory project.

Highway construction contracts aggregating \$784,241 have been awarded by the state highway commission. The contracts are scattered over ten counties and will provide employment for hundreds of men, partly replacing emergency construction work ordered this winter to relieve unemployment.

Port Orford, one of the earliest settlements on the Oregon coast, is at last to have a life saving station, after years of effort on the part of residents toward that end. It was contended there are miles of unguarded water between Eureka, Cal. and Bandon, stations on either side of Port Orford.

Erection of a revolving-type aerial beacon at the summit of the divide between Cow creek and Canyon creek, a short distance west of the Pacific highway crossing, is planned as a further aid to night fliers in southern Douglas county by the airways division of the United States department of commerce.

The Shevlin-Hixon company mills in Bend resumed operations recently on a full time basis, employing 1000 men. It was announced by C. L. Isted, general manager. Two shifts on four band saws will be used and the gang saws will run on the day shift only. The mills have been shut down since mid-December.

Reports from Bandon indicate that a municipal water shortage is approaching summer season is feared. Some residents who were supplied with springs also are apprehensive, as the supply is drier than at any time during the past dry seasons. Lack of fresh water also increases the menace from terebrators, which are destroying the piling along the town and wharf.

Determination of Peter J. Troutner, 37, to prove that an unused gasoline drum contained water cost him his life. Troutner, an employee on the Alex Scott farm in Scoggins valley, with Walter Scottfield, another farm hand, was about to cut the drum in two to make a watering trough when an argument arose over the fluid content of the drum last used 13 years ago. Troutner lit a match to prove his point and was killed by the resultant explosion.

Eugene will entertain the Oregon older girls' conference March 6, 7 and 8. About 500 delegates and 50 adult leaders and advisers are expected to attend. The conference is held under the auspices of the Oregon Council of Christian Education.

Estimated agricultural production in the Klamath basin in 1930 was the basis of a review prepared by C. A. Henderson, county agent, and released recently. He gave the approximate gross income from agricultural products as \$5,732,250, or about one million dollars less than last year's income.

LETTER FROM INDIA TELLS OF TRIP

Miss Mildred Ginn Writes Interestingly Of Work

MAVELIKARA WAS VISITED

Indian Bathrooms Described As Simple Affairs

Thevally Quilon, Travancora State, South India, January 27, 1931.

Dearest Mother and Daddy: The last few days have been full, but there is not much time to write about it. That's the way it goes. This is mail day and it is almost rest time. Didn't sleep as well as usual last night so will doubly appreciate my rest this afternoon.

The convention at Mavelikara was from the 21st to the 25th, but we attended only one day of it. Winnie and I drove up after breakfast on Thursday and were there for the afternoon and evening services. It was my first Malayam meeting and the first time I ever attempted to give a message through an interpreter, or heard anyone else do so. Winnie spoke first in the afternoon so I could see how it went and then I spoke. Can't say that I particularly enjoyed it! Mr. Evans from Poona and Mr. Burgess spoke in the evening. They both seemed to be used to this interpreter business; Mr. Burgess's message was unusually fine and he and his interpreter being used to each other went well together. I was ever so glad when he finished, however, for I was powerfully sleepy and tired. It took us an hour and a half to drive home and were ready for bed by 12:30.

Since we take our lessons from 5:30 to 8:30 it meant no lying-in bed in the morning and besides this day was planned to be full. By 9:00 we were packed up in the car and on our way to the Cape-Cape Comron—the most southern tip of India, about 100 miles from here. We had breakfast with Mary Linberg and Martha Kusner, two of our missionaries in Travancora and they joined our party from there on—about half way. We were at the Salvation Army hospital, about ten miles from the Cape, in time for tea and made an appointment with the doctor for the next day. Winnie had an operation in this hospital last January and feels pretty well acquainted there. A lady doctor and a nurse drove down to the Cape later and had dinner with us. We put up in the Traveler's Bungalow—seven of us plus a dog. Our room was not nearly as full as the car had been! We had a dip in the Indian ocean before dinner and again in the morning after a hike in our bathing suits and bare feet. To the right of us was the Arabian Sea—the body of water that we bathe in here at Quilon—and to the left of us the Bay of Bengal. After Chota we visited a famous fort built by the Dutch and then went to the hospital where we had been invited for breakfast.

After breakfast Hazel had her ears examined, Martha interviewed the doctor and was left for a week's observation, and I was vaccinated for smallpox. Smallpox is a terrible thing in India and Brother Stoddard, Miss Eady and others strongly advised it. It began to take last night, but has not caused any discomfort yet—plenty of time for that, however. Reached home about midnight.

You asked, Mother, if I had a separate room. All of the bed rooms at Miss Eady's had a bathroom in connection and I have a bath room by myself here, but Winnie and Hazel share one. Bath rooms in India are not what they are at home, however, simply a tiled floor with a hole for the water to run out. Part of it is partitioned off with a cement rail to keep the water from running over the floor. I have a nice white wash stand in it and there are racks to hang my towels on. Water is carried in and kept in a large earthen jar and cast iron tubs are our bathtubs. We have to sleep with a wool blanket over us so I—rather Hazel and Winnie—cut my gray blankets in two and one does very nicely. It isn't usually very comfortable on when one first goes to bed, but it turns cool in the night and there is danger of a chill.

I had such a nice letter from Faith and one from Margie last week. Your little note squeezed in with a Christmas card you were forwarding was crowded pretty full. Your mention of the Python recalls my combat with a Centipede the night I returned from Mavelikara. Miss Pitt, a teacher from Mary Kneeland's school who has been visiting with us for a couple of weeks, discovered it by her bed and called to me. I about wrecked the heel of my shoe and the wall in the battle. I've seen them before. They are not deadly, but cause intense suffering. (Continue on page four)

The Sapper



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