

**Sherman County Journal**

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1931.

**LONGER AND BETTER DAYS.**

Before another issue of this paper is off the press the world, or this half of it at least, will have passed the happiest day of the year for the winter solstice, that marks the turning of the sun north again, will be behind us instead of in the future.

Since time immemorial man, pagan and Christian, has held some celebration on or near the day when the sun stopped its southward swing and started north with its promise of longer and warmer days. Even to civilized men with his furnaces, his well insulated houses, his steam heat and his well, not so modern clothes, the warmer days are much more enjoyable.

A contemplation of what winter must have meant to primeval man makes the modern to shudder. To live in a cave protected only an open fire and to be forced to hunt for daily food clad only in an animal skin would certainly be far from an ideal life and would no doubt, tend to make sun worshippers of us all.

Hope springs more easily in the human breast when it is realized that the sun is at last coming back to create flowers and green grass where nothing but snow and frost prevails. And to continue as a moralist might, it is quite likely that our winter of depression will more easily pass away when people again begin to visualize better times and are able to see their way for a year or so ahead of them.

**HIGH SCHOOL COSTS.**

The question of high school consolidation that has been a more or less live topic of conversation for the past few years has cropped out again to bother the intensely patriotic townspeople who desire to keep their schools at home.

Some facts as to cost of high schools and number of pupils might add interest to the discussions. In the school year of 1929-30 this county spent \$36,855.52 for high school in the county. There was an average of 185.9 pupils attending the five high schools which would indicate a total enrolment of over 200 children.

The average cost in this county per high school pupil was \$197.45 which is higher than the average cost in the state of \$183.14. Costs in different counties run from the low of \$111.38 in Malheur to the highest in Morrow county of \$314.49.

From this comparison it is apparent that our costs are not excessive when compared to the remainder of the state. The only other question is the one of efficiency of instruction. It is true that a smaller school cannot provide the equipment for scientific study that is possible in a larger school.

The present plan proposed by the adherents of consolidation provides for busses, one from the south and one from the north to bring the children to a central school at a point to be determined. It is quite likely that within a short time another high school would have to be built to accommodate a high school of 200 pupils.

The amount for high school instruction in this county will shrink from the almost \$37,000 of last term to about \$30,000 this year in all probability. It is also probable that a consolidated high school would cost \$20,000 per year to operate. That leaves \$10,000 to be spent in transporting the pupils to and from the central school.

With these figures at hand the consolidation protagonist and opponents can argue pro and con to their hearts delight and it is possible may some day effect a change in our school system.

It is lucky those bridge players chose this winter to hold their big game. With the papers full of the usual run of murders, robberies and jail breaks and a much more than usual crop of stories about starving people and wars, the bridge column is the only part of the paper one can read without wondering what is becoming of the world.

From the announcement about the latest styles in bathing suits at winter beaches it appears that the only difference between the nude bathing in Russia and bathing in America is a Gunga Din costume of "nothing much afore and a little less than half of that behind."

This "snow, snow, beautiful snow" stuff begins to pall when the thermometer falls below zero and the snow has been on the ground for a couple of weeks.

The papers tell the story of a man who has been married for 64 years and is 89 years old and is still an athlete. Maybe his wife is the sort of a woman that keeps him active and alert.

What this country needs worst is a sun of sufficient strength to thaw out the frozen assets.

New York judges declare that lawyers talk too much. The common people have thought that for a long time.

A contemporary newspaper editor writes, "A really good short story in a leading magazine is indeed a rarity." Some one just received a rejection slip.

The weather man is training the pedestrian in circus stunts this kind of weather. Most anyone will be able to walk a tight rope after a few such slippery mornings.

**Grass Valley**

The ladies of the Baptist Aid will give a cooked food sale next Saturday Dec. 19th, at the old library room in the Baker building.

Ellen Eakin, the young daughter of V. B. Eakin and wife, was admitted to The Dalles hospital this week.

Dick, the dance promoter, is giving another hop "Christmas night."

The high school basketball season opened last Friday night when the local team played against the Sisters boys.

The older Zebra, whose stripes have begun to fade a little, are again on the basketball floor to take up another season of their favorite sport and instruct the younger generation in how to shoot baskets against big and tough opponents.

Dr. G. Arthur Clarke will be in Grass Valley, Monday, Dec. 21st at the Valley Inn.

**Grass Valley School Notes**

MARIETTA PERRY, EDITOR

A student body meeting was held Friday afternoon. The Carnival Committee made a report and the students appointed to take charge of the different booths and amusements.

The Tigers met the Sisters Basketball Team, Friday night on the local floor in a very close game. The Sisters took the lead and succeeded in remaining ahead during the first half which ended 11 to 6. When the Tigers entered the game in the second half they "shut down" on the Sisters and turned a seeming defeat into a victory when the final whistle blew which ended the game with the score standing 15 to 11 in favor of the Tigers. The game was slowed up considerably by numerous fouls, 29 being called. Both teams showed lack of teamwork due to its being the first game.

Mr. Tetz took charge of the English 11, 1V, classes Tuesday morning in Miss Edmonds absence.

The Carnival held in the Local gym last Saturday, December 12 proved to be quite a success. A play "A Bunch of Roses" was put on the first part of the evening. The play cast consisted of Bruce Alley, Zela Ruggles, Maxine Rolfe, Dale Baker, Florence Young, Loren Beardsly, Orville Ruggles, and Pauline Newcomb. After the play the people proceeded down into the gym where they spent the rest of the evening. Those serving on the

Carnival Committee were: Willard Barnett, Don Smith, Zela Ruggles, Pauline Newcomb, and Miss Edmonds.

Mr. T. M. Rolfe visited school Monday morning.

The girls and boys Basketball Teams received a new basketball last Thursday.

The Basketball boys will journey to Redmond Friday, December 16.

The English 1V class is studying the history of Old English Literature.

The Biology class is studying frogs in their laboratory work.

The Civics class is studying about Hawaii, Porto Rico, Alaska, Philippines, Panama canal and

other outlying possessions of the United States, and the English classes received some Book Report books Monday.

**Delaware's Nickname**

Delaware is known as the Blue Hen state from the notoriety that one of her native sons, Captain Caldwell, acquired in the Revolutionary war for his love of cockfighting, and also his well-drilled men known in the army as the "Gamecocks." His idea was that a blue hen produces the best cocks.

**Destructive Criticism**

It is much easier to be critical than correct. Constructive criticism may be, and often is, helpful; but destructive criticism robs one of courage, and usually degenerates into fault-finding. There is always something in others which is worthy of praise, and appreciation leads to further effort.—Evelyn Howe.

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