

Sherman County Journal

Sherman County Observer Est., 1888, Grass Valley Journal, Est., 1897, Consolidated March 6, 1931.

SHERMAN COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

Forty Fourth Year

Moro, Oregon, February 26, 1932

No. 16

COMMERCIAL CLUB BEGINS YEARS WORK

First Meeting of 1932 Lays Plans
For Community Betterment

NEW BANK IS CLUB'S GOAL

Officers Elected and Appointed For
Organization

Bringing to the fore again the old spirit of keeping their faces set resolutely ahead even in times that seem almost to make progress impossible, the Moro Commercial Club met last Tuesday night to elect officers for 1932 and make plans for the year.

A few over twenty men were seated around the table when President W. A. May pounded his gavel to begin the meeting. As there was no set program, this being scheduled as the annual business meeting, several of those present were asked to give impromptu talks.

Speakers reviewed the success of the club in past years and suggested some activities that might engage the interest of the club during the coming year. A means of advertising and popularizing the Sherman highway branch of Federal Highway No. 97 was one of the proposals made and it was received with fervor by the members present. There is no reason why a road with the scenic advantages of the Sherman highway should not have its share, or more, of travel especially when it is also the smoothest and fastest route between California and Washington.

Fred R. Fortner gave his views of the probability of opening the Moro State Bank or of receiving a payment on the deposits of customers through some one of the numerous credit sources provided by the government. It was his opinion that under the circumstances it will be rather difficult to speed up the first dividend and we may expect nothing until after the next crop is harvested and sold.

There was some discussion about forming a Sherman county organization to include all the commercial bodies in the county so that the entire county could speak as a unit in public affairs.

Several of the speakers expressed the opinion that residents of this

Mrs. Emma Kirtley Dies in Pendleton

Mrs. Emma Peetz Kirtley, since pioneer days a resident of Sherman county, died early Tuesday morning at Pendleton.

She was born near Seattle, Washington, on July 30th, 1863 and came to Sherman county when her parents moved into the then new farming country of this section in the spring of 1888. The family homestead is only a few miles from Moro and it was there the deceased grew to womanhood, attending the Brakelville school and later the Moro school.

For several years Mrs. Kirtley, then Emma Peetz, worked for the Dr. Coffin who owned the drug store and operated the telephone exchange for the city. In this capacity she became acquainted with nearly everyone in the county.

On October 9th, 1918 she was married to Al Kirtley and for twelve years lived on Sherman county farms. In 1930 Mr. and Mrs. Kirtley left this county for Hood River and their home has been either there or in The Dalles since.

Her husband, Al, survives her as do three brothers, L. L. Peetz, of Moro; H. F. Peetz, of Madras; and B. F. Peetz, of Pendleton; and one sister, Mrs. Edgar Messinger, of Wapato, Washington.

The funeral was held in the Presbyterian church at Moro, under the direction of Zell's, the Rev. R. A. Hutchinson, of The Dalles, gave the sermon and special music was furnished by the Harlandview quartette. Pall bearers were O. L. Belshe, George Hennigan, Will Powell, Max Bull, Arthur Johnson and Harry Kunsman. Interment was made in the Odd Fellows cemetery.

Local Speakers To Talk at Wasco

A meeting that will be of interest to every wheat grower in the county will be held in Wasco next Saturday February 27th. The auxiliary of the Sherman Cooperative Grain Growers have arranged to have D. E. Stephens, of the experiment station, talk on "Production" and J. P. Yates will discuss "Freight Rates."

It is said that a prophet is never without honor except in his own country, but the action of the women's auxiliary in calling two of the county's well known citizens to the rostrum for this occasion casts doubt upon this ancient assertion. Were this meeting to be held in one of the adjoining counties there would be a big turnout for the speakers have a knowledge of their audience subjects second to none in this part of the state.

SOFT WEATHER MAKES SOFT COUNTRY ROADS

Frost Fading Before Onslaught Of
Sun and Wind

CREEKS RUN FULL AND OVER

Large Part of Snow Runs Off Fields
To Small Streams

Due to a radical and pleasant change in the weather the cold of last week has been banished and spring like temperatures reigned throughout the county for a large part of the week.

Water in Grass Valley reached its high point last Friday when some of the lower land in the confines of that city were flooded. Since that time, while the creeks have been running every day, there has not been a flood stage. In Wasco the water has not been as high as was expected to be, but east of that town, where the snow was deeper, the creeks have been full, the roads are washed out and some farmers are marooned at home. Travel was through the fields for a few weeks until the frost left the ground, but since the fields have softened there is no travel at all for many farmers.

There has been little water running at Kent and the roads are in very good shape except where they are soft from melting snow. Moro has had high water for several days beginning with Saturday, but with the melting of the snow the amount is diminishing.

Roads leading to town are in the worst shape they have been for several years. Farmers have mired down with cars and trucks almost any other means of transportation they started to town with for some low places in the roads are very near complete impassibility.

So far it looks very much as if the pessimists have it for over the week end very much black water ran down the canyons of this county. There are still some, however, who claim that quite a bit of snow soaked in the ground anyway. Certainly a lot of it ran off.

The boys had a good time while it lasted, following hastily made boats

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Bank Operation Schedule To Be Continued

For the matter of a few weeks the schedule followed by R. H. Coppock will be as it was this week with Saturday and Monday being spent in the bank office, Sunday in the country and the remainder of the week in Hood River.

If the Butler bank is reopened by either a reorganization or some other way, he will be relieved of his duties there as an official of the banking department and will be able to spend all of the time in Moro.

George Washington Program Entertaining

The George Washington bicentennial year was the inspiration for a very interesting program sponsored by the Women's Club, last Friday, February 19th. Mrs. Otto Peetz acted as director, with Mrs. Carroll Sayrs, Miss Hazel Thomas and Mrs. Webb hostesses for the day. The meeting was held in the school auditorium, in order to accommodate the large crowd of members, visitors, and school children, who generously assisted in the program. Those club members taking an active part in the affair were attired in Martha Washington costumes and powdered wigs, lending an appropriate colonial atmosphere to the occasion. The program was as follows:

1. Song by audience, "Hail, Columbia."
2. Poem by director.
3. "February Song" by 1st, 2nd and 3rd of 3rd and 4th grades under direction of Miss Thomas.
4. "The American's Creed," William Tyler Page by Reatha Sayrs.
5. "Yankee Doodle" by 30 members of the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades under direction of Miss Osborn.
6. "Personal Relationships of George Washington" by Mrs. Robt. E. Hoskinson.
7. Song, "Salute to the Flag" by 7th and 8th grades under direction of

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WEATHER REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING FEB. 24

DATE	MAX.	MIN.	PRECIP.
Feb. 18.....	31	14	.00
" 19.....	43	19	.00
" 20.....	48	30	.00
" 21.....	47	31	.00
" 22.....	50	31	.00
" 23.....	52	35	.00
" 24.....	54	39	.06
Total for week.....			0.06

SCHOOL COSTS ARE LARGER PERCENTAGE

School Taxes Have Not Decreased
Proportionately

HALF OF TAXES FOR SCHOOLS

Condition Does Not Imply That Costs
Are Excessive

According to figures compiled by J. B. Adams, who keeps his figuring finger busy in the spare time by interest in county affairs, the schools have been one of the major reasons for the mounting taxes in this county.

While cost of schools has decreased since 1929 when \$136,601 was spent on education the percentage of tax money spent for that purpose has taken a decided raise. This year with \$94,805 levied for school purposes the percentage of total taxes is 49.2. This high figure is due to absence of state taxes which have formerly taken a part of the county tax money. If we were still paying some \$40,000 in state taxes added onto our other it would cause a decrease in the percentage used for schools.

In 1916 schools used 28.2 percent of all the money raised in the county for taxes, but then the total tax bill was only \$139,372 and schools only required \$39,368. In 1929 when when school taxes and general county taxes were at their highest peak the education of the younger generation took 39.2 percent of the total taxes.

In the absence of figures from other counties with which to compare these percentages it is impossible to say whether or not the cost of schools in this county are excessive. Education is one of the most important functions of government and it may be that it is worth the half of the taxes it is taking.

Christian Science Society Observes Bi-Centennial

A special service was held Monday, February 22, by the Christian Science Society of Moro, as a part of the

Continued to page two.

Collection of License Plates Owned Here

J. B. Adams has an interesting collection of license plates of the state. Some of them have been bought by him personally and others have been on company cars.

They begin with 1909 and run on through to 1931 with the exception of 1930 when no plates were issued on account of the change in date of license collection. The first two are not dated as there were so few cars in the state at that time that it was not considered necessary. Looking at this collection recalls the fact that Oregon has perpetrated some terrible color schemes on unprotected motorists.

Library Books Available To Economic Students

Charles A. Beard is quoted as saying, "They used to say depressions are inevitable. Now they are doing constructive thinking about preventing them."

With this thought in mind the state library has sent out lists of the new books on economic subjects that are available for readers who wish to study the modern scene from a different point of view than their own. One of these lists is at the Journal office or may be obtained from the library by anyone interested in increasing his or her knowledge of the present day world and its problems.

Mrs. Bryant Returns From Club Meeting

Mrs. Elva Bryant returned Monday evening from Portland where she attended a conference of the federated woman's club of Oregon. As president of the fourth district she helped plan the annual meeting for next May and aided in making arrangements for the publication of the April Clubwoman, the organization magazine, which will be a much larger number than is usually published.

It has now been definitely settled that the man who first said "prosperity is just around the corner" works in a round house.

Read the ads in the Journal

FREIGHT REDUCTION AIM OF CO-OPERATIVE

Work Being Done To Slow Danger
Of Truck Competition

RATES SAME AS IN WARTIME

Farmers Expected To Haul To River
At Present Rates

The cooperative grain growers organizations of this county are making a valiant effort to have the railroads again reduce the freight rates to the level that has been in force since last August 1st when the Interstate Commerce Commission ruling went into effect. These rates have been twelve and a half cents at Wasco and below, thirteen and a half between Grass Valley and Klondike and fourteen and a half south of Grass Valley.

Now that the railroads have benefited by a decision of the supreme court they have raised the rates to where they were during war time which will make it cost the Sherman county farmer seventeen cents per hundred from Wasco, twenty and a half from Moro and Twenty one and a half from Grass Valley to ship wheat to the Portland market.

A hearing will be held at the office of the public service commission in Salem on March 1st at which time J. P. Yates, representative in the state legislature from this district, will present the views of the farmers of this county on rail rates.

The cooperatives have presented evidence to the railroads showing them that last year before the rates were lowered many farmers had contracted with truck men to haul their wheat to Portland or river points. These contracts were made contingent to the change in rail rates and when they were reduced the contracts did not take effect. It may be expected that if the same condition exists this year the wheat will not only be contracted to be hauled by truck but will actually be moved from the farms by that means of transportation.

Politicians Coy About Announcing Intentions To Run For Office

Now that the weather has become warm enough for voters to stand around in the sun, talk of political candidates has been more active. Rumor has it, or has had it, that this man or that man is going to make a race for some office. Quite often the man in question is the last to hear of it and really gives the report of his candidacy the least thought of any of his friends.

So far only four candidates have their petitions out before the voters these being the sheriff, the clerk, and the assessor now in office. Guy Andrews, of Wasco, has distributed his petitions for the Republican nomination for the office of assessor.

W. H. Ragdale, who has been mentioned as a candidate for the office of school superintendent, county attorney and commissioner, has stated that he is not and is not going to be a candidate for any of these positions or any other, which most effectively puts him out of the race.

Lawrence W. Rakes will not file for school superintendent this year as he will teach the Rufus school next term, having accepted that position several weeks ago.

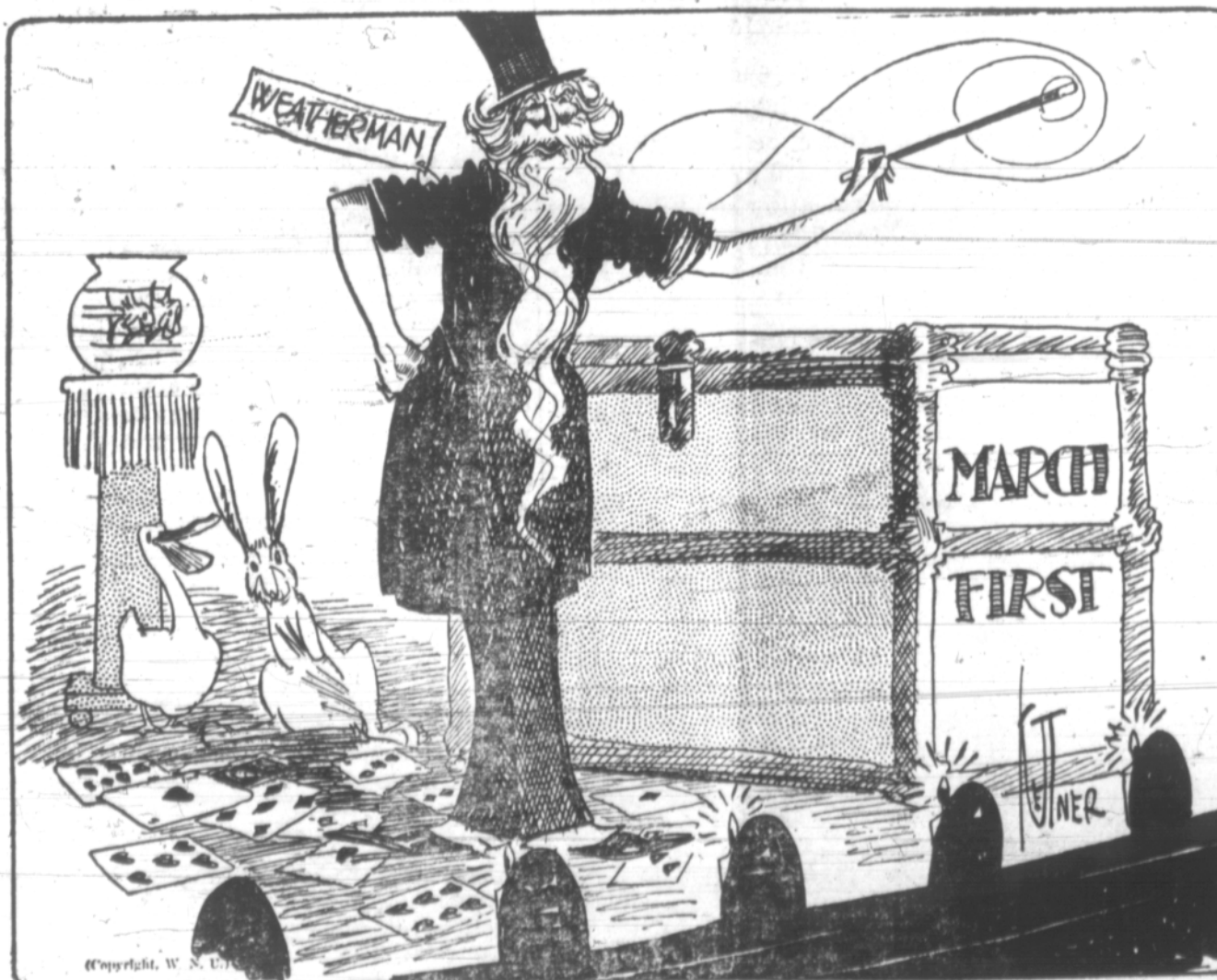
Homer Sibley, present principal at Rufus will continue his studies at the University of Oregon. The man most often mentioned as Mr. Rakes' successor is Willy W. Knighten, of Kent who has displayed considerable interest in and ability for administrative work along school lines.

It is freely reported that A. M. Young will not make the race for county treasurer, but a definite statement has not been made by him so far. It is generally conceded that if he wishes to make the race he will have a clear field.

There are many reports out as to the probability of different ones running for sheriff, but so far no one but the incumbent has announced his intentions along that line.

There will in all probability be no contest for the office of commissioner now held by Perry Axtell. By common consent one member of the court is always elected from the central part of the county and as Mr. Axtell's term has been satisfactory it is presumed that he will carry on for another four years.

Lion or Lamb



From the Observer, February 28, 1913

County commissioner E. D. McKee has placed an order for a 1913 Mitchell six with Geo. N. Crosfield.

Hugh Shull is the latest Sherman county farmer to purchase a Holt caterpillar engine.

The city of Shaniko has under way a deal by which for \$3000, they will purchase the water system of the town from the townsite company. The system originally cost \$18,000.

L. H. Martin purchased a fine buggy and robe this week from the Moro Hardware and Implement Co.

One car of cattle and three of hogs left Moro for the Portland market last week.

From the Observer, February 27, 1930

The west is not entirely free from inconvenience on account of scarcity of coal. For a week the OR&NRR has had but one freight train a day through this county all on account of the inability to secure coal sufficient to run the usual number.

Otto Peetz is building a confectionery store and pool room in Kent.

Hon. R. J. Gian arrived home from the state capital Tuesday and took his stall in the bank just as if he had not been abroad legislating for the people.

We are sorry indeed that the Webb family have decided to quit business in Moro. The New Moro hotel has been sold to Roy Hulse, who is to take possession Monday.

Alexander Scott, of Grass Valley, has been to Dalles city some time, negotiating with the W. W. M. Co. for electric power for Grass Valley, Moro and Wasco, hooked on to the White River Falls plant.

From the Observer, February 23, 1893

On Thursday last the dead body of John Kennefick, a bachelor who resided in the neighborhood of Kent was found on a private road or trail leading from deceased's house to the residence of Joe Elliot, another of Kent's citizens. The coroner's verdict was that the cause of his death was a blow on the skull inflicted by some means unknown.

W. H. Harris sold forty head of beef cattle to Kelly brothers last Friday, the average price paid being \$30. per head. The cattle were from three to seven years old and were in good condition.

The Moro Cornet band performed several choice selections in a most creditable manner one night last week in front of M. D. Adam's grocery store. R. Dingle is band conductor. Rufus Moore is still confined to his bed there being little change in his condition.