

Sherman County Journal

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SHERMAN COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

Forty Fourth Year

Moro, Oregon, August 12, 1932

No. 40

AUDIT OF COUNTY SCHOOLS COMPILED

Receipts and Disbursements of Each District Given

EXPENSES \$19,000 UNDER \$31

Largest Cut Made in Teachers Wages; Receipts Drop

The consolidated school audit for Sherman county schools for the year just past discloses a few rather peculiar conditions. While the school expenses were reduced in nearly every district the total saving was not as much as was thought possible at the first of the year.

One reduction that is not encouraging is in the number of pupils attending Sherman county schools. Whereas in 1930-31 the average daily attendance in the grades was 416.8 it has dropped to 382.4. In the high schools the average attendance last year was 177.5 where it was 186.3 in 1930-31.

One of the startling increases is in the amount of warrants not paid for want of funds. This item has been increased from \$5,568.31 to \$11,432.45 due to the non payment of taxes and the fact that several of the districts have over \$4700 tied up in the Moro State Bank.

The amounts paid the districts from the elementary school fund are not given in the receipts because of the fact that every district received \$300 except Rufus, Kent and Buckley which received \$600. This is not the total amount which will be apportioned to the districts but is all they were given from this fund during the year. Legally the elementary school fund must be paid by the counties to the districts whether it is paid in or not, but in years like this one it is difficult of accomplishment.

The first item of expense given in the tabulation shows clerk's salaries, bonds, and costs of election or publicity. In the Moro district this includes some supplies inadvertently charged to clerk's salary. The second column shows the amount paid to teachers. This is considerably lower than it was last year when \$93,065.00 was paid for teaching, but when it is considered that there were seven fewer teachers in the county districts than last year a part of it is explained. Only seven county districts held school in 1931-32. The others transported the children to a nearby town.

The next item includes all amounts that were paid for supplies attendant to teaching of which the greatest sum was for books due to the law

making purchase of books mandatory on the district.

Janitors and supplies for him and other necessities for the management of the school property are included in the column labeled janitors. The fuel expenditures are given separate column because it shows the varying costs of this item. As last year the schools that burn the cheap grade of coal have smaller costs of heating. Light and power costs have been reduced materially.

Under tuition is given the amounts that the different districts have paid for elementary tuition as the sums paid for high school tuition are included in the tax on each district. Wasco, Grass Valley and Kent made a charge for the use of their schools to the county districts last year.

The column marked transportation includes all sums that were paid by the district for hauling the children to school whether the money was paid to an individual or whether the district owns and operates a bus. The amounts spent for gas and oil and repair are included. A great difference may be noted. Rufus operates several busses for the amount given. Boardman district made an enviable record this year by hauling a bus full of children to school in Moro for the nominal sum of \$624.99. Their total expenses were \$770 which is quite a reduction from the \$2026 they spent last year. After a school bus is paid for it can apparently be operated for a comparatively small amount.

The interest costs of the schools has held about the same but will increase as interest is paid on the warrants now outstanding. The \$5166 paid last year for interest is greater than the sums paid for fuel and improvements together and is ten times the amount paid for library books.

The average cost per pupil varies in the districts from \$66.10 in Rutledge which was also the lowest last year to \$344.70 in Fairview. This cost is effected, more by the number of pupils in the school than by any other item. Last year there were districts that paid nearly \$600 per pupil for elementary education, but they have since began to transport the children to a town school.

The average cost of educating a child in the grade school of the county is \$180.29 which is approximately \$10 lower than it was last year when it was \$190.91.

Of the \$19,000 saving made in the schools in 1931-32 over \$13,000 was made in teachers' salaries. With the exception of janitors' wages and light and power there was no great saving made in any item over the previous year as a general rule. Clerks still draw the same sums and other expenses remain a good deal the same.

In the high schools, the cost as a whole and the average cost per pupil is as follows:

School	Total cost	Av. cost pupil
Rufus	\$3697.15	\$181.05
Wasco	\$166.98	148.49
Kent	\$768.78	196.25
Moro	7142.35	160.96
Grass Valley	6109.20	142.90

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Good Ball Game Won Sunday By Grass Valley

Those who were in Grass Valley last Sunday afternoon had the opportunity to see a real ball game. The Bend team and the Grass Valley-Kent boys played through the nine innings without a one of those blow-ups that usually feature baseball in the bushes.

Grass Valley-Kent won 8 to 4 because Jacob was in good form and the lads from Bend could not hit him consistently. They stood up to the plate and took a wicked cut at the ball but could not connect. They did succeed in getting seven hits but they were well scattered.

Douglas the kid pitcher from Bend allowed 14 hits. He was a slow ball pitcher, so slow, in fact, that the boys couldn't wait long enough for it in most cases. About a third of the local batmen went out on easy pop up flies or fouls.

It was a clean game with no bickering, no series of errors, several double plays, one of which was made by Osborn, unassisted.

Young struck out 11 men and Douglas, one. Hinges and Stone were the umpires.

Harvesters Finishing Their Labors For 1932

Harvest is drawing to a close in some parts of Sherman county this week as farmers finish their fields and pull their machines into the shed. Within the next week more than half of the farmers will be done with the 1932 harvest in the north end of the county.

In the south end of the county the first week of harvest has just been completed in some cases and it will be a couple of weeks yet before that section is through with the annual threshing.

Wheat hauling has been a little slower this year than it has been for several years because instead of having their wheat tauled during harvest many farmers are waiting until threshing is over so they can haul the wheat themselves. With the exception of bulk wheat that is hauled direct from the machine there is much less wheat in the warehouses than is usual at this period of the threshing season.

The winter wheat in the south end of the county did very well in yield, but there was a small percentage of the entire crop in winter wheat. The spring wheat is not so good and will reduce the yield of the county considerably. It is likely that spring wheat throughout the south end will average six sacks to the acre and the quality will not be the best.

VARIETAL TEST YIELDS AT STATION GIVEN

Spring Wheat Outyields Winter This Year

DRO WHEAT IS HIGH TESTING

Stout Resistant Variety Favored By Farmers

Varietal tests at the experiment station show results somewhat different than usual this year. In the first place the tests on winter wheat gave lower yields than last year for the reason that in many cases poor stands cut the production of some of the varieties.

Last year some of the crossbred wheats with Forty fold and Hard Federation and Forty fold and Odesa as parents ranked high in the winter wheats, this year they did not do so well and the turkey wheats yielded sufficiently high to top the list. Four bearded wheats were highest with Tripet ranking fifth. The best yields obtained for winter wheat in the varietal trials were a little over fifteen bushels.

As a general thing the spring made better crops than did the winter wheats this year on the station. This is contrary to the condition throughout the county and may be because of the fact that the soil on which the spring wheats were grown is slightly better than that where the winter wheat is sown.

Spring grains produced over 20 bushel to the acre in some cases. The best yielding wheats were selections from Hard Federation although the parent stock of regular Hard Federation ranked third in the list. Usually the soft Federation produces more wheat than does the hard.

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WEATHER REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING AUG. 10

DATE	MAX.	MIN.	PRECIP.
Aug. 4	97	67	.00
" 5	96	66	.00
" 6	96	69	.00
" 7	93	68	.00
" 8	77	60	.00
" 9	71	42	.00
" 10	68	49	.00
Total for week			.00

Rain Stops Harvesting In Part Of County

A harvest rain stopped work for half a day in a strip of territory running across the county from Grass Valley northwest Wednesday afternoon. It is not known how much rain fell but it is doubted if there was enough to bleach the wheat in many fields. Rain has been threatening for several days or since the warm weather broke and perhaps a little local shower will clear up the atmosphere and permit of better weather than has been the lot of the farmers for the past week.

Wages Reduced In Agricultural Department

M. A. McCall, Washington, D. C. who is in charge of cereal crops and diseases on all of the stations, was in Moro last Saturday to inspect the local station. Suncy was taken to the Pendleton station by Mr. Stephens and from there on to the Union station.

Mr. McCall's mission here aside from his annual inspection was to determine what savings could be made in the operations of the stations. As the appropriation for the support of the experiment stations has been materially reduced economies will be enforced. All employees have had their salaries cut beginning with the 1st of July and some activities will be curtailed to meet the budget reduction.

Atwater Kent Sponsor Singing Contest Again

Young singers of Sherman county, who aspire to musical careers—or a chance at cash prizes totalling \$15,000—will have an opportunity to make their dreams come true by enrolling prior to August 26 with Mrs. J. M. Lowe, The Dalles, chairman for the Mid-Columbia area of the 1932 National Radio Audition.

Tryouts for the state competition will be held at the Granada theatre, The Dalles, Friday night, August 26. Contestants who qualify in this local audition will be in line for advancement, through the state contest, to participation in the National Audition finals, the winners of which will receive, from the Atwater Kent Foundation, cash prizes totalling \$15,000.

Individual prizes to the five young men and the five young women who progress to the finals will be \$5,000 each to the young man and young woman rated highest; \$1,000 each to the second place winners; \$500 each to the six runners-up.

Grass Valley Fire Equipment Mounted

The Grass Valley fire equipment is being mounted on the truck that was recently bought and the entire ensemble has been painted a most gorgeous red as is the custom with fire trucks. It is ready to have its first initiation into the business of fire fighting anytime the occasion demands.

The chemical tanks that the city has owned for several years have been mounted on the front of the chassis and a box has been built in the rear for the hose. The ladders are carried on the same truck. There is a place for everything, axes, nozzles and men.

Sponsors Of School Consolidation Sought

In an attempt to clear up the mystery about who is responsible for the circulation of petitions for the consolidation of the schools of higher learning in Oregon—the School Tax Saving Association has sent the following letter to C. J. Whiteside, president of the Corvallis Chamber of Commerce asking his assistance in the search.

Mr. C. J. Whiteside, President, Chamber of Commerce, Corvallis, Oregon.

Dear Sir: The astounding revelations of a secretly organized, secretly operated and secretly financed organization to promote the Zorn-Macpherson educational bill, made in court at the Brownell hearing, points so strongly to a group of big business and professional men of Corvallis that we are actuated to write to you as president of the Chamber of Commerce of Corvallis to ascertain whether the tactics used thus far by them and the extravagant claims made for the bill has the sanction of the Corvallis chamber or represents the city as a whole.

If the activities of these hidden forces have the sanction of the chamber or the city, then the voters of the state should know in light of the amazing disclosures of the conspiracy made under oath at the Brownell hearing by Henry Zorn, president of the so-called Marjon County Taxpayers' Equalization league and alleged co-author of the measure; John Ramage, go-between and 'treasurer'.

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POWELL WHEAT BURNS IN FIELD SATURDAY

Blaze Started on Combine Spreads To Wheat

ERSKINE SCHOOL ENDANGERED

Backfiring Saves Buildings and Plowing Corral Fire

A fire that aroused the neighborhood and brought men from nearby towns occurred on the Chas. Powell ranch last Saturday evening between five and six o'clock. About seventy acres of standing wheat was burned and, approximately fifty sacks of threshed grain and a hundred acres of stubble and straw was destroyed before the fire was brought under control.

Eben Kee was cutting the crop for Mr. Powell. As he happened to glance back from his seat on the tractor he saw a burning grain sack fall from the combine. He immediately stopped the outfit and with the aid of the crew put out the fire under the machine, but apparently a part of the sack had fallen before as the fire was burning behind the combine and it could not be stopped.

The combine was pulled to a point of safety and the alarm was phoned to town by Mr. Powell who had seen the fire from the house. As soon as possible the tractor was hitched onto a plow and a furrow was thrown along the side of the fire which had by this time reached across the Powell field and across the half mile of stubble on the Schaeffer place farmed by Elmer Barzee to the Erskine school grounds. Shortly after the fire begun a backfire was started on the west of the school house by Wes Fuller and Wiley McDonald who were assisted by neighbors and townsmen coming to the fire. This action undoubtedly saved the school buildings and the buildings on the Schaeffer place from burning.

There was little or no wind and the

News of Olden Days Retold For Readers Who Remember

Observer August 10th, 1893.

Sheriff Leslie was out on a tour of investigation last Friday. His ranch at the other side of Gordon Ridge was the object of his solicitude, but he tells us that his grain is excellent. On one portion the wheat will go 20 bushels and the balance will yield 12 to 15 bushels.

L. K. Moore, C. W. Deikman and others commenced work last Monday on C. A. Buckley's fine residence which is soon to adorn Grass Valley.

Miss Mollie Nichols has been found at last. She was out riding after horses and crossed the John Day river into Gilliam county when she was thrown violently from her horse receiving injuries which rendered her unconscious. She has been stopping at a house on the other side of the river but is now at the Reynolds home in Wasco.

Clyde Williams, manipulator of the mechanical department of this paper started Monday for Trout Lake to spend the next two or three weeks fishing.

Observer August 8th, 1903.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Nish, of Monkland, have a record breaking crop of vegetables this year. They brought us a solid head of cabbage which measures 12 inches through and an excellent beet which measures 6 inches through and 29 long, good to eat tops and all. We doubt if there is anything in Oregon worth cabbaging onto that can beat this.

Holder and Swift are the new firm

at the Moro Hotel Ice Cream parlors.

R. W. Pinkerton and C. H. Poole are cutting 1600 acres of No. 1 wheat in Morrow county using a \$2000 combine, the first in that county.

Friends of C. C. Kuney will be glad to learn that he is able to be at home and be about, but all will be pained to know that he may lose his eyesight.

At the fire hose demonstration Saturday night streams covered buildings on both sides of First street.

Observer August 15, 1913.

Mr. C. R. Ball of the agricultural department at Washington D. C. was here last week and expressed himself as well pleased with the progress of the work of the Moro station especially with the success attained this year in the matter of purifying grain varieties.

John Harbke and family left Wednesday for their former home in Portland. Mr. Harbke left his connection with the Moro garage because the smell of gasoline acted unfavorably on his health.

Eugene, son of C. G. Silver, was thrown from his pony Friday evening August 8th, into a wire fence badly cutting and tearing his right forearm.

F. E. Fagan is building a barn 14x20 feet on his residence property.

Max Pluemke has sold his residence and acreage in City View addition in Moro to Earl Fields.

Wheat Holding General Among Farmers Because of Necessity

Farmers in this section of the wheat belt seem to be convinced that the movement to hold their wheat is a good one. No one has organized the farmers for this holding game. They just realize that if they sell their crop that represents the years work for less than it cost them they will be out of the running as far as putting in another crop of wheat is concerned. They don't need any organization. The ability to add and subtract is enough.

Furthermore it often happens that this sort of a sellers strike is more effective than any other kind. The manufacturers don't sell when they can't make money by doing so, why should the farmers?

It doesn't look like it is going to be possible for the farmers of the middle west to get their demand for dollar wheat. That is asking almost too much from a busted world, but it is certainly possible and probable that the American farmer can get

the world market price plus the tariff of 42 cents per bushel and that is getting nearer to a dollar wheat every day.

Anyway, there is something encouraging about the general outlook. We've had this depression on our backs long enough. All this money that has been in hiding for the last two years might come out into the open if prices started up again and goodness knows everything else isn't going up very fast unless wheat and other farm products go first.

For this reason the movement toward holding wheat from the market is going good in Sherman county. How long it will last, no man knows, for to be successful it must have the support of the land banks, the state and local banks and other creditors. However, as long as these agencies must have a rise in the price of wheat to break even for the year it is likely they will string along with the farmer until wheat gets to be worth hauling it to town anyway.

A Stranger in These Parts



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