

## Sherman County Journal

SHERMAN COUNTY OBSERVER, Established Nov. 2, 1888  
GRASS VALLEY JOURNAL, Established Oct. 14, 1897  
CONSOLIDATED, MARCH 6, 1931  
WASCO NEWS-ENTERPRISE, Established 1891  
CONSOLIDATED MARCH 4, 1932.

Published Every Friday at Moro, Oregon, By

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Managing Editor

Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice at Moro, Oregon, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES—PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

One Year ..... \$1.50  
Six Months ..... 1.00

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1932

## PROPERTY WILL PAY

There is a question in the mind of the governor, the tax commissioners, the budget director and every other person interested in the tax situation of the State of Oregon. It appears that the state, like practically every citizen within its borders, has spent more money than it was able to collect with the result that it is broke, only in the case of the state they call it a deficit.

There is a movement to impose the property tax on the counties again as a means of raising money, but that certainly will break up the governments of the counties, and the plan will not be advocated by those who have made a serious study of county tax delinquencies. It is unreasonable to consider it.

The sales tax is the most discussed alternative. It is asserted that the Eastern Oregon Wheat League favored it which is not entirely correct. They favored it in preference to a reimposition of the property tax. It is doubtful if a sales tax could stand a vote of the people. It would probably be defeated at the next general election or special election if one was held. In the meantime the tax commission would find it necessary to collect the property tax from the already overburdened farmers.

It seems that the only way the property owners of the state can keep from paying the property tax is to insist that their representatives go to Salem and cut enough from the state budget to make such a tax unnecessary. State officials claim that this is impossible. They say that if the governor, the legislature, the prison and other like necessities were dispensed with we would still need another tax. Sure, then why not try to cut off something not so needed? When the counties began cutting taxes they didn't start with the sheriff, the clerk and the county court and the state need not begin with their officers.

It is probable that the counties of Oregon have reduced their government expenses by an average of one third; Sherman has reduced by nearly one half. Yet the state budget director brings in a proposed budget with a cut of two or three million from a biennial budget of nearly fifty million. To us who are living in comparative safety and happiness in a county that has reduced expenses one half it seems that the budget director is an amateur.

It is almost certain that the sales tax would be defeated unless the people of the state were convinced that a new tax was absolutely necessary. It might be passed if voters positively knew that the state had made every effort to reduce expenses by cutting off unnecessary items completely during this emergency and had reduced the cost of other expenses as far as possible. People who have recently defeated an income tax because it had too broad a base and imposed too high a percent in the upper brackets are not likely to pass a sales tax that would effect everyone, unless legislators have done a lot of cutting.

## THAT LICENSE FEE

Papers have carried so much informative material about the finances of the state highway commission that they are pretty well known to everyone who habitually reads.

Roughly the budget of the commission calls for \$3,200,000 from license fees, \$5,600,000 from gasoline taxes and a little over \$300,000 from other sources for a total of \$9,100,000. Expenses of the commission are listed at \$3,300,000 for bonds and interest, a little more than the receipts from licenses under the present schedule. It will cost \$2,000,000 to maintain the roads, \$1,100,000 for secondary roads, formerly market roads, and nearly \$1,000,000 for administration and other expenses. This budget would leave \$1,700,000 for new construction and matching federal funds.

It is expected that a cut must be made in the license fees and that the added gasoline tax must be divided among the counties to repay them for loss of their share of license money, now one third of the total or over a million dollars.

How far this cut should go is the question that is being debated around the hot stoves all over the state as the amateur politicians discuss the affairs of state. It seems that those who are most insistent on a large reduction in the license fees are the men who pay little other taxes. Property owners, whose tax bill is large, are afraid that too great a reduction will cause the bonds given for highways to fall onto the hands of the general taxpayer.

A reduction of not over one half in license fees, as was recommended by the Wheat League, will make the average license fee about \$11.00 in this state, smaller than that in our neighboring states. It will still make a difference between large and small cars as the law does now, a distinction that should be perpetuated. It will allow funds to maintain our roads and repay our bonds although curtailing construction to a low point.

Her it seems as if out as great a reduction as we can make in a total system that will attract tourists and permit citizens to travel about the state in safety and comfort. No one wants, or can afford, to go back to the olden days when tires were changed every fifteen hundred or two thousand miles, when gasoline consumption was much heavier, when broken highways were common and when a drive of a hundred miles was an experience for none but the strongest men.

## Grass Valley

George Wilcox, Herman Schilling, Fred Krusow, T. M. Rolfe, J. W. Shepard, E. M. Alley, Harold Eakin and Donald Martin were visitors at Condon the last of the week while attending the wheat league conference. Mrs. John Riffe accompanied her father in law to the Gilliam county city to visit her parents.

Several men from here are employed on the emergency work at Sherars grade this week although none of them can work long at a time.

Ivan Gervais was taken to The Dalles Tuesday afternoon by Dr. Poley to have his arm x-rayed. A basket ball was thrown at him from a close distance and the force of it had pushed his hand back farther than it was accustomed to go. A bad sprain, but no broken bones was the verdict.

The Grass Valley Women's Club will meet next Wednesday, December 15 with Mrs. Ray Blake.

The Mid-Winter Charity Ball will be given here Friday evening December 16, according to information released by the committee.

Henry Rooper and his father were visitors in Grass Valley Tuesday evening from Antelope.

Gerald Kelly was getting medicine here for his father, Jack Kelly, of Kent who was seriously burned while cleaning out a sink with lye.

A. A. Dunlap and Dick Abel were Kent attendees at the Condon Wheat League meeting.

GRASS VALLEY SCHOOL NOTES  
Genevieve Beardsley, Editor.

The Grass Valley volleyball team defeated the Moro team by a score of 35 to 23 in the most exciting game of the season. Much enthusiasm was aroused by the posters made by the different classes during the previous week. A very large crowd, consisting largely of Moro fans, attended the game. This game tied Moro and Grass Valley for the county championship which will be played off at

Wasco, Friday, December 9th. The interest in this game is even greater than that of this week at Grass Valley.

Philip Boyer of Eugene is now attending high school at Grass Valley. Philip is a member of the Junior class.

Bernard Martin, a graduate of '31 visited school Tuesday afternoon. Report cards were given out Tuesday.

Georgia Blalock is visiting relatives in Hood River.

Kent Auxiliary Sewing  
To Aid Soldiers

The Auxiliary of George Bell Post No. 49 at Kent will hold their next regular sewing meeting the afternoon of December 14 at the home of Mrs. Frank von Borstel. Those who are not members but are eligible are always welcome at our meetings. We would be glad to have any eligible women join with us and during this period of depression have cut the dues to a minimum and will also credit any donation of food for dance suppers etc. on the dues for the coming year. Activities for the unit will cover a wide scope during the coming year, according to Mildred Norton, Unit President; and Dorothy Dunlap, Secretary and Chairman of Hospitals and Child Welfare, and Flora Ayres, Chairman of Community Service; and members will have an opportunity to take part in work of special interest to them.

During the year ahead there will be an increased need for the type of work which our unit does, and increased opportunity for members to do worthwhile work through the unit.

While the Auxiliary has many interesting social activities, it is much more than a social organization. It is an organization for patriotic service. It gives its members a means of expressing their devotion to America through concrete work for the welfare and progress of the community and the nation. So join with us and help to carry on this great work.

Domestic Allotment  
Plan Favored

The domestic allotment plan for farm relief and further controlled credit inflation which will not embrace currency inflation were suggested as means to economic revival today by E. M. Ehrhardt, president of the Federal Land Bank of Spokane. Mr. Ehrhardt was a principal speaker on today's program at "Homemakers Week" at Washington State College, Pullman.

He urged upon his hearers the importance of preservation of the land bank system, and in turn, declared the banks should and will continue to do all possible to keep good men on the land.

The man who has sat quietly through an election campaign in which the banking system he represents was the subject of sniping attacks of oratory struck out boldly today at his critics and their patent plans for moratoriums on private debts.

"Agriculture will be better served by an institution which maintains its ability to function for the benefit of the many farmers who will adjust their affairs to the new economic conditions than by one which is constantly crippled by foolish ideas of false generosity in times of stress," he declared.

"There is a real danger of a financial serfdom, if by a misguided sense of sympathy, we are driven to unwise means of extending unwarranted credit."

Pointing to the \$125,000,000 given to the 12 land banks by the last congress to help them meet present conditions, Mr. Ehrhardt called attention to the fact that the money was extended as a temporary advance to the banks.

"One hundred million dollars of the fund was appropriated to reinforce the credit of the land bank system

and reassure investors in the land bank bonds, and so enable the banks to obtain additional money for farmers at reasonable rates."

"The \$25,000,000 was appropriated to supply the banks with funds for granting extensions, within limitations prescribed by law, to worthy and deserving borrowers unable to meet their obligations."

Mr. Ehrhardt said the Spokane bank received about \$2,000,000 from this \$25,000,000 fund and pointing out that principal and interest due the bank from borrowers each year would exceed \$7,000,000, said it was "therefore clearly evident the \$2,000,000 thus available would be exhausted in less than four months if wholesale extensions were granted."

This forced the bank to a carefully planned administration of the funds, makes it necessary to treat each individual case of extension of payment "on its merits, according to the evident purpose" of the appropriation.

"The situation still required that all who could pay should do so," he continued, "but it has been the policy of the bank to give first consideration to those borrowers who have been unable to devise means for making payment; who have been making a proper endeavor to work out of their difficulties, with a reasonable prospect of ultimate success; who were living on the land and giving it good care, and who were willing to give the bank assurance that the productions of their farms would be applied to the payment of taxes and mortgage installments, after providing for current operating and living expenses."

For your convenience I have arranged for you to leave your shoe work at Walter A. May & Son. Pick up and delivery twice a week at no cost to you.

JOSEPH A. MEE  
The Wasco Shoe Man

"In accordance with this policy, approximately 4000 formal extensions have been granted and by the end of the year the \$2,000,000 fund allocated to the Spokane bank will have been exhausted."

"In addition to these extensions, the amount involved in cases of forbearance alone exceed the extension funds supplied by the government."

## Wasco Class Does Well

The bookkeeping class has completed its first practice set and last Monday took a test on bookkeeping over the work covered sent out by the Southwestern Publishing Company. There were no flunks in the class, most of the grades being about the average. Augusta Huckin received a grade of 98.

Six weeks exams for the second six weeks were completed this week and some good grades of work was done this six weeks.

Margaret Johnson, Gene Hall and Eugene Spencer have been absent all this week due to illness.

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Moro Oregon

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in Each Month

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## RAYON SWEATERS

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## Girls Wool CAPS

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## Girls Sweater COAT

\$1.95

## Girls Wool SCARFS

50c

## Boys Suede Cloth JACKET

Cossock Style

\$1.00

## Mens Suede COATS

\$1.50

## Mens Heavy Wool COATS

\$3.95

## Mens Suede Shirts

\$1.00

## Mens Wool Shirts

\$2.50

## Men sheep lined COATS

\$4.20

## Buckingham &amp; Hecht Boots &amp; Shoes

Xmas Boxed Hdkfs. for Men and Women  
25c and 50c

## ANNOUNCEMENT

I am installing new shop equipment and a stock of Genuine Ford Parts in the building formerly occupied by Fred Pickett Motor Co., and will soon be open for business as the Authorized Ford Dealer for Sherman County, operating under the trade name:

## Pickett Motor Co

A new labor schedule at lower prices is to be inaugurated, and every customer will receive my personal attention. I shall appreciate the chance to serve you.

FRED PICKETT MORO, OREGON



## New Perkins Hotel

5th and Washington Streets  
Portland, Ore.  
M. NELSON, Owner  
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