

Sherman County Journal

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SHERMAN COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

Forty Sixth Year

Moro, Oregon, January 12, 1934

No. 10

GARRETT CONFESSES TO BURNING HALL

Odd-Fellows Building In Grass Valley Totally Destroyed

GUILTY AWAITING SENTENCE

Guilt of Other Fires Acknowledged in Signed Confession

Glen Garrett, a resident of Grass Valley for the past eighteen months Monday signed a confession stating that he had set fire to the Odd-Fellows hall that was destroyed Sunday night.

The confession further stated that the prisoner, Mr. Garrett, had fired the Conrad house, belonging to Hattie French, in November and that in both instances he did so while under the influence of intoxicating beverages. Burning of a house in Sacramento, Cal., and a house in Burns was also admitted by the prisoner.

It is expected that Judge Hendricks of the circuit court will be in Sherman county the latter part of this week to pass sentence on Garrett, who, it is thought, will plead guilty. He may receive up to fifteen years in prison for the offense.

This brings to end, it is hoped, the run of disastrous fires that has held Grass Valley householders in fear for several months. The I. O. O. F. hall that was burned Sunday night was built in 1895, almost exactly 39 years ago as to construction was going on during the early part of the year. Lawrence Moore was master carpenter and designer of the building.

It has been used by nearly every social and fraternal organization in the community for many years. A hardwood floor in the downstairs part of the building was used for skating and dancing and the lodge rooms upstairs were used for gatherings of all kinds in addition to the meetings of the Odd-Fellows and Rebekahs.

The fire was discovered just before seven o'clock in the evening and the fire bell was rung. When the first fire fighters arrived at the fire, which was set under the outside stair way, it was merely a little blaze in the coal bin, but before the fire engine and hose could be brought into action the outside wall of the building had been burned through and the flames were breaking out at the eaves.

The building was built of pine lumber and once fairly ablaze could not be put out by the equipment at hand although valiant efforts were made to do so. Glen Garrett, the confessed builder of the fire, was the most active of the fire fighters.

Little of the contents of the building was saved as it was thought that the fire could be extinguished until the stairs were all ablaze. Lodge regalia, Rebekah books and other prized possessions of the orders were destroyed. Insurance was approximately \$3000.

Production Credit Representative Here 16th

H. B. Howell, a representative of the Production Credit Corporation of Spokane, will be in Moro January 16 to talk to interested farmers about production credits. He will explain how farmers can procure production credits for their crop and livestock needs. The meeting will begin at 1:30 in the afternoon and will be held in the court room of the court house. On the 17th the organization meeting and explanation of the corn-hog reduction program will be held in the court house with representatives from O. S. C. present to make the talk.

Government To Investigate Taxes

The government is interested in finding out the trends in rural real estate acreage delinquencies and foreclosures and in transfers of rural property. Several counties of the state will have their tax records gone over to determine what is happening in the tax situation and Sherman county may be one of these.

Sinclair Wilson, of Portland, normally of the forest service but temporarily working on this project was here Wednesday to interview applicants for the job of going over the records and to outline the work. Ralph Reynolds is in charge of the work for the state.

The government, explained Mr. Wilson, is interested in knowing what kinds of lands are delinquent in taxes, what kind of lands are being foreclosed for taxes or mortgages and is taking this means of getting that information. This is one of the very few counties of the northwest that owns property taken for taxes.

Caterpillar-Tractor Show Will Be Staged Monday

Farmers are to have an opportunity to learn of the new designs in tractors next week as the Loggers and Contractors Machinery Co. is putting on a diesel tractor school here Monday, January 15 at the Legion hall.

Moving pictures of the new diesels working and still pictures of the assembly of the machine will be shown on the screen and explanations of the engine will be made by men direct from the factory.

The school will begin at 9 o'clock in the morning and will continue until about 10 in the evening before all the material of an informative nature is shown. Questions will be answered about gas tractors as well as about the diesel.

Farm Loan Associations Elect Officers

The Sherman County National Farm Loan Association held its annual meeting Tuesday afternoon in Moro and elected the following officers to direct the affairs of the company for the year. E. H. Moore, president; S. A. Hall, Fred Cox, J. H. Wilson, T. B. Searcy, directors; and W. H. Ragsdale, secretary-treasurer. This is the older farm loan group doing business here.

The newly formed Moro National Farm Loan Association met and elected officers for the year as follows: C. J. Thompson, president; P. C. Axtell, J. B. Coon, Augusta M. Huckin, Hugh R. Herin, directors and W. H. Ragsdale, secretary-treasurer.

The Wasco association held their meeting the same day. The old association there is still functioning.

Miss Maggie Triplet Dies At Niece's Home

The hundreds of former pupils and friends of Miss Maggie A. Triplet, who for fifteen years was a member of the teaching staff of the Wasco grade school, will be sorry to learn of her death Saturday, January 6th, at the home of her niece Mrs. Gladys Moran, of Vernonia, Oregon. Miss Triplet had as her pupils many of the now prominent business men and ranchers of Sherman county, and all remember her as a woman of sterling worth and great ability as a teacher. Miss Triplet left Wasco three years ago, and for two years taught near Vernonia. However, due to ill health she was unable to continue her work during the past year. Miss Triplet was 58 years of age at the time of her death. She is survived by her niece, Mrs. Gladys Moran, whom she raised and who for many years resided with her aunt in Wasco, and by one brother, Lewis R. Triplet of Bend.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 9th, with private cremation in Portland.

CWA HAS BUSY WEEK; APPROVES PROJECTS

Pipe Project For Moro Is Approved and Work Started

WASCO VIADUCT IS APPROVED

Road Projects Us'ng Men All Over The County

Speed has been the word in CWA work in the county for the past few days. Administrator Wilcox and committeeman Dunlap drove to Portland Tuesday and on return brought confirmation of several projects to keep formerly unemployed men busy until February 15 when all CWA work must be finished.

Among the projects approved by the state headquarters were: The Moro pipe project, the Rutledge road, the Harmony road, Erskineville road, Kent Legion Hall, Wasco viaduct, continuation of Moro school.

The Moro project is an extension of the pipe work already done. The CWA will furnish \$2312 in labor and \$924 in material which will include five hydrants and 975 feet of 8-inch pipe. The city will furnish 1905 feet of 6 inch pipe and connections. This project will give cheaper fire insurance rates for practically all of the city, will increase the pressure and flow of water and will reduce the health risk from the water supply. Work has already commenced.

The Rutledge road project will build up the road just north of the end of the Rutledge market road and will cut down the hill on the ridge road running past the Adams, Reynolds and Searcy places.

The Harmony road project will change the Hay Canyon road near the bridge above the school house where the road turns east to go to the Reese and Edward Belshee places.

The Erskineville road will be improved from the way west thru the low land. The Kent Legion hall will be kalsomned and painted. The Moro school job will be finished and work has already begun on the re-decorating of the Wasco school here.

The Wasco viaduct project will strengthen the "vice west of Tuel's corner and lengthen it a few feet. It is not known that all these projects can be completed as it may not be possible for the men allotted to the work to finish them before the middle of February which is the final date unless extensions are made soon.

Grass Valley Council Orders New Equipment

Grass Valley city council met in a special session Monday night after the fire and voted several changes in their fire fighting equipment from lessons learned. A new battery was ordered for the fire truck to make starting more certain and a siren was ordered to replace the old fashioned fire bell. With improvement in the handling of fire equipment these new purchases are expected to make the fire department more effective.

Ben Taylor of Mitchell was here Tuesday on business.

WEATHER REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING JAN. 10

DATE	MAX.	MIN.	PRECIP.
JAN. 4	52	35	.00
5	50	37	.00
6	42	30	.00
7	40	31	.00
8	37	26	.00
9	40	28	.02
10	43	34	.10
Total for week			.12

Grass Valley's Old-Time Dance Announced

Grass Valley is going to have a dance. Yes, an old time dance. The same kind of old time dance it has held each winter for several years. It will be held January 26 in the newly decorated auditorium.

This dance is managed by a group of business men who first started it to provide a fund for charitable purposes. There is never any personal profit about it. This time the proceeds will go toward the painting of the auditorium.

That isn't all there is unique about the dance, either, for on this occasion all the old time dancers of another generation come out in their best bib and tucker, feet limbered up and joints greased all ready to take part like they did when the Grass Valley dancing class met over Moore & Karlen's store for their Saturday night hops. It is a gala affair. Grandmothers become belles again and grandfathers jig about in the quadrilles like they did 40 years ago when their legs were supple from riding a horse forty miles before the dance began.

Old time dancers come a long way too to hear the strains of "Whistling Rufus", "Over the Waves", "Turkey in the Straw" and other tunes that have survived the years. Young people attend either to hear their elders tunes or to see what it was like years ago before they were born.

Moro Woman's Club Holds First 1934 Meeting

The Moro Womens Study Club held their first meeting of 1934 on the afternoon of January 6th at the home of Mrs. L. V. Moore.

Mrs. R. B. Hoskinson director for the day opened the program by reading a poem by Dean Collins about the New Year.

Each member present responded to roll call by giving the title of their childrens favorite book.

The program was by the applied education department, the first topic "How to eliminate misleading and untruthful advertising" was very capably handled by Mrs. Margaret Peetz.

The second topic "Our part in better film movement" was interestingly discussed by Mrs. O. A. Ramsey.

The open forum on movie subjects for the children resulted in everyone giving her opinion of youngsters attending the movies unclappered, and the types of movies best for the children to see.

Our next meeting will be held the afternoon of January 19th at 2 o'clock sharp in the basement of the Presbyterian church with our president, Mrs. A. Douma as hostess.

Heppner Has New First National Bank Branch

The First National Bank of Portland has installed a branch in Heppner. Since the banks of Morrow county closed there has been agitation for a branch bank in Heppner that has finally been answered by the First National. According to an announcement made Wednesday E. L. Morton who has been liquidator of the Bank of Commerce at Wasco will be manager of the new branch which will open Monday of next week.

Mr. Morton has been in Wasco a little over a year as adjuster of the closed bank there and in that time has made many friends. He learned his banking in far eastern Oregon— at Ontario. No announcement has been made as to his successor at Wasco.

NOTICE

Warrants Nos. 141 to 170 inclusive of School District No. 7, Sherman County, Oregon, will be paid upon presentation to clerk of said district.

Interest ceases on date of this notice.
Margaret E. Tuel, Clerk.

SALES TAX MEASURE REGULATIONS GIVEN

Exemptions Fewer Than In Last Bill Before Voters

SCHOOLS WOULD GET FUNDS

Entire Amount, Except \$10,000, Goes To Schools

The sales tax bill is under discussion on every street corner and there is probability that such discussion will increase instead of diminish as election time draws near. In this article we will attempt to give a brief resume of the bill giving the bare facts as stated therein.

All retail sales are to be taxed one and one-half percent. The state tax commission is charged with the responsibility of making up a schedule of charges which will bring the required percentage. It is thought that small sales will not be taxed at all although they are in some states having this form of taxation.

Exemptions are: gross receipts from utility service or sales; sales for public works; sales of motor fuels already taxed; gross receipts from sales by farmers, producers, manufacturers, wholesalers or jobbers to farmers, producers or others for resale; gross sales of \$50 or less per month.

Governmental agencies may apply for a refund of the tax which will be granted under certain conditions.

It shall be unlawful for any retailer to advertise or to represent to the public that the tax of any purchase thereof imposed by this act will be assumed or absorbed by the retailer. The tax is to be collected from the purchaser as far as possible. It is a direct liability on the retailer who shall make statements monthly to the commission and pay his part.

After administrative expenses of not more than \$10,000 have been taken out the remainder of the tax shall be paid as follows: twenty-five percent shall go to the common school fund of the several counties beginning the 1st day of July 1934. This part shall be put in the county school fund and shall be paid to the districts in the manner now prescribed by law.

The remaining three quarters must be paid to the common school fund and shall be distributed according to the class room units as provided by law. Twenty seven elementary pupils or one teacher is regarded as such a unit. High school units are 21 pupils. Money so allotted to schools "shall be used exclusively to reduce the property tax of such district. The county assessor shall deduct the revenue received and to be received by each district from the common school fund during the fiscal year from the amount levied as a property tax by said district."

Farm Price Index Declines During December

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics farm price index declined 3 points to 68 per cent of its pre-war level during the month ended December 15. Prices received by farmers for wheat, rye, flax, hogs, cattle, calves, lambs and dairy and poultry products all registered net declines for the month, but the effect of these declines on the index was partly offset by advances in prices received for corn, fruits and vegetables, work animals, sheep and wool. Sub-indexes showed that chicken and egg prices had declined ten points during the period; meat animals, 7 points; dairy products, 2 points; and gains, 1 point. The cotton and cottonseed index advanced 1 point due entirely to a raise

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Wheat Checks Expected January 20th

Word has been received by the county agent's office here that the contracts for wheat allotments for this county had been accepted in Washington D. C. by the review board and that the allotment checks could be expected on or about the 20th of January.

This estimate of the time which will elapse between approval and receipt of the checks is presumably based on experiences of other counties where checks have already been received and will probably not vary more than a few days.

A total of \$335,900 will land in this county all in one lump in about ten days which is quite a considerable sum for these days. It is seldom that even in this county where large wheat checks are not unusual that this amount of money has come into the county in one day. Just what part will be sent out to landowners has not been computed. Guesses are being made as to the percentage of this money that will be paid to the sheriff for taxes. Guesses range from \$25,000 to \$150,000 with a majority of them placing their bets on a sum between \$50,000 and \$100,000. In any event the tax delinquency has a chance of being drastically reduced within the next month.

New Tractor Diesel To Be Shown Here

The International Harvester Company and their agent, R. J. Baker, will give a tractor school here in Moro on Friday January 19 at Pickett's garage. This will be the second school of this sort to be held in the county the same week, and farmers should be well informed as to various makes of diesel motors before the sessions are all finished.

Principal display of the school will be a partially dismantled tractor showing the important parts of the machine. Talks on the salient characteristics will be given by Frank Henderson and Wade Goodman.

This make of farm tractor is comparatively new in Sherman county and this school is being given to acquaint machine men with the developments made by the company within the past years.

Patronize Journal Advertisers.

What Happened 40 Years Ago, And Who It Happened To

From the Observer January 17, 1895

A pleasant party gathered at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. Scott, of Grass Valley, on the evening of the 7th. Games and music were the amusements after which a delicious supper was spread. Those present were C. A. Heath and wife; Rev. Henton and wife; Elmer Heath and wife; R. Booten and wife; R. H. King and wife; F. E. Clark and wife; John Hays and wife; James Hays and wife; Miss Hattie Hill; Dr. Brown; T. Brownhill and Lester Heath.

The January term of county court was in session last week, Judge John Fulton presiding. Commissioners Orr and Leach, Clerk Hayes and Sheriff Holder present.

The new hall in Grass Valley will be two stories high. The upper story 30x60 feet and the lower hall 30x60 with a stage 30x20. It will be dedicated in June by the Musical Association.

Perry Watkins is confined to his bed with a serious attack of typhoid fever. His little daughter Jennie also has it.

The rush of waters down Grass Valley creek on the 12th did lots of damage to fencing.

From the Observer January 20, 1905
Roy Belshee and Charles Nish, were captains in a rabbit hunt at Upper Hay Canyon Wednesday. An oyster supper at J. F. Belshee's was enjoyed after the hunt, at the expense of the losing side.

WHEAT LEAGUE ASKS STATION CONTINUANCE

Proposal To Abandon Stations Hit By Wheat Men

SENATORS PLEDGE SUPPORT

Budget Recommendation To Stop Dry Land Stations Fought

Members of the Eastern Oregon Wheat League are interested in the plan of Budget Director Douglass to cut the appropriations for dry land agricultural stations to a minimum and are making an effort to have this work continued.

Wires have been sent to Senators McNary and Steiwer and to Representative Pierce. The senators have replied as follows. Senator McNary: "Will give active support to movement to continue appropriations for dry land farming research work which was eliminated by recent budget estimate."

Senator Steiwer: "Am making every effort to obtain reinstatement federal appropriations for dry land farming research in Oregon. Greatly appreciate wire." No message has been received from Representative Pierce.

Contentions of the wheat growers are that it is impossible for research work to be carried on by individuals; that if the farmers of the United States and especially of the northwest who have to export wheat to remain in competition with farmers of other nations they must have available all the information about wheat raising possible as foreign countries have experiment stations that are well financed; more efficient production will reduce the cost per bushel quicker than anything else; experimentation is a continuous process and to stop it now would be the cause of losing all that has been accomplished.

If the budget estimate was approved it would remove the Hermiston irrigation station entirely, the Perfection field station and would ser-

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J. N. Fordyce has resigned his position with the Moro office of the W. W. M. Co. to accept a position as book keeper with the O. T. Co. at Wasco.

E. D. Woodbury, C. S. Ry. Supt., is now also Mayor Woodbury of the terminal city Shaniko.

Walter Parry has returned to his studies in a Portland business college.

An eagle, 7 ft. from tip to tip made two swoops to carry off a 5 year old child near Garfield, Monday. The father of the child killed the bird.

From the Observer January 15, 1914

Miss Margaret Boyd, a graduate nurse, and James G. Wood of Moro, were married at Oregon City on January 11th at the home of the bride's sister.

Arthur Johnson was in the city arranging to move his two well drilling outfits. At the farm of C. F. Coe a good vein of water was hit in 19 ft. of drilling in a 6 inch 185 foot hole drilled by Geo. Rohman when he owned the farm; this outfit will move to the Bourhill farm, west of Moro, leased by Soren Hansen. The drill in charge of Chas. Boardman at the Fred Krusow farm, southwest of Grass Valley hit the water vein at 255 feet. The drill at the Krusow place will move to the Clyde Smith farm near Rutledge.

Geo. Hennagin and wife, O. L. Belshe and Martin Skansen are visiting this week in Skania county, Washington.