

Sherman County Journal

Forty-Seventh Year No. 4

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Official County Paper

FARMER ALLEGES THREAT TO KILL

Curtis Tom Taken From Home By
Urban Jensen

ESCAPE MADE THRU HUSKIES

Jensen Came Home To Get Wife
Before Escape Made

Urban Jensen, farmer of The Dalles, is in the county jail here because of an alleged attempt to take the law into his own hands last Friday night when he forced his brother-in-law, Curtis Tom of Rufus into a car and away from home with threats to kill.

A case is pending in a Wasco county court between Jensen and Tom over the settlement of the estate of Chas. H. Tom, father of Curtis Tom and Mrs. Jensen. According to state police and county officers who investigated the case Jensen drove to the Tom ranch Friday night accompanied by his hired man, Harry Lash. Tom saw the lights of the car as it drove up and went out to greet the visitors. As he approached the car he was asked to sign some papers regarding the will case which he refused to do.

On his refusal he was ordered at the point of a gun to get in the car alone with Jensen as Lash was hiding about the barn yard. Jensen drove down to the Columbia highway while telling Tom of his plans to kill him. He was to be forced to wade out into the river where he would be shot leaving no trace.

Jensen stopped the car on the highway and Tom got out followed by his captor whose coat was caught in the door. With this temporary advantage Tom ran for a passing east bound truck and jumped on the running board. Jensen followed in his car and tried to crowd the truck off the road for a few miles but soon desisted as he was unsuccessful.

Tom stopped at Blalock for a few minutes and phoned his wife that he was unhurt and gave her instructions to call Sheriff Christman at Moro. He then went on to Arlington where he enlisted the aid of state police there.

In the meantime state policeman Grimm, Unger and Uren of The Dalles were called by Christman and the peace officers searched the country around the Tom ranch and Rufus until late in the night before getting word that Sheriff Sexton and his deputy, Eugene Wright, had arrested Jensen at home in bed. His gun, a Luger, was found under his pillow with one shell in it when he was arrested.

Jensen is being held on a warrant charging him with intent to kill and Lash is being held in the Wasco county jail as a material witness. It is understood that Frank Dick has been retained by the prisoner as attorney. A hearing will be held within a few days if it is expected.

Tom is reported to have told Jensen several times that if he was killed Jensen would hang for it and Jensen said he would have plenty of bullets for himself after doing away with Tom. Apparently the gruesome details of his coming demise were not kept from Tom in the least by his captor.

Curt Tom is a prominent farmer of the Rufus country having lived there practically all his life. He was representative in the legislature for two terms from this district and was a candidate for county judge four years ago.

Jensen formerly farmed near Wasco and at one time was fireman on the local branch railroad. He is now living south of The Dalles on a ranch.

It is understood that there are two wills left by Charles H. Tom and these have caused the disagreement between the two men. The civil case was to have been tried soon in Wasco county.

W. S. Nelson will speak Saturday at the Harlandview grange on the importance of the development of the mid Columbia river section to farmers of this county. Mr. Nelson is secretary of the chamber of commerce at The Dalles.

4-H Club By-laws For Leaders Accepted

The by-laws for the Sherman County 4-H Club Leaders Association were accepted at the meeting in the Court House at Moro November 24th. The regular meetings will occur in the future the first Saturday of January, March, May, July, September and November at 2:00 p. m. unless otherwise designated. The object of the club is to promote the welfare of 4-H club work and a better understanding of the work in general. The territory contingent to Rufus, Wasco, Moro, Grass Valley and Kent are to constitute five districts, each of which is asked to choose two members to act on the county executive committee with the officers. The present officers are: President, Mrs. Perry Johnston; vice president, Henry Barnum; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. T. A. von Borstel. The regular election of officers for the year will be held at the January meeting. All past leaders, all present leaders and all friends of the Club Work are eligible to become members of this association. The dues are 25 cents a year.

Miss Margaret Gillis, health nurse for Oregon, spoke to the leaders Saturday on some of the beneficial phases of club work and Perry Johnston and Willy Knighten talked of the organization for this activity for the next year.

Mrs. Margaret Gillis Health Nurse Here

Miss Margaret Gillis, health nurse, is in the county testing the health and physical condition of the pupils in the schools. She reports that the children of this county are in better health and have fewer defects than in many of the counties she has visited.

Miss Gillis is supported by the sale of Christmas seals and is working for the Oregon Tuberculosis association. When she finds a child with physical defects or disease she notifies the parents who may take whatever steps they choose in the matter. Because of the limited time given to each county she visits Miss Gillis cannot follow up the cases as would be done if a health nurse was regularly employed.

Thanksgiving Day Observed In County

Thanksgiving day was spent throughout the county with family gatherings for social and gastronomic purposes. To judge from the many cars that were in towns for the last few days before the holiday everyone must have been supplied with all the proper foods for the occasion plus what was raised at home.

High School Students, Parents and Faculty Celebrate Victories

A banquet, sponsored by the parents of the members of the volleyball and football teams and given in honor of them, was held November 23, at the Moro Hotel. The "blessing" was the singing of the High School song—"M. H. S." by all of the high school students present.

When everyone was seated, a newsboy came in with an extra—all about the two Huskies lost in the mud, and the volleyball championship team.

Mrs. Perry Johnston gave the welcome address, telling everyone to act themselves and drop their dignity, that they were there to have a good time. Genevieve Nahouse responded on the behalf of her fellow team mates.

During the banquet, Mr. Walker who acted as toast master, called upon Mrs. Dewey Thompson, Mrs. T. H. Fraser and Mrs. L. H. Nahouse for impromptu speeches. Mr. Goddard, being the football referee, was called upon to give a short talk. Mr. Walker then called upon Alton Axtell, Orval Thorgerson and Richard Barnes, seniors, to give their opinion of the football season. Melba Thorgerson, Doris Thompson, Mary Pinkerton and Dorothy Fraser gave a talk on their most exciting moment in volleyball. Gayle Amidon reviewed the past four years of football and Gordon Fraser gave a brief sketch of the past four years of volleyball. Mr. Cunliff was asked

to express the interest he has taken in both games of ball this season. Appreciation for the "tick etaker" was in the minds of all even though it was not put into words. Robert Gilmor gave a short talk, telling how he had enjoyed going to all of the football games and cheering for the boys. A short skit was given as a caricature of Dorothy, Gayle and Mary in their car, eating lunch by "Barne s, Poss, Thorgerson, and Co." The girls had a come back which was unsurpassable. "If Moro had won the Football Game with Wasco" was given by Dorothy Fraser as Coach Walker. Gayle Amidon as Ronald Powell, Doris Thompson as Richard Barnes. Betty Powell as Ted Thompson. Melba Thorgerson as Gordon Fraser. An interesting parody, to be certain.

Mary Pinkerton and Genevieve Nahouse sang "You've Got to be a Football Hero," telling the boys what to do if they wanted to get along with the volleyball girls. Miss Radtke awarded eight volleyball girls with letters, as follows: Gayle Amidon, Genevieve Nahouse, Gertrude Gilmor, Melba Thorgerson, Doris Thompson, Helen Strong, Dorothy Fraser, Mary Pinkerton. After awarding the letters she gave the volleyball squad a large box of chocolates which was greatly appreciated by all of the girls.

MANY SPEAKERS ON FARMER'S PROGRAM

Irvine To Give Principal Address
At Banquet

BOTH DAYS WILL BE FULL

All Phases of Wheat Farming Will
Be Discussed

The program for the Eastern Oregon Wheat League meeting December 7 and 8 has been filled so full that officers are going to have to rush every minute to give every speaker a chance to be heard said J. B. Adams in discussing the coming session of the wheat farmers.

While the government men, Geo. Farrell, of the wheat section, Rex Willard, of the land planning and utilization service and W. A. Rockie the erosion specialist will be given the leading places on the program and attract the most interest there are many others whose presence would attract a crowd of wheat farmers alone.

Bert Whitlock, chief of the grain grading and inspection service at Portland will have information that all will want to hear for grain grading is one subject about which farmers are seldom entirely satisfied. Arthur Geary is the attorney who is handling the freight rate case for the wheat league and other farm agencies that are working against higher rail rates.

W. H. Drossen, student of Oregon taxation and professor of economics at O. S. C. will be on hand to give his advice to the taxation committee and will appear on the program. Ray Gill, master of the Oregon grange, will be present to give his aid to making the wheat growers' meeting a success. D. E. Stephens, head of the experiment station at Moro and D. D. Hill crops specialist from O. S. C. will both be in Arlington to inform farmers about the latest developments in varieties of wheat tillage methods and the many other things that scientific agriculture has discovered to aid the farmers.

It is reported by the Condon Globe-Times that B. F. Irvine will be the speaker of the evening at the annual banquet Friday night. Mr. Irvine is editor of the Oregon Journal and is known as one of the best public speakers in all Oregon.

Harold Thorgerson is home for the week end from ZigZag where he is working in a CCC camp.

County Agents Meet In Arlington

County agents of the Mid Columbia area met in Arlington Monday for one of their periodic conferences on matters that affect agriculture in Oregon. It was learned that the government is making a new book in which farmers may keep their farm records to replace the one given out last year. These books are much superior to the ones given out last year said Perry Johnston, county agent who attended the meeting from Sherman county.

Forecast of the outlook for farm crops is not considered favorable from the local point of view as the indications are that wheat may not attain a very high price for some years. Price for hogs is thought to be on the upward trend.

Many Types Of Cars Licensed For \$5.00

While all motor vehicles registering on the flat \$5.00 license fee basis are classified generally as "passenger cars" a number of types of vehicles that are included in this group that are not strictly for private business or pleasure purposes, according to a statement of registrations compiled by Secretary of State P. J. Stadelman.

Of the 249,016 cars that pay a \$5.00 fee under the present licensing laws, 230,318 are private passenger cars, not used commercially in any way, while the other vehicles in the general class are listed as follows:

Deliveries, 14,338; trucks, 2,288; trailers, 1,135; sedan deliveries, 248; wreckers, 145; woodchoppers, 122; house cars, 32; house trailers, 59; tractor cars, 14; buses and taxicabs, 88; and cars of passenger type but used for the carrying of commodities, 229. All of these vehicles have a combined weight of vehicle and load of less than 4,000 pounds and are consequently legally entitled to register under the flat \$5.00 fee.

Checks May Come Slower

P. N. Johnston, county agent, reports that wheat checks may be a little slower in coming this fall than before. Formerly it required only three or four days to get them after the notice of acceptance was received. Lately it has taken more time and it may be another week before the second bunch of wheat checks arrive although the notice was here last week.

1934 Oregon Products Campaign Held Beneficial

Thousands of Oregon citizens were converted to the cause of Oregon products as a result of the "Oregon Industries Week" sponsored by the Oregon Manufacturers Association, according to Geo. Baker, Manager of the Association.

"The public generally has seen the importance of supporting our Oregon factories and Oregon products as a means of creating work and building payrolls and increasing demand for raw products," says Manager Baker.

The results of the campaign have been amazing to many of our manufacturing plants and the economic result is being widely felt. Already the public support has created additional jobs and put additional money in circulation in Oregon.

"Prior to the campaign, the salesmen in cooperation with merchants throughout the state, filled the shelves of stores with Oregon-made merchandise and products. This immediately reduced the surplus in the manufacturing plants and they went to work to replenish their stocks. During the campaign, the store shelves were largely cleaned out of Oregon goods and again the stock must be replenished. This means that the mills and factories already have had to increase forces."

"The state did a good job of 'Selling Oregon to Ourselves' and the result will be lasting. The campaign was only the beginning. It is certain that from this point forward, the Oregon-made goods will receive attention ahead of those imported from elsewhere not only because the quality and prices are the same, but because such buying gives manufacturing an impetus, and aids the state in its struggle for industrial recovery."

RAINFALL HEAVY BUT GROUND STILL DRY

Moisture Deficiency Marked In
Lower Feet

SIX INCHES MORE NEEDED

Long Drouth Period Depletes Soil
Moisture Seriously

Every one is enthused about the fall weather we have encountered since the first of September and the speculation has been that the crop next year may be as good as that in 1928 when a large part of the county received bountiful returns from its wheat acreage.

This condition is true and the rainfall has been much better than for several years, yet the soil is not nearly so wet as it was back in the fall of 1927. For instance on plot 383 at the experiment station on November 27 there was 10.1 percent of moisture in the soil. This is a plot that has received good tillage through a period of years. A plot that has received poor tillage has only 8.4 percent moisture.

In years when good crops are harvested the soil moisture percentage is about 14 or 15 in the spring which means that at least six inches of rainfall must soak into the ground before April first.

A little more than half of the rainfall is all that can be counted on to get into the soil and be counted in the percentages. For instance from October 8 to November 27 rainfall of 3.40 inches fell at the station. Yet the inches of rainfall in the ground increased from 7.79 to 9.32 or 1.53 inches. Showing that a little less than a half of what fell was retained by the soil.

It is true that this condition is less serious in the winter months than in the summer for surface evaporation is much less. On days when less than a tenth of an inch falls almost none of it gets into the ground because of the evaporation. This is the cause of a considerable loss throughout the year between what rain actually falls and what is absorbed by the soil. The difference in moisture in different depths this fall is striking. October 8, there was 9.9 percent in the top foot, November 27 there was 16.8, the second foot had 10.6 in October and 12.1 in November, the third foot had 8.6 in October and 9.4 in November. The fourth foot had 6.3 both dates, the fifth foot had increased from 6.7 to 7.1 and the sixth foot had increased from 8.6 to 8.8. This comparison gives graphically the deficiency in deep moisture, which must be remedied if a large crop is to be harvested in 1935. In the spring of 1928 there was an average of 14.3 of moisture in the ground and the lower three feet had over 15 percent.

Claims For Refund Gas Tax Often Delayed

Residents of Oregon who are entitled to refunds in gas tax are losing a considerable amount of money annually by carelessness in not getting their claims filed in his office within the statutory six-month period, according to P. J. Stadelman, secretary of state.

Mr. Stadelman has made an aggressive effort to eliminate fraudulent claims against this fund during his term of office, but he is just as anxious to see that all just claims be paid in full with the least possible delay and expense to the state.

There appears to be considerable misunderstanding of the gas tax law. Under it a tax of five cents per gallon is paid the state for the benefit of the highway fund, and under certain conditions are entitled to a refund. One requirement is that all claims be filed within six months from the date of invoice. Formerly the period allowed was one year, and failure to comply with the new time limit has made necessary the rejection of many claims.

Barnum Sells Bulls To Prineville Breeder

Reminiscent of past days A. H. Barnum has sold his years crop of Hereford bulls to a breeder near Prineville. It has been some years since Mr. Barnum has been able to sell off his entire crop of bulls and they have been marketed along with lesser and common cattle on the markets at Portland.

This year George Dickson of the Keystone ranch near Prineville bought all 22 of them and bought 5 2-year old heifers in addition. Delivery was made this week.

Frank Brown Post Elects Officers

Frank Brown Post No. 91, of Wasco, elected new officers last week in their first meeting of the fall. Selected to lead the destinies of the post for 1935 were: E. E. Hurt, commander; O. G. Hilderbrand, vice commander; Lee Dehler, Adjutant; R. O. Scott, finance officer; J. A. Butler, historian; W. E. Nisbit, chaplain.

It was voted to install a community Christmas tree in some public place and to cooperate with the school in giving the city and surrounding country a Christmas celebration.

Production Map Information Secured

B. A. Hurd of Oregon State College was here this week gathering information which will be used in making a county production map which will show the production per acre of all lands of the county for the past five years. This will be used by the land planning department of the AAA in conjunction with maps from other counties. This means will permit the government to determine what land should be thrown out of production or used for forestry or other purposes instead of food production. This project of the administrations will be explained at the meeting of the wheat league in Arlington next month.

Stephens Speaks At Rufus Community Hall

A community meeting was held at Rufus Tuesday night at the school house, it being the second gathering of a series of programs sponsored by the school authorities. Principal speaker of the evening was D. E. Stephens of the Moro experiment station whose subject was "Opportunities for young men in Scientific Agriculture."

The school children gave a Thanksgiving program and before the meeting adjourned the boys of the Rufus basketball squad gave a demonstration of some of the movements used in that game.

Items That Were News 39, 29 and 19 Years In The Past

From the Observer Dec. 5, 1895.

Alex Smith was very badly injured by an accident while horse backed riding on the 26th near his home in Grass Valley. He was unconscious for a time and it was feared the result would be fatal, but he is now considerably improved.

C. M. Wegstein the Wasco blacksmith departed for California last week. John Dingle is in business again at the old stand.

Grass Valley Academy notes: Following is the program of the next meeting of the Philomathean debating society: Recitations by Roy Vinton, Emma Boyd, Ed Nacker, and Frank Fairchild, Carrie Davis, Stella Bucher, Lottie Vinton. Debate question, Re solved that the pen is mightier than the sword. Affirmative, Roy Vinton, and Frank Fairchild; negative, Hollis W. Wilcox and Fred Ottman.

From the Observer Dec. 1, 1905. George Rehman drove in with the first sleigh on the 28th. He had a load of Thanksgiving turkeys for the John Sacks Market. Messrs. Geo. T. Parr, E. A. Cushman and three other Sherman county people, are in Texas looking over the land situation.

Mrs. Garlick has a badly sprained wrist from falling into a hole, in the evening, where workmen

ACCIDENT CLAIMS LIFE OF MARY MCKINLEY

Car And Truck Demolished In
Fatal Collision

WOMAN'S SON ALSO INJURED

Driver Blinded By Lights, Drives
Into Truck

An accident on the Sherman highway between one and two miles south of the Sherman county line Saturday night resulted in the death of Mrs. Mary McKinley and the injury of her son William.

With Mrs. McKinley driving their light coupe the McKinleys met Roy Barnett driving a truck loaded with a cord of wood. It is said that a sudden shower made visibility difficult and that the McKinley car was on the left side of the road. Just before they met Barnett attempted to miss the light car and swung to the left although remaining on his side of the road. The machines hit each others right fenders the jar breaking Mrs. McKinley's neck killing her almost instantly.

Sergeant Grimm of the state police, took some pictures of the wreck showing the position of the cars. Both were on the wrong side of the road having been thrown there by the impact but it is understood that there was no blame on the part of Barnett.

Mrs. McKinley was taken to Kent where Luther Davis and Corliss Andrews brought her to Grass Valley where Dr. Poley found her already dead. Kent people waited the wreck until the officers arrived and cleared the highway. William McKinley was taken to the hospital where he will remain for a time recovering from his crushed chest.

The coupe and the truck were wrecked almost beyond repair as the right sides of both were bent into junk back to the seats. Barnett was not seriously hurt.

Mrs. McKinley was formerly the wife of A. T. McKinley, one time resident of Sherman county. She was the mother of four sons, Elgin, Eldo, Edward and William and was a daughter of a pioneer family of the Bakeroven country, the Wakerligns. Her funeral was held Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock in Shaniko and interment was made at Bakeroven.

F. F. Snyder, who has been preaching at the Full Gospel Assembly for the past two months left Wednesday for Los Angeles from where he will go back to Wisconsin where he will remain this winter.