

Sherman County Journal

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Official County Paper

State House Gossip

By Ernest L. Gray.

The first stormy session of the state board of control since Julius L. Meier relinquished the reins of government and he was eliminated from the pathway of Rufus C. Holman's verbal attacks, occurred the first of this week when the advisory board of the industrial school for the blind met with the state officials.

The meeting was more noisy than stormy, however, and the controversy was more within the advisory board itself and between it and the board rather than between members of the board. Up to date have been harmonious in meetings, a condition which is unusual and which has lasted longer than many had believed.

The condition is explainable. Holman has been so anxious to "get along" that he has agreed with the governor's program. As yet he has not been crossed, nor has the governor, and only so long, observers declare, will the mutual harmony exist. Frequently Holman has turned to the governor in sessions and declared: "We won't quarrel, will we Governor?"

The battle with the advisory board has a long history. Holman and Mrs. R. E. Bondurant, chairman of the board, have been on the "outs" for some time, and the session was called at the request of Holman. The majority members of the board do not agree with Orville Gamble, superintendent. And there is a rift between these members and B. F. Irvine, Portland editor, who is also a member of the board. It is unfortunate petty and personal matters are brought to the attention of state officials who are busier than ever as a result of the capitol fire. A probe will be made of the condition of the institution however, and there is no indication Gamble would be ousted.

Elmer R. Goudy, state relief administrator, is scheduled to go. This has been predicted for some time, but of late the situation has come to a head. The first definite move was made Monday when the governor appointed Jefferson Meyers to the Multnomah county relief committee, the pivot point of much of the agitation.

Meyers replaces Estes Snedecor of Portland, who resigned. Snedecor's action was interpreted to mean any such action against Goudy would eliminate embarrassment as far as his relations with Goudy are concerned. Goudy and Snedecor are law partners. There has been no indication who would be named in Goudy's position.

The report of the state relief investigation will have no bearing upon the reported Goudy ouster. The report, as predicted, failed to substantiate the major charges of misappropriation and extravagance in the administration of nearly a million dollars relief money a month. There was some minor criticisms, but recommendations were made whereby these could be adjusted.

Dan Kallaher, former member of the state senate from Portland, has been removed as state parole officer, but his place has not yet been filled. The governor stated he would not make any announcement for a short time yet. It has been predicted that Ed Duffy, former auditor at the state penitentiary and assistant clerk of the house during the last legislative session, would get the place. He is a democrat.

And the fight against destruction of the old capitol walls continues. As predicted in these columns previously, the court dismissed the injunction suit against destruction of the fire-swept frame work, but the Marion County taxpayer's league have appealed to the state supreme court. The circuit court proved the first obstacle.

In the meantime the walls may be torn down, and it would be some time before the supreme court would act. The injunction no longer is on and the SERRA workers were preparing to start demolition at any time. The board of control proceeded with the removal order to prepare a site for the new building when authorized.

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Interest Rates Reduced On Government Loans

Four And A Quarter Recent New Loan Rate

The new interest rate on Land bank loans made through and endorsed by the Moro farm loan association of Moro is 4 1/2 per cent and not 4 3/4 per cent, according to Secretary-Treasurer W. H. Ragsdale.

"The reduction to 4 1/2 per cent applies on all new loans closed through our association after April 10, as the result of the Land bank's ability to market a new issue of its bonds to the investing public on a 3 1/2 per cent interest basis. The bank's lending rate on new association-approved loans may not exceed by more than 1 per cent the rate of interest borne by the bonds last issued by this cooperative mortgage institution.

"The new 4 1/2 per cent rate is the lowest in agricultural history and many local farmers who are paying a higher rate on mortgages held by other lenders now have the opportunity of refinancing on a lower scale."

Cooking School Program Broad

Handier and Prettier Kitchens Is Aim Of Cooking School Instructor, Audrey Herington

"How often poor cooking and poor lighting go hand in hand," comments Mrs. Audrey Herington, who will be in Moro, May 31, and June 1 to conduct the Electric Homemaking Institute and Cooking School at the Legion Hall.

"No matter how good her eyes, any woman whose kitchen is inadequately lighted always has great difficulty in reading a recipe or seeing what is happening on her range. It's no wonder she sometimes uses salt instead of sugar or makes some other exasperating mistake. Modern recipes are so simple that any woman can follow them with success every time if she can read them easily and effortlessly. That is why I am going to stress in my program the importance of correct lighting and correct kitchen lighting in particular.

Besides making your kitchen an ideal place to see in, I am going to talk about making it a more pleasant place to be in. I have discovered so many new ideas in kitchen arrangements that are both efficient and beautiful. And it's really amazing how easily and inexpensively an ordinary kitchen can be transformed into a "dream kitchen."

"Those are just a few of the things that I intend to cover. I have a new collection of recipes and menus, and I have a contest that I know will be great fun, but you'll have to come to class to find out about it."

Summer School Dates Announced For June

Children Exposed To Contagious Diseases Not Wanted

The summer school for 4-H club children will be held at Corvallis June 10 to June 22 this year and all those children interested in going must apply through the office of the county school superintendent or the county agent who are handling the details of the trip.

The cost for board and room for the entire period this year will be \$12, the same as last year. For those who can only stay one week the charge will be \$6.50. Leaders are instructed to be careful to take no children who have been exposed to contagious diseases about the state is sometimes caused by intermingling of children with them. Bedding, towels etc., are a necessity for each child.

All those who have musical instruments they can play are requested to bring them and the girls should bring tape, scissors, needles and other sewing equipment also bathing caps and tennis shoes. All entrants must be in Corvallis by noon Monday June 10.

TRIP POSTPONED

It was announced this week that the annual trip of the forestry clubs of the county will not be held until the last week in June. Last year it was made immediately after the end of school.

Rockie Tells Of Erosion Damage To Farm Land

Examples Cited From All Over World To Show Damage Done By Erosion

Bunch Grass Is Effective

Farmers Pleased With Work Done Where Erosion Projects Are In Operation

A group of farmers interested in the future productivity of their acres Friday listened to an account of the erosion service given by W. A. Rockie, director of the government erosion work in the north west.

The recent Tugwellian prophecy that within 300 years the mid-west might become a desert was commented upon by the speaker who added that while Mr. Tugwell was regarded as being ahead of his times in thought he might not be beyond the probability of coming events if the present rate of erosion was not halted before that time.

African Experiment Costly

One of the best and most recent examples of soil erosion was given in the experience of the French in Africa, who sent ex-soldiers to the foothills of the Atlas mountains to farm on brush land above an irrigated area. Within five or six years of cultivation the steep land began to wash and flood the irrigated areas so that both became useless until grass and brush were again grown on the slopes. The entire history of the experiment required fifteen years and the order to vacate the land was enforced by government edict—something that would fit but poorly in the American plan.

In California two areas were tested for run off of water. In one the brush was accidentally burned resulting in a run off of 4000 second feet while on the other the run off was 32 second feet and this land was illy covered with brush.

Bunch Grass Cover Good

The experience in the Palouse region has been that land that is covered with bunch grass will have no water running from it and a farm there that has never been plowed has shown no washing in the ravines or on the hill sides at any time. Bunch grass prevents washing to a much greater extent than does cheat grass for its roots hold the soil more effectively.

An example of the result of years of cultivation was given by Mr. Rockie. Land that had been cultivated 50 years was silted in 8 minutes through a sieve while native soil that had never been plowed could not be sifted more than 42 per cent even by the use of water.

Southern Lands Ruined

In the Piedmont area of the southern states the soil has washed away almost entirely within the past twenty years for when Mr. Rockie examined it nineteen years ago the top soil was only ten to fifteen per cent washed away. Now there is 80 to 85 per cent of it gone leaving nothing but red clay to support the population.

The aim of the erosion service is to work with the farmers of any area, they enter. First it wishes to leave the farm income as high as it was before work began, second to work for the farmer's interests and third to control erosion of the soil. It has been the experience of the service that the farmers actively cooperate with them after the first year if not from the beginning.

Still Experimenting

The work is still new enough that many mistakes are made by the men engaged in it and it is the plan to go ahead with the work slowly enough that the experience gained will be of the utmost advantage to every body concerned. New experiments will not be tried until the area has been surveyed and definite plans made as to the best manner of handling the erosion there. For wind erosion the only method found positively successful has been some of the dry land grasses.

Mr. Rockie did not comment directly on the establishment of a

Five Attend Wheat Men's Conference

Wheat Plan Amendments Given O. K. At Walla Walla

J. B. Adams, J. L. Davis, W. S. Powell, Dewey Thompson and W. H. Ragsdale of Sherman county attended the meeting of northwest farm leaders at Walla Walla Monday to discuss the proposed amendment to the AAA that are before congress at the present time. The 250 farmers and their representatives voted approval of all of the amendments including the tax on dealers in farm products. The proposal to district the AAA has been withdrawn and for the time being, at least, the country as a whole will be the unit of supervision by the farm agency.

Erosion Service Adopts More Descriptive Title

"Soil Conservation Service" New Title Of Erosion Work

U. S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Athens, Oregon, May 20, 1935.—"The name of the Soil Erosion Service has been officially changed to Soil Conservation Service," stated H. H. Bennett, Director of the Soil Conservation Service, in a memorandum received by the project offices at Athens today.

Attention of the farmers and other residents of the Pacific North west is called to the new name to avoid confusion. Hereafter all reference to the work of the Soil Erosion Service will be referred to as that of the Soil Conservation Service. The new title has been chosen as being more descriptive of the work being done.

The change in the title will not affect contracts entered into by farmers with the Soil Erosion Service as previously known. The personnel of the service will not be altered by the change in name.

State To Put Signs Near Scenic Spots For Public

Nearby Points To Be Posted By State

Meeting the modern demand of tourists for the story behind the scenery, and fulfilling an old time request of the Oregon Motor Association, the Oregon state highway commission at its last meeting in Portland voted to spend \$1,000 for the erection of explanatory signs at historical spots along the Columbia river highway.

Among the places which may be designated for erection of signs are Memaloose island and mile post 77, the Indian burial place; Mill creek, just west of The Dalles, site of an old Indian village called Quenett; a stone structure in The Dalles built by the United States government in 1865, known as "The Mint" and now occupied by a flouring mill; the painted rocks near mile post 93, Indian pictures on the basaltic rocks facing the Columbia river.

Signs erected at this time will be considered by the highway commission as a test of their desirability. If the commission finds the reaction favorable, it will consider establishing them at historical spots in other parts of the state it was pointed out.

SURVEYORS HERE

George Kerr of Corvallis and Lewis Nichols of The Dalles are here this week to check on the surveying job done last fall under the direction of the wheat allotment committee. They are to re-measure 5 per cent of the farms and check with the local results and may re-measure any farms about which their is a dispute. Their figures are final.

soil erosion CCC camp in this county except to state the general principles for the development of the work all over the north west. The work is voluntary on the part of the farmers, the government has paid half of the expense and in most cases the farmer's contribution is in the form of work.

WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

DATE	MAX.	MIN.	PRECIP.
MAY 16	64	42	.20
" 17	59	37	.00
" 18	65	36	.00
" 19	74	41	.00
" 20	82	41	.00
" 21	83	49	.00
" 22	73	47	.00
Total for week			.20

477 Vote In Poll Of Farmers On AAA Duration

Directors To Meet Saturday Eve Count Votes And Appoint Compliance Supervisors

Vote Estimates Erroneous

Only Official Count Will Be Made By State Board; More May Vote Before Deadline

Although the votes have not been counted in the referendum of the farmers concerning the continuance of the wheat program some information regarding the number of voters has been released. The votes will not be counted in this county until after eight o'clock Saturday night, May 25 when the board of directors will meet for that purpose. Their count will be unofficial, the only official count recognized being that of the state board meeting at Corvallis.

Supervisors To Be Named

At the same meeting the board will select supervisors to check the compliance in this county. This work will begin next week or shortly after the first of June at the latest.

The local office is now making up the compliance forms. All contract signers are expected to keep weeds from maturing on their contracted acreage and must prevent weeds from blowing over onto neighbors' fields and scattering seed, according to an announcement.

To date 477 contract signers with land in this county or who are farming land in this county have voted in the referendum. Of these, 379 are local residents and 98 have been absentee voters who live elsewhere but own Sherman county land. Ninety one have not voted of which 45 are local men and 46 are absentees.

586 Accounted For

The vote is divided as follows:

District	Local	Absent	Voted
Moro	55	19	18
Kent	52	9	10
Harlandview	41	16	12
Grass Valley	87	14	14
Locust Grove	50	14	8
Wasco	60	12	14
Klondike	34	14	15
Totals	379	98	91

There is no count, official or otherwise, on the ballots so far although there is a general assumption on the part of many farmers that the vote will be decidedly in favor of the government's plan.

SOLDIERS WANTED

Vancouver Barracks, Wash., May 22, 1935.—(Special)—Sherman County was still a blank this week as far as the tenth annual Citizen's Military Training camp at this army post was concerned. Although it is entitled to send two students to the 1935 camp, no applications have yet been received.

The camp, free throughout including transportation, is open to youths of 17 or over, will open July 5, will run for four weeks, and offers a program of which outdoor recreation and citizenship training is blended with information about military subjects. Prospective applicants may secure blanks and information from their county chairman, or write direct to Q. M. T. C. headquarters, Vancouver Barracks, Washington. The Sherman county chairman is Mr. W. W. Knighten, Moro, Oregon.

SENIORS GRADUATE

Graduating ceremonies for high school classes have been the feature of social events in the county this week. Wasco and Rufus graduated fourteen and four students respectively last Friday night with Lester Bond speaking at Wasco and R. A. Hutchinson at Rufus. Wednesday night Mr. Hutchinson addressed the class at Moro where seven received their diplomas. The Grass Valley school sent nine former pupils into the world Thursday night and two Kent girls ended their high school work Friday night. Mr. Hutchinson was the speaker at both of the latter towns.

Fair Board Approves New Work Project

Fair Board Asks For Building Improvement

The May meeting of the fair board was held last Saturday night at the office of the county agent in the court house. George Wilcox, chairman of the county relief committee, was present and discussed with the board the possibility of having a project approved to aid the board in improving and rehabilitating the fair grounds. A project that calls for repainting the buildings, constructing bucking corrals and arenas and putting new windows in the barns was proposed and it received the approval of the board. Re-wiring the buildings was also made a part of this project.

A second project that may become a reality proposed the erection of a larger grand stand with either a pavilion for display of fair products or a dance hall beneath it.

Grass May Be Major Crop Soon

Grass Seed Production New But Growing Business In Eastern Oregon

Eastern Oregon will produce about 40,000 pounds of crested wheat grass seed this year given favorable conditions from now on, says E. R. Jackman, extension agronomist at Oregon State college. A recent inspection of eastern Oregon plantings shows the prospective crop divided among the counties about as follows. Baker: 7000 pounds; Deschutes, 2000; Gilliam, 2000; Grant, 6000; Lake, 1000; Malheur, 2000; Sherman, 500; Umatilla, 8000; Union, 10,000; and Walla walla county, 1500.

Crested wheat grass is coming into great demand through the national movements to check soil erosion and to seed grass on land no longer productive for grain farming. In nearly all the areas west of the Mississippi river and north of Kansas, crested wheat grass is about the only dry-land grass worth considering for pasture purposes, Jackman says.

This will be the first year that Oregon has produced this seed in commercial quantities. A start is thus made to start Oregon's seed industry which already amounts to about two million dollars per year, says Jackman.

High School Students Entertained By Banquet

Surprise For Mr. Cunliff Given Monday Night

The Seniors of the Moro school were entertained at the Amidon home Saturday night by their parents who arranged an informal banquet in their honor. Place cards indicative of the diplomas soon to come were used and members of the class and parents were given an opportunity to express their appreciation of the class or the aid of parents.

The class song, written by Russell Belshee was sung by three Junior girls, Anita Kenny read the class will, Gayle Amidon the prophecy and Freda Rice the history. Melba Thogerson tabulated and as an encore W. B. Rice tried his toes at a jig.

Mr. Cunliff recalled events of his three years here. Mr. Walker explained how the system of grading requires maximum work for an average grade and Miss Radtke expressed her pleasure in working with the seniors.

After the band concert Monday night the high school students met at the Cunliff home and waited two hours for them to return which they did about eleven o'clock. He was presented with a new reading lamp in appreciation of his work as instructor, refreshments were served and a most enjoyable evening spent.

JACKMAN HERE

E. R. Jackman was here Tuesday to glean some information about the methods of propagating and growing grasses, especially those that are being used in the soil conservation service. The government expects that a great many pounds of grass seed will be in demand within the next few years and is anxious that the best methods be used to grow the grass so that it can be produced within a short time.

Jensen Case In Jury's Hands As Trial Ends

Charge of Threatening Injury To Person Brought Against Wasco County Man

Court Well Attended

Grand Jury Recommend New Walk And Heating Plant At Court House

Circuit court convened Monday morning for the May term with Judge Hendricks on the bench. County Clerk George Vinton drew the names of A. C. Eakin, T. M. Rolfe, H. D. Proudfoot, H. H. Nichols, George McKay, J. F. Royle and V. B. Eakin from the box as members of the grand jury. Mr. Proudfoot was named as foreman by the judge and the members immediately adjourned to consider the witnesses in the State of Oregon vs Urban Jensen matter.

Grand Jury Reports

The jury reported a true bill at four o'clock Monday afternoon and following the immemorial custom and duty of grand jurors also commented on the condition of the court house, the offices of the various officials and the manner in which they were kept. Specific recommendations were: that the court immediately repair or replace the dangerous wooden walk in front of the court house grounds and install a central heating plant when practicable. Offices of county officials were reported to be in good and proper order.

The only criminal case on the docket, that of the state against Jensen was started Tuesday morning with the district attorney Geo. Updegraff prosecuting and Frank G. Dick of The Dalles defending. Francis A. Galloway took Mr. Updegraff's place as deputy county attorney Wednesday morning.

Two Stories Told

Selection of a jury took the greater part of Tuesday. Two prospective jurors, Frank Burnet and Harry Pinkerton were excused for cause and Chester Smith was excused on a preemptory challenge by the defense. The panel as passed by both attorneys consisted of Howard Belshee, Arvid Anderson, Hugh Herin, S. P. Boyce, William Andrews, Dan McDermid, Robert McPherson, Geo. Hennagin, C. W. Johnson, Karl Eaton, Ross Guilford and L. L. Peetz.

In his opening statement the prosecutor announced his intention of proving that on the night of November 22, 1934 the defendant did come to the home of C. A. Tom and threaten him with personal injury if Mr. Tom did not sign certain papers and stop a pending lawsuit regarding the will of the late Charles H. Tom.

Mr. Dick, for the defense, promised to show that on the night in question there was merely a business conference on the will matter and that his client did not threaten Mr. Tom or in fact even have a heated argument with him.

Many Witnesses Called

Witnesses called for the prosecution were Mrs. C. A. Tom, Orville Lesh, who accompanied Mr. Jensen on the night in question, A. A. Fidler of LaGrande who picked up Tom on the highway after his alleged escape, Harold Sexton, sheriff of Wasco county, who with his deputy Eugene Wright arrested Jensen, Mr. Wright, Henry Shearer, county clerk of Wasco county, Sheriff Hugh Chrisman and Curtis Tom.

Paul Illingsworth, John Dick, Jess Miller, Mrs. Jensen, Mary Jensen, Urban Jensen appeared for the defense. The trial ended early in the afternoon and the jury was regaled with speeches by the prosecuting attorney and by the defense lawyer.

The court house was crowded to the doors the final two days of the trial with school children getting their first lesson in practical civil government and curious adults. Clashes between attorneys and between witnesses and attorneys enlivened the trial and made it the most attractive in point of view of the audience of any recent court battles.