

# Arthur VanGilder Joins Marine Corp

### Wasco School Again Accredited By Board

Arthur A. Van Gilder, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Van Gilder of Wasco, recently went to Portland and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Arthur enlisted for four years and was immediately sent to the Marine barracks at San Diego, where he will remain for the next ninety days in recruit training. At the close of this period he will be assigned to duty on a battleship or to foreign service two years.

Word was received this week from the secretary of the North West Association of Secondary and Higher Schools that the application of the Wasco High School to the association had been passed upon favorably and had been fully approved by the Accrediting Commission. The Wasco High school is the only school in Sherman county so accredited and is one of the smallest accredited high schools in the Pacific Northwest.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Jones and children of Monument were Sunday night guests of T. L. Fields.

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Funk and daughter Geraldine, left for Beaver Saturday visiting relatives. Geraldine will remain for a time although her parents have returned.

House guests over the week end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. G. O'Meara were Mr. and Mrs. Walter Coffey of Portland.

Everett Watkins and wife and daughter were in Portland last week returning by way of Camp Sherman where Hazel Marie joined the Camp Fire girls on their vacation.

The misses Cleone and Alma Jean Watkins of Gilliam county are here to spend their vacation with relatives.

Beverly Ann and Shirley Mae, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Yocum, were taken to The Dalles hospital. Shirley is improved and is able to be home again.

Saturday night Mr. and Mrs. William Cloutier presented Carol Dae Drinkard, Marion Wayne Crews, Lorraine Guilford and Mrs. Myron Halse in piano recital, assisted by Otis Roysse, vocalist. The recital was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Halse.

Students have returned home for summer vacations. Among them are Leon Smith from OSC, Mary Jeanette Sargent, Wm. McKinney, and Catherine Johnson from Willamette University; Augusta Huckin from Whitman; Paulen Kaseberg and Kenneth Walker from U of O will be home this week.

September 9 has been chosen as the date for the opening of the Wasco school this fall.

Mrs. O. G. Hilderbrand and Mrs. Marie Barnett Cooper were hostesses Friday afternoon at a dessert luncheon followed by five tables of cards. Mrs. Frank Lamborn won high score and Mrs. Walter Medler second. Saturday afternoon the same hostesses entertained with Mrs. Geo. Wilde and Mrs. L. W. Walsh receiving the prizes. Mrs. Cooper's home was decorated with iris and rose blooms.

Mrs. R. Cavanaugh of Mill City is a guest of her son in law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. E. Bales.

Ladies of the Methodist church aid society held their last meeting Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. H. D. Proudfoot.

Miss Georgia Harper left for Portland Monday evening to attend the meeting of the Eastern Star grand lodge.

Max Williams and Melvin Walsh left Saturday for McMinnville to attend graduating exercises at Linfield.

Camp Sherman has had local visitors this week as the Camp Fire girls accompanied by Lorraine Darby and Mrs. Roy Cookingham are spending their vacation there.

Members of the contract club met with Mrs. Hugh Walker Tuesday afternoon of last week. Mrs. Floyd Root and Mrs. Fred Hennagin won the high scores.

Rosemary Walker entertained with cards Wednesday night and Mary Fortner received the prize for high score.

Mrs. Mary Brown of Trout Lake, Washington, is visiting with her daughter, Mrs. Myron Halse.

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E. L. Morton and wife of Heppner were callers last week at Wasco while enroute to the San Diego fair.

Mrs. Wilma Sheets and Miss Beryl are on a vacation at the home of Mrs. Sheets parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Reuppel at Stanfield.

Tuesday afternoon members of the garden club drove to the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Reese near Moro to attend their monthly meeting.

Odd-Fellows and Rebekahs extend invitations to all past members of the lodge and interested friends to join them on their annual picnic to be held June 16 at Fleck's orchard.

Mrs. Margaret Tuel and son, Douglas, will leave for California for a two weeks vacation next Sunday. They will accompany Mrs. Tuel's mother and uncle.

Harry Proudfoot, A. C. Kaseberg and Art Smith were re-elected as directors of the Sherman Co-operative Grain Growers at the annual meeting held here Monday afternoon. Charles Stewart, director of the national grain corporation, made the principal address of the day.

Charles Everett feels lucky since Monday when he broke the steering column of his car while going about three miles per hour. Had it happened when Charles was in a hurry Wasco might have needed a new Marshall.

## SHERAR'S GRADE

(Continued from page one)

Co. At that time there was only a trail for a road and a log bridge which Peter Skene Ogden, chief factor of the Hudson Bay Co. used in 1825-1826. Mr. Sherar replaced the log bridge with a sturdy wooden bridge which carried traffic until replaced by the steel bridge many years after his death. He then set out to build roads in all directions, one to Tygh Valley, one to Bakeoven, and one into our own fertile land of what later became Sherman County. (Sherman county was created February 25, 1889 and taken from Wasco county. It was named after General W. T. Sherman.) He spent his life building, rebuilding and improving roads. He built and maintained eight miles of grade in and out of the Deschutes canyon besides the Bakeoven grade and much of the road to his ranch at Finnegan which he bought in 1884. Because of his road building ability Wasco County, in the early nineties, hired him to build the Brewery grade at The Dalles. He is credited with the building of his grades without the aid of any one to run his levels and they were even grades from top to bottom. He was one of those knights of the West who made the highways safe for civilization and he was ably seconded by his wife, a very small woman with black eyes and was full of pep.

Mrs. Sherar was born October 11, 1848 in Illinois, her father being descended from one of the oldest families in Virginia. They came West when Jane was just two years old and settled near The Dalles. She was a very capable person in every way. Her Southern ancestry showed in her love of home and her hospitality. She is remembered also for her unusual ability. She did all of Mr. Sherar's banking business and correspondence. He thought out all business deals and consulted with her about everything. She was one of those brave women of the frontier who, while doing a man's part enduring hardships never ceased to be womanly.

Joe Sherar is said to be the only man who ever got any work out of the Indians. They worked on the construction and maintenance of his roads. They believed and trusted him and he treated them kindly or severely and was the boss of all those who lived around the grand lodge.

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Bridge and out as far as his ranch. Once Mr. Sherar asked an Indian to help a traveler who had trouble on the road and the Indian looked at him and said "What's in it?" Mr. Sherar booted him all the way to the spot where the traveler needed aid. Mr. Sherar was a large man weighing 220 pounds and wore a size 10 shoe. The Indian received a lesson for all time.

Quite a number of Indians lived on the west bank of the river up near the falls. One day a squaw on horseback came galloping down to the Hotel. The flesh on her fore arm was torn from the bone by a terrible knife wound. She said her husband had done it and was going to run away. The horse was too small to hold Joe Sherar, who immediately sent to the barn for his saddle horse. Mrs. Sherar got her revolver and jumped on the squaw's "cayuse" and hurried up the river to the camp and got the drop on the Indian and held him until her husband arrived. She then attended the wounded squaw while Mr. Sherar dealt out justice to the Indian. He chained him in the blacksmith shop across the river and put the blacksmith to guard him. The blacksmith was from Boston. During the night the Indian growled at him and frightened him until he went to the Hotel after Mr. Sherar. By the time they got back the Indian had escaped. Joe knew he would have to cross the bridge to get his horse so he laid for him. An hour or so later the Indian tried to sneak across but Joe hit him with a club and knocked him out. He took him to the hotel where he chained his leg to a post and left him until morning. Mr. Sherar never bothered the sheriff about such cases but dealt out justice of his own.

The Indians as a rule did not trust the white people but the Sherars seemed to be exceptions. When one of their tribe became ill they came to Mrs. Sherar for help. They would ask her to cook something for the sick and seemed confident that anything she did would effect a cure.

The Indians worked in the hay field at the Finnegan ranch each summer. At this ranch hay was made to winter the sheep and cattle on Mr. Sherar wintered many of his sheep and all of his cattle at the Finnegan on account of the long distance he would be obliged to haul the hay. He and Mrs. Sherar traveled back and forth between the Bridge and the ranch keeping things going in both places. An old standby at the Finnegan was the late Jim Dennis. He worked many years for the Sherars being in charge of the kitchen at the Finnegan as well as doing ranch work. It is said that no woman could compete with Jim making sour dough biscuits. Another faithful old pioneer who worked long for Sherar was the late John Suhr. After spending fifteen years as chore boy at the Bridge and having a neat little stake saved he decided to retire. He visited his relatives and friends for a



Miss June Lemons of Mt. Vernon, who will be one of the Queen's attendants at the 1935 Pendleton Round-Up.

Her father is a prominent stock man of the Izee and Bare Valley Region.

few weeks and then became so lonesome for Sherars and the home at the Bridge that he returned with tears in his eyes and asked for his job back. Mr. Sherar was happy to reinstate him and Mrs. Sherar wept for joy. He was with them another five years. Mr. Sherar called him "Honest John" because he was so dependable. He did all of the odd jobs even to taking toll.

On the toll board giving rates Mr. Sherar had rates for sheep, cattle, horses, men on horseback, etc. Men on foot were free, but chinamen on foot or on horseback were 10c.

A Chinese cook was always kept at the Sherar Hotel. Sometimes they gave a lot of trouble. One time they had one with an ill temper. Mrs. Sherar was very particular and insisted that all work be done properly. One day she caught the Chinaman wiping dishes without scalding them. She told her husband who at once spoke to the cook about it. He became furious and took after Mr. Sherar with a big knife. Mrs. Sherar, who was as quick as a flash, grabbed a stick of stove wood, knocked the knife out of the Chinaman's hand, gathered up all the knives and hid them. The Chinaman was discharged and sent to The Dalles on the afternoon stage.

Mail came by stage twice daily, once from the west and once from the south and east. Mrs. Sherar tended the Post Office herself. One of the old time stage drivers was Dick Barter, called Pretty Dick. He was about six foot six, weighed over 200 pounds and really was a handsome man. The stage left The Dalles about 6:30 and got to Huott's place about 8 a. m. where they stopped for breakfast. One old pioneer tells of how Pretty Dick courted and won one of the Huott girls. He would hang around making love to the girl until the passengers raised so much fuss he

would finally get started and nearly kill his horses by the time he reached Fifteen-mile where old man Adams had a grub station, relay horse barn, and tavern. Then with fresh horses Pretty Dick would go on at a rapid rate. He would go down the four and one fourth miles of the Deschutes grade to Sherar's Bridge at a rate that would make your hair stand on end. He used to pay the little boys in The Dalles 10 cents a pair for old sun hardened shoe soles to nail on his brake blocks. The stage arrived at the Bridge for dinner at noon, changed horses and went on.

Pretty Dick wore a leather belt that reached from his arm pits to his hips to brace his back. He was an artist at driving one of those old Concord "Thoroughbred" stage coaches and along about the fourth of July when the cow boys would go to town to celebrate he would get out the largest coach holding twelve passengers inside, all that could stick on top, two with him in front and often some of the baggage "boot" at the rear. He would have six and at times eight horses and when he went down Main street with the horses on a dead run and all the cow boys yelling and whooping it was a sight that held town folks spellbound. One time the cowboys each had his bottle of Forty Rod Whisky and they shot out the windows and doors and up through the top. It caused a lot of excitement. No one was hurt. Pretty Dick never drank while on the stage route. However some of the drivers did drink occasionally and it was very dangerous on account of the roads along the cliffs and the drivers had to travel fast in order to make their trip on time.

The original grade into Sherman county was built in the bottom of the draw. At first there was no bridge across Buck Hollow. During the winter of 1888 there was a very heavy snow storm and when the snow went off the entire grade washed out. The only way one could come up into Sherman county was on horseback. In the spring Mr. Sherar built the new grade along the hill side, the lower part of which is still used. The upper part was washed out in June 1931 when a bad cloudburst struck there.

Once when Mrs. Sherar was going to the Makottee place out on the grade toward The Dalles, a terrible storm struck at that place. A teamster stopped to open the gate for her. She went in and was saved. The teamster turned to go back to his wagon and saw it washed away in the torrent of water that had dropped from the sky. No trace of team or wagon was ever found except one wagon wheel. Mr. Sherar replaced the teamster's entire outfit.

The people in the early days were troubled with thieves as in our own day. One morning late in the summer of 1888 while Sherars

were away and Mr. and Mrs. Fairchild were in charge at the Bridge. The household arose to find the odor of chloroform very strong about the house. The safe door was open and all valuables missing. Miss Carrie Sherar, a niece of Mr. Sherar, who later became Mrs. Samuel Holmes, and Mr. and Mrs. Fairchild who slept on the first floor had been chloroformed. The safe key taken from Mr. Fairchild's pocket and the safe robbed. A long stick with cotton on the end of it was found under the window and tracks were seen about the premises. Several watches, belonging to neighbors and workman and \$90 cash belonging to Harvey Smith besides Mr. Sherar's personal valuables had been taken.

Word was sent into The Dalles about the affair. A week later a stranger called at a livery stable in The Dalles and took out a saddle horse. He was suspected and followed by the sheriff who waited out on the road for the stranger's return. When he met him the sheriff asked if the stranger had seen a hand of sheep coming in. "Yes," "Were they coming along all right?" asked the sheriff. "Yes, they were coming right along," answered the stranger. "Well," said the sheriff "I'll ride back to town with you." They rode to the livery stable and the minute the stranger took his boot out of the stirrup he was arrested. All loot except a small amount of the money was found on him. He had hid it out on the hills until he felt it was safe to come to town with it.

Mr. Sherar was honest and upright in all his business dealings and demanded the same courteous treatment from those with whom he dealt. If a man came to Mr. Sherar and told him he didn't have money to pay toll he was sent on his way without paying but if a man tried to sneak by without paying, Mr. Sherar would follow him to the ends of the road or lay for him on his return trip.

A man with a family stopped to tell Mr. Sherar he couldn't pay toll. Mr. Sherar noticing that they appeared destitute called John Suhr and instructed him to take them to the warehouse and give them a sack of flour, a sack of potatoes, a slab of bacon, a package of sugar, a pound of tea and send them on their way. Many a family was helped in this way.

At another time a teamster crossed the bridge and whipped up his horses and hurried by to avoid paying toll. Mr. Sherar followed and caught him some distance down the road where he reprimanded him for trying to beat his way. He took a gun from the stranger and kept it until he was paid the full toll charge.

Mr. and Mrs. Sherar did an unending amount of charity. Whenever they recognized real need they were ever ready to give aid. Only

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a short time before their passing Mr. and Mrs. Sherar built a home and supplied it with necessities for a family living near Wamie, that they might keep their children. Wasco county officers had ruled that the children be taken from them because of unlivable conditions.

On July 28, 1907 Mrs. Sherar passed away followed by her husband February 11, 1908.

About a year later the Bridge, toll road, and property surrounding the Bridge were sold to the Military Company. They in turn sold the Bridge and toll roads to Sherman and Wasco counties. Recently this road was taken over by the State and is now a State highway.

In preparing this essay I am indebted to the following persons: S. B. Holmes of Grass Valley, Oregon; Fred Krusow of Grass Valley; Ernest Sherar of Trinidad, Colorado; C. C. Fitzgerald, Havana, Cuba, and to my mother, a native daughter of Sherman County.

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