

Sherman County Journal

Forty Eighth Year No. 8

Moro, Oregon, Friday, December 27, 1935

Official County Paper

State Affairs

By

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Last week this writer intimated—based upon state house rumors—that Otto Hartwig might not be reappointed to the industrial accident commission. Also that Jack Allen who relinquished his seat in the state senate some six or eight months ago to become state liquor administrator, might retire from public life along about the first of the year to devote his time again to his private interests at Pendleton.

This week's whisperings from old Dame Rumor has it that if and when Hartwig is replaced it will be by one J. C. Joy, Portland democrat, and that Otto Runte, now chief inspector of the liquor administration is slated to succeed Allen as administrator if and when he steps out of the picture.

Opposition to Hartwig, a highly popular and competent member of the accident commission, is understood to be entirely partisan. Democratic partisans are known to have been clamoring for some time for a second member on the commission which is now dominantly republican and Hartwig just happens to be the member whose term is expiring at this time rather than T. Morris Dunne, the other republican member whose term continues until January 2, 1937, unless he should be removed for cause. Hartwig is said to be entirely satisfactory to both employers and employees, many of whom are known to be urging the governor to reappoint him. He was formerly an influential labor leader in the state and is labor's representative on the board. Speculation as to his possible retirement is based largely upon the fact that the governor has not yet announced his reappointment, which, in the ordinary course should have been announced along about the first of the present month.

If Allen retires as liquor administrator, as he probably will, it will be entirely of his own accord and in the interest of harmony within the organization. Allen is known to have clashed repeatedly with members of the liquor commission who have persisted in making his position uncomfortable by stripping him of various duties from time to time and conferring them upon Runte and Eugene Kelly who is said to be the liquor administrator in fact although Allen bears the title. Allen was in Salem during the early days of the recent special legislative session and is understood at that time to have offered to resign but agreed to remain at the insistence of the Governor. Since that time, however, W. L. Gosselin, the governor's secretary is said to have paid Allen a "purely social call" during which he suggested the advisability of the administrator's retirement. Friends of Allen among the Democratic leaders in the state by that time, however, had rallied to his support and insisted upon his sticking by his guns which he has done so far—long enough to convince the public at least that he can stay indefinitely if he wants to.

Should Runte's promotion to the liquor administration materialize it will be over the strenuous protests of many influential Democrats with whom the chief investigator is not at all popular and the situation thus created would hold ample promise of future disturbances in liquor control circles.

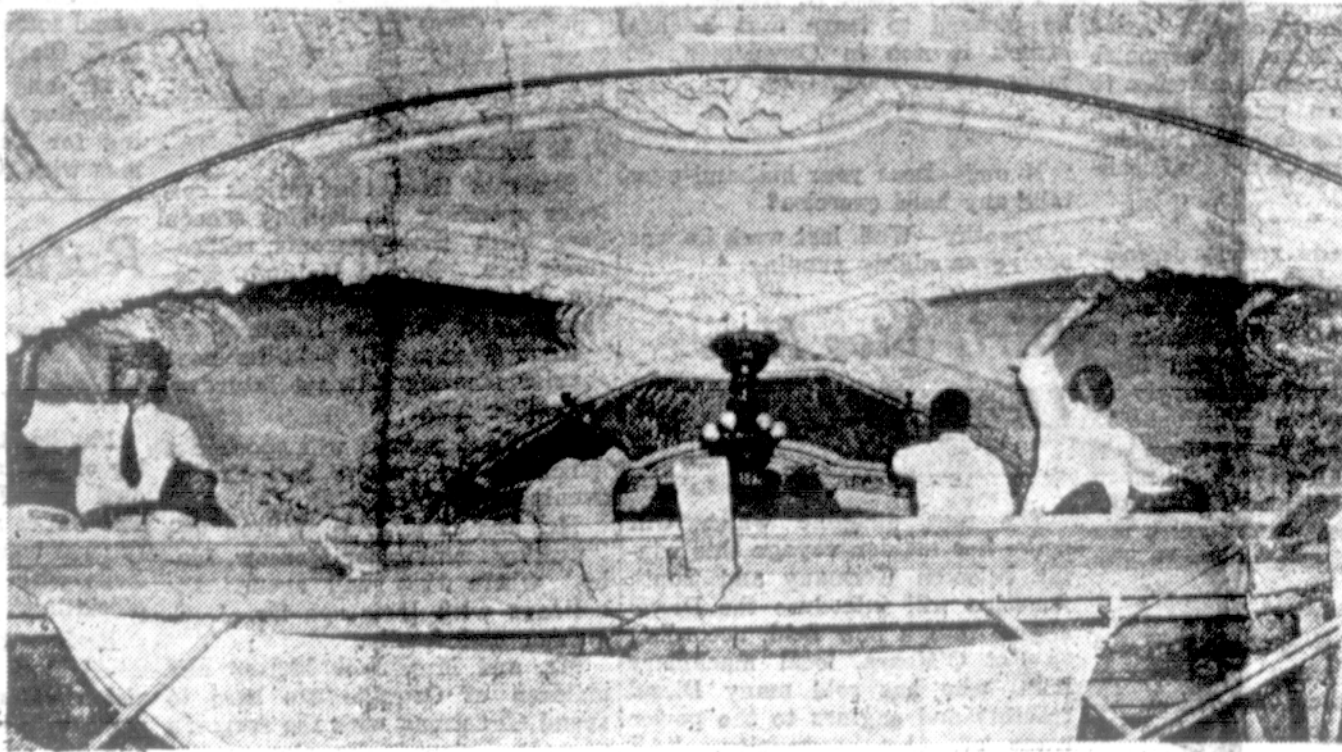
Work on the new dormitory at the state school for blind was gotten under way this week. This announcement marks the culmination of a long fight on the part of the friends of blind wards of the state who have for years been housed in the frame administration building, long regarded as a serious fire hazard. The new building will be of brick construction, strictly fireproof throughout, 47 by 160 feet, one story with full basement. Completely furnished it will cost approximately \$81,950 with the federal government supplying \$31,950 through a PWA grant and the state putting up \$50,000 through an appropriation by the 1935 regular session. The building is to be completed within six months.

Oregon architects and Oregon materials for the new Oregon capitol is the challenge which Governor Martin has thrown into the face of the capitol reconstruction commission.

The governor's comment to Salem newspapermen was prompted by reports that out-of-state architects

(Continued on page four)

Dolling Up the Capitol for Congress



Painters and cleaners shown going over the main lobby of the capitol building in Washington in preparation for the opening of the seventy-fourth congress next January. The building is receiving an overhauling.

Drug Store Broken Into By Pair of Youths

Two boys attached to the CCC camp broke into the Moro Pharmacy Christmas night coming thru the skylight. They were caught by Mr. McKee, Bart Burrell and Dr. Poley and the money taken was returned.

Mr. McKee had gone home when the lights went out and a short time later when the light service was resumed he remembered that the store lights were still on and returned to put them out. As he entered the store he heard the order, "Put 'em up."

Instead of obeying he turned on the lights and the boys were caught. They had opened the slot machines and taken the money from them and had gathered up other cash in the store to a total of about \$27. The names of the boys are being withheld.

Families Aided By Resettlement Land Work

Examples of Aid Given By Resettlement Heads

How distressed farm families in Washington, Idaho and Oregon are being enabled to once more face the future with new courage and set their feet again on the road to independence is graphically portrayed in records of case histories filed with Leslie S. Sorenson, regional rehabilitation adviser, Resettlement Administration, Portland. The service of debt adjustment, a farm plan and a loan for capital goods has been completed for over 500 families in the region and an additional 400 are now receiving rehabilitation grants pending completion of farm plans and adjustment of debts.

Example Given

A young couple with twin girls were renting a small Oregon farm. The husband managed to trade timber for some scrub stock and his wife helped out by buying apples and making and selling pies. The family subsisted largely on dried corn and apple peelings for dessert during last winter and were finally forced on relief. The rehabilitation loan enabled the husband to buy seed, cows, chickens, feed, household equipment and two brood sows. This winter the family has paid back half the loan, are in good financial condition, and have traded pigs in deals through which they acquired a separator, sows, a cow and a small binder. This winter they are eating apple pie and feeding the peelings to the pigs.

Last winter found a Washington coast farm family with three children and the wife ill, on relief, while the husband dug clams and scattered drift wood for fuel to help make ends meet. His land was ideal for truck gardening but he had no capital. A rehabilitation loan of \$274.79 provided seed, garden tools, a horse, light wagon, chickens and feed. He sold garden

(Continued on page four)

Oregon Produces \$50,000,000 In Farm Crops

Wheat Crop of 15,500,000 bush. Worth \$10,730,000 Says

Agricultural Statisticians for Northwestern States

The total farm value of principal Oregon crops in 1935 is reported at \$50,323,000 by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Division of Crops and Livestock Estimates, United States Department of Agriculture, and compares with a total value of \$49,268,000 in 1934 and \$63,002,000 in 1933. Values are based on prices for the crop marketing season. For 1935, values are preliminary estimates.

The slight increase over last year in value of crops reported is due to larger production of field crops in 1935 and to improved prices for most crops. Total value of field crops, Corn, Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rye, Potatoes, and Hay, is reported at \$34,579,000 compared with \$34,164,000 last year or an increase of \$415,000, about 1.2 per cent, over last year. Orchard fruit: Apples, Prunes, Peaches, and Cherries, are valued at \$8,202,000 or about \$571,000 less than last year.

Washington Produces \$86,000,000

The 1935 wheat crop of 15,551,000 bushels returned Oregon farmers \$10,730,000 or more than a million dollars above last year's crop which had a farm value of \$9,538,000 from a production of 12,944,000 bushels. (Neither of these estimates of total value include benefit payments from the wheat reduction program.) The five year (1928-1932) average of wheat production for Oregon is 21,205,000 bushels. Serious drought in the principal Oregon wheat producing counties in 1934 made a crop of that year the smallest since 1917. Drought also occurred in parts of the wheat area of the State in 1935, resulting in a crop considerably below average.

Production of crops in Washington was \$86,787,000.

Committeemen To Handle Hogs

One difficulty in establishing fair corn-hog bases are expected to be eliminated in part at least under the new two-year program recently approved by the secretary of agriculture, according to details of the plan received by the Oregon State college extension service. Instead of being based on historical records alone, all corn-hog bases in future will be determined by the appraisal method, which permits the assignment of equitable bases to all cooperating producers.

Community committeemen familiar with the farms in their neighborhoods will make the appraisals. The county allotment committee will check their recommendations and iron out inequalities. The state board of review will then make such adjustments as are necessary to insure uniform treatment of all counties.

CCC Boys Have Christmas Tree With Townsmen

The Christmas program for the CCC boys which was given in the Legion hall Tuesday night suffered somewhat from the condition of roads for many who expected to attend could not get to the hall and others considered discretion the better part of valor and did not start.

The boys gave a large part of the program but local people made up some of the entertainment, although many who had promised to take part were unable to attend.

The boys expressed pleasure at the interest taken in their welfare by the Sherman county and one was heard to say that his remembrance of the first present with his name on it he had received for three years.

Auxiliaries of Kent and Moro co-operated in planning the affair and women of both places made and wrapped the packages for the men. Willy Knighten appeared in the role of Santa Claus and Capt. Lowe was chairman of the program as it was a camp night for the boys.

C. C. Masiker Dies

Word received here Thursday was to the effect that Charles C. Masiker had died at his home near Elmira, Oregon, near Eugene. He was a member of one of the first families in Sherman county and lived on the Love place in the sixties, coming from the valley. He was an uncle of Mrs. L. L. Peetz and A. H. and E. E. and L. Barnum.

Wheat Market Remains Firm

While European and Southern Hemisphere wheat markets remained firm, influenced by prospects of sharply reduced supplies and the higher fixed minimum price in Argentina, North American markets lost a part of the previous week's sharp gains. Inquiries for Canadian wheat slackened and prices at Winnipeg declined about 11 per bushel with No. 2 Manitoba Northern quoted December 20, at 85 and 3-4 c and No. 3 Manitoba Northern at 78c per bushel.

Domestic wheat markets were relatively weaker than Canadian markets, with fairly favorable prospects for winter wheat and larger pre-holiday marketings, weakening factors. Fall seedings of winter wheat in the United States were officially estimated December 1, at 47,529,000 acres, an increase of nearly 7 percent over the 1934 fall seedings. The condition of the crop at the first of December was reported at 78.2 percent of normal, compared with a ten year average of 82.4 percent and suggests a crop of about 530,000,000 bushels for harvest in 1936, compared with 438,447,000 bushels in 1935. Prospects at the first of December were better than average in most of the soft wheat winter belt, but somewhat below average in the Hard Winter wheat areas, except in Kansas, where conditions were above average and materially better than during the past two seasons.

Frozen Rain Makes Highways Impassable

Many Cars Slide Off Road Without Fatalities or Serious Injury To Passengers; Traffic Almost Halted For Time

The weather man laid a trap for Santa Claus Christmas eve by sending a rain that froze to the roads, the trees and even to wind-shields. Even Dancer and Prancer and Vixen and Blitzen must have had trouble keeping their feet on the frozen surface for every other moving thing slid and slipped out of control when progress was attempted.

From a few miles south of Wasco on through the county the highway was a glare of ice that made travel without chains a long gamble and with chains an even bet with disaster. Twenty or thirty cars were off the road Tuesday night and passengers walked to town or waited until heavier or chain clad cars could rescue them.

Inquires Nil

No one was injured and little or no damage was done to cars or trucks for all were traveling at a slow speed because of the very apparent danger. A truck and trailer loaded with straw went off the road just north of Grass Valley but no major damage was done. Other cars just slid off into the ditch.

Old timers are unanimous in saying this is the worst of its kind ever experienced here. In many cases it was impossible for a car to go up a hill at all so slick was the ice. No traction could be gotten in some places even with chains.

Wednesday the weather moderated slightly so that the ice on the highways was broken up enough that travel was fairly safe with chains in the worn track although the sides of the highway were practically as slick as before.

CCC Boys Help

The CCC boys, with an SCS truck, put chains on all six wheels and went out Christmas morning to haul cars and trucks out of the ditch. They spent the morning at this work.

Trees in the south end of the county suffered heavily as the frost settled on them. Many still are carrying leaves from last season because of the early freeze that interfered with normal shedding of foliage and this caused added weight which in many cases broke down the limbs.

Adult Education Classes Scheduled

Adult education classes in sewing and domestic arts will be started at Wasco and Moro this week under the direction of Mrs. A. M. Hicks of Wasco who recently completed a course in teaching these arts at Corvallis.

Mrs. Hicks, who visited Moro Monday stated that the organization meeting for Wasco will be held Thursday at the home of Mrs. Cliff Fridley and the one for Moro will be held Friday at Mrs. J. C. McKean's.

A class is being organized at Klondike by the community club there. A study of domestic arts and crafts will be the Klondike program. No charge is made for the classes.

Sleet Brings Moisture To County Fields

Regardless of the troubles this last bit of moisture caused by the peculiar method it had of getting to the earth, there was quite a bit of dampness in it. Weather records for the week up to Wednesday night show .32 of an inch and .13 fell since then to make nearly half an inch of rainfall.

Hog Compliance Done

A. A. Dunlap has finished hog compliance work in this county and the job of checking contracts and getting them ready for the state board will begin immediately. Henry Barnum and Charles Baker are the two remaining members of the hog control board who will consider the contracts.

Spud Growers Must Get Quotas To Sell Crop

Perry Johnston attended the preliminary meeting of county agents of this section in Arlington Saturday. E. R. Jackman of the college explained the act and told of the means which will be taken to enforce it in this state. Another organization meeting will be held in The Dalles January 11 at which time Sherman county potato growers may apply for quotas if any of them desire to do so.

The main objective for this county in the opinion of Mr. Johnston will be to protect the interests of spud growers here. Anyone who wishes to plant potatoes for sale should see the county agent and find out how the law will affect him.

Cheaper To Keep Soil Fertility Than Regain It

State College Experiment Shows Value of Conservation

The extent to which continuous cropping of soil, without rotation and without the addition of fertilizer is unprofitable in Oregon is shown in the summary of results of an unusual 21-year experimental study conducted at the Oregon Experimental station by Dr. W. L. Powers, chief of the soils department.

The greatest profit was seen to come from rotated crops under irrigation, with the addition of barn yard manure. This method not only greatly increased the crop yield, but the water requirement of the soil was almost 50 per cent less than where continuous cropping without irrigation was practiced. The use of irrigation on land cropped continuously without rotation was found to be but little more profitable than continuous cropping without supplemental water.

The experiment shows that it is far more profitable to follow practices that keep the soil productive than to attempt to restore lost fertility, as rebuilding exhausted land is a long time and costly practice. Dr. Powers says. The detailed results of the study are compiled and discussed in Station Circular 113, "Soil Fertility in Relation to Productive Land Value," by Dr. Powers. It is available to Oregon farmers upon request.

Luther Davis Made Pomona Master

The Pomona Grange meeting at Klondike last Saturday was a well attended meeting. New officers were elected and installed during the day and a dinner was enjoyed. Resolutions favoring the retention of the CCC camp at Moro were passed and the law for the protection of police officers was also favored by the grangers.

J. L. Davis of Kent was re-elected master, C. B. Andrews was elected secretary and Mrs. Helen Bruckert was named lecturer. The Klondike grange officers were also installed. They are: Mrs. Clyde Fridley, master; C. W. Johnson, overseer and Mrs. Pres. Boice, lecturer.

Reserve Officers To Dine Together

Reserve officers of Oregon will meet in Portland January 6 to hear an address by Lt.-Col. Frank Lowe, national president. Quincy Scott, cartoonist for the Oregonian and a reserve officer, will be toast master. All officers of any branch or component of the military or naval services as well as all friends of national defence are invited to attend.

WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

DATE	MAX.	MIN.	PRECIP.
Dec. 19	25	22	.00
" 20	22	20	.00
" 21	21	19	.00
" 22	23	18	.00
" 23	25	20	.00
" 24	26	21	.07
" 25	30	25	.25
Total for week			.32

Camp To Remain Is Telegraphic Word From Rockie

Delegation Solicits Aid From State Planning Board and Governor Martin; Reasons For Camp Retention Given

A telegram was received here Tuesday afternoon by D. E. Stephens from W. A. Rockie, head of the erosion service in the northwest, which read, "Wire received today states Moro camp will not be closed."

Whether this means that the full quota of men will be left here indefinitely or not cannot be told at the present time, but it is evident that the work will go on with CCC labor.

A delegation of Sherman countyans including J. B. Adams, D. E. Stephens, A. H. Barnum, O. G. Sayrs, J. C. Freeman, T. M. Garrett, A. A. Dunlap, Vernon Platt, and Giles French met with the state planning commission last Friday to enlist its support in an effort to retain the CCC camp for Sherman county.

Argument Presented

Arguments presented at the hearing were to the effect that this county has more valuable land than average wheat land and range land on which work is being done and that a reasonable efficiency in governmental affairs made this a favorable place to conduct soil erosion work; soil conservation work in the future might be hampered by an unsteady program as farmers would hesitate to permit work that might not be finished; that as the work was primarily being done for the benefit of the boys themselves and they were pleased with their present surroundings they should be kept here.

Committee Appointed

The planning commission has no authority to place camps but a committee of J. W. Biggs, W. A. Schoenfeld and C. J. Buck was appointed to advise with the proper authorities and see if something could be done. Saturday Mr. Schoenfeld and Mr. Biggs together with T. M. Garrett, D. E. Stephens and Giles French met with Governor Martin who promised his aid.

It is considered most probable that a hearing will be granted this county at which time representatives will have an opportunity to show cause why the camp should be left here. W. A. Rockie, head of the Soil Conservation Service in the northwest, may decide that it is possible to retain this camp, or a part of it, or the federal authorities in Washington may relent and permit the camp to remain.

Hearing Expected

In either event it is likely that the community will have to show cause to some of these authorities why this work should go on. A larger sign-up of farmers would be a material evidence that the community is backing the project.

If the original order is not changed the men will be moving out before the first of the year. They have not been assigned to any camp but the supposition here is that they would be used as a replacement unit for other camps that are short of men.

School Transportation Costs High In Spots

A study of a Pacific Northwest county made by the resettlement administration shows that the public is paying \$185.61 per family to transport children in a poor land area to school. The actual tax collected from each farm concerned averaged six dollars—less than four percent of each family's transportation bill. This economic leak is being plugged by restoring misused lands to better use.

The resettlement administration is doing precisely the opposite to "relieve" as it is generally considered. It is preventing farm families from going on the relief rolls and is taking them off the relief rolls. Five hundred farm families in Idaho, Oregon and Washington have already been started on the road to permanent independence through rehabilitation.