

Sherman County Journal

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Official County Paper

State Affairs

By
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The biggest surprise to date in the present political campaign was the announcement this week by Earl Hill, state representative for Lane county, that he would not be a candidate for reelection. No satisfactory explanation has yet been forthcoming for Hill's decision. One of the few veterans of the House and outstanding as a leader in past sessions Hill was generally conceded to have a decided advantage in the race for the Speakership at the next session in the event the republicans again dominate the organization at that time.

Candidates for Congressional honors as well as the electorate generally, anxiously await word from the Townsend camp as to the endorsements of this well organized minority whose support is being eagerly sought by a majority of the aspirants to public office in this state. Grape vine advices from the Townsend ranks has it that the organization will probably place no candidate in the field against Senator McHenry who is understood to have received a "50-50" rating at the hands of the king makers in this organization. The same source of information has it that none of Oregon's present Congressmen will receive the official blessing of the Townsends who will place the mantle of their favor upon other candidates.

In the first district State Senator Curtis D. Stringer of Lynn county is out with a bid for the Townsend vote as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Congress. E. W. Kirkpatrick of Milwaukie, also a Democrat, is out for the Congressional nomination on an anti-Townsend plan platform, being the first candidate thus far to defy the Townsends with an open declaration of opposition to their program.

C. D. Nickelsen, Hood River republican, is the only candidate to file so far from the second district. Report has it that Clarence B. Phillips of Burns may also seek the republican nomination. In the Democratic camp indications are that Walter M. Pierce, incumbent, may have primary competition with Representative Clint Haight of Canyon City and V. S. Howard of Madras both mentioned in this connection.

Appointment of Robert W. Ruhl, Medford publisher, to a place on the state board of higher education gives the newspaper fraternity two representatives on this all important board. B. F. Irvine, editor of the Oregon Journal, is the other one. Mrs. Sheldon Sackett (Beatrice Walton) although the wife of a newspaper man is herself an educator having taught school and served in the office of state superintendent of public instruction before entering public life as secretary to former governor Patterson. Ruhl, a republican, succeeds Leif Finseth of Dallas, also a republican, whose term expired Monday. Ruhl's appointment is generally regarded as a reward for his support of the governor in the recent campaign.

Members of the state industrial accident commission do not receive any extra compensation for their service as members of the new unemployment compensation commission. Attorney General Van Winkle ruled in an opinion to Secretary of State Snell. Salaries of the commissioners may be restored to the old base only upon the approval of the board of control and the budget department.

Reduction of compensation for the use of privately owned automobiles on state business from five cents a mile to four cents has been recommended to the board of control by Wallace S. Warton, budget director. Warton declares that the proposed lower rate of pay would still yield a profit to the car owner over actual cost of operation as proven by records covering the operation of state owned vehicles.

More than 37,750 acres of cut over timber land were classified as reforestation lands this week by the state forestry board, as follows: Clatsop county, 8,473.53 acres; Columbia, 2,810.42; Polk, 4,827.27; Lincoln, 4,239.25; Deschutes, 17,411.95.

The state emergency board, meeting here Friday for the first time since its reorganization doled out a total of \$12,772 in delinquency appropriations to replenish de-

Camp Returns To Work After A Long Layoff

Start Of Warmer Weather Allows Boys To Return To The Fields: Most of Dams Remain After Flood

Work recommenced at the CCC camp last week or as soon as the ground thawed out enough to make work possible. Most of the dams previously built by the boys remained after the flood although the tops of some of them washed away. In some cases over a foot of sediment was deposited above them.

The new project manager, Harlow Parkins, has directed that surveys be made of farms in the area as soon as possible and farm plans of the Theodore Johnston, Omar Sayrs and Roy Powell farms have been sent in already. Work on the Johnston farm near town has begun and dams will be put in the fields at the head of the small gullies and draws and some larger dams will be built. This will be the procedure on all places as soon as the farm plans are made and the contract with the farmer is signed.

Dyer May Remain

O. E. Dyer may remain here as assistant to Mr. Parkins, although this has not been verified to date.

Work is now being done on the terraced hillsides to get the terraces ready for seeding to grass. An inspection of these small ditches revealed that in practically all cases they held the water that fell on the hillsides to a remarkable extent. Almost no run off was found on hillsides that were terraced while on other hills the frozen ground could not take the snow as fast as it melted.

Pomona Grange To Meet In Kent

Sherman County Pomona Grange will meet Saturday, March 7 with the Kent Grange at that town for the first quarterly meeting of the year. Ray W. Gill, state master, will be present to give an address to the assembled members.

Relief Committee Aids Farmers

Relief Recipients Must Accept Seasonal Employment

In the hope of building back a lost morale and an ambition for work every employable person now on the relief rolls of the state must accept seasonal employment on farms, in orchards, hop or berry fields or any other work this summer, if the plans of the state relief committee work out in conjunction with the cooperation of the various county relief committee and other relief agencies.

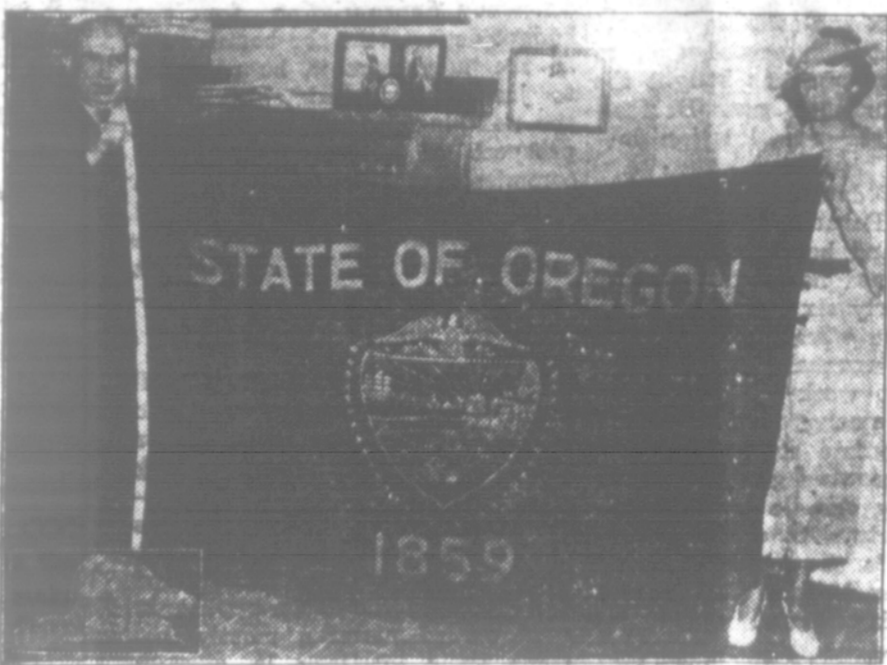
Every possible aid is to be given the farmer and the state committee is urging the county committees to use every possible means to find employment for those on the relief list by June first. Reduction of overhead, the cutting off of federal relief money and the general demand for retraining on orders from Washington and Salem, are the cause for the action of the state relief committee.

Overhead Reduced

This reduction on overhead, rentals and personnel already has hit the point of almost 50 percent throughout the state since January first and in some instances the percentage of reduction has run as high as 63 over the figures two months ago, and other slashes must be made by the state and county relief committees in order to keep within their budgets.

The relief administration also stated Monday that all relief clients this year must plant gardens, but no state supervision will be possible this year as there are no funds available for this purpose.

Oregon Flag Gets New Lease on Life



Nearly forgotten and existing only on paper up to a few days ago, the navy blue Oregon flag bearing a gold escentcheon and gold letters on one side and a gold beaver on the other, has been resurrected by the Oregon State Motor association. The last original flag burned in the statehouse fire. In this photograph E. B. McDaniel, president of the motor club, and Louise Muller of the motor club staff, display one of the banners made recently under McDaniel's direction. Inset shows the gold beaver appearing on the reverse side. Every school, city, county, chamber of commerce and service club should own and display one of the flags, says the motorist leader.

Erosion Is Comparatively New Subject For Oregon Farmers

Eighteen years ago soil erosion wasn't an important enough topic in eastern Oregon to be discussed on a county agent tour, C. E. Hill, District Manager for the Soil Conservation Service activities in North Central Oregon, recalls.

Hill refers to a trip which the county agent made years ago when he was associated with Superintendent D. E. Stephens at the Sherman County Experiment Station.

"To-day erosion and increased run-off, along with the spread of wild morning glory, are considered major agricultural problems," Hill asserted. "Fields are showing severe washing, gullying, and blowing. Yields are being reduced, and tillage and harvest costs have greatly increased."

Erosion Costly

"By 1933 the menace of erosion to Oregon agriculture was easily visible. One farmer, that year, reported that it took two men with a walking plow 22 days to plow in gullies and ruts which occurred in a 500-acre field of winter wheat in order that the crop could be harvested with a combine.

"In the same year a blacksmith reported that he welded 42 spokes on one combined harvester in 10 days as the result of breakage in crossing ruts and gullies in the field. Farmers are now realizing that unless erosion is controlled it will soon be impossible for them to harvest crops with their large combines.

Top Soil Lost

"Because ruts and gullies result in the concentration of run-off, the damage from erosion increases rapidly. The best top soil that is worked into these ruts and gullies by plowing and cultivation is carried away by the next heavy rain. It is obvious that unless drastic measures are taken to curb this gullying and loss of fertile topsoil thousands of acres of the best wheat land and pea land in the Northwest will be ruined within the next few years.

Soil Erosion Affects Everyone

"Damage from erosion is not confined to farm land alone," Hill stated. "The rapid run-off is increasing the damage from floods,

Women Drivers More Safety-Minded

Women drivers figured in far fewer accidents during 1935 than did men drivers, indicating that the average woman is more safety minded than the opposite sex, according to figures compiled by the safety department of the Oregon State Motor association.

Only seven per cent of all drivers involved in fatal accidents were women. Their participation in all kinds of accidents, however, amounted to 14 per cent, it was explained.

The motor club safety officials pointed out that in spite of the larger amount of driving done by men, the women's record showed a greater tendency to drive at moderate speeds and observe the fundamental rules of safety.

About one-fourth of the driving in modern traffic is done by women, it is estimated.

and the soil it carries causes further damage by silting-in dams that are constructed for flood control, power, irrigation and navigation.

"In fact, soil conservation is a problem that concerns everyone. A productive soil is the nation's greatest asset and is the chief collateral behind most of our loans. The present rapid depletion of the soil by erosion is creating problems profoundly affecting the general welfare and prosperity of the entire nation.

Not Too Much Land

"Contrary to the general belief, there is not too much good land under cultivation at the present time. Productive land is needed to replace the large areas damaged and worn out by erosion. Worn land should be permanently retired from cultivation and seeded to grass or grass-legume mixtures. This treatment will rebuild soil structure, restore fertility, and provide a protective cover which will effectively control erosion.

"Erosive land which is still potentially valuable for crops should be subjected to erosion-controlling tillage practices, the conservation of crop residue, and further soil conservation measures which will preserve fertility and conserve moisture."

Pasture Grasses Arouse Interest

Many New Strains Of Pasture Grasses Developed Recently

Farmers in both western and eastern Oregon are becoming increasingly interested in the production of special pasture strains of grasses and covers developed in recent years by experimental workers in England, Wales and New Zealand, says E. R. Jackman, extension agronomist at Oregon State college.

The development of these special strains came as a result of a study of the performance and adaptability of different strains of the same crop. It was found, for example, that the strain of timothy that gave the best yield of hay might be the least desirable strain as a pasture crop, and, on the other hand, a strain which spread out on the ground and gave continued high yields of pasture, was worth little as a hay crop.

Europeans Grow Grass

In developing these pasture crop strains of seed, the European workers chose pastures which had been so highly grazed for years that no plants had gone to seed. Heavy producing plants were picked from these pastures and new strains were developed particularly fitted for pasturing. In this manner pasture strains of orchard grass, English rye grass, white clover and timothy were produced. Some of these have developed the vegetative growth habit so strongly that they do not produce as

Candidates In Great Numbers Aspire To Office

New Candidates File This Week For May Primaries: Voters Will Have Choice Of Many Types.

The political race for Sherman county offices is still open to all comers. And further more, more are coming. New announcements this week are John T. Johnson and Joseph A. Mee, both of Wasco who filed for county clerk and Carl P. Adams of Grass Valley who announced his intentions of running for county assessor. Charles Lindeman of Rufus has petitions out for sheriff on the Republican ticket and Walter Ruggles of Moro is seeking the Democratic nomination for clerk.

Five Sheriffs

The field to date is Lester Na-house, Joe Truitt, Clarence Lindeman trying for the Republican nomination for sheriff and C. C. Wilson of Rufus and T. M. Garrett of Grass Valley running for the Democratic nomination.

Four Clerks

For clerk the Republicans may at present choose between Miss Viola Hansen, acting incumbent, John T. Johnson and Joseph Mee and Mr. Ruggles is so far unopposed for the Democratic nomination.

Carl Adams will oppose Mrs. Margaret Peetz for the assessor's post both being on the Republican ticket. No Democrat has so far announced for the position.

The make up of the future county court is still difficult to figure. Only avowed candidate for commissioner is David Reid of Rufus who is a Republican. County Judge George Potter and commissioner Perry Axtell have made no announcement of their intentions.

Full Ticket Aim

An effort has been made the past week among Democrats to insure candidates for every post which will be vacant and it is probable that one will be found available.

Giles French, representative in the state legislature from the 22nd district comprising Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler and Morrow counties, will file for the Republican nomination for that post, it was announced this week.

No word has been heard from E. R. Fatland, the other representative from the district or William Steiwer, senator from the Gilliam, Sherman, Wheeler district.

Gasoline Price Drops Two and a half Cents

The price of gasoline dropped 2 1/2 cents in this area Tuesday morning to make the price to farmers 133 cents, just when they were thinking of filling up the tanks for spring work.

How long the price will last or whether it will go lower are matters so far unknown and dealers and farmers are both wary of placing too much dependence on the price. Deliveries are being made at the new price, however.

Minstrel Troupe To Visit Other CCC Camps

Authorization from the army headquarters has been granted to send the CCC minstrel troupe on a tour to other CCC camps through out this area. Mrs. D. L. Lowe, wife of Captain Lowe, is coach of the boys. Permission of the SCS will have to be obtained before the tour can start.

The boys have appeared in all the towns of Sherman county at different times and have constantly improved in their ability as actors and if sent on tour will undoubtedly be well received.

WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

DATE	MAX.	MIN.	PRECIP.
Feb. 27	46	40	.00
" 28	50	35	.04
" 29	57	35	.00
Mar. 1	61	36	.00
" 2	64	41	.00
" 3	59	40	.00
" 4	59	33	.00
Total for week			.04

Now Is The Time To Poison Sage Rats

This is the time for farmers and others interested in poisoning sage rats to begin the campaign says Perry Johnston, county agent. When the rats first come out of the ground they are hungry and can be killed more easily with poisoned grain than at any other time. It is necessary to kill fewer rats early than later in order to rid the fields of them.

Poisoned grain may be purchased through the county agent at designated depots and killing now will obviate a harder campaign when the rats begin to work on the right of ways.

Library Board Votes To Buy New Books

The purchase of some new books and the placing of pay books at some place of business in Moro so they will be available at all times was decided by the new Library board which met Monday evening, March 2.

This board is made up of representatives from each organization in the community. Recently elected officers are Mrs. D. E. Stephens, chairman; Mrs. Theodore Johnston, secretary and Seral Searcy treasurer. Mrs. C. L. Pol-e-y, Mrs. Seral Searcy and Orval Thompson have charge of the purchase of new books and pay books.

Interest Assured

The organization through its representatives assured the library board of their interest and cooperation. The firemen will be willing to donate \$5 per year. The American Legion will donate the use of the hall for any benefit for the library.

Plans are now being made for a library benefit dance to be given soon. Definite date and plans will be announced later.

A couple of three-month sets of state library books will be sent for immediately and shelves will be repaired or new ones built.

Gertrude Gillmor librarian, was voted some compensation by the board for her splendid work.

Vote of thanks was given Mrs. Margaret Peetz for her work with the library.

Grass Valley Team To Go To Heppner

The Grass Valley basket ball team will go to Heppner this week end to play in the tournament to decide which teams will represent this section of Oregon at the Salem state contest in division B.

Grass Valley had a hard row to hoe in the Dufur tournament. They first met Parkdale who was not so tough this year as formerly and later played Wapinitia which was a crack team. The local lads had expended much of their pep when they met Maupin and were defeated by a score of 35 to 34.

At the Heppner tournament they will meet Umapine first which is rather a bad break, for the Umapine team won the contest last year and went to Salem.

Roads Main Topic At Court Meeting

Roads, viewing of roads, and repairing of roads, was the major topic at the county court meeting Wednesday. After court members had run through the pile of bills on their desk they adjourned to the county at large and looked over the damage that had been done to the highways and dirt roads.

WPA Engineer Shirley was here to give an off hand estimate on the cost of repair of the Fulton canyon road. It may take all of \$40,000 to rebuild the road it was said. It is possible that a new alignment will be made which will keep the road on one side of the creek and remove the necessity for many expensive bridges and the danger of losing them in flood. Harry Pinkerton and Eugene Amidon asked to be allowed to grade the Sawtooth road with a county grader and permission was granted when such an implement is available.

Fulton Canyon Road Destroyed By Flood

Many Country Roads Washed And Gullied By Run Off Of Snow; Most Expensive Year Of Many For Roads

Damage done to the roads of the county by the run off of snow water last week has been found to be the greatest for several years. Fulton canyon road, one of the most important outlets for farmers hauling wheat to the Columbia river is entirely destroyed in one place and the lower bridge on that road is washed out and broken in two. Much of the new work done during the winter by WPA men was washed down the creek.

Water Comes Suddenly

Reports are that the water broke very suddenly in that section of the county and all canyons leading to Fulton canyon emptied at once causing the damage.

The upper bridge, a steel one a short distance below the Anderson place was slightly damaged but can be repaired at a nominal expense. The concrete span near the old watering trough withstood the flood but the abutments were washed away on both sides. The lower bridge piers were washed out at both ends and the bridge broke in two and fell into the creek and is almost a total loss. The new bridge will have to be longer and higher.

Peach Orchard Damaged

Below the bridge the flood took the dirt from under the railroad Y causing no little expense to the railroad company and when farther down the creek the water forced down one end of the chicken house on the peach orchard place. The orchard itself was flooded with more than a foot of fine silt. The highway at this point was flooded for several yards.

Many other roads have been damaged by washing. Sections of fills are out and water rushing across some roads has made them impassable. County employees and farmers have been out for several days patching up road beds so traffic could be resumed.

Highways Softened

The highways are in bad condition also as in some places the frost heaved the surface which has broken, making some bad spots in the road. Between Moro and the river and between Grass Valley and Kent there are a number of such places.

The market roads also suffered in similar manner and will have to have more material before they can be repaired to stand heavy traffic. No estimate has been made as to the probable cost of the repair work that will have to be done, but it will larger than it has been for several years.

Consolidation Of Counties Discussed

University of Oregon, Eugene, February 28.—Consolidation of Oregon's 36 counties into a lesser number of units of larger size, a project twice championed in the columns of the University of Oregon journal, "The Commonwealth Review," is vigorously opposed in the current number of the publication by Merlin Blais, Oregon newspaperman, who as a graduate student in journalism at the university recently, gave considerable time to study of this problem.

Not Economical

Blais takes sharp issue with claims of economy and convenience for consolidated county units made in a former number by Dr. Warren D. Smith, professor of geology, and Alfred L. Lomax, professor of business administration. Dr. Smith and Mr. Lomax proposed that county lines be abandoned and that seven "regions" be set up in the state to replace the counties. Another writer, Stephen B. Jones, also advocated consolidation of counties, although on a plan differing somewhat from that proposed

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