

Sherman County Journal

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Official County Paper

State Affairs

By
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Public Utilities Commissioner Frank C. McCulloch, who announced when he took office last year that he would not harass utilities, has gotten results—to the tune of \$200,000 in rate reductions.

By negotiating with power and telephone companies instead of going to court, McCulloch brought about the saving to the public. Soon he expects to be able to announce still more rate reductions that will save Oregonians another \$200,000 a year.

The Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company came through last week with the biggest rate cuts which will save its customers \$90,000 annually. Night long distance discounts were made effective at 7 p. m. instead of 8:30 p. m., and made to apply throughout Sundays. Long distance rates were cut for some calls as much as five to 70 cents. Some person-to-person day time calls were raised 10 cents, though.

The 25 cents per month charge for hand-set or French type phones was eliminated if the instruments have been used 18 months and cut to 15 cents if the devices have not been installed that long.

"I find most utilities readily responsive to negotiations as a substitute for expensive litigation, long drawn hearings and court appeals, and they seem quite willing when the facts justify it to devote the money which would be spent engineering, attorney fees and court cost to reasonable rate reductions for the benefit of their customers," McCulloch said.

The Portland General Electric Co., California-Oregon Power Co., West Coast Power Co., Oregon-Washington Telephone Co., and Idaho Power Co., are other utilities which have made rate cuts during McCulloch's administration.

Oregon has levied a gasoline tax since 1919, but never until July was more than \$1,000,000 ever collected in one month. Secretary of State Snell counted \$1,091,418.92 in the till last month. The previous record month was August, 1935, at \$958,118.24. Since the first of the year, \$5,769,755.36 has been collected—\$757,879.46 more than earned during the first seven months last year. In 17 years, Oregon has received \$75,998,308.93 in gas taxes.

Governor Martin has adopted a new policy of personally interviewing every youthful first offender before transfers from the state penitentiary to the boys training school at Woodburn. By calling the boys into his private office one at a time and having heart to heart talks with them, the governor hopes to get them started on the right track and a useful return to society.

When the population of the penitentiary zoomed to 1001, a condition unprecedented in Oregon history, the state parole board began to loosen somewhat. On the board's recommendation the governor in two days time signed conditional paroles for 28 men and one woman but didn't let them all out in one day. Some of the paroles will not be effective for several months. Many are given on the condition that the convicts leave the state immediately. The governor often adds this provision himself. Pencil on a number of documents when they come from the executive desk is this notation: "And leave state. CHM." Other convicts are turned over to federal officials for deportation or released to other states where they will immediately enter other penitentiaries to serve time for previous crimes.

The governor is determined to have the fame of Oregon's state penitentiary spread far and wide as a tough, hard-boiled place, not easy to get out of. "Then the law breakers will think twice and pass Oregon by," the governor said.

The first court attack on Oregon's jobless insurance law failed to worry the state unemployment compensation commission. Southern Oregon fruit packing plants filed the suit in Jackson county circuit court. Exemption of packing house employees as agricultural workers was sought in the suit. D. A. Bulmore, administrator of the law, said he did not believe constitutionality of the entire act would be questioned.

The voters pamphlet which Secretary of State Snell will issue prior to the November general election will be ready for distribution by the end of the month.

GOV. LANDON'S AID



Lora Williams, for 14 years the secretary to former Vice President Charles Curtis, is now in Topeka as a new member of Gov. Alford M. Landon's secretariat. She is a native of Kansas and is considered one of the most capable of America's politically experienced secretaries.

Council Offers Downtown Space For Concessions

The Moro council met Tuesday night to make arrangements with the fair board for the co-operation between the two bodies during the annual fair. The board was granted the use of First street from Main through Scott street and a portion southwest on Scott street as far as is needed. The street space will be used for concessions and will be roped off from use by cars.

The city will have extra policemen on duty during the three days of the fair and will make an attempt to see that order is observed by everyone attending. State police will co-operate in this endeavor also it is learned.

The council will meet again the first part of September and set a date for a mass meeting for the nomination of new officers for the city and will also appoint a budget committee to make up the budget for 1937 as this must be completed by the first of November.

Complaint Issued On Assault Charge

A complaint issued out of Justice Stov's court at Grass Valley charged Vincent Genteman, working here from South Dakota, with assault. The complaint was signed by Mrs. Terry Vincenzi. Both had been working at the Eugene-Vinton ranch until the arrest of Genteman early this week. Preliminary hearing will be held later in the week at Grass Valley.

Republicans Plan Picnic For September

George Updegraff of Moro has been named to lead a caravan of Sherman county Republicans to the Landon-Knox beach picnic which will be held at Janzen Beach park, Portland on September 13.

Plans for the picnic are being shaped by an executive committee headed by Mrs. George H. Root and Mrs. John L. Karnopp, co-chairmen. Every Republican unit in the state is joining in supporting the event which will start with a luncheon at noon and include an afternoon speaking program.

KNIGHT-GERVAIS WEDDING APPLICATION RECEIVED

An application for a marriage license was received by the county clerk. Nava LaVelle Gervais will become the wife of Harold Frank Knight. The bride to be is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Gervais of Grass Valley and Mr. Knight, who is originally from Salt Lake city, is at present working out of Moro. They expect to be married Sunday.

FORMS NEARLY DONE

Compliance forms for the 1935 allotment payment are nearly all completed and except for some that need the signatures of persons residing at a distance are ready to send on their journey to Washington, D. C. where they are finally checked and checks are written.

Trashy Fallow Yields Less Crop Than Plowed

Peudleton Station Results Indicate That Change May Be Necessary For High Yields On Trashy Summer Fallow

The possible need for a different method of handling trashy summer fallow is indicated by yields of grain found on land treated by this method this year at the Peudleton station.

Trashy fallow has been tried for six years at the station there with little difference being found up till this year. The averages for the six years show that mold board plowing has produced an average crop of 41.7 bushels, double disking has made 40.2 bushels and one way disking has produced an average of 39.9 bushels.

Difference Great This Year

This year on all the plots handled in this experiment the trashy fallow made but 30.2 bushels while the double disking gave a yield of 30.8 bushels and the mold board plowed plots gave a return of 36.9 bushels.

Several factors may be considered in explaining the failure of this new type of tillage for this particular year. First, in soil and crop experimentation it sometimes happens that a particular system or crop will fall far below expectations and below its long time record. For instance, the wheat dropped below its average at Peudleton this year.

Second, trashy fallow often has in it bunches of straw that is not sufficiently broken up to make a good seed bed and weeds grow instead of wheat, reducing the yield.

Third, there may be a need for more tillage of summer fallow after trashy plowing in order to make a good seed bed or it may be necessary to use different tillage implements and a different type of drill when land is plowed in such a way.

The disked fallow at the Moro station this year brought a poorer yield than did the plowed land probably because of the presence of weeds in the wheat.

The change from moldboard plowing to trashy plowing if it is really ever made by farmers, may cause other changes in the present type of tilling land for wheat production. This would not be uncommon as a change in one method often brings on other changes for the entire process.

The low yield for this year is, of course, not conclusive but it merely indicates that further experimentation in summer fallow methods will be necessary before the new method can be proclaimed superior to the old from a production basis.

Dolls----and Dolls To Be At Fair

Dolls of all kinds and sizes—but real ones—will be featured in the textile department of the Diamond Jubilee Oregon state fair, to be held in Salem September 7 to 13. The Doll show is an innovation and winners in the various classifications will receive more than \$80 in premium money. Another special feature in the textiles will be a complimentary exhibit of Japanese embroidery and dolls arranged through the courtesy of the Japanese consul at Portland, Ken Tsurumi.

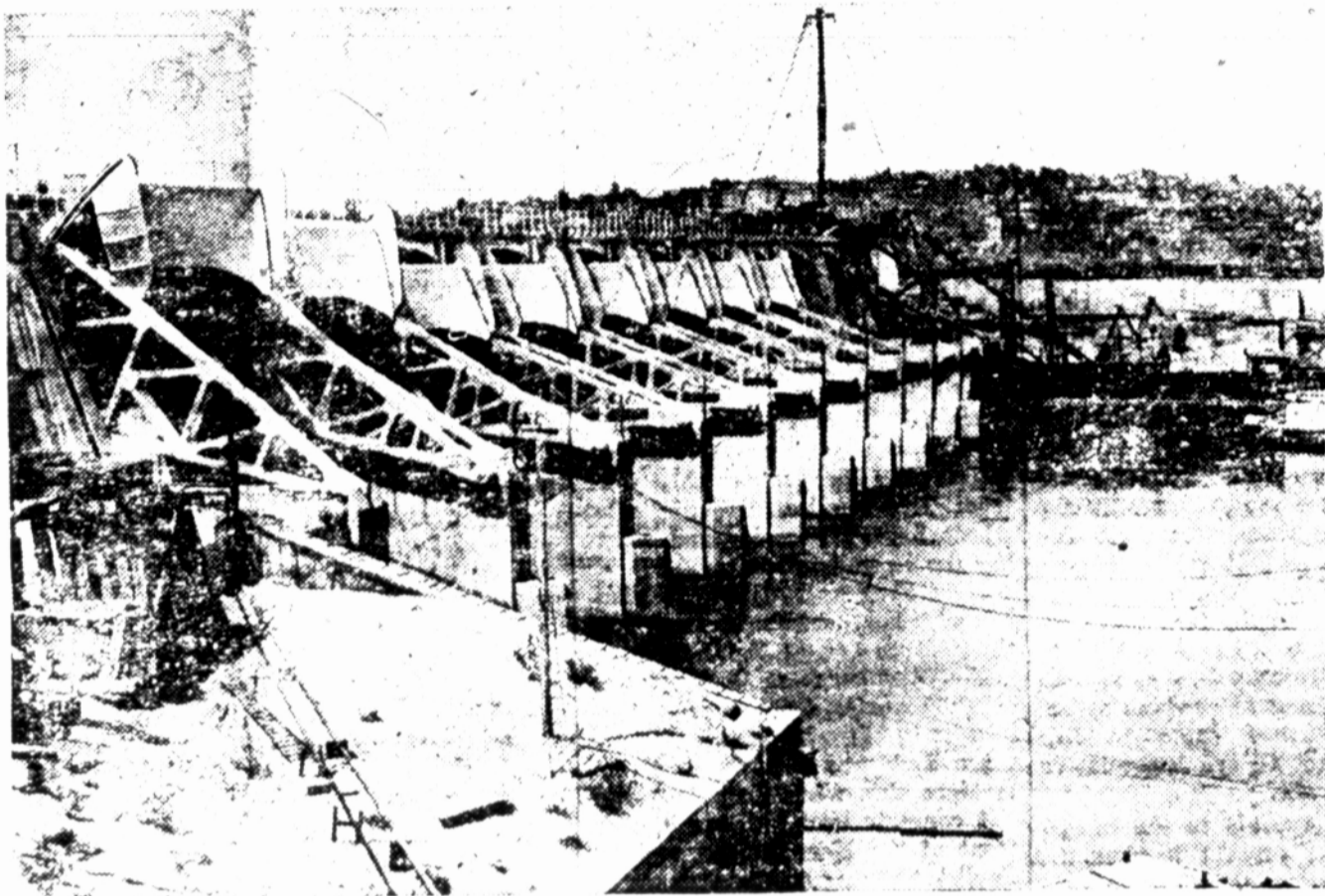
How About A Good Government Job?

The United States Civil Service has announced open competitive examinations as follows:

Accounting and Auditing Assistant, \$1,800 a year.
Administrative Officers, various grades \$3,800 to \$5,600 a year.
Senior Administrative Assistant, \$3,200 a year, Social Security Board.

Full information may be obtained from the Secretary of the United States Civil Service Board of Examiners at the post office or class, or from the United States customhouse in any city which has a post office of the first or second class. Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

Speed Work on Mississippi Navigation Dam



One-third of the great navigation dam across the Mississippi river at Alton, Ill., has been completed and work on the remaining section of this the longest and highest of the 26 dams projected to aid navigation on the Mississippi between here and St. Paul, Minn., is progressing swiftly. The dam's 30 gates will be the largest of the type in the world. The dam proper will be 1,725 feet long in addition to the width of an already completed lock on the Alton shore.

Local Men Extol Fair To Club of Breakfasters

Leroy Wright, county agent, M. E. McKee and Giles French, had breakfast with The Dalles Breakfast club Wednesday morning and each spoke briefly to the members explaining the high lights of the coming Sherman county fair and inviting the citizens of Wasco county through the club to attend.

The entertainment features of the fair and the high quality of the exhibits were praised by the local men. They told of the race meet and bucking contest with fifteen events each day with close races expected and of the exhibits which will be of a fine quality in the horse and beef calf classes.

Although the fair conflicts with the Frohes annually given by the American Legion in the river city it is expected that some residents of The Dalles will attend the fair during the daylight hours.

Ragsdale & Thompson Attend Spokane Meet

W. H. Ragsdale and C. J. Thompson spent part of last week in Spokane attending the regular monthly meeting of the board and participating in a special conference with national farm loan associations from the four northwest states.

The board called the conference with association presidents for the purpose of informing them about the bank's current operations and inviting the associations to take a more active and responsible part in the conduct of this cooperative system.

Nearly 250 association presidents were present and expressed appreciation for the opportunity of meeting with the bank's directors and officers to talk over mutual problems.

Nearly half the counties in Oregon will have elaborate display booths at the Diamond Jubilee Oregon state fair at Salem September 7 to 13. Counties which will be represented are Douglas, Lane, Columbia, Curry, Hood River, Tillamook, Polk, Marion, Wallowa, Yamhill, Linn, Deschutes, Coos, Benton and Clatsop. Douglas, Deschutes and Clatsop are returning for the 75th annual fair after a long absence.

YELLOW LINE COMING

Clyde Gillmor, state maintenance man, returned from Salem last week after a few days spent there, and reports that within a short time a new yellow center line will be put on the Sherman highway.

WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

DATE	MAX.	MIN.	PRECIP.
Aug 29	89	51	.00
" 30	87	59	.00
" 31	75	54	.00
" 1	75	44	.00
" 2	70	50	.00
" 3	77	52	.00
" 4	80	46	.00
Total for week			.00

New Rates For Light Service Due October 1

Lower Schedule Of Rates For Light and Power Ordered By Commissioner McCulloch

Effective October 1, new electric rates will benefit many customers of Pacific Power & Light company in Sherman county. Announcement of the new rates was made this week by Public Utility Commissioner Frank C. McCulloch and detailed information about the reductions has been received here from G. L. Corey, district manager for the power company.

The new rates were filed voluntarily by the Pacific company as the result of a rate study made in cooperation with members of Commissioner McCulloch's staff. Main purpose of the adjustments is to make the company's rates simpler and more promotional in character, it was stated.

Residence rates will drop to a new low step of 2 cents a kilowatt hour as compared to the present low step of 3 cents a kilowatt hour. Two-cent electricity will be available in this district for all residence use in excess of 130 kilowatt hours a month.

The new residence rate in Moro, Wasco and Grass Valley will be \$1.25 for the first 12 KWH used per month; 94 cents per kilowatt hour for the next 17 kilowatt hours; 3 cents per KWH for the next 100 KWH; and 2 cents per KWH for all use in excess of 130 KWH per month. The present rate is 10 cents per KWH for the first 30 KWH used per month and 3 cents per KWH for all excess. Minimum monthly charge remains at \$1.25.

Rural customers in Sherman county will receive 26 KWH for the monthly minimum charge of \$2.50 and will get the next 4 KWH used per month at 94 cents per KWH, with additional use at the same rate as in the towns.

New rates for commercial lighting in Moro, Wasco and Grass Valley will be \$1.25 for the first 13 KWH used per month; 94 cents per KWH for the next 87 KWH; 64 cents per KWH for the next 100 KWH; 5 cents per KWH for the next 400 KWH; 4 cents per KWH for the next 1000 KWH; and 2 cents per KWH for all excess. In rural territory in the county the new commercial lighting rate will start at \$2.50 for the first 26 KWH used per month and 94 cents per KWH for the next 74 KWH, with additional use at the town rate.

The present flat rate for water heating was discontinued for new installations and an off-peak metered service at 8 mills was substituted. Present customers, however may continue on the flat rate.

Forestry Club Boys And Girls Going To Woods

The 4-H club boys and girls who have been watching and caring for their infant trees during the summer are to be rewarded that week end with a trip to the mountains where trees grow in profusion.

The trip has been arranged by county agent Wright and county school superintendent. Knights who are in direct charge of club activities in the county. The trip will start Saturday morning in time to insure arrival at Bear Springs by noon of that day. After lunch they will go into the forest accompanied by forestry teachers and forest service guides and will gather specimens for their note books and displays for the fair.

After a night spent at Bear Springs they will receive further instruction and will return home in the evening of Sunday.

Wasco Library Sets Date For Festival

The Wasco Library Board, in a call meeting last Monday, set the date of September 26 for the annual Library Festival. Additional features for entertainment are planned, the parade, in which all children, adults, organizations, and business houses are urged to participate. The Raffle, by the Board, of articles to be on display soon, the numerous concessions for the afternoon and evening are all planned in anticipation of a happy community day, and the Board sincerely hopes that all their patrons and friends will come and help to make the day a success.

Crested Wheat May Be Threshed Easily

Gilliam county growers of crested wheat grass tried several different methods of harvesting their seed crops this year, reports District Agricultural Agent R. M. McKennon. The 17-acre field grown by Earl Smith—the largest seed field of crested wheat grass in the county—was successfully combined, yielding approximately 3600 pounds of clean seed. The six acre field on the L. W. Childs farm was cut with a mowing machine with a bunching attachment and hauled to combine separator where it was fed by hand, with only slightly less loss of seed than by the combine method. Binding the grass and threshing from bundles also proved a satisfactory method on the C. A. Nihh farm, but no more successful than the combine method.

JOHN DAY LOOKS GOOD

D. E. Stephens made a trip thru the John Day valley and over to Burns and back through Pendleton to Moro this week and found the John Day country with large crops of natural hay on the meadows.

Date Of Fair Opening Nearly At Hand

Full Program Listed For Three Days Of Fair; Judging Of 4-H and Open Class Will Be Public

There is much of rushing about on the part of the fair board this week as the final preparations are being made for the opening of the county fair next Thursday. Entries are coming for all classes, and the barns have been whitewashed in preparation for the reception of the live stock that will soon fill the stalls.

Carnival Coming

Barners have appeared on cars about the county and with the arrival of the concession troupe next Monday or Tuesday a general carnival atmosphere will seize the town and last until the final event is finished Saturday evening September 5.

Track Prepared

The track is being watered in preparation for the bucking and track events. The horses from outside the county will arrive Sunday afternoon to get the soreness out of their legs before the opening "Go" that sends them into the first race or the shouted "Let 'er go" that announces that one more bucking and rarin' horse has been let out of the chute to take his brief but exciting moment before the yelling crowd.

Program Full Each Day

One who consults the fair program of judging that appears in the premium book will observe that the days are fairly full of events having to do with the livestock entries of club children and open classes. When the race program is added to this and sandwiched in between a full and lively day is provided for and when, atop all this is added an evening of milling crowds with dancing and gaming it may be seen that fair time for 1936 is going to be as lively as in days of old.

Board To Meet Monday

There will be a meeting of the fair board next Monday night at the office of the county agent and at this time the very final touches will be put on the arrangements for the annual event. Entries will be in, stalls will be allotted, the race barns will be filled and the long prepared for day of the county fair will be dawning.

Fewer Oregon Farms Mortgaged Says FCA

A smaller number of American farms are under mortgage today than before the depression, and in Oregon the total farm mortgage debt is smaller, according to figures released today by the Farm Credit Administration.

Although the Farm Credit Administration has loaned over \$23,700,000 on farm mortgages in Oregon since May 1933, approximately 92 per cent of the money was used to refinance old debts so that very little new indebtedness was incurred.

Debt Rises During War

The farm mortgage debt in the State which increased from \$34,950,000 in 1910 to \$116,810,000 in 1930, dropped to \$104,000,000 on January 1, 1935. Figures for the earlier years are from the United States Department of Agriculture, while the 1935 figure is an estimate of the Farm Credit Administration.

Drop Is 2 Per cent

On January 1, 1936, some 2,300,000 farms in the United States, or 94 per cent of the total number, were under mortgage, compared to 36 per cent in 1928.

Compared with previous periods, the recent farm mortgage debt trend is not unusual, the statement from the Farm Credit Administration points out. During periods of high income, the farm mortgage debt in the United States increases; and tends to contract in periods of depression.

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