

Sherman County Journal

Forty Ninth Year No. 9

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Official County Paper

State Affairs

By A. L. Lindbeck

Labor disputes which continue to hold the entire west coast in a state of industrial stagnation will unquestionably come in considerable attention at the hands of Oregon's legislature when it convenes this month. Producer groups whose pocket books have been hard hit by their inability to ship their products as well as by the decline in purchasing power on the part of the strikers, are loudly demanding action to bring about a speedy restoration of peace in the industrial world. With the Clowers Club of Hood River taking the lead, the wool growers, wheat growers, apple growers and other agricultural groups are demanding compulsory arbitration of all strikes in which the public welfare becomes involved.

Senator Best of Umatilla county has publicly announced his intention of sponsoring a compulsory arbitration measure in the forthcoming session. Senator Stringer of Linn county, an active granger himself, has announced his sympathy with the proposal. Other legislators from the agricultural districts can be depended on to support the idea, especially under the urge of their interested constituents. These include Duncan, of Harney, Wheeler of Lane, Stadelman of Wasco, Spaulding of Marion, Dunn of Jackson and many others. The senate, overwhelmingly conservative in its attitude toward business and industrial problems, would appear from this distance, to be fertile ground for the sowing of seed looking to governmental interference in arguments between employers and employees. The attitude of the House is more difficult to predict. Fifty per cent of its membership is entirely new to the legislative field. Among the House members, however, there are known to be at least two aggressive labor leaders—Bull of Union and Brady of Multnomah—and a number of other labor sympathizers who can be depended on to follow their lead in a fight to the finish against any legislation that might in any way clip the wings of organized labor.

Most interesting angle in the pending battle over labor legislation, however, is to be found in its possible effect upon the Damon-Pythias relations which have existed between leaders of the farmer-labor group at legislative sessions for many years with Ray Gill of the G-range and Ben Osborne of the labor unions, and their satellites fighting shoulder to shoulder for or against—as the case might be—any proposal affecting the interests of either group. Already Gill, as master of the State Grange, has warned against any attempt to interfere with the rights of labor unions to strike. This can be interpreted as a warning against the proposed compulsory arbitration program. The warning has started rumblings of discontent among the Grangers in many parts of the state, especially those who belong to the wheat league or the wool or apple growers who do not propose to let Gill or any other leader stand in the way of a program that promises any relief from the present situation with its threat to the financial stability of thousands of innocent bystanders.

Of course any legislation the Oregon lawmakers may enact to require compulsory arbitration of labor disputes would only apply to local strikes, such as that in the woolen mills at Portland or strikes by teamsters, truck drivers or other purely local groups. It would have little, if any effect on the maritime strike which is, after all, the one which is pinching the producers right now. That involves a national issue and will require federal legislation if it is to be reached. All the Oregon legislators can do in that connection will be to memorialize Congress and even such action can be expected to meet with serious opposition on the part of organized labor.

Hereafter state officials and employees who tour the country at public expense—attending conventions and conferences must limit their expense claims to \$7 a day. This amount is expected to cover Pullman charges, meals, hotel rooms, taxis, tips and incidentals. If they cannot live within this allowance, the board of control ruled this week, they can make up the balance out of their personal pocketbooks. If they can

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Sheriff's Office Makes Turn-over Of \$67,550.70

The sheriff's office made the final turn-over of the year Thursday and gave to the treasurer for distribution to the taxing units a neat sum of \$67,550.70.

The total collection of taxes, current and delinquent, for the year has been \$228,464.25 which is almost \$25,000 more than the tax roll for the year and is about 110% of the 1936 tax roll. The current roll lacks about \$25,000 of total collection but delinquent taxes make up the difference.

Grass Valley District Raises 700,000 Bushel

The Grass Valley district which includes warehouses at Grass Valley, Bourbon, Kent, and Wilcox took in 648,892 bushels of wheat during the past year for the biggest intake of any year since the fortunate twenties. This was divided as follows, deleting fractions: Grass Valley, 320,952; Bourbon, 123,794; Kent 173,922; Wilcox 30, 223.

In addition to this amount over 20,000 bushels were shipped out without going through the warehouse at Wilcox. Also there were several cars shipped by individuals in sufficient quantities to bring the total for the district up to 700,000 bushels or thereabouts.

Johnson-Burris Wedding Held

Miss Rita Burris of Wasco, and F. Harland Johnson of Nampa, Idaho, were united in marriage Saturday, December 26th, at the Congregational parsonage in The Dalles by the Rev. Mr. Hutchinsop, at 4 p. m.

Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. John T. Johnson Jr., Clinton Brock of Twin Falls, Idaho; Miss Margaret Johnson, Miss Margaret McKee and Theodore Proudfoot of Wasco.

Miss Burris is the only daughter of Mr. W. H. Burris of Wasco, and Mr. Johnson is the elder son of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Johnson also of Wasco.

The young couple left immediately following the ceremony for a short trip to Eugene, Albany and Portland, and will leave the latter part of the week for their home in Nampa, Idaho, where Mr. Johnson is field manager for the Allis-Chalmers company.

35 Beef Calves Owned By Clubbers

Four H club workers in the county have arranged for 35 calves to feed during the winter, spring and summer in readiness for the state fair and the Pacific International. County agent Wright, Glen King and Carroll Sayers were in Baker and Grant counties lately and returned with 12 calves. Seven of these were purebred Herefords and five were Aberdeen Angus. Nine were senior calves and three were juniors.

The Herefords were obtained from the Chandler herd at Baker and the black calves were bought from the J. S. Guttridge estate at Prairie City. The other calves to be fed were obtained locally.

"Scab" Dams Held Good Water Savers

Condon.—The possibilities of making small water conservation dams in the "scab" rock streaks that run up through many wheat fields in the vicinity of Condon are being considered by County Agent R. M. McKennon and farmers of the district. The streaks, Mr. McKennon says, are comparatively level and have rocky bottoms, and it is believed that by damming up these streaks in a number of places a large quantity of water can be held on top of the "scab" where it can be absorbed and thereby increase wheat yields on the adjoining land. A rotary fressno and a large tractor were used in constructing some of these dams on the L. G. Panman farm. No expenditure for material is required.

CCC Camp Still Working As Usual At Dam Building

Tenth of Tilled Land Will Be Seeded To Crested Wheat Grass When Project Is Done; Contracts Still Being Signed

The report that the work at the CCC camp in Moro had completed its work here caused something akin to dismay to the men who were building dams and quarrying rock for dams to be with all the force at their command. They hastened to deny the statement much in the same manner as Mark Twain is said to have denied the report of his death by saying it was very much exaggerated.

Contracts have been signed which permit the SCS to work on 23,342 acres within the project outlined. The Grass Valley canyon area was chosen for the demonstration project and farms in many of its branches are included. Work on the project has been done in DeMoss canyon, Barnum canyon, Peetz canyon, Erskineville canyon, Hay canyon, Rosebush and the main Grass Valley itself.

15,832 Tilled Acres

Of this area 15,832 acres is tilled land and is either in crop or in summerfallow and the remainder is either range land or roadways. It is expected that about 1500 acres will be seeded down to crested wheat grass before the work is ended. Six hundred eighty five acres have already been seeded and much more would have been had the fall been favorable for such seeding.

One hundred forty five permanent dams have been built in the draws and canyons of the demonstration area. These are usually of rock although there are some concrete dams and some dirt. They are designed to hold water or to check run-off. Water impounding dams are often put in the larger draws to raise the water level and to make the nearby land more valuable.

Rodents Killed Easily

Last spring a rodent control project was carried on for a few days. In 49 man days 1400 acres of land was carefully gone over and the report was that practically every sage rat was killed. The cost was between seven and eight cents per acre. Farmers may do this for themselves as the poison is obtainable from the county agent.

Contour furrows have been made on 111 acres in the area and some of this has been seeded to crested wheat grass and a small mixture of other seed.

Plans Prepared

Plans are now prepared for all of the land that is likely to be included in the demonstration unit. There will probably be a little under 30,000 acres in the completed project which is held to be of sufficient size to demonstrate the feasibility of the erosion control theories being tried.

More Wheat Checks Come For Farmers

Another batch of checks were received from the AAA office at Washington D. C. this week to bring joy to the hearts of the recipients here. This was another payment on the 1936 wheat payment, and totaled \$7,447.53. The remainder of the money due to farmers of this county is expected at any time.

Mrs. McKean Hostess To Woman's Club

Mrs. J. C. McKean was hostess and director for the Christmas meeting of the Moro Woman's club on December 18th. Mrs. C. L. Poley gave a resume of a magazine article, "The Stars That Go Before," by Mrs. Simmons, and Mrs. Darwin Van Gilder read one of Charles Dickens' Christmas stories. Inexpensive gifts were exchanged by the members. The next meeting will be on January 15th in the form of a tea for the Doernbecker Hospital.

Inactive WPA Cases Closed In County

Frank O. Collins, investigator for the relief committees of the mid-Columbia counties was here Wednesday from Condon bringing information regarding the new ruling in WPA organization. "Any case which is not working on a WPA project for a period of thirty days must be investigated in order to be reassigned" said Mr. Collins, who added that "anyone working on WPA must accept work opportunities in private enterprises when offered."

The new ruling was made necessary because 7500 cases are being dropped in Oregon in line with the federal decrease in WPA workers. They will be re-admitted according to population if need arises. All but three of those on WPA lists in Sherman county have had their cases closed.

Competitive Hunt Arranged For County Nimrods

All May Sign Up For Hunt Competition This Month

Another of the community hunts that enlivened the winter seasons a few years ago is being planned. It is to be much similar to the others with the exception that this one is to be done on a much larger scale for contestants are to be admitted from the Grass Valley district as well as from around Moro.

The entrance charge is to be one dollar which will be returned to the entrant if he is on the winning side. If he is on the losing side the money will be used for entertainment purposes. Walter Ruggles is signing up hunters in Moro and Ray Blake is signing them up in Grass Valley. Truman Strong is helping in the organization of the event.

Names To Be Drawn

Names will be drawn January 6 at Moro and the hunt will begin January 7 and continue until February 1. Those who sign up after the beginning will have their names drawn in the same manner as do those who sign up early. The entertainment feature planned is a show and dance.

Points for birds and animals that will count in the race are as follows with the part of the animal needed for the count. Rabbits 50, 2 ears; sparrows, 25, whole; sparrow; crows, hawks and ravens, 100, heads; coyotes, 1000, hides; porcupine, 1000, head; badger, 1000, hide; Bobcats, 1000, hide; magpies, 200, head; rats, 100, whole.

SC & DA Sheets Sent To Corvallis

The data and work sheets of the soil conservation program for this county have been sent in to Corvallis where they will be checked by the state leaders there. Payments may be expected during this month as the checks will be written in Corvallis after proof of compliance has been deemed satisfactory. It is reported that the Sherman county papers were the first to be received there.

The range program closed at the close of the year and Dewey Thompson is checking on the compliance made by the range owners who cooperated with the government in this matter. Under Perry Johnston the carrying capacity of the ranges was determined and this check is made to verify statements of work done to earn the payment. Spring development is the most common means taken to comply.

WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

DATE	MAX.	MIN.	PRECIP.
Dec. 24	42	33	.24
" 25	40	29	.00
" 26	29	27	.06
" 27	32	24	.18
" 28	31	27	.06
" 29	31	20	.7
" 30	30	21	.10
Total for week			.82

Chronology Of 1936 Events Reprinted

Short Review of Noteworthy 1936 Events Given in Resume of News Year; Better Wheat Crop Important News

This brief chronology of events in Sherman county during 1936 is taken from the files of the Sherman County Journal.

Jan. 3: 1.45 inches of rain fell in the last week of the year to bring the total for the crop year up to 3.81 inches.

Jan. 10: Farmers hold meetings to decide on new program since the AAA is declared unconstitutional. Rabbits to be eradicated under the biological survey plan.

Jan. 17: J. L. Davis, C. B. Andrews and G. H. Root were elected to go to a meeting of protesting farmers at Arlington. Erosion control groups to be organized. Slot machines put away.

Jan. 24: Bangs disease testing continues. Farm conference draws good speakers, moderate crowd.

Jan. 31: A. A. Dunlap begins work as manager of Grass Valley Grain Growers. Special election ballots marked. January rains best 24 year record, 3.46 inches.

Feb. 7: Wasco schools lay off on account of measles. D. R. McDole shows erosion damage by pictures. New fair board appointed.

Feb. 14: Big drop in temperature scares wheat farmers. Candidates out for county office. Omer Sayers elected fair board head.

Feb. 21: Wasco bank pays sixth dividend. Cold continues. Young people skating at Cello. Moro schools closed for scarlet fever.

Feb. 28: Harlow Parkins comes to be SCS manager. Bank for county discussed. Run off of snow damages fields.

Fulton Road Washed

March 6: Fulton canyon road damaged by flood. CCC boys at work again after lay off on account of weather. Many more candidates file for county offices.

March 13: Federation wheat will be re-seeded in a large part of the county. Funeral of Lynden Lucas was held in The Dalles.

March 20: Grass Valley schools closed for scarlet fever. Over half of county taxes reported paid by sheriff Chrisman. Crop conditions still a source of worry.

March 27: Disc tillers being tried in fields. Local boys, Richard Barnes and Bill McLachlin injured in car accident.

April 3: Pension applications received. Wind blows down Hay Canyon warehouse and damages fields.

April 10: New men come to CCC camp. Sherman Highway association formed. Land still blowing in many parts of county.

April 17: Grass Valley debate teams defeat Hermiston for northwestern championship. New erosion program explained.

April 24: T. E. Sink and sister, Mrs. Mary Belshee, die the same week at advanced ages. State gives aid to Fulton canyon rebuilding.

Spring Rains Aid

May 1: Three quarters of inch of rain raises hopes for crop. Summer fallow declared soil depleting crop. Farmers protest against export price level.

May 8: Roads in north end of county still in bad condition with Girkling canyon road washed out entirely. Warm weather held need of wheat.

May 15: Lamb and wool show program prepared. Fifty pupils finishing county high schools.

May 22: Lamb show successful for first attempt in county. Primary election brings few surprises in state and county.

May 29: Conditions in south end of county held favorable for wheat crop. Work sheets for soil conservation program ready for signing. Frank von Borstel wins annual historical contest.

June 5: Farm group visits dams and grass plots. County soil conservation payment set at \$6.40. Rain falls, half inch.

June 12: Best crops since 1928 predicted. David Vintin dies at Grass Valley. Parties elect officers for county.

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Barn Dance Draws Big Crowd Tuesday Night

A barn dance was held Tuesday night in the new barn recently built by Dell Olds at Grass Valley. Floors were laid for the dancing, a stand erected for the music, stoves installed to make it comfortable and cider and doughnuts prepared for the occasion. A whole barn full of neighbors arrived during the course of the evening and a real old fashioned dance was held until a late hour.

Mrs. Emma Sayers Honored By Descendants

Forty One Dine With Grandma Sayers on Birthday

Mrs. Emma Sayers was 75 years old on Christmas day and her four daughters and two sons considered it an appropriate time for an old time family reunion. Consequently there gathered 40 members of the family in the basement of Mrs. Sayers home in celebration of Christmas and of the anniversary of the birth of the mother of the family.

The room was gaily decorated with greens and holly and other marks of the holiday and sons and daughters and grand sons and grand daughters and great grand children visited and dined.

Present were daughters—Mrs. R. T. Morgan and husband; Mrs. W. A. Morgan and husband; Mrs. E. A. Race and husband; and Mrs. C. R. Axtell and husband; sons—O. G. Sayers and wife and Carroll Sayers and wife. Others there were Mr. and Mrs. David Ransier and children, Lorean and James; Zora, Thelma, Ariel and Irma Morgan; Art, Amery, Maurice and Dorothy Morgan; Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hancock, Charles Race, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Krusow; Alton, Billy and Bobby Axtell; Mr. and Mrs. Lame; Sayers and son Larry; Lavon and Mary Sayers; Frank and Reatha Sayers; and Mrs. Sayers companion, Sayers; and Mrs. Sayers companion.

Unable to come were: Mr. and Mrs. Roy Miller and three children and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Morgan and daughter.

Mrs. Sayers is among the oldest residents of the county in point of continuous residence. She came here in the fall of 1883 from Prineville with her husband Frank Sayers. He was born in Corvallis in 1856 and moved to Prineville in the early days and they were married in 1879.

It is now over fifty three years since Frank Sayers settled on the land west of town that has been known as the Sayers place for so many years. They retired after 25 years of active farming and lived in Moro until Mr. Sayers death in 1924.

The term "whisker dams" has been applied to a practice originated by C. Edwin Hill, state coordinator for the soil conservation service, who applied it successfully last winter throughout the Wild Horse soil erosion control project around Athena. It consists essentially of using straw to form artificial vegetation on newly graded-in gullies where natural vegetation has not attained enough growth to afford protection.

Oregon Planners Meet Next Week

Vital problems and policies affecting Oregon's future, many of them highly controversial at present, will be discussed under the leadership of experts at the first annual state planning conference, called by Governor Martin for January 7 and 8 at the Multnomah hotel in Portland, according to word received here from Ormond R. Bean, chairman of the Oregon state planning board.

The conference, which will feature round table discussions on "Tension Areas in the Use of Oregon's Resources," will bring delegates and citizens from every section of the state. Members of county planning commissions, city and county officials and others interested in many phases of the state's development have been invited to participate in the meet.

Objectives of the conference, as outlined by Governor Martin are: "To increase the interest and participation of citizens in thinking for the future use of Oregon's natural resources;" "to clarify the relation of the state and county planning boards to official groups in the county and state;" and "to

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Snow Falls On Unfrozen Ground After Christmas

All of Moisture Should Be Available For Wheat Crop When Thaw Sends Moisture Into Dry, Unfrozen Soil

Tradition was nothing to the sender of snow. He kept the white blanket off the earth until everyone had celebrated their holiday but when they awoke the following morning there was four or five inches of snow. It dropped quietly and without warning for the skies were clear until midnight.

Not in years has a snowfall been hailed with as much joy as was this one. Rains had come late and just barely sufficient to sprout the wheat that had been in the ground a couple of months. Then without frost of any consequence came the snow.

Best of all it has snowed some every day since then and even now snow flakes are drifting past the window to add their bit to the steadily increasing covering of the snow still falling.

The snow on the morning of the 26th brought 26 inches of moisture and later snows have added 32 inches more to make a total of 58 inch of moisture that must surely go into the ground. Reports vary about the snow but the general opinion is that there is eight or nine inches on an average in the central part of the county.

South of Grass Valley it is reported that there is little snow although the later snows have fallen there. The snow of Tuesday night drifted quite badly in places and some county roads are almost impassable because snow has blown off the fields, but it is said to be a small part of the snowfall.

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New Type Dams Made Easily With Spade

"Whisker dams" are the latest device advocated as an aid to Oregon farmers trying to prevent gully erosion on their land. While the current fall has been so dry in eastern Oregon that many farmers felt that they would almost welcome some water erosion, later in the year it will doubtless become a problem as usual, say soil specialists of the state college extension service.

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The "whisker dams" are put in after the soil becomes soft from rain but before washing takes place. A man takes a spade and by sticking it straight down and working it back and forth, quickly makes a little trench some four inches deep and two or three inches wide at the top across the filled in gully. A thin layer of straw or other plant residue is then scattered over the opening and is forced tightly into the trench with the edge of the spade.

Enough of the straw extends above the surface of the ground to form a small check dam which collects the first sediment that comes along and becomes firmly embedded there. The little dams are spaced about two feet apart along the filled in gully.

When the process is reduced to words it sounds rather tedious and complicated, but in actual practice it has been found to be the quickest and cheapest method yet devised for holding newly filled-in soil in place while vegetation gets a start.

Some of the waterways treated this way last year carried water running the full width of the dams and gave the appearance of each little obstruction formed a level. This is a treatment that any farmer can carry out without cash expense, and which can be worked with the most unskilled labor.