

Sherman County Journal

Fifty-first Year No. 18

Moro, Oregon, Friday, March 10, 1939

Official County Paper

Of Oregon-Its Government and People

By A. L. Lindbeck

With the legislative session in its last week—I hope—attention is being turned to speculation on the leadership of the next legislature.

In the senate presidential possibilities center on two candidates, both from the central Willamette valley—Dean Walker of Polk county and Douglas McKay of Marion. Senator U. S. Balentine of Klamath county also has quite a following but his term is expiring and there is no certainty that he will be returned while both Walker and McKay will be holdover members.

For the House Speakership there are three outstanding possibilities although the results of the 1940 general election may eliminate any one or all of them. Those being most prominently mentioned for the Speakership post at this time are Frank Longergan of Multnomah county, Earl Hill of Lane county and Wm. McAllister of Jackson county. All three are republicans, the same being true of the senate possibilities for the presidency.

Friends of Robert M. Duncan of Burns this week launched a Duncan-for-Congress boom which they hope will land the eastern Oregon senator in Washington, D. C., in 1940, as the successor to Walter M. Pierce, veteran democrat whom he will probably have to oppose if he wins the republican nomination. A veteran member of the state senate Duncan's popularity in that body was demonstrated at this session when he was elected to the senate presidency without opposition. Forceful in debate, eminently fair in all his dealings Duncan has long been recognized as one of the most influential members of the state senate. While the senator refuses to comment on his political ambitions his friends insist that he is in a receptive mood and can be induced to make the race if given sufficient encouragement.

State officials, members of the legislatures and legislative employees inspected the new state library Sunday night at an open house conducted by Miss Harriett Long, state librarian and her staff. Miss Long plans to conduct another "open house" to which the general public will be invited as soon as the new equipment has been installed.

A proposal to refer the fate of the milk control board to the voters of Oregon was defeated in the senate by a vote of 15 to 14. The fight of this board was one of the most bitter of the current session with a number of the senators shifting their allegiance between the preliminary vote which saved the repeal bill from defeat and the final show-down in which the measure failed to pass by the narrow margin of two votes. Senator Mahoney of Multnomah county, one of the sponsors of the repeal bill has announced that the fight will be carried to the people through the initiative.

The bakery board did not fare as well as did the milk board and is now no more. Governor Sprague having signed the bill last week wiping this board out of existence. Sprague in his inaugural message urged repeal of the bread board as "a stepchild of the NRA" but asked that the milk board be retained for the time being and given another chance to prove its worth.

All social security and welfare activities of the state hereafter will be administered by a newly constituted state welfare commission under the provisions of a bill signed this week by Governor Sprague after the House had agreed to an amendment written in by the senate restoring the three-year residence requirement.

Out of their experience at this and previous sessions legislators have brought forth a number of suggestions for expediting the business of lawmaking, none of which are expected to gain legislative approval.

Senator Kenin of Multnomah county has sponsored two different legislative reforms. One of these provides for a split session

Tax Information Given for This County

In another column we print this week, assessment and tax figures for Sherman county which are based on the 1938 assessment rolls from which 1939 taxes are paid.

While there has been a marked drop in total taxes collected in this county in recent years, the drop this year is small, with \$154,102.25 levied as compared with \$158,089.42 collected last year making a decrease of \$3,987.17.

The average consolidated levy for the county is 17.12 mills as compared to 17.31 mills last year. The non-high school fund levy as you will notice is 1.1 mills, while last year it was 1.0 mills, showing a slight raise.

Tilled land valuations show a slight drop, last year they were valued at \$21.31 as a unit value while this year the unit value is \$21.28 with the unit value of non-tillable acres staying the same \$15.00.

The railroads are paying 16.8% of the total tax of the county this year or \$25,854.40 as compared to 17.5% or \$27,822.14 last year. Public service taxes are 21.2% of the total tax this year as compared to 21.4% last year. Local personal tax pays 7.0% of the total tax as compared to 6.7% last year and the local property tax will pay 71.8% of total as compared to the 71.9% they paid last year.

Kent 4H Clubs To Meet Saturday

The regular monthly meeting of the Kent 4H Livestock Clubs is to be held Saturday, March 11, at 2 p. m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Barnett. The members of the clubs are as follows: Beef and Dairy Club, Frank von Borstel, Jackie von Borstel, Leland Barnett, Lee Barnett, John Schadewitz, Carsten von Borstel, Ed Fritts, Jerry Wilson Jr., Shelton Fritts, Robert Holmes, Eugene Barnett, Carl von Borstel, George von Borstel, Samuel Holmes; Pig Club: Merrill Sather, Carl Barnett, Glenn Sather, Dean Flint, Leland Barnett, Lee Barnett, Carsten von Borstel, Ed Fritts, Shelton Fritts, Dick Wilson; Colt Club: Merrill Sather, Glenn Sather and Jerry Wilson Jr.; Potato Club: Leland Barnett, Rita von Borstel, John Schadewitz, Eugene Barnett and Cassie von Borstel.

Districts Must Be Organized for Paym'ts

Payment for weed control work under the AAA program will be paid only in a regularly organized weed control district. A group of farmers in the Klondike area are planning the formation of such a district east of Klondike on an area that is quite badly infested with Morning Glory. In a weed control district so organized not only does the AAA make benefit fit payments for weed control work to the farmers in the area who have morning glory on their land but under the provisions of the State weed control law they must control these weeds preventing them from going to seed and also from spreading.

Sherman county at the present time is infested with approximately 4000 acres of Morning Glory, 25 acres of White Top and about 15 acres of Knapweed. It is the opinion of a number of Sherman county farmers that Knapweed and White Top should be eradicated completely and Morning Glory only controlled. The cost of chemical treatment on Morning Glory with the chlorates is in the neighborhood of \$45.00 to \$50.00 per acre and with Carbon Bisulphide the cost would be around \$100.00 per acre. These costs are very high and in some cases more than

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PLANTS TO BE SHOWN AT UNION
Plans are being made to exhibit two beef calves at the Union Junior Livestock Show to be held at Union, June 1, 2, 3. Exhibitors will be Catherine Fridley and Bill Ball. This will be the first time that Sherman County Club members have exhibited at this particular show. Catherine Fridley's calf is an Angus and Bill Ball's is a Hereford, both of them purebreds.

Gross Income Tax Proposed By Legislature

Interim Commission Bill Ready For Introduction After Many Amendments

The house taxation and revenue committee has ready to hand the house revenue measure that will raise an estimated \$7,000,000 per year for the state and counties.

At present the bill provides that wholesale and manufacturing plants be taxed one quarter of one percent on gross income and retail business of all kinds be taxed two percent. Little change has been made in these sections of the bill from the original draft made by the interim committee that worked during the last biennium on tax matters.

The committee split on the use of funds for some time some wanting the state to take over the entire relief and pension load from the counties and others holding that a more efficient and economical operation would be maintained with the counties sharing in both the cost of relief and the management thereof.

This view has prevailed—for the present at least—and under the plan now in the bill the State Public Welfare committee, a new name for the state relief board, will receive the first \$2,000,000 from the income of the fund and the entire remainder will be sent back to the counties on the bases of assessed valuation.

This division will make the law—if enacted—much more favorable to eastern Oregon counties than under the provision that relief costs be taken over by the state. Sherman county, under the bill, would receive approximately \$46,000 from the tax to be applied on the budget for direct reduction of taxes. This would mean a reduction of a little over a quarter in real property taxes for this county.

Personal property taxes could be paid as an offset to payments under the gross income tax. It is doubtful if this bill is passed at this session of the legislature and is signed by the governor as the state's budget is well in balance without it. However a desire to relieve property taxes by use of some indirect taxes has resulted in the introduction of the bill.

Letter Tells Of Early Conditions In This County

Mr. H. H. West of Los Angeles, sends in a letter from Mr. Robert M. Graham of Yakima, Washington, 94, who crossed the Des Chutes in 1852. His letter reads as follows:

"First I will say my memory of the road and streams mentioned is very good of the days in 1852, and as my folks moved from Benton county, Oregon, to the east side of Des Chutes river in 1854, between the John Day and Des Chutes was our stock range for 14 years. I became well acquainted with every part of it to 60 miles south of the Columbia river.

"During the 14 years no man ever saw the Des Chutes low enough to ford except right where it empties into the Columbia, and that in September, October and November. Late years the east tributaries have been used for irrigation and it may get low, but I have never heard it spoken of as fordable.

"The ferry was very near where the Shearer Bridge is. Buck Creek low from the east and Tygh Hook from the west emptied into the Des Chutes a little above the bridge; small streams. Well Spring is 15 miles east of the John Day. No water between. Stock might get thirsty there but between Grass Valley and the Des Chutes on the emigrant road was not over eight miles.

There are 2 railroads up the Des Chutes and exact distance can be got by application to railroad maps but 50 miles is about right, and over the road from The Dalles to Shearer Bridge is about the same. I might add our time crossing the Plains (crossed the Missouri river where Kansas City stands May 1st; reached settlements on

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County Schools Will Have Track Meet in April

The Principals, Coaches and music committee of the Sherman county schools met in the office of the county school superintendent Thursday evening, March 22.

The matter of placing the track and field meet back in the curriculum, after many years omission, for the spring term for athletic activities was discussed and the following events adopted for the grades and high schools.

The 100 yard dash, 50 yard dash shot put, high and broad jumps and relay race for the boys; for the girls the 75-50-40 yard dash, and relay race. The pupils to be divided into the following classes: the high school as a separate division; the first to the third grade inclusive, the 4th division; the fourth to the sixth grade inclusive, the 5th division; the seventh and the eighth grades, the 6th division.

It was decided that the high school athletic rules would govern. Kent and Grass Valley are the only schools expecting to play baseball this spring.

The following events, dates and places were approved:

Music Festival, May 5, at Grass Valley.
Declamatory Contest, May 5 at Grass Valley.
Track Meet, April 29, at Grass Valley.
Band Festival, April 29, at Grass Valley.
Typing Contest, April 12 at Moro at 1:30 p. m.

Woman's Club Holds Annual Banquet

The Moro Women's club met at the church for the annual Mother's and Daughter's banquet, Friday, about 95 were seated at the tables. The program following the dinner was arranged and directed by Mrs. Ramsey, and consisted of: Pep songs by the group; a solo by little Miss Connie Ruggles; a song by six glee club girls; a reading by Miss Claudine Thompson; a toast to the daughter's was given by Mrs. D. L. Reynolds and the response by Miss Patricia McLeod. The speaker of the evening was Mrs. Huntley, the mother of Mrs. C. P. Moore.

The next meeting of the Woman's club will be held at the club house on March 17, at 2 p. m. This meeting will be a benefit tea for the Children's Farm Home at Corvallis, and all the ladies of the community are urged to attend.

Snow Falls Here Wednesday Morning

The weather man decided that better late than never should be his motto and sent us about four inches of snow early Wednesday morning. In this snow was .40 inches of moisture according to the records at the station in Moro. The amount of snow varied over the county, however, the south end not receiving quite so much as the north end. So far in March we have received .51 inches of moisture with a goal of .91 inches to reach to be normal. However, over the period of time between September 1 to March 1, we lacked 1.91 inches of reaching our normal supply, so quite a little more rain, or snow if it must be, won't do us any harm, Mr. Weatherman.

Trees Available At County Agent's Office

Trees may be secured from the county agent's office. The trees on hand at the present time are Black Locust, Lodgepole Pine, Russian Olive, Caragana and Chinese Elm. A slight charge is made for these trees to take care of the freight and the other expense which was incurred before they arrived at the county agent's office.

WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

DATE	MAX.	MIN.	T.
Mar. 2	45	31	T.
" 3	41	30	T.
" 4	44	28	.01
" 5	43	23	.00
" 6	47	30	.10
" 7	47	25	T.
" 8	44	29	.40
Total for the week			.51

Rufus Wins Basketball Tournament

Grass Valley Team Wins Second Place In Sub-district Tournament at Odell

Two Sherman county teams were standing in the front ranks when the sub-district No. 13 A tournament held at Odell came to a close Saturday night. Rufus winning the tournament after a hard fought battle with Grass Valley, thus giving Grass Valley second place. Both teams will go to Arlington this week end to compete in the district tournament. The winning team from this meet will go to Salem for the state tournament.

During the first day (Friday) Moro, Sherman county, third team, held Parkdale, Hood River county's first team, to a score of 20 to 26.

Lineup: Parkdale: Welch (4) F, (8) Pinkerton Porterfield (2) F, (4) Christianson Moor (12) C, (2) Sayra Kawahara (8) G, (4) French Hatfield G, Axtell Substitutes: Parkdale: Ayeno, Beneditti; Moro: Kenny, Martin (2).

Rufus, Sherman county's first team, won from the Mosier quint, Wasco county's third team, easily with a 57 to 19 count.

Lineup: Rufus: Millard (19) F, (8) Mosier Bryant (4) F, (8) Martinson S. Macnab (9) C, (2) Huskey P. Macnab (6) G, (10) W. Grol'n G. Macnab (7) G, (5) Veatch Substitutes: Rufus: D. Bryant (4), Coates (4), B. Macnab (5), Morris (2), Mosier, G. Gholston (2), Schwartz.

Grass Valley, Sherman county's second team playing St. Mary's, Wasco county's first team, squeezed through with a 30 to 28 score.

St. Mary's: Grass Valley Cunniff (3) F, (8) F. Bayer Todd (13) F, (10) C. Bayer James (5) G, (5) O. Stark Murtha (5) G, (4) Balzer Fagan (5) G, (7) King Substitutes: St. Mary's: Sandoz, Moore (2); Grass Valley, H. Stark (1), Fields.

Saturday morning after the previous days elimination games, Rufus played Parkdale and won; Grass Valley played Odell and won. Thus in the evening to determine the winner of the consolation Parkdale and Odell met in combat with Parkdale winning. And then came the final game to determine the holder of the sub-district title which lay between two Sherman county teams, Rufus and Grass Valley. Rufus came up to this game with a record of undefeated for the current season and after putting up a steady fight against the Grass Valley boys, who were ahead during the first three quarters of the game, came in for a last minute rally winning by a score of 27 to 25.

Grass Valley: Millard (9) F, (7) C. Bayer Bryant (2) F, (4) F. Bayer S. Macnab (4) C, (12) O. Stark P. Macnab (4) G, (2) Balzer G. Macnab (8) G, (2) King Trophies presented at the close of the tournament were a Wilson ball awarded to Grass Valley as winner of second place; a cup awarded to Rufus as winner of the tournament; an 8-inch silver cup for the outstanding player, which was awarded to Edward Millard of Rufus. Two all star teams were selected as follows:

First, Edward Millard, Rufus and Oscar Tamura, Odell, forwards; Willard Moor, Parkdale, center; Geo. Macnab, Rufus guard; Olan Stark, Grass Valley, guard; Second, Todd, St. Mary's, forward; Balzer, Grass Valley, forward; S. Macnab, Rufus, center; Kawahara, Parkdale, guard; King, Grass Valley, guard.

Tum-A-Lum Has New Manager

Jack Baird Lewis is in charge of the Tum-A-Lum lumber company at Grass Valley having supplanted Jack O'Dell who has been manager since the departure of Jack Gervais for Primeville. Mr. Lewis, young, unmarried, has been promoted from truck driver at The Dalles lumber yards to his present position. The O'Dell family is remaining at Grass Valley for the time being.

Henry Ruggles Passes Into The Great Beyond

Henry C. Ruggles, 78, died early Tuesday morning Mar. 7, at his home in Moro. Mr. Ruggles suffered a stroke the 26th day of May last year and though he gained considerable strength for a while, he never completely recovered.

Mr. Ruggles, known in the county as "Uncle Henry," was born in the Mountain House in Butte county, California, on January 8, 1861. In 1882 he came to Sherman county with his parents, his brother Phil and wife, and the Rutledge family. They all spent the first winter in Moro in the old Barnum house, moving in the spring to the Rutledge district where the family took up a homestead. The land now being owned by W. F. Jackson.

He spent two years of his life in Alaska during the Nome gold rush, a few years in Grants Pass and Klamath Falls, working in the timber, but aside from that has spent all of his years in Sherman county. For many years he ran the steam engine for the L. L. Peetz stationary threshing outfit. In the earlier years of electricity he operated the Moro electric light plant and in recent years, until the date of his stroke, he tended the water plant for the city of Moro.

He is survived by his sister-in-law, Mrs. Lucy Ruggles, and by a number of nieces and nephews, Mrs. Sara Rasmussen, Pendleton; Mrs. W. R. Olds and Mrs. Lou Brown of California; Mrs. J. N. Laundry of Moro; E. S. Ruggles of Stayton; O. N. Ruggles of Grass Valley and Walter Ruggles of Moro.

Funeral services were held Thursday from the Presbyterian church at 2:00 p. m. and interment made in the Moro I. O. O. F. cemetery.

All persons wishing permits or licenses to drive cars are asked to get in touch with Mr. C. M. Bentley, who will be at the court house in Moro on Monday, Mar. 13, 1939 between the hours of 1 p. m. to 4 p. m. respectively.

Legislative Hi-Lights And Capitol Observations and Predictions

By Giles L. French

A Majority of the house at this time is in the same position and state of mind as a man while he is waiting for his wife and daughter to put their hats on and get ready to go. Every man will recall many such painful occasions.

Daughter ways and means committee has just so much fixin' and powdering and readjusting to do while father house of representatives paces the hall in deep disgust. Wife senate just dawdles along saying nothing and doing little to hurry matters. How long the painful period is to continue no one knows but it probably depends on the shortness of temper of the one who waits—and be it known that temper is getting short.

The house reconsidered and passed the two educational bills this week after beating one of them previously. The vote was decisive but over in the senate they found stronger opposition and it is said and at a public hearing the opponents held them to be very, very bad indeed.

A rough guess would indicate that 321, the reorganization bill, would make the grade and be enacted while 343, the equalization bill, will not be passed by the senate without further amendments. The representatives of the valley counties say that \$1200 unit, entirely overlooking the fact that an increase in the quality of the school is the thought behind the bill.

The house reconsidered and passed House Bill 502 with many members having the understanding that the bill would be amended in the senate. The bill is another tax postponement bill similar in ideal to the 1935 and 1937 bills that relieved the taxpayers from paying on time. It is different in method as it provides that any taxpayer may pay his current year's tax—or promise to do so—and then may pay his delinquent taxes in twenty semi-yearly installments. Thus if a person owed one year's delinquent

Three Telephone Meetings Held This Week

Joseph Wimmer, Telephone Engineer, Explains The New Dial System

Three hearings were held in the county by the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company this week, at Wasco on Monday evening with 33 present, at Moro Tuesday evening with 35 present and at Grass Valley Wednesday evening the exact attendance not known. These hearings were called for the purpose of acquainting the farmers of the county with the dial telephone system and its effects upon the country lines.

Joseph Wimmer of Portland, a company engineer, spoke before the groups explaining that, first, the new phones would be installed and all work of rewiring etc., done for a charge of \$3.00 providing you had an old telephone to trade in, which would be left in your possession until the date the new system was put into service and then the company would come to pick them up. He also explained that the one wire ground system now in use would work, but was not as satisfactory as a two wire metallic system would be. He advised the use of No. 12 B. wire, which is a galvanized wire, saying it would last 20 years or more.

Mr. Wimmer stressed the fact that the knob insulators now in use were not satisfactory and that the glass insulator was far superior as it cannot absorb moisture, as the old insulators do, leaving practically no insulation whatsoever. The company is dismantling a line in the Columbia gorge and offered the people of this county the glass insulators, crossarms, etc., for the cost of going to Cascade Locks or near there for them. Several of the farmers volunteered to go when advised of the proper time.

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