

Sherman County Journal

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Official County Paper

Of Oregon-Its Government and People

By A. L. Lindbeck

Consensus of opinion among Capitol observers is that there will be no change in the personnel of the state tax commission, for the time being at least. John Carlin, who was supplanted on the commission by Wallace S. Wharton, in an eleventh hour coup by Governor Martin and State Treasurer Holman, will probably be "taken care" of in some other department if Capitol rumors are to be credited.

Just what berth has been picked out for Carlin is a matter of speculation. There is some talk to the effect that he might be named corporation commissioner if Governor Sprague should decide to make a change there which he is understood to be reluctant to do inasmuch as the incumbent, James Hazlett, although a democrat was an active Sprague supporter in the recent campaign. Carlin's name has also been linked with the post of utilities commissioner now held by N. G. Wallace, another Sprague democrat. While Sprague is said to have no desire to oust Wallace the health of the utilities commissioner may compel his retirement from office in which event an opening would be made for some deserving republican.

While republican members of the Board of Control are known to resent the "sharp practice" resorted to by Martin and Holman in "packing" the tax commission with a Democrat appointee just before the new administration took over it is said that they hesitate to remove either Wallace or Chas. V. Galloway at this time in order to make a place for Carlin lest they lay themselves open to the same criticism that has been directed at Martin and Holman for ousting Carlin to make a place for Wharton.

The State Board of Control at a meeting this week, the first since the legislature adjourned, decided to adhere to the policy of awarding contracts for supplies and equipment for state departments and institutions. This policy was adopted by the previous board after it had burned its fingers a few times by attempting to pass judgment on the merits of the various offerings presented by aggressive salesmen.

Oregon's new \$700,000 library building was dedicated Monday night in a ceremony arranged in connection with the annual conference of Oregon librarians. Governor Sprague presided at the dedication ceremony at which the principal address was delivered by Dr. Evelyn Steel Little, librarian of Mills college, Oakland, California. A paper on "The Beginnings of State Library Service in Oregon," prepared by Mrs. Cornelia Marvin Pierce, first state librarian, was read by Miss Mirpah G. Blair, assistant state librarian.

Plans are already being formulated by the Board of Control for construction of the new dormitory at the state prison annex for which the recent legislature appropriated \$50,000. The new building will be used to house first offenders, preferably short termers, who will be employed in work on the prison farm.

Three new livestock barns to house exhibits in the junior division are now under construction at the state fair grounds, according to Leo Spitzbart, manager of the fair. It is also planned to install 600 additional seats in the stadium before next fair time, Spitzbart said.

Oregon motorists will not be required to submit their cars and trucks to a periodical inspection after all. Governor Sprague has vetoed the bill establishing this additional regulation. His reasons for disapproving the measure were two-fold. In the first place, he said, the motorists of Oregon are not yet ready to submit willingly to compulsory inspection of their cars. A campaign of education should precede any attempt to enforce such a requirement. In the second place authority for enforcement of the act was misplaced in the highway department. In the governor's opinion law enforcement functions should be entrusted to the police department.

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Church Group Elects Officers For Year

The congregational meeting of the Moro Community church was held in the basement of the Presbyterian church Wednesday evening with 75 persons present at the pot-luck dinner and for the meeting after.

Election of officers resulted in Harry Pinkerton being chosen for another term as trustee. S. A. Hall and Dewey Thompson are the other trustees. C. W. Smith was chosen Sunday school superintendent, S. A. Hall, assistant; Miss Vivian Trounce church pianist, Mrs. M. G. Melzer, assistant; Ardis Truitt, Sunday school pianist. Ushers will be Martin Melzer and C. W. Smith. Dewey Thompson was elected Sunday school treasurer.

Wasco Machinist Passes On

Frank Morrow, Wasco machine shop owner and resident of that town for 35 years, died at his home there Wednesday night after a long illness.

He was born in Illinois in 1870 and came with his parents, John Morrow and wife, to Sherman county in 1887, settling on the place now farmed by A. G. Futter.

Two years later Frank demonstrated his life long interest in machinery by firing the first steam engine that threshed the Sherman county crop. From that time on he was identified with farm machines, either from repairing and rebuilding them in his blacksmith shop at Monkland and Wasco, selling them, as he did later, or operating a modern machine shop, as he did in recent years.

He married Carrie Hull and two children were born to them, Ross now living in Wasco, and Mrs. Gladys Laidlaw of Salem. Three brothers, Hel E. of Kent, John of Portland and L. M. of The Dalles and four sisters, Mrs. Gollhofer of Salem, Mrs. E. E. Kaseberg of Portland, Mrs. Annie McCoy of Petaluma, California and Mrs. Lillie M. Webber of Portland also survive.

The funeral will be held at two o'clock Saturday from the Methodist church, Rev. Cannell officiating.

Weather Remains Fair for the Week

While the weeks weather has not been so balmy as that of the middle of March it is still fine in the daytime although the thermometer drops to well below freezing nearly every night. Fruit trees that have blossomed out too early have dropped their blooms indicating that the owners will buy their fruit this year. The days have been bright with sunshine but rather chilly. It is not a dearth of growing weather that worries the wheat producers nearly so much as it is the lack of rainfall that ordinarily may be expected at this time of year.

Allotment Checks Here

This week an additional \$4435.15 was received in allotments at the county agent's office for the benefit of Sherman county farmers. This is the third payment that has come for this county and it brings the total to above \$60,000.

OSC Graduates Practise Economy

Unusual promptness in learning the necessity of economy is shown by the members of the prospective graduating class at OSC this spring. For the first time a special class has arranged for a special postage-saving envelope for use in sending out the graduation announcements. An end flap will be opened for postal inspection will let the hard pressed seniors mail the announcements at half the usual cost. The seventieth annual commencement will be Monday, May 29.

Breakfast Club Members Increase At Rapid Rate

Second Meeting Brings Out Nearly Fifty; Much Railery Enlivens Session

Members of the Moro Breakfast club know the first lines of the famous Harry Lauder song, "It's nice to get up in the morning, when the sun begins to shine," for about fifty were out Wednesday morning to greet the sun and fellow members.

So many, in fact, were out and so many indicated an intention to become active members that the by-laws had to be changed to permit a larger roll. The originators felt that a maximum of forty would be all that could be interested and already that mark has been raised to fifty with a possibility of more.

Nicknames Given

The program committee of Bob Henderson, Seral Seary and Edwin Peters initiated a roll call, giving amusing, scurrilous or descriptive names to each member and asked a series of questions about Sherman county. A group sang an appropriate song and group singing was led by a member of the committee.

Business of the meeting consisted of adopting a new set of by-laws which made several amendments in those adopted at the first meeting, in voting to sponsor the declamatory contest at the local school, in deciding to favor the spreading of gravel on the Erskine road and voting to have an exhibit representative of the products of the county placed in the window of the Odd-Fellows building.

The next meeting will be held the morning of Wednesday, April 19th at the Hotel Moro and a program committee for that event will be appointed by the president.

Causes of Motor Accidents Given

Gambling one's life and property on the right-of-way at an intersection is like gambling against a crooked roulette wheel—one may win a few seconds now and then, but the losses, when they occur, will be extortionately heavy. Secretary of State Earl Snell said this week.

Failure to give right of way contributed to more traffic crashes than any other improper driving action in this state last year, figuring in 9113 cases. Fifteen of these accidents resulted fatally, and more than one thousand of them produced injuries.

Not Safety Measure

Designed largely to determine which party was in the right following collisions at intersections, the right-of-way law itself is of little benefit in preventing accidents when drivers insist on taking advantage of their right-of-way privilege at every opportunity in Snell's opinion.

Briefly stated, the car approaching from the right has the right-of-way at an ordinary intersection, while a car stopped at a through street must yield the right-of-way at an ordinary intersection. A car approaching so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard. Cars traveling at unlawful speed forfeit whatever right-of-way they might otherwise have had.

Public Affairs Committee Meets

A meeting of the public affairs committee of the breakfast club was called Wednesday night by Chairman McKee for the purpose of discussing some of the matters referred to that committee by the president.

A clean-up day for the city was advocated and a committee of W. A. May, Lloyd Hennagin and J. E. Ritter was appointed to obtain support of the city council and the entire club. The first Wednesday in May was tentatively chosen as the day for the clean-up which will be restricted to city property.

The possibility of starting a picture show was also discussed but with no final determination made except for obtaining more information.

Moro State Bank Declares Eighth Dividend

The eighth dividend to be paid from the assets of the Moro State Bank will be made April 14th, according to an announcement made in another column of this issue.

Five dividends of ten per cent have been made, a sixth dividend of twenty per cent and this is the second five per cent dividend ordered which all brings the total receipts of depositors up to eighty per cent of their claims.

The test case now being heard in Portland as to whether the Bank of Commerce at Wasco will have to pay income tax may also have an effect on the Moro State Bank and in case depositors were paid in full it is likely that interest would be forthcoming according to the decision made in the case of the Wasco bank.

Whether further payments are anticipated or not has not been announced by the liquidator.

Trashy Fallow Conserves Soil

Even though it's too late to do much about the run-off and soil losses this spring from fields planted to winter wheat, preventive action taken now can go a long way toward reducing wasteful loss of soil and moisture next spring.

Such is the timely reminder which comes from G. R. McDole, tillage specialist for the soil conservation service, who reports that if plowing this spring is done in a way to leave a straw mulch on the surface, not turned under in the usual manner, it will put on the brakes against excessive runoff from the planted field a year from now. By slowing down the run-off next spring, this trashy surface will also help soil to absorb more moisture and at the same time retard soil erosion.

"In other words," McDole explains, "by laying down a trashy mulch on top of the ground at spring plowing time, in advance of the time when fields are planted to fall grain, we are protecting ourselves against the most critical run-off and erosion period which comes the following spring when planted fields are ordinarily in a barren condition and exposed to washing. And if all tillage operations are done on the contour or level it is so much the better. Contour cultivation and contour seeding will reinforce the protection against soil wash afforded by straw mulching."

Implements to accomplish such a job of "mulching" are the one-way disc, modified moldboard plow and lister, rather than the standard moldboard plow which turns the stubble too deeply under the ground. Even though the mulch plowing method may require a little extra patience, particularly in running one-way discs slower so as to keep more trash on the surface, the result in soil and moisture conservation will amply reward such added time and effort, Mr. McDole affirms. Rod weeding and seeding can be carried on afterward without difficulty if care is used in initial plowing.

Fields covered with straw mulch on the surface show a tendency toward slightly higher yields and following crops are less inclined to "burn." Use of crop residue in this manner is not a substitute for replenishment of humus thru grass and legume rotations, however, but the practice will go far in the conservation of soil and moisture, he points out.

One of the main things to overcome is the feeling among farmers that smooth-tilled, clean fields indicate a good job of farming. "Such fine worked smoothness is beautiful to behold," McDole explains, "but the rough trashy method of grain farming puts money in our pockets by saving our most precious asset, the soil."

Christensens Leave For Prairie City

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Christensen are leaving this week for Prairie City where he has taken over the mechanical part of a gasoline distribution plant and service station. They have been here a little over two years during which time he has operated a garage and machine shop in the Platt and later the Conlee building.

Wheat Condition Varies Widely Over County

Much Dry Dirt Reported In Fields Although Average Is Nearly Normal

Street corner talk about the condition of the wheat in the county at this stage of development varies as widely as does the appearance of the crop on different fields of the county. In the north end of the county optimism generally prevails as the grain is covering the ground and gives a healthy outlook for the coming crop. There is probably an insufficient amount of moisture even there to insure more than an average crop, however.

The south end of the county is much less optimistic and with good cause for fields there are much more backward and many have been reseeded because of poor stands or sickly looking wheat. Some fields are still practically bare of growing wheat and in others the weeds have already outstripped the grain.

This condition especially prevails between Boushon and Kent on the east side of the county. South of Kent there are some very fine looking stands of wheat that seem to be growing normally.

Moisture Deficient

Moisture conditions are a source of worry for while the station reports nearly normal moisture other parts of the county claim to be less fortunate and this may well be considering the almost snowless winter and the lack of heavy rains in March. The past month was wet enough for March during the first half but failed to make up the deficiency of the winter.

It is probably too late to expect enough rainfall to wet the soil down in the fifth and sixth feet where it is needed and if the crop is heavy it will have to be on account of big rains at fortunate intervals throughout the remainder of the growing season.

Worthy of mention is the deep furrow seeding on the Ted Ball place southwest of Grass Valley which looks as far advanced as grain in the northern part of the county. Wheat around it is generally good also.

Discuss Employment At Banquet

Business students, after they graduate this spring from the University of Oregon, will have first hand information on just what they go job seeking, as a result of a series of conferences held recently on the campus. Prominent business men from Portland and Eugene and other parts of the state were present for serious discussions, not only on employment problems, but other phases of business as well.

At the first annual business contact banquet, more than 400 students heard a warning from C. C. Chapman, editor of the Oregon Voter, that jobs in the near future would be none too plentiful, and that hard work, patience, and other homely virtues were more than even essential to success.

District Officer To Speak Tuesday

Tuesday afternoon, April 11, at 2 o'clock Mrs. Alfred Danielson of Bend will be the speaker at a meeting of the Grass Valley Woman's Missionary Society. Mrs. Danielson is the district president for the societies of the Deschutes Association. This is the second appearance of Mrs. Danielson before the local group, she having spoken at the Christmas meeting in December of 1937.

A matter of local interest at this meeting will be the matter of solving of the "mystery of the year!" A year ago secret "Pollyannas" were chosen to remember one another with gifts on special days throughout the year. The names of the "Pollyannas" will be revealed at this meeting and new ones will be chosen.

A large attendance is expected for this occasion. The meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Glen Karnes.

Bob King Wins Second, Fourth At San Francisco

Word was received here this week that Bob King, who left here last week with three entries to the stock show at the San Francisco exposition had won second and fourth prizes there on two Hereford calves fed out by him.

The calf winning second place was bought from the Stearns herd at Prineville and the fourth place winning calf came from the Herbert Chandler herd at Baker, said the message.

Calves in this show came from all over the western part of the United States as it was an open 4-H club and Future Farmer show. It is another triumph for the Sherman county lad who has won prizes in the Pacific International on many previous occasions. He is expected home with his parents, who went down Friday, after the sale of the stock, which will be the last of this week.

1939 Parity Payments Safe

Failure of the House of Representatives at Washington to pass all of the proposed appropriations for farm parity payments will have no effect on wheat parity payments for 1939, N. E. Dodd, director of the western division of the AAA, has assured state officials at Corvallis.

The appropriation passed by the House last week in March provides \$500,000,000 for conservation payments in 1939, as authorized by the act. The additional \$212,000,000 to be used in making parity payments on wheat and similar surplus crops in 1939 was definitely appropriated last year, hence, the recent action has no effect on the current program, Dodd explains.

Dodd, formerly chairman of the Oregon State AAA committee, and since January 1, assistant director of the western division, has recently been appointed director replacing the late C. C. Conser, who died suddenly of a heart attack.

Wheat Acreage Figures Given

The extent of commercial wheat growing in the United States is indicated by the fact that 942 counties in 35 states have 1939 wheat acreage allotments of ten thousand acres or more. This information was obtained by the Eastern Oregon Wheat League in connection with its recent announcement of a nation-wide contest to encourage compliance with the 1939 wheat acreage allotments.

Wheat Counties Found

Contrary to much popular belief as to the location of principal wheat growing areas, the greatest number of counties with ten thousand acres or more are located in the North Central region, consisting of the states Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Nebraska, and South Dakota. These states together have 439 counties on the list.

Texas and Oklahoma, in the southern region, have 93 counties that classify as commercial wheat producers, while the western region, consisting of 12 states, has 318 counties.

Kansas, with 104, has more counties with large wheat acreage allotments than any other state. Oregon and Washington each have 17 counties on the list, Idaho 24, and California 22.

New Pump Will Be Here Soon

The new city submersible pump is expected any day and it will be installed as soon as it arrives. The pipe is here and the poles have been set between the pump house and the cistern to make ready for the wiring of the automatic device that will keep the reservoir at an even level at all times.

The new pump will be of a type little used in this county until recently, it having been developed in Austria. The entire motor and rotor pump is installed in the bottom of the well and the water pushed to the surface through 2 1/2 inch pipe. From there a booster pump will take the water to the cistern.

Court's Road Troubles Ironed Out Peaceably

Anticipated Arguments Fail To Materialize At April Meeting; Crowd Present

The troubles of many county citizens over the road situation or situations for the past month appear to have been quieted to some extent for the meeting of the county court Wednesday instead of being a wildly controversial affair with accusations and finger shaking turned out to be as quiet an affair as possible.

There was a goodly delegation of men to wait upon the court and talk over road problems but in the end it seemed to be working out to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Alfred Kock asked for a road to be built down Grass Valley canyon toward his place instead of over the hill and Lester Barnum wanted a bridge built on the road to his place and the Erskineville farmers were anxious to talk about having ten miles of road built from Carroll Sayers place to West Fullers and to the highway from Joe Peters. Some were present to speak about the much disputed Rattlesnake road but no voices were raised in angry protest over any of it.

The court agreed to view the Kock and Barnum proposals, and the matter of hiring a rock crusher to be located in the E. H. Moore field for the purpose of crushing rock for the Erskine road was delayed in the morning because the crusher owners failed to make their appearance and state a price for their product.

An attempt is being made to enlarge the contract by selling rock to farmers, cities and others who wish to surface a road or build something. Farmers along the projected road expect to put rock on their private roads it was learned.

Rattlesnake Petition Filed

The Rattlesnake problem is still unsolved, but a petition bearing a multitude of names was filed with the court and plans were made for the court to go down the road at some future time to look over the ground and see where—or if—a road could be built without interfering with present land owners.

Agreement between the court and the Rogers Construction company to hire the company to crush 500 yards of gravel or more from the pit located in the Moore field was reached at the afternoon meeting.

The price to the county will be \$1 per yard in the bunkers and the price for hauling, if the county hires the company to haul, will be 8 cents per mile per yard. It was estimated that the average haul for the projected Erskine road will be 2 1/2 miles making the cost around \$7000 for the road.

The company agreed to give 1000 yards of gravel to the county in exchange for the old crusher that has been on the road east of Kent since that road was built. Price to farmers or others who may want some of the gravel will be the same as to the county.

The Rattlesnake road matter was deferred again or until further information of a legal nature was received by the court although an inspection trip will be made soon.

It now appears likely that the much discussed \$10,000 of state and federal money will be spent on an extension of the Moro-Monk land road east of Hay Canyon. It was not known just where the money would be placed but it probably will not build a road east of the Hans Thompson four corners.

Regulations that accompany such grants are so stringent, court members state, that no over two miles of road can be built with it under favorable conditions.

Bills were paid, reports accepted and the usual run of county business conducted in the morning.

License Examiner To Be Here Monday

All those wishing permits or licenses to drive cars are asked to get in touch with C. M. Bentley, who will make his regular visit to Moro on Monday, April 10, and will be at the Court House between the hours of 1 p. m. to 4 p. m.