

Sherman County Journal

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Official County Paper

Of Oregon- Its Government and People

By A. L. Lindbeck

Gov. Charles A. Sprague is having some difficulty in gathering together a new parole board to administer the new parole system installed by the last legislature.

Several of the prominent men to whom he tendered the position, have evidently refused to take the responsibility of setting sentences upon their shoulders.

Before he left for a trip down the Oregon coast highway with the highway commission, it had been believed the governor would have lined up the new board. But by the time he left he had made no announcement.

It was believed in capitol circles the job had been offered to Dr. Bruce E. Baxter, president of Willamette university. Dr. Baxter evidently declined. There was some talk the governor would also proffer the thankless position to Dr. H. H. Olinger, Salem, who served on another thankless job—the state capitol reconstruction commission.

Why men are reluctant to take over the duties is self evident. Under the recently enacted law, indeterminate sentences are meted out from the bench, and it is up to the parole board to determine how long the convict must serve. To do so there must necessarily be much research into the man's background, previous penal record, if any, and similar facts.

The job carries no salary, provides \$10 per day for each day spent in actual service. No one, even though he live in Salem where his traveling expenses would be nothing, could make much money from a job like that. True, the position is not supposed to be one of profit, but it will take much time and keep the board member away from his own business a good deal of the time. The new set up was first suggested to Gov. Charles H. Martin by a federal board designed to study penal reform.

The annual spring session of the state supreme court in eastern Oregon will open at Pendleton May 1.

There are but nine cases set for the docket. The eastern Oregon session was established when travel conditions were too poor to permit those in that part of the state to come to Salem for regular sessions.

Of late years the number of cases at each spring term has steadily diminished. The justices will leave here several days early.

Secretary of State Earl Snell has been named an admiral for the Devil's Lake speed-boat regatta to be held June 24 and 25. Snell is an enthusiastic boatman.

The travel department of the state highway commission has received many congratulations on the department's exhibit at the Golden Gate International Exposition.

Of particular interest have been the moving diorama of Hecla Head, and the outdoor exhibit of animal life. Included in the wildlife exhibit are several varieties of deer, a beaver colony, and game birds, including pheasants and ducks.

State Forester J. W. Ferguson said the advent of hot weather a month ahead of time this year would mean danger to all Oregon forests unless a driving rain was experienced before the usual fire season started on May 15.

By April 15 of this year forest lookouts had already been ordered to their stations to watch for fires started by slash burning operations.

The broadening of the pension program and cutting of qualifications to an irreducible minimum was the object of the state legislature in changing the state relief committee to a public welfare agency. Senator Ronald A. Jones said here.

Jones pointed out that the federal government no longer match the state dollar for dollar on general relief, and added that the reduction in match funds will force closer supervision of state money.

"Other revenue sources must be found if this present expenditure is continued into next session,"

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Jury List Chosen For May Term Of Court

The following is the list of Sherman courtians who have been chosen as jurors for the May term of court. It has not yet been definitely determined whether there will be a term of court, as no cases are ready for trial at this time.

Ted Ball, Grass Valley, farmer; Harry Pinkerton, Moro, farmer; W. E. Bruckert, Klondike, farmer; Clifford Fridley, Wasco, farmer; Theo. Johnston, Moro, farmer; C. A. Tom, Rufus farmer; Harland McDonald, Rufus, Service Station Operator; Eben Kee, Grass Valley, farmer; R. S. Macnab, Wasco, farmer; Deibert Johnson, Wasco, farmer; L. E. Clark, Grass Valley, farmer; Ross Guilford, Rufus, farmer; Joe Hilderbrand, Wasco, farmer; Clyde Smith, Grass Valley, farmer; Chas. Powell, Moro, farmer; Carl Schadewitz, Kent, farmer; D. L. Belshe, Moro, farmer; O. G. Sayrs, Moro, farmer; Herman Schilling, Grass Valley, farmer; G. Chester Andrews, Wasco, farmer; Theo. Justesen, Kent, farmer; Claude Coats, Rufus, farmer; Earl Olds, Grass Valley, hardware; O. N. Ruggles, Grass Valley, farmer; Clarence Spencer, Wasco, farmer; Floyd Platt, Moro, farmer; L. E. Langford, Rufus, farmer; Tom Fraser, Moro, farmer; J. E. Norton, Kent, merchant; W. H. Andrews, Wasco, farmer; E. J. Hartley, Grass Valley, garage.

Washington D.C. News To Be Featured

John W. Kelly, whose column from Washington, D. C., is known to every reader in the northwest, will be a contributor to the Sherman County Journal, commencing May 5.

Informative, educational and reliable, the column of John W. Kelly was for years the most popular reader-interest feature in the Oregonian. A native of the north west, he understands its people, problems and aspirations from intimate association. His news interpretations and comments at the national capitol are from the viewpoint of a far westerner.

In Washington, D. C. Kelly knows the statesman and the staffed and his sources of information enable him to foretell events weeks before they are carried in the news columns.

From the White House to the halls of congress; from the cloak room gossip to the cosmopolitan society, Kelly paints the picture of the Washington scene as it is—accurately, objectively, impartially as an ace reporter.

There is an intimate touch in Kelly's writings which distinguish his column from all other columns originating in the federal city. He sees through the eyes of a west coast observer and is alert to legislation or administration policies affecting the region.

To learn "what's going on" at the seat of government, read John W. Kelly's column in the Sherman County Journal.

Locust Trees Unusual Behavior Noted

A small honey locust tree on First street in Moro is showing a bit of originality about leafing out this spring. Instead of following the time honored conservative trend of the locust family and putting out leaves about the first of May it sent leaves out on one lower limb about a week ago and before the remainder of the tree showed signs of life at all. It was as if the leaves were sent out on the one limb in order to test the weather as the dove was sent out from the ark. Anyway there is some speculation among local observers about the wisdom of the locust tree. Another tree of the same variety in front of Ruggles confectionery has done the same thing this year. Here is a chance for some specialist in trees to explain the phenomenon.

A map of the contour farming plan on the W. E. Bruckert farm has been placed in the window of the Journal office, properly colored and marked so that he "who stops may understand. It is an experiment that may well bear watching for whether successful or not it is the result of a theory that has been under discussion for many months by government soil conservation men.

Champions?



T. M. Rolfe and son Bob of Grass champion Percheron for inspection Valley lead out some of their team.

Tomorrow Dead Line For Spring Crop Insurance

Saturday, April 29, is the deadline for payment of premiums on spring wheat insurance under the federal crop insurance plan, announces N. C. Donaldson of Corvallis, executive officer for the AAA farm program in Oregon.

A total of 839 Oregon farmers have applied for insurance on their wheat crops, says Clyde Kiddle, state crop insurance supervisor. Approximately 600 of them have paid their premiums, either in cash or in wheat.

Largest crop insurance policies in the state were those taken out last fall in Umatilla county by the farming enterprises supervised by Mac Hoke of Pendleton, said Kiddle. Three carloads of wheat were required to pay the premium on the 7766 acres insured. This is regarded as the largest crop insurance venture in the United States.

Second largest wheat insurance policy in Oregon was taken out recently by the Reitmann Bros. of Lone, in Morrow county, Kiddle stated. A total of 1607 acres was insured for 75 per cent of possible loss, at the rate of 1.6 bushels premium payment per acre. The premium on the Reitmann Bros. policy cost them \$1321, or the equivalent of 2571 bushels of No. 2 soft white wheat. In event of total loss of their crop they would receive 13,378 bushels of wheat or its cash equivalent.

Fihn-Kenny Nuptials Celebrated

Miss Lois Janet Kenny, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Kenny of Moro, became the bride of Lyle Edgar Fihn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Fihn of La Grande, at a simple and impressive ceremony, read Friday night, April 21st at 8 p. m., before a large group of friends and relatives, by Rev. Henry G. Hanson at the Moro Presbyterian church.

The bride, given marriage by her brother Clifford, wore an ankle length dress of white silk lace with a tulle veil falling from a wreath of seed pearls and orange blossoms. The veil and wreath were worn by her mother in 1916. She carried a shower bouquet of Calla lilies and pink sweet peas.

Miss Jessie Kenzie, the bride's sister, was her only attendant. She was attired in a dress of yellow taffeta and carried a bouquet of pastel sweet peas.

George Hennagin, uncle of the bride, acted as best man. Preceding the ceremony, Mrs. Lloyd Hennagin sang "At Dawning" accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Charles Ruggles, who also played the wedding march, by Felix Mendelssohn.

Following a service a reception was held in the church parlors. Mrs. James Kenny and Mrs. A. O. Ekstrom poured. Assisting were Mrs. George Hennagin, Mrs. Lloyd Hennagin, Mrs. Henry Fihn and Mrs. Roy Belshe.

For traveling the bride wore a two piece suit of teal blue with matching luggage accessories and a corsage of yellow roses and sweet peas.

After a short wedding trip Mr. and Mrs. Fihn will return to La Grande to make their home at 2205 Cedar St.

Mrs. Fihn attended both grade and high school in Moro and Eastern Oregon Normal in La Grande. Mr. Fihn is employed by the Texas Co., and the Railway Express Agency.

Out of town guests included Mrs. Henry Fihn and daughter Dorothy Mae and grand daughter Lu Ann Fihn, all of LaGrande, Mrs. Roy Neal, Mrs. Olga Neal and daughter Margaret from Portland.

Local Horses Chosen For National Event

Four champion draft horses owned by T. M. Rolfe, Grass Valley, and Norval J. Martin, The Dalles, have been chosen to compete in a nationwide contest for the titles of All-American best stallion and mare.

Rolfe's entry won grand championship at the Pacific International Livestock Exposition, Portland, last fall. A mare, Bonnie Lagos, owned by Martin, was also a grand champion there. His entry Captain Lagos was grand champion stallion at Oregon state fair, and a mare Marie placed at the Portland show.

The champion mare, Bonnie Lagos, was bred and raised on the Rolfe Farm; Captain Lagos as well as his dam is also of Rolfe's breeding.

The Oregon entries were picked by the Percheron Horse Association of America, Chicago, for having an unusual combination of good Percheron features. According to horse experts Percherons should be heavy boned, thickset, short backed, deep bodied and well muscled. The Percheron is one of five major draft horse breeds in the country.

This is the third contest sponsored by the national Percheron association for the purpose of establishing a standard type Percheron horse. Feature of this year's competition is a special head contest to name animals having the best Percheron type heads.

Sixty horses are entered, most of them champions of recent state fairs and national livestock shows in the United States and Canada. Winners will be announced early this summer.

WPA Writers Tell Story of DeMoss

The WPA writer's group has this to say about DeMoss Springs in its pamphlet on ghost towns.

The background of DeMoss Springs is decidedly different from that of most Oregon ghost towns. It was established by the DeMoss family of musicians who left San Francisco in 1883 and toured the country for Mrs. D. Moss' health. While they were camping on Grass Valley Creek, she expressed the desire to make that spot her home and to this the family quickly agreed. Professor DeMoss and his sons bought a large tract of land from Pierre Couture and established their home. The townsite was selected that fall. The town plat, which was not filed until 1898, shows the streets running east and west to be named for famous musicians and those running north and south to honor renowned poets.

C. W. Dickenson came to DeMoss Springs in 1885 and obtained title to a portion of the townsite with the provision that he would agree not to engage in the liquor traffic. Previously others had come but had been unwilling to agree not to sell liquor. However, Dickenson and others who followed were willing to comply with these terms and DeMoss became a temperance town. In 1887 a seminary was established which had a few years of successful existence.

Through their music the DeMoss family brought considerable fame to Oregon and the little town of DeMoss Springs. They, who had sung before Queen Victoria and in eastern concert halls now sang in mining towns and cow-boy camps. The site is now the DeMoss Memorial Park.

S. A. Hall and Orval Thompson went to Bridal Veil Wednesday to bring back a load of material for the repair of the new telephone line being built in their vicinity.

Music Festival and Declamatory Contest Billed

Oldest School Competition
In County Will Bring
Young Speakers Together

The annual music festival and declamatory contest will be an event of May 5 at Grass Valley, that town having drawn both major spring school events this year.

The children of the various schools will gather in the morning and arrange the sequence of their numbers, and put in a few minutes of final practice before the events begin after lunch.

Each school will give songs and other musical numbers including folk dances. There will be no direct competition as the festival is held to demonstrate what is being done in this type of education and not for prizes.

Held Since 1907

In the evening at eight o'clock the declamatory contest will be given in the auditorium. This is the 33rd annual contest and is the oldest competition in the county, it having been started in 1907 when the first field meet was held. Although the field meets were discontinued for a number of years the declamatory contests have always been held although somewhat changed in nature.

Each of the five schools will be allowed three contestants or one in each of the classes. The first three grades are one group, the next three the second group, and the seventh and eighth grades the third division. Medals are awarded to the winners in each division.

Harvesting Starting In India

Harvesting of the new 1939 crop was making good progress in India and the first official estimate placed the crop at 344,400,000 bushels compared with an estimate of 380,315,000 bushels for the 1938 crop at the corresponding date last year. European conditions continued variable but approximate those of a year ago. During the last six weeks of the 1938 growing season however, exceptionally favorable weather resulted in record crops in most European countries. If only average conditions prevail from now until harvest, the 1939 wheat crop in Europe will likely be somewhat below that of 1938.

Stocks of wheat available for export in Canada and the Southern Hemisphere are about 235 million bushels larger than a year ago. Stocks of wheat in Canada at the first of April were estimated at 200,841,905 bushels compared with 83,569,000 bushels a year earlier. Stocks on farms were almost 50 per cent larger than a year ago while stocks in commercial channels were nearly three times those on April 1, 1938. Based on official estimates of production and on trade figures on exports to date around 190 million bushels of wheat remained in Argentina in mid-April for export or carry-over compared with about 60 million bushels on hand a year earlier. On the same basis, stocks of wheat remaining in Australia approximated 68 million bushels in mid-April, 1938.

Moro School Holds Open House

Open house for the Moro school was held Wednesday night with a large number of patrons and parents coming early in the evening to view the display of work done by the pupils and remain for the local speaking contest which was held in the school auditorium at 8 o'clock.

Eighteen little tots in the first to third grades gave their readings with Derris Hennagin winning first place, Frisella Meizer winning second and Sharon Hennagin, third. Mrs. Chisam gave honorable mention to Dean Fuller, Willy Knighten, Joan Oveson, Janet Schadewitz and Dick Oveson in addition to the other places.

Wayne Meizer won first place in the second division with Patty French second and Bobby Hoskinson third. Winner of the upper division was Betty Coffman with Donald Thompson second.

Mayor Proclaims May 3rd City Cleanup Day

Whereas there has been no general clean-up day in the City of Moro for several years, and Whereas, the Moro Breakfast Club, a lively organization of lively citizens, who like to start the day early, has initiated a movement for a cleaner, brighter, happier city, and has named Wednesday, May 3, 1939 as the day on which each and every citizen shall spend the forenoon in behalf of a city beautiful, and

Therefore, I, Giles French, Mayor of the City of Moro, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, May 3, as clean-up day for the city and ask all citizens to work from 8 a. m. until 12 noon at such mental tasks as may be necessary to make the City of Moro a place of beauty to ourselves and our visitors.

Signed and Sealed this 27th day of April, 1939.

Giles L. French
Mayor

Installation Held In Local Church

Last Tuesday evening before a large audience Rev. Henry G. Hanson was installed as pastor of the Moro Community church. A special committee from Portland and representing Presbytery carried the services through in a happy way. Rev. H. G. Edgar as moderator of the Presbytery presided and propounded the constitutional questions to pastor and people. Dr. Perry C. Hopper preached a sermon on the "Dangers of Irreligion," and presented ways of fighting this danger in our nation. Rev. Henry B. McFadden gave the church to the people and Rev. Mr. Edgar to the pastor. A sextet of high school girls sang two special selections.

Woman's Club Hear About China

The Moro Woman's Club held an unusually interesting meeting on Friday the 21st. Mrs. T. S. Reese as director of the program, presented Mrs. T. Leland Brown of The Dalles, as the speaker. Mrs. Brown displayed and spoke interestingly of old English china and glass ware. The room was decorated with prints of the works of English artists.

A group of piano and oboe duets were played by Audrey Baker and Mearle Miller. The high school girls sextet sang three clever numbers.

Mrs. Henry G. Hanson and Mrs. Vernon Platt were voted to become members. Mrs. Harry Pinkerton asked for and received permission to use the club house as a meeting place for a group of Girl Scouts, which she plans to organize and lead.

The next meeting will be held on May 4th, Thursday, as the regular meeting date conflicts with a county school affair in Grass Valley.

Change In Compliance Rules Noted

The recently announced change in wheat acreage compliance rules to permit full payment where less than 80 per cent of the allotment is seeded will not allow growers to collect payments if they carry out no farming operations this year, warns N. C. Donaldson, AAA executive officer in Oregon.

A farm is not considered as being operated unless at least half of the crop land is being worked either in producing crops or maintaining summer fallow.

The new ruling will permit the earning of more payments by those who for any reason have been unable to seed 80 per cent of their allotment. The change came too late to effect many seeding practices in Oregon, however.

OFFICIALS CONFER

County Agent LeRoy Wright and Omer Sayrs, fair board president, drove to Tygh Valley Wednesday night to talk to officers of the Southern Wasco county fair. It may be possible for a two fair race circuit to be formed so that horses can be taken to both counties.

Clean-up Day Committees Named By Club

Eight Groups Appointed To
Make City Shine In Spring
Time Glory and Splendor

The clean-up day details have been made up by officials of the Breakfast club, the sponsors, and those on the different squads have been notified of the work expected of them. Eight squads will do the work including the job of getting tables and coffee ready for the lunch which is to be held in the park at noon if the hungry workers can be kept away until that time.

White washing of trees will be done by M. R. Schadewitz, leader, and the following: Englebreton, Conley, Huls, Searcy, French, W. Thompson, Knighten and Martin.

Work on the soft ball field will be done under the guidance of Joe Rittner assisted by Belanger, Bennett, Champeys, Gilmor, G. Douma, Hoskinson, Johnson, Peters and Updegraff.

Bob Henderson will be in charge of the building a horse shoe pit aided by King, M. Douma and Hennagin.

The city park detail will be under J. B. Adams with McKean, McKee, O. Sayrs, Cunliff, Meizer, Ruggles, May, Blake, C. Sayrs and Platt as aids.

LeRoy Wright will be in charge of the detail to clean up the parking strip near the park and Nelson Wilson and Pinkerton will help him.

The vacant lots between the main street and the railroad station will be policed by a squad under Dr. Poley who will have Truitt, Barzee, Brisbane, Lockhart, Ornduff and Belknap as workers.

R. H. Elmes will be squad leader for the group that will clean up the lots near Foss' garage and Oveson, Bucholtz, Kunsman and Foss will be his crew.

Dewey Thompson and W. F. McLeod will be responsible for gathering the food, making the coffee and otherwise aiding the women of the town who, it is hoped, are preparing to serve a pot-luck dinner at high noon on the day of the big shine. Each person must bring his own tools and equipment.

It is presumed that those not named who are not members of the club but who wish to do their share toward cleaning up the town will be given a place and an opportunity to do a bit of work.

E. E. Barnum has been made "High Chief Judge of Slackers," etc, and W. T. Balsiger will act as police man with complete authority from the club to arrest those who fail to work and bring them before the magistrate. Truman Strong is the general chairman.

Allotment Checks Still Coming

Payments have been coming into the county more rapidly this week to make the farmers who receive them happy. Since last reported a total of \$55,530.63 has been received for soil conservation payments to farmers co-operating with the federal program.

This week checking up for compliance for the parity payment was started and examiners are going over the county seeing that farmers actually did sow the amount of spring crop they agreed to sow. It is expected that payment for this will be made before the first of July as returns will be sent in as soon as they can be obtained.

Track Meet Coming

The Sherman county track and field meet will be the major athletic and probably social event of next Saturday. Some changes have had to be made in officials but this will have no effect on the races. The school athletes have already had one test to tell them which are the best in the events and this indicates that Grass Valley is the favorite to win the high school meet although, as in other athletic events, the winner cannot be foretold until the last race is run. There are three very fast boys entered for the 100 yard dash and fast time may be expected in this event if the track is in good condition.