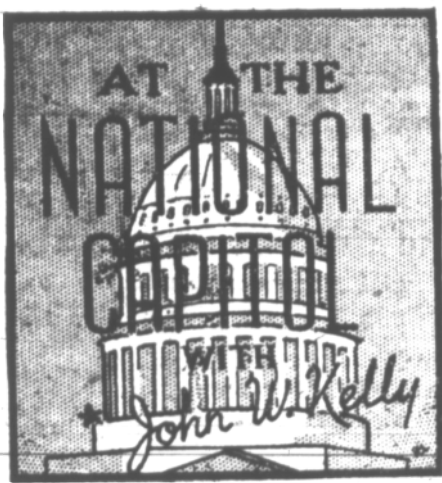


Sherman County Journal

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Official County Paper



Wasco and Moro Clubs Meet At Sherman Hotel

Hilarious Banquet Includes Exchange of "White Elephant" Gifts

By H. W. Champneys

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21—Affairs of state will be shelved next Monday and the President of the United States will be just Franklin D. Roosevelt, citizen, and papa to a large family. He likes to refer to himself as "papa" and that is what all his children call him. For hours Mr. Roosevelt will be nestled in an arm chair in front of a blazing fireplace (fireplaces are in every room in the White House—relic of the original heating system), reading aloud Dickens' "Christmas Carol." This has been his practice for years.

There are three decorated Christmas trees (one in famed East Room where the murdered Lincoln lay in state and Alice Roosevelt was married), and at each window facing Pennsylvania avenue, the side tourists stand to take snapshots, garlands and wreaths are hung. The White House, in brief, is decorated as millions of other American homes are, no more, no less. There is a cheerfulness about the scene.

Every employee at the President's house received a personal present. The gifts were purchased by Mrs. Roosevelt. The buying is simplified, for the First Lady merely orders a couple dozen of these and those until she has enough. Into the mansion troop all hands and the cook (literally). From the gardeners who mow the lawn and rake the leaves, to the broad-shouldered fellows assigned to the secret service as presidential body guards: from the scullery maids in the electric kitchen to the weather-beaten policemen who patrol the grounds, to each and all Mr. Roosevelt gives a hand clasp and a gift—possibly three handkerchiefs in a fancy box.

This scene, the president and first lady distributing presents, is mindful of commencement exercises at school, with the principal handing out diplomas. In the waiting line, in addition to the staff and servants, are their families—the wives and children. It is a big moment and the gifts are treasured as souvenirs. Years from now they will have historic value, will be museum pieces. For the youngsters there is candy; for the grownups pieces of cake.

Christmas Eve the grandchildren hang their stockings over the fireplace in the President's bedroom; awaken him Christmas morning with their shouts as they rush pell-mell to see what Santa Claus has brought them. It is one morning when, as he breakfasts in bed, the President does not have officials there to make reports, to discuss domestic and foreign developments. Mr. Roosevelt gets as much kick, pleasure and joy out of Christmas as do his noisy flock of grandchildren.

And the 124,000 government employees (they had \$15,000,000 to spend last Saturday—payroll is about a million dollars a day in the District of Columbia) their Christmas starts Saturday noon and they punch the clock next Tuesday morning. To all intents, government stops, is on dead center, with no one at the great, sprawling federal buildings except the uniform guards posted at the only entrance unlocked.

Farm Security Administration expects to assist in settling reclamation projects in Washington and Oregon—it has, it claims, settled 500 families from the drouth area on the Vale-Owyhee project and as many more families in other parts of Oregon. FSA is looking forward to locating farm families on the Grand Coulee project when water is available and on the Roza section of Yakima and later on the Deschute project.

The farm family labor camps new in Oregon are expected to provide for 50,000 such families during the life of the facilities, on the theory that 2 families will use the same facilities each year. Cost of the Oregon facilities \$250,000. Practically the same arrangement is planned for the state of

White Elephant Banquet at Sherman Hotel, Wasco, elephantine success. The curtain went up at 6:45 o'clock, p. m., showing a huge cut glass bowl filled with egg-nog. Bartender Champneys was shown serving Moro Breakfast Clubbers and Wasco Civic Clubbers with a fortified libation which succeeded in raising the spirits of even those who did not partake.

The next scene was the banquet hall where 84 hilarious Sherman county he-men, covetted and indulged in tricks of mirth and levity. Wild pranks were played and all members, of both clubs, received something which they "had to take away."

Johnson Toastmaster

Toastmaster Johnson handled the banquet with a masterly touch. His admonition to the revelers just before the "packages" were distributed struck the funny bones of the members from Moro. He inferred that at one time in the dim past there might have been some "feudin' done" between Wasco and Moro but that that was all in the relics of the past, however, he also hoped that the packages that might be received from Moro by the Wascoites and by the Morosites from the Wascoites would not cause the rekindling of an old rivalry. It turned out that the package Toastmaster Johnson received from Moro was of such a "vile" nature that it no doubt rejuvenated his ideas of life.

Humorous Packages

Among some of the "packages" received honorable mention should go to Glen King—nuf said. Slat's Brisbane—there is a story behind this. Afton McIntyre—His description of his package was a scream. Bruce Grady—He got another dog. Champneys got a "vacuum" chair and told us it in case of emergency. Joe Truitt—Got a special package of dumbbells. Charles Everett—got a pistol, holster and handcuffs.

Dioegenes French was very conspicuous by his absence. A special "treat" had been fixed up for him and he ran out on the affair. County Agent Wright had not recovered from the "uncensored horsplay" at Condon and was therefore unable to attend—lucky for him he didn't as the package had "venise" that had been invented for him would have gone down in history.

On the whole the affair was such a success that the banquetters expressed the hope that Wasco would think up something just as original in the near future and invite Moro to partake with them, however, the answer to this is "Let Moro try to marshall his ideas and try and go Wasco one better and invite them up to Moro. Moro, let's see what you can do.

ABA Reports Banks Are Making Loans

That banks in Oregon are actively meeting the credit needs of their communities is indicated by figures announced by the American Bankers Association showing that the commercial banks of the state made more than 140,000 new loans totalling \$118,000,000 to business firms and individuals during the first six months of 1939 and renewed 38,000 outstanding loans totalling \$39,000,000 during the same period.

These figures are based on reports received from 29 of the A. B. A. member banks in the state, or thirty eight percent of the 76 commercial banks in the state and make allowance for the concentration of lending activity in the metropolitan area of Portland.

The 29 banks reported they made 110,574 new loans totalling \$104,100,179 between January 1 and June 30, 1939, and renewed 27,446 outstanding loans totalling \$33,362,187.

The average number of new mortgages reported per bank was 30, and the average mortgage was for \$2,811.

Water Freight On Columbia Increasing

Water transportation on the upper Columbia river has reached a volume never before attained in recent times, according to reports made by several speakers at the Eastern Oregon Wheat league's 12th annual convention in Condon. Progress in the development of water transportation was reported on by Colonel Elliott, in charge of the development work by the United States army engineers, and by Charles Baker, president of the Inland Waterways association.

Reports showed that for the first 11 months of 1939, the down stream movement of wheat amounted to 1,418,869 bushels as compared to 939,061 bushels for all of 1938. Movement of petroleum products upstream increased over the same period from about 15,000,000 gallons to more than 57,000,000. A report on boats and barges passing through the Bonneville locks showed that in the month of November alone there were 377 boats and barges locked through the dam, compared with 351 in October. More than 7,000,000 gallons of gasoline and 13,000 barrels of Diesel and fuel oil passed through in November.

The Wheat League passed resolutions reaffirming its stand in support of Columbia river development and pointed to the Umatilla dam as the next step in further development of the river. The league also adopted as its policy in regard to transportation that it would help encourage, foster, and maintain adequate transportation facilities of every kind, at the lowest possible cost to shippers and the general public. The league opposed using artificial means to either maintain competition or destroy it.

DONALD BURNET JOINS AIR CORPS

Donald R. Burnet, son of Mrs. Edith Burnet, Moro, passed his final examinations in Portland and was enlisted in the army air corps for duty at Moffett Field, Sunnyvale, California, according to a press release received Monday from Lieutenant Colonel H. D. Bagnell, Portland recruiting officer. He was accepted for enlistment at the army recruiting office in The Dalles.

Burnet graduated from Moro high school in 1933 and attended Oregon State college, Corvallis in 1935 and 36.

4000 CLAIMS IN

Nearly 4,000 claims for 1940 jobless benefits were made through the state's 21 employment offices during the first three days after registration began December 11. Although complete reports were not available at the State Unemployment Compensation Commission offices, preliminary figures showed 1859 claims the first day, and 1295 the second day.

Based on figures earned in the year previous to September 30, 1939, the claims will be paid shortly after January 1, 1940, if the three waiting weeks have been served.

Claims for 1939 benefits are no longer being taken unless the waiting period has been started previously.

Moro Womens Club Has Christmas Party

The Moro Women's Club met last Friday for their annual Christmas party.

After a short business session the director, Mrs. M. M. Oveson, took charge and presented a program as follows: Two Christmas vocal duets by Mrs. Hollenshead and Mrs. Hart. A Christmas story, "The Other Wise Men," by Henry Van Dyke, was reviewed by Mrs. Nina Pinkerton. Following group singing of Christmas carols, a very special guest was presented, the guest being none other than Jolly old Saint Nick, with a pack from which a gift was given to each one present.

The hostesses, Mrs. O. L. Belcher, Mrs. Vernon Miller and Mrs. Floyd Platt, served refreshments of popcorn balls and delicious red apples.

The club rooms were attractively decorated with Holly and evergreens, and lighted by red and green candles.

The next meeting will be January 5th, under the direction of the Public Welfare Department.

Rebel 'Angels' Seek Redress From Father Divine



"Father" Divine, hand in-pocket, strolls from the New York Supreme court after his latest appearance as defendant in a suit brought against him by two of his disappointed "angels." The suit was brought by Mrs. Veranda Brown, right, and her husband, Thomas, for the return of \$4,000 she says they turned over to him. Even with this down payment they failed to find the "peace that is yours."

Fry May Be Ousted From Office Says Salem Reporter

By A. L. Lindbeck

Salem, Ore.—Interest about the capital these days centers about the fate of Dan Fry as state purchasing agent and secretary to the Board of Control.

Rumor has it that Fry is scheduled to walk the political plank for a return to private life along about the turn of the year. There are, however, several considerations which may contribute to a delay in the prospective ouster if not postpone it indefinitely.

If Fry is ousted it will be by the votes of Governor Sprague and Secretary of State Snell. The third member of the Board, State Treasurer Walter Pearson, a Democrat, is committed to Fry's retention. Both Sprague and Snell deny that there has been any conference on the matter and insist that Fry's replacement by a Republican is by no means a settled fact as yet.

It has been known for some time that the Republicans have been demanding Fry's scalp, the lucrative board of control job being one of the few still remaining in Democratic hands. It had been hoped by Fry's friends, however, that he might escape the political purge that has been under way since the change in the complexion of the state administration inasmuch as he is a board appointee and not subject to the whims of any individual.

The fact that Fry is a personal friend of both the Republican members of the Board who admit that he has done an outstanding job as purchasing agent was believed to weigh strongly in his continued employment at the head of this important state activity.

Should it ultimately be decided that Fry must go it is understood that both Sprague and Snell have candidates for the job, a situation which might result in a deadlock between the two majority members of the board.

The State Board of Agriculture at its meeting here Saturday announced the dates for the 1940 State Fair as September 2 to 8, inclusive. This means that the fair will open again on Labor Day as it has for the past several years.

Complaints from the Canyon City chamber of commerce charging that state police were discourteous in their treatment of deer hunters in that section of the state have been received by Chas. P. Pray, superintendent of the state police bureau. The complaint refers to the deer hunters as "guests of Canyon City." Pray declares that unless the complaints are made more specific he will be seriously handicapped in any investigation of the alleged offense.

Captain Clyde Warren of the state police department has announced his resignation effective December 31 to accept a position as head of the Liquor Control Commission's enforcement division. Warren was formerly deputy state police marshal but joined the state police when that organization took over the arson investigation work of the fire marshal's office. In his new post Warren will succeed

Walter Winters who was also with the police bureau before going to the Liquor Control commission on May 1, 1937.

The state tax commission lost its fight to tax back salaries earned by employees of federally sponsored corporations when the state supreme court ruled this week that these employees enjoyed the same status as federal employees, whose salaries only became subject to state taxes through a recent ruling of the United States supreme court. The tax commission had taken the position that these corporations were doing a private business and were not in fact governmental agencies.

Immediate exchange of state school lands located within the public domain for isolated holding of the federal government outside of grazing areas was recommended by a committee of educators and stockmen meeting here Saturday to consider ways and means for enriching the irreplaceable school fund. The recommendation also carries with it the stipulation that the lands to be taken in exchange must be good lands that can be diverted into cash immediately. The committee also recommended the leasing of school lands within the public domain to the federal grazing service pending an exchange of these lands for federal lands that might lend themselves to "blocking" for sale to stockmen or to grazing associations.

Saturday's meeting was the outgrowth of an agitation of several years on the part of educators over the state for an increase in the revenue received from the state's 700,000 acres of grazing lands in central and eastern Oregon. The session, incidentally, was the first at which the two contending factions—the stockmen and the educators—have been able to agree on any program for the administration of the school lands.

Secretary of State Earl Snell does not choose to run for congress in the forthcoming campaign he let it be known during the past week. Snell was being mentioned as a possible Republican candidate against Congressman Walter M. Pierce of LaGrande. Having just been returned to a

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TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS KILL 13 IN DECEMBER

Traffic accidents claimed a toll of 13 lives during the first 12 days of December, approximately 70 percent of the fatalities being the result of accidents attributed in some degree to bad weather conditions, Earl Snell, secretary of state, announced today.

Slippery pavements which furnish poor traction for tires, and poor visibility due to driving rains, snow or fog have taken a tragic toll of lives so far this month and unless drivers of Oregon exercise greater caution during the remainder of December, the fatality list at the end of the month will be a black blot on the traffic record for the Christmas month, Snell warned.

Sherman County Pioneer Dies In The Dalles

E. O. (Dutch) McCoy, died in The Dalles Saturday morning from pneumonia. Although he had been in failing health for several years he was active in his business until a day or two before the end.

He was born in Benton county, June 7, 1858 but spent his youth in Umatilla county where his father was in the stock business. When a young man he came to Sherman county and bucked wheat in early day warehouses until he began buying grain for himself. He was one of the organizers of the Wasco Warehouse Milling Co., and was active in its management until his death. He had a part in the establishment of banks at both Wasco and Moro and at different times held an interest in mercantile establishments in all three towns in this county.

When Mr. McCoy was in the Oregon legislature in 1889 he introduced the bill for the establishment of Sherman county and thus became a sort of father to this county to which he had given so much aid in development. Surviving are his widow, a son, Thomas and three grandchildren, Mrs. Bert Keith, Paul and Tad McCoy all of The Dalles. The funeral was held Monday from the Congregational church in The Dalles with Judge Fred Wilson giving the eulogy for the deceased.

Wheat Advances To New Highs

Domestic wheat market advanced to new high levels for the current season during the second week in December, the Agricultural Marketing Service states in the Weekly Grain Market Review. Further deterioration in winter wheat, additional advances at Winnipeg as a result of the active demand from England and disappointing returns from the Argentine harvest, were the main strengthening influences. Rye was independently firm as trade reports indicated some export business. Feed grains strengthened with wheat with little change in market receipts or in demand for current offerings.

Crop conditions in the United States and Argentine and the more critical political situation in Europe were dominant influences in the general wheat market situation. Drouth conditions were gradually becoming worse in the Western wheat belt and in Central and Eastern portions the outlook was little changed. Winter wheat continued mostly in fair to good condition in the Ohio Valley, in Missouri, eastern Kansas, as well as Nebraska and eastern Oklahoma. In the Northern Great Plains, eastern Great Basin and central Rocky Mountain states, drouth remained unrelieved and prospects were poor. Considerable drifting of soil was reported in Wyoming, South Dakota, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Long Drouth Broken With December Rains

1.21 Inches of Rain Has Fallen To Date Since First Rain December 7

Continued rain, or rather periodic rain, since the drouth was broken December 7, has brought the months total up to 1.21 inches at the experiment station, still .40 under the normal for this month.

Observers of rainfall at other points south report 1.32 at Grass Valley 1.20 at Bourbon and .67 at Kent.

Peculiarly of the rainfall to date is that the total for the year has been 5.55 which is just exactly one half of the normal or average for the 1910 to 1938 period in which local weather data has been kept.

Of the 11.10 inches that usually falls here in a year 1.61 comes in December in the normal year. Driest December was back in 1930 when but .53 inches fell. In 1917 we had 3.65 inches to make a good crop in the year of 1918. In December of 1929 we had 3.47 inches and the 1930 crop was nothing to boast about.

All of which data brings the sum of knowledge about rainfall and wheat crops down to a short story. It doesn't make much difference how or when the rains come so long as there is enough to make a good crop.

But even though December is still a little shy of its normal rain fall when compared to normal years it has brought nearly as much rain already as did the previous six months put together—and the cloudy skies are not gone.

Now that on December 20 we had received a half of our normal moisture the question is, are we to get the other half in the remaining eleven days of the year? Or will the last eleven days be wetter than the previous eleven months?

Three AAA Deadlines On December 31

December 31 is an important date to many Oregon farmers taking part in the AAA program, according to Will Steen of Milton, chairman of the state agricultural committee, since it marks the following farm program transitions:

- (1) Final day to take out government loans on 1939 wheat.
- (2) Final day to apply for 1939 wheat "parity payments."
- (3) Final day for the 1939 range improvement program, with practices performed after December 31 applying to the 1940 program.

Next important date on the farm program calendar will be February 29, final day for applying for federal crop insurance on spring-sown wheat, Mr. Steen said. He pointed out that crop insurance applications to date number about 1635, protecting about one third of the state's AAA wheat allotment.

"We are now in the seventh AAA program year," Mr. Steen said. "December 1 was the beginning of the 1940 program. I think it's a good time right now to give some thought to what the farm program has meant, and whether it has justified its existence."

"This month I talked to a number of out of state farmers at the Eastern Oregon Wheat league convention at Condon. From them, I heard even more drastic examples of the farm program's value than one can find here in Oregon. Particularly has it been valuable in 'dust bowl' states such as Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas."

"Harry Riddle of Greeley county, Kansas, made a typical comment. He said that as a result of AAA farm program aid, Greeley county is repairing its damaged soil so rapidly that soon they'll have a county that can look after itself again."

"In his county it has been a case of holding down the soil or moving out with it, as he put it. They got Uncle Sam's aid through the farm program, and worked together in repairing their land until now they have practically all their land under control. They used to have thousands of acres of blow land. Last year not over

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