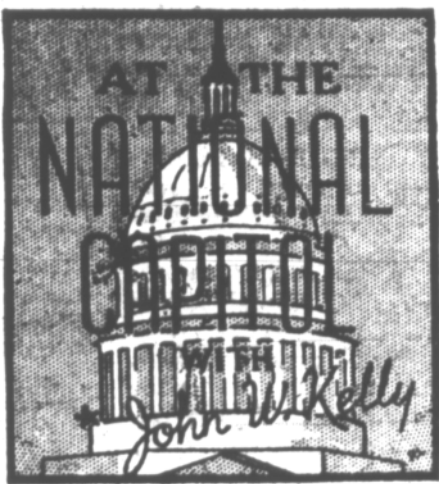


Sherman County Journal

Fifty-Second Year No. 8

Moro, Oregon, Friday, December 29, 1939

Official County Paper



Washington D. C., December 28.—Starting Monday, January 1, Uncle Sam will begin making monthly payments to holders of social security cards who have attained the age of 65 years. This is no government pension (benefits range from \$10 to \$85 a month) but has been bought and paid for by card holders, one percent of their wages having been deducted toward the fund, and a similar amount contributed by the employer. But to draw these benefits the card holder must retire, go fishing or do anything but continue working for wages.

No benefits will go to the thousands of fishermen of the Pacific Northwest nor to agricultural labor, nor to people in domestic service. None of these are eligible under the act, at present. However, a maid in a private home is covered by the act if she goes to work in a hotel or dining room. A cook in a logging camp is covered but not if he cooks for harvesters on a farm. Excluded, also, are the cowboys and sheepherders on the range lands of the Pacific Northwest. Only last summer was the act amended to include bank employees.

If you work for the government, federal or state, you cannot draw social security monthly benefits. Railroaders are not included; they have their own provision, the railroad retirement act.

In the congressional session opening January 3 considerable legislation will be considered of primary interest to the Pacific Northwest, affecting practically every nook and corner of both Oregon and Washington. There will be, of course, a heavy appropriation for Grand Coulee for the fiscal year 1941, beginning next July 1. Congress will be requested for money to install more generators at Bonneville. There will be an appropriation to take further steps in the Willamette valley project with its myriad of dams on the Willamette and tributaries for flood control.

Another attempt will be made to have congress authorize construction of a navigation dam at Umatilla rapids, on the Columbia river. Funds will be requested to drain the sump in Tule lake into Klamath lake as a combined project of the reclamation service and the biological survey.

Peeler log legislation, which has passed one house, will come up for a vote in the other branch of congress. This is a proposal to prevent exportation of peeler logs to Japan, in particular. The measure is backed by coast counties, chiefly. For the new-building naval airplane base at Tongue Point additional funds are expected.

Vigorous fight will be made by the delegations of the two northwestern states against extension of the reciprocal trade agreement act, which expires June 12, as under various agreements Washington and Oregon have suffered materially. Treaties have permitted invasion of domestic markets by foreigners competing with many of the products grown in the two states.

Farm Security Administration will urge funds with which to increase the number of migratory labor camps in both Oregon and Washington. Legislation will be offered proposing the federal government make substantial contribution toward maintenance and expansion of municipal airports. There is a possibility of two reclamation projects in eastern Oregon being favorably reported. Four more counties in each of the two states will be included in the tenant and share-cropper program, enabling eligibles to buy farms under the Bankhead act.

A possible recommendation by the president for construction of military highways—improving the Pacific and Columbia highways for the purpose—as part of national defense and a specific appropriation for the purpose. It is in Mr. Roosevelt's mind, has been for

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Oregon Draws Wheat Leaders



Wheat was the common interest of those who attended the 12th annual convention of the Eastern Oregon Wheat League held recently at Condon, Oregon. Upper picture, C. K. Barker (left), Condon farmer elected wheat league president, is congratulated by R. M. Evans, national AAA administrator. Lower picture, John Conway (left), farmer of Leeds, N. D., receives from N. E. Dodd, western region AAA director, the trophy awarded his county by the wheat league for best compliance in 1939 with the national wheat program. Evans, principal convention speaker, said America's farm program is superior to that of any other nation in the world.

Federal Program To Be Made Self Supporting If Possible

Renewed efforts to make the federal farm program self supporting and increased emphasis on soil conservation are expected to be the principal AAA developments for 1940, according to a New Year's announcement by Will Steen of Milton, chairman of the Oregon agricultural conservation committee.

"We're hearing a lot now about making the farm program self-supporting so that it won't be dependent on the U. S. treasury for all its revenue," said the chairman. "That was one of the principal discussion topics at the recent convention of the Eastern Oregon Wheat League at Condon."

"Other farm organizations also are working on plans which would put the AAA on a more permanent basis and give it a continuing source of income. The certificate plan, a form of processing tax, is one of the most popular ideas right now. It is designed to finance programs for basic commodities such as wheat."

"Both Secretary Wallace and R. M. Evans, national AAA administrator, are stressing the need of making the AAA self supporting. Mr. Evans said at Condon that the national farm program, during its seven years, has proved its value but it must be financially self supporting in order to be most effective."

A round program to increase soil conservation will be in effect in 1940, Steen said. As in 1939, the basis will be an individual farm plan which each farmer will be asked to fill out if he wishes to take part, showing how he can best fit the AAA program to his own operations.

Grants of aid will be used more extensively and an effort will be made to get more "needed practices" into general use, Steen declared. Oregon will help the south through the fact that farmers here have planted additional acres of hairy vetch and Austrian winter field peas and the additional seed harvested will be made available for cover crop use in the south. All Oregon farms, no matter how small, may earn a minimum of \$20 if they carry on enough conservation practices in 1940, Steen added.

The government is asking "more for its money" in the conservation program in 1940, Steen pointed

out, and has reduced the rate of credit for certain practices. County committees are being encouraged to make their own local requirements in line with sound conservation needs in their own areas.

Aluminum Company Buys Bonneville Juice

The Bonneville Power Administration announced today execution of a 20-year contract with the Aluminum Company of America for the sale of 32,500 kilowatts of power generated at the government owned plant at Bonneville Dam on the Columbia river, 40 miles east of Portland, Oregon.

Delivery of power will begin as soon as the company has completed construction of a plant for the production of aluminum by means of an electrolytic process utilizing Bonneville power. The works, which represent an expansion in Aluminum company operations, until now confined to the east and south, will be located on the north bank of the Columbia river just west of Vancouver, Washington, and not far from Bonneville's largest sub-station. They are expected to be completed on or before January 1, 1941.

Paul J. Raver, Bonneville Power Administrator, said the contract guaranteed the Bonneville project approximately \$10,000,000 in revenues over the next 20 years. "If the plant grows in accordance with expectations, the amount of power taken from Bonneville will be materially increased over that covered by the present contract, Raver said."

The contract, negotiations of which was undertaken shortly after the appointment of Administrator Raver in September, was the first signed by the Bonneville Power Administration with a new industry to be established in the Pacific northwest. The company will pay \$17.50 per kw year.

News of the illness of Ruby Pettys was received here this week. She is in the Wasco county hospital suffering from the result of a stroke of paralysis which befel her last Thursday evening. It is expected that she will be hospitalized for a number of days.

Snowfall Comes Christmas Night As In 1936

Three years ago Christmas night there was a bit of snow, the first of the winter. It came on unfrozen ground and while it and additional snow was blown about, off the fields and into the roads, there was plenty of moisture in the ground in the spring.

This year there was also a skiff of snow on the ground the morning after Christmas. No one has come forward to say that January and February will be like that of 1937, and no one seems to want a repetition of those months, but inasmuch as it did snow once under like conditions, it may do so again.

V. I. Moon Given Five Years; Parole

Volney Ingersoll Moon, who was arrested last week and charged with obtaining property under false pretenses, was sentenced to a five year term in the penitentiary and paroled by Judge Carl Hendricks last Thursday afternoon. Mr. Moon, when arrested, had in his possession several watches, not all Ingersolls, that he admitted obtaining from persons under the pretense of being a repair man. He had a family in Morrow county.

Forage Problem More Acute

A distinct forage problem for the Pacific northwest, with the development of the Grand Coulee project, is foreseen by G. R. Hyslop, head of the division of plant industries at Oregon State college. Hyslop points out that approximately 1,200,000 acres of new land will be subject to irrigation with the ultimate development of the project.

"Past experience shows that a minimum of 60 per cent of newly opened irrigated land is used for the growth of forage," Professor Hyslop pointed out. "Such a sudden large increase in forage production will necessitate the creation of a means of utilizing it here in the northwest, due to the cost involved in shipping hay any great distances."

More Hay; More Stock

One possible increased outlet for alfalfa hay production may be in connection with the current emphasis on feeding more northwest wheat for fattening livestock in this region. Experiments have shown that alfalfa hay is probably the best roughage to feed along with wheat in fattening operations. Thus, any material increase in live stock feeding with wheat as the grain concentrate would automatically increase the demand for alfalfa hay.

The forage situation in the north west is in a good state of balance at present, Hyslop said. The tendency is always to increase the number of livestock where there is an excess of forage.

Milk Control Law No Longer Effective

Official order No. 134 has been received from the Oregon Milk Control board which states that pursuant to a hearing held in Moro November 28, the board held a meeting and decided that the conditions regarding the production and distribution of milk and cream in Sherman county towns was similar and therefore designated as the Sherman County Market Area, that a substantial portion of the milk produced in this area comes from one cow dairies, that sanitation requirements are not fully complied with, that exemption of this area from the price requirements of the board would benefit the consuming public, the producers and distributors.

Therefore, based on these findings, effective January 1, 1940 the territory lying in Sherman county is hereby excluded from the operation of all price orders and regulations of the Oregon Milk Control board and the provisions of the Oregon Milk Control law until conditions require regulation at which time the board can restore such rules.

Bob Marvin was down from Hermiston to spend the Christmas holiday.

1939 Ending With Driest Record Known

Year Seems Doomed To End With Inch Less Moisture Than Previous Driest

Unless the last three days of 1939 provide a plentiful amount of moisture almost unprecedented in the meteorological annals of the county that year will end with the record for shortage of moisture being the driest year known to official weather records.

That is nothing to the credit of the year and will undoubtedly make it go down in history as the year of the dry spring, the year of the dry summer and the year of the dry fall all rolled into one long dry spell worthy of telling dry stories about.

Despite the dryness crops were fairly good because of the stored rainfall below the surface. No one is optimistic enough to believe that this can happen again. One crop may come to maturity on cool wind, moist air and plenty of deep soil moisture, but not two in succession for the deep soil moisture is too important a part. It must either rain or snow or we will withdraw from serious wheat production for 1940.

Previous Dry 6.69 Inches

The driest year in the last 29 of record keeping, brought 6.69 inches of rain high in itself is a record worthy of the occasion. It is dry enough. It is but two thirds of our normal or less and it is far too little to permit the growing of field crops. Yet 1939 gives promise of closing with a recorded rainfall of but 5.64, a full inch less. And that is dry. Even deserts sometimes have more rainfall than 5.64 inches.

Best evidence that this dryness may be coming to a close is that December was the wettest month since back in the spring. It brought 1.30 inches which is not quite normal, but yet enough to allow the top of the ground to freeze and fog to gather in the air.

There is still a chance that this abridgment of the driest year may be entirely out of place for if rainfall, at least an inch, comes before Sunday night while the revelers are bidding goodbye to the old year, 1939 may not be the driest year after all.

Mrs. Wm. Johnson Dies From Accident

Mrs. William Johnson died in a hospital in The Dalles, Saturday night from the results of an accident in her home which caused a severe cut on her neck from which she bled profusely.

She was born Myrtle Mary Farmer, in Kansas, August 2, 1875 and was married May 28, 1895 in Bloomington, Illinois to William Johnson. They have lived most of their life in Wasco.

She is survived by her widower, a daughter, Mrs. M. A. Hatley of Wasco, several grand children and a sister in Chicago. Funeral services will be held in Wasco Friday morning at 10:30.

Mr. Johnson has been in the hospital in The Dalles with a severe case of blood poisoning.

Contract For Road To Be Let

At the January meeting of the Oregon highway commission the contract will be let for the completion of 1.98 miles in Sherman county. This is the section of road from the four way bridge in Hay Canyon, or a trifle east of that point, to the four corners on the Cottonwood section of the road east from Moro. The specifications call for grading and surfacing. This work was contemplated for 1939 but was not done.

Whether or not the contract is let for the completion of the Sherman highway depends on the activity of local citizens who may be interested in it. It has been on the program for two or three years but has been crowded off by delegations from other parts of the state who are more insistent than the local residents and officials.

Grasses Planted On Station For Experiment

Forty six plots of the better of the grasses known to be suitable to this section of the country have been sown at the experiment station in an effort to determine which ones will produce the best returns. These have been drilled on a west slope typical of the shallow land of the county in plots 6 by 66 feet and if desired may be pastured to find out how the grasses stand that treatment.

On better land 32 plots of mixed seed was sown. These are mixtures of two grasses, one a high grass and the other a bunch grass to sod over the plots. These plots are 6 by 132 feet.

William Phillips Buried Wednesday

William Phillips, who for many years has worked around Wasco, being one of the last of that one time numerous school of farm laborers who could drive a team, died in The Dalles Saturday night after an illness of about a week. He was working for Rich Dingle at the time of his death.

Mr. Phillips was born in Indiana in 1861 and came to Oregon in 1897, working for a transfer company in Portland for many years as teamster. He came to Sherman county about thirty years ago and has remained here working for many farmers during that time.

The funeral was held at Wasco Wednesday and interment made in the Wasco cemetery.

The Moro Boy's club won a game of basket ball from the students that are home from college, Wednesday night, by a score of 46 to 34. Line up for the college boys was: Sayrs, Pinkerton, Gilmore, Foss and Eddie Peters. The boys club team consisted of Christianson, Bob Axtell, French, Bill Axtell and Thompson.

New State Forester To Come Out Of Board Meeting

By A. L. Lindbeck

When the State Forestry Board meets here Friday presumably to elect a new state forester it will be confronted by a demand from the Marion Taxpayers League that the audit of the department which has been underway for several months be made public immediately and with a request for information on certain points about which there have been rumors.

Among other information sought by the League is added light on the air patrol maintained by the forestry department. The League wants to know how much money the department has invested in its plane and if it would not be cheaper to charter a private plane when it is necessary to take to the air during the forest fire season.

The League also wants to know if the forestry department owns any automobiles which are operating without "exempt" plates and with no identifying marks. The League's questionnaire also seeks to delve into rumored transfer of funds between the Southwestern Oregon Fire Patrol Association and the Oregon Forest Fire association back in 1936 and 1937, and asks for information as to the cost of the new forestry buildings and the amount of state money that went into these improvements.

J. W. Ferguson, state forester, submitted his resignation at the annual meeting of the Board about a month ago and will step out of the office on January 1. A subcommittee of the Forestry Board was authorized to recommend a successor to the Board and is expected to make this recommendation at Friday's meeting.

Inmates of the several state institutions fared well at Christmas time. The usual big dinners with turkey or chicken, and the customary trimmings were served at most of the institutions Christmas day while entertainment, including picture shows, were provided for the patients at the state hospital and the inmates at the state prison.

Approximately 90,000 individuals in Oregon will pay income taxes in 1940, it is estimated by the State

Federal Money Received For Farm Compliance

Two Thirds of Expected Sum Already On Hand; More Coming Soon

Receipt of a sum in excess of \$66,000 Friday before Christmas raised to \$237,716.11 the total moneys received in this county on behalf of the agricultural conservation program.

This is a goodly share of the \$306,000 that will be given to Sherman county farmers for their obedience to the government demands regarding curtailment of acreage and seeding of grass and trashy fallow methods and the other regulations laid down from Washington.

This is the 1939 payment. It represents a seventeen cent payment on wheat grown to compensate for land left out of production.

It is expected that the remaining funds will be coming along very soon to all farmers except possibly those about whose compliance there is some dispute or question.

WEATHER DATA FOR WEEK

Date	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Dec. 21	44	26	
22	37	30	
23	34	28	T
24	87	23	T
25	37	29	
26	33	22	0.09
27	38	25	

Total to date for Dec. 1.30 inches. Total to date for year 5.64 inches.

The precipitation this week was snow. A little more than recorded fell Wednesday night after five o'clock. It was rain and it froze to the already fallen snow to make some very slick roads Thursday.

Tax Commission. The commission has estimated income tax receipts for 1940, based upon 1939 incomes, at \$5,100,000 or, approximately \$500,000 above the receipts for 1939.

Traffic fatalities will show a decrease again this year in Oregon when the figures for the 12-month period are all totaled, according to Secretary of State Snell. The total for the 11-month period up to December 1, was 287 which was 41 below the 1938 toll. This will be the fourth consecutive that Oregon has been able to report a decrease in traffic deaths, Snell pointed out.

All stock brands now recorded with the State Department of Agriculture must be re-recorded between January 1 and June 1, 1940, according to Dr. W. H. Lytle, chief of the division of animal husbandry. All brands not re-recorded by June 1, will be available for use, Lytle said. A new brand law passed by the 1939 legislative session requires the re-recording of brands every tenth year beginning with 1940. Nearly 14,000 persons now have brands on record with the Department of Agriculture. The purpose of the new requirement is to afford an opportunity for weeding out brands no longer in use.

The appointment of Robert M. Duncan of Burns as circuit judge of the ninth judicial district, to succeed the late Judge Charles W. Ellis of Ontario, just announced by Governor Sprague, is a well merited recognition of one of the leading members of the Oregon bar.

Born in Illinois 55 years ago Duncan was brought to Oregon by his parents when but a small child. Graduating from Willamette University law school in 1909, he started the practice of law at Ontario and Vale, later moving to Burns. As a member of the state senate during its sessions of 1935 and 1937 and senate president in the session of 1939, Duncan demonstrated qualities of leadership, fairness, courage and freedom from narrow partisanship that won for

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