

Sherman County Journal

Fifty-Second Year No. 9

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Official County Paper



Divisions In 4-H Beef Changed for 1940

The 4-H club children who exhibit at the county fair next fall will find that their beef steer entries will fall into different classes than before. Instead of having all steers divided into senior and junior classes they will be divided into four sizes ranging from 650 to the smallest to 1300 for the largest. What weights will mark the upper and lower brackets of each division is not yet known. Prizes will be changed to meet the new method of dividing steers.

Most Wheat Farmers Take Wheat Loans

Nineteen hundred Oregon farmers used the government's wheat loan program in securing immediate cash from their 1939 harvest, thus enabling them to await better markets before selling their wheat, according to a year-end summary by the state AAA office in Corvallis.

Farmers borrowed nearly three and a half million dollars from the government, putting up approximately 5,750,000 bushels of wheat as security. These loan figures are somewhat smaller than those of a year ago, according to the state office, probably because of higher market prices than prevailed in 1938.

"Farmers found the loan program of special value during July and August," said Will Steen of Milton, chairman of the state agricultural conservation committee. "During both these months, growers could borrow more on their wheat from the government than they could get on the market. If there had been no loan program, many would have been forced to sell on the low market and would have lost thousands of dollars."

Steen pointed out, also, that the loan program was a sustaining influence on American wheat markets which normally follow world market trends. This last year the Liverpool wheat market fell to its lowest point since 1892 and Oregon farmers might have expected to get only feed grain prices for their wheat, according to Steen. Yet at no time did the American market fall very far below the level of 50 to 60 cents set by the loan program, compared with 1932 farm prices as low as 25 cents with higher world prices than this past year.

To date, Oregon farmers have redeemed less than 20 per cent of their wheat under loan despite current higher prices, Steen said, indicating they are satisfied at present with the loan return. Many are holding for a possible further rise before there will be a general move to redeem wheat and sell it.

December 31 was the final date for borrowing on the 1939 loan program. All wheat loans will mature on April 30, 1940.

SON BORN TO JOYALS AS NEW YEAR ARRIVES

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Jean Joyal of Wasco is most truly a New Year's baby for he was born in The Dalles before the whistles that by custom proclaim the new year had stopped blowing. He came in with 1940 and the date of the forties. He is a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Everett McQuellen.

Appointments By County Court For 1940 Jobs

No Change Made in County Officials By Yearly Appointments

The January court meeting, always the most important of the year, brought little excitement when it occurred Wednesday as there was no dispute about the numerous appointments that have to be made annually.

The sheaf of bills on the general and road funds were paid in due course without argument and the applications of W. H. McDonald, H. H. Willard, C. H. Lindeman and George F. McKay for Class C beer licenses allowed.

The report of the resigned health nurse, Katharine Morse and the county health officer were accepted without important comment.

The Sherman County Journal was named as county official paper, C. C. Wilson made truant officer and O. G. Hilderbrand renamed to the fair board for a three year term.

Roadviewers for the year will be L. L. Peetz, Roy Powell and H. A. Walker. The court, itself, will administer DeMoss park. L. L. Peetz will continue as road master.

The tax turnover of the sheriff was accepted as was the report of the treasurer for the month. Two hundred names were drawn from the poll books for the jury list for 1940 and the court agreed to view roads Thursday.

Ernie Weld Dies Of Pneumonia

Ernest Linwood Weld, pioneer of Sherman county and resident for sixty years, died in The Dalles hospital Friday of last week from pneumonia which came upon him suddenly Wednesday before his death.

Mr. Weld was born in Tonia, Illinois, October 10, 1865 but moved early in life to the west. In the late seventies, although but a boy, he was riding the grass covered hills of Sherman county for some of the stockmen whose cattle ranged here.

He was married in Wasco in March, 1898 and to this union was born one son, Wayland. Mrs. Weld survives as does his son, who lives in Portland. A brother, Ray in Portland, Frank in Springfield, three sisters, Mrs. A. W. Clark of Milwaukie, Mrs. Bertha Hailey of Forest Grove and Mrs. Hattie Sargent of Boone, Iowa and two grandchildren.

The funeral was held Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock from the Wasco Methodist church with R. V. F. L. Cannell in charge. Interment was made in the local Odd Fellows cemetery with the Knights of Pythias giving graveside services.

Mr. Weld one time farmed near Wasco and of late years, until his retirement a few years ago, was active in the road building program of the county.

C. Parsons, examiner of operators and chauffeurs, was here Wednesday for his first trip through this county. He is taking the place of C. M. Bentley who has made this territory for several years and who will cover the eastern part of the district. Mr. Parsons will be here again January 31.

Lights Go Out Because of Ice On Wires

Power line patrols of Pacific Power & Light Company kept close check on the weather in the Columbia gorge this week, on guard for the first indication of another sudden ice storm such as the one which ushered in the New Year Monday by interrupting electric service in much of the Mid Columbia territory. Moro, Wasco, and Grass Valley were without electricity as a result of the ice storm from 2:20 to 8:45, although it required a hazardous 19 hour battle by P.P.&L. repair crews to clear away the damage left by the storm and completely restore service.

R. V. Lockhart, local agent for P. P. & L., expressed his appreciation of the attitude of the people of Sherman county in connection with the disruption of service, particularly when the trouble causing storm was so localized.

The storm centered apparently in an area only a mile or so long on Indian Mountain, just east of Hood River. There was little or no icing at lower altitudes. Pacific company's 66,000-volt transmission line which serves this area crosses Indian Mountain through the heart of the area hit by the sudden ice storm. The foot-thick sheaf of ice first broke one of the lines about 7:30 a. m. Monday and four hours later snapped off a power pole and whipped another out of the ground and threw it fifty feet down hill.

All available repair men from The Dalles and Hood River, with help from Goldendale and Wishram, worked steadily throughout the holiday to finally clear the break entirely at 2:30 a. m., Tuesday. By dropping industrial loads entirely and cutting out various parts of The Dalles during the day, the company was able to supply partial service to part of the territory while the repair crews fought to repair the damage. The break threw the entire load of territory on only one plant, that at White River, which was not able to supply enough current to fill the entire demand.

Mrs. Ruby Pettys Buried Sunday

The funeral of Mrs. Ruby Pettys was held from the Community church Sunday afternoon at two o'clock with Rev. H. G. Hansen officiating and Zells in charge.

Mrs. Ruby Rust Fairchild Pettys was born in Colusa, California, December 13, 1870, and came to Oregon with her parents in the early eighties settling on a homestead about two miles south of Moro where she grew to maturity.

For the greater part of her life she has lived in the southwest part of the county where she moved on her marriage to Cash Fairchild in the early nineties.

The minister, appropriately referred to the hardships and difficulties of her life and commented on the determination with which she met her troubles and her un-failing good humor with her lot.

She was laid to rest in the old Baptist cemetery, by the side of her father and mother and brother-in-law. Surviving are a son Glenn of Wamic, two daughters, Mrs. Emma Jantzer of Possil and Hazel of Dallesport; two sisters, Mrs. May Nicholson and Mrs. Maud Watson, and several grandchildren and nephews.

1939 Breaks Drouth Record By .26 Inch

Last Week Storm Brings Moisture Up But Not Enough

Developments of the weather during the past week demonstrated again that prophesying the weather is dangerous practice. With but four days to go the deficiency in the moisture for the calendar year was 1.05 inches with what looked to be good indications that falling weather was at an end. It looked as though the 6.69 inch fall of 1939 was to be decisively worsted in 1939.

Then came a rain of .25 that froze on the earth securely and the next night another .15, and then .08 and then the final day of the year .28 almost enough to leave 1939 still the driest year.

Not quite, however, for 1939 ended with 6.43 inches of rainfall .26 drier than any year since record keeping began.

December did more than any other month to end the dry spell as 2.09 inches fell that month to best the average of 1.61 for the final month of the year.

South End Dry

The south end of the county suffered more seriously than did the central and northern parts during the year from a moisture standpoint. At Grass Valley the precipitation was 5.55, at Bourbon 4.66, and at Kent 4.53 according to records taken by Urzell Lemley, Henry Peters and J. E. Norton.

The rain storm that ended the year brought 2.37 inches in Moro as a total, 2.44 at Grass Valley, 2.19 at Bourbon and 1.61 to Kent.

A large part of this moisture fell as rain which froze to tree limbs and grass making travel very dangerous and breaking many limbs from the trees in some sections of the county. At Moro warm currents cleared the trees last Friday and again Tuesday night but slightly higher land has not had this relief. At Kent the weather cleared Monday night and the ice was said to be gone almost entirely by Tuesday.

Highways were very slick for a day or two but were generally cleared by the first of the week so as to be safe unless being recently frozen.

Weather for the week.			
Dec.	Max	Min	Prec
27	38	25	
28	31	26	.25
29	32	28	.18
30	35	30	.08
31	32	30	.28
Jan. 1	32	30	.12
2	33	28	.17
			1.08

Bob King Leaves For Two Stock Shows

Bob King of Grass Valley and Bob McDonald of The Dalles left this week for Ogden, Utah and Denver, Colorado, to attend two livestock shows in company with Herbert Chandler of Baker. Both boys are former winners of the grand prize at the Pacific International.

Bob and his brother, Don, recently bought two registered Short-horn calves from the Broughton herd at Dayton, Washington and a Duroc gilt from Ritter Bros.

County Gets \$600 for Coyote Eradication

Sherman county was allowed \$600 from the predatory animal control by the department of agriculture reports W. H. Lytle, chief of the division of animal industry. Fourteen other counties were allocated funds totalling \$17,250 which together with the \$11,700 from the game commission will give the counties some funds to kill predators.

The total appropriation, remainder of the \$36,000 voted for this work by the 1939 legislature, is based on necessity for control and financial cooperation received from the counties.

Receiving money were Baker county, \$900; Gilliam, \$1500; Grant, \$2000; Harney, \$1500; Jackson, \$1500; Klamath, \$1000; Lake, \$1500; Malheur, \$760; Marion, \$500; Morrow, \$1500; Umatilla, \$1000; Wallowa, \$1000; Wasco, \$1000; Wheeler, \$1000.

Oregon Drivers More Careful

Oregon's death rate for the first eleven months of this year was 11.2 as compared to a rate of 12.5 for the same period last year. The death rate for the state for the entire year of 1938 was 12.7.

Oregon drivers are to be congratulated on the showing made so far this year, Snell declared. If this record is sustained through the month of December, the most dangerous month of the year so far as traffic accidents are concerned, Oregon can be justly proud of its record for 1939.

State Forestry Board Appoints Carl Davis Chief Forester

By A. L. Lindbeck

Unable to agree on a state forester to succeed J. W. Ferguson, resigned, the state board of forestry, meeting here Friday, called in Carl L. Davis, Coos county logging operator and lumberman, to take over the affairs of the department temporarily. Davis, 54 and a Republican, came to Oregon 25 years ago from Minnesota and has been engaged in the lumber and logging business in Coos and Linn counties every since. Governor Sprague in announcing the selection of Davis as temporary head of the forestry department declared that he was not an applicant for the job and was not aware that the board was considering him until he was notified by telephone following the adjournment of the meeting here.

Friends of Dan Fry, state purchasing agent, are urging his appointment to the post of director of the Federal Housing Administration for Oregon, to succeed the late Jamieson Parker of Portland. Fry, reputedly slated to lose his state job to a Republican, admits that he is "interested" although denying that he has been actively seeking the federal job.

The rumor of Fry's ouster persists in capitol circles although first reports that he was to be replaced the first of the year did not materialize, probably because the two Republican members on the Board of Control—Governor Sprague and Secretary of State

Final Turnover of Taxes Sends Total Over Roll

\$27,000 To Be Paid To County and Taxing Units Soon

The final tax turnover for the year brought the total of tax collection up to 115% of the 1939 roll according to information released from the office of C. C. Wilson, sheriff. The 1939 roll was \$154,037.36 and \$178,636.49 was collected in current and delinquent taxes during the twelve months.

This final turnover totaled \$27,318.69 and delinquent taxes represented \$15,140.77 of this total and current taxes \$12,177.92.

Most surprising is the amount of taxes collected on very old delinquencies. For 1931 and prior years \$4280.88, for 1932 \$2879.16, for 1933-34 \$1469.42, for 1935 \$1211.38, for 1936 \$1811.46, for 1937 \$1317.28, for 1938 \$2171.89.

County Balance 1 p

Several taxing units fared very well in the division. Tax payments of delinquencies brought the city of Moro's receipts up by \$1884.16 and the Kent school district fared equally well and several others will be surprised at the size of their receipts from this final 1939 tax turnover.

Payment of this tax brings the county's bank balance up to nearly \$125,000.00 with no debts to pay and only a little money tied up in sinking funds. A goodly part of this will, of course, be paid out to the taxing units that obtain their funds through the county but a tidy sum will remain to start the official county year on.

Snell—have not been able to agree on his successor, both of these officials having their own candidate for this lucrative post which carries with it a salary of \$5800 a year.

A new rumor gaining circulation this week has it that Fry may be retained as chief deputy to the Board of Control secretary—whichever that may be assigned to control over the purchasing division. Should such an arrangement materialize it would mean a reorganization of the purchasing staff and probably the release of one of the three assistants now devoting full time to state purchases.

Oregon industries have experienced their best year in a decade judged by records of the State Industrial Accident Commission. Reports to the commission indicate that 1939 industrial payrolls in this state will total approximately \$158,000,000 an increase of \$11,000,000 over 1938 and setting a new 10-year record.

Talk may be cheap but residents of Oregon paid a total of \$76,326,759 in telephone rentals and tolls during 1938, according to reports compiled by Public Utilities Commissioner Bean. Bean's report shows that every dollar collected by the telephone utilities 14.44 cents was paid out for taxes.

When Uncle Sam attempted Continued on page two

Chronology of News Events of 1939

Jan. 6—County court discusses closing of Rattlesnake road. New city officers installed in the towns of the county. Mrs. Hans Koepke buried at Grass Valley.

Jan. 13—1939 legislature began in new capitol. Moro high school boys win three games in first week of play.

Jan. 20—Premium above federal loan value offered for white wheat. Dates for Sherman county fair set.

Jan. 27—Mrs. Lucy Ruggles honored on her 82nd birthday. Work going on by county road crew. Possibility of new pump for Moro being discussed.

Feb. 3—Notification of lower rates for electric power made by Pacific Power & Light Co. Hartly Garage and Orange Front Cafe at Grass Valley broken into. Three

Grass Valley teachers injured in wreck.

Feb. 10—Nearly half million bushels of white wheat sold from Sherman county. Scott Fortner and Marjory Blake married. Slick roads cause minor accidents.

Feb. 17—Bob King and Frank von Borstel chosen to attend world's fair with club calves. Land use committee estimates that 1000 acres needed to provide grass seed.

Feb. 24—1939 farm payments from the government expected to total \$580,000. Little Bangs disease found here by testing veterinarian.

March 3—Farmers warned to follow orders carefully regarding grass seedings. County teachers meet for conference. Wasco Garden club presents play.

March 10—Explanation of new dual telephones made by company representatives. Rufus wins basketball tournament. Henry Ruggles dies at age of 78.

March 17—Mrs. A. M. Young dies after being bedfast with injured hip. New pump bought for city of Moro.

March 24—Moro Breakfast club organized. Wasco farmers building line for electric service. Mrs. Emma Schadowitz buried Tuesday. Federal wheat loans nearly due.

March 31—Breakfast club appoints committees for years work. SCS doing experimental work in soil conservation. ICC camp being removed.

April 7—County court hears

road petitions from many parts of county. Crop conditions held unfavorable. Bob King wins second and fourth at San Francisco fair.

April 14—Moisture tests indicate that south end of the county has greatest percentage of moisture in measurable feet. Farm plan and estimate sheets being filled out by farmers. New city pump installed.

April 21—High school track meet due Saturday. Moro Breakfast club set clean up day date. Wheat league officers from this county broadcast aims.

April 28—33rd county declamatory contest billed. Wasco has clean up day and community ball game.

May 5—Grass Valley and Wasco

win field meet. Mormon crickets invade fields east of Wasco. Rattlesnake closing petition postponed.

May 12—Life history of Mormon crickets told by entomologist. Work started on 1939 fair. Little moisture remaining under wheat.

May 19—Lamb show ready at Wasco. Forty to graduate from Sherman county high schools. One fifth inch of rain encourages farmers.

May 26—Wheat loan rate set at 75 cents Portland. Lamb show successful again. Grass Valley to drill now well.

June 2—County Agent hears that cultivation will kill morning glory at weed experiment station.

May 5—Grass Valley and Wasco

D. E. Stephens visits from new home.

June 9—Some moisture found in favored spots. Grass Valley Baptist church burns down.

June 16—John Wilt buried in Moro after sudden death. Field day well attended. City decides to have Fourth street oiled. Grain Growers elect new officers.

June 23—George Barnett first farmer to collect insurance. Little interest shown in school election. J. P. Yates store robbed of merchandise.

June 30—County crop estimated at 4,500,000 bushels. Government tells farmers how much wheat they can grow in 1940. Moro and Wasco clubs picnic and play ball.