

Sherman County Journal

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Official County Paper

Bank Robbery Pays Small Dividends

Vault of Local Bank Broken Into Sunday Night But Little Lost

An attempt at bank robbery was made here Sunday night when some one broke through the stairs behind the bank vault, into the bank lavatory and chiseled through the four brick wall of the vault and entered that repository of cold cash.

Disappointment must have weighed on the night workers as they left the scene of their depredations for they obtained barely enough to pay for the manual labor done and nothing at all for the serious risk of breaking into a national bank.

In cash there was \$2.10 which was left in the bank after closing hours Saturday, there was \$3.07 which was a deposit made by members of the skaters club last winter, about twelve dollars in stamps, two new desk pens, Ray Blake's glasses, one cigar. A total not at all impressive in the annals of bank robbing.

On the side of depredation the robbers broke into 17 safety deposit boxes belonging to customers of the bank. No complete list of valuables taken or rifled can be had but little of it had a commercial value or was even negotiable. There were a few bonds and postal certificates and travellers checks. Complete insurance is carried by the bank on everything.

Vault Punctured

The robbery was discovered Monday morning when bank employees arrived for work. A hole a little more than a foot square was found in the back end of the vault when it was opened. The safety deposit box doors hung limply out of place in utter uselessness and a covering of papers and brick dust was on the floor. Concern was immediately felt for a shipment of \$6300 in cash that had been received the day before but it was found to be intact.

Tools used were those taken from the Ritner garage and from the Schadewitz garage. A three pound hammer and some punches and chisels apparently were the only equipment used to break through the wall and to punch out the locks.

Notified was Sheriff Wilson who called Sergeant Grimm and a patrolman who called Arthur Norstrom and J. W. Mackle of the Portland office of FBI. Called was the Portland headquarters of the First National Bank, the parent institution of the local branch, and it sent Volney Pratt and a Burns detective, all of whom conferred, investigated, photographed, questioned, inspected to the mystification and interest of the citizens.

Tuesday they were gone, the hole in the vault was repaired, the Masonic stairs patched up, Ray Blake's new glasses ordered, another cigar bought and business went on as usual.

Kent Electric Line Getting More Use

As rapidly as home, farm and business premises are wired, electric service is being extended to approximately 50 new customers in Kent and along the 15-mile route of a newly completed power line between there and Grass Valley. R. V. Lockhart, agent here for Pacific Power & Light company, announced today.

First energy from the 11,000-volt line, built at a cost of approximately \$15,000, went to the Kent grain elevator. The line was rushed to completion by the use of extra crews to bring it into service in time for this year's unusually early grain harvest.

Eight privately built and owned lines tap the new line between Grass Valley and Kent. From these private lines, totalling 12 miles in length, 13 farm customers will be served.

In addition to the elevator, the line in Kent makes service available for the church, the school stores, garage and shops, the Grange hall, the Legion hall, the I.O.O.F. hall and a number of residences.

School Election Ordered To Clear Title

A special school election is to be held in District 17, Moro, on August 17, according to announcement published in this weeks issue. The purpose of the election is to give the school board permission to sell Block 27, in the city of Moro.

Legally speaking the school district does not own Block 27, but it did at one time and the sale was not according to the rules and regulations as laid down by law. Now, in order to clear the title to block 27, an election is going to be held.

It seems that back in 1909 the school district officials thought of putting the school house up on the hill on Block 27, which is west of the court house. Then the board's mind was changed and in 1912 the block was deeded to Dick Morgan (without legal authority). Morgan traded it to Ray Hansel who has technically owned it for over twenty years.

Now it is desired to clear the title to Block 27 so the county can build a machine shed on it. So back we go to the last real, honest to gosh, bona fide title, duly registered and recorded and start from there.

Grain Harvest Being Delayed

A rainy day last Friday and weather wet enough to keep many machines from threshing until Monday noon delayed harvesting to that extent the past week. There is still a great deal of wheat to be cut in the central part of the county and even in the north end the harvesting is not yet over.

Whereas a few years ago nearly everyone had a machine of his own, now farmers who thresh commercially do a large part of the work and the job of cutting is therefore slower.

Although cutting has been in progress for three weeks in the county it is likely that at least half the grain is still standing. Damp weather has made cutting slow.

Military Training Bill Held Not Needed By Senators Who Oppose

By John W. Kelly

Washington, D. C., Aug. 1.—Alarmists are worrying about the compulsory military training and registration of every male between 18 and 65 years. They want to know why American citizens should be drafted into uniform when there is no war nor war in sight. Army brass hats plan an army of 3,000,000 men, which is not large for a country the size of the United States, but is very large and very costly as a peace time army.

Another feature of the conscription program, approved by the senate committee on military affairs, is that any conscript taken from his job to respond to the call of the colors must be rehired by his employer at the end of his compulsory service. Severe penalties are imposed on an employer who fails to take back the draftee. On the surface this looks good, but not for the employer. At the end of the service period of the conscript his old employer may be out of business, bankrupt or been compelled to reduce his employees to a minimum, or he may no longer need the special skill of the conscript. Regardless, however, the employer must reengage the worker who was taken away by the draft.

Portland Woolen Mills has sold wool blankets valued at \$186,562 to the army, and Malarkey-Kallander, Portland, have been awarded a \$33,950 contract for buildings at Vancouver barracks. The navy has bought pine lumber valued at \$40,788 from Daugherty Lumber Co., Cottage Grove; raw linseed oil for \$1,764 from Kerr Gifford & Co., Portland, and lumber at \$5,324 from Geo. E. Miller Lumber Co., Portland. These are first national defense orders placed in the state. The next announcement will report a \$2,000,000 order for four navy boats to the Commercial Iron Works of Portland.

With the American export mar-

Moro Youth Admits Guilt In Highway Death

Formal Hearing Set For Next Tuesday; Charge of Hit and Run Driving Made

Dean Pinkerton, 18, appeared before Justice of Peace Allen in The Dalles Tuesday to answer to a charge of hit and run driving after reportedly admitting to state police that he was the driver of the car that killed Horace Stricklin, 65 year old prospector near the junction of the Columbia highway with The Dalles-California highway early in the morning of July 14.

Pinkerton was apprehended when his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Pinkerton drove their car to The Dalles last Saturday to have the left front fender straightened and the left front glass replaced. It is reported that they were told the car had been damaged when run into a bank.

Accident Reconstructed

State police, at the time of the accident, reconstructed the crime as follows: The car, travelling east, hit Stricklin who was walking east on the left side of the road. It then swerved 149 feet and came to a stop near the embankment. It then backed up and went on east leaving the miner in the road.

His body was found approximately an hour later by Hal Pancher Jr., of The Dalles who made the first report. Stricklin was found to have suffered a fractured skull, broken arm and leg and many abrasions. He was survived by a wife.

According to the story said to be given the police Pinkerton and Rodney Truitt, 19, Moro, were returning from The Dalles when the accident occurred. Truitt was asleep and had little information to give the officers.

Pinkerton was released on \$1000 bail and is in charge of his father. Preliminary hearing was set for August 6 at 10 a. m. before Justice Allen.

High School Costs Vary Widely In Sherman County

The reports of the high schools of the county are in and compiled by the superintendent. They show that for the year just finished Moro gave instruction at a lower rate per pupil than any of the others, although not much under Grass Valley. The figures are: Moro \$172.64; Grass Valley, \$187.29; Wasco, \$203.00; Kent, \$253.78; Rufus, \$506.43.

It therefore costs 2.93 times as much to educate a high school pupil at Rufus than it does at the lowest cost school in the county. A further breakdown of these figures may be obtained from the superintendent's office.

AAA Meeting To Be Held In Pendleton

A meeting is to be held next Tuesday, August 6, at 10:30 a. m. at Pendleton at which Robert H. Montgomery is to speak to farmers and others interested on the relationship of agriculture to business. Mr. Montgomery is professor of economics at the University of Texas and is working for the AAA this summer. He is said to be a capable speaker.

Farm Payments Cut By Administration

Because of the unexpectedly large participation of the nation's farmers in the 1940 agricultural and range conservation programs, federal payments will be 10 per cent lower than the tentative rates announced last November, N. C. Donaldson, in charge of the state AAA office in Corvallis, has been informed.

This downward adjustment is necessary in order that payments will not exceed funds appropriated by congress, says Donaldson.

This means that checks issued to Oregon farmers for participation in all phases of the 1940 AAA program, with the exception of the price adjustment program and sugar beet program, will be 90 cent of the tentative schedule announced previously.

Tax Payments Down In Sherman County

Portland, Oregon, July 31, 1940. (Special)—Sherman county was one of six counties in the state whose 1940 property tax collections were slower than the collections of 1939 taxes, using May 1 as the date of comparison.

\$149,876 was total amount of property taxes levied for all purposes for collection in Sherman county in 1940. As of May 1 this year, 69.71 percent or \$104,477 of the total taxes levied had been collected.

In 1939, 70.72 percent of the county's \$154,110 of property taxes for all purposes had been collected at the same date, according to information supplied Oregon Business & Tax Research, Inc., recently published tax collection data for all Oregon counties in taxpayers' publication "Your Taxes."

\$42,608,802 was the total amount of taxes on all property in Oregon for all purposes payable in 1940. Of this amount \$27,442,973 had been paid about May 1, or 64.41 percent of the 1940 total levy.

Six Oregon counties, Baker, Grant, Lincoln, Sherman, Tillamook and Union, reported slower payment of property taxes this year than in 1939. The other thirty counties reported a better rate of tax payments, although the increase was small in some counties.

\$136,494 was Sherman county's total tax delinquency for all years prior to 1939, according to the state tax commission. The Oregon Business & Tax Research, Inc. data reports that \$8,217 of delinquent taxes were paid in Sherman county by about May 1 this year, or a collection of 6.02 percent against the accumulation of tax delinquency. Washington, Unstilla and Linn counties made the best showing in cleaning up past-due taxes, while Tillamook and Coos counties reported the best progress in collecting delinquent taxes.

Or. the national advisory defense commission the only member

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Wasco Store Robbed Again By Clothing Thieves

Clothing of Estimated Value of \$50. Taken From Yates Store; Car Also Taken

The latest phase of the Sherman county crime wave to become known was the robbery of dry goods and clothes from the J. P. Yates store in Wasco Monday night.

Early Tuesday morning Archie Kerkelie, starting to the country to a combine job, noticed the back door of the Yates store open and notified Mr. Yates and officials. Entrance had been made through a rear window, using a city fire department ladder.

As careful a check as could be made disclosed the loss of around \$50 worth of merchandise consisting of mens' and womens' shoes, socks, underwear, sweaters, pajamas, pants and a traveling bag. E. D. McKee found that the back door to his drug store had been jimmed and pounded against with some heavy implement. The lock had held, however.

Joe Dimmick found his 1936 Chevrolet coupe bearing Oregon license, 207-966, missing when he went to the Sherman garage. The lock on the garage door had been broken.

Marshall Everett and state police investigated the crime and are considering the possibility that the same person or persons may have committed it that broke into the Moro bank the night before.

About a year ago the Yates store was burglarized of over a hundred dollars worth of mens clothing a part of which was recovered after a similar robbery in Hermiston.

ARMY DRAWS BROTHERS

Tommy and Paul Fraser are expected home this week. They are on their way to report to the Third Division, Field Artillery for training and will probably be stationed at Fort Lewis. Both are reserve officers. Paul expects to remain in the service.

New Bleachers To Be Built For McNary Acceptance Speech

By A. L. Lindbeck

Salem, Ore., Aug. 2.—At least 20,000 people will want to attend the ceremonies at which Oregon's favorite son candidate, United States Senator Charles L. McNary is to be formally advised that he has been selected as running mate to Republican presidential nominee Wendell L. Willkie, in the opinion of Governor Chas. A. Sprague who has been working with national committeeman Ralph Calk of Portland in arranging for the notification ceremonies.

Because McNary refused to sacrifice his young filbert orchard in order to make room for the anticipated crowd the ceremonies will be held at the state fair grounds on the afternoon of August 28 with Governor Stassen of Minnesota delivering the formal notification.

The huge grand stand at the fair grounds with seating capacity for 6000 persons will be augmented by the construction of temporary bleachers but at that it is expected that thousands will be compelled to stand through the ceremonies which will be brief and run on a strict schedule to conform to radio requirements, inasmuch as the ceremony will be broadcast on a coast-to-coast hook-up.

Members of the state board of control have given their consent to the participation of the state-prison baseball team in a game to be played at Waters Field in Salem for the benefit of the Red Cross. It will be the first time in more than 20 years that a prison team has participated in a game outside of its own backyard within the prison wall. This game, Governor Sprague said, is not to be regarded as a precedent for other outside appearances of the team.

In order to avoid an eleventh-hour rush of motorists for examination when the new law requir-

Army Officer Looks Over Horses Here

Owners of half blooded horses in Sherman county took them to the W. C. Helyer farm Sunday afternoon to offer them for sale to the army. An officer made the inspections of the mounts and refused to buy a single one of them. Objections were made to size too large or too small, color or blemishes of one kind or another. It is reported that three horses that met the requirements were found at Tygh Valley.

August 31 Is Crop Insurance Deadline

Oregon wheat growers were reminded this week by the state AAA office in Corvallis that August 31, or seeding time, whichever is earlier, will be the closing date for taking out federal crop insurance on winter wheat. Applications are being accepted at county AAA offices.

Approximately 2000 Oregon farmers protected their wheat crop this year with crop insurance, and a few of these farmers are now filing claims for losses, according to Clyde Kiddle, supervisor of the program.

Unless unforeseen crop hazards appear before harvest is completed, it is not expected that the per cent of loss will be as high as in 1939 when 662 Oregon farmers had insurance and 188 experienced crop losses, Kiddle said.

Farmers who receive wheat in payment of insured losses may take out a commodity loan on this wheat at any time between now and January 1, 1941, it was pointed out.

CULTIVATION RULES GIVEN

Cultivation of weed infestations can start any time during the growing season. Eradication will probably be accomplished with one or two less cultivations, however, if the operations are started at the weak stage of the plant. For morning glory this appears to be about 30 days after emergence, but cultivation two or three weeks after emergence is probably safer.

Queen Contest Plans Adopted; Race On Monday

Rules To Govern Contest Made; Three Kinds of Votes Provided For Race

And now, since the committee has met, there is definitely going to be a queen to rule over the crowds and the cow pokes, to bring a touch of royalty, however briefly, to the Sherman County Fair.

The election of said queen is to be an event crowded between the dates of August 5, which is next Monday and September 4, which is the Wednesday after Labor day. And high noon of that day will be the final moment.

The Rules:

1. The queen may be any Sherman County girl over 16, who can ride and handle a horse.

2. She shall be the girl who acquires the most votes by selling or having sold for her, tickets to the fair on the following basis: Season tickets, \$2.25 each, 5000 votes.

Day ticket, \$1.00 each, 500 votes. Children's Season ticket, \$1.25 each, 1000 votes. Children's day ticket, .50 each, 250 votes.

Each additional dollar turned in, 500 votes.

3. The four girls who are next highest to the queen will be named princesses.

4. Tickets will be counted each Wednesday noon August 7-14-21-28 and September 4.

5. The committee in charge of counting is: T. Lester Johnson, Wasco; Carrel Bennett, Moro; Dewey Thompson, Harlandview; E. M. Alley, Grass Valley; J. M. Wilson, Kent; Atlee Wilson, Rufus.

6. Queen and four princesses are given an outfit.

7. Tickets will be available at the office of the county agent next Monday, August 5, when girls can register for the contest.

8. Votes are not transferable.

9. There will be attached to each ticket a stub which will give the buyer the right to cast additional votes for his choice for queen.

10. The ticket printed in this issue and subsequent issues will be good for 100 votes if given to contestant or voted for her. Boxes are to be found at the Wasco Pharmacy, First National Bank and Ed Alley's Confectionery. Now there you are folks. Just step right up and help pick your queen.

Among those mentioned as contestants are Catherine Fridley, Marjorie Rich, June Wilde, Claudine Thompson, Betty Powell, Helen Morrison, Vivian Fuller, Betty Lou Olds, Vivian Fritta, Emma Jean Eakn and other girls of the county who can ride.

Use of Gasoline Large In June

Oregon motorists and visiting motorists burned 26,145,735 gallons of gasoline during the month of June, an increase of 24 percent over the gasoline consumption for the same month of 1939, figures compiled by Earl Snell, secretary of state, revealed today.

The June consumption was 5,065,553 gallons over the 1939 June consumption and set a new all-time record for one month's use of gasoline in this state. The highest previous month was July of last year when consumption totaled 25,150,011 gallons.

Tax paid on the gasoline this June amounted to \$1,307,287.05 which is an increase of \$253,277.73 over the gasoline tax for last June.

"This remarkable increase in the use of gasoline in Oregon during June must be attributed largely to increased travel on the part of Oregon residents," Snell commented. "Non-resident registrations decreased 14 percent during the month, indicating fewer tourists than for the corresponding month a year ago."

Another factor believed partly responsible for the increased consumption is the increase in motor vehicle registration in this state. At the end of June this year, there were 371,664 motor vehicles registered in Oregon, 21,820 more than for the same period last year. Private cars totaled 305,124, an increase of 16,845 vehicles.

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