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Sherman County Journal

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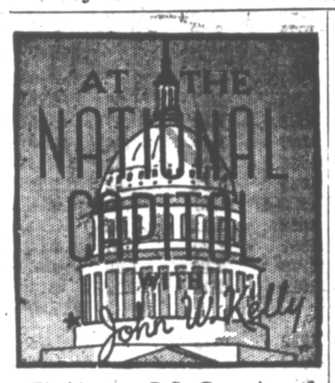

Washington, D.C., December 26, —There is a wild stampede to become Americans among the approximately 4,000,000 registered aliens. Exact number will not be known for a few days, but the last report showed Oregon with 24,056 and Washington with 63,673. California is booming along with 409,630 and Idaho has 4,195. Only New York (with almost one million) has more registered aliens than California.

For years many aliens have drifted along giving no thought to taking out their "papers" until they were suddenly shaken out of their complacency by the order from Congress to register, and then the scramble began. Probably all but a few aliens have registered, and these deliberately made themselves scarce, but will be picked up later. For the first time it is definitely known how many there are in the United States. Heretofore the authorities have under-stated the facts by anywhere from one to two million.

All over the land Americanization schools are in progress and a new crop of citizens is in the making. Meanwhile, other aliens are arriving, too late for registration; they are refugees from Europe.

The current congress has tied itself up in a knot. It cannot adjourn without a rollcall and there are not enough members present to make a quorum. For weeks (since election) congress has been marking time and will continue to do so until the hour of final adjournment. On the theory that if the European situation was such that Mr. Roosevelt dare not get further away from the capital than 12 hours, congress should also remain on hand, a sufficient number—Democrats and Republicans—agreed to stick. Having adopted this policy, a majority of the senators and representatives rushed home, where they still are. This has left a handful to go thru the motions of meeting twice a week: not enough to transact business. The rub will come when an attempt is made to pass a bill for mileage to cover railroad fare for the unauthorized visit home.

Despite the wish of President Roosevelt that the inauguration be as simple as possible, the committee in charge is planning an 11-day celebration. The committee explains that a smashing big celebration, with everyone taking part, will impress the Latin-Americas and will demonstrate to Herr Hitler that the United States is behind its chief executive. Officially, the inaugural will be on January 20—and everyone is hoping that the weather will be good, although the records show January 20 as stormy. Tickets are now selling in a range from $2.50 to $10.

A new set-up is being discussed for the CCC camps (1,500 all told). The demand for reserve officers in the army is draining this personnel and owing to the national defense activities there is a proposal to permit some other agency than the army to furnish the food and clothing heretofore looked after by the quartermaster department. There are CCC camps spotted all over the Pacific northwest and they represent money to the immediate vicinity. In the past seven years 2,728,977 enrollees have benefited from CCC camps, the average number in camp at one time being 300,000. Earnings sent home have helped 10,000,000 dependents. While almost all the camps are engaged in some sort of conservation, nine are engaged in strictly notional defense projects for the army.

Suggestion is made that a commission be appointed by the president to advise how national resources can be used for defense needs without imperiling the future supply. Such a board, for example, would pass on the matter of cutting of spruce in Olympia national forest, Washington—which is now proposed—the canning of salmon from the Columbia and Alaska; the pack of tunafish, California sardines; production of

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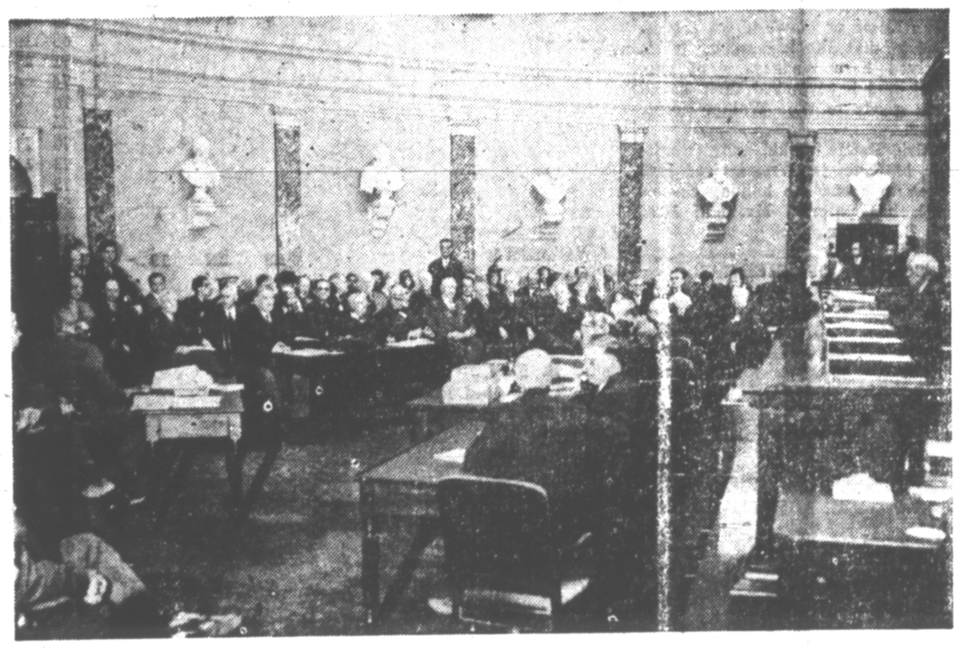
Senate Convenes in Old Court Chamber



Scene as senate convenes in the original U. S. senate chamber used by them from December, 1819, to January, 1859, then used by the Supreme court from 1860 to 1935. The move was made because of repairs to roofs of the regular house and senate chambers. Photo shows Sen. William King, president pro tem of senate (right) on rostrum.

Americans Spend Much Money For Cosmetics

Americans spend $400,000,000 annually for cosmetics and less than $300,000,000 for both industrial and agricultural research.

Despite the fact that there are agricultural experiment stations in every state, only $44,829,759 was spent on agricultural research in 1939, or less than one-fifth of the amount spent for industrial research.

These were some little known facts brought out by C. A. Suneson, in charge of wheat research in the Pacific coast region, who came from Davis, California to address the Eastern Oregon Wheat league in Pendleton recently. Of the amount spent strictly for agricultural research, slightly under $25,000,000 is supplied by the federal government, while just over $20,000,000 is from state funds.

"Some people believe that crop improvement work is primarily concerned with making two blades of grass grow where one grew before," Suneson pointed out. "That is largely fiction. While we are trying to maintain productivity in the face of declining fertility and intensified disease and insect hazards in wheat research, we are also directly concerned with the improvement of quality through the reduction of smut, and distribution of pure seed, and with increasing our knowledge of inheritance, diseases, insect pests, and chemistry and physiology of the wheat plant."

The speaker called attention to the outstanding contributions made in wheat breeding. He discussed the development of Rex wheat in Oregon, of Albit and Hymar in Washington, and of the new hybrid variety, Relief, in California.

"Improvements such as these do mean increased production in the sense that we eliminate losses from certain hazards, but in doing this we also tend to stabliize production because of more certain results and lower production costs," he pointed out.

One of the problems now being worked on with considerable success is to breed varieties with shorter straw so that less difficulty will be encountered in higher rainfall areas in practicing the trashy fallow system for erosion control, he addeed.

G. V. LODGES CELEBRATE

Masonic families gathered Tuesday night for their Christmas party. The children entertained with a Christmas program, games were played, refreshments served at a late hour. This was also birthday anniversaries for some of the members. A beautifully decorated tree stood at one end of the hall with wrapped gifts stacked beneath and everyone received gifts

Members of the Rebekah lodge and families and Odd Fellows and families and friends gathered at the lodge hall Wednesday evening for their Christmas party which was in the form of a barn dance. The hall was decorated with corn shocks, pumpkins and shocks of grain. Gifts were exchanged and refreshments served at a late hour to about 75.

Sherman County Pioneer Passes Friday Afternoon

Albert M. Wright died Friday afternoon in a hospital in The Dalles after an illness of several weeks.

He was born in Zanesville, Ohio, March 26, 1860 and lived in that state as a youth learning the marble cutting trade from his father who was a contractor and builder. March 22, 1883 Mr. Wright was married to Jessie F. Adams with whom he celebrated their golden wedding anniversary here in 1933. She passed away on October 7, 1934.

In the spring of 1884 the Wrights, father and son, came to Oregon and settled, with their families on land in what is now Sherman county. Their homesteads were east of Grass Valley in the settlement of Rutledge and they were active in establishing the Rutledge church there. He was a lifelong member of the Methodist faith.

Later Al Wright moved to a farm east of Hay Canyon where he lived until he retired from farming nearly 30 years ago. He moved to Moro where he engaged in the hardware and implement business with R. J. Ginn and J. E. Coleman in the firm of Ginn, Coleman & Co., continuing in that business until its sale last year.

Mr. Wright was always active in public affairs and served his school district, his town, county and state in many positions. He was elected county commissioner in 1901 and served two terms in that capacity. He was councilman of Moro for 20 years being active in many civic improvements during that time. In 1918 he was elected to the state legislature, serving two regular and two special terms in Salem. This was during the period when highways were being built over the state which gave the representative an opportunity to aid materially in getting the Sherman highway through this county.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Charles Belshee and Mrs. Howard Belshee both of Moro, an adopted son, Ray Havener of Klickitat, Washington; three sisters, Mrs. D. H. Leech, Mrs. Walter Frazier of Yakima, Washington and Mrs. Johnnie O'Leary of Montana.

The funeral was held Sunday afternoon at two o'clock from the Presbyterian church with Rev. H. G. Hanson officiating. Interment was made in the Moro cemetery beside the body of his wife.

December 31 Deadline For Wheat Loans

December 31 is the last date on which wheat loans can be made says the county agent. Those wishing to borrow on their crop from the government have three days in which to complete the arrangements. Several loans have been made recently because of the prevailing low price of wheat.

Prize Winners In Drawing Announced

The final drawing of the Moro Community club was held Saturday afternoon at the Moro Hotel with W. F. McLeod acting the Santa Claus part. Those receiving gifts were Lucy Ruggles, Wayne Thompson, Lyle Woods, Mrs. Clyde Gillmor, Herb Hardman, Donald Thompson, D. M. Russel, Mrs. Wesley Fuller, C. F. Lemon, Margaret Caldwell, Bob Hoskinson, W. B. Rice, Mrs. L. L. Peetz, S. A. Hall, D. Helyer, May Belshe, E. Amidon, Russell Hollinshead, in the order named.

Sherman County May Have CCC Enrollee

Kenneth Walker, county welfare administrator, announced this week that the quota for Sherman county to the CCCorp is one youth between the age of 17 and 23 and a half. The financial restrictions have been lifted so any one qualifying otherwise may join. Application should be made to Mr. Walker.

Civil Service Announces Tests

The United States Civil Service Commission has announced that applications will be accepted at its Washington office for the positions listed below.

Accounting and auditing assistant, $1,800 a year. Applicants must have completed two years of study, which included accountancy, in a residence school; or have had 3 years of experience in bookkeeping, accounting, or auditing; or they must be certified public accountants. Closing dates January 2, 1941.

Junior warehouse examiner, $2,000 a year, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture. The optional subjects are cotton warehouses and grain warehouses. Applicants must have completed at least 14 units of high-school study, unless they pass a general written test. They must also have had appropriate experience in cotton or grain warehouses, or in banking institutions engaged in financing such businesses. Closing date January 9, 1941.

SEAL SALE PROGRESSING

Reports made to the county chairman by the local chairmen on December 23 are as follows: Wasco $107.55, Rufus $33.30, Kent $18.25, Grass Valley $78.30, Moro $115.00. Total to date is $352.40. These Christmas seals finance the county, state, and national campaign for the eradication of tuberculosis. By the sale of Christmas seals, the Sherman County Health association, which retains 70 per cent of every dollar's worth of stamps sold in the county, aids greatly in controlling tuberculosis in our community, Miss Holmes pointed out.

"Help protect your home by buying Christmas seals."

Trashy Fallow Holds Water Better In 1940

First Year's Testing Shows Rough Fallow Wetter In October

The merits of trashy summer fallow have been cussed and discussed during recent years. The purpose of the experiments being conducted on both the Sherman and Pendleton Branch Experiment Stations is to assemble reliable information about the use of straw on or close to the surface. In connection with the value of straw as a brake on evaporation during the summer, the following figures from the Moro station are of interest. Soil samples were taken during the first half of October. They show that for 1940 the sub-surface tillage which leaves all straw on the surface conserved more moisture than the one-way disk or moldboard fallow which were second and third, in that order. This year, to use the figures, on eight inch plowing there was 1.06 inches more moisture in six feet of soil under the sub-surface tillage than under moldboard fallow The one-way disk, under the same conditions showed .39" more moisture than the moldboard fallow.

Differences in 5" plowing were not so great. The average of 5" and 8" plowing showed 10.78" as total moisture in six feet of soil for the moldboard fallow, 11.57" for the sub-surface tillage (all straw on top) and 11.02" for the one-way disk fallow.

Of course all of this total moisture is not usable by plants. Figuring the amount of usable moisture there was 5.26 inches in the moldboard fallow (average of 5" and 8" plowing) 6.05" in the sub-surface tillage and 5.50" in the one-way disk fallow.

Rates For Farm Payments To Be Less

Rates for farm benefit payments under the AAA for 1941, which are again arranged so as to place more emphasis on soil conservation have been approved by the secretary of agriculture and announced for the guidance of all local AAA officials throughout the country.

Rates of importance to Oregon are in some cases slightly lower than were announced a year ago, although they are on approximately the same level as actual payments this year. The previously announced rates were reduced slightly because of heavier participation in the program than anticipated, says Will Steen, state AAA committee chairman.

The national goal for soil depleting crops is announced as the same as this year, that is between 270,000,000 and 285,000,000 acres. The goal for wheat in 1941 is from 60,000,000 to 65,000,000 acres, also the same as this year. Actual plantings for 1940 harvest totaled 64,388,000 acres, as compared with a 10-year average from 1928 to 1937 of 69,310,000 acres.

The acreage goal for potatoes is also the same as this year at 3,100,000 to 3,300,000 acres. Acreage planted in 1940 totaled 3,122,000 acres, while the average harvested acreage for the 10 years ending in 1937 was 1,705,000 acres.

The wheat payment for wheat allotment farms has been set at 8 cents per bushel of the normal yield on each allotment. A deduction of 50 cents per bushel of the normal yield will be made for each acre planted to wheat in excess of the wheat acreage allotment on each participating farm. No announcement has yet been made regarding the rate of wheat parity payments to be made in 1941.

The rate of payment for potatoes grown within the allotment is 2.3 cents a bushel, compared with 2.7 cents paid in 1940. Other rates of interest to Oregon are commercial vegetables, $1.30 per acre compared with $1.35 this year; and soil building allowance rates, which determine the amount of conservation payments to be earned, set at approximately the same levels as this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Grady left Tuesday with Christmas gifts for their children. They were going to the home of their son Ed for Christmas and will be joined there by Nyal and wife.

Flu Finds Victim In Nearly Every Family Here

It seems that the flu is going to put everyone in bed before the epidemic is stopped. Every family in town and the surrounding country has one or more members in bed or moping around.

The disease has not been bad and no one has been seriously ill from it. They have coughs, chills and fever and aching backs, and feel much more comfortable in bed. They usually get up in a day or two and go about their work again but without much pep.

A list of those who have been down with it would read like a roll call of the citizens of the community. Several families have had four out of five sick at once.

W. L. Wilson and Wife To Celebrate

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Wilson of Rufus are celebrating fifty years of married life next Sunday, December 29. True, this date is short a few weeks of the actual fifty years but all the family is to be home Sunday.

Mr. Wilson was born July 4, 1864 at Mountain City, Tenn., and Mrs. Wilson was born July 9, 1872 at Estellville, Va. They were married at Bentonville, Ark., January 18, 1891. In May of that year they left for the west, landing at Grants. They went to work for Pat McDonald and later took up land near his place.

All five of the living children will be present December 29. They are four boys, Dow of John Day, Dwight of Berkeley, Cal., Atlee of Rufus, and Charles of Moro, and a daughter in Portland. The meeting will be held in the grange hall, and all friends are invited to come from 2 to 5 p.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Ruggles are here for Christmas, coming from St. Helens, where Phil is working.

1939 Driest Year 1940 Wettest In County History

Oddity In Weather Antics Made By December Rains

Here is one for the book.

Last year, 1939, was the driest calendar year ever recorded in Sherman county, there being but 6.43 inches of moisture coming down in the entire twelve months from January 1 to January 1.

With the rains of the past week 1940 has been the wettest year ever recorded in Sherman county with 15.13 inches of rainfall up to Thursday morning.

A few years ago we were all talking about trends in rainfall and long time drouth periods. It seems that this breaking of records at both ends of the scale in two successive years might do something to that theory.

The highest rainfall for any calendar year before 1940 was in 1937 when 14.91 inches fell.

December bids fair to be slightly drier than usual, for only 1.03 inches had fallen by Thursday. Rain was still falling, however, and it may reach an inch and a half by the first of the year.

Weather for the week:

Date	Max.	Min.	Prec.
19	38	29	.10
20	42	32	.23
21	39	31	.12
22	42	32	T
23	41	31	.10
24	47	31	.04
25	47	32	T

"BLIND DRIVING"

When a driver takes his eyes off the road for only one second when traveling at a speed of thirty miles an hour his car covers a distance of 40 feet, according to the public safety department of Oregon State Motor Association.

Miss Norma Melzer came up from Portland to celebrate Christmas at home.

Treasurer Is Principal Change In State Officers For 1941

—By A. L. Lindbeck

Salem, Or., Dec. 26.—Oregon's official family will continue to function with only one major change of personnel after the first of the year. Leslie M. Scott of Portland, the voters' choice for state treasurer in the recent election will take over the duties now performed by Walter E. Pearson on January 6. In addition to his duties as state treasurer Scott will also sit in as a member of the Board of Control, Land Board, Printing Board and State Bond commission. In compliance with the statutory provision that requires the treasurer-elect to take the oath of office within twenty days of his official notification Scott was sworn in by Justice Percy R. Kelly this week, the simple ceremony taking place in the presence of a few friends in the supreme court chamber.

Incidentally, Justice Kelly becomes chief justice of the supreme court after January 1, succeeding Justice John L. Rand who has held that post of honor for the past two years.

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In addition to the $19,500,000 of general fund cash which it is estimated will be required to finance appropriation-supported state activities during the next two years, state boards, commissions and departments will spend the huge sum of $87,000,000 according to estimates filed with the state budget director. Greatest spending agency will be the highway department whose budget calls for a total of $31,000,000 financed largely through gasoline taxes, automobile licenses and federal grants. Expenditures of the Public Welfare commission are estimated at $19,200,000 including liquor profits, federal aid and county contributions toward relief of the needy. The Unemployment Compensation commission expects to disburse $9,700,000 in jobless insurance payments and administrative costs, financed through taxes on industrial payrolls. Expenditures of the Industrial Accident commission are estimated at $9,500,000 in benefit payments to injured workmen and their dependents. Expenditures by other non-general fund activities include: World War Veterans State Aid commission, $5,00,000;000; Fish, game, forestry and agriculture departments, $3,200000; education (in addition to appropriations from general fund) $3,000,000; public utilities commission and other regulatory bodies, $2,000,000; general government, $900,000; health and sanitation, $400,000.

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A discarded measure of the 1935 session has been dug out of the scrap heap, dusted off and is being presented to members of the forthcoming legislative session as the solution to the problem of what to do with the state's aged residents. Briefly, the measure provides for a retirement annuity of $60 per month, or so much thereof as finance will permit, to all residents of the state who have passed their sixtieth birthday and who are ready to cease gainful employment. The retirement annuity would be financed through a tax on wages, salaries and other individual incomes. The 1935 measure called for a tax of one percent with a provision that this levy could be increased to a maximum of two and one half percent if experience proved the one percent levy to be inadquate. The measure has the support of leaders of the old age pension movement who, it is understood, will offer it to the session as a substitute for the program to be offered by the governor's interim committee for the retirement of public employees.

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Lt. Col. Elmer V. Wooten, state director for selective service, returned Friday from Washington, D. C., where he conferred with national officials on problems connected with the draft. While no official word has yet been received on the subject Wooten expects a call for a large number of Oregon men for military training in January.

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One of the biggest problems confronting the approaching legislative session will be that of reapportioning the state. While the constitution provides that this task shall be undertaken every ten years, following each federal cen-

(Continued on page four)