

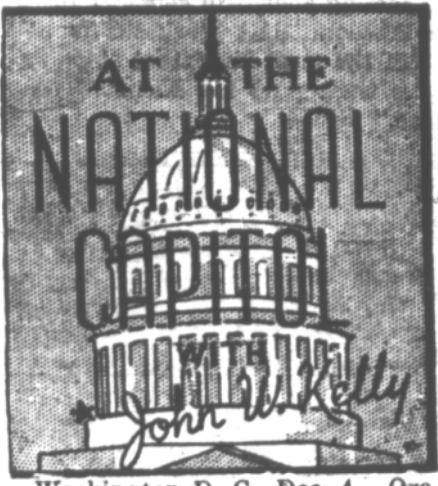
Oregon Historical Society

Sherman County Journal

Fifty-Fourth Year No. 5

Moro, Oregon, Friday, December 5, 1941

Official County Paper



Washington D. C., Dec. 4.—Oregon farmers are prepared to co-operate in overcoming the shortage of flax provided there is federal assistance in furnishing equipment. There are 900 acres of flax in the Willamette Valley (300 acres in other states, principally Washington), but expansion is handicapped by lack of facilities to process the fiber. Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard wants 400 new acres in Oregon, at least, yet makes no suggestion of necessary equipment for the additional acreage. There the matter rests for the present.

On present acreage the government has been paying Oregon flax farmers a small bonus, just enough plus the market price, to make flax raising worth while, but there is a limit to the retting and scutching plants and this must be increased if the government wants more flax. The war has shut off previous sources of supply of flax and there is a shortage for the most ordinary purposes—linen thread to sew shoes for the army, is an instance; twine for the fishermen's nets, not to mention linen sheets, tablecloth, napkins and handkerchiefs. Senator McNary is endeavoring to convince the government that \$500,000 is needed for flax and hemp (latter grown in Kentucky and Wisconsin) and for processing.

Sometime in January, probably, the senate will take up the price-fixing bill passed by the house. There is no prospect of the senate committee acting on the measure this year and it is such a touchy subject that the senate is willing to delay action and consider what the public thinks of the bill developed in the house. The house bill is regarded as an administration defeat, for it eliminated the license feature and instead of having one man to fix prices it provided a board of five who can sit down on any ceiling that the administration proposes. The license system would compel everyone in business to obtain a license to sell anything and if a merchant charged more than the fixed price he would be promptly put out of business by taking away his license. This was regarded as too drastic and not in accord with the American plan of doing business; there was also the possibility that the administration might freeze out so many dealers that the remaining number would have a monopoly.

Real objection was against Leon Henderson, present price administrator and presumably the president's choice to handle the price control act. Congressman Martin Dies, in open session during the debate, charged that in the Henderson organization there are 50 known communists and in the top flight officials are four who receive from \$5000 to \$7500. These charges have been made before and Henderson has never given an explanation other than to say he is an American citizen. This resentment to Henderson was in part responsible for rolling up the heavy vote against the bill proposed by the administration and amending it until it was more in keeping with what a majority of the house thought was better.

Neither wages nor the price of farm products are placed under control. The bill was passed by a non-partisan vote.

What the senate will do is problematical. The farm bloc is solid for not placing a ceiling on farm products and another group is determined not to freeze wages. This legislation will be the next big moment in the senate after the labor restriction measure, which held the boards in the house last week has been disposed of.

Of special interest to various communities in Oregon is an investigation of the copper situation now being staged. This has been agitated by rural electrification administration which complains that private utility companies have "hogged" all the copper wire, some of which is needed to string the bare poles of many farmer cooperatives financed by REA. Miles and miles of wire is needed, but owing

Commissioner



Ernest R. Fatland, Condon, who was named to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission by Governor Sprague. Fatland formerly represented this district in the legislature and was speaker of the house in the 1939 session.

Health Unit Giving TB Tests

Tuberculin tests, sponsored by the Wasco-Sherman County Health Association, will be given by Dr. Bourg to the children in the northern part of Sherman county on Tuesday, December 9th in Moro at 10 a. m. At Wasco at 1 in the afternoon and at Rufus at 2 p. m.

These tests will be given for ten cents which will be applied on any x-rays for those children who are reactors. Adults may also take this test if they will be at the designated place and time. This is one of the activities supported by the sale of Christmas seals.

Good Steers Still Bring \$12.00

The following quotations are based on prices being paid in Wednesday's trading:

CATTLE: Good grain fed steers \$11.00 to 12.50. Good grass steers \$9.50 to 10.75. Good grain fed heifers \$10.00 to 10.75. Good grass heifers \$9.00 to 9.75. Good beef cows \$7.25 to 8.25, medium \$6.75 to 7.25, common \$6.00 to 6.75, canners \$4.25 to 5.75. Bulls, medium to good \$7.50 to 9.00, common \$6.00 to 7.25. Vealers good to choice \$11.50 to 13.00.

HOGS: Good to choice 170 to 215 lb trucks \$10.50 to 10.75; 230 to 285 lb butchers \$9.50 to 10.00; lightweight butchers \$9.50 to 10.00; packing sows \$7.00 to 7.75. Feeder pigs \$9.50 to 10.00.

SHEEP: Good to choice spring lambs \$9.75 to 10.75; medium to good \$9.00 to 9.75; common \$7.00 to 8.75. Slaughter ewes, good to choice \$4.00 to 5.25. Feeder lambs good to choice \$8.00 to 9.00. Shorn lambs \$9.00 to 9.40.

Farm Security Loaning To Farmers

Farm Security loans in Wasco and Sherman counties are being concentrated on financing sound expansion of dairy, hog, poultry, feed crops and garden enterprises to aid FSA borrowers and other farm families in meeting the "Food for Freedom" quotas set up by the County Agricultural Defense Board, reports A. J. Deggeordfer, County FSA supervisor.

"Every effort will be made to help farmers unable to secure adequate credit from other sources to purchase the cows, hogs, poultry, seed, feed and equipment necessary to place their farms on an all-out defense production basis," Deggeordfer said. "Where facilities for defense food expansion are available, farmers will not only be able to add to their incomes but prevent inflation by producing food for which there is increased demand."

Modification of the neutrality act, making American ships available for carrying food to Britain, is expected to substantially increase present demand for defense foods, it was pointed out. "Another important consideration," said Deggeordfer, "is the fact that the machinery for supporting defense food prices crop controls and need for feeding Europe and replacing breeding herds after the

AAA Officers To Be Elected Next Week

Conference At Corvallis Will Occupy First Week of New Farmer Officers

Election of officers for the five communities of the county for committees for the AAA will be held next Thursday at meeting places in the districts.

As has been the rule for several years members of the AAA group will ballot on names to select a chairman, a vice-chairman and a committeeman from each district. Also chosen are two alternates to take the place of any committeeman who cannot serve. Then a delegate to the county convention is elected, and an alternate for him.

The following day, Friday, December 12, the county convention will meet at the court house to choose members of the county committee.

The county committee of five then chooses its officers. This is the group that does the largest amount of work in connection with the management of the local AAA although community committeemen arrange for meetings and handle some complaints.

The following week the new officers of the county AAA together with the county agent and Dewey Thompson, AAAA office manager, will go to Corvallis for a state conference which will be held December 15-17.

RAIN FALLS AGAIN

Rain fell over the county Tuesday and caused all outside work to stop for the day. Fields were soaked again and many roads made almost impassible. It has rained a little since then and the wind has blown every day.

State Road Program Aided But Little By Federal Appropriation

Salem, Ore., Dec. 4.—While Oregon will receive only \$410,000 out of the \$25,000,000 recently appropriated by Congress for the improvement of strategic state highways the state will receive other substantial funds set aside in the new highway appropriations measure for the construction of access roads and flight strips adjacent to public highways in the opinion of R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer.

Should the war department decide to construct the proposed cantonment in the Benton-Polk county area, as now seems probable any relocation or widening of the west side highway necessitated by this project will probably be financed out of the new federal appropriation. Likewise highway improvements necessitated by construction of the cantonment near Medford would also come in for federal aid as an access road.

Most of the \$410,000 state is expected to receive for use on strategic highways is expected to go toward the strengthening of bridges in order to stand the strain imposed by heavy military equipment.

Governor Sprague has let it be known that he will be in no hurry to appoint a new adjutant general to succeed the late General George A. White. Inasmuch as the national guard is now in federal service the state has no great need for the services of an adjutant general and such routine duties as are required are now being performed by Lt. Col. Elmer V. Wooten in his dual capacity of state director of selective service and acting adjutant general. Incidentally, when the governor does get around to making this appointment it is believed that the plum will go to Wooten or to Brigadier General Thos. E. Rilea, commander of the 82nd brigade (Oregon infantry troops) with the 41st division now stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington.

Unemployment compensation benefit payments during the first ten months of 1941 were the lowest in the four years' experience of this commission totalling only \$2,193,745, or \$1,600,000 under the 1940 figures for the same period.

Petitions Signed For PUD In Part of County

Petitions have been filed with the county clerk asking that the state hydro-electric commission make a survey of an area cut out of Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow and Wheeler counties to determine the feasibility of forming a PUD district.

The towns of Sherman county and presumably of the other counties would be included as well as a considerable part of the farmers along the projected route.

Matt Schwendel has circulated many of the petitions in the north end of the county. Morton Tompkins, agent of Bonneville administration, is doing much of the organization work.

Wasco Auxiliary Aids Child Welfare

The American Legion Auxiliary met at the home of Mrs. Esther Kaseberg and arranged to send gifts to the Veteran's hospital and for child welfare. Hospital gifts totaled \$15.65. The Auxiliary's Christmas tree barrel will be put out December 13 and the collection will be used for needy families of the community. The Auxiliary had previously bought a defense bond worth \$100.

GORDON REID TO ARMY

Gordon Wilson Reid left Tuesday by stage for the induction center in Portland from where he will go to Camp Murray to be sent to what ever point the army thinks he is best suited. A call for a larger group of men than has yet been wanted is expected for next month but it has not been made to date. A new method of computing the number wanted from each county will relieve this county somewhat, it is expected.

Lamb Feeding Experiment Ends At Wheat League

Three Local Boys Contest In Feeding Wheat To Pens of Market Lambs

Three Sherman county boys have been feeding a pen of lambs in order to compete in the Eastern Oregon Wheat League's feeding contest at Heppner this week end. Elton Medler of Rufus, Clyde Fridley jr., of Wasco and Shelton Fritts jr. of Grass Valley have fed 12 lambs using wheat as the only grain ration.

These lambs will be taken to Heppner Friday morning where they will be weighed and graded immediately upon arrival. They will be on exhibition until Saturday when they will all be taken to Portland for sale and slaughter.

Tuesday of next week all 30 of the boys will go to Portland to attend a program sponsored by the extension service and Swift & Co. and the following morning will be guests of the packing company on an inspection tour on which they will examine the carcasses of the lambs and see how the selling is done by commission firms.

This is the first year of the feeding contest. Thirty 4-H club boys in the wheat area have been caring for these pens of 12 lambs and have used wheat as feed. Wheat league officials have long held that lambs can be fed out on wheat and compete with those fed any other way. This contest was arranged for a test.

Crop Insurance Expanding Yearly

Expanding each year since its introduction in Oregon in 1939, federal all-risk wheat crop insurance is headed for its greatest volume in 1942 from the standpoint of number of farms covered by policies, according to Clyde Kiddle, crop insurance assistant with the state AAA office.

Applications for insurance on winter wheat have been received from 5563 farms. Spring wheat policies are yet to be written, the closing date being February 28. For the 1941 crop year, 4691 policies were in force for both winter and spring wheat.

The loss record for 1941 presents a sharply contrasting picture between eastern and western Oregon, Kiddle reports. Of the 1228 loss claims paid up to November 15, only 122 came from the nine Columbia basin wheat counties. Most of the losses were reported in the Willamette valley, where insects and plant diseases hit many farms. Hail and excessive moisture led as the causes of eastern Oregon losses.

Nearly every kind of crop hazard is represented in the losses paid so far. Percentages of the total indemnities paid for each cause of loss were given as follows:

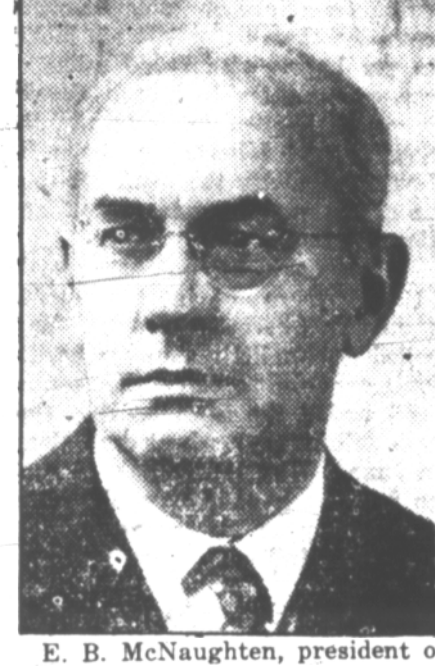
Plant diseases, 29.2 per cent; excessive moisture, 18.2 per cent; insects, 16.9 per cent; hail, 9.9 per cent; drought, 8.4 per cent; frost, 5.6 per cent; weeds, 2.5 per cent; volunteer vegetation, 2.5 per cent; migratory birds, 1.4 per cent; rodents, 1.2 per cent; winter kill, 1.1 per cent; fire, 1 per cent; crusting, .7 per cent; wind, .5 per cent; flood, .4 per cent; lack of irrigation water, .3 per cent; stray stock, .1 per cent; poor farming practices .1 per cent; dust storms, .06 per cent.

LOCAL GIRL HAS GRADES

Oregon State College, Corvallis, Nov. 4.—Claudine Lola Thompson of Moro, freshman in home economics at Oregon State college, is one of 60 freshman women recently invited by Alpha Lambda Delta, sophomore women's scholastic honor society, to be guests of the society at a formal dinner.

Alpha Lambda Delta sponsors this annual event to which all freshmen women who made better than "B" averages while in high school are invited. The purpose of the dinner is to encourage high scholastic achievement among the freshmen. At the end of their first year all girls who make a college grade point average of 3.33 or better are entitled to become members of Alpha Lambda Delta.

Speaker



E. B. McNaughten, president of the First National Bank of Portland, who will speak before the Eastern Oregon Wheat League at Heppner today.

Grass Valley High Gives Mystery Show

Grass Valley High School students, under the direction of Mrs. Ellen Potter, presented a mystery play last Saturday night at the auditorium. It was really a mystery, in fact three mysteries rolled into one baffling show that moved from one to another with each bang of the outside door announcing a new character with another complication.

Dress rehearsal night of a high school play was depicted but surely none was ever held with quite so many complications ending with a call on the red suspended village sheriff whose bravery was less apparent than his moustache. The audience enjoyed every bit of it and the cast showed good training for their parts.

PREXYS OFFER PRIZE

District presidents, Floye von Borstel, Cecilia Palmer and Cora Richards of three eastern Oregon American Legion Auxiliary districts are offering a traveling trophy to the unit of the three districts that makes the best record in child welfare work. It is to be awarded to the unit, regardless of size, whose annual questionnaire and accompanying report indicates the greatest contribution to the education and health of the children of the community while following the state child welfare program.

Mid-Columbia C of C Meets Next Week

Following a conference between the group's president, Edward E. Lage of Hood River, and W. S. Nelson, secretary, who is manager of The Dalles chamber of commerce it was announced Monday that Columbia river highway and Old Oregon Trail modernization, adequate publicly owned Columbia river crossings to connect the Oregon and Washington highways of the mid-Columbia and eastern Oregon, and a recognition of plans for the Old Oregon Trail and Champeo centennial celebration in 1943 will form chief topics of featured speakers at the annual banquet of the Mid-Columbia chamber of commerce at the Columbia Gorge hotel, Hood River, Tuesday evening November 9.

Banquet speakers listed by President Lage are:

Discussion of modernization of U. S. Highway No. 30 from Troutdale east, Charles H. Reynolds, head of the Oregon Trail Association, LaGrande; C. D. Bickelson, Hood River county judge; and Russell Coldwell, member of the staff of the main bank of the First National of Portland; A review of development on the Columbia ship channel with a reference to the hamper existing because of lack of adequate crossing of the Columbia river, W. S. Nelson; activities of the United States army engineer, Colonel Richard Park, division engineer of Portland; plans for the 1943 Old Oregon Trail centennial celebration, Kenneth L. Hicks, member of Governor Sprague's commission of five, The Dalles.

An invitation has been extended to United States Senator Rufus C. Holman, who, it was stated, will address the meeting on "The Washington Picture," provided he is not called to Washington before the banquet.

A business meeting and conferences of committees will be held at 4 p. m. Officers will be elected for the ensuing year.

Court Hears Farm Requests For Gravel

Committee Named To Arrange Participation In 1943 Pioneer Celebration

No great problem confronted the county court when it met Wednesday morning. With the budget out of the way and most of the year's work done the only excitement was the flurry caused by a group of farmers from the Grass Valley section who wanted gravel spread on the roads leading to their farms.

V. B. Eakin offered to help haul and spread gravel if it could be used to surface the Rutledge road east of the school house and south to his place. He also asked for surfacing on the ridge road which connects the Lone Rock market road with the Rutledge market road. Carl Adams, L. D. Eakin and Harold Eakin were also interested in rock for the roads around Rutledge while the crusher is within hauling distance.

Arzell Lemley, Norris Gilkison and John Rolfe wanted gravel in the low places on roads south and west of town.

To all the court promised to look over the country Monday and see what could be done with the road material on hand.

The court also appointed a group of men to be known as the 1943 Pioneer Centennial committee which will aid the celebration plans of the state and other counties in observance of the one-hundredth anniversary of the first wagon train across the grass covered slopes of the county.

Members of this committee are Judge Potter, Commissioners J. M. Wilson and David Reid, mayors of the three towns, T. Lester Johnson, Giles L. French and A. A. Dunlap, Wily Knighten, Fred Krurow, E. D. McKee, Claude Thompson, A. H. Barnum and W. G. McDonald.

Bills were paid including one for a new dump truck which is being used to take gravel away from the crusher at present.

Club Talks About Sherars Grade

The Moro Breakfast club found public affairs sufficiently important to take up the entire time of the Wednesday morning meeting. Action voted was to the effect that petitions be circulated in this county and in Wasco county for presentation to the Wasco county court asking improvement on the west side of Sherars' grade as far as the school house.

It was pointed out by Martin Meizer that on this side of the river the road is being improved and the Wasco side is still rough.

Controversy arose over the request of the SCS that the club distribute calls for bids on the fire wood remaining at the camp. This resulted in a review of the relations between the fair board and the army and the SCS and resulted in the bids being turned over to the fair board for distribution.

Farmers Borrow Heavily on Wheat

In Sherman county the farmers have borrowed \$2,441,879.48 from the Commodity Credit Corporation on wheat grown here this year. A great part of this is on wheat in warehouses and elevators although \$214,517.12 of this total has been loaned on farm stored wheat.

This represents 2,538,948 bushels of grain and is the principal income of 843 farmers or land owners.

MANY ELK KILLED

A total of 3557 elk were killed in the Eastern Oregon area during the recent elk season, according to figures released by the Oregon State Game Commission.

Records compiled at checking stations maintained by the Commission showed that 8788 hunters checked into the hunting area, and considering the duplications, it was estimated that approximately 8000 hunters engaged in the elk hunt.

Of the 3557 elk killed, 1168 were bulls, 1727 were cows and 662 were calves.