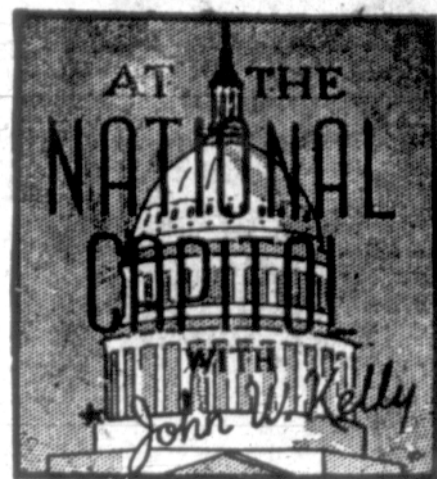


Sherman County Journal

Fifty-Fifth Year No. 21

Moro, Oregon, Friday, April 2, 1943

Official County Paper



WASHINGTON, D.C. —Under secretary of war writes to the Oregon delegation that the war department has under consideration the publication of an army-wide policy to encourage local commanders to permit soldiers to assist in harvesting crops in off-duty hours when it will not interfere with training. This is the first statement of the war department regarding the employment of soldiers in gathering crops and it follows the permission to use troops to pick cotton, an order which was rescinded before a soldier could climb the fence into a cotton field.

Under the plan "in contemplation" groups of troops would go under their commander, but there is nothing said about what the farmer should pay for this aid. The question of employing soldiers who are on furlough and paying them for their work is proposed by orchardists of the Rogue river valley. In the military encampment near Medford there are thousands of soldiers undergoing a most rigorous training and it is believed that these troops would appreciate the opportunity to work in orchards on their days off.

The director of the budget has turned thumbs down on \$3.65 offered by Senator McNary, which would provide a federal annuity for the blind instead of the co-operation of federal and state. The director considered it too heavy a burden for the federal government to carry alone. This is the second time the budget director has objected to the measure.

Rep. Lowell Stockman of the second congressional district evidently intends remaining in Washington, D. C. for some time. He has bought a house in the suburbs between a grade school and a high school, which is convenient for the Stockman children.

Albany disposed of the Lewis & Clark college to the government for use as an electro development laboratory at a price which is a sacrifice, but expects to see the laboratory grow into the leading institution of the kind in the United States. The bureau of mines, which will operate the laboratory, is delighted with it for everything is ready for occupancy except for the installation of electrical furnaces; administration building, dwellings, heating plant, etc., are all in shape for the scientists to move in. Albany won the laboratory away from Spokane and Pullman for while neither of these Washington cities could make the offer that Albany did of a complete college plant, they were banking on the son-in-law of the president getting the institution for Washington. The son-in-law did his best and pulled every political string, but eventually it was left for Secretary Ickes of the department of the interior to decide, and he selected the Oregon community. The success and growth of the laboratory will depend on congressional appropriation.

Rep. Harris Ellsworth of the new fourth district received an unusual honor. He attended the get-together meeting of new congressmen with President Roosevelt. The next morning he, being a newspaperman and publisher, was requested by the Associated Press to write a description of the meeting. This Ellsworth did and it was telegraphed to every AP paper in the country. The account was so factual that no one

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Health Ass'n Makes Record Seal Sale

The final report of the Sherman County Health Association on the sale of tuberculosis seals shows a total of \$501.20. The amount of seals sold per capita was \$29.48. This was 81.1 per cent of the entire amount solicited by the association and is exceptionally high. The percentage by districts was Grass Valley 68.71; Moro 84.59; Kent 84.77; Wasco 92.39 and Rufus 74.63.

The county chairman, Mrs. A. H. McIntyre of Wasco and the district chairmen, Mrs. Curt Tom of Rufus, Mrs. Harley Dutton of Wasco, Mrs. Russell Hollinshead of Moro, Miss Lila Lee Alley of Grass Valley and Mrs. James Matthes of Kent express their appreciation for the generous response by the people of their districts and Sherman county as a whole.

The annual meeting of the Sherman County Health Association will be held at the home of Mrs. A. H. McIntyre at Wasco on Monday April 5 at 3 p.m. All interested are invited to attend.

OSC ROTC Cadets Now In Army

All junior and senior students in the ROTC at OSC have been inducted into active service and returned to the campus in uniform and on pay to complete this college year. They now are a part of the Army Specialized Training unit here and are being housed together in four large fraternity houses rented by the college for the purpose.

Just as OSC was the first institution in the west to get an AST unit, so it is the first to have its advanced ROTC men inducted as the former must precede the latter step.

New Laws Affect Motorists, Chauffeurs

A letter from Max Flanery, license division of the secretary of state's office to Sheriff Wilson informs that no driver's license renewals will be required until June 1945. Those who want renewals will not have to have any licenses for the first time wanting examination but those wanting be examined.

The chauffeur's license act was amended so that persons between 16 and 18 years of age obtain a license during the war emergency period. The sheriff and county judge must endorse the application for these licenses. This law is now in effect as it carried the emergency clause.

Rebekahs Convene In Moro Friday

We, the press committee of the annual Rebekah convention of District 21, held at Moro Friday March 26, 1943, beg leave to report that a very splendid meeting was held in the Odd Fellows lodge room with Mrs. Belle Conlee as chairman, Mrs. Maud Akers as vice chairman, acting in place of Mrs. Alta Ireland, secretary, Mrs. Theodore Johnston in place of Mrs. Helen Martin. The attendance being 12 from Wheatland, 11 from Grass Valley, 7 from Marion Rebekah and 6 visitors from other lodges of the state. Luncheon had 30 members.

Our president of the Rebekah assembly, Miss Madeline Rosner of Wheeler and Mrs. Jake Douma being president.

In our president's address she admonished us to have close friendships, keep faith in our lodge and remember her slogan "Have faith for Victory" in your country.

A report of this convention to be sent to the Sherman County Journal and the Pacific Odd Fellows.

Committee: Maud Akers
Edna Schilling
Mayme Bayer

More Moisture Falls; Less In Ground

Run-off Cuts Amount of Soil Moisture; Enough Remains

There is a lot of moisture in the ground, but there is not as much as there was last year at this time according to tests made recently by M. M. Oveson, superintendent of the experiment station. This is despite the fact that the crop year precipitation has been very heavy.

It is doubted if there was ever as much rainfall in the crop year, from September to March, inclusive, as has fallen this crop year. To date, March 30, 13.00 inches of moisture has fallen on the station. The normal for that period is 8.61.

Freeze Causes Run-off

Because of frozen ground much of that which fell in January and February went down the creeks and not into the ground. Soil moisture tests indicate that there is less moisture in the ground now than in the latter part of December when the fall tests were finished.

On the station different plots show this percentage of moisture, the December record being given first: One plot 14.6, now 14.4; another 15.5, now 14.9; another 15.6, now 15.0. With the exception of one plot all have about one percent less now than in December.

Drier At Klondike

At Klondike this spring there was 14.1 percent moisture where last spring the adjoining field tested 17.2, west of Wasco the record is 14.4 this spring compared to 14.5 last spring, another test point shows 13.6 this time and 15.7 last spring.

Possible error may come from the fact that in December when the tests were taken the top foot of soil was very wet and the spring tests were taken when the ground was drier. There is more moisture in the lower feet of the test than last fall.

The crop year moisture normal for the year is 11.20 inches and 13.00 has already fallen since September. It is possible that some three inches of this was lost through run-off and even if so there should be more than a normal amount of moisture for the growing crop. The percentage of moisture in the ground is more than the normal and in fact indicative of very good conditions. There is no doubt, however, that much snow water was lost in the spring run-off.

OWI Gives Instruction On Several Phases of Consumer Compliance With Federal Regulations

Oregon's quota of new passenger automobiles which may be sold to eligible buyers during April reserve of 80, according to advice from Washington.

Food in frozen food lockers may be used by farmers and other consumers without rationing restrictions, OPA has stated. The total amount of perishable food stored in lockers in private homes on farms and in commercial plants is considered too small to justify the inconvenience it would cause all consumers either to have this food declared or to place any legal restrictions on its use.

The war department has announced procedures by which soldiers, as individuals, may obtain discharges from the army to return to their farms. Soldiers on active duty in the continental U.S., who are 38 years of age and over, may be discharged upon favorable consideration of written applications submitted prior to May 1, 1943. These requests must be accompanied by a letter or statement from local farm agents to the effect that the soldiers will be employed in essen-

Pacific Fleet Commander Talks to Newsmen



Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, commander-in-chief of the Pacific fleet, is pictured giving his fifth press conference of the war at Pacific fleet headquarters. He reviewed the first year of the war in the Pacific. Seated on his left is Capt. L. J. Wiltse, assistant chief of staff.

Mrs. Engstrom Dies After Long Illness

Mrs. Gus Engstrom died Tuesday morning at a hospital in The Dalles after a long illness. Mrs. Engstrom was born Elsie Martin at Springfield, Mo., September 18, 1872 and came to Sherman county in the early years of this century and married Mr. Engstrom at Vancouver, Wash., August 24, 1913.

Besides her widower she is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Herman Ziegler and Mrs. Edgar Alley, both of Grass Valley, one sister, Mrs. Manuel Esslinger of Ellensburg, Wash., and two brothers, John Martin of Cedar Springs, Mo., and Verdan Martin of Huntington Park, Cal.

The funeral will be held Friday afternoon from the Baptist church in Grass Valley with Zell in charge of arrangements. Pallbearers will be Arnold Dunlap, Herman Peters, Chester Anderson, James Blagg, Sam Stark and Wallace May.

C. Rutledge Visits Old Haunts

Clarence Rutledge was here Wednesday while on a short vacation from the merchant marine of which he has been a member for several months, long enough to get around a large part of the world. Cap isn't very communicative about it all being one of those who might not be helped by loose talking about the movements of ships. He was in the first World War in the navy and is now back aboard ship again.

Rain Halts Farm Work; Aids All Growing Crops

Rain in the cities is a miserable experience. It is wet all over, and sidewalks are never so level that puddles do not form in them to wet the shoes and spot the good clothes city people feel compelled to wear.

On the farm, except at harvest time, rain is a benediction. One can see the crops expand in the dampness and experience tells the farmer that spring rains are the stuff that stuffs the pocket book after harvest. Stock may shudder in their long winter coats but rain bothers them little.

In the cities there are no doors open because of the rain. In the country the doors swing wide in the rain. Farmers do not stay home; they go to town, there to hob-nob with their fellows, tell stories, have a beer or two and enjoy the luxury of human companionship—for to a farmer human companionship is often a luxury.

Rains Welcome

This was a week of rain. It began Sunday night and lasted nearly all week, sometimes a wind driven rain, sometimes a quiet drizzle of moisture, all welcome for it soaked the earth's crust forming over the late sown winter wheat, renewed the moisture around the newly planted spring grain and gave a boost to the grass trying, rather ineffectually so far, to stretch upward toward the sun.

It was a good rain, well timed.

Red Cross Ends Successful Drive For Funds

The close of the Red Cross drive in Sherman county finds the local chapter with \$3126.23 on hand. Of this sum \$2813.64 was donated during the March campaign and \$312.59 was on hand before the drive, reports Mrs. Darwin VanGilder, treasurer.

The budget for local work, such as buying materials for making articles for soldiers and those in need has been set at \$700 and this amount will be retained when the money is sent to the regional headquarters in San Francisco.

The county quota was set at \$1900 for this drive. These quotas are established by taking the population of the area as determined by the war ration books, the income tax payments per capita and the automobile registrations as figures on which to base the estimates. On a per capita basis this county donated \$1.64 to the Red Cross in the month just ended.

Charles Ruggles Now Acting Assessor

A special meeting of the county court named Charles Ruggles, deputy sheriff, to be acting assessor during the absence of Mrs. Margaret Peetz, who is still seriously ill in The Dalles hospital. Mr. Ruggles began April 1, and will try to bring the books up to date in time for the budget meeting and assessment period which begins July 15.

New Trashy Fallow Urged On Farmers

Straw or stubble burned is plant food wasted, while all plant residues worked into the soil mean "banking" that much plant food for present war crops or future peacetime food needs, point out tillage men of the Soil Conservation and OSC extension services in announcing a new federal bulletin.

Both burning and complete plowing under of stubble and crop residues are discouraged in this bulletin, which is the result of experiences and experiments with stubble mulch, trashy fallow, or straw farming as this type of tillage is variously referred to throughout the western states.

The bulletin is by L. S. Carter and G. R. McDole of the SCS. McDole is a member of the staff of the Pacific coast regional office in Portland.

Even with a shortage of farm machinery, growers can frequently modify their present equipment to apply the principles of stubble mulching, pointed out McDole recently in elaborating on the methods outlined in the bulletin.

Tillage implements are needed that work the soil but at the same time leave as much of the grain straw, pea vines or other plant materials as possible on top of the ground to protect the land from either wind or water erosion. Removing moldboards, fashioning duckfoot type sweeps from old grader blades or similar materials and other devices described in the bulletin are already in wide use in the Columbia basin.

Keeping stubble and straw on the surface has been effectively demonstrated as the best and probably only practical method of preventing erosion in much of the eastern Oregon region. So far as immediate yields are concerned, however, the situation is not uniform, according to findings by Joe Belanger, in charge of cooperative research on this subject for the SCS and experiment station.

In the higher rainfall areas near Pendleton, straw on the surface has consistently depressed yields slightly, although this tendency can be overcome by other soil management practices, Belanger reported recently.

Railroad Case Seems Ended Successfully

Senator McNary Wires That WPB Is Trying To Return Road to RR.

"Special projects salvage branch War Production Board advises that it has notified office of defense transportation to attempt to return to the Oregon and Washington Railroad and Navigation company the line between Shaniko and Biggs. Regards."

The above is a copy of a telegram received Wednesday from Senator McNary which gives reasonably conclusive assurance that the attempts to abandon the Shaniko branch by the Union Pacific and to requisition its rails by the War Production Board have both been abandoned.

News services also sent out a story reporting that four lines in the United States had been returned to the railroad companies by the WPB. The Shaniko branch was among them. Reason given was that the need for re-laying rails was now over.

Wording Cautious

The use of the word "attempt" makes room for the only doubt in the telegram. It is not, however, considered likely by those who have been watching the case that the "attempt" of the WPB to return the line to the OWRR will fail. As a matter of fact the Union Pacific company has been using the line steadily and is still using it although it was officially the property of the salvage division of the WPB since September 16 when the requisition was served.

If presumptions current here are correct this means the favorable end of the railroad abandonment and requisition case which stirred Sherman county to action last summer.

A hearing was held, an attorney hired, representatives sent to Washington on two occasions, and about \$3000 spent to save the line.

Latest evidence is that the effort was successful.

V-12 Class To Take Over Other Vs

A new navy college training program known as V-12 is announced and is expected to absorb all other V programs by mid-summer. Preliminary qualifying examinations for it will be given in all high schools and colleges in the country April 2. The same examination will serve as an army A-12 qualifying test. Eligible ages for the navy program are 17-20 and for the army 17 to 22. Complete details may be had from any high school principal or college registrar.

College men now in the V-1 and V-7 programs are expected to be called at the close of this school year, put in uniform, and reassigned to college in all cases where performance so far indicates good officer material.

Army Needs More WAACs

The army wants more WAACs. Women who are or can learn to be accountants, aircraft warners, bookkeepers, clerks, cashiers, librarians, chauffeurs, draftsmen, musicians, stenographers or weather observers are eligible if they are between the ages of 21 and 44. They must also be citizens of the United States, of good character, mentally alert, and physically fit.

Each WAAC will release a soldier for combat duty. Complete information about applying can be obtained from 614 SW 11th Ave., Portland.