

Sherman County Journal

Fifty-Sixth Year No. 15

Moro, Oregon Friday, February 18, 1944

Official County Paper

Marching Through Mud on Bougainville



Heavily laden marine infantrymen slog through deep mud of a jungle trail as they near the battle front. Continued American attacks on Japanese positions in the Pacific are steadily lengthening our striking power from the air. As the battle continued on Bougainville, American troops battled toward Rabaul which is considered a vital Japanese base.

Sherman County's Court Passes On Public Matters At February Term

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNTY COURT DURING FEBRUARY 2, TERM

Due to absence of Judge J. M. Wilson, senior commissioner David Reid presided.

In re: Claims presented against County General Road Funds: Claims Allowed.

Treasurer's Report: County Treasurer's monthly report showing fund balances presented, approved and filed.

Clerk's Report: County Clerk's semi-annual report presented approved and filed.

Election Boards: Revision made in one appointment to Election Board.

Cricket Control: Delegation appeared before Court relative to Cricket control: Action deferred pending further investigation and consideration.

Gas and Oil Purchase Agreement: Agreement entered into with Union Oil Company pertaining to 1944 Gas and Oil purchases.

Assessor's office: Order placed for new adding machine for Assessor's office.

War Bond Purchase: Order issued directing County Treasurer to purchase War Bonds to the extent of \$800.00. Said purchase to be made with inactive fund balances.

No further matters being at issue court duly adjourned.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST SHERMAN COUNTY, OREGON

GENERAL AND ROAD FUNDS FOR JANUARY, 1944. AND APPROVED AT FEBRUARY TERM 1944 TERM OF THE COUNTY COURT THEREOF.

General Fund

First National Bank, General

Total Wheat Crop 2,504,000 For Last Year

Lower Yields in North End Reduces County Average To 26 bushels

Sherman county produced 2,504,396 bushels of wheat in 1943 from 96,422.9 acres to give it a county average of 26 bushels per acre for the year. This is a drop from the 1942 average which was 28 bushels per acre and from the 1941 average of 30 bushels plus.

Averages for the five districts of the county have also been compiled by the county AAA office and in the light of some change in the normal production they are interesting.

The county had nearly as much spring wheat as fall wheat. The total spring grain was 47,594.7 acres and winter wheat was 48,828.2 acres. In yield the spring grain made 1,812,156 bushels and the winter wheat 1,323,239 bushels.

Distribution of acreage differed from the normal. In the Locust Grove district, normally a winter wheat district, there was 10,313 acres of spring grain and only 6,204 acres of winter wheat. In the nearby Wasco district there was 5,477 acres of spring grain and 14,817 acres of winter wheat.

Distribution in the other sections of the county was nearer normal except at Kent where there was 10,819 acres of spring grain to 2,687 acres of winter wheat. At Moro there was 11,397 acres of spring wheat and 12,346 acres of winter. At Grass Valley 9,586 acres of spring and 11,266 acres of winter.

The year 1943 was one of the strange ones when the south part of the county produced more favorably than did the north part. Spring wheat yields by districts were: Locust Grove 22.7; Wasco 22.9; Moro 29.9; Grass Valley 24.1; Kent 23.2. Winter wheat yields were: Locust Grove 25.3; Wasco 24.6; Moro 31.1; Grass Valley 26.7; Kent 25.8.

The combined bushels and averages for the five districts are as follows: Locust Grove 390,658 bushels, av. 23.6; Wasco, 490,583 bushels, av. 24.2; Moro 771,820 bushels, av. 30.6; Grass Valley 530,967 bushels, av. 25.5; Kent 320,362 bushels, av. 23.7.

The 1944 crop will come from a larger acreage and it is possible that it will produce a greater number of bushels.

Average price of the 2,504,396 bushels was around \$1.30 which makes the 1943 wheat crop worth over \$3,300,000 bushels without counting government payments. Total county income was well over \$4,000,000.

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Earl Dutton Killed In Plane Crash In Pacific

First Lieutenant Earl Dutton, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Harley Dutton of Wasco was reported killed in a plane crash in the South Pacific February 8. Details of the crash have not been received here.

Earl Dutton was born in Idaho 26 years ago and spent his boyhood in Wasco and Moro, later moving to Pocatello with his parents. He attended Oregon State College and was working in Portland as an insurance man when he joined the air forces.

Surviving are his parents, one sister, Mrs. James Dunn of Portland and one brother Captain Harold Dutton with the coast artillery in California.

Red Cross To Elect Officers

A special meeting of the Sherman Chapter, American Red Cross, was held Wednesday afternoon to arrange for the annual meeting and to listen to Caryll Hollingsworth, field representative who came to add the local chapter in planning for the drive for funds which will be held in March.

The annual meeting will be held at the Wasco school building Tuesday, February 29 and will be featured by a picture. Material for the solicitors will be given out at that time and election of officers will be held.

New Secretary Named

Gordon Harper was chosen as temporary secretary to replace Mrs. Naomi Van Gilder, resigned. He will serve until the annual meeting. He has figured that in 1943 Sherman county citizens were asked for \$1.39 per person by the Red Cross and this year the request will be for \$2.50 because of the increase in the budget from \$1900 to \$4100.

Children Complete Salvage Job

The work of the children in the paper drive is about over as the trucks have begun to haul the bundles away to the mill where it will be used to pack shells and other uses that make it in demand by a nation at war.

Winners of the contest in Moro were Don Moore for the boys and Donna Kay Sparling for the girls. Others with high scores were Wily Knights, David Moore and Bobby Martin. Hard workers were Dick Oveson and Marvin Moore who took the responsibility for weighing and balancing much of the paper. Amount gathered by the children was nearly 8 tons according to intake weights.

NFLAs To Hold Annual Meetings

"The Wasco-Sherman and The Dalles-Condon National Farm Loan Associations will hold their regular annual meeting on Saturday, February 19th, at 2:00 P. M. at the Civic Auditorium, The Dalles", Secretary-Treasurer Victor G. Peterson announced today. "Regular business to be transacted at this meeting includes the election of directors, hear reports of the past year's activities of the associations and to transact such other business as might come before the meeting," Mr. Peterson stated.

These associations have 286 members living in Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam and Wheeler counties. The business of the associations is carried on through the Dalles Group Office in the U. S. National Bank building. Mr. Peterson urged that all members attend so that they will be informed of the association affairs and see that a competent Board of Directors are elected.

Attorney General Rules County Can Fight Crickets

Inability of Landowners To Combat Insects Held Necessary

Attorney General George Neuner has rendered an opinion through his deputy, Willis Moore, in the Mormon cricket case that has been causing legal troubles on the part of the county court.

The attorney general states the question by saying that Sherman county's district attorney, T. Lester Johnson, has asked an opinion whether "Sherman county may use county funds to finance a program of control and eradication of Mormon crickets which are becoming a menace to the extent that if not properly controlled immediately there is real danger that they will destroy all or a large part of the agricultural production of the whole county"—and that "individuals have for a number of years made an effort to eradicate this menace that has not been successful."

The opinion recounts the limitations on a county court as a sovereign body by citing the law giving certain authority to the county courts. It quotes a judicial opinion that "Taxes cannot be appropriated for private purposes" and elaborates to say that whether a tax is used for public or private purposes is for the legislature to decide but the decision is subject to the review of the courts.

The opinion defines an emergency as "a sudden or unexpected happening" an "unforeseen occurrence or circumstance or condition." It then recalls emergencies in Oregon where under legislation has been voted farmers by the legislature such as the seed grain loans of 1924-25, the Klamath-Lake county grasshopper case, the Clatsop county pasture grass experimental uses.

Restrictions Made

The final paragraph states the essence of the decision, thus: "It appears from your letter that the matter has now developed to such an extent as to constitute a menace beyond the power of the landowners, individually or collectively to suppress and that the public welfare and county tax resources are threatened. It is my opinion that the county court may use the emergency fund, or such part thereof, as may be necessary in the suppression of the pest."

Opinion of the opinion is that if the court is able to find that the landowners, individually or collectively, cannot control or eradicate the Mormon crickets the county may use its funds for the purpose. Use of county money depends on the fact of an actual emergency and apparently the inability of private owners to cope with the situation.

A meeting of the court is expected on the cricket matter although it may now be held in March.

Scholarship Deadline Is April First

April 1 has been set as the deadline for turning in applications from high school seniors for state board of higher education scholarships to attend any of the five undergraduate institutions under its control, announced Dean E. B. Lemon, chairman of the committee on high school relations.

Scholarships to OSC or the U of O carry a value of \$66 toward annual tuition and fee charges, and \$25.50 at the colleges of education. Applications are turned in to the high school principals who transmit them to the state committee.

Lewis Hastings Leaves Business To Join Seabees

Lewis J. Hastings, owner of the Wasco Bakery, left Tuesday for Portland to join the Seabees as a member of the Ship Repair Unit, SRU, as an electrician. He has been trying to get into this outfit for some weeks and passed his examinations while in the city last week end. He returned home to obtain his release from the local draft board. Another group of men is going to Portland Monday for preliminary examinations.

New Ration Stamp Coming Soon

With all stamps worth 10 points each, point-shopping will become easier.

Stamps will have a validity period of approximately 12 weeks, giving consumers longer periods in which to use their stamps. This should make for more even demand and therefore avoid last-minute rushes before expiration dates.

Stamps will be detached across the page instead of from top to bottom. This change will save both the customer's and the dealer's time at the checker's counter.

Retailers will especially appreciate the fact that this plan means a decrease of 60 percent in the amount of stamps to be handled. Only 11 stamps per month, per person (five for processed foods and six for meats) will be required as compared to 28 coupons per month under the old system. In fact, retailers will have 2,000,000,000 less stamps to handle each month than they did before.

They will appreciate also the saving of untold hours formerly spent in sorting stamps according to their 8, 5, 2, and 1 point values. Under the new plan, dealers will simply sort their stamps according to color, because all stamps will have a 10-point value.

ADDITIONAL GASOLINE SOMETIMES AVAILABLE

Local war price and rationing boards are now permitted to issue limited "personal necessity" gasoline rations in situations not provided for in the regulations where lack of gasoline would be given cause undue hardship, the district OPA office has explained. Boards will be given small monthly quotas and allowed to handle these exceptional cases at their own discretion.

Missionary Society Sponsoring Speakers From China War Zone

The Women's Missionary Society of the Moro Community Presbyterian Church will entertain two Missionaries from China, home on furlough, who are to visit in Moro a week, February 23 to March 1.

Both Rev. Kenneth W. Wilson and Mrs. Wilson, of Ichow, China will speak at various church meetings during the week.

They have been stationed in China, and have served since 1930 under The Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. Mrs. Wilson was born and reared in China. She came to the United States for education, attending several colleges, graduating from the University of California. Mr. Wilson is a Californian, and has degrees from several colleges. His headquarters in China were at the old city of Ichow, between the Shanghai-Peking railroad and the coast, the only mission station serving an area of 3,000,000 people. He watched Ichow change from a peaceful, old-fashioned city to a spot of ruin and suffering in the Sino-Japanese War and did relief work after the city was invaded.

County E Bond Sale Nears \$100, Per Capita Mark

Remainder of Month To Be Used In Finishing Campaign

Sherman countians have bought \$158,156.50 in E bonds since the first of January.

This is 177 percent of the E bond quota and represents purchases of \$93.18 per capita. During the Third War Loan drive last September the average per capita E bond purchase was \$96.81. Sales of but \$12,644 of E bonds between now and the end of February would give this county an average of an even hundred dollars for each citizen. The treasury has announced that sales will be counted for the remainder of this month on the quotas.

Sales of the other issues are not all made in this county and it is difficult to be certain how many of the other bonds have been sold without official confirmation from the Federal Reserve bank. Local computation shows sales of \$19,244 in other individual bonds, a mark that is but little more than half the given quota.

Corporation sales credited to this county are \$34,200, over twice the quota for that class of bonds.

Total Over \$200,000.00

Total sales, according to additions of the local bond office, are \$211,600.50.

Of the E bond \$47,887.50 were sold through the Wasco postoffice, \$40,967.75 were sold through the Grass Valley postoffice, \$66,481.25 through the Sherman County branch, First National and \$2850 through the Moro postoffice. Sales at Grass Valley and Wasco were both larger than in the Third War bond campaign.

Whether or not it will be possible for the county to buy the additional bonds that will give it a record of \$100 per capita will not be known until March 2, when the official tabulation has been promised.

Jefferson is the only county in the state that is ahead of Sherman in percentage of quota sales of E bonds and its percentage sales are less than in this county.

EXAMINER COMING

A traveling examiner of operators and chauffeurs will be in Moro Thursday February 24th at the courthouse between the hours of 10 A. M. to 12 P. M.

Use of Prisoners of War In Agriculture Halted By Opposition of American Unions says Paul Dunham

Efforts have been made for months to have the war department establish concentration camps in the northwest where the prisoners of war can be used to relieve the manpower shortage on such projects as reclamation jobs, in lumber camps, etc. From the initiation of this movement objections have been raised by union leaders against the employment of any war prisoners to perform work which can be done by card-carrying unionists. Prior to the proposal to use prisoners of war some of the work on government undertakings has been done by conscientious objectors and little or no objection was heard from business agents of the unions. Now a new issue has been injected.

A proposal to employ German war prisoners on an incorporated farm in New Jersey has brought the demand from a business agent that the employer deduct union dues for each prisoner employed. This is the check-off system which labor has forced upon employers with the approval of the administration. Before the check-off system was adopted the going

was pretty tough for the union treasury; members neglected to pay union dues. With the check-off—a system originated by John L. Lewis for his United Mine Workers—the employer makes the deduction from the payroll and turns the money over to the treasurer of the union. And strangely enough, the membership of the Lewis miners' union went on a strike several years ago to compel their employers to make the deduction. The coal mine operators kicked, but the miners refused to return to the pits until success crowned their efforts.

Prisoners of war are not members of any union, but the business agents insist that someone—the war department or the employer—takes 25 cents a week from each prisoner and turns it over to the union. Basis for this demand is that the union, represented by the business agent, has a closed shop contract with the incorporated farm. The war department, which has not interfered with the check-off in certain war industries, declares it will not dig up a nickel for dues to a union to which the

prisoners do not belong. The federal government pays prisoners of war 80 cents a day and when they are employed the prisoners receive the going wage of the locality, but instead of the prisoners receiving this wage scale the difference above 80 cents is paid to the government by the employer and this money finds its way into the United States treasury.

If anyone is to pay the union it must be the employer, but the war department is indifferent as to whether the employer pays if he does pay it will have to come out of his profits. Should the union carry its point in the New Jersey instance it will serve as a precedent and when and if prisoners of war are employed on reclamation projects or in the woods in the northwest the contractor will have to battle it out with the unions.

The reclamation bureau has no objection to the use of prisoners of war on the projects listed for Oregon and Washington, but there is a stipulation that there

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