

# Sherman County Journal

Fifty-Sixth Year No. 24

Moro, Oregon Friday, April 21, 1944

Official County Paper

A column of news  
About Government,  
Politics and People  
with especial emphasis  
on the Northwest

Plans for the disposition of excess food stocks after the war are clearly outlined in a bill which has been introduced in the house and will be taken up for consideration in a few days. The purpose of the measure, as stated by Representative Wickersham of Oklahoma, who introduced it, is to secure an orderly disposal of such goods without disruption of markets or loss to producers and processors. Unless a definite program is adopted soon, it was explained, production of foodstuffs might be discouraged by the prospect of large stocks being left on hand when war demand no longer exists, leaving producers and processors to face a heavy loss. This is to be averted by government action through a food administration which would direct and supervise postwar sales of all foodstuffs stockpiled or contracted for by any government agency.

Such surplus foodstuffs would be offered for sale first to the original owner or vendor in such amounts as may be advisable after lend-lease and domestic relief requirements have been met. The sale to other than established business firms would be forbidden in order to keep speculators from entering the field, but sales might be made from one government agency to another. After the first world war, it was related, speculators bought goods from one government agency at ridiculously low prices and sold them to another government agency at exorbitant profit. This would be made impossible by the terms of the Wickersham bill. War food administrator would be aided by advisory committees composed of producers, processors and distributors in determining prices, terms and conditions of sale in established commercial channels.

The intent of congress to retain control over the entire program is made apparent by a provision requiring the food administrator to report to congress each quarter upon his operations. In this respect the Wickersham bill does not differ materially from other measures which have been introduced for the purpose of selling other war materials after the war. In all cases the primary aim seems to be to keep surplus goods out of the hands of speculators and favor established commercial channels in preference to the fly-by-night organizations which entered the field after the first world war.

Belatedly, and after a distressing shortage of livestock feed had resulted from use of wheat in making industrial alcohol, war food administration has suddenly discovered that there is a surplus of potatoes and the tubers, in dehydrated form, may provide alcohol in sufficient quantity to relieve the pressure on diminishing wheat supplies. AAA and commodity credit corporation have been brought into the picture and purchases of surplus potato stocks are now being made in several states for the manufacture of alcohol. The process is quite simple and the potatoes are said to yield more than one gallon of alcohol per bushel. It is reported that there are between 20,000,000 and 30,000,000 bushels of last year's crop on hand at the present time and, with the new crop coming on, these represent outright waste unless they are used within a comparatively brief time.

Officials of the postoffice department are watching with some uneasiness the quickness with which banks have seized upon the opportunity to increase their earnings as a result of the higher

Continued on Page Two

## Trio Downs Sixty Jap Planes



Sixty Jap planes have gone down under the blazing guns of this trio of marine corps pilots in the South Pacific. They are members of the "Flying Corsairs," top marine squadron with total of 135 1/2 planes shot down and 27 planes destroyed on the ground. Left to right, Lieut. Robert Hanson of Newseville, Mass., 25 planes; Capt. Donald N. Aldrich, Chicago, 30 planes; and Capt. Harold L. Spears, Ironton, Ohio, 15 planes.

## Bob Christianson Has Exciting Time Bombing Rabaul

Virtually peppered by bursting fragments of a Jap air fire, the life of Staff Sergeant John W. Vance, O. O. was saved recently by the heavily armored flak suit he was wearing, and the steel helmet that he had carried with him at last minute thought. Describing the sensation of hearing the pellets of steel against his helmet, Sergeant Vance said, "It sounded like Gene Krupa going into one of his hot numbers."

The matlstrom of enemy flak reached into the four-engined 13th AAF Liberator during its bombing run over Tobera Airrome south of the strangled bastion of Rabaul.

Sergeant Vance was standing at the right waist window as a gunner when he was hit. The flak suit that he was wearing sustained a gapping tear right over his heart and the steel plates under the padding were badly dented. The helmet was dented in several places by the force of the flying steel.

Over the inner-phones, the pilot, First Lieutenant James J. Hale, of Enid, Oklahoma, heard some one say, "I'm hit." He couldn't tell who it was.

The bombardier, Second Lieutenant Robert K. Christianson of Moro, Oregon, had felt the ship nose up under the blow of the shell which burst close to the plane. He tried to open the door of the nose turret and couldn't. But then the nose gunner, Staff Sergeant William B. Monaghan of Peralta, Iowa, opened up and climbed out unscathed.

The bombardier's job was finished so he climbed back into the waist position to find out who was hurt. He found Sergeant Vance lying on the floor. He sustained but one wound, that in the fleshy part of his arm. A red welt across his throat indicated where one fragment barely grazed him.

Continued on Page Two

A small cut under his right eye resulted from the shattering of his goggle glasses.

Lieutenant Christianson administered first aid as Sergeant Vance lay on the floor. He stopped the bleeding and patched the wound. Lieutenant Hale said the plane had been hit by two bursts. More than 14 holes were found in the bomber and other ships were hit as well, but no one besides Sergeant Vance suffered injury.

Prior to his arrival in the South Pacific, Sergeant Vance spent five months in Alaska. Trained as a nose gunner he was shifted to the waist gunners position. The men in his crew say laughingly he was forced to change places with one of them because his feet were too big to fit into the nose turret of their plane.

## Lumber Supply Further Restricted

Increasing military needs for lumber are forcing tighter controls on lumber for civilian uses, including farm construction, R. B. Taylor, chairman of the state AAA committee, reports. With nearly half of all lumber produced needed for crating munitions and supplies shipped to the war fronts, civilian construction is limited by WPB regulations to the most essential projects, with use of lumber substitutes wherever possible.

Agriculture's share of the small amount of lumber remaining after military needs are met will permit only needed maintenance and repair of farm buildings, and a limited amount of new construction directly essential to 1944 farm production, the AAA chairman said. If farmers are unable to obtain lumber for even these essential uses, they may apply to their county AAA committee for an emergency preference rating. Oregon has been given a quota of one million board feet for issuance on emergency ratings during April, May and June.

## Location of Pioneer's Graves Desired

The Oregon Boy Scouts committee has a program this year of marking the graves of pioneers. The state committee does not know of any graves of pioneers in Sherman county. Will those who are acquainted with graves of pioneers or those who came across the Old Oregon Trail please give that information to Boy Scouts or it may be sent in to the Sherman County Journal.

## Power Users Get Rate Dividend Next Month

Pacific Power & Light Co. Dividend To Be About Half Months Light Bill

Customers of Pacific Power & Light Company will receive a \$500,000 "rate dividend" early in May under a wartime-earnings-sharing plan approved by the Oregon Public Utilities Commissioner and announced at Salem Wednesday.

Amount of the dividend will be approximately one-half of each customer's average monthly electric bill, according to G. L. Corey, district manager for the company. Paid to each participant by check instead of by credits on bills, the "rate dividend" will return approximately \$18,000 to electric users in this district, he stated.

"Designed to meet the abnormal conditions created by wartime loads and revenues, this 'rate dividend' is just one more consistent step taken by P.P.&L. to give customers the benefit of greater volume of business," said Corey. "Its effect will be to reduce still further the low average price of electricity on our system."

All active customers who were billed for electric service between February 20 and April 20 and who are on the company's books on May 1 will share in the dividend.

Regular seasonal customers will also benefit proportionately, Corey explained. Their checks will be computed on the basis of their average annual use. In this class are such uses as irrigation pumping, canneries, packing plants, spraying installations and other seasonal activities.

The most recent system-wide rate reduction made by the P.P. & L. company was a slash of \$487,000 in 1941. Other rate cuts in late years include a \$212,000 reduction in 1939, \$110,000 in 1937 and \$305,000 in 1936.

Not including the present "rate dividends," total rate reductions made by the company since 1936 have resulted in estimated annual savings to customers of \$1,114,000.

## PLANE HUNTED HERE

Two United States Coast Guard trucks, equipped with sending and receiving sets, were in the county Tuesday searching for a coast guard plane that was reported as lost. They set up the equipment on top of Gordon Butte, according to Sheriff Wilson, and tried to locate the plane with no success. Later they received a message that the plane had been found near Eugene.

## BURTON TOOMEY DEAD

Word has been received at Wasco of the death of Burton Toomey at Lakeview. Mr. Toomey was a lumberman formerly of Klickitat county and husband of Nell (Mrs. L. J.) Lucas well known here.

## Dewey Burrell Murder Solved By Confession Of Long Time Suspect



U. S. Senator Guy Cordon, candidate for Republican nomination for United States Senator to succeed himself in the Oregon primary election May 19, has returned to Washington D. C. to take up his duties there as successor to the late Senator Charles L. McNary.

Before leaving for Washington Senator Cordon said: "On my brief visit home since taking office I have tried to make the best use of my time in gathering facts in the various sections of the state which have problems of national interest. I have found that facts are the all-essential, and welcomed every bit of data I could get that will be an aid to Oregon's future development."

## Honor To Be Given Deceased Soldiers

Service men who have lost their lives in the armed forces will be honored by having their names placed on a memorial plaque at Portland's Victory Center, it was announced this week by Giles French, chairman of the Sherman county war finance committee, and E. C. Sammons, state chairman, Oregon war bond staff.

Families of men eligible are requested to turn in names either to Mr. French or the War Finance Committee, American Bank Building, Portland, Oregon.

The Victory Center at Portland is one of the outstanding war service structures in the United States, according to national war bond leaders. It is the focal point of Oregon's war bond sales effort which has established this state among the leaders of the nation.

## Sherman County Buys \$988,000 In War Bonds

A report by the War Bond Staff in Portland gives the purchases of all kinds of war bonds since the sale of the defense bonds was started back in July 1941.

In that year Sherman counties bought \$69,234 in bonds. The first loan drive was held in December 1942 after leaders in Washington decided that sales by the regular method were too slow. For 1942 the county bought \$216,100, June being the high month instead of December when the first drive was held. In 1943 the county purchased \$474,880 in bonds when the second and third war loans were held. In the April drive the county bought \$72,692 and in September drive \$253,634. The compilation in the report is brought up to February 29, 1944 and shows that for the fourth war loan campaign the county bought \$224,700 in bonds, being slightly more E bonds than in September but fewer of the other issues. Total sales of bonds for the entire duration (to March 10) has been \$984,914. Sales for March were \$3751, smallest of any month, which brings the total to \$988,665.

## Dan Morgan Sentenced To Life In Prison On Plea of Guilty to Second Degree Murder Made After Confession

When Dan Morgan last Saturday morning stood in the Sherman county court room before Judge George Updegraff and pled guilty to a charge of murder in the second degree, one of the most baffling murder mysteries in Oregon state police history was ended.

Morgan was given life imprisonment, a mandatory sentence under Oregon law. And it was what he wanted—to be serving his time and relieved from recurrent questioning by police officers who always seemed to know more about the crime each encounter.

The body of Dewey Burrell, 40, itinerant beet worker, was found in Biggs canyon early in the afternoon of November 21, 1938 by Joe Brady, state highway worker. It was lying off the road 50 or 60 feet, partially hidden by sagebrush.

## Crime Reconstructed

Local officers were called and state police summoned. Immediately discovered were the following: Deceased was Dewey Burrell, who had done nearly all kinds of farm work over the northwest; sheared sheep, topped beets, picked up potatoes; he had three brothers in Idaho, who identified his body, but could give no idea of what he had been doing lately; a liquor license made out to Ed Burke of Burns, whose description fitted Burrell; a California driver's license for Dewey Burrell; a slip of yellow paper showing directions (later proved to be route from Missoula, Montana to Lola Forest Camp and home of George Moore and Charlie Sandbost) and a blank labor contract for the Montana Beet Growers of Missoula.

The autopsy report said the body might have been lying there 48 hours or more. A two pound ball-peen hammer was found a short distance from the body and the crime laboratory found human blood and some of Burrell's hair on it, proving it to have been used in the killing.

That was the start of the case. At Gridley, California, Captain Warren of the state police found that Dewey Burrell had left there in the spring to shear sheep.

## Trail Led To Montana

In July T. Lester Johnson, Sherman county attorney, went to Missoula to investigate. He found little for his trouble. No one he found knew Burrell. Johnson gave the story to the Daily Missoulian, which had also printed the beet contract found on Burrell's body. Shortly after his return home he received a letter from Art Donlan, beet grower at Frenchtown, who said he had hired Burrell in mid October, 1938 and that he had left after a quarrel with one Pilly Blue because Blue could not maintain the pace set by Burrell in topping beets.

Johnson and Captain Wayne Gurdane of the state police went again to Missoula in late August of 1939. They were able to trace Burrell from Donlans to the beet dump where he had met Dan Morgan, whom he knew slightly, and who took him to town.

The next day one Weidman wanted a beet topper and Morgan said he would get him a good one. He went to Missoula and brought Burrell out. He stayed at Weidman's until the job was ended November 4. He had worked with Chester Kozan and Antony Helit, two Pol'ah CCC boys who had come west from Buffalo, New York after finishing their enrollment.

Kozan, Helit and Burrell came to Missoula together and were paid off in the Oxford Bar by Weidman. They were out of a job. Burrell, a steady worker, was anxious to find another. The following day they went to the George Moore place but did not like the looks of his wood cutting job. They stopped at the Lolo forest camp and there Burrell bought the pair of new army shoes he was wearing when killed.

## Burrell Traced

Burrell stayed at the Smith rooms in Missoula, Sunday-night, November 6, and on the morning told Mrs. Zoe Smith that he might remain all winter with her. Later in the morning he returned for his possessions, saying he had made arrangements to go to the coast. That was the last trace the officers could get of him before his body was found November 21 in Biggs canyon.

Gurdane and Johnson interviewed all the men who had had recent contact with Burrell. Donlan, Blue, Weidman all told when and where they had seen him. Kozan and Helit could not be found although their car had been in Boise, Idaho, November 18 and the boys had been picked up in Burns on a minor traffic offense November 23.

In September of 1939 the officials drove out to Ovando near Missoula where Morgan was working for Bill Boyd who had a stock ranch. Morgan was straightening nails with which to fence hay stacks against marauding elk. He did not speak until he was accosted. He recognized the hammer as being his, admitted the initials DM on the hammer had been made with his d/e's and gave the officers the dies to prove it. They were later found to fit.

## Hammer Said Stolen

Morgan said, however, that the hammer had been stolen from him in November 1936 at a charavari in Frenchtown.

Johnson and Gurdane came home leaving the case in charge of Norman Smith and Jalmar Karkenan, deputies in the sheriff's office in Missoula. From Art Donlan they obtained pictures Morgan had given him showing the Crooked river bridge and the Three Sisters. Morgan admitted having made a trip to Coquille, Oregon in September 1938. Also said he had made a later trip on first interview.

At the beet factory dump it was learned that Morgan had been paid off November 7, 1938 and that a part of his pay was owed to store keepers nearby. He had gone to work for Timmyer, a lumber hauler, sometime between November 14 and 21. He had worked there until January 4, 1940.

## Job Ended November 7

Further investigation showed that Morgan had actually lost tools by theft at the charavari in 1936. One Adam Bell admitted the theft. He returned a tool kit, said to be the one stolen, to the police. The war took Adam Bell and Adam Bell has been killed in action.

By February 1940 it was found that the hammer with which Burrell was killed would not fit the tool kit because it was two inches too long.

When accosted with this information Morgan, who was still at the Boyd ranch, said the kits were different. He stayed at Boyd's until January 1943 when he married a woman in Minneapolis and went to work in Kaiser's Richmond, California ship yard where

Continued on Page Four