

Sherman County Journal

Fifty-Seventh Year, No. 17

Moro, Oregon, Friday, March 2, 1945

Official County Paper

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

Capt. Gordon Fraser Writes of Life in France

Following is a letter received by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Fraser from their son, Capt. Gordon Fraser, with the 863rd Field Artillery in France:

February 3, 1945

Dear Folks:
Have seen a bit of France since my last letter. Am now in Alsace with the 7th army. Can see into Germany from where we are located.

So far things haven't been too bad. It was very cold for awhile with 25 to 30 degrees of snow. Since then it has warmed up some and now we are fighting mud and water.

I saw Marseille and don't particularly recommend it. It is the dirtiest, smelliest town I have ever seen. Spent a night in Lyon but couldn't see much since we arrived after dark and left early. It looked to be a fairly nice place.

One of the big surprises to me has been the civilians living practically in the front lines. When things begin to pop they move out and when it quiets down, back they come.

Have become fairly well accustomed to this life now, though a real bed and a hot bath would certainly go good.

The doughboys in the lines are the ones who have the worst of it. Anyone else who complains about being uncomfortable has no right in comparison to them.

Have seen quite a few Jerries and adjusted artillery at them and some of them. The towns for the most part are pretty well smashed, though occasionally we see one that is still in mighty good shape.

Everyone seems to keep a cow in all the towns and the streets are lined with manure piles. Some who weren't raised on a farm don't get used to the odor. Seem to be a lot of deer around here. We get venison once in awhile to supplement the regular food. I suspect, however, that some of the cows running loose around here get hit by a stray bullet now and then.

France, from what I've seen is in rather bad shape. Very little fuel is available and most of the people look hungry. I saw a little boy in Lunerville who said he was 11 years old and I'll bet he didn't weigh 35 pounds.

Saw the Rhone valley and it was quite beautiful. The farms are the neatest I've ever seen. They make use of trees for wind breaks and trim them every year for fire-wood. I imagine most of France would be well worth seeing in peace time.

Most of the horses appear to be Percherons and Belgians. They take mighty good care of them also. Have seen only a few that were thin and they were in towns.

Have had a few shells land close enough to have to hit the ground, however, none were dangerously close. You can usually hear them coming and it takes a practically direct hit to hurt you. We're pretty well dug in so the shelling doesn't bother us much.

Have been fixed up very well for footwear. We were issued sheepskins. They have rubber part way up and the rest is oil-treated leather. With the felt insoles and heavy sox our feet stay dry and warm. The only trouble is that the moisture from our feet condenses in the packs and unless we can dry them out daily we can't possibly keep our feet warm.

The biggest interest of everyone these days is the Russian front. We're all cheering them on.

You surely get sick of this business in a hurry. The next month should tell a lot.

Will write again when I get time. Hope you are both well.

Your son,
Gordon

Two blind women, 70 and 79 years old respectively, are among the most faithful Red Cross workers at Fossil. Practically all the from a job the right to bring suit against the employer, alleging discrimination because the applicant was a blind woman.

EXAMINER OF CAR OPERATORS HERE MAR. 5

A traveling examiner of operators and chauffeurs is scheduled to arrive in Moro Monday, March 5, 1945, and will be on duty at the Courthouse between the hours of 10 a. m. and 4 p. m. All those wishing permits or licenses to drive cars are asked to get in touch with the examiner during these hours.

War Fund Drive Is First in State To Go Over Top

Sherman county was the first in Oregon to go over the top in its Red Cross war fund drive. The drive was completed before the annual meeting Monday night when Roy Powell, chairman of the committee, announced that the money and pledges secured were well over the goal of \$6,500 set in the budget for 1945.

This successful conclusion of the Red Cross fund drive two days before the statewide solicitation was scheduled to begin, not only placed the Sherman county chapter first in Oregon but at least second place among all the counties of the Pacific coast states.

Miss Ruth Jackson, state general welfare chairman, in commending the county for its outstanding record, explained at the meeting Monday night that chapter quotas were made up on the basis of population, resources and other factors related to the wealth of each county in the state. The Sherman county quota, she said, included \$3,500 for the national organization and \$3,000 for the 1945 budget of the county chapter.

Local chapter funds will be used for the purchase of materials and supplies from which the many needed Red Cross articles are to be made, and for emergency assistance to service men and their families.

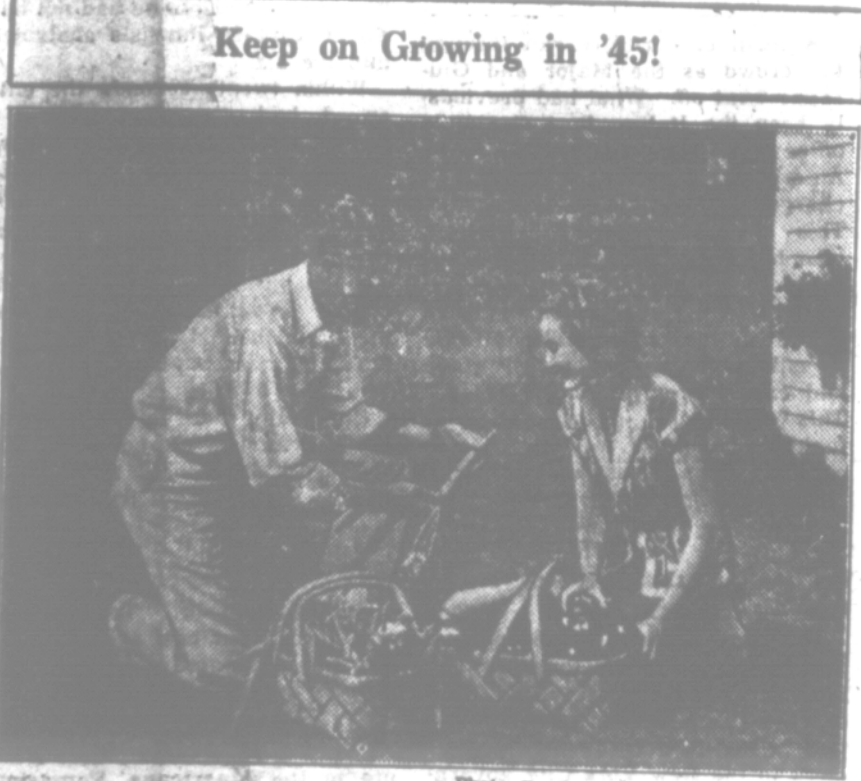
Mr. Powell expressed his gratification for the cooperation and support given the drive throughout the county. He extended his thanks to all members of the committee and others who had assisted in the work.

Forest Nursery Trees Now Available

Several varieties of trees for windbreak, shelter belt or woodlot use are available from the Oregon forest nursery, Route 1, Corvallis. Orders need to be received the first week in March to insure delivery in time for best results in planting. The usual charge made by this government nursery is still in effect, which is \$2.50 per thousand, plus delivery charge, or a minimum charge of 50 cents for small quantities.

The best season for planting varies according to the location, but west of the Cascades they may be planted almost any time through the winter or early spring, while in eastern Oregon they are best put in as soon as the ground thaws.

Eastern Oregon plantings need to be cultivated and will frequently do better if irrigated. The trees need protection from stock the first few years.



Keep on Growing in '45!

The war is not yet won on the food front! There is real need that men, women and children all over the country again take up the rake and hoe to help produce the nation's vegetable supply. Uncle Sam is asking for 20,000,000 better gardens this coming season.

How to improve on last year's results? Careful preparation of the soil comes first. Every time a garden plot is properly spaded or plowed to the right depth, and the top soil raked fine and loose, the general condition is made more favorable for plant growth. A too-stiff soil can be made more workable by the addition of sand or peat moss. A complete fertilizer in the proper quantity, no matter what the kind of soil, will replace in your garden the plant food used by last year's crops.

You can plan a better balanced garden than ever before. If the family is tired of beans, beans, beans, cut down the number of rows; plant more of some vegetable they can't get enough of. If, last year, all the radishes were ready for the table at the same time so that many of them grew old and pithy before they could be eaten, try sowing a short row at a time, with a week between plantings. Do the same with beets and carrots, greens and sweet corn. By a little preliminary planning, you can become a master hand at progressive gardening.

If you planted an unsatisfactory variety of a certain vegetable, look for one better suited to your garden conditions. Ask your seed dealer to suggest varieties best for home gardens in your locality.

Plan to cultivate more often than last year, not only to keep down weeds but to conserve soil moisture, especially in hot dry weather. It's a smart idea to have insect spray or dust on hand early in the season to smash the pests before they take over and destroy precious plants. Be sure to thin all seedlings so that they have plenty of room to grow; root crops are especially important. If artificial watering is needed during a dry spell, soak the soil for at least a foot down about once a week instead of sprinkling every day.

A Victory Garden is only as good as its vegetables when used in their prime. Gather them for the table, for canning, for quick freezing, or for storing when they have reached the stage of proper size, greatest tenderness, and most delicious flavor.

27 Members in Baby Beef Club

Sherman county's baby beef 4-H club project looks like a record breaker this year with 29 members feeding 48 beef calves. County Agent LeRoy Wright, who is in charge of the project, says that keen interest is already being shown in the progress of the animals and that a county-wide weighing program will be started soon.

The animals were secured by the club members last fall and will be fed through the year to September when the annual 4-H club fair will be held. Winners at this event will be selected to participate in the Pacific International and other shows later.

Herfords are outstanding favorites among youngsters as there are 29 steers of this breed being raised. Angus and Shorthorn breeds are each represented with seven head.

The present membership of the club includes the following: Barbara Alley, John Alley, Carl Schilling, Scott Fritts, Ed Fritts, Daran Fritts, Harry Hartley, James Hartley, Duane Eakin, Merle Eakin, Roger Ball, Rodney Rolfe, Donald Schilling, Clarence May, Robert Crawford, Irwin Hackert, Joe

Harvey, Ray Harvey, David Wright, Fred VonBorstel and Phil VonBorstel of Grass Valley; Dick Oveson, Stephen Oveson, Edwin Baisiger, Bob Martin, Dean Martin, Larry Sayrs and Leroy Bucholtz of Moro; and Roger Alley of Wasco.

Luther Davis Died Friday at The Dalles

Funeral services were held at The Dalles Monday for John Luther Davis who passed away in a hospital there February 23 at the age of 48. Interment was in The Dalles cemetery.

Mr. Davis had been a resident of the Kent district since 1911 and was one of the county's successful grain growers and stockmen. He had been active in civic affairs and served as master of local and county Grange organizations. He was the first chairman of the county AAA and his advice was sought in many public matters.

Born October 28, 1896, at Mountain City, Tennessee, Mr. Davis came to Oregon in 1911, settling at Kent. He was married to Miss Emma Schassen on October 28, 1916.

Surviving, in addition to the widow, are a son, Lt. Luther Davis, stationed at Fort Knox, Ky., but now home on leave; a daughter, Evelyn Davis of Portland; his mother, Mrs. Ida Davis of Moro; and three sisters, Mrs. Pearl Wilson, Portland; Mrs. Grace Smith, Prineville, and Mrs. Pauline Douma, Moro.

HUSKIES LOSE TO CONDON; ARLINGTON IS CHAMPION

The Moro high school basketball team journeyed to Arlington last Thursday for a tournament game with the Condon Blue Devils. The Huskies were defeated 24 to 22.

This was a hard game to lose because Moro was ahead 7 points with 3 minutes to play. This loss spelled disaster to Moro's title hopes.

A strong Arlington team emerged as the team to represent this district in the state tournament for class B schools when they defeated Adron Saturday night.

248 FARMERS SIGNED UP AT AAA MEETINGS

A total of 248 farmers of the county signed up for 1945 under the AAA at the recent meetings held in various parts of the county. On the basis of 290 being eligible, County Agent LeRoy Wright estimated that there are still about 40 left to sign. These, he says, must come in before March 10 in order to be able to participate in the benefits of the AAA program.

Mrs. A. McIntyre Again Heads Red Cross Chapter

Mrs. Afton McIntyre of Wasco was reelected president of the Sherman county chapter of the American Red Cross at the annual meeting of the organization at the Moro high school Monday evening. Gordon Harper of Wasco was reelected secretary while other officers chosen were Mrs. Tom Alley, vice president and Clarence Ruggles, treasurer. Those named directors included:

Mrs. George L. Fox, Kenneth Sather, W. A. Baisiger for three year terms; A. A. Dunlap, Mrs. Glenna Anderson, Mrs. Inez Thompson for two year terms; and M. M. Oveson, Mrs. George Wilson and Mrs. Carl Meizer for one year.

Reports were presented from the various committees of the chapter and talks were given by Graham Tinning of Portland, acting field supervisor; Miss Grace Jackson, state welfare chairman, and Miss Ruth Wilson, home service field representative.

The report of the home service committee by Willy Knighten showed more than 40 cases handled during the year, mostly of service men or their families.

Mrs. Willy Knighten, reporting on home production, stated that 4372 articles had been shipped out by the committee, representing over 50,000 hours of labor by 122 persons.

C. A. Tom of Rufus gave a report on First Aid stating that Sherman county had achieved a most unusual record in that one-fourth of the people of the county held First Aid cards.

Reports by Mrs. Ormand Hilderbrand detailed the Junior Red Cross activities and those of the camp and hospital committee. The latter including the providing of considerable furniture for the army camp at Rufus and the furnishing of more than 1000 dozen cookies for the soldiers there.

Roy Powell, who headed the war fund committee, reported that the drive had been practically completed and was safely over the top. Miss Wilson, speaking on home service activities of the Red Cross, pointed out that they included assistance to service men in communicating with relatives, providing information, and emergency relief.

Miss Jackson explained the assignment of chapter quotas. The Sherman county quota was increased from last year, she said, because the local budget had been increased from \$800 to \$2000 to take care of the expanding work of the chapter.

In the final talk, Mr. Tynning gave a number of experiences as field director in army camps to show the kind and extent of assistance given the men in overseas duty to communicate with their families in case of emergency.

The meeting adjourned following the showing of an army Red Cross film, "Seeing Them Through."

The first Percheron to be registered from Wheeler county was "Shoofly Footprint 245522," a gray stallion owned by B. M. Thomas.

Mr. Thomas also owns "Madge," a registered black Percheron mare, from its highline to Mikah, 34 that stood undefeated in her class, miles, to serve the new grain elevator being built at Mikah, also national when she was owned by several homes in that vicinity; total cost about \$8000.

Lawmakers to See End of Session About March 12

As far as the paymaster is concerned the 43rd legislative assembly is all over for Monday night the constitutional 60 days were ended and the members of the house and senate now continue on their own. To their everlasting credit the newspapers think more about that than do the members.

The session will last another two weeks after the end of the pay period in the estimation of most and the writer thinks it is longer than that. The major work of the session is ended in that the problems are well on the way to settlement and changes in the overall plan will be minor unless there is some sort of an upset. But it takes time to get it all done and this is one of the slowest sessions in that regard. There are not enough attorneys. In the house there are few of them, but that isn't the worst of it. There are not enough attorneys to hire for the difficult job of writing bills and checking them for imperfections.

Not more than a half dozen are to be trusted with a hard bill and even they make mistakes. They are worked to death and this may delay the end of the session.

The time for the action between the powers that spend money and powers that are charged with responsibility of raising it and seeing that it is administered has come with the probable result that the schools will get an additional \$3,000,000 as a property tax. In an average daily classroom basis and a part of which on the same basis as is the elementary school fund. This will about equalize between large and small schools. There is a good chance for a new million bucks for schools as an appropriation that will have some consolidation feature if that can be worked out—it is a difficult job.

A five million dollar fund to be raised for two years for a building program for higher education and state institutions is being talked and it may go through or be curtailed a million, but it will be enough.

It is likely that some of the measures now being debated around the committee rooms will go to the people in a special election to be held early in the summer. This means could be used to determine the people's will on the matter of new taxation (perhaps a tax on tax) on millage funds for the board of higher education; on equalization of school taxes; and other subjects that need to be settled before the legislature can be expected to plan much further for the future of the state.

The labor bills are not getting much of any place and it is likely that there will be little change. The unemployment benefits may be raised and the payment period lengthened but that cannot be stated as a certainty.

The forestry program is practically finished. The retirement and civil service bills are still passed around like hot potatoes and have a smaller chance of being held any day now. The sponsors have held their original thought and argued against amendments until now, but themselves and that are enough.

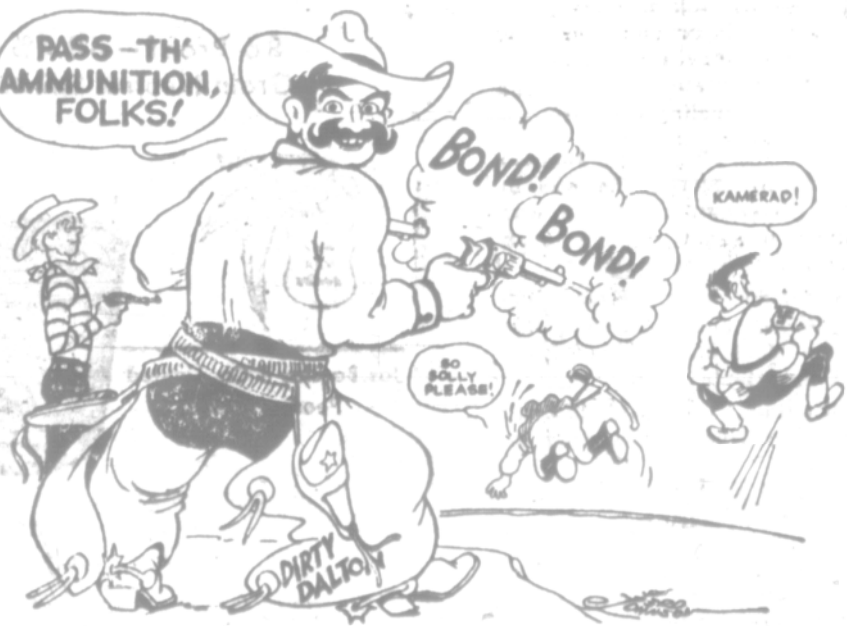
There is an urge here to pass a retirement law similar to the federal social security law and try to get the federal government to pay the state to accept the insurance just as does any large company. It will probably be possible in a few years as it has been promised. But the retirement people want big back payments in order to start the deal and will probably go "home" and not be back in the state.

The Pacific Power & Light Co. is now constructing a power line registered black Percheron mare, from its highline to Mikah, 34 that stood undefeated in her class, miles, to serve the new grain elevator being built at Mikah, also national when she was owned by several homes in that vicinity; total cost about \$8000.

War Bonds Will Finish Them

By Ferd Johnson

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