

Sherman County Journal

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Official County Paper

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

Nation-wide propaganda was inspired to have the senate authorize an appropriation of \$75,000,000 to be used for "advance" loans to states and political subdivisions for the preparation of plans under federal works agency, after the house of representatives had passed the request for \$77,680,000 down to \$5,000,000. Every association of contractors, highway departments, city leagues and service clubs was urged to telegraph their members to vote for a restoration of the sum requested. Hundreds of these letters were telegraphed without a clear understanding of the facts in the case.

After days of debate the senate authorized an appropriation of \$5,000,000 with a titling to it. The string consists in making free \$5,000,000, but the other \$50,000,000 must be matched dollar for dollar by the states and political subdivisions. If the senate measure stands, after conference, and the match money is supplied by the local bodies, such as counties and municipalities, there will be \$55,000,000 available for planning (from Washington, D.C.), or only \$10,000,000 less than Maj. Gen. Flanning asked for originally.

The measure is now in conference, and as a conference usually results in a compromise, it is not certain what the final answer will be. However, the "advance" for planning will not be a grant or free gift from the federal government, for it must be repaid if the public works project so planned is finally constructed.

There is a suspicion, voiced on the floor of the senate, that it is anticipated that pressure will be applied on congress to finance any and all of these public works projects, and in that event the control of the project would be vested in Washington, D.C., and not in the local communities. This would be a revival of PWA, which was a step better than the WPA in the kind of projects built. The senators who expressed alarm over the prospect of a demand on congress for an appropriation of billions of dollars, asserted that most of the states and political subdivisions are already planning and there is very small need for "advances" to be made. Chicago, New York and Philadelphia, the major cities of the country, insisted that the \$75,000,000 sum be appropriated, stating that their problems are far different than those of the medium and small towns of the United States.

What many senators (bitten by the propaganda) have overlooked is that where a community has decided on a project and is raising money to pay for it, invariably includes in the estimated cost the items of engineering and architect services, and the outside cost of the technical service is placed at 10 percent, although this is about twice as much as would normally be paid. If a community has the money set up for a project there would be no sense in borrowing from FWA to do the planning, for the money would have to be returned.

FWA does not want funds allocated to the states for distribution, but wants the local communities to come to Washington, where officials will approve or reject such projects as the community has in mind. This whole business looks like another attempt to keep alive a bureau and retain several hundred on its payroll. FWA already has engaged its men in the field in the Pacific northwest to sell the idea of borrowing "advances" to the political subdivisions in Oregon and Washington and field men are similarly engaged in other

(Continued on Page two)

Cookies For Camp Moro's Responsibility

Mrs. Lewis Hastings, cookie chairman of the Red Cross, in charge of managing tookies donations to the Rufus camp of army engineers, reports that Rufus furnished 40 dozen cookies during the week of March 17. Wasco women made and delivered 78 1/2 dozen cookies in the week ending March 24, with only a half of the women asked to donate.

This week Moro women are asked to make cookies for the camp. They will be picked up by Mrs. Hastings Saturday morning at 11:00 at Douma's store.

Extension Service To Explain Plans

Widespread discussion of the issues involved in the forthcoming world security conference of the United Nations in San Francisco will be encouraged in rural sections of the state through action planned by the OSC extension service. Plans for this discussion program were made by county and state extension staff members at a series of district meetings recently.

"The extension service will participate in this movement because any world peace proposals adopted at San Francisco will have a profound effect upon the social and economic life on farms and in rural communities," W. L. Teutsch, assistant director, announced. "The discussion program is not designed to sell any one plan or proposal but to help people generally to understand the issues involved."

Information on the conference issues will be made available during April and May through scheduling of competent speakers, distribution of literature, encouraging of forum discussions in meetings, and through cooperation of the press and radio, says Teutsch.

Juniors Put On Show With Many Laughs

Friday night the Junior class presented to a large audience their annual play, "The Campbells Are Coming".

Ma Brannigan (Eileen Lemley), who lives for her grandchildren, is awaiting the arrival of Kaye Brannigan (Marge Barnett), who is coming back from a girl's school in Ogdenville. Kaye's sister Betty (Mary Lyons) and brother, Dick (Harry Hartley) have heard of Kaye's break-up with her former boy-friend, Jeffrey Scudder (Wayne Melzer) and are quite provoked. Kaye has fallen in love with a city snob Kingston Campbell (Carroll Noonan) from Ogdenville and he is coming with his mother, Mrs. Augusta Campbell (Gloria Douma) to visit the Brannigans.

Catalpa Tapp (Mary vonBorstel), the Brannigan's hillbilly servant, succeeded in making things go wrong, while her father Bildad Tapp (Bob Robertson) came every week to collect her weekly wage only to spend it all on 'corn licker'.

While Kaye went to town to get some fancy food and clothes, the Campbell's arrive. The Brannigans, Tapps and Scudders all dress as hillbillies to show the Campbell's a very bad time, including getting Mrs. Campbell crooked so she told Cyrus Scudder (James Ziegler) that Bildad Tapp was her brother and Jeffrey chased Kingston with a rifle into the woods.

The Campbell's were low on cash and found that Kaye's grandmother had plenty. When Kaye found this out she broke with Kingston and turned back to Jeffrey Scudder, while his father Cyrus Scudder was about to marry Ma.

Catalpa and Bildad, after finding that Mrs. Campbell was Bildad's sister, immediately left to pack up to go visit them in the city regardless of Catalpa's wanting to marry up with Dick.

Capture Nazi Guns in Germany



Three American soldiers carry captured German guns and ammunition near Gerschnich, Germany, to test fire and familiarize themselves with enemy weapons. Left to right, Pfc. Paul L. Kuebler, Duncan, Pa.; Pfc. Lawrence A. Totsky, Mayfield, Pa.; and Pfc. Stuart L. House, Kingston, N. C. They report American weapons superior to captured ones. Tests made in the United States with some of these guns proved them inferior in operation to the newer types of American guns.

Items of Moro Community Tell of Sales, Sickness, Company, Crops

Joe Belanger has been here for the past week from his Pendleton office to seed the plots on the experiment station where he has a demonstration of different fallowing methods. The field trial on the Moore Bros. land south of town was sown last fall. Art King was here Tuesday to assist and look over the conservation work being done with new kinds of fallow.

Stephen Oveson was taken to the hospital Friday with an ailment that was diagnosed as appendicitis. The offending organ was removed and Stephen is getting well along toward recovery.

Truman Strong has rented his farm land to his son in law, Francis Watkins and sold his tractor and plow to Joe Belanger. Truman says he wants to rest.

Frank Sayre and Darwin Van Gilder, both of whom had been home from army hospitals in California, left Monday for their respective places with a woman from California, who had purchased Mrs. Florence Martin's car. Both thus obtained a ride nearly the entire distance.

Vernon Shipley is home from the Pacific fighting zone after being away for nearly three years. He has been stationed in Hawaii, Australia, New Guinea and farther north. He is visiting his mother, Mrs. Adele Douma while on a furlough from his long service.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cyphers spent a couple days at Umatilla the first of the week to visit friends there.

Mrs. Bob Boynton, a lieutenant in the army nurse corp and Bob's sister were week end guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Balsiger. Mrs. Boynton is now stationed at the Portland Air Base hospital in Portland while Bob is again in England.

Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Moore and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Woods spent Saturday night and Sunday in Portland visiting friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Barzee were here last week from Portland remaining from Tuesday until Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Barzee went back with them for a few days while Mr. Barzee has a doctor look him over.

Miss Connie Ruggles returned Wednesday for a visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ruggles, during spring vacation from the St. Mary's school of the Valley.

Mrs. Luvia Platt a son, Junior, were here visiting the Vernon

Industrial Accident Auditor Here

J. M. Ezell, representative of the State Industrial Accident Commission, was through the county Wednesday. He states that he has opened an office for the commission at 407 1/2 Washington St., The Dalles and will take care of all accounts in Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam and Morrow counties. He will make visits to all the counties to aid with auditing of accounts and expects to be in Sherman county for that purpose in May.

Hearing Asked On Wage Rates In Wheat Area

Farmers Sign Petition For Hearing at Meeting; 51 percent Must Agree

The meeting held last Thursday with 50 farmers and a representative of the War Food Administration's labor policy group resulted in a rather general agreement on the part of the farmers to request a hearing on wages over the entire wheat area.

Petitions are at the grain growers office throughout the county where farmers may sign them if they want to. At least 51 percent of the farmers must sign the petitions in order that a hearing may be called.

These hearings must be attended by at least three of the state committee of the Wage Stabilization Board of the War Food Administration for Oregon. At hearings wages ceilings can be established for each job on the farm. Whether this will remove the presumed danger of penalties from over-payment of wages or not, whether such hearings will merely establish high wages is not known.

Chosen to the county wage committee were Paulen Kaseberg, O. G. Hilderbrand, Carroll Sayre, Geo. Wilcox and J. M. Wilson.

Glenn Howell Again KOG Head

Governor Snell this week announced the appointment of Glenn Howell of The Dalles, Oregon, to serve during 1945 as Wasco-Sherman counties chairman of Keep Oregon Green, and has asked the chairman to select at once a strong committee of citizens to work with him in the all important work of preventing farm and forest fires this year.

Charles Ogle, newly named executive secretary, stated at Salem headquarters of KOG this week that he would very shortly start on a tour of the state to work out local fire prevention programs with each county committee.

Although a feasibility study was made in July of 1941 on the Sherman county addition, no approval of that project has been made.

At that time it was estimated that 296 miles of line would be needed and there were 206 signers.

In the Area A, Wasco county, there are 515 customers who used \$3,276 in February, an average of about \$6.00 per month per customer.

Cost of the 264.4 miles of line originally built was \$188,528. There is now 290 miles of line. Application has been made for \$350,000 for the 296 miles of line, that it is hoped will service every Sherman county farm. Wasco county's investment is a little over \$200,000 with 515 customers. That of Sherman county will be around \$350,000 with an estimated 206 customers.

There is 45 miles of 3 phase line in Wasco county's area, 10 miles of 2 phase and 235 miles of single phase line. Cross arm construction is now found to be needed instead of the cheaper construction because of frost.

Depreciation is estimated at 3 percent, and 2 percent of gross revenue is taken in lieu of taxes. Money with which to buy the Locust Grove line, if possible, will come out of general and operations fund of Wasco Electric; not from REA.

Service is available, according to the rate sheet to members under rules and regulations; no meters permitted over 10 H.P., single phase service at available voltage, rates begin at 9 1/2 cents per KWH, drop to 8-4 cents, minimum charge \$3.50, gross rates are 10 percent above the above. Above rates are for bills paid before tenth of month.

There is a 20 percent loss of electricity on lines.

Result of first weightings of soil from field tests for moisture content shows that soil moisture, at least in the south end of the county is satisfactory.

More complete information will be available next week.

Dog License Payment Due By April 10

Dog owners of Moro are requested to see the recorder, Charles Ruggles, and make payment of the dog license before April 10.

License on dogs in Moro is \$2.00 per year. After that date the recorder will make a list of licensed dogs for the marshal. Other dogs will be impounded and disposal made of them, according to the city ordinance.

UNRRA Wants Good American Clothes

Mrs. E. Amidon, representing both the Moro Woman's club and the Eastern Star, is chairman of the drive to collect clothing on behalf of the UNRRA (United National Rehabilitation and Relief Administration) which starts April first and continues throughout the month.

Good substantial clothes both winter and summer weights are needed. Underclothing and cottons should be washed. Wanted are garments for infants, men and boys, women and girls; heavy duty caps and knitted headwear; bedding; durable oxfords or high shoes with low heels, matted and tied in pairs; good fabrics of a yard or more.

Contributions will go into a common pool for distribution. Some will be sent to the Philippines. All will be distributed free.

Clothing can be left at Douma's store where it will be packed and shipped. Committee members are Mrs. Pauline Douma and Mrs. Louise Becket for the Star and Mrs. Dewey Thompson and Mrs. C. J. Thompson for the club.

Playing Cards For Patients Needed

Collection of playing cards for veterans in hospitals is being done in Sherman county as the need for them has been announced recently. If there are families who have playing cards they can send for this purpose they can be left at the Journal office from where they will be sent on.

Billion Bushel Wheat Crop Prophsied

The weekly market review says that winter wheat is in good, to excellent condition and under the influence of warm weather and adequate moisture made rapid growth in nearly all sections. However, in the Pacific Coast states growth was slow due to coolness. It was too wet in a few sections, especially Oklahoma, where some yellowing is reported locally.

Acreage seeded to grain for the 1945-46 season will be about the same as last season, but this will vary for individual grains if farmers carry out their March 1 intentions. Increases in winter wheat and oats acreage about equal sharp reductions in barley and grain sorghums and slight declines in corn and spring wheat acreages. A spring wheat acreage of 19,000,000 acres is planned this season. Planted acreage in 1944 was 19,335,000 acres. Based on 1937-42 average yields of production spring wheat may total 241 million bushels. This added to the December estimate of 762 million bushels of winter wheat would give indicated 1945 production of slightly over a million bushels.

A 2 percent reduction in acreage to be planted to feed grains is in prospect for 1945 compared with the 1944 planted acreage. The indicated acreage to be planted to corn is 95,778,000 acres or about 3 million acres less than the area planted in 1944. A record oats acreage of 46,555,000 acres is planned for 1945. The smallest barley acreage since 1930 is indicated by intentions to plant reports with a total of 12,285,000 acres compared with 14,300,000 acres planted in 1944.

Talk of Electric Power Arouses Many Farmers

Meeting Held With Power Company Officials To Obtain Statement of Policy

There has been some activity on the rural electrification front during the past month or so although little progress of a definite nature has been reported.

Last November, after the Locust Grove line directors had agreed to sell to Pacific Power & Light, local persons interested in development of an extension of the Wasco county Rural Electrification Administration lines into Sherman county, protested the pending sale and made an effort to buy the Locust Grove line in the name of the Wasco county REA.

So far, no actual sale has been reported to either possible purchaser although reports of the price offered have been increased nearly two fold.

A mass meeting was held in Wasco in February and a committee named to interview officers of the PP&L company. On this committee were Tom Fraser, Jerry Wilson, Paulen Kaseberg and ex-officio George Wilcox, director of the Wasco county REA for Sherman county and Earl Richelderfer, president of the Locust Grove line.

Only progress made at this meeting was that the officers of the company agreed to make a decision within 30 days and prepare a plan for electrification of the county or make other arrangements about selling.

This plan has not so far been presented in the county and so far as can be learned no release of the Locust Grove directors has been given by the power company.

Complete information on the plans of REA or of PP&L is not available at this time and final settlement of the question apparently depends on future events.

Grain Storage May Be Serious Problem

Wheat is being shipped out of nearly every warehouse and elevator in the county since the agreement with War Food administration, successor to the Commodity Credit Corporation in the matter of handling the grain crop, that permits pre-shipment of grain before April 30 with payment of the election bonus.

Grain men have been told that because of transportation difficulties this year may be the worst of any for storing the grain crop. Wendall Balsiger reports that there are still 60,000,000 bushels of wheat stored in the Pacific northwest, which, if not soon removed will cause elevator managers some concern before a new crop is housed.

YES, AND THEN AGAIN NO.

"I hope no one will be misled about the food situation" says War Food Administrator Marvin Jones. "No one has gone hungry in this country. No one is going hungry. In 1943 the American farmers produced 32 percent more food than this or any other nation ever produced before the war. In 1944 they upped this by 5 percent, making a record increase of 37 percent above prewar production. This record was made in spite of the handicaps of war. This year the farmers themselves set goals that call for an even greater crop acreage. Our armed forces will continue to be well-fed. We will continue to help our fighting allies. Our own people will continue to have plenty of good, wholesome food, and we will contribute our share to the relief of starving people, even if it means a new hitch in our belts. This is a practical matter and a part of the war itself. Anyone who tells the American farmer short makes a mistake."

In other words: there is going to be plenty of food but get ready to tighten your belt.