

# Sherman County Journal

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Official County Paper

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

Just why "military security" should prevent the giving out of figures on exports of farm machinery is not clear, but this is given by foreign economic administration as a reason for withholding this data from congress, and therefore, from the public. A partial report has been received, however, by the chairman of the house subcommittee on appropriations and the figures cannot be other than interesting to farmers in the Pacific Northwest who, somehow, have managed to meet crop production quotas despite shortage of spare parts and lack of adequate machinery.

The partial report shows that in 1944 there were exported through all the government agencies 41,007 wheel tractors, 39,041 plows, 12,543 harrows, 7,965 drills, 17,550 cultivators, and 6,366 combines and grain binders. In every item the number exported last year is more than double the number exported in 1943—and this in face of a constantly increasing shortage in the number of machines available for sale to farmers in the United States.

The total number of machines exported is perhaps less impressive than the list of countries receiving them—namely, through lend-lease or the foreign economic administration. Great Britain was favored above all others, with Australia, New Zealand and Mexico following in the order named. However, South Africa, India and most of the Central and South American republics were not overlooked, the Latin-American countries receiving a sizeable proportion of the total. A statement accompanying the report explains that the figures given do not in any case include tractors and other motorized equipment furnished the army.

Among other bad guesses by the army, aside from Colol, the oil deal that stuck American taxpayers to the tune of \$138,000,000, is the Gopher ordnance plant in Minnesota. The plant was designed to produce 600 tons of smokeless powder daily, but no powder was ever manufactured. After spending \$78,000,000 on the project the war department ordered construction work discontinued on three of the six producing lines. The three completed were placed in a standby condition with the expectation that existing plants could meet all requirements. The story dug up by the house committee on military affairs, which has been doing some investigating on its own account and with surprising results.

Here is another case: The war department cancelled a contract and left the contractor with \$58,000 of electrical equipment. Of this amount \$8,000 was absorbed by the contractor, leaving \$50,000 to be sold as junk. The war department sold it for \$6,000. Two weeks later the junkman sold a small portion of this high priority equipment to a manufacturer for \$12,000, and when he sells the remainder it will represent a still further clear profit.

Another: A Puerto Rico corporation chartered a war shipping administration cargo vessel and shipped 1,250,000 gallons of molasses to New Orleans where it was sold to a dealer for 18 cents a gallon at the suggestion of the molasses section of the WPB. The same cargo could have been bought by Defense Supplies Corp. for five cents a gallon, plus six cents transportation, if a ship had been made available to Defense Supplies Corp., a government agency, by the war shipping administration. The military affairs com-

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## Nine New U. S. Four-Star Generals



JACOB L. DEVERS MARK W. CLARK WALTER KRUEGER



CARL SPAATZ J. T. McNARNEY OMAR N. BRADLEY



THOS. T. HANDY B. B. SOMERVELL GEORGE C. KENNEY

The above nine lieutenant generals were nominated by President Roosevelt to be full generals in the U. S. army. They are: Jacob L. Devers, commanding general, 6th army group, European theater. Mark W. Clark, commanding general, 15th army group in Italy. Walter Krueger, commanding general, 6th army, Philippines. Carl Spaatz, commanding general, U. S. strategic air force in Europe. Joseph T. McNarney, supreme deputy Allied commander, Mediterranean theater. Omar N. Bradley, commanding general, 12th army group, Western front in Europe. Thos. T. Handy, deputy chief of staff, U. S. army. B. B. Somervell, commanding general, army service forces. George C. Kenney, commanding general, Far East air forces.

## Farm Groups Trying To Get Together On New Farm Program

General recommendations favor: Pullman, President, Washington-Idaho-Wheat-Growers-League; H. P. Carstensen, Master, Washington State Grange; E. T. Taylor, Master, Idaho State Grange; Lloyd Smith, Mayville, Eastern Oregon Wheat League; Archie Camp, Fullman, Director, Washington State AAA Board; R. B. Taylor Adams Chairman, Oregon AAA Board; E. F. Dummeier, Pullman; Washington State College economics professor; R. T. Smith, Ellensburg, President, Washington State Farm Bureau, and members of executive committees of the groups represented.

In the first joint meeting of its scope in the Pacific Northwest area, representatives of State Granges, State Farm Bureaus, Wheat Leagues agreed to set up a joint committee for study of specific proposals which all of the organizations could support, to report back to the whole group within ninety days. While primarily in a wheat meeting, the group recognized that producers of other farm commodities should participate in such postwar agricultural planning.

Modernization of the present parity formula was suggested, the conference asking that not less than parity prices should be paid producers of wheat for that portion of their production which is used for human food within the United States.

Participating in the joint conference were Morton Tompkins, Portland, Master of the Oregon State Grange; C. L. Jamison, Pendleton, Secretary, Oregon State Farm Bureau; Ronald E. Jones, Brooks, President of the Oregon Farmer's Union; Ralph Gillespie,

## Trees Available At County Agents'

Small trees from the college tree farm have been received here and may be obtained at the county agent's office. Not all of the favorite trees are available and in their place are several new varieties to this county.

Prospective tree planters may have a choice of Black Locust, Chinese Arbor Vitae, Arizona Cypress, Golden Willow, Russian Olive or Ponderosa Pine.

## COOKIES AT GRASS VALLEY

The week ending April 7 the Grass Valley and Kent communities have been asked to furnish cookies for the Rufus camp. They will be picked up at Alley's Confectionery Saturday-morning at 11 o'clock according to Mrs Lewis Hastings, county chairman. Last week Moro furnished 45 1-2 dozen cookies.

## Moisture Not So Good In North End of County

Additional tests made of the soil moisture in Sherman county around Moro and Wasco were made this week and all indicate that moisture conditions are not more than average in that area.

On the Charley Powell land across from Landry's the test showed 14.1 percent moisture in six feet. In fact, all tests in this compilation are for six feet. On the Carroll Sayrs land on Jordan Ridge the test was 14.8, on the Proudfoot place near the house it was 11.9 with the lower two feet very low, on Potter land near Klendike the test showed 13.3, on the Fred Hennagin place above Nish it was 13.6 and on the McLachlan land east of Moro 12.3 percent was found with distribution comparable to that on the station.

Deep soil moisture was deficient in nearly all places tested.

## Petition Signing Not Popular So Far

It is reported by the county agent that signing of the petitions for a labor hearing for this area have not been signed in quantity and that much fewer than the 51 percent needed in the regulations have signed so far.

Whether wheat growers have concluded that the move by the WFA is warranted interference with their business, or that it will merely tend to raise wages or whether they merely have not gotten around to sign is a matter that will have to be left to time, it appears.

## Harry McDonald Home From War

Harry A. McDonald, son of Wiley McDonald of Wasco, has been discharged from the navy after four years because of physical condition attendant on his long service. He has arrived at the home of his father near Wasco for a needed rest.

The admiral of his command commended McDonald for zeal, fortitude and devotion to duty during his enlistment which included battles at Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Kula Gulf, Bougainville, Bismarck, Saipan, Guam, Palau and the Philippines.

## Farmers Called In To Tell and Be Told About Wages Past & Present

The Oregon War Food Administration Wage Board will hold a two-day public hearing at Arlington and Pendleton to consider specific wage ceilings for the operations required in the production, planting, and harvesting of wheat, hay and green and dry peas in Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman, Wasco, Jefferson and Wheeler counties, according to LeRoy Wright, county agent.

The hearing will open at Arlington, April 17, in the High School Gymnasium, and will be continued the following day at Pendleton. Sessions will begin at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon, and will be resumed at 8:00 o'clock in the evening if necessary.

The purpose of the hearing is to obtain first-hand information concerning local conditions affecting each of the crops and areas mentioned. All groups of individuals interested are invited to attend. Problems to be considered will include the particular crops and operations affected; the areas to be controlled; wage or salary rates paid for the specific operations in 1943 and 1942, including the highest rates paid between January 1, 1942 and September 15, 1942; wage or salary rates in important competing crops or in competing industries, and other related matters. In short, the Board wants to get a balanced picture of the situation within each community concerned in order that the War Food Administrator can arrive at a just and fair wage ceiling for each operation covered.

Agricultural wage stabilization brings farm labor into the overall emergency price control act passed by Congress in 1942. Under the regulations, specific wage ceilings are used when there is a need for stabilizing wage or salary rates within an area or for a specific crop or crops, and particularly where large numbers of agricultural workers are needed on a limited number of job operations. Farmers and farm workers alike are governed by the regulations.

Wage determinations by the War Food Administrator must be such as to facilitate the obtaining of sufficient labor for the operations in question, yet such as not to be inflationary or in excess of the capacity of the growers to pay.

## ALFALFA SCARCE

A decline in alfalfa acreage in most western Oregon counties is revealed in reports to the farm crops department at Oregon State college, and is attributed to a number of causes. Among these are demand for river bottom lands for vegetable crops, unusual difficulties in obtaining alfalfa seed and some difficulty in curing the first crop of hay. Observers believe that the trend will be reversed after the war because of the proved advantage of alfalfa hay, particularly for dairy farmers.

## ACP Payments Coming Through AAA To Farmers

Next Year To See Drastic Curtailment of Such Payments; Quotas Cut

Checks amounting to \$59,126.61 have been reported as received by Sherman county wheat growers in payment for work done last year on behalf of soil conservation, according to the AAA office. The total expected will be near \$170,000.

Word has been received from state headquarters that the sum to be expended for payments for soil conservation will be \$55,000 for 1945 which means a decided curtailment of payment for soil conservation practices as application has already been made for \$162,000 for this work.

Heretofore payment for weed control has been made on a basis of 10 cents per pound for chemical used. Between \$10,000 and \$12,000 was so used in 1944. This year payment is to be based on the following formula: \$1 per acre for each acre in the farm or \$2 per acre for each crop land acre. It requires about 800 pounds of chemical to treat an acre. A man having 800 crop acres could treat 20 acres completely if he could get the allotment.

The payment for trashy fallow will be \$.75 per acre if there is 300 pounds to 1000 pounds of trash on top of the ground and \$1.25 per acre if there is 1000 pounds or over of trash on top of the ground.

What method will be used to determine which applicants are to be permitted to carry out their soil conservation programs is not known at present and the determination will undoubtedly be a cause of major concern of the local AAA committee. It has been suggested that weed treatment be given first rating and that other means of soil conservation be relegated to a lesser position.

## Camp Official Writes Thanks

Judge J. M. Wilson has received the following letter from Major General John P. Lucas, of Camp Rufus.

"The Commanding Officer of the Provisional Engineer Combat Group of troops of the Fourth Army who have been engaged upon important activities in the Columbia River valley near Rufus, Oregon, has reported to me that the citizens of Sherman County have been most generous and hospitable toward the soldiers of the organizations of this group. He states that there have been frequent donations of cookies, day room furniture, phonograph records and magazines and that many of the soldiers have been extended the hospitality of homes in several towns of the county.

"I desire to extend my sincere personal thanks to the citizens of Sherman County for their patriotic and unselfish interest in these soldiers of my command and I request that you extend to as many of them as you can reach the heart-felt appreciation of the Army Command."

The larger part of the men have been moved from the camp and it is understood that the remainder will go as soon as the details of loading equipment and straightening up used sites can be finished. Exact date of complete abandonment of the camp and the cessation of crossing practice is not known.

## MEETING CHANGED

The Missionary Society which has been meeting on Tuesdays for many, many years will meet on Wednesday April 11 and Wednesdays hereafter. The Red Cross will meet on Tuesday afternoons in the future. It is also reported that the American Legion Auxiliary will meet Thursdays until further notice.

## 4-H Beef Doing Well On Feed; Gains Big

Boys and girls having the 45 4-H club calves in Sherman county are putting fat on them more rapidly than usual in the opinion of LeRoy Wright, county agent.

Of the 45 calves 31 are Herefords and 20 are from locally owned herds. Of the remaining 11, one is from Wasco county, 8 from Wallowa and 2 from Umatilla. The 7 Shorthorns are all from the herd of Millard Eakin, and the 7 Angus are all from Klickitat county in Washington.

The heaviest is being fed by Ed Fritts and weighs 770 pounds at the most recent weighing. The lightest of this breed is owned by Edwin Balsiger and weighs 543 pounds. This calf has grown from a mere 278 in December to his present size or practically double in 3 1-2 months.

Heaviest Hereford is being fed by Carl Schilling and weighs 754 and the lightest weighs 424 and is being fed by Roger Ball. The lightest and heaviest Shorthorns are both being fed by Duane Eakin and the weights are 565 and 633. Not all calves under feed are in the same class which accounts for some of the differences in weight.

## Wheat League Plan Good, Says Miller

Sherman county wheat growers have an opportunity to become life members of the Eastern Oregon Wheat League for a nominal fee as the result of action taken at the last meeting, according to Vernon I. Miller of Rufus, of the league's executive committee.

The life membership plan was adopted last December as a means of stabilizing permanent membership in the league and to simplify the payment and collection of dues, Mr. Miller explains. The arrangement also will add to the efficiency of the organization and the convenience of its members. Life members will not be assessed annual dues.

Under the plan, a member may purchase a life membership on a graduated scale according to age. The rates by age groups are: from 20 to 34 years, \$25; 35 to 49 years, \$18; 50 to 64 years, \$8; and 65 years and over, \$5.

Vernon I. Miller is accepting life membership payment from Sherman County. J. B. Adams at Moro and A. A. Dunlap at Grass Valley have been asked to assist. The 140-page proceedings of the 1944 meeting held at Arlington in December have recently been sent to all league members, Mr. Miller reports.

## County Gains In Paper Drive

With the shipment of 14 tons of paper during March Sherman county jumped from sixth to second place in the state's paper drive, according to a report made available by the salvage division, WPB.

First county in Oregon in collection of paper is Benton which has long led the list and still leads with 67.9 pounds per capita. Sherman has 58.1, Wasco 57.5, Marion 54.3, Clatsop 51.9 and Gilliam 45.8 to give the figures for the leading six counties.

Oddly enough at this stage of the war some counties have not collected waste paper in large quantities at all. Wheeler county has no record of paper collection at all, Curry is credited with 3.3 pounds, Lincoln with 8.9 and Morrow with 9.4 to give those counties less than 10 pounds per capita.

Collection of paper in Wasco is expected to further increase the county's position and smaller collections may be made in other parts of the county at any time.

It's cloudy enough to rain; cold enough to snow. It must be spring.

## Honor Roll For County Service Men Ordered

List of Those Who Serve To Be Erected On Court House Yard Next Month

The county court decided at its Wednesday meeting to have erected and to pay for a war memorial that is to be erected on the court house grounds by Memorial Day if possible.

The plan was presented to the court by George Updegraff and Wiley Knighten who stated that so far no recognition had been accorded to the men of this county who are fighting the nation's battles and that some means of noting their should be started.

The memorial will be an honor roll to contain 10 rows of 32 names each with another row remaining for gold star names. The cost will be approximately \$500. Placed on the honor roll will be the names of all persons officially registered and inducted or volunteered and in addition those who resided in or who attended school in Sherman county since December 7, 1936 or whose parents have resided in Sherman county since that date. Persons knowing of names of eligible service men or women may send them in to Mrs. Doris Wilson at Moro.

Closing date for inclusion on the list by Memorial Day is May 1. The honor roll will be 8 feet, by 18 feet, will be two feet off the ground and have a top piece two feet high. Names will be on a board 3 inches by 18 inches.

Other delegations attending the court meeting were Clarence Morrison who wanted the court to permit the use of its road machinery for the Torque club, the aviation group, at Wasco. The matter was taken under advisement.

Paul Alley and G. A. Sargent asked the court to consider all ways and means of putting some gravel on the road between their farms as trucks in winter cannot pass over it often. A nearby grave pit was suggested and the court agreed to investigate.

Other business was routine, including payment of bills and ordering of some road repair material.

## Better Telephones Post-war Promise

C. P. Horn, acting manager of The Dalles office of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company and S. C. Inkley of the same company were here Tuesday on business with telephone users of the county.

Mr. Horn states that the company has new developments that will make better rural telephone systems as soon as production can begin. The Kent Telephone company has been revived and the board is now in operation, he states, and in addition to that the farmers west of Kent are building a line to connect with Grass Valley over a new copper circuit.

## Pin-Up-Bride Puss



This kitty with the scuffed expression of an expectant bride is the puss of Miss Evelyn Stock of Brown, N. Y., who dressed puss in bridal finery for pin-up pictures.