

Oregon Historical Society  
300 S.W. Market

# Sherman County Journal

Fifty-Seventh Year No. 35

Moro, Oregon, Friday, July 27, 1945

Official County Paper

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

Of plans for post-war highway construction there seems to be no end. Several bills have been introduced in congress, all ambitious in their scope and each contemplating the expenditure of enormous sums of money. Generally, an excuse for the generous spending is found in the expected need for public works to take up the slack in employment during the reconversion period. The latest highway bill to appear in the house is the brain child of Representative Hand of New Jersey and while it omits some of the features which were found to be objectionable in previous bills it is even more ambitious in expanding the highway system.

The plan, Mr. Hand insisted, will be self-liquidating, job-creating and revenue-producing for the federal government and at the same time profit-making for patrons. He describes his project as a national defense super-highway and airport system. It would provide automobile highways, airplane emergency landing fields, and commercial airports. There would be no less than 15 super-highways criss-crossing the country in every direction, touching all the principal cities and linking them up in a national system. The work would be in charge of a national commission of nine members each drawing \$10,000 a year. Employment would be given only to American citizens at standard wages, with preference going to discharged veterans. All material must be produced in the United States and by American owned business. No convict labor would be permitted.

Building of the highways and their adjuncts would be financed by the issuance of government bonds in the amount of \$10,000,000,000, to be repaid by the imposition of toll charges not to exceed one cent a mile for use of the roads. This, Mr. Hand explained, would encourage use of the super-highways for long distance travel, leaving local highways open for customary uses and thereby averting congestion and contributing to public safety.

Emergency landing fields, properly lighted, would be built along the highways at frequent intervals, also commercial and military airports located as close to each center of traffic as practicable. These would be open to the public for use in flight instruction and to accommodate private planes at reasonable fees.

Congress is placed in the seemingly inconsistent position of being asked to appropriate \$10,000,000,000 a year to develop more deadly war weapons while considering means by which to prevent another war. It is held that the army and navy, due to lack of funds for that purpose, failed to continue proper research after the first world war and thereby placed the United States in an inferior position as compared with developments in other countries. The office of scientific research and development would prevent recurrence of this situation by making available not less than \$10,000,000 annually for research and experiments in the development of war weapons and materiel. Meanwhile consideration is being given a bill introduced a few days ago to create the cabinet post of secretary for peace to emphasize the evils of war. Both the preparation for bigger and better wars and the plan to prevent war would be financed from the federal treasury.

Why there was imported into the United States last year a total

## EOL Agent At Ontario Found

J. B. Adams was here for a brief week end from Ontario where he has been spending most of his time of late, being in charge of both the Ontario and Moro offices of the Eastern Oregon Land company. While here Mr. Adams was notified that the body of the former Ontario manager, Charles Flegal and that of Frank VanPetten had been discovered in the wilds north of McCall, Idaho. The two men took VanPetten's son to a summer camp May 27 and started on the return trip by VanPetten's plane that evening. Nothing was heard of them, nor were their bodies found until Saturday, when an elderly man with two dogs discovered the partially burned plane and the two bodies. A pack train brought them in Sunday.

Flegal is known in this county having managed company business here several years ago. VanPetten is one of the well known family that owns many lumber yards throughout the eastern part of Oregon and Idaho.

## First Wheat Loan Made For 1945

Mrs Estella Dillinger of Salem was the first person to obtain a wheat loan in Sherman county this year having gotten her money last Saturday on 1945 wheat. Mr and Mrs Elmer R. Barzee were here this week to superintend the harvesting on the Barzee place. Their home is in Portland.

Mrs Ronald Powell and infant daughter were brought home from the hospital Sunday by Mr and Mrs Roy Powell. Her parents, Mr and Mrs L. H. Nahouse of Salem, were here for the week end also, coming to see their new granddaughter.

Mrs Jack Matson and son from Red Bluffs, California are here for a visit with her parents, Mr and Mrs John Foss.

Mr and Mrs Roy Powell drove to Centerville, Washington Monday to see their ranch over there and visit with son in law and daughter, Mr and Mrs Lyle Woods.

Mrs A. S. Johnson, Mrs Joan Stamey came up from Salem Friday to visit Mrs Johnson's daughter, Mrs Lamer Says and family. Another sister, Mrs Dae Idleman, came Saturday and all returned to Salem Sunday.

Mr and Mrs Richard Ginn of Spokane and two children stopped Sunday night at the home of his brother, Harold Ginn.

County Judge Jerry Wilson left for Portland Tuesday morning to consult his doctor about a stomach ailment that has been bothering the Judge for some months.

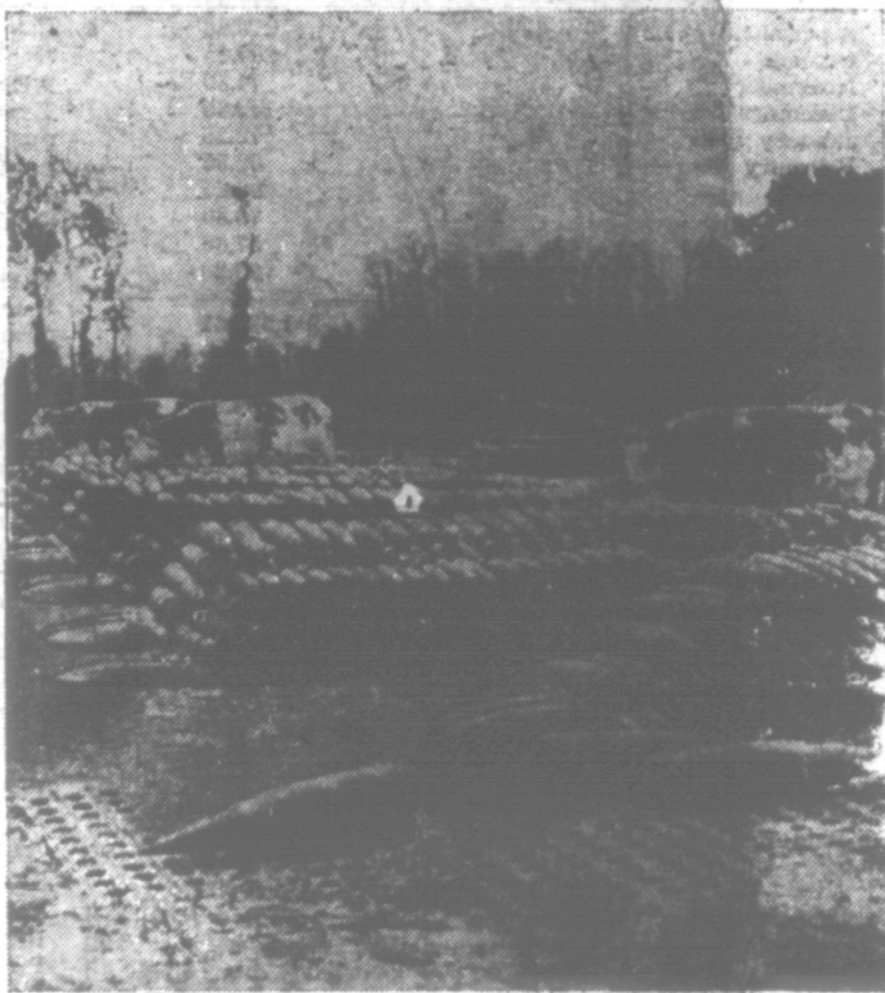
Mrs Bernary Martin took her daughter, Deanna Darlene, to The Dalles Friday, where Deanna entered the Mid-Columbia hospital to have her tonsils and adenoids removed.

Mr and Mrs Ronald Jones and children of Seattle were here last week end to visit Mrs Leota Gaden. Mrs Jones and children remained for the week when Mr Jones returned to Seattle Sunday. Sid Smythe, new field inspector for the First National Bank, was here the first of the week to take a preliminary look-see over Sherman county, which he already knows pretty well having lived for years at Arlington.

Mr and Mrs Ernest Eslinger returned Monday from Hillsboro where they had gone to return his father, Asa Eslinger to his home and visit with Mrs Eslinger's sister, Mrs Byland, who came from Arizona.

Three locally called men went to Portland for their first physical examination Monday. They were Donald DeMoss, who is reported to have failed to pass and LeeRoy Hansen and Robert Belknap, former teachers, who have both appealed for delay in induction. Virgil Archer went from Moro having been transferred from a South Dakota board. He is said to have passed the examination.

## Isigny Cows Return to Fields



As if they knew that the bells of peace have rung in Europe, and it is time they had their grazing fields to themselves again, these cows wander idly into an ammunition dump on the road near Isigny, France. Thousands of head of cattle, driven away by Germans and battles, left to shift for themselves, are being divided among the farmers of France.

## Clerk's Semi-Annual Report

TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND TO WHAT FUND CHARGED FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1944 TO JUNE 30, 1945, INCL.

General Fund Total \$ 33,004.22  
General Road Fund Total 19,907.29

Total all Warrants written \$ 52,911.51

### COUNTY GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES BY MONTH

July	\$ 2,600.00
August	3,925.44
September	3,456.03
October	1,879.60
November	4,104.06
December	2,428.04
January	3,740.41
February	2,088.54
March	1,787.99
April	1,832.28
May	2,749.44
June	3,042.09
Total expenditures, General Fund	\$ 33,004.22 \$ 33,004.22

### GENERAL ROAD FUND EXPENDITURES BY MONTH

July	\$ 1,827.30
August	1,809.00
September	896.81
October	1,388.08
November	2,426.90
December	1,231.27
January	1,429.69
February	1,950.10
March	1,967.83
April	1,595.03
May	1,491.90
June	2,593.48
Total expenditures, General Road Fund	\$ 19,907.29 \$ 19,907.29

Total number of claims presented against General Fund 611  
Gross amount of claims against General Fund \$ 33,004.22  
Less amount of unpaid warrants 3,077.58

Total amount paid \$ 29,926.64

### TOTAL OUTSTANDING WARRANTS AGAINST GENERAL FUND AS OF JUNE 30, 1945.

Total number of claims presented against Gen. Road Fund 315  
Gross amt. of claims against Gen. Road Fund \$ 19,907.29  
Less amount of unpaid warrants 2,132.92

Total amount paid \$ 17,774.37

### TOTAL OUTSTANDING WARRANTS AGAINST GEN. ROAD FUND AS OF JUNE 30, 1945

\$ 2,132.92  
This report is based upon the records of all warrants written in the office of the County Clerk.

I hereby certify that this report is true and correct.

Dated this 14th day of July, 1945.

Ross Ornduff, County Clerk

### COUNTY CLERK'S SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT OF FEES RECEIVED AND DISBURSEMENTS OF SAME

JANUARY 1, 1945 TO JULY 1, 1945.

#### MONTHLY RECEIPTS:

January	\$ 72.25
February	62.55
March	96.25
April	76.80
May	57.85
JUNE	99.23

Total Receipts \$ 494.93

#### SOURCE OF RECEIPTS

Recording fees	\$ 237.35
Law Library Fund	16.88
Circuit Court Fees	29.00
County Court & Probate Fees	82.80
Marriage Licenses	6.00
Miscellaneous Copying and Indexing	79.40
Migratory Liens	3.50
Litigant Fees	5.00
Divorce Fees	5.00
Naturalization Fees	None

Total Receipts \$ 494.93

#### DISBURSEMENTS:

Migratory Liens paid to Sec. of State	\$ 3.50
Litigant Fees paid to State Treasurer	5.00
Divorce Fees paid to State Treasurer	5.00
Paid to County Treasurer	\$ 461.43

Total Disbursements \$ 494.93

I hereby certify that the foregoing report is prepared from and based upon the records of this office; and that the same is a full true and correct report to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated this 14th day of July, 1945.

Ross Ornduff, County Clerk

## Utility Valuation Goes Up \$52,500 In Sherman Co.

### Tax Commission Raises Assessments of Railroads

The state tax commission's annual statement of valuation of public utilities in Sherman county has been received by Assessor Charles Rugges. It shows an increase in such valuations of \$52,531 over that of last year.

The 1944 figure for public utilities, which are assessed by the tax commission, was \$1,834,260. That for 1945 is \$1,886,791.

Principal increase will be absorbed by the railroad company whose assessment has been increased materially. This may be due to larger business carried on the lines and may be partially due to improvements made on the tracks.

Railroad valuation in Sherman county is about \$1,600,000. The tunnel on the Deschutes river is owned by the Oregon Trunk which has an assessment of \$7992.40 on it. The Union Pacific uses the tunnel and is assessed an additional \$1508 for the use of cars on the .59 miles of track in this county. The valuation of the branch line is \$553,000.

The valuation of the Pacific Power & Light lines in the county was increased by the addition of ten miles of line. Rural line of the company is assessed at \$650 per mile. Locust Grove line, now sold to the Wasco county REA is valued at \$162.50 or a total of \$4225. The Michigan line is valued at \$91 per mile or \$1033. Total valuation of the Pacific Power & Light company is close to \$200,000.

Companies that operate cars over the railroad are assessed for the cars on the 14.80 miles of track. Pacific Fruit Express is valued at \$10,574, the Pullman company at \$13,458.

The Western Union has 201.42 miles of wire valued at \$58.50 and 14.74 miles of poles at \$132.60.

Telephone company lines, which there are 1307 miles, are valued at \$91 per mile, which makes the valuation of that company come to \$118,937 in this county.

A car load of new combines came into town Wednesday morning and work was immediately started to get all the parts on them so they could be pulled into the field for harvest.

Quite a few men have come in to the county and are awaiting jobs. Few complaints are heard from farmers as to the scarcity of men, by which it may be assumed that the supply is ample.

## Blood Donors Due For Trip Monday a.m.

Next Monday blood donors will have another turn at giving blood for the benefit of soldiers. A call has been sent out from the Red Cross in The Dalles for 20 donors from Sherman county. Wily Knighten, local chairman, has accordingly sent out a request for five persons to make the trip to The Dalles by 9:30 Monday from each of the five districts into which Sherman county has been divided.

District chairmen are Mrs. George Wilson at Kent, Mrs. Sadie Alley at Grass Valley, Mrs. Paul Wilson at Moro, Mrs. Afton McIntyre at Wasco and Mrs. Adeline McDonald at Rufus who will make volunteers.

## Paragraphs About Sherman Counties

Mr and Mrs L. H. Nahouse of Salem and their daughter, Mrs. Marjorie Stewart from McMinnville stopped to visit a while at the Lewis Olds home on their way home from Moro where they visited their daughter, Mrs. Ronald Powell and children.

Mr and Mrs Ernest Blaylock were business visitors in The Dalles Monday. Mrs. Art Smith, Mrs. Jennie Hearing and Mrs. Ormand Hilderbrand were in The Dalles last Saturday.

Mr and Mrs Ralph Haynes and daughter, Carol, arrived this Wednesday from Richland, Wash., to visit his sister, Mrs. A. A. Dunlap. Mr and Mrs Millard Eakin and family were business visitors in The Dalles Sunday.

Mrs. Art Bibby, Mrs. C. R. Anderson, Mrs. Orville Rugges and Mrs. Edgar Alley were hostesses at a bridal shower for Mrs. Ross Field at the Odd Fellows hall Friday afternoon. Mrs. Ellen Roberts sang several selections accompanied by Mrs. Orville Rugges. After the bride opened the many lovely and beautiful gifts refreshments of sandwiches, cookies and punch were served to about fifty guests.

Henry Miner, who spent a month's vacation at Eagle Creek, returned home Tuesday.

Mr and Mrs George Rusler and son, Loren, arrived Thursday from Shirgle, California to spend a few days visiting her uncle, Sam Holmes. They also visited at the home of Mr and Mrs Ted vonBorstel.

Mrs. Leonard Tubbins arrived Friday from Bremerton, Wash., to spend a few days visiting at the home of Mrs. Helen Bayer.

She left Tuesday for San Diego, California to join her husband, who is stationed there.

## Wheat Estimates Now About 20 Bushels per Acre

### Harvesting Brings More Cheerful Reports But Yield Spotted

Estimates on the wheat crop have been climbing and now yields of 30 bushels are heard of occasionally. One can now be conservative and voice an estimate of 20 bushels for the county. This will make a crop of 2,386,390 bushels for the county and will exceed the average.

The quality of the crop is not so bad as thought although no field is without damaged grain. Weights are running around 56 to 60 pounds with a few reports of grain going over 60 pounds.

Harvesting is general around Wasco where nearly everyone is cutting, but not over half the farmers are harvesting around Moro. At Grass Valley but two or three have pulled out, although more are starting every day.

The crop is going to be spotted. Reports have it that some land with an average of well above 20 bushels is making 15 and other land with an average of 15 is making 25. It seems to depend on several factors among which must be listed variety of wheat, rate and date of seeding, nitrogen content of the soil that affected amount of growth and use of moisture.

In any event this year marks the end of the four year period in which no one who tilled the soil could go wrong. In those halcyon years any land brought forth prodigious yields if plowed any time and sown anytime. Now farmers are going to be faced again with the age old perplexity that farmers have had to deal with since they stirred the earth with a crooked stick.

## Hotel Ownership New

The hotel deal was closed Tuesday when Ernest Eslinger and wife made final payment on the hotel and took over management from Harry Kunsman, who has been in charge for the city for over two years.

Sale of the building and city owned contents was for \$13,500 which will permit the city to pay its bonds in full, a matter that is expected to be completed by August 1, thus ending a period of 46 years of continuous city indebtedness.

Mr and Mrs Eslinger expect to make improvements in the hotel to enable them to open the dining room within a few weeks.

## Early Civil Suit Had Land Use Basis Of Interest To Erosion Conscious Farmers of Present Time

One of the first civil suits in newly formed Sherman county was that of Pearson vs Fraser, which arose over a dispute about care of land. In these days of public consciousness about the danger of erosion it would have been a leading case, and even in far-off 1893 it caused much comment and brought many witnesses to the box.

As well as the story can be reconstructed from stories of old timers and from the public record of the trial in the clerk's office, it went something like this:

James Pearson owned a place in Grass Valley canyon which at that time was a rather bountiful meadow instead of a waste of boulders. November 19, 1887 Pearson leased the place to one F. G. Potter and departed for upper Washington state to engage in the stock business on a larger scale.

Potter was to pay for the use of the land by planting 10 acres of trees in the spring of 1888 on the timber cultures of both Mr and Mrs Pearson. Potter was also to put up a two wire fence, prevent waste of land and build-

ings and was to be permitted to feed up to cattle the hay that was on the place. V. C. Brock and W. M. Barnett were witnesses to the document, according to the complaint.

In the fall of 1888 Potter sold and assigned to J. H. Fraser, a sheep man, his right and title to the place. Fraser admitted to taking possession March 2, 1889.

The suit grew out of Pearson's charge that Fraser had laid waste to the bottom land and had failed to care for the trees, had let the fence fall down and had permitted other minor acts of omission or commission that Pearson's attorneys, Mays, Huntington & Wil-

son and J. B. Hosford, held should be recompensed by payment of \$2200 by Fraser to Pearson.

A. S. Bennett was attorney for Fraser. He called the washing of the bottom land an act of God, whereas Pearson had contended that driving sheep up and down the valley had caused trails that wore through the sod and permitted washing to start. Defense was also made against the waste of land and build-

age of fencing and orchard plots. Pearson lost a point when it was found that he had deeded a part of the land away to his wife in 1889.

Subpoenaed as witnesses were E. B. Penland, A. D. McDonald, Wilmer Herrin, Henry Hanson, Hampton Laughter, F. M. Hampton, Ammanuel Potter, F. J. Moffitt, N. E. Moffitt, Fred Mathias, Dora Mathias, A. M. Wright, James Tomlin, F. M. Anderson, Alex McIntosh, Frank Fulton, Clark Dunlap, W. B. McCoy, R. A. Murray, M. A. Potter and J. G. Porter. Not all gave testimony apparently, at least not all were listed in the claim for fees.

The jury of which O. W. Richardson was foreman, entered a verdict for the plaintiff, Pearson, for \$20 and costs, which, after some argument amounted to less than \$200.

It is said that at one time the part of Grass Valley canyon in which the early Pearson place was located was a fine meadow. There were many other in early days, but few of them have had so much legal attention attendant to their destruction.

(Continued on Page two)