

Sherman County Journal

Fifty-Eighth Year No. 18

Moro, Oregon, Friday, March 8, 1946

Official County Paper

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

Months have passed since Admiral Jerry Land ceased to be chairman of the maritime commission but reverberations of alleged scandals during his incumbency are still heard in the senate and a recital of the signs of omission and commission of that agency during the war was given a few days ago in detail by Senator Aiken of Vermont, who added, "When an examination of maritime commission affairs has been brought up to date it will be the most shocking story of collusion, corruption and disregard of public interest ever presented against an agency of the United States government."

The details for Senator Aiken's criticism were furnished by a report by the comptroller general which found nothing to commend in the records of the maritime commission and more than a score of major errors of omission and commission, one of the least of which was that war shipping administration carried on its books as assets ships which long since had gone to the bottom of the ocean. Collection of insurance premiums to the amount of more than \$3,000,000 was not even recorded and insurance was paid on lost vessels in some cases as much as 64 times the actual legal value of the ship. Any attempt to reconcile the amounts of maritime commission and war shipping administration, the report stated, would show a discrepancy of not less than \$3,000,000.

Further, Senator Aiken added, the comptroller general's report had not been made known to other members of the commission, no copy had been sent to congress and, presumably, its contents were known only to the commission chairman. Because of the incorrect and careless accounting methods of the commission it was, the report said, impossible to make an intelligent audit. It was not intimated that the more than three billion dollars was stolen but its exact disposition could not be discovered from a study of the records. This was made to the chairman of the commission on Nov. 19, 1945 and covered the period ending June 30, 1943. The condition of maritime commission accounts as of the present was not disclosed.

The present commission, of which Captain Macauley is acting chairman, has been trying to straighten out the records, Senator Aiken reported, and he gave them credit for being honest men sincerely trying to perform a public duty.

John R. Murdock, representative of Arizona, lost a son killed in the war, and he thought it would be a good idea to start a reclamation project as a memorial to his son. In due time a bill was introduced covering the project, written by one of the lawyers in the reclamation service. When hearings were held on the bill Representative Murdock was astonished. The measure had things in it that he never suspected; lots of things which, if the bill was passed, would upset a number of things. There was so much dynamite in the bill that Murdock repudiated it, but out of the mess a new measure is now being drafted.

Oregon's Senator Morse has signed an appeal to the nation for people to contribute to a fund to keep the General Motors strikers and their families from

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TAXICADE OF WORLD WAR II VETS ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON... To protest the refusal of Chicago authorities to grant taxicab licenses, the Chicago taxi-driving vets arrived in Washington to present their claims to the federal authorities. They say that more than 1,000 veterans want to operate taxicabs but due to monopoly they are barred.

Nation To Have Enough Food Say Government Experts

Despite current shortages of food in wartime nations overseas and huge exports of wheat and other foods from this country, late data indicate the overall prospect is far from serious for United States consumers, says L. R. Breithaupt, OSC extension agricultural economist. Furthermore, the national food cost probably will not exceed 20 percent of the national income.

The preliminary estimates on production and distribution of United States foods for 1946 indicate that the total for civilians for military forces, and for export purposes is not likely to be greatly different than in 1945. Civilians will have more of some foods and less of others, but the total may exceed any previous year—possibly 3 percent in food energy above the 1935-1939 average, per capita. If the present drive for more home gardens is successful, the situation will be helped further.

Sugar and butter are most prominent among the foods that

1906 Freezeout Recalled Again

Forty years ago, back in 1906, an event occurred that old timers remember with dread. It was the spring of the big-freeze-out, the first complete loss the county had experienced, although the wet harvest of 1903 was almost as bad.

The winter had been an easy one and the fall sown wheat was up five or six inches, according to the stories. About noon on March 9 the weather changed and an east wind came up. That night and for the following day or two a blizzard swept over the county that killed every spear of wheat that was up.

Joe Brooks of Wasco calls attention to the event which he knows from hearsay only, the Brooks family being residents of Ashland at that time. It got cold there March 10 and before the weather cleared his brother, James Arthur, succumbed at the age of 27.

Men who were here in 1906 have been noting the mild winter of 1945-46 and wondering if it could happen again. Even if it did, it could hardly be as serious as was the freeze-out of 40 years ago for early day farmers were not so well situated as are those at present. No extra seed was in their granary—and in most cases there was no granary. Getting started again was a very difficult matter.



RESERVE BOARD... Comdr. James K. Vardaman Jr., naval aide to President Truman, nominated for a 14-year term on the Federal Reserve board of governors. Vardaman, a former St. Louis banker, is the son of the late U. S. senator of Mississippi.

Vernon Shipley Tells of Raider Training Plan

Vernon Shipley, a member of an infantry commando outfit in the southwest Pacific, told of his experiences while training for the arduous duties involved to the Moro Breakfast club Wednesday morning. Of the 82 men who started to take the course only 37 finished and they were considered able to take care of themselves and aid other members of the group in any danger. Physical fitness was the basis of the training, which also included knowledge of weapons and information on how to combat an enemy without weapons.

The public affairs committee reported on preliminary phases of its program asking support of the club in obtaining an airport for the community and asking that club members inform themselves on highway matters in preparation for the time when highway matters might be decided by the commission and other state and federal agencies.

Amusement for the meeting was made by a meeting of the club's Hooligan court by which B. H. Roberson was "tried" and convicted for some grievous offense.

Local Legion Plans Birthday Celebration

Chris Schultz Post, American Legion, will hold a banquet and program next Wednesday night at the Odd-Fellows hall in honor of the 27th anniversary of the birth of the Legion as an organization.

Entertainment features for the program are being gathered and they will include sleight of hand performances, singing, and perhaps a talk to explain the history and purposes of the Legion.

Members have been requested to speak for tickets and prepare to attend and bring their wives or other escorts.

Other Nations Toptc For Clud Program

At the meeting of the Moro Woman's club next Friday, March 15, the international relations committee will be in charge and will present two speakers. Mrs. Lloyd Henrichs, who came last winter from Australia, will speak about that continent where she has made her home for the greater part of her life although being born in Scotland. Mrs. Opal Parkins will tell of Mexico which she visited with her father during the winter.

Not only are all members asked to attend but others are invited to do so.

Game Commission Sells Beaver Pelts

At the second beaver sale held by the Oregon State Game Commission this season, 560 pelts were sold for a total price of \$27,853.50. The most successful bidder was Harry Jackson of the Blue Mountain Fur company, who received 312 pelts. Landowners who have contracted with the Game Commission under its beaver management program will receive one-third of the proceeds from the pelts taken on their lands. The rest of the money goes toward payment of trapping, management and administration costs.

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Court Starts Paying For New Road Machinery

Sinking Fund Account
Opened To Make Payment
On Equipment

Payment of many bills for the road department brought the county funds down to a much lower figure after the March session of the court adjourned Wednesday. Equipment bought, after four years of buying nothing, was responsible for most of the payments.

Another item was the partial payment for the gravel that has been and will be crushed for the county. Rogers Construction company finished at the Kaseberg pit last week and moved to the pit in Finnigan canyon between Kent and Grass Valley. A total of 20,745 yards were put out from the Kaseberg pit, 15,000 yards have been ordered from the Finnigan pit and 15 to 20,000 yards will be crushed at the Crites pit. Cost is based on a charge of \$1.05 per yard.

Delegations were in to request minor road changes and to buy gravel for improvement of private roads and yards. Tom Fraser and Art Christianson asked for a change in roads to be improved and also for new grading on the road that runs east from Hardlandview Grange hall corner. Francis Watkins asked for gravel on the road east from his place. Both requests were received with favor by the court.

Minor sales of tax foreclosed property were made including one to Steve McMillen and another to Mrs. Myrtle Funk, who bought some lots in Wasco, her bid being the highest of three presented.

Agreement was made to follow the suggestion of the auditor, Charles Logan, and authorize the sheriff to open an account for tax funds instead of making deposit with the treasurer. Payment of funds from the sinking fund for road purposes was also authorized.

DEATH RATE UP

Oregon's traffic death rate for the year 1945 was 11.7 persons killed per one hundred million miles of travel, Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell Jr., said today. This compares to a rate of 9.7 for 1944.

The death rate, showing the number of persons killed in relation to exposure to accident showed an increase for the third consecutive year, Farrell said. The rate has been increasing slightly each year since 1943.

Farrell Announces Candidacy For Second Term As State Secretary

Robert S. Farrell Jr., secretary of state, today announced he would be a candidate in the May primaries for re-election to that office. Serving successively as legislator, speaker of the house of representatives, and for the past term as one of Oregon's three principle officials, Farrell has been a lifelong republican.

In commenting on his candidacy for re-election Farrell said: "During my term as secretary of state I have endeavored to conduct the many and varied duties of that office (one of the largest in the United States) in a prompt, efficient and courteous manner."

"I assisted in securing the enactment of the War Ballot Commission Act which enabled those within and without the confines of this country to vote their respective state ballots and at the same time to see that these ballots through Federal regulations were expedited to those states for counting. All Oregon can be proud of the splendid record achieved, in the number of ballots mailed and returned to this state."



Governor Snell Schedules Talk In Moro, 22nd

Governor Earl Snell will be the speaker at a meeting to be held in the Moro school auditorium, Friday night, March 22, when the Sherman County Historical Society holds its organization meeting.

The Governor, evincing his continuing interest in the history of this section, where he was born and raised, will come from Salem to aid the formation of the county historical group.

Officers of the society are arranging a program for the event that will supplement the governor's talk. Music and singing of some of the older songs are to be used.

Snell began his career in Gilliam county where he attended school, and entered business before going to the legislature. He became speaker of the house, secretary of state and for four years has served the state as governor. He has filed for nomination for his second term.

The historical society was planned at a meeting held last Fourth of July. A constitution has been written for the approval of the members at this meeting and plans will be made for the annual meeting to be held in June. Some historical data has been gathered and steps taken toward the writing of county history. Accumulation of information about the county and its early day citizens is the major activity of the group.

DANCE ADVERTISED

The Kent Legion post and Auxiliary is to be host next Saturday night at a dance in honor of the birthday of the Legion and of St. Patrick's day. Legion members are to be invited by letter.

Senator Says Security Still Individual's Job

Senator E. R. Fatland of Condon, speaking before the Sherman County Council of Republican Women, here Thursday called attention to the fact that Oregon has made greater proportionate advances in industry and wealth than any Pacific coast state, and that during the period of growth Oregon has been consistently governed by Republican officials. He held that no government could deliver the security it promised unless it could also control prices, for money guarantees are ineffective otherwise. Rising prices are indicative of the failure of the promise for security. Security must consist of something in addition to money, said the speaker.

Mrs. Frank vonBorstel is president of the club and Mrs. Howard Conlee arranged for the Thursday meeting which was attended by both men and women and by others than club members.

Politics Livened By Candidates' Filing For Office

All Incumbents File For
Same Positions; No Contest
In Sight In County

With the coming of the final date for filing for the primary election in May, there has been some activity in county politics; although no contests are promised by the line-up so far. Incumbents have agreed to continue in office which assures the citizen that the functions of county government will go on.

First to file his declaration of candidacy was Norman E. Fields, newly appointed sheriff, who filed for nomination on the democratic ticket.

County treasurer Naomi Van Gilder, no one appearing to want the job she has held so long, consented to file and her name will also be on the democratic ballot in May.

Joe Peters who took over the post of county commissioner the first of the year, has filed for the Republican nomination for the two year term and Vernon Miller now in his last year of his first term as commissioner, filed for another term. He is a Democrat.

That completes county offices. In the 22nd legislative district, comprising counties of Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman and Wheeler, Henry Peterson of Ione and Giles French of Moro, incumbents, have filed for the Republican nomination. Two are to be elected. The senatorial district of Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler has no election this year as E. R. Fatland of Condon is a holdover.

Lowell Stockman, congressman from this district, the eastern Oregon district, has filed for re-election, and is seeking the Republican nomination. Others have been talked of for the place and a contest is expected in the fall.

In the state candidates for governor and secretary of state and labor commissioner are to be chosen at the party primaries in May. Earl Snell, governor, Robert S. Farrell Jr., secretary of state and W. E. Kimsey, labor commissioner, have filed on the Republican ticket. It is expected that the Democrats will also have a full ticket but there has been some trouble in getting it filed. Floyd Dover of Jackson county, has filed for secretary of state.

Rex Putnam, school superintendent, is running for office again, his being a non-partisan office.

Biggest filing day in Oregon is traditionally the final day when candidates gather at Salem and wait around the office of the secretary of state, exchanging gossip and bolstering up their nerve for the campaign. It is probable that there will be candidates enough Saturday morning.