

Sherman County Journal

Fifty-Eighth Year No. 28

Moro, Oregon, Friday, May 17, 1946

Official County Paper

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

In the old Harvard club, John L. Lewis, has his offices. The miners bought the clubhouse and renovated it for their use. However hard may be the miner's lot, they have money to spend for expensive property and buildings. No poverty-stricken labor union could afford such a luxurious headquarters in the national capital—the price of land is too excessive. Here John Lewis is the hero of the play; he occupies the center of the stage and runs the show. Because of his prominence in the news, a few lines may not be amiss.

When he was young, Lewis was a working miner; toiled underground, but it is many years since Lewis swung a pick. His hands are soft; not calloused. In those days in the mines, Lewis was illiterate. He married a school teacher who proceeded to teach him the art of speaking, crammed him full of the classic and fired him with an ambition to be more than a mere miner. All this remaking of the coal digger by the school teacher was a matter of years.

John Lewis discovered that he had a more extensive vocabulary than any other individual in the coal industry, whether miner or operator. He learned to glory in his superior periods. His language became much like the old-time Shakespearean ham: stilted, flowery and shot through with familiar quotations. No one can charge John Lewis with using sloppy language. On the contrary he is a pedantic, if anything. Part of the fascination Lewis has for his miner followers is his word carpentry. The way words roll out of Lewis holds his coal miners spellbound. The language is over the heads of his union members. They are awed, while the \$2 words are enunciated with all the solemnity that Lewis can muster, the miners may not comprehend fully, but they know that John is handing out the real stuff.

This mine leader loves drama and carefully stages his strikes with the skill of an experienced stage director. His manners and appearance are part of his make up. John Lewis would no more permit a barber to trim his bushy eyebrows than would former Vice President Jack Garner. Those brows are a trademark and a delight to the characterist.

A big black hat with a very broad brim and a mouth usually in a snarl, comprises the picture. Coal miners swear by John. He manages to increase their pay; forced the operators to pay for time from portal to the coal. John put over a dilly a few years ago. It was difficult for the treasurer of the union to collect dues as the miners had a habit of spending their money and postponing the settlement of dues. To solve this, and keep the treasury constantly filled with every member kicking in dues, Lewis forced the operators to adopt the "check off", which meant when the pay envelope was handed out, the dues were deducted and turned over to the union treasury. And a funny anecdote to this was that the members struck until the operators agreed to the check off system.

In nearby Alexander, Va., the Lewis family has a home on the main drag, where it can be pointed out to visitors by guides. At today's inflated prices the home would sell for \$40,000 or \$50,000. The daughter of Lewis has been his secretary for years and probably knows as much about union politics as her father. Like him, she is a very large young woman who eats voraciously. Miss Lewis is not above joining a picket line when they are formed in Washington. When colored help were picking a cafeteria in the Press building.

(Continued on Page Two)

Historical Society Program For June 2 In Making

The program committee for the picnic of the Sherman County Historical society to be held at DeMoss June 2 is still arranging for speakers and singers and not ready to announce its choices. A prominent ex-Sherman countian will come as speaker of the day. Leslie Scott, state treasurer, and Walter Meacham, secretary of the American Trails association, and Jay Price are all expected.

Dinner will be at one o'clock and the committee is expecting that 200 Sherman countians and former residents will be there at that time.

Clean-up Crowd Polishes Town

Clean up day in Moro was considered successful by "Bull of the Woods" Balsiger, which means that stock piles of scrap steel were removed having been abandoned by OPA, DDT, AAA, or whatever agency had an interest in scrap heretofore, vacant lots were cleaned and made presentable and trees were whitened unto modesty.

Crews appointed by Balsiger patrolled the town in search of things to do until afternoon when they adjourned to the park where a committee had provided food to assuage their aching appetites. The town looks cleaner. Only casualty was Bob Marvin, straw boss of the landscaping committee who suffered a flash burn on his right leg that necessitated his hospitalization for a couple of days while he was under observation.

Winter Wheat Crop Looks Good

Winter wheat prospects in the three Northwest States of Oregon, Washington and Idaho were very favorable on May 1 with a crop of 103,314,000 bushels indicated. Last year this area produced 80,619,000 bushels of winter wheat while the 10-year average production is 61,170,000 bushels. A general rain is needed, however, if the crop now in prospect is to be realized as April precipitation was relatively light. Oregon expects a winter wheat crop of 19,134,000 bushels, an increase of 15 percent compared with last year and 33 percent above the 10-year average.

Winter wheat prospects throughout the country, however, declined 11 percent during April. The sharpest reduction occurred in Kansas, Texas and Oklahoma where prospects dropped 83 million bushels during the month.

RAGSDALE HEADS NFLA

"W. H. Ragsdale of The Dalles, was elected to the board of Directors, replacing A. S. Johnson of The Dalles, at the annual stockholders meeting of the Dalles National Farm Loan association held in the Gold Room of Hotel Dalles last Saturday. The meeting was attended by more than seventy members from Gilliam, Wheeler, Wasco and Sherman counties," Victor G. Peterson, secretary-treasurer, announced today.

The meeting began with a luncheon during which the members were entertained by Gus Weizelt of The Dalles with a sleight-of-hand performance. Following the luncheon a report for the Board of Directors was made by William Ketchum of The Dalles. A report by the secretary-treasurer showed total assets of \$110,396.00. All loans outstanding were in current condition and no real estate owned in this district.

In addition to W. H. Ragsdale the following were elected and will comprise the board, and with the secretary-treasurer, will serve as a loan committee: J. W. Myers, Condon, Warren Stanley, Dufur, William Ketchum, The Dalles and George McDonald, The Dalles.

At the organization meeting held immediately following the stockholders' meeting, W. H. Ragsdale was chosen as President.

Purebred Cattle Sale Preparations Being Made

Sales Manager Comes, Giving Impetus To Plans For September 28 Event

Preparations and plans for the purebred livestock sale by members of the Midco Purebred Breeders association here next September 28, were furthered greatly by the visit of Bob Teale to the county Sunday. Mr. Teale is representative of the Western Livestock Breeder, a Los Angeles publication and is salesmanager of some 70 shows in the northwest this year.

Accompanied by Harold and Millard Eakin, Lester Barnum, Ted Ball, of Sherman and Art Jaeger and George Webb of Gilliam county, Mr. Teale visited several ranches and looked over the quality of stock that will be sold.

Determination of the number of stock entered in the sale must be made for copy for the sale catalogue is to be in the hands of the printer by June 15, which means a deadline of around June 1 for copy on sale cattle.

The sale will be held in the evening of Saturday, September 28, in an arena between the cattle barn and the old draft horse barn which is to be converted into a sales cattle barn.

The sale will begin at 6:30. It is hoped by local men that 100 head of Herefords and 25 head each of Angus and Short-horns will be at the sale, but somewhat smaller numbers may be obtained, a fact that did not disappoint Mr. Teale. Management of the sale is under Teale's direction.

Farms visited were Harold Eakin's where a comparatively large group of Herefords were seen, including a new aged bull recently brought to the county from Lostine by Mr. Eakin. At the Shelton Fritts ranch the Lester Barnum bulls were seen as well as some excellent club calves under feed by the Fritts boys. Ted Ball's herd was in pasture and in several separate pens where they were being fed. Fred Cox and son's cattle were mostly corralled in the pasture land.

Gilliam County Votes Soil Conservation

Gilliam county has by overwhelming vote established a soil conservation district which includes the entire county. According to Robert Warrens, state chairman, the vote was 293 to 14.

The Gilliam county district now becomes the thirteenth to be established in Oregon since the state law was enacted in 1939. It is the first district to include an entire county. Supervisors elected at the same election are Paul H. Jaeger, Pete Pattee and H. R. Weatherford.

Educational work leading up to the establishment of the district was carried on by Cal Monroe, county agent, who conducted a number of demonstrations indicating the possibilities of and need for control of both wind and water erosion.

Rob't Farrell Again Candidate

Robert S. Farrell Jr. will seek renomination to the office of Secretary of State in the primary election on May 17. Now serving his first term in that important position Farrell is a native of Oregon, a member of a distinguished pioneer family and 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 in a prompt, efficient and courteous manner. If nominated and elected I shall continue those efforts and will give sincere and conscientious service to the many boards and commissions of which the secretary of state is a member."

Reckmann Road Rough, Rugged But Passable

Grading of the road down to the Deschutes river from back of the Engstrom place has been a steady job since last Saturday when the work began. The huge Norman Fields bulldozer went down, followed by one of Pat Kasebergs and a county grader. The river was reached but the grade is not all that a highway driver might require.

The grade is too steep, but the inside slope of the road was pushed out over the road so that there is loose dirt and loose rock on which to travel. After some rain and some raking of rock from the road it will be passable for cars and pickups. At the present it requires a good car, a good driver and a couple of passengers able and willing to put a shoulder to the wheel (or fender) before the round trip can be made.

PLAY DAY FOR GRADES BEING CELEBRATED IN MORO

The annual Play Day and Music Festival will be held at Moro next Friday, May 17, when school bands, school duets and quartets and choruses will come to show their talent in vocal music. At the grounds those athletically inclined will run and jump and perhaps exercise their vocal chords only by yelling.

This is annual children's day of the school year and the grade schoolers usually make a day of it.

Bands from Wasco and Moro will join to make one group and there will be two divisions of songsters to make merry music.

MORO BOYS AT BEND

Four Moro track members went to the district meet at Bend last Saturday and found themselves the only representatives of a B school there. Points won, however, were few. Foster took a fifth and one point in the 220 yard dash and the team, Melzer, Hoskinson, Bayer and Foster took fourth and two points in the 880 relay race, making a total of 3 points in the meet, which was won by Bend.

Veteran's Questions Answered To Aid Service Men Obtain Funds

Q. May a discharged veteran apply for additional National Service Life Insurance if he has less than \$10,000 of NSLI in effect?

A. No. NSLI must be applied for while in active service.

Q. What is the interest rate if I get a G. I. loan to buy a house? I know that my bank charges 6 percent on housing loans.

A. The maximum interest rate chargeable on G. I. loans is 4%. Q. If I go directly to a bank, savings and loan, or other lending agency for a loan, what part does the Veterans Administration play in the transaction?

A. The VA lends no money, only guarantees your repayment of it. The government guarantees 50% of real estate loans up to a maximum of \$4000. \$2000 is the maximum guarantee on non-real estate or business loans.

Q. Can I change schools if I am attending under the educational provisions of the G. I. Bill?

A. The veteran is entitled to one year's training plus the length of time he spent in the service. This may be taken in different institutions provided his work is completed satisfactorily in each institution, and that he has permission from the VA if he desires to change his course.

Q. I have been going to trade school but have been offered a good job now. Can I drop school and pick up my training later if the job is not satisfactory?

A. Yes. However, if economic circumstances allow, it is advisable to pursue training to completion without interruption. Too, it must be understood, that no course may be afforded beyond nine years after the end of the war.

Q. Does it make any difference in which company I convert my NSL insurance?

Wasco Wins In Wild First Inning Of Errors, Walks

Steady Pitching By Jensen Keeps Visitors Away From Plate After Runfest

Wasco broke into the win column Sunday by beating the Condon nine, a team that has been rated as one of the best in the league. Score was 7 to 4.

It was all over in the first inning. Wasco pounced on Wick Parrish and won the ball game before he could be jerked. Condon has been handicapped by sore armed pitchers all season and tried to pitch Parrish, an old timer, instead of putting a burden on Ogilvy or Ashenfelter. Parrish couldn't do it and Wasco made six runs from two Condon errors, four walks and three hits.

Jensen pitched a steady game for Wasco for his first full time performance since his return from the service.

Line-up:
Wasco
S. O'Meara, 1
Watkins, 1
J. O'Meara, m
Fridley, 2
Jensen, p
Sylvester, 3
Williams, c
Macnab, s
Richelderfer, r

MADRAS TRIP CONSIDERED

It is expected that quite a number of people will go to Madras this Saturday to have a part in the celebration about turning the water into the irrigation ditches on the north unit project. The school band expects to go and other parties as well.

Cancer Drive Ends Entirely Successful

Mrs. Lois Hilderbrand, county chairman of the cancer drive, reports the quota well filled with a total of \$275.92 received on a quota of \$167. Division as to towns was \$54.15 from Moro, \$40.21 from Grass Valley, \$31.58 from Kent, \$137.93 from Wasco and \$12.05 from Rufus. Mrs. Hilderbrand and her co-workers wish to thank the people of Sherman county for their cooperation during this drive.

Junior Olympics Finds Favor

Boys from Sherman county were among the 70 high school athletes who attended and took part in the Junior Olympics at Eugene last Friday. Awards are given for style, form and speed and endurance as compared to a definite set of standards already established. Dick Oveson placed third but received an award in the 300 yard run and Keith Thompson placed in two events on either form or endurance. As winners achieve certain standards they are given certificates of merit.

The boys were taken down by Dewey Thompson who took the Moro lads and by Helen Wilson Bothwell, who took the boys from Kent.

George Peck New Crop Insurance Head

Willis C. Boegli, Oregon director for the Federal Crop Insurance corporation since the program was established a year ago, has resigned to accept a position as agricultural economist with the regional office of the Bureau of Reclamation at Amarillo, Texas. George N. Peck, Lexington, eastern Oregon crop insurance supervisor, will be acting state director until Boegli's successor is named, the corporation has informed E. Harvey Miller, state PMA director.

Before becoming state FCIC director last spring, Boegli had been a district fieldman for the AAA committee since 1937. He is a native of Jefferson county, and was graduated from Oregon State college in 1926.

The acting director has announced that he will continue Boegli's policy of providing assistance to county AAA committees in carrying out provisions of the crop insurance program in Oregon. The immediate job, he said, is to expedite the filing of notices of seeding from 3,000 Oregon wheat farms insured for 1946, since these notices determine both premiums and insured production. State FCIC headquarters will continue to be at the state PMA office in the Eastern building, Portland.

Moro Budget Will Cut City Taxes

A budget of \$8086.58 of total expenditure for the city of Moro was given approval by the budget committee Tuesday night. Receipts of \$3747.93 brought the levy to the maximum figure of \$438.55 which may be raised by taxation. Taxes will be lowered.

Few items were changed from recent city budgets except to remove from it appropriation for bonds and interest and other accounts having to do with ownership of the hotel. An item of \$1700 was approved for improvement of the old Legion hall for which material is on hand. An item of \$1100 to be added to the street account for street paving was also included.

On the city's budget committee were Dewey Thompson, J. K. McKean, Willy Knighten, Ernest Eslinger, George Updegraff and Paul May.

LICENSE EXAMINER COMING

A drivers license examiner is scheduled to be on duty in Moro Wednesday, May 22, 1946 at the courthouse between the hours of 10 a. m. and 3 p. m.

County Budget Reaches Full Tax Raise Limit

County Taxes To Be Slightly Higher Next Tax Year and Roads Improved

The Sherman county budget committee gave its approval of a county budget that takes full use of the sum allowed by the six percent limitation and will raise \$72,437.26 by taxation for the 1946-47 fiscal year.

Within that budget are figures that indicate financial approval of a weed program, a continued road program and retention of a service officer in the county.

A delegation of service men asked that the budget committee start a fund for a memorial. Speaking on behalf of such fund were Willy Knighten, Norris Gilkison, George Updegraff as members of a committee that had Ormand Hilderbrand, Wallace May, William Brinkert, Frank Sayrs, Vincent Genteman, and Donald vonBorstel, George Wilcox also spoke.

After long discussion about what form the memorial might take and whether the money should be raised in a lump sum or in installments there seemed to be general agreement that the court would place on the November ballot a measure providing for a \$25,000 memorial fund.

Minor increases in the budget provide for more work at DeMoss park, more office help at the county school superintendent's office, more money for 4-H club fair, more for the court house and also for the janitor, and the \$100 appropriation for the Inland Empire Waterways association was approved after a lapse of a year.

Other additions were \$100 for the biological survey and \$1000 to care for the retirement plan, and \$1500 to care for a possible service office, if not provided in another way.

The committee provided a fund of \$3000 for weed control which will be added about \$2500 from the AAA. The county will provide transportation and equipment for the weed inspector who will be hired by the AAA. The bounty on coyotes will have no funds available after June 30 and the fund for state service organization was reduced to meet post-war needs, now being \$500.

The budget will cause a tax as high or higher than this year for county purposes. It will permit the purchase of more gravel and funds for the spreading of much that is now on hand—a job that will take nearly a year anyhow. At the end of the year the county will be about even with the board with its sinking fund for post-war road construction spent and its general fund used.

Members of the budget committee who sat with the county court were Dewey Thompson, A. C. Kaseberg, and A. A. Dunlap.

Joerger Will Come Again May 22

The Dalles office of the Veterans Administration has just been advised of an important change in regulations affecting National Service Life Insurance. This change permits the reinstatement of National Service Life Insurance on a comparative health statement provided the application and the tender of premium payments for the current month and the last month in arrears are received prior to January 1, 1947. Any veteran, regardless of how long since discharge from the service, who has allowed his insurance to lapse, may reinstate same on his signed statement as to health condition.

John W. Joerger, contact representative from above office will be in Moro on regular trips. He will be at the Selective Service office all day Wednesday, May 8 and Wednesday, May 22.

Mr and Mrs Vern Belknap arrived Tuesday afternoon for a visit with friends. They were guests Tuesday night of Mr and Mrs Clarence Sparling.